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**TAAZA**

**KHABAR**

01-03 | February

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. February 01: Indian Coast Guard Day



The day marks the foundation of the Indian Coast Guard on this day in 1977. The day salutes the contributions made by the Indian Coast Guard to the nation's maritime security.

- Under the motto “वयं रक्षामः” (We protect) the ICG has saved over 11,554 lives since its inception, including 200 lives in 2023.
- Maintaining 24x7 vigil in the Maritime Zones of India, the ICG deploys 50 to 60 ships and 10 to 12 aircrafts daily. This has resulted in the seizure of weapons, contraband, and narcotics worth 15,343 crore rupees since its inception.
- ICG works under the Ministry of Defence with headquarters in New Delhi. It is headed by its Director General Rakesh Pal.

## 2. February 2: World Wetlands Day



This day is observed to raise global awareness about the crucial role of wetlands for people and the planet. Wetlands play a critical role in supporting a wide range of biodiversity and maintaining many natural cycles.

- With 80 Ramsar sites covering over 13.3 lakh hectares, India has the largest number of Wetlands in South Asia.
- The theme selected for the day this year is 'Wetlands and Human Wellbeing' which underscores the critical role wetlands play in enhancing our lives.
- Wetlands can be classified in to three types:

Inland wetlands: Marshes, lakes, rivers, floodplains, peatlands and swamps

Coastal wetlands: Saltwater marshes, estuaries, mangroves, lagoons and coral reefs

Human-made wetlands: Fish ponds, rice paddies and salt pans

- All over the world there are more than 2500 Ramsar wetland sites, spread over 257 million hectares.



### 3. Surajkund International Crafts Mela



The 37th Surajkund International Crafts Mela 2024 was inaugurated on Feb 02 in Faridabad, Haryana. The fair showcases the richness and diversity of the handicrafts, handlooms, and the cultural heritage of India.

- Around 50 countries participated in the 17 day Mela. Tanzania is the Partner Nation in the craft mela while Gujarat is the theme state.

### 4. Five more Ramsar sites declared in India

India increased its tally of Ramsar sites to 80 by adding five more wetlands on Jan 31 to the List of Wetlands of International Importance.

- Three of these sites, Ankasamudra Bird Conservation Reserve, Aghanashini Estuary and Magadi Kere Conservation Reserve are located in Karnataka while the other two, Karaivetti Bird Sanctuary and Longwood Shola Reserve Forest are in Tamilnadu.
- With the addition of these five wetlands, the total area covered under Ramsar sites has increased by over 5,500 hectares to 1.33 million hectares.

- Tamil Nadu continues to have the maximum number of Ramsar Sites (16 sites) followed by Uttar Pradesh (10 sites).
- The Convention on Wetlands is the intergovernmental treaty that provides the framework for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources.
- The Convention was adopted in the Iranian city of Ramsar in 1971 and came into force in 1975. Since then, 172 countries have joined the convention.

**5. The 6th Khelo India Games** concluded on Jan 31 in Chennai. Maharashtra bagged the overall championship for the fourth time with 57 gold, 48 silver and 53 bronze for a total of 158 medals. Host Tamil Nadu ended second in the medal tally with a total of 97 medals, followed by Haryana with 103 medals.



**7. FIH Hockey5s Men's World Cup 2024:** Netherlands lifted the Cup on Jan 31 by defeating Malaysia in the finals played in Muscat, Oman. India was placed at 5th position.



## 8. Country's first road safety force



The Punjab government launched a special road safety force, "Sadak Surakhya Force" (SSF) on Jan 27. This is the first such force in the country.

- The 1,600-strong force would be deployed across a 5,500 km road network of national highways and state highways in Punjab.
- It comprises 129 vehicles including 116 high-end Toyota Hilux vehicles equipped with state-of-the-art gadgets and linked to the nearest trauma centres to help accident victims.
- SSF teams would be deployed every 30 kilometres to assist accident victims and ensure that they get medical treatment within 15 minutes.

