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KHABAR

13-14 | 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 12: National Productivity Day



This day is observed to commemorate the establishment of the National Productivity Council-NPC on this day in 1958 by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

- It is a day dedicated to recognising the importance of productivity in driving economic growth, enhancing competitiveness, and improving the overall quality of life.
- The theme of this year's celebrations is "Artificial Intelligence (AI)- Productivity Engine for Economic Growth." It underscores the pivotal role of AI in propelling a nation's economic advancement and efficiency.
- *NPC is an autonomous organisation under the Department for Promotion of Industry & Internal Trade in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. Sh Piyush Goyal is our current Commerce and Industry Minister.*

2. February 12: Darwin Day

This Day is celebrated to inspire people all over the world to reflect on the importance of scientific thinking, curiosity to find new things, hunger for truth, etc. of Charles Darwin, the legendary British naturalist (12 Feb 1809– 19 April, 1882).

- *He is best known for his "Theory of Evolution" which established the principle of "Survival of Fittest". It states that only those species of animal or plants survive which successfully adapted or evolved to meet the changing requirements of their natural habitat and those who failed to do so, died.*

3. February 13: National Women's Day

Celebrated to commemorate the birthday of Sarojini Naidu, honouring the vital role she played in India's struggle for freedom against British colonial rule.

- She was one of the top leaders who led the Civil Disobedience Movement and the Quit India Movement.
- She became India's first woman governor (15 Aug, 1947 - 2 March, 1949) in Uttar Pradesh. She was famous as 'Bharat Kokila' or Nightingale of India for her excellence in poetry.



4. February 13: World Radio Day

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Supported by UNESCO, this day is celebrated all over the world to highlight the unique power of radio which touches lives and brings people together from every corner of the globe.

- Even after decades, radio continues to be one of the oldest, most popular, and most widely consumed news mediums. It also plays an important role in delivering information during the time of natural disasters.
- This year's theme is "Radio: A century informing, entertaining and educating". The United Nations states, "The 2024 observance highlights the history of radio and its powerful impact on news, drama, music and sports."

5. February (12): International Epilepsy Day

Observed on the second Monday of February every year across the world to raise awareness about epilepsy and to highlight the problems faced by victims, their friends and family.

- The day is organised jointly by the International Bureau for Epilepsy and the International League Against Epilepsy.
- This year's theme for the day is 'Milestones on My Epilepsy Journey'. It aims to highlight the personal achievements amid the challenges brought on by the condition.

- *Epilepsy is a neurological disorder in which brain activity becomes abnormal, causing seizures (convulsions) or periods of unusual behaviour, sensations and sometimes loss of awareness. According to WHO, around 50 million people worldwide have epilepsy, making it one of the most common neurological disorders globally.*

6. India wins GovTech Prize

India secured the prestigious 9th GovTech Prize at the World Government Summit 2024 for its pioneering endeavours in Artificial Intelligence (AI)-powered government services.

The annual award is instituted by the government of the UAE and is presented to government entities, central or local, worldwide, to recognize creative and innovative solutions.



7. PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana

A new solar power scheme, PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana was launched on Feb1. The scheme aims to provide 300 units of free electricity per month, generated by the solar panels, to one crore households.

- Government will provide substantive subsidies to the beneficiaries of the scheme by investing ₹75,000 crores. The subsidy amount will be transferred directly to their bank accounts.
- The beneficiaries will also be provided heavily concessional bank loans by the Central Government to ensure that there is no cost burden on the people.
- The scheme will lead to more income, lesser power bills for the beneficiaries and will lead to employment generation for people.
- The government will also incentivise urban local bodies and panchayats to promote rooftop solar systems in their jurisdictions.
- *The free electricity scheme was earlier announced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in her interim budget speech on February 1.*



PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana

8. Two day UAE trip by PM Modi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi made a two-day (Feb 13-14) visit to the United Arab Emirates, UAE. During the visit, he held bilateral meetings with the President of the UAE Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan and other top leadership of the UAE.

- The two countries signed half a dozen pacts, including one on the India-Middle-East-Europe corridor and another on protecting bilateral investments.
- He inaugurated the BAPS Mandir, the first Hindu temple in Abu Dhabi. He also addressed the Indian community in the UAE at the Ahlan Modi event in Zayed Sports Stadium in Abu Dhabi.
- He delivered a special keynote address at the World Government Summit 2024 in Dubai as a Guest of Honour.
- The PM also visited Doha, Qatar on Feb 14 to hold a bilateral meeting with the Emir of Qatar, Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad.

9. Reliance 1st to cross Rs 20 trn market cap

Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) became the first Indian company on Feb 13 to achieve a market capitalisation of over Rs 20 lakh crore. Shares of the Mukesh Ambani-promoted conglomerate also touched their 52-week highs during the intra-day trade amid firm sentiments in the broader market.

The scrip of Reliance Industries jumped 1.88% to its record high of Rs 2,957.80 a piece, before closing at Rs 2,928.95 per scrip on BSE.



10. Dubai first to start air taxi service



Local government in Dubai has partnered with Joby Aviation, a US based pioneer in electric aircraft development, to introduce a new air taxi service in Dubai by early 2026.

