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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!

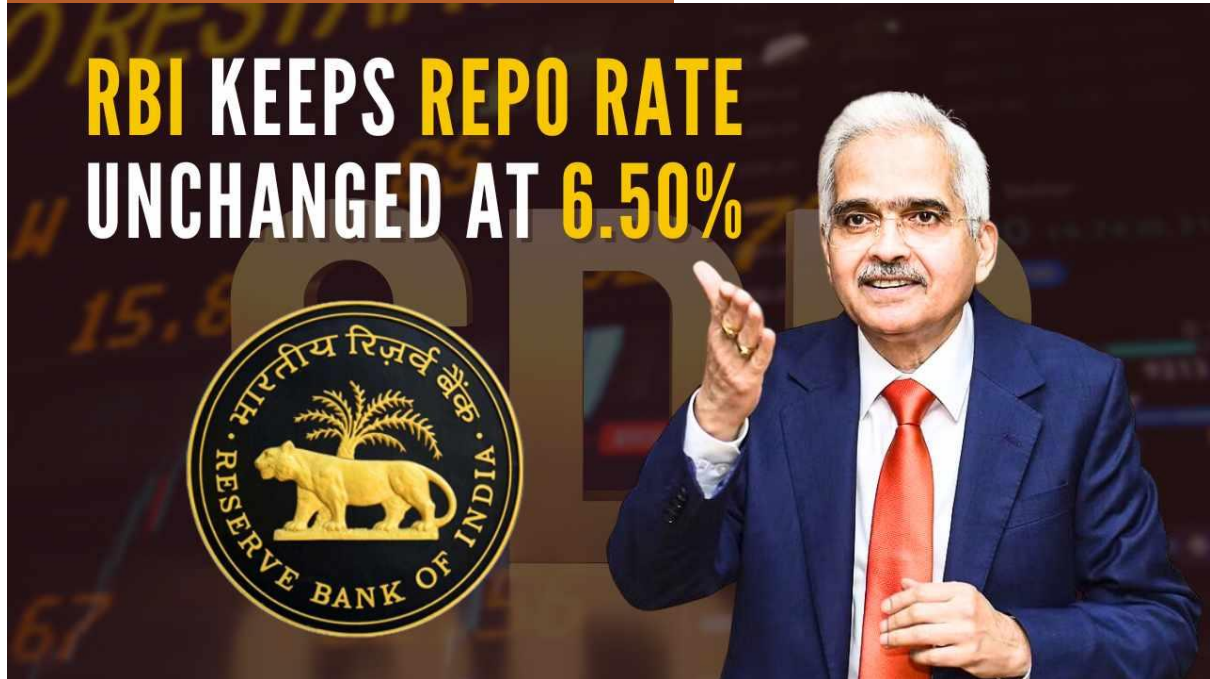
1. New initiatives launched under PMFBY



A Krishi Rakshak Portal and helpline and SARTH platform and Learning Management System (LMS) initiative were launched on Feb 08 under Prime Minister Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY), in New Delhi.

- The Krishi Rakshak Portal and Helpline is an integrated grievance redressal mechanism under which a call centre has been established to enable farmers to resolve their grievances and queries.
- The innovative SARTH (Sandbox for Agricultural and Rural Security, Technology and Insurance) platform harnesses technology to provide a broad spectrum of insurance products which offer coverage for health, life, property, agriculture equipment and disaster risks.
- The LMS is designed to revolutionise the training and knowledge-sharing landscape in implementing key agricultural schemes across the country.

2. RBI retains repo rate at 6.5%



The Reserve Bank of India has kept the repo rate unchanged at 6.5 percent for the sixth time in a row as retail inflation continues to be above its target of 4 percent.

- The decision was taken by the six-member monetary policy committee on Feb 08 in its last meeting for the current financial year.
- Consequently, the Standing Deposit Facility rate remains at 6.25 percent and the Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) rate and the Bank Rate at 6.75 percent.
- RBI has projected the retail inflation based on the Consumer Price Index at 5.4 percent in the current fiscal and 4.5 percent during the next financial year.
- The government has mandated the central bank to ensure the retail inflation based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) remains at 4 percent with a margin of 2 percent on either side.
- The repo rate is the interest rate at which banks draw funds from RBI to overcome short-term liquidity mismatches.