**9. ISSF World Cup, Cairo (24 Jan to Feb1):** India topped the medal tally with six medals, two gold, three silver and one bronze. First gold was secured by Rhythm Sangwan and Ujjwal in the 10m air pistol mixed team event. Divyansh Singh Panwar secured second gold in the men's 10 air rifle event, with a world record score.





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## Some Other Minor News!

1. RBI has imposed restrictions on Paytm Payments Bank and barred the entity from offering incremental banking services effective March 01, 2024, due to concerns regarding breach of and compliance with regulatory norms.



The Bank will not be allowed to accept deposits or undertake credit transactions or top-ups in any customer accounts, prepaid instruments, wallets, FASTags, and National Common Mobility Cards, among others, after February 29, 2024.

2. Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC), a leading institution for Journalism and Mass Communication, was declared as a “deemed to be University” on Jan 31 under a distinct category by the Education Ministry on the advice of the University Grants Commission (UGC).

3. A Pakistani anti-graft court jailed former Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan and his wife Bushra Khan for 14 years each on Jan 31 on charges of illegally selling state gifts.



4. 11th Indian Open Race Walking Meet, Chandigarh: Manju Rani won the women's 20km gold on Jan 30 while Akshdeep Singh won the gold in men's 20 km event.



5. Three Indian scientists have been selected for the prestigious Blavatnik Awards for their exceptional contributions to science. Rahul R Nair, Mehul Malik and Tanmay Bharat will be honoured on Feb 2u7 in London.

6. Anil Kumar Lahoti has been appointed as the chairman of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) for three years or until he turns 65.

7. Sultan Ibrahim of Johor state has been installed as Malaysia's 17th king.



8. The President of India nominated Shri Satnam Singh Sandhu, promoter of the Chandigarh University, Mohali as a member of the Rajya Sabha. This decision recognizes Sandhu's remarkable contributions to education, philanthropy, and community development.



9. For the first time, the WHO has issued certificates to 5 countries acknowledging their advancements in eliminating trans fatty acids (TFA), both industrially produced and naturally occurring. The five countries are —Denmark, Lithuania, Poland, Saudi Arabia, and Thailand.

## Multiple Choice Questions!

1. Indian Coast Guard Day on Feb 01 marks its foundation on this day in the year \_\_\_\_\_:
  - a. 1965
  - b. 1971
  - c. 1977
  - d. 1980
  - e. 1983
  
2. February 2 is celebrated as World Wetlands Day. India has how many Ramsar Wetland sites?
  - a. 53
  - b. 67
  - c. 76
  - d. 80
  - e. 85
  
3. Which Indian state has the largest number, 16, Ramsar wetlands?
  - a. Karnataka
  - b. Tamil Nadu
  - c. Kerala
  - d. Maharashtra
  - e. Gujarat

4. Which state hosts the famous Surajkund International Crafts Mela every year in the first half of February?
  - a. Gujarat
  - b. Maharashtra
  - c. Rajasthan
  - d. Haryana
  - e. Uttar Pradesh
  
5. The 6th Khelo India Games concluded on Jan 31 in Chennai. Which state won the overall championship by securing 158 medals, including 57 gold?
  - a. Punjab
  - b. Haryana
  - c. Karnataka
  - d. Maharashtra
  - e. Tamil Nadu
  
6. Which country won the FIH Hockey5s Men's World Cup 2024 on Jan 31 in Muscat, Oman?
  - a. Germany
  - b. Holland
  - c. Spain
  - d. Malaysia
  - e. Netherlands



7. Which state launched the country's first special road safety force, on Jan 27?
- a. Kerala
  - b. Assam
  - c. Punjab
  - d. Odisha
  - e. Tamil Nadu
8. Which country topped the medal tally at the ISSF World Cup held at Cairo, Egypt from Jan 24 to Feb 01?
- a. India
  - b. Japan
  - c. S Korea
  - d. China
  - e. Chile

## Answer Key

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

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