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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!!

Human trafficking is a global crime that refers to trading in humans and exploiting them for vested interests.

It is an illicit offence that is related to the use of deception, fraud, force, or coercion to engage persons in forced sex or labour or for any other ulterior motive. Every year, approximately 2,25,000 people worldwide become victims of human trafficking.

Remember!! The World Day against Trafficking in Persons is observed on July 30.

3. DRDO launches latest assault rifle 'Ugram'



The DRDO launched on Jan 8 a state-of-the-art assault rifle of the 7.62 x 51 mm calibre, named 'Ugram', meaning ferocious. It has an effective range of 500 metres and weighs less than four kilograms.

- The rifle has a 20 round magazine and fires in both single and full auto mode. The rifle is very much comparable to the latest AK and AR type rifles and it has a rivet-free design, making it robust.
- It has been developed by DRDO's Pune-based facility Armament Research and Development Establishments (ARDE) in collaboration with Hyderabad-based Dvipa Armour India Private Limited.

4. Ex Sea Dragon 24: An Indian Navy P-8I aircraft took part in the multilateral Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) exercise held from Jan 8 to 24 in Guam, a U.S. island territory in Micronesia, in the Western Pacific Ocean. The US-led exercise focused on fostering cooperation and interoperability among the navies of the US, Australia, South Korea, Japan, and India.



5. Gabriel Attal: Appointed as the next Prime Minister of France by the President Emmanuel Macron. At 34, he is the youngest Prime Minister in modern French history. He is currently the Education Minister of France.

6. Dubai voted as world's Best Destination

For a record third consecutive year, Dubai has clinched the prestigious title of the No.1 global destination in the Tripadvisor Travellers' Choice Best of the Best Destinations Awards 2024.

- Selection as the world's favourite destination highlights the vibrant offerings from Dubai, supported by top-notch infrastructure and exceptional service. Dubai is regarded as a top global liveability hub with a unique lifestyle and high safety standards for travellers.
- The selection was made exclusively by the reviews of millions of global travellers linked to Tripadvisor', world's largest travel guidance platform.
- Dubai was followed by Bali, Indonesia and London, UK at second and third place, respectively. New Delhi secured 11th spot.

7. 2023 was the hottest year on record

The European Union's Copernicus Climate Change Service on Jan 09 declared that the year 2023 was the Earth's hottest on record by a substantial margin and likely to be the world's warmest in the last 100,000 years.

- Since June, every month has been the world's hottest on record compared with the corresponding month in previous years. One major factor behind this was that the world's CO2 emissions from burning coal, oil and gas hit record levels in 2023.
- On average, in 2023 the planet was 1.48 degrees Celsius warmer than in the 1850-1900 pre-industrial period, when humans began burning fossil fuels on an industrial scale, pumping carbon dioxide into the atmosphere.
- Alongside human-caused climate change, in 2023 temperatures were boosted by the El Nino weather phenomenon, which warms the surface waters in the eastern Pacific Ocean and contributes to higher global temperatures.

8. Minimum capital for SFB raised to 200 cr



The Reserve Bank raised the minimum capital requirement for Small Finance Banks (SFBs) to Rs 200 crore and also permitted Payments Bank to upgrade as SFBs. Payments Banks can apply for conversion into SFB after five years of operations if they are otherwise eligible as per the guidelines.

SFBs offer basic banking services, accepting deposits and lending to unserved and underserved sections, including small business units, small and marginal farmers, micro and small industries, and entities in the unorganised sector. The difference between SFBs and Payments Bank is that the latter is not allowed to do lending.

9. 2024 Golden Globe Awards declared

The 81st Golden Globe Awards were declared on Jan 08 at a grand ceremony at the Beverly Hilton hotel in Beverly Hills, California, USA. First Golden Globe Awards were given in 1944.