3. Indian Ocean Conference held in Perth



The 7th Indian Ocean Conference was held on Feb 09–10 in Perth, Australia with the theme "Towards a Stable and Sustainable Indian Ocean".

- Ministers from over 22 countries attended the conference. Over 400 social and corporate leaders, policy practitioners, scholars, professionals, and media personnel from about 40 countries also marked their presence.
- The Conference, a consultative forum for countries in the Indian Ocean Region, is organised annually by the Ministry of External Affairs in association with the India Foundation.

4. The 4th Khelo India University Games, 2023 will be held from Feb 19 to 29 in Guwahati and 6 other cities in Assam. The games will be hosted by the Assam government in association with the Sports Authority of India.

- Around 4500 athletes are expected to participate in 20 sporting disciplines. Over 200 universities will participate in the mega-university event.

5. SAFF U-19 Women's Championship: India and Bangladesh were declared the joint winners of the South Asian Football Federation's championship on Feb 08. In the finals played in Dhaka, all eleven players from each side converted their penalties in the shootout.



6. New scheme for benefit of fishing community

The Union Cabinet approved the "Pradhan Mantri Matsya Kisan Samridhi Sah-Yojana"(PM-MKSSY) on Feb 08. It is a central sector sub-scheme under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada for supporting fisheries micro and small enterprises.

- The scheme aims to benefit all Fishermen, Fish Farmers, Fish workers, Fish Vendors or such other persons directly engaged in fisheries value chain.
- A sum of Rs 6,000 crores has been approved for investment over a period of the next four years in all States and UTs.
- The scheme aims to create 1.7 lakh new jobs, with a special emphasis on employment for 75,000 women. Over 5.4 lakh continued employment opportunities will also be generated in the micro and small enterprises value chain.

7. Three more Bharat Ratnas announced

The government of India announced on Feb 08 conferment of the Bharat Ratna, the nation's highest civilian award, on three distinguished personalities who made indelible contributions to the country in various fields. Former Prime Minister Chaudhary Charan Singh, and former Prime Minister Shri PV Narasimha Rao and distinguished agro-scientist Dr MS Swaminathan are the esteemed recipients of this prestigious honour.

- PV Narasimha Rao (1921-2004), served as the 10th Prime Minister of India (1991-96). He is best known for ushering the country into an era of economic reforms. As a distinguished scholar and statesman, his visionary leadership opened India's markets to the world, laying a solid foundation for the country's prosperity and growth.
- Chaudhary Charan Singh (1902-87), who served as the Prime Minister of India for a short period in 1979-80, has been honoured for his unwavering dedication to the upliftment of farmers. Throughout his political career, including terms as the chief minister of Uttar Pradesh and the home minister of India, he championed the cause of farmers and played a significant role in nation-building.
- Dr. M S Swaminathan (1925-2023) has been honoured for his monumental role in transforming India into a food surplus nation from a food deficient country. Known as the father of the Green Revolution in India, he introduced high-yielding varieties of wheat and rice in collaboration with Nobel laureate Norman Borlaug, saving millions from starvation.

8. Jasprit Bumrah became the first Indian pace bowler to top the official world test rankings following his match-winning display on Feb 5 playing against England in Visakhapatnam. The 30-year-old claimed nine wickets in his reverse swing masterclass to secure India's series-levelling victory.

9. Google renames Bard as Gemini



The Alphabet company, of Google fame, announced on Feb 08 that their AI chatbot Bard would now be called Gemini, the LLM that powers Bard. Gemini is Google's most capable and advanced LLM to date.

- Gemini is available in 3 sizes: Gemini Nano, Gemini Pro, and Gemini Ultra. Android users will be able to download the Gemini app from the Google Play Store.
- Gemini will seamlessly integrate with popular Google products like Gmail and Google Docs, offering users a cohesive AI experience across various platforms.

10. EdCIL Vidyanjali Scholarship Programme

Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan launched the EdCIL Vidyanjali Scholarship Programme on Feb 06 in New Delhi. Over 70 students from Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas will receive scholarships totalling Rs 5 crore under this scheme.

