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**TAAZA**

**KHABAR**

23-25 | January

2024

## 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. January 23: Parakram Diwas (Valour Day)



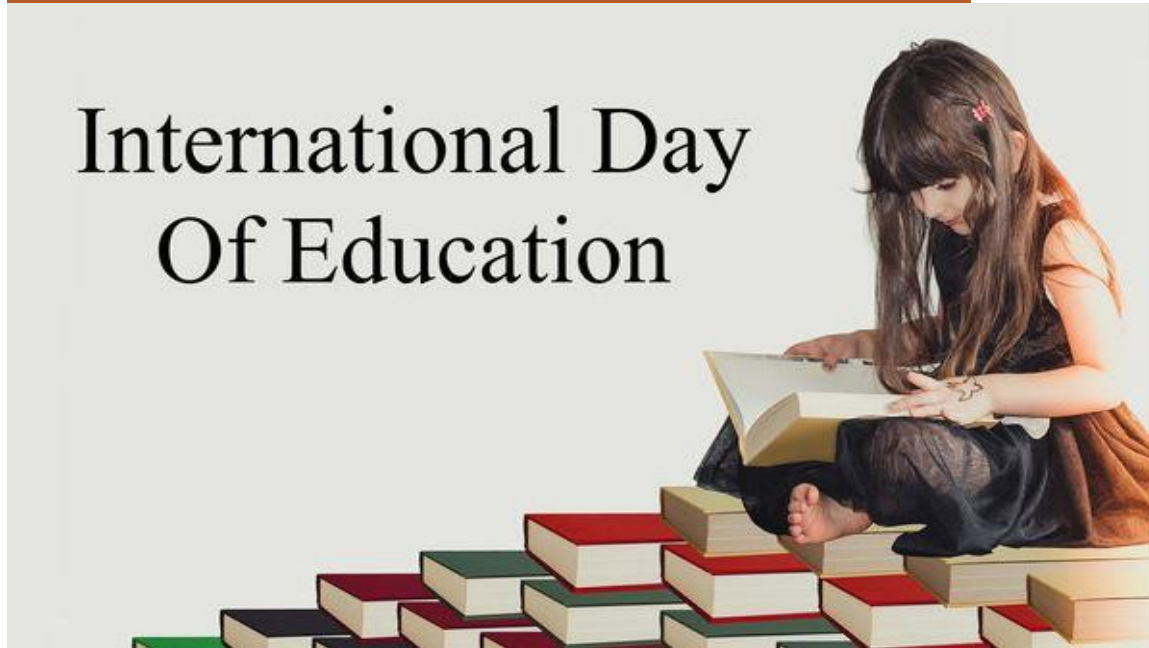
This day is celebrated every year to pay tribute to the great freedom fighter Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose on his birth anniversary. It was on this day in 1897, that Neta Ji was born in Cuttack, Odisha. The day aims to inspire people of the country, especially the youth, to act with fortitude in the face of adversity as Netaji did, and to infuse in them a spirit of patriotic fervour.

### 2. January 24: National Girl Child Day

The day is celebrated every year to promote awareness on a range of issues related to girls, such as education, health, and nutrition. It was initiated in 2008 by the Ministry of Women and Child Development. The day aims to increase awareness among the people and ensure that every girl gets equal importance as their counterparts. On this day in 1966, Indira Gandhi was sworn in as the first woman Prime Minister of India.

**Remember!** International Day of Girl Child is observed on October 11.

### 3. January 24: International Day of Education



The day is celebrated across the world with support from UNESCO to focus on improving the universal quality of education and its role in promoting peace and development. It aims to promote UNO's sustainable development goal no. 4 of 'Quality Education'.

- The theme for this year is "Learning for lasting peace". It emphasises that education can transform us, giving us the knowledge and skills to be peacemakers in our communities.
- **Remember!** In India, National Education Day is celebrated on November 11 to mark the birth anniversary of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, independent India's first Education Minister.

### 4. Bharat Ratna for Sh. Karpoori Thakur

Former Bihar Chief Minister Karpoori Thakur will be conferred country's top civilian honour Bharat Ratna posthumously. The announcement from the President's office was made on Jan 23, a day before the birth anniversary of the late socialist leader.

