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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. Sadhu Meher: Renowned actor whose touching portrayal of a hearing and speech impaired potter in Shyam Benegal's Ankur (1974) earned him the national award for best actor, passed away at his Mumbai residence on Feb 02. He was 84. He was the first Odia actor to secure the national award. He was conferred with Padma Shri in 2017.



2. February 04: World Cancer Day

Observed to create awareness about cancer and to encourage its prevention, detection, and treatment. According to the World Health Organisation, cancer is the second leading cause of death worldwide, accounting for nearly one in six deaths.

- The day is organised by the Union for International Cancer Control (UICC). The theme for the Day for this year is "Close the Care Gap". It aims to increase awareness about the inequalities prevailing in cancer care in terms of availability, accessibility, affordability and.

- Cancer refers to a group of over 100 diseases characterised by the uncontrolled growth of a group of cells, usually forming a tumour.
- The most common cancers that affect people in India are lung, breast, cervical, neck, brain, and colorectal cancer. According to the official figures, every year nearly 9.6 million people in the world die from cancer.

3. The 66th Annual Grammy Awards 2024 were held in Los Angeles, USA on Feb 05.

Prominent Indian musicians Shankar Mahadevan and Zakir Hussain's fusion band 'Shakti' bagged the Grammy award in Best Global Music Album category for their latest album "This Moment".

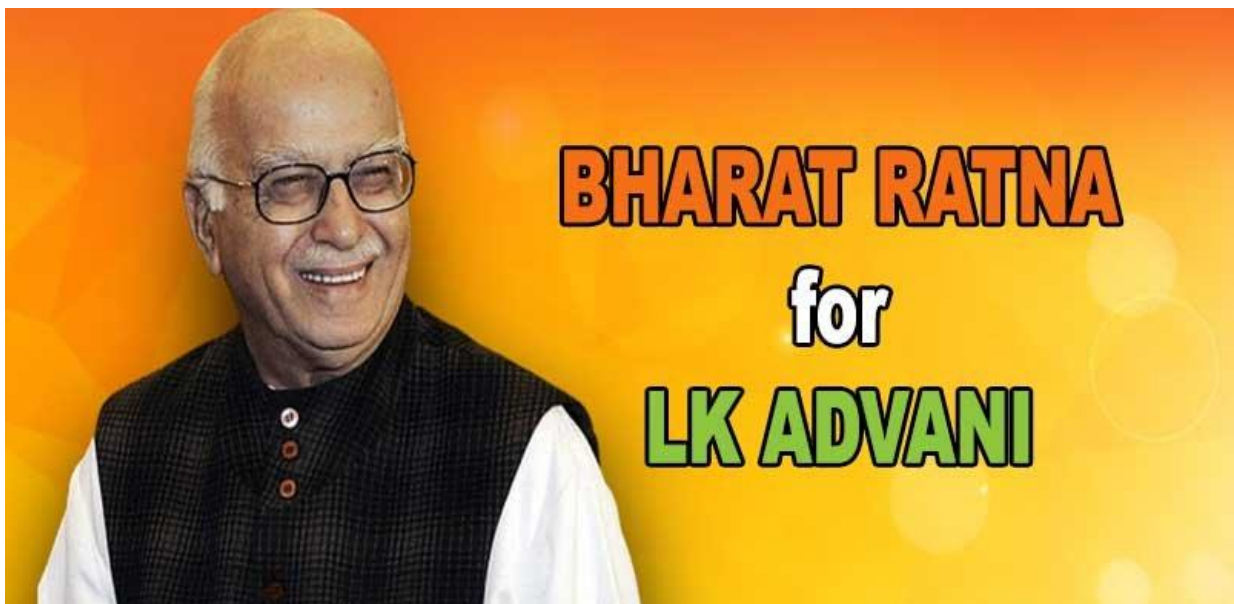
- Zakir Hussain also bagged the Grammy in Best Global Music Performance category for his contribution to Pashto.
- Flute artist Rakesh Chaurasia won dual Grammy for his collaborative album "As We Speak" in the Best Contemporary Instrumental and Best Global Music Performance categories



4. Bharat Ratna for Shri L K Advani

President Droupadi Murmu on Feb 03 conferred India's highest civilian honour, the Bharat Ratna, on the veteran BJP patriarch Lal Krishna Advani, making him the 50th recipient of the Bharat Ratna.