- This initiative guarantees access to high-quality learning systems by facilitating a seamless transition from secondary to higher education and extending financial support for the meritorious students who lack means.

- EdCIL (India) Limited is a continuously profit making and fast-growing Mini Ratna Category-1 CPSE under Ministry of Education offering management and consultancy services in all areas of education both within India and overseas.

11. India 38th in Logistic Performance



India now ranks 38th in the 139-country Logistic Performance Index (LPI) released by the World Bank. It is the result of progress made in ensuring quick last-mile delivery, ending transport-related challenges and ensuring desired speed in the logistics sector.

- India's performance has drastically improved from 2014, when it was ranked 54th on the LPI. The report quotes modernisation and digitalisation as a reason for emerging economies, like India, to leapfrog advanced countries.
- The Index placed Singapore at the top, followed by Finland at second spot.
- The LPI measures the ease of establishing reliable supply chain connections and the structural factors that make it possible, such as the quality of logistics services, trade and transport-related infrastructure, and border controls.

12. Bill passed against cheating in exams



The Parliament passed 'The Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Bill, 2024' on Feb 09. The bill is aimed at curbing leaks, malpractices as well as organised malpractices in recruitment examinations like UPSC, SSC, Railways, Banking etc. and entrance tests such as NEET, JEE, and CUET.

- The objective of the Bill is to bring greater transparency, fairness and credibility to the public examination systems and to reassure the youth that their sincere and genuine efforts will be fairly rewarded and their future is safe.
- It is aimed at effectively and legally deterring persons, organised groups or institutions that indulge in various unfair means, mainly paper leakage for monetary and wrongful gains.
- The Bill proposes a punishment of a minimum of three to five years of imprisonment to curb cheating and for those involved in organised crimes of cheating, there is a provision of five to 10 years of imprisonment and a minimum fine of Rs 1 crore.

13. India Energy Week held in Goa



The India Energy Week 2024 was held from Feb 6 to 9 in Quitol, South Goa. The event focussed on key themes such as energy security, the shift towards sustainable sources, and the exploration of alternative fuels.

- Over 400 speakers and 4,000+ delegates, from over 100 countries attended the event to collaborate, discover new opportunities and strengthen partnerships.
- The next edition of the global energy conclave will be held at Yashobhoomi in New Delhi between February 11-14, 2025.

14. February 10: The National Deworming Day

Organised by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, the objective of this day is to deworm children and adolescents to reduce the prevalence of parasitic worms in their intestine.

- To achieve this aim, children and adolescents in the age group of 1-19 years are administered a single dose of a safe medicine Albendazole, in all states and UTs, on this day.
- Intestinal worm infection is the most common chronic infection in humans, affecting more than one in three of the world's population.
- It may be noted that this day is observed on half yearly intervals, on Feb 10 and again on Aug 10.

15. February 10: World Pulses Day



The Day is a designated United Nations global event supported by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) to recognize the importance of pulses (chickpeas, dry beans, lentils, dry peas and lupin beans among others) as a global food.

- The theme of World Pulses Day 2024 is “Pulses: nourishing soils and people”. Healthy soils not only provide the basis of food security but also provide the minerals needed to avoid malnutrition, growth stunting and other nutrient deficiency related illnesses such as Anaemia.
- Pulses are the edible seeds of plants in the legume family. Pulses grow in pods and come in a variety of shapes, sizes and colours. They are healthy, nutritious, a main source of protein and easy to cook with.

16. India makes its annual payment to UNO

India made a contribution of \$ 32.89 million on Jan 31 to the United Nations Regular Budget for 2024. India joined the "honour roll" of 36 Member States who have paid their regular budget dues to the UN in full and on time.

- India has consistently been among the countries which paid their contributions to the UN budget on time and in full. India accounts for nearly one percent share in the total UN budget.
- The total budget of the United Nations is \$3.59 billion, all of which is contributed by the 193 member states. The United States is the largest contributor, paying \$762.43 million to the regular budget, accounting for roughly 22% share.