- The six-year agreement grants Joby Aviation the right to operate its cutting-edge air taxis in Dubai, marking the city as a global leader in eco-friendly and efficient air travel.
- Displayed for the first time in the region at the World Governments Summit, Joby's electric aircraft can transport a pilot and four passengers at speeds up to 300 kmph.
- The aircraft promises a drastic reduction in travel time, like a 10-minute flight from Dubai International Airport to Palm Jumeirah, compared to 45 minutes by car.

11. Kelvin Kiptum, the men's marathon world record holder from Kenya, and his coach, Gervais Hakizimana, met with a tragic end on Feb 12 in a road accident in Kenya. At only 24 years of age, Kiptum made history at the Chicago Marathon in October last year by setting a new world record of 2:00:35 hrs.

12. SWATI portal encourage women in science



Government launched an online portal “Science for Women-A Technology & Innovation (SWATI)” on Feb 11, aimed at increasing the participation of women in STEMM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics & Medicine) fields.

- The portal, first-of-its-kind in India, is a complete interactive database developed, hosted and maintained by the National Institute of Plant Genome Research (NIPGR), New Delhi.
- The portal aims to support the efforts to include each and every Indian woman in science, across all career stages and subjects, spanning both academia and the industry.

13. Asian Development Bank approved a \$200 million loan to the Assam government to strengthen flood and riverbank erosion risk management in the state. The project will benefit about one million people and increase crop production over 50,000 hectares in the state.

14. Mahindra bids for IAF’s MTA project

Mahindra Defence Systems Ltd signed a MoU on Feb 9 with the Embraer Defense & Security of Brazil to jointly bid for the Indian Air Force’s requirement of Medium Transport Aircraft (MTA) tender. Embraer is pitching its C-390 Millennium multi-mission aircraft for the deal.

- The C-390 aircraft offers unmatched mobility, combining high productivity, and operating flexibility with low operating costs, making it one of the best aircrafts in its category. C-390 can carry up to 26 tonnes of payload.
- The MTA is seen as a potential replacement for a part of the much smaller AN-32 aircrafts in service currently.

15. F4S to promote Football in schools



The Ministry of Education has partnered with FIFA to promote football in schools across India. Their joint initiative aims to distribute 11 lakh footballs under the Footballs for Schools (F4S) programme to more than 1.5 lakh schools, making the sport accessible to students nationwide.

- The initiative seeks to integrate football-related activities into the education system, emphasising inclusivity regardless of gender. Recently 6,848 footballs were distributed under this initiative in the schools in Odisha.
- Through initiatives like F4S, the Ministry and FIFA aim to promote values of teamwork, discipline, and fitness among students, contributing to their overall development. FIFA runs this ambitious programme in collaboration with UNESCO.

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Some Other Minor News!

1. In a major boost for open-source artificial intelligence, the United Arab Emirates has launched the Falcon Foundation, a non-profit organisation dedicated to advancing open-source generative AI models. This 300-million-dollar initiative, spearheaded by Abu Dhabi's Advanced Technology Research Council, aims to democratise AI development and accelerate technological progress through open collaboration.



2. The 200th birth anniversary of Swami Dayananda Saraswati, founder of Hindu sect Arya Samaj, was celebrated on Feb 12 all over India. Born as Mool Shankar Tiwari on Feb 12, 1824, in Tankara, Gujarat, his profound impact on religious reforms, education, and social justice laid the groundwork for a modern and enlightened India.

3. The government announced the 'National Creators Award' in 20 categories on Feb 10 to reward the outstanding contributions of new-age influencers and creators in shaping India's digital landscape.

Multiple Choice Questions!

1. National Women's Day on February 13 marks the birthday of Sarojini Naidu. She was India's first woman governor in which state?
 - a. Karnataka
 - b. Madhya Pradesh
 - c. Andhra Pradesh
 - d. Uttar Pradesh
 - e. Rajasthan
2. India secured the prestigious 9th GovTech Prize at the World Government Summit 2024 for its pioneering endeavours in which field?
 - a. Promoting technology in rural areas
 - b. Promoting Digital India program
 - c. Promoting AI powered government services
 - d. Promoting technology in space science
 - e. Promoting digital economy
3. A new solar power scheme, was launched on Feb13 to provide 300 units of free electricity per month, generated by the solar panels, to its beneficiaries.
 - a. 10 lakh
 - b. 20 lakh
 - c. 40 lakh
 - d. 66 lakh
 - e. 100 lakh

4. Prime Minister Narendra Modi held bilateral meetings with Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan on Feb 13 during his recent trip to UAE. He holds which position in the UAE?
- a. Prime Minister
 - b. Sheikh
 - c. Emir
 - d. President
 - e. Chief Supremo
5. _____ became the first Indian company on Feb 13 to achieve a market capitalisation of over Rs 20 lakh crore:
- a. Adani Energy
 - b. SBI
 - c. HDFC Bank
 - d. Reliance Ind. Ltd
 - e. Tata Sons

Answer Key

Q	ANSWER
1	D
2	C
3	E
4	D
5	D

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