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KHABAR

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A Note for Our Students

Current affairs form core component of General Knowledge section in almost all the competitive exams. Observing the recent trends, questions from current affairs has successively increased. But how to find out relevant current affairs from vast data available on numerous websites, apps and videos??

How to efficiently prepare current affairs keeping in mind relevance of the exam??

Don't worry!!

We have the solution; Gyanm team will segregate the important and the most relevant current affairs under heading Gyanm recommendations' so that you can prepare this crucial component with complete efficiency!!

So let's begin!!



Gyanm Recommendations!

1. 16th Finance Commission constituted



The Centre constituted the Sixteenth Finance Commission on Dec 31. Former NITI Aayog Vice Chairman, Dr Arvind Panagariya who is a Professor at Columbia University, will be the Chairman of the 16th Finance Commission. Senior IAS officer Ritvik Ranjanam Pandey will be the secretary of the Commission.

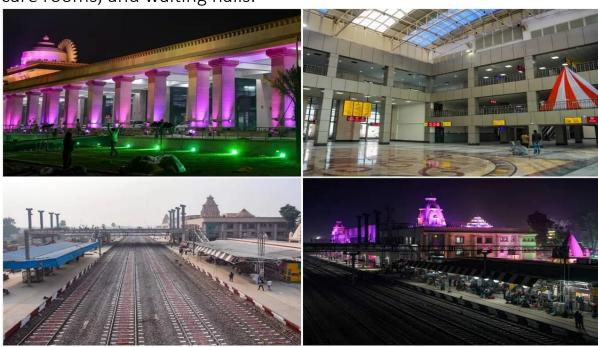
Commission will make recommendations in matters including the distribution between the Union and the States of the net proceeds of taxes and measures needed to augment the Consolidated Fund of a State, for a period of five years, beginning April 01, 2026.

Maharshi Valmiki International Airport: The new international airport was inaugurated on Dec 30, just 15 km away from Ayodhya. The main terminal, built in temple style, is spread across 6500 sq m. The airport aims to cater to over 10 lakh passengers per year. The airport is all about local art, paintings, and murals showcasing Lord Ram's life.





3. Ayodhya Dham: The redeveloped railway station was inaugurated on Dec 30. The building has a temple architecture facade, while the interior offers airport-like amenities. Developed at a cost of more than 240 crore rupees, it can cater around one lakh passengers daily. The three-story modern railway station building is equipped with all modern features like lifts, food plazas, shops for puja needs, child care rooms, and waiting halls.



4. Anahat Singh, teenage squash star from Delhi bagged the girls' under-19 title on Dec 30 at the 2023 Scottish Junior Open squash held in Edinburgh, England.

5. Harpreet Chandi: The British Sikh Army medical officer secured a third Guinness World Records for becoming the fastest woman to ski solo across Antarctica,. She covered 1,130 km of Antarctic ice in 31 days, 13 hours and 19 minutes.

For the trek, Chandi left the Hercules inlet on the Ronne ice shelf on November 26, and arrived at the South Pole on December 28.

She skied for between 12 and 13 hours a day on average and pulled a 75 kg sledge that had everything she needed to survive.







The PSLV-C58 rocket of ISRO lifted off on Jan 01 from Sriharikota, carrying the primary payload, X-Ray polarimeter satellite - XPoSat and 10 other satellites and deployed them in low earth orbits at around 600 km. ISRO's maiden XPoSat would offer insights into celestial objects like black holes.

7. Maharashtra tops NSE's investors base

The latest data released by the National Stock Exchange (NSE) showed that its investor base increased by 22 percent, from 7 crore in 2022 to 8.54 crore during the calendar year 2023, highlighting the growing retail investor participation in the stock market.

- Maharashtra reported the highest numbers of 1.49 crore investors, followed by Uttar Pradesh with 90 lakh investors and Gujarat with 77 lakh investors, as on December 29. They are followed by Gujarat with 77 lakh investors and West Bengal 48 lakh investors.
- For the first time, the benchmark index of NSE, NIFTY, closed at 21,731 on year end and market capitalisation of the listed companies of NSE reached a record \$ 4.32 trillion (Rs. 359 lakh crore).



