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23-24 | 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??

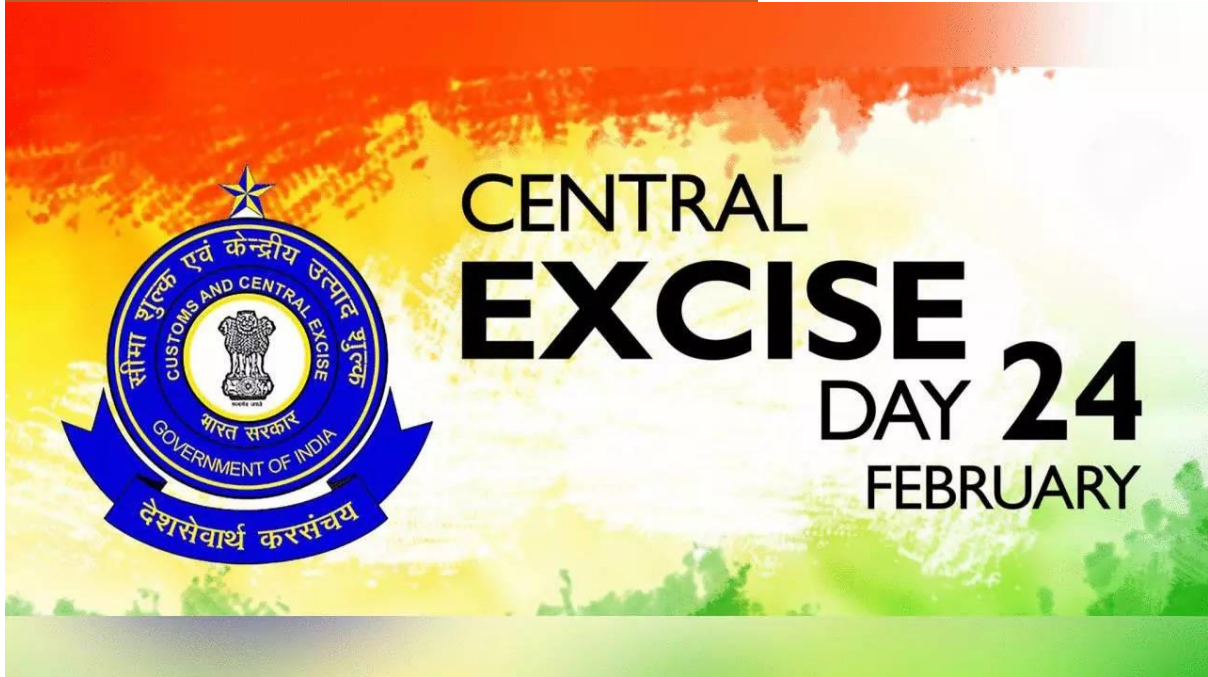
Don't worry!!

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 24: Central Excise Day



The Day is celebrated every year to commemorate the Central Excise and Salt Act, 1944 which was enacted on this day in 1944.

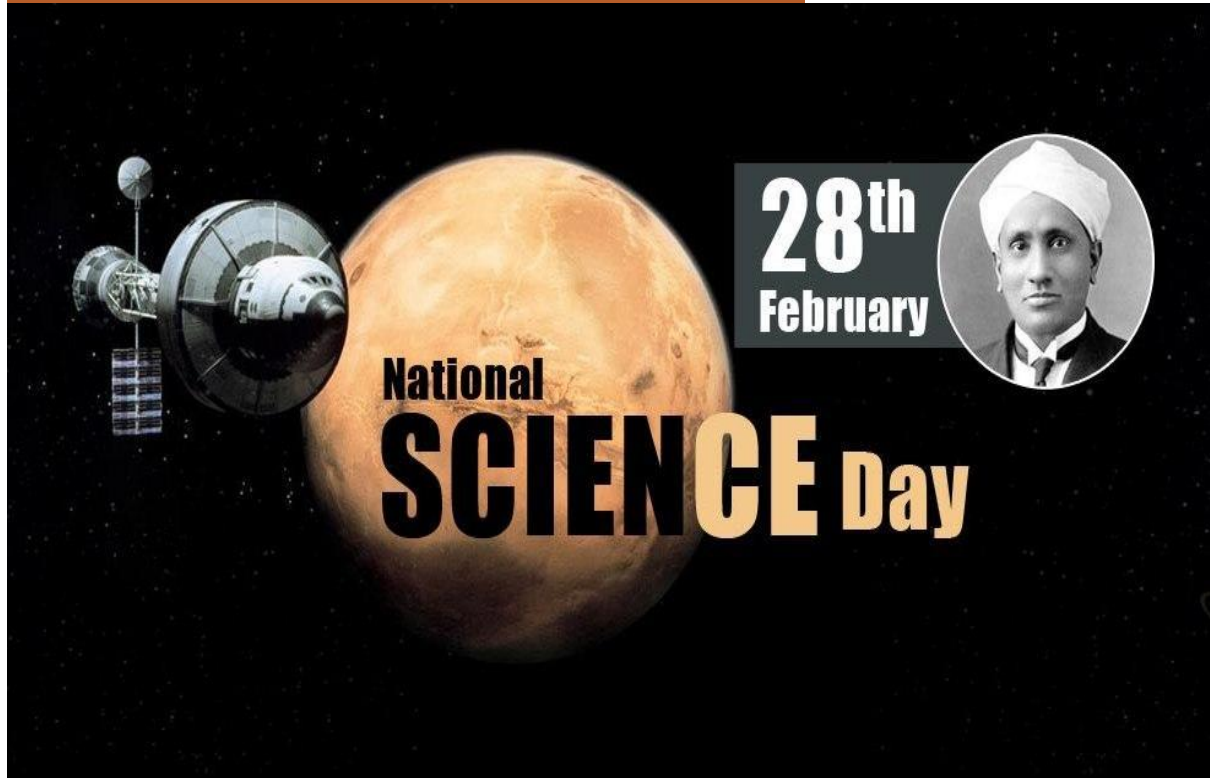
- The day aims to honour the contribution of the Central Board of Indirect taxes and Customs (CBIC) to India's economy.
- CBIC is a part of the Department of Revenue under the Union Ministry of Finance. Sh Sanjay Kumar Agarwal is the current Chairman of CBIC.

