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**TAAZA**

**KHABAR**

26-27 | 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!

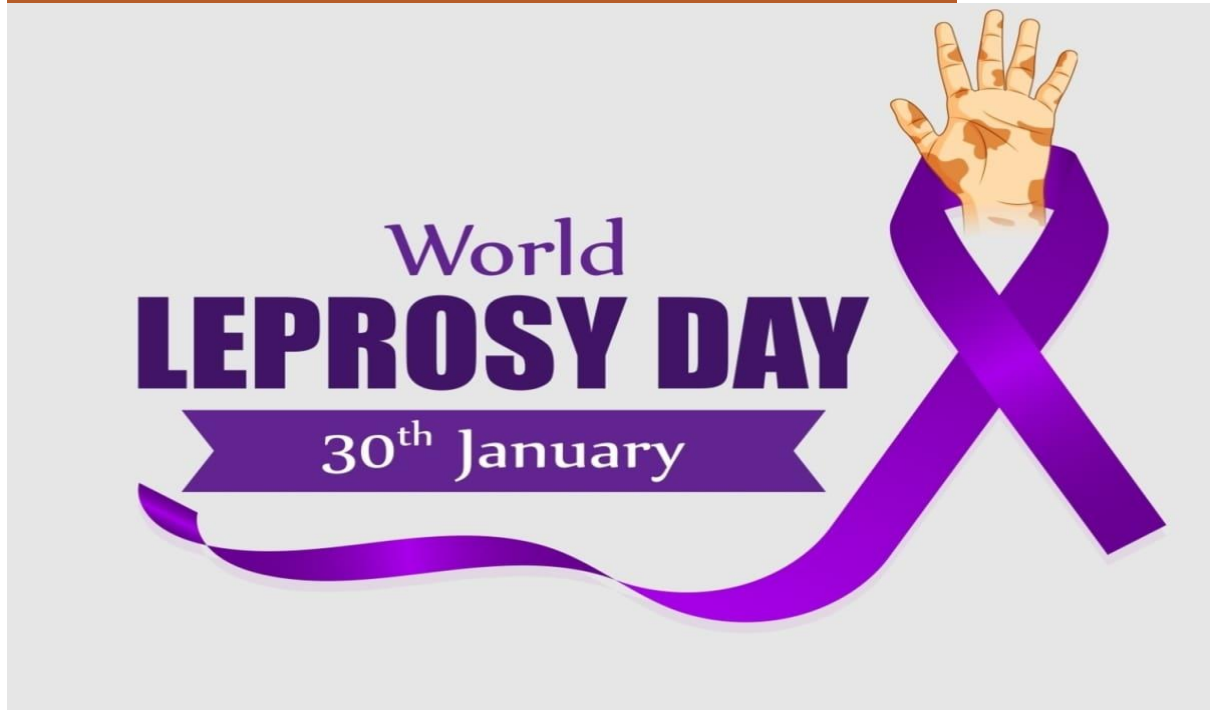
### 1. January (28): World Leprosy Day



Observed on the last Sunday of January, the day focuses on the target of zero cases of leprosy-related disabilities in children. On an average, India has been reporting more than one lakh new leprosy cases annually since 2005.

- The focus this year is on the theme “Beat Leprosy”. The theme aims to eradicate the stigma associated with leprosy and to promote the dignity of people affected by the disease.
- Leprosy is an infectious disease that affects the skin and nerves. Also known as Hansen’s disease, after the name of Norwegian physician G A Hansen, who discovered in 1873 the leprosy-causing bacteria.
- It is caused by the slow multiplying bacteria *Mycobacterium leprae* and mainly affects the skin, peripheral nerves, mucosa of the upper respiratory tract and eyes.

## 2. January 30: Martyrs Day/Anti Leprosy Day



This day is observed to commemorate the martyrdom of Mahatma Gandhi who was assassinated by Nathuram Godse at Gandhi Smriti in the Birla House, New Delhi during evening prayers on January 30, 1948. He was 78 at that time.

