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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. Sumit Nagal, 26 year old Tennis star created history on Jan 16 to become first Indian in 35 years to beat a seeded player at Grand Slam. He defeated world number 27 Alexander Bublik of Kazakhstan in the first round of the Australian Open in Melbourne.



2. China's population shrinks for 2nd year

China's population has declined for a second consecutive year due to plunging birth rate and higher death rate. The official data released by the National Bureau of Statistics on Jan 17 showed a population of 1.41 billion at the end of 2023, which was 2.75 million lesser than the 2022 level. The recent decline is double that of the previous year, which marked the first population drop in 60 years.

- China's birth rate in 2023 was 6.39 births per 1,000 people, down from a rate of 6.77/1000 in 2022 and marking the lowest birth rate on record.
- The country's birth rate has been plummeting for decades as a result of the one-child policy implemented from 1980 to 2015. During this period, large populations moved from China's rural farms into cities, where having children is more expensive.
- China's 2023 rate of 7.87 deaths per 1,000 people, was up from a rate of 7.37 deaths in 2022, making it the highest since 1974 during the Cultural Revolution.

3. Horticulture production on the rise



The Agriculture Ministry released on Jan 18 the third advance estimate of area and production of various horticultural crops for 2022-23. Horticulture production is estimated at over 355 million tonnes for 2022-23 crop year, about 8 million tonnes more than 2021-22 production.

- The fruits production is estimated to increase over 109 million tonnes and vegetables over 213 million tonnes in 2022-23. Horticulture also includes plantation crops, spices, flowers and honey.
- The area coverage under the horticulture crops has increased marginally to 28.34 million hectares in 2022-23 crop year from 28.04 million tonnes in the previous year.

4. Farsi to be India's 9th classical language

The Government of India has decided to include Farsi (Persian) as one of the nine classical languages in India under the New Education Policy 2020. The announcement was made by the External Affairs Minister, Dr S Jaishankar on Jan 15 during his visit to Tehran, capital of Iran.

- Tamil was the first language in India to be accorded classical language status in 2004. Sanskrit, Kannada, Malayalam, Telugu and Odia are the other languages that have been declared classical languages in India by the central government.
- Apart from these six languages, Pali and Prakrit are also to be declared as classical languages, making Farsi the 9th one. These languages are under the Eighth schedule of the Indian Constitution.

5. World's tallest Ambedkar statue



A 125-foot-tall statue of Baba Saheb Dr. B.R. Ambedkar was inaugurated on Jan 19 at the Ambedkar Smriti Vanam in Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh. The statue stands on top of a 81 feet high base building, making it the tallest statue of BabaSaheb in the world.

- The Smriti Vanam is spread over 200 acres and has been developed at a cost of ₹400 crore. It has facilities such as Ambedkar museum, a mini theatre, a convention centre, sky lighting, fountains, a library among others.

6. Shree Mandir Parikrama Prakaalpa in Puri



A massive peripheral development project named Shree Mandir Parikrama Prakaalpa (SMPP) around Puri's 12th century Shree Jagannath Temple was inaugurated on Jan 17.

- Built at a cost of over Rs 800 crore, the 75-metre-wide space encircling the temple, known as the heritage corridor, has now been named the SMPP. It is divided into nine different zones and runs for 1300 metres in circumference.
- The redeveloped complex will provide a variety of facilities and conveniences to the visitors such as rest rooms, cloak rooms, canteen, toilets, besides beautiful gardens and landscaped patches.

7. Battery that may work for 50 years

Scientists in China have developed a nuclear battery that claims to provide uninterrupted electricity for 50 years, without the need for charging or maintenance. The battery, measuring 15 x 15 x 5 millimetres, presently produces 100 microwatts of power at 3 volts, with plans to achieve 1 watt output by 2025.

8. 54th WEF summit held in Davos



The 54th annual meeting of the World Economic Forum (WEF) was held from Jan 15 to 19 at Davos, Switzerland. The theme of the conference “Rebuilding Trust” focussed on the core principles of trust, emphasising transparency, consistency, and accountability.

- Issues related to climate change, threats from artificial intelligence, economic issues, cooperation amid geopolitical fragmentation and other problems across the globe were discussed at the Forum. Ongoing conflicts like the Ukraine war, Israel-Hamas war were also part of the agenda.
- More than 300 representatives of governments and international organisations, billionaires, opinion makers, media giants and a number of prominent personalities from various walks of life participated in the mega event.
- Union Ministers Smriti Irani, Ashwini Vaishnaw and Hardeep Singh Puri represented India at the 5-day event, besides three chief ministers - Maharashtra's Eknath Shinde, Telangana's Revanth Reddy and Karnataka's Siddaramaiah. RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das and over a hundred CEOs were also a part of the Indian delegation at the Forum.

- India announced a new alliance for Global Good, Gender Equity and Equality on Jan 18 at the Forum. The Alliance aims to bring together global best practices, knowledge sharing and investments in the identified areas of women's health, education, and enterprise.
- This year's unique initiative at WEF, led by Union Minister of Women & Child Development, was a first ever women leadership lounge, hosted by Confederation of Indian Industry and Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.
- WEF is an international non-governmental think tank and research organisation for public-private sector collaboration on various global issues. It was founded on 24 January 1971 by German engineer and economist Klaus Schwab. It is based in Geneva, Switzerland and 85 year old Schwab is its Chairman.
- WEF serves as a global platform for addressing critical issues and fostering international collaboration, being an international non-governmental organisation facilitating collaboration between the public and private sectors. The meeting is seen as a pivotal summit, providing a platform to discuss long-term goals as the world looks ahead to the next decade.

