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KHABAR

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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. Bharat Rice priced at 29/kg



The government launched 'Bharat Rice' brand on Feb 06 to provide rice directly to consumers at subsidised rates of 29 rupees per kilogram. It will be available at retail outlets such as NAFED, Kendriya Bhandar, National Cooperative Consumers' Federation. In a bid to counter the upward trend in rice prices, the entities stocking rice including Traders, Wholesalers, Retailers, Big Chain Retailers, Processors and Millers have been mandated to disclose their stock from Feb 09 onwards.

2. The 4th Khelo India Winter Games 2024 concluded on Feb 6 in Ladakh. Maharashtra topped the medal tally with 20 medals, including 6 golds, 8 silver and 6 bronze. Karnataka and Ladakh secured second and third spot, respectively. The mascot for the games was the majestic snow leopard, named 'Sheen-e She' or 'Shan' in the Ladakh region.

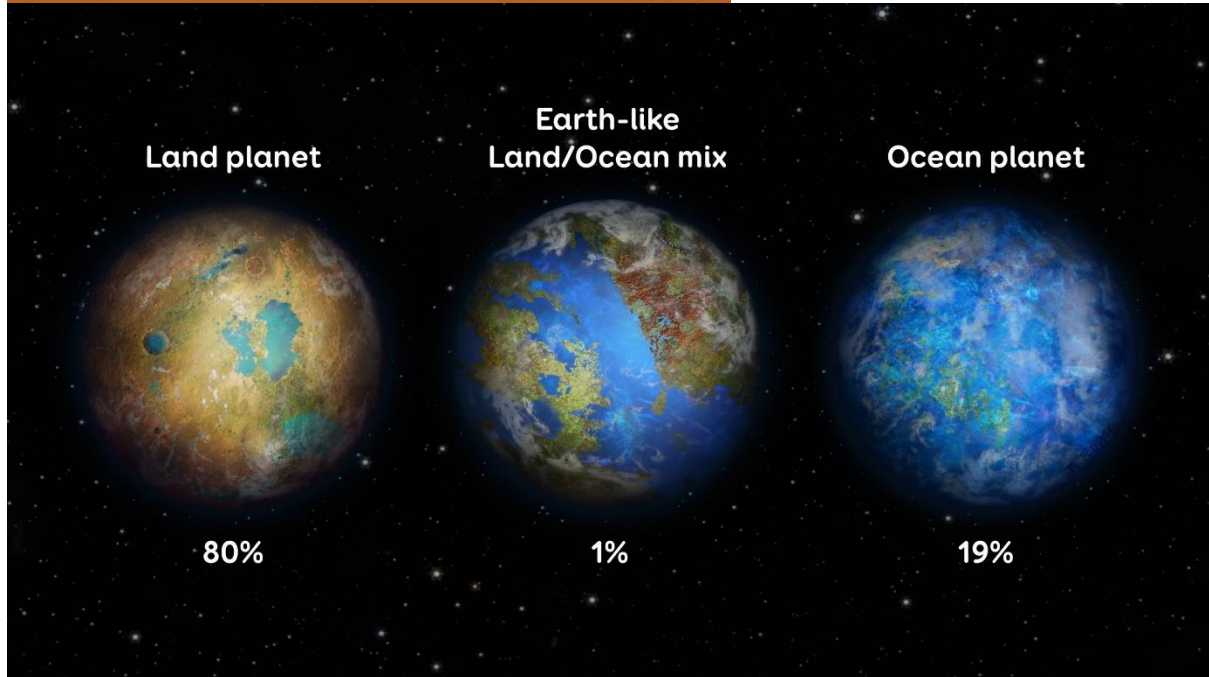
3. Bharat Rang Mahotsav opens in Mumbai



The Bharat Rang Mahotsav, recognized as the world's largest theatre festival, was inaugurated on Feb 01 at National Centre for the Performing Arts in Mumbai. Spanning from February 1 to 21, the event is to be held across 15 cities, featuring a diverse array of over 150 performances in various theatrical forms.

- Organised by the National School of Drama (NSD), Delhi, this year's event is special as it is the Silver Jubilee year of the festival.
- This year, NSD has introduced an innovative initiative "Rang Haat", Asia's first global theatre market to bring together theatre artists, writers, technicians for lighting and stagecraft and supporters to discover hidden talent, showcase international projects, and foster creative and financial partnerships.
- Beyond the captivating theatrical presentations, the festival will offer a comprehensive program comprising workshops, discussions, and master classes, fostering a vibrant celebration of both Indian and global theatre traditions.

4. Earth like exoplanet discovered



In a remarkable finding, NASA claimed to discover a "super-Earth" which has potential conditions and temperature for sustaining life.