Further, to honour Gandhi ji's selfless efforts and deep concern for the care of the people affected with Leprosy, in India this day is also celebrated as Anti Leprosy Day.

## 3. Padma Awards announced for 2024

The government announced the Padma Awards, one of the highest civilian honours of India, for the year 2024 on Jan 25. The list comprises five Padma Vibhushan, 17 Padma Bhushan, and 110 Padma Shri Awards.

- Former Vice President Venkaiah Naidu, Telugu actor K Chiranjeevi, actress Vyjayantimala Bali, and Bharat Natyam dancer Padma Subrahmanyam have been honoured with Padma Vibhushan, country's second highest civilian honour after the Bharat Ratna. Social activist Bindeshwar Pathak has been awarded Padma Vibhushan posthumously.



- The 17 Padma Bhushan awardees include Bollywood actor Mithun Chakraborty, singer Usha Uthup, industrialist Sitaram Jindal, music maestro Pyarelal, senior BJP leader Ram Naik and Foxconn Chairman Young Liu from Taiwan. First woman Supreme Court Judge M Fathima Beevi and Tamil actor Vijaykanth have been awarded Padma Bhushan posthumously.
- Among the 110 Padma Shri awardees, 34 are unsung heroes such as India's first woman elephant mahout Parbati Baruah, tribal environmentalist Chami Murmu from Jharkhand and Dukhu Majhi from West Bengal, social worker Sangthankima from Mizoram, K. Chellamal, organic farmer from South Andaman. Among sportspersons, tennis star Rohan Bopanna, squash player Joshna Chinappa, hockey player Harbinder Singh were selected. Veteran Punjabi actress, Nirmal Rishi, of Gulabo Massi fame also got Padma
- Padma Awards were instituted in 1954. They seek to recognize achievements in all fields of activities or disciplines where an element of public service is involved. They are announced every year on the eve of Republic Day in three categories:
  1. Padma Vibhushan for exceptional and distinguished service
  2. Padma Bhushan for distinguished service of a high order
  3. Padma Shri for distinguished service.
- All nominations received for Padma Awards are placed before the Padma Awards Committee, which is constituted by the Prime Minister every year. The recommendations of the committee are submitted to the Prime Minister and the President of India for approval. These awards do not carry any cash award.



#### 4. French President Chief Guest at Republic Day Parade



French President Emmanuel Macron arrived in Jaipur on Jan 25 for a two day state visit to India. His visit marks France's sixth participation, the highest for any other nation, as Chief Guest on India's Republic Day.

- In Jaipur, Macron visited Jantar Mantar, the famous solar observatory established by Maharaja Sawai Jai Singh and also visited the Amer Fort.
- As the Chief Guest at India's 75th Republic Day celebrations at the majestic Kartavya Path, Macron witnessed the grand military parade and the cultural performances along with President Droupadi Murmu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and a host of other dignitaries.
- A 95-member marching contingent and a 30-member band contingent from France also took part in the parade.

**5. Virat Kohli, Indian batting maestro** was crowned the ICC men's ODI Cricketer of the Year 2023 on Jan 25 for his excellent run in the format last year. He finished the year with 1,377 runs which included six centuries and eight half-centuries.

## 6. President of UNGA, Dennis Francis visits India



Dennis Francis, the President of the 78th Session of the UN General Assembly, arrived in New Delhi on Jan 22 on a five day visit to India. The visit aimed to strengthen India-UN relations and facilitate discussions on India's priorities and global challenges.

- During his stay, Francis engaged in crucial talks with top dignitaries of India, including the President and the Prime Minister. The discussions focussed on promoting the ongoing diplomatic dialogue between India and the United Nations.
- He was the State Guest at the Republic Day Parade of Maharashtra in Mumbai.