9. Boeing opens its campus in Bengaluru

US aerospace giant Boeing's largest engineering and technology campus outside the US, was inaugurated on Jan 19 in Devanahalli, Bengaluru. Built at a cost of Rs 1,600 crore, the Boeing India Engineering & Technology Center (BIETC) campus is spread over the 43-acre.

The most modern, state of the art campus will act as a platform for partnering with India on next-generation products and services for the global aerospace and defence industry. It will help develop next-generation products and services for the global aerospace and defence industry.

10. Japan lands its spacecraft on Moon



The Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) successfully landed its Smart Lander for Investigating Moon (SLIM) on the moon's surface on Jan 20, making Japan the fifth country to put a spacecraft on the moon.

- The mission proved its “precision” landing technology as the spacecraft landed within 100 m of pre-determined space as against several kms in other attempts.
- Weighing around 700 kg, the 7x6x9 ft lander includes two main engines and 12 thrusters, surrounded by solar cells, antennas, radar and cameras.

11. Hero MotoSports Team Rally created history on Jan 19 by becoming the first-ever Indian manufacturer to finish on the podium in the prestigious Dakar Rally (motorcycles). Hero MotoSports rider Ross Branch finished the Rally at the second place for the team. The 2024 edition of the rally was held in Saudi Arabia.

12. The 6th edition of Khelo India Games was inaugurated on Jan 19 at Chennai. The Games will conclude on Jan 31. 5630 athletes from 36 states & UTs will compete in 36 disciplines.



13. Daljit Singh Chaudhary: Senior IPS officer appointed as the Director General of Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB). SSB is responsible for protecting our borders with Nepal and Bhutan. It is one of the seven Central Armed Police Forces under the administrative control of the Ministry of Home Affairs.

14. INS Cheetah, Guldar and Kumbhi, three naval landing ships were decommissioned simultaneously on Jan 12 at Port Blair, after rendering four decades of glorious service to the nation. All the three ships were built by Gdynia Shipyard, Poland.

A landing ship is designed for transporting troops and heavy equipment in amphibious warfare, capable of making assault landings directly onto a beach.

15. 24.82 crore escaped poverty in 9 years



A discussion paper on the report titled 'Multidimensional Poverty in India since 2005-06: A Discussion Paper', released by the NITI Aayog on Jan 15 claims that multidimensional poverty in India has declined from 29.17% in 2013-14 to 11.28% in 2022-23. Around 24.82 crore people "escaped" from multidimensional poverty during this 9-year period.

- Uttar Pradesh registered the largest decline in the number of poor with 5.94 crore people escaping multidimensional poverty during the last nine years followed by Bihar at 3.77 crore, Madhya Pradesh at 2.30 crore and Rajasthan at 1.87 crore.
- The Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) uses the Alkire-Foster methodology to assess the decline in poverty rates and covers 12 indicators -- nutrition, child and adolescent mortality, maternal health, years of schooling, school attendance, cooking fuel, sanitation, drinking water, electricity, housing, assets and bank accounts.
- The report also claims that various government initiatives such as Poshan Abhiyan, Anaemia Mukt Bharat and Ujjwala Yojana have played a major role in mitigating different forms of deprivation.

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Some Other Minor News!

1. Hyundai Motor India on Jan 19 completed the acquisition of General Motors (GM) India's manufacturing plant at Talegaon in Maharashtra. The company said it will invest Rs 6,000 crore in the modernisation of the plant.
2. The central government announced that it signed an agreement on Jan 15 with Argentina's state-owned mining and energy company to explore and develop five Lithium blocks in the Catamarca region.
3. Bangalore and Delhi Airports jointly bagged the best airport award for the year 2023 on Jan 18 at the 4th edition of "Wings India Awards" in Hyderabad. Vistara bagged the Best Airline of the Year award.
4. The Asia Shooting Championship 2024 was organised in Jakarta, Indonesia. India's Yogesh Singh won gold in men's 25m centerfire pistol event and also won the team gold.



Multiple Choice Questions!

1. Who created history on Jan 16 to become first Indian in 35 years to beat a seeded player at a Grand Slam, Australian Open?
 - a. Leander Paes
 - b. Rohan Bopanna
 - c. Yuki Bhambri
 - d. Saketh Myneni
 - e. Sumit Nagal

2. The Government of India has decided to include _____ as one of the nine classical languages in India under the New Education Policy 2020:
 - a. Urdu
 - b. Bhojpuri
 - c. Maithilee
 - d. Nepali
 - e. Farsi

3. A 125-foot-tall statue of Baba Saheb Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, his tallest statue in the world, was inaugurated on Jan 19 in which city?
 - a. Visakhapatnam
 - b. Bhubaneswar
 - c. Vijayawada
 - d. Nashik
 - e. Nagpur

4. A massive peripheral development project named Shree Mandir Parikrama Prakalpa (SMPP) that was opened to the public on Jan 18, is associated with which famous temple?
 - a. Meenakshi Amman Temple
 - b. Padmanabha Temple
 - c. Puri Jagannath Temple
 - d. Tirupathi Devasthanam
 - e. Konark Sun Temple

5. Which US Defence company's largest engineering and technology campus outside the US, was inaugurated on Jan 19 in Devanahalli, Bengaluru?
 - a. BAE Systems
 - b. Boeing Inc.
 - c. Raytheon
 - d. Lockheed Martin
 - e. General Dynamics

6. Japan successfully landed its Smart Lander for Investigating Moon (SLIM) on the moon's surface on Jan 20. What is the name of Japan's Space agency?
 - a. Japan Space Development Organisation
 - b. Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency
 - c. Japanese Space Research Organisation
 - d. Japan Aeronautics & Space Agency
 - e. Japan Space Research Authority

Answer Key

Q	ANSWER
1	E
2	E
3	C
4	C
5	B
6	B

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