17. February 11: Unani Day

This day is observed to spread awareness about the Unani System of Medicine and its benefits through its curative and preventive philosophy.

- The day also marks the birth anniversary of Hakim Ajmal Khan (1868-1927), an eminent Unani physician from Delhi who was a versatile genius, freedom fighter, educationist and founder of scientific research in Unani medicine. He was one of the founders of the Jamia Millia Islamia University. .
- In India, the Ministry of AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga, and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy) is responsible for promotion and development of the Unani system of medicine. Sh Sarbananda Sonowal is the current chief of the Ministry of AYUSH.
- Unani medicine is based on the Greek philosophy of Hippocrates (460-377 BC). The term Unani is derived from the word 'Unaan', Arabic and Urdu name for the country 'Greece'.



18. Feb11: International Day of Women & Girls in Science



The day recognises the critical role women and girls play in the development of science and technology. The Day is implemented by UNESCO and UN-Women in collaboration with institutions and civil society partners that aim to promote women and girls in science.

- The 2024 theme of the Day “Closing the Gender Gap in Science: Accelerating Action”, underscores the urgent need to address the barriers that hinder women and girls from pursuing and thriving in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) careers.

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Some Other Minor News!

1. Government has decided to scrap the Free Movement Regime, FMR between India and Myanmar to ensure the internal security of the country and to maintain the demographic structure of North Eastern states bordering Myanmar.



2. In Brazil, the authorities declared a health emergency in Rio de Janeiro on Feb 05 with a view to contain the spread of dengue fever. Rio city hall announced the opening of 10 care centers and the allocation of hospital beds for dengue patients.

3. Pyarelal Sharma, one-half of the legendary composer duo Laxmikant-Pyarelal, was felicitated with the prestigious Lakshminarayana International Award for his invaluable contributions to the Indian music industry. The award is named after the violin maestro Lakshminarayana.

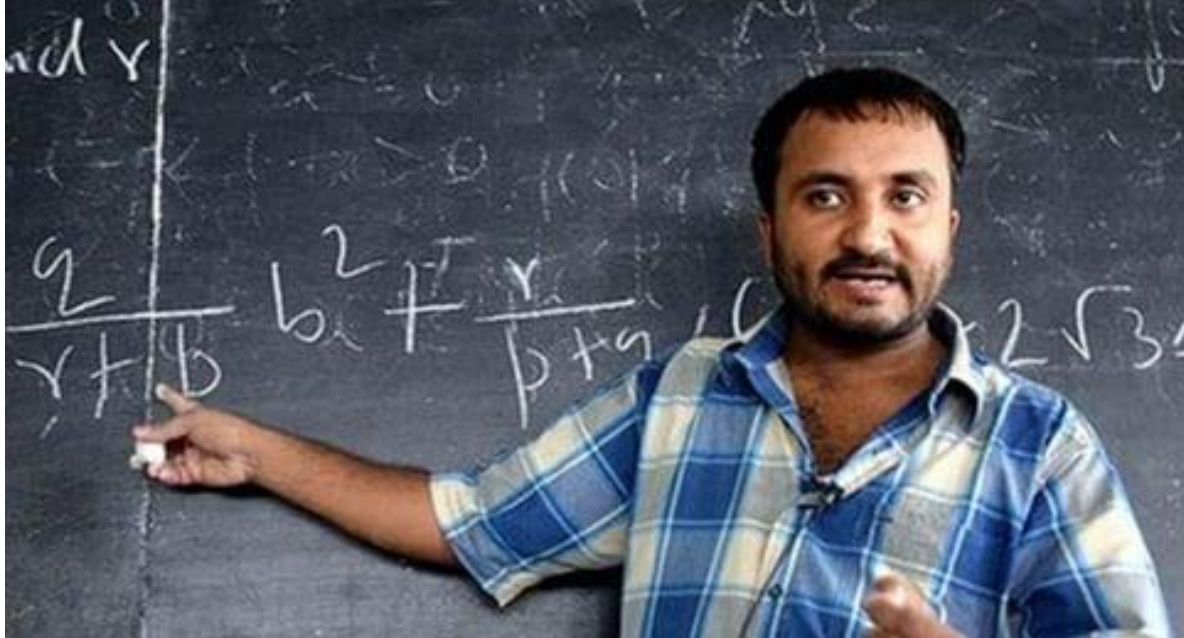
4. Russian nuclear power corporation, Rosatom, signed a new protocol to the intergovernmental agreement on the ongoing construction of the units number 3 to 6 at the Kudankulam nuclear power plant on Feb 08. Construction of units 3 and 4 began in 2017, while the work on units 5 and 6 began in 2021.