- Thakur, popularly known as 'Jannayak', served as chief minister of Bihar from Dec 1970 to June 1971 and from Dec 1977 to April 1979. Born on Jan 24 in 1924, the socialist leader passed away on February 17, 1988.

- His tenure as Bihar's chief minister was groundbreaking, especially for the deprived sections of society. Regarded as a 'beacon of social justice', his unwavering commitment to uplift the downtrodden and his visionary leadership have left an indelible mark on India's socio-political fabric.
- *Before this, Bharat Ratna was awarded in 2019 to three dignitaries, Nanaji Deshmukh, Bhupen Hazarika and Pranab Mukherjee. First time the Bharat Ratna was awarded in 1954 to three luminaries, C Rajagopalachari, Sir C V Raman and Dr Saevapalli Radhakrishnan.*

## 5. Pradhan Mantri Suryodaya Yojana

A new solar power scheme 'Pradhan Mantri Suryodaya Yojana' was announced by Prime Minister Modi on Jan 22 under which one crore poor households will get a rooftop solar system to provide electricity from solar energy.

- This will not only reduce the electricity bill of the poor and middle class, but also make India self-reliant in the energy sector.
- Rooftop solar panels are photovoltaic panels installed on the roof of a building. They capture solar energy which later is converted into electricity through an inverter.
- This electricity is routed through the main grid power supply unit. Thus, it reduces the consumption of the grid-connected electricity thereby saving electricity cost for the consume



## 6. S C Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar

60 Parachute Field Hospital in Uttar Pradesh has been selected for the Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar-2024 for its excellent work in Disaster Management.

- This hospital is the sole airborne medical establishment of the Indian Armed Forces, recognized for its exceptional service in various global crises. It was established in 1942.
- *Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar is awarded by the Ministry of Home Affairs to recognize and honour the invaluable contribution and selfless service rendered by individuals and organisations in India in the field of disaster management.*
- *The award is announced every year on 23rd January, the birth anniversary of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose. The award carries a cash prize of 51 lakh rupees and a certificate in case of an institution and five lakh rupees and a certificate in case of an individual.*

## 7. USA devastated by severe snow storms

In the USA, more than 90 weather-related deaths have been recorded after the country was pummelled by ferocious winter storms in the fourth week of January. States of Tennessee in the northeast USA and Oregon in the northwest USA were worst affected. Tens of thousands of people also remain without power across wide swathes of the country.



## 8. Indian stock market – 4th largest



For the first time, the Indian stock market surpassed that of Hong Kong (in terms of market capitalisation of listed companies), to become the fourth-largest equity market globally. According to data compiled by Bloomberg, the combined value of shares listed on Indian exchanges reached 4.33 trillion Dollars on Jan 23, versus 4.29 trillion Dollars for Hong Kong.

- The growth in the Indian stock market came on the back of a growing retail investor base, persistent inflows from foreign institutional investors (FII), strong corporate earnings, and solid domestic macroeconomic fundamentals.
- Currently, the US is the world's biggest stock market with a market cap of \$50.86 trillion, followed by China at \$8.44 trillion and Japan at \$6.36 trillion.

**9. Rohan Bopanna,** senior tennis star, became the oldest player to hold the No. 1 men's doubles ranking at the age of 43. His achievement came while playing doubles in the 2024 Australian Open quarter-finals in Melbourne.

**10. “To Kill a Tiger”**, a documentary set in a small Indian village, has been nominated for the best documentary feature at the 2024 Academy Awards. The film has been directed by Delhi-born Nisha Pahuja, an Emmy-nominated filmmaker, based in Toronto, Canada. The 96th annual Academy Awards (Oscars) will be held on March 10 in Los Angeles, USA.



## 11. BCCI top awards for 2019-20 season

The BCCI awarded a host of top men's and women's performers from the 2019-20 season on Jan 23 in a glittering ceremony in Hyderabad.

Col CK Nayudu Lifetime Achievement Award: Ravi Shastri and Farokh Engineer

Polly Umrigar Best Men's International Cricketer of the Year: Shubman Gill (2022-23), Jasprit Bumrah (2021-22), Ravichandran Ashwin (2020-21), Mohammed Shami (2019-20).