- Advani's decades-long service in public life has been marked by an unwavering commitment to transparency and integrity, setting an exemplary standard in political ethics. He made unparalleled efforts towards furthering national unity and cultural resurgence.
- The 96 year old Advani jio was born on Nov 8, 1927 in Karachi,(now in Pakistan). He held the position of Union minister for Information and Broadcasting (1977-79) and Home Minister in 1988 and again in 1999-2004. Later he also became Deputy Prime Minister (2002-04). He was President of the BJP thrice, from 1986 to 91, 1993-98 and 2004-05.
- He will always be remembered for the iconic Ram Rath Yatra from Somnath to Ayodhya that he led in 1990. It proved a turning point for the BJP's future and revival of the Hindutva sentiment in the country that ultimately brought BJP in power in 2009 and culminated in the inauguration of the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya in 2024.



5. UPI formally launched in Paris



At India's Republic Day Celebration in Paris, digital payment platform UPI was formally launched at the iconic Eiffel Tower. It marked a significant step towards taking UPI global for fostering stronger ties.

- The UPI is India's mobile-based payment system developed by the NPCI in 2016. It powers multiple bank accounts into a single mobile application of any participating bank, merging several banking features, seamless fund routing and merchant payments in one platform.

6. INS Sandhayak joins Indian Navy

INS Sandhayak, the first of the next-generation under-sea survey vessels, was commissioned into the Navy on Feb 03 at Naval Dockyard, Visakhapatnam.

- It is the first of the four such ships being made by Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata — a company owned by the Ministry of Defence.
- The ship can scan ocean depth up to 11,000 feet and carries the latest equipment to read undersea topography for operations of submarines.
- It will be used for hydrographic surveys of ports, harbours, navigational channels and exclusive economic zones

7. Chile: Fierce forest fires in central Chile in the first week of February caused widespread devastation, razing several habitations and claiming at least 112 lives.

- The fires reached the outer edges of Vina del Mar and Valparaíso, two coastal cities popular with tourists. The urban spread of these two cities accounts for more than a million residents west of the capital Santiago.



8. France first country to issue online visas

France has become the first country in Europe to start issuing digital Schengen visas. The new system, named the “Olympic Consulate”, started operating from January 1, 2024 to ensure hasslefree visa issuance to over 1.5 million people who are expected to visit France during forthcoming Olympics.

- The country will issue around 7,000 Schengen visas online to athletes, journalists, and delegations attending 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games.
- In the new system, applicants will not get a visa sticker on their passport. Instead, they will have their digital visas integrated into their accreditation cards.

- France's Olympic and Paralympic Games will take place between July 26, 2024, and August 11, 2024, and between August 28, 2024 and September 8, 2024, respectively.
- A Schengen visa is an authorisation issued by a Schengen state that allows travellers to enter the Schengen area for short stays in or transit through the territory of a Schengen state. The Schengen area includes all EU member states except Ireland and Cyprus.
- The Schengen Agreement is a treaty which led to the creation of Europe's Schengen Area, in which internal border checks have largely been abolished. It was signed on 14 June 1985, near the town of Schengen, Luxembourg.

9. February (6): Safer Internet Day

Observed every year on the second day of the second week of February with an aim to provide safer and better internet services, where every user gets to use the internet responsibly and without getting their data leaked, particularly among children and young people.

This year, the theme is "Together for a better internet".



10. Mukesh Ambani: Chairman of Reliance Industries, secured the second spot globally in the Brand Guardianship Index 2024 compiled by Brand Finance. He surpassed prominent figures like Microsoft's Satya Nadella and Google's Sundar Pichai to secure second spot. Tencent's Huateng Ma tops the list for promoting his brand WeChat.



- A brand guardian must develop both, brand and business value. Successful brand guardians secure mutually beneficial alliances to improve brand image and gain business interests.
- The Brand Guardianship Index applauds those CEOs who adeptly juggle the demands of commercial triumph, enduring brand development, and the meticulous management of personal reputation. Brand Finance is the world's leading independent brand valuation and strategy consultancy, based in London.

11. Oleg Kononenko: 59 year old Russian cosmonaut set a world record on Feb 04 for the most time spent in space, after logging more than 878 days or nearly two-and-a-half years in space, mostly in the International Space Station, orbiting the Earth at an average altitude of 400–460 kms.



- His current space flight is scheduled to end in late September, by which time he would have logged 1,110 days in space. His five space flights have spanned 16 years, starting his journey in space in April, 2008.
- Previous record was held by Gennady Padalka, also from Russia, for logging 878 days, 11 hours, 29 minutes and 48 seconds during five space flights before retiring in 2017.