8. Ferrycraft 'Manjula' (Yard 786) was delivered to the Indian Navy on 29 Dec at Kolkata by the state owned shipbuilder, Shalimar Works Ltd. With a capacity to ferry 250 men, it will facilitate transportation of both men and materiel between Indian Naval Ports and Ships/Submarines at anchorage.



9. Gujarat sets world record for Surya Namaskar

Gujarat set a Guinness World Record on January 1 for the largest number of people, performing 'Surya Namaskar' simultaneously at a time.

- More than 50,000 people performed 'Surya Namaskar' simultaneously at 108 venues, across the state. The main event was organised at Modhera Sun Temple in Mehsana district.
- Surya Namaskar or sun salutation is an ancient Yogic practice, comprising a sequence of 12 powerful yoga poses. Besides being a great cardiovascular workout, it is also known to have an immensely positive impact on the body and mind.





Country's first all-girls Sainik School, Samvid Gurukulam Girls Sainik School, was inaugurated on Jan 01 at Vrindavan in Mathura, Uttar Pradesh.

- The school is set up under the partnership mode with NGOs, private schools and government schools. The initiative aims at establishing 100 new Sainik Schools in all states.
- So far, 42 such schools have been opened and these are in addition to the existing 33 Sainik Schools already functioning under the erstwhile pattern of the Ministry of Defence operating these schools.

BRICS doubles its size

The multilateral grouping BRICS doubled its size on New Year's Day by adding five new members to its fold. Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia and the UAE joined BRICS as new full members with Russia taking over the chairmanship for the year 2024.

- Argentina spoiled the party by declining to join BRICS after the new President took over the office in Buenos Aires.
- The grouping had started out with India, Brazil, China and Russia as full members in June 2009. Later it became a five-member organisation with the inclusion of South Africa in Dec 2010 as a full member.



12. Felix Tshisekedi: Re-elected for the second term as the President of Democratic Republic of Congo in Central Africa



13. January 01: Global Family Day

Also known as World Peace Day, the day seeks to foster harmony and unity in diversity. It aims to highlight that everyone of us, from all around the world, irrespective of one's caste, religion, gender, location, and country, is a part of the big global family.

The theme for the day for 2024 is "Embracing Diversity, Strengthening" Families".

14. J&K first to implement Vishwakarma Yojana

Jammu and Kashmir has become the first Union Territory (UT) to implement the PM Vishwakarma Yojana (PMVY) in the country.

- The training for the first batch of 30 trainees in 'darzi' (Tailor) craft started on Jan 2 at Industrial Training Institute in Shopian.
- PMVY, a Central government scheme, was launched in September 2023 to promote local artisans and craftspeople through training and financial support.
- The scheme includes basic training of five to seven days, advanced training of 15 days or more, a stipend of ₹500 per day, and a free modern toolkit worth ₹15,000 for trained Vishwakarmas.





The Leh region of Ladakh entered into a pioneering cultural exchange and tourism cooperation initiative with the Lam Dong Province of Vietnam on Dec 30.

- This event, which signified a crucial milestone in fortifying the bonds between these two distinguished regions, was held in Da Lat, Vietnam.
- Both regions abound in scenic beauty and are rich in Buddhist culture. Like Ladakh, the Lam Dong Province is known for its breathtaking natural landscapes, and rich cultural heritage, holding immense tourism potential.



16. Nadia Calviño: She took over as President of the European Investment Bank (EIB) on 1 January, replacing Werner Hoyer. The eighth president of the EIB, Calviño is the first woman to lead the institution.



- She is also the first Spaniard to head the Bank. She is a senior economist and civil servant who has held various positions in the Spanish government and in the European Commission.
- Based in Luxembourg, EIB is the lending arm of the European Union. It is the biggest multilateral financial Institution in the world.

17. Nadia Calviño: Appointed as the President of the European Investment Bank, a multilateral bank of the EU.

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Some Other Minor News!

1. The Reserve Bank of India has proposed allowing banks with a net non-performing asset (NPA) ratio of less than 6 per cent to declare dividends as against the existing norm of net NPA ratio of up to 7 per cent.





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