International Women's Cricketer of the Year award: Deepti Sharma (2019-20, 2022-23), Smriti Mandhana (2020-21, 2021-22).

**12. Suryakumar Yadav,** big-hitting batter was named the T20I Player of the Year on Jan 24 for a second consecutive time by the International Cricket Council (ICC).



**13. Exercise Cyclone:** The Indian and Egyptian armies began on Jan 22 an 11-day military exercise in Egypt's Anshas. The exercise aimed to acquaint both sides with each other's operating procedures in the backdrop of special operations in desert or semi-desert terrain.

**14. Exercise KHANJAR:** The 11th edition of the India-Kyrgyzstan Special Forces joint exercise was held at the Special Forces Training School in Bakloh, Himachal Pradesh from 22nd January to 3rd February 2024. The primary aim of the exercise was to facilitate the exchange of experiences and best practices in Counter-Terrorism and Special Forces Operation.

**15. NATO holds its largest military exercise**

World's biggest military alliance, NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organisation) began on Jan 24 its largest military exercise since the Cold War (after WW II).

- The exercise named “Steadfast Defender 24” aims to check NATO’s response to an attack from a rival like Russia, particularly in context of ongoing Ukraine war.
- It will be composed of a series of smaller individual drills and will span from North America to NATO's eastern flank, close to the Russian border.
- Some 90,000 troops, 50 naval vessels, 80 aircraft and over 1,100 combat vehicles, including 133 tanks and 533 infantry fighting vehicles, will take part in the months-long exercise.
- NATO is a military alliance of 31 nations, led by the USA. It was formed by 12 countries from Europe and North America on 4 April 1949 in Washington DC, USA.
- Finland was the last member (31st) to join the Alliance in April, 2023. Sweden is likely to join very soon as the 32nd member.
- It’s headquarter is in Brussels, Belgium. Its Secretary General is Jens Stoltenberg. Combined strength of the NATO forces is over 8.45 million, of which 3.85 are active soldiers.

## 16. January 25: National Tourism Day

The day aims to spread awareness of the importance of travelling and protecting nature. The day, established by the Government of India, aims to promote the tourism industry and recognize its contribution to the growth and sustainability of tourist destinations and local communities.

- India provides a diverse portfolio of tourism, including eco-tourism, beaches, deserts, mountains, spiritual, educational, rural, and medical travel.
- The theme selected for this year’s celebrations is ‘Sustainable Journeys, Timeless Memories.’ It emphasises the concept of responsible and mindful travel.

**Remember!!** World Tourism Day is celebrated on 27 September.

## 17. January 25: National Voters Day



Celebrated every year to spread awareness about the necessity of voting and to encourage the young generation towards voting rights because each vote decides the fate of the new government and democracy. The day marks the foundation day of the Election Commission of India, on this day in 1950. It was first celebrated on January 25, 2011.

The theme for this year's NVD 'Nothing Like Voting, I Vote For sure' is dedicated to all the voters, exhorting them to exercise their right to vote.

Sh Rajiv Kumar is the current Chief Election Commissioner of India. He is supported by two Election Commissioners, A C Pandey and Arun Goel.

## 18. January 26: The International Customs Day

The day is celebrated to highlight the role of customs officials and agencies and to focus on the working conditions and challenges that customs officers face in their jobs.

- The day was instituted by the World Customs Organisation (WCO) to commemorate its inaugural session held on this day in 1953 in Brussels. The WCO is an independent inter-governmental organisation based in Brussels, Belgium.



- *Customs duty refers to the tax imposed on import of goods. The government uses this duty to raise its revenues, safeguard domestic industries, and regulate movement of goods.*
- *Custom duty in India is defined under the Customs Act, 1962, and is regulated by the Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs (CBIC).*

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## Some Other Minor News!

1. Justice Prasanna Bhalachandra Varale, Chief Justice of the Karnataka High Court was sworn in as a judge of the Supreme Court on Jan 25 by the Chief Justice of India, DY Chandrachud. With this the number of judges in the Supreme Court has reached 34 -- which is its total sanctioned strength.



2. The world's first routine vaccine programme against malaria started in Cameroon on Jan 22. First jab of RTS,S vaccine was given in a village near Yaoundé. The initiative is projected to save thousands of children's lives across Africa.

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