## 7. 'Krutrim' becomes India's first AI unicorn

Ola group's artificial intelligence (AI) firm Krutrim successfully raised \$50 million at a valuation of USD 1 billion, making it India's first AI firm to turn unicorn. The funding was made by Matrix Partners India and others.

- Krutrim's Large Language Model (LLM) claims to power generative AI applications for all Indian languages with its largest database of Indian languages.
- Krutrim's conversational AI assistant claims to understand and speak multiple Indian languages fluently.

**8. Exercise Desert Knight:** The Indian Air Force conducted this exercise over the Arabian Sea on Jan 23 along with French Air and Space Force and UAE Air Force. The aircrafts operated from the Al Dhafra air base in the UAE. The exercise aimed at enhancing synergy and interoperability between the three Air Forces.





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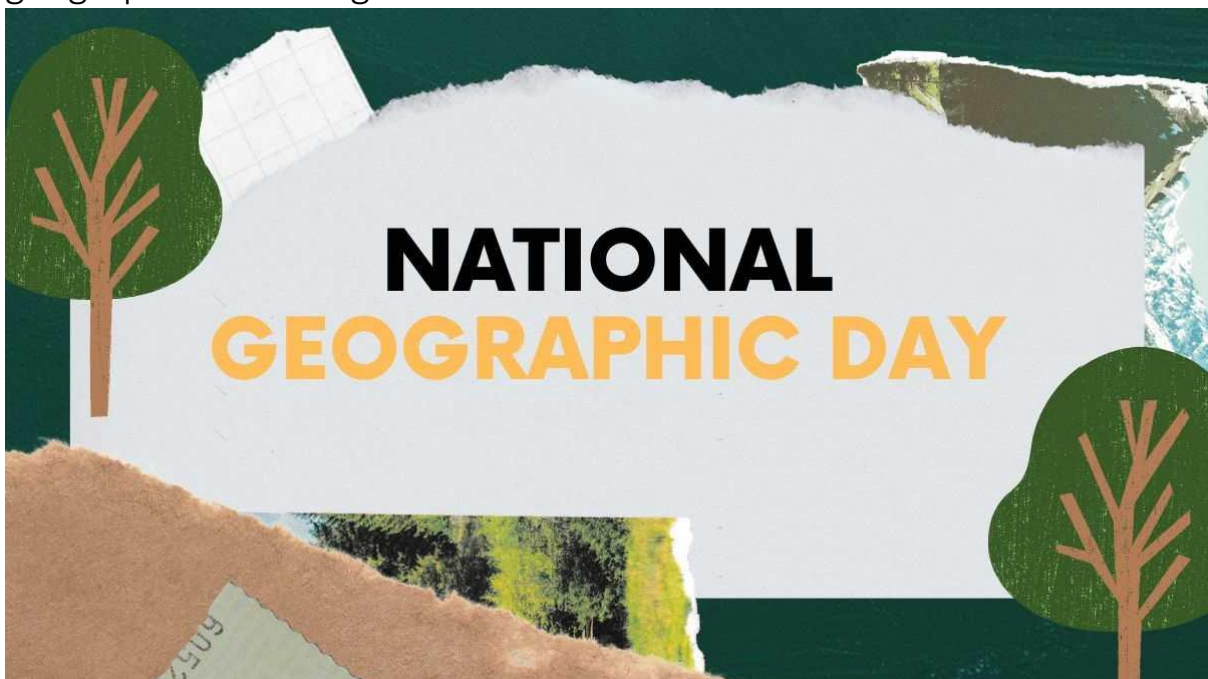
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Our Founder VMS Grover awarded by  
Punjab Education Minister

## Some Other Minor News!

1. January 27 is celebrated as National Geographic Day to mark the rich history and contributions of the National Geographic Society in the fields of geography, natural science, and exploration. The Society was founded on January 27, 1888, with a mission to increase and diffuse geographic knowledge.





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