12. Grammy awards 2024 announced

Grammy, the top global awards in the field of music, were declared on Feb 04 in Los Angeles, USA. Singer Taylor Swift stole the show, becoming the first performer to win the prize for album of the year four times. Other major winners were as under:

Category

Record of the year

Best Pop Solo Performance:

Album of the year:

Best pop vocal album:

Best R&B Song

Best Country Album

Best Global Music Album

Best Country Song

Song of the Year

R&B stands for Rhythm and Blues, a popular Afro-American music.

Winner

Miley Cyrus – Flowers

Miley Cyrus – Flowers

Taylor Swift – Midnights

Taylor Swift – Midnights

SZA – Snooze

Lainey Wilson – Bell Bottom Country

Indian musicians Shankar Mahadevan and Zakir Hussain's fusion band 'Shakti'

Chris Stapleton – White Horse

Billie Eilish – What Was I Made For?

13. Nagesh Trophy 2023-24: Men's National T20 Cricket Tournament for the Blind was won by Karnataka by defeating Andhra Pradesh in the finals played on Feb 02 in Nagpur, Maharashtra.



14. India to get MQ-9B SkyGuardian drones



The US State Department approved a potential sale of 31 armed MQ-9B SkyGuardian drones, missiles and supporting equipment to India for an estimated cost of \$ 4 billion. The official announcement was made on Feb 01. The Indian Navy is expected to field 15 of the drones, while the Army and Air Force will receive eight each.

- The MQ-9B SkyGuardian is a remotely piloted aircraft system (RPAS), created to assist in gathering intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR) around the globe. It can stay in the air up to 40 hours and can function day and night in all weather conditions.
- The drones have been developed and built by the General Atomics Aeronautical Systems (GA-ASI) in Poway, California.

15. Navy to hold 2024 as 'Year of Naval Civilians'

The Indian Navy has declared 2024 as the 'Year of Naval Civilians' to improve administration, efficiency and well-being of Naval Civilians by addressing all facets of Civilian HR Management in a time bound manner.

- Naval Civilian Personnel constitute about a third of the Indian Navy's total workforce and contribute significantly to its operational effectiveness across all domains.
- They play a crucial role in the functioning of establishments such as Command Headquarters, Dockyards, Material and Armament Depots, Training Establishments and several other types of support units.

16. Kendriya Grihmantri Dakshata Padak



The Centre has merged, with immediate effect (Feb 01), four existing Home Minister's medals to institute one new medal named "Kendriya Grihmantri Dakshata Padak".

- The new medal is named after merging the Union Home Minister's Special Operation Medal, the Union Home Minister's Medal for Excellence in Investigation, Asadharan Aasuchana Kushalata Padak and the Union Home Minister's Awards for Meritorious Service in Forensic Science.
- The new Padak will be conferred on members of the Police Forces, Security Organizations, Forensic and Intelligence Wings of all state/UTs, Central Armed Police Forces for display of outstanding excellence in operations such as Counter Terrorism, Arms Control, Left Wing extremism, Prevention of Narcotics Smuggling, etc.

17. Champai Soren: Elected as the Chief Minister of Jharkhand on Feb 02. He is a senior leader of Jharkhand Mukti Morcha. He replaced Hemant Soren who resigned on Jan 31.



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Some Other Minor News!

1. A special Bharat Gaurav Deluxe AC Tourist Train 'Shri Ramayana Yatra' was flagged off on Feb 4 from Safdarjung Railway Station, Delhi. The train being run under the 'Dekho Apna Desh' initiative, will travel through all prominent places linked to Lord Ram's life - Ayodhya, Janakpur, Sitamarhi, Varanasi, Chitrakoot, Rameshwaram and many more.



2. Michelle O'Neill, Northern Ireland's Parliament for the first time appointed an Irish nationalist as First Minister (govt head) on February 3. She is a senior leader of the local Sinn Fein party. This is a big blow to the unionists who won every election to the assembly in the last 101 years.

3. Punjab Governor and Chandigarh Administrator Sh. Banwarilal Purohit resigned from his post on Feb 03, citing "personal reasons." He was 29th Governor of Punjab and has served earlier as the Governor of Tamil Nadu and of Assam.

4. Abhinav Bindra, India's first individual Olympic gold medalist and an IOC Athletes' Commission member, is among the 11,000 torchbearers chosen to carry the iconic torch for the forthcoming 2024 Paris Olympics.

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