5. Uttarakhand became the first state to implement the Uniform Civil Code (UCC). The UCC aims to standardise laws governing personal matters like marriage, divorce, inheritance, and more across all citizens, irrespective of their religion.

6. Olzhas Bektenov has been appointed as the new prime minister of Kazakhstan by the President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev. At 43, he is the youngest prime minister of Kazakhstan/

7. Renowned Mathematics educator Anand Kumar, founder of Super 30, has been granted the prestigious 'Golden Visa' by the United Arab Emirates (UAE) government.



8. The Aadi Mahotsav 2024, an annual National Tribal Festival, was held from Feb 10 to 18 New Delhi. Over 300 stalls in the event showcased a wide variety of tribal art, handicrafts, natural produce, and delectable tribal cuisine. More than one thousand artisans from across the country participated to display their crafts and performances.

9. Nayib Bukele secured his role as El Salvadoran President for the second time on Feb 4, after a landslide victory in the 2024 presidential election.

Multiple Choice Questions!

1. Government launched a Krishi Rakshak Portal on Feb 8 for what main purpose?
 - a. To provide crop insurance
 - b. For online grievance redressal
 - c. Protecting farmers from money lenders
 - d. For providing subsidised pesticides
 - e. None of these

2. The 7th Indian Ocean Conference was held on Feb 09–10 in which Australian city?
 - a. Perth
 - b. Canberra
 - c. Sydney
 - d. Brisbane
 - e. Melbourne

3. Which state hosted the 4th Khelo India University Games, 2023 from Feb 19 to 29?
 - a. Kerala
 - b. Karnataka
 - c. Uttar Pradesh
 - d. Assam
 - e. Jharkhand

4. The government of India announced on Feb 08 conferment of the Bharat Ratna to three dignitaries. One of them, Chaudhary Charan Singh (1902-87), served as the Prime Minister of India for a short tenure in which period?
- a. 1977-78
 - b. 1978-79
 - c. 1979-80
 - d. 1980-81
 - e. 1981-82
5. Dr. M S Swaminathan has been honoured with Bharat Ratna for his monumental role in transforming India into a food surplus nation from a food deficient country. He hails from which state?
- a. Kerala
 - b. Karnataka
 - c. Andhra Pradesh
 - d. Tamil Nadu
 - e. Telangana
6. Who became the first Indian pace bowler to top the official world test rankings on Feb 05?
- a. Deepak Chahar
 - b. Arshdeep Singh
 - c. Bhuvneshwar Kumar
 - d. Mohammed Shami
 - e. Jasprit Bumrah

7. In the 139-country Logistic Performance Index (LPI) released by the World Bank, India jumped to _____spot from 54th in 2014:
- a. 33rd
 - b. 35th
 - c. 38th
 - d. 41st
 - e. 43rd
8. The Parliament passed 'The Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Bill, 2024' on Feb 09. The bill provides for fine of Rs _____ for those who are held guilty of any kind of unfair means in all-India exams:
- a. 10 lakh
 - b. 20 lakh
 - c. 40 lakh
 - d. 80 lakh
 - e. One crore
9. The India Energy Week 2024 was held from Feb 6 to 9 in Quito. It is in which state?
- a. Uttarakhand
 - b. Odisha
 - c. Goa
 - d. Rajasthan
 - e. Kerala

10. Unani Day on Feb 11 marks the birth anniversary of Hakim Ajmal Khan (1868-1927), an eminent Unani physician, scholar, educationist and freedom fighter. He hailed from which place?
- a. Aligarh
 - b. Bhopal
 - c. Ajmer
 - d. Delhi
 - e. Nagpur

Answer Key

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

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