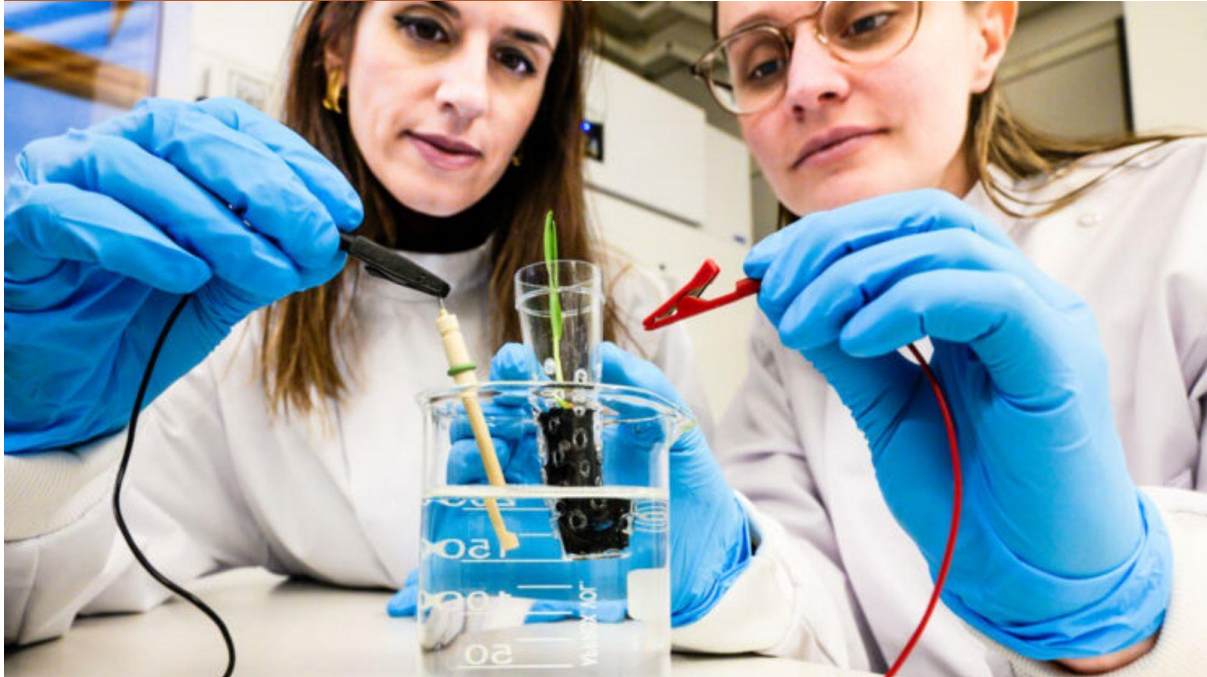
Best Motion Picture – Drama: Oppenheimer by Christopher Nolan

Best Performance by a Male Actor in a Motion Picture – Drama:
Cillian Murphy, Oppenheimer

Best Performance by a Female Actor in a Motion Picture – Drama:
Lily Gladstone, Killers of the Flower Moon

Best Director — Motion Picture: Christopher Nolan, Oppenheimer

10. Scientists develop eSoil



Researchers at Linköping University in Sweden have developed the electrically conductive cultivation substrate for hydroponic cultivation that they are calling eSoil. Barley seedlings in the eSoil grew an average of 50 per cent more than the normal method.

eSoil is made of cellulose, a biopolymer mixed with a conductive polymer called PEDOT.

Hydroponics refers to the technique of growing plants without soil using a water-based nutrient solution, an aggregate substrate, or growing media like coconut coir or perlite (a mineral).

11. Indore remains cleanest city – 7th time

Indore retained its first spot in Swachh Survekshan Awards 2023 for the seventh time in a row. However, this time, the Swachh city had to share its award with Gujarat's Surat. Navi Mumbai has been named third cleanest city of the country.

- Meanwhile, Madhya Pradesh slipped to second cleanest state in the country after Maharashtra. Mhow of Madhya Pradesh received the award for the cleanest Cantonment Board.

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- The awards were declared on Jan 11. The survey was conducted by the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs between July 7 to Aug 31, 2023.
- The survey assessed more than 4,500 cities across 46 indicators. Some of these indicators include segregated door-to-door waste collection, zero waste events, disabled-friendly toilets, improved plastic waste management.

12. January 12: National Youth Day

Celebrated across the country to promote youth related activities to commemorate the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda. Every year, the Government of India holds the National Youth Festival from January 12 to 16 in collaboration with one of the States and institutions like Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS) and the National Service Scheme (NSS).

- This year the festival was held in Nashik, Maharashtra. The theme of this year's festival was "Viksit Bharat@ 2047: Yuva ke liye, yuva ke dwara" (Developed India@2047: For the Youth, by the Youth).
- Swami ji, one of India's most revered spiritual leaders, was born in Kolkata on January 12, 1863, as Narendra Nath Datta.

- In his famous address at the World's Parliament of Religions in Chicago, 1893, he effectively reintroduced the Indian philosophies of Vedanta and Yoga to the Western world.
- A prime disciple of 19th century Indian mystic Guru Ramakrishna Paramhansa, he established Ramakrishna Mission at Belur, near Calcutta in 1897.

13. Aman Sehrawat, reigning Asian champion won the Gold medal on Jan 10 in Men's 57kg at the Zagreb Open 2024 Wrestling Tournament in Croatia.



14. India 80th in Henley Passport Index

Six countries, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Singapore and Spain, shared the top spot in the Henley Passport Index 2024 as their passports allow visa-free entry to 194 global destinations.

- The Indian passport remained the 80th strongest in the world, the same as last year, enjoying visa-free access to 62 countries.
- The Henley Passport Index ranked all of the world's 199 passports to 227 travel destinations. Where a visa is required, a score of zero is given, and a score of one is given if the destination is a visa on arrival.