- The exoplanet, dubbed TOI-715b, has been discovered with the help of NASA's Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS). It is around 137 light years away from Earth.
- As per the astronomers, the exoplanet is around one and half times the Earth's width and has been orbiting a small, reddish star, much smaller and cooler than the Sun.
- Because of the short distance of the super-Earth from its parent star, it carries the possibility of becoming a conservative "habitable zone" and can attain the right temperature for the formation of liquid water on its surface which is important for sustaining life.

5. RBI restricts operations of Paytm Bank

RBI has imposed restrictions on Paytm Payments Bank Ltd.(PPBL) and barred the entity from offering incremental banking services effective March 01, 2024. RBI notice specifically mentioned non-compliance with regulatory norms and supervisory lapses as the cause of concern.

- PPBL, in which Paytm holds a 49 per cent stake, and the promoter, Vijay Shekhar Sharma owns the remaining 51 per cent, acts as a banking partner for Paytm.
- The restrictions notified on Jan 31, relate to suspension of deposits, credit transactions, fund transfers, and top-ups. Services, like prepaid instruments, wallets, FASTags, and National Common Mobility Cards, will also face a pause in operations after February 29, 2024.



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Some Other Minor News!

1. Prime Minister of Guyana Mark Phillips arrived in New Delhi on Feb 06 on a six-day visit to India. Guyana is a small country on the northern edge of South America.



2. The government has decided to construct a fence along the entire 1643-kilometre-long Indo-Myanmar border. The patrol track along the border will also be paved to facilitate better surveillance.

3. India signed a \$ 78 billion deal on Feb 06 with Qatar to extend LNG imports from Qatar by another 20 years till 2048 at rates lower than current prices. The deal was executed by Petronet LNG Ltd with Qatar Energy to buy 7.5 million tonnes a year of gas for producing electricity, making fertilisers and producing CNG.

4. PT Usha, legendary sprinter and current President of the Indian Olympic Association, was honoured with the prestigious 'Lifetime Achievement' award on Feb 04 by the Sports Journalists Federation of India and Delhi Sports Journalists Association, recognizing her extraordinary contributions to Indian athletics.

5. Lt. Gen. Upendra Dwivedi has been appointed as the new Army Vice Chief of the Indian Army, effective February 15.



6. Ahmed Awad bin Mubarak, Foreign Minister of Yemen was appointed as the country's new Prime Minister by Yemen's Presidential Leadership Council.

7. Vinicius Jr, Brazilian superstar footballer has been appointed as a goodwill ambassador for UNESCO's Education for All initiative.

Multiple Choice Questions!

1. Five prominent Indian musicians won the prestigious Grammy awards on Feb 04 in various categories. Which one of the following is NOT one of them?
 - a. Zakir Hussain
 - b. V Selvaganesh
 - c. Ganesh Rajagopalan
 - d. Girish Vishwa
 - e. Shankar Mahadevan

2. Veteran BJP patriarch Lal Krishna Advani was conferred India's highest civilian honour, the Bharat Ratna, on Feb 03. In which year did he take out his famous Ram Rath Yatra from Somnath to Ayodhya?
 - a. 1988
 - b. 1989
 - c. 1990
 - d. 1991
 - e. 1992

3. India's digital payment platform UPI was formally launched in which foreign city on Jan 26 during the India's Republic Day celebrations there?
 - a. Venice
 - b. Singapore
 - c. Rome
 - d. Paris
 - e. London

4. INS Sandhayak, a next-generation ship was commissioned into the Navy on Feb 03 at Naval Dockyard, Visakhapatnam. What kind of ship is this?
 - a. Minelayer
 - b. Destroyer
 - c. Anti submarine
 - d. Surveyor
 - e. Explorer

5. In which country fierce forest fires in the first week of February caused widespread devastation, razing several habitations and claiming at least 112 lives?
 - a. Peru
 - b. Morocco
 - c. Greece
 - d. Colombia
 - e. Chile

6. _____ has become the first country in Europe to start issuing digital Schengen visas:
 - a. Sweden
 - b. Spain
 - c. France
 - d. Switzerland
 - e. Netherlands

7. Name the 59 year old Russian cosmonaut who set a world record on Feb 04 for the most time spent in space, over 878 days:
 - a. Gennady Padalka
 - b. Oleg Kononenko
 - c. Valeri Polyakov
 - d. Frank Rubio
 - e. Jerry L. Ross

8. Who became the first performer to win the prestigious Grammy Award fourth time for the “Album of the Year” category?
 - a. Miley Cyrus
 - b. Billie Eilish
 - c. Taylor Swift
 - d. Karol G
 - e. Adele

9. Which country confirmed the sale of 31 armed MQ-9B Sky Guardian drones, missiles and supporting equipment to India for an estimated cost of \$ 4 billion?
 - a. USA
 - b. France
 - c. Israel
 - d. Iran
 - e. Sweden

Answer Key

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

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