- The Index is based on exclusive data from the International Air Transport Association (IATA) – the largest, most accurate travel information database.

15. Indian Navy gets first local UAV



Adani Defence and Aerospace introduced the Drishti 10 Starliner Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) on Jan 10 for the Indian Navy.

- The UAV embarked on its maiden journey from Hyderabad to Porbandar, marking its induction into naval maritime operations.
- It is India's first indigenous "medium-altitude long-endurance"(MALE) drone having 70% local components.
- With an endurance of 36 hours of flight and the ability to carry a payload of 450 kg, the drone is well-equipped for intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance missions.

16. Senthil Pandian C: Senior IAS officer appointed as India's Ambassador to the World Trade Organisation (WTO) in Geneva.

17. Tshering Tobgay: Chief of Bhutan's People's Democratic Party was elected as the Prime Minister of the country.

18. Divyakriti Singh from Rajasthan became the first Indian woman to be honoured with the prestigious Arjuna Award for equestrian sports.



19. Indian GDP to grow by 6.4% in 2024 – WB

The latest Global Economic Prospects report released by the World Bank on June 9 states that the growth in the Indian economy is expected to remain strong during next financial year, driven by robust investment and services activity.

- The report pegged GDP growth at 6.4% in 2024 and 6.5% in 2025. Global growth is expected to slow to 2.4%, marking the third straight year of moderation, according to World Bank estimates.

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Some Other Minor News!

1. Dubai has clinched the prestigious title of the No.1 global destination in the Tripadvisor Travellers' Choice Best of the Best Destinations Awards 2024, marking its third consecutive win.



2. Ustad Rashid Khan, a veteran classical vocalist, breathed his last in Kolkata on Jan 09 after a prolonged battle with cancer. He was 55.

3. 'Prasadam,' the nation's first healthy and hygienic food street was inaugurated on Jan 9 at Neelkanth Van, Mahakal Lok, in Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh to provide pure and clean food to the devotees. The food street offers facilities like a play area for kids, drinking water, CCTV surveillance, parking, public conveniences, and seating spaces.

4. The 3rd edition of Indusfood Tech 2024 - South Asia's premium food technology show was held from 8 to 10 January at India Exposition Mart, Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh. It is a platform to showcase cutting-edge food processing technologies, advanced equipment, plant and machinery, and technological innovations by leading players in India and worldwide.



Multiple Choice Questions!

1. The Reserve Bank of India recently raised the minimum capital requirement for which type of banks to Rs 200 crore?
 - a. Payment Banks
 - b. Small Finance Banks
 - c. Regional Rural Banks
 - d. Cooperative Banks
 - e. Urban Cooperative Banks

2. The prestigious Golden Globe Awards for Cinema and TV were declared on Jan 08 at a grand ceremony in Beverly Hills, California, USA. This was which edition of awards?
 - a. 81st
 - b. 82nd
 - c. 83rd
 - d. 84th
 - e. 85th

3. Indore retained its first spot in Swachh Survekshan Awards 2023 for the seventh time in a row. It shared the top spot with which other city?
 - a. New Delhi
 - b. Surat
 - c. Jaipur
 - d. Navi Mumbai
 - e. Mysuru

4. Researchers in which country have developed the electrically conductive cultivation substrate for hydroponic cultivation that they are calling eSoil?
 - a. Sweden
 - b. Japan
 - c. Norway
 - d. Britain
 - e. Canada

5. Which city hosted the National Youth Festival from January 12 to 16?
 - a. Bhopal
 - b. Udaipur
 - c. Kochi
 - d. Ranchi
 - e. Nashik

6. The Indian passport remained the 80th strongest in the world as per the recent Henley Passport Index. It enjoys visa-free access to how many countries?
 - a. 54
 - b. 58
 - c. 62
 - d. 73
 - e. 77

7. Adani Defence and Aerospace handed over the country's first indigenous Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) on Jan 10 to the Indian Navy. What is its name?
- a. Pushpak 24
 - b. Hansaa A-24
 - c. Drishti 10 Starliner
 - d. Drishti UAV 24
 - e. UAV Starking
8. Divyakriti Singh from Rajasthan became the first Indian woman to be honoured with the prestigious Arjuna Award for which sports?
- a. Equestrian
 - b. Rowing
 - c. Handball
 - d. Snorkelling
 - e. Fencing
9. What is the name of the state-of-the-art 7.62 x 51 mm calibre assault rifle launched by the DRDO on Jan 8?
- a. Vajra
 - b. Teevr
 - c. Dhanu
 - d. Ugram
 - e. Prabal

10. Mr. Gabriel Attal has been appointed as the next Prime Minister of which European country?

- a. France
- b. Spain
- c. Portugal
- d. Greece
- e. Poland

Answer Key

Q	ANSWER
1	B
2	A
3	B
4	A
5	E
6	C
7	C
8	A
9	D
10	A

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