2. February 27: National Protein Day

Observed annually to raise awareness about the importance of consuming protein, which helps our body to function better and keeps us energised.

- Protein is known to be the "macronutrient" that our body requires in abundance. The human body requires protein for the growth and maintenance of tissues.
- The theme for this year #SolvewithProtein, aims to make protein-rich foods accessible to all.

3. February 28: National Science Day



Celebrated every year to attract and motivate the students towards science and to make the public aware of science and scientific achievements.

- On this day in 1928, Indian Scientist Sir Chandrasekhara Venkata Raman (Sir CV Raman) made the discovery of the Raman Effect for which he was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1930.
- The theme selected for 2024 celebrations is "Indigenous Technologies for Viksit Bharat". It focuses on promoting public appreciation for Science, Technology and Innovation and accomplishments of Indian scientists to address upcoming challenges through home-grown technologies.
- Raman Effect refers to the inelastic scattering of photons from the molecules in a way that they are excited to higher levels. The smaller wavelengths scatter more easily and these are in the blue spectrum. This is why the sky and the sea appear blue, confirming the Raman Effect.

4. February (29): World Rare Disease Day



Observed on the last day of February each year. It is the globally-coordinated movement on rare diseases, working towards equity in social opportunity, healthcare, and access to diagnosis and therapies for people living with a rare disease.

- The day is coordinated by the European Organisation for Rare Diseases (EURORDIS), which promotes research on rare diseases and commercial development of orphan drugs.

5. Manohar Joshi: Former chief minister of Maharashtra (1995-99) and former Lok Sabha Speaker (2002-04), passed away on Feb 23, aged 86. He also served as the union Heavy Industries Minister (1999-2002). He was regarded as one of the most trusted aides of Shiv Sena founder Bal Thackeray.

6. 9th Raisin Dialogue held in New Delhi

The ninth edition of the Raisina Dialogue will be held from Feb 21 to 23 in New Delhi with the theme “Chaturanga: Conflict, Contest, Cooperate, Create.”

Greece's Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis was the chief guest at the conference that was attended by more than 2,500 participants from around 115 countries.

The participants include ministers, former prime ministers and presidents, military commanders, technology leaders, journalists, scholars on strategic affairs, and experts from leading think tanks.

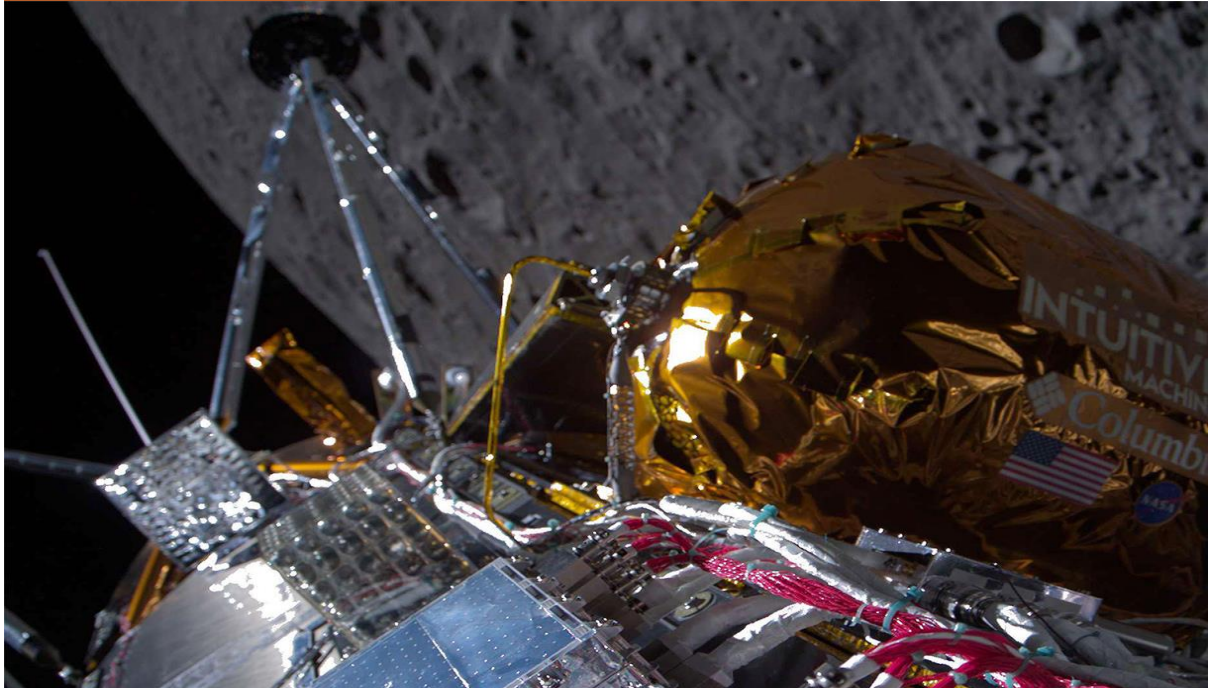
The Raisina Dialogue is an annual conference on geopolitics and geoeconomics, which aims to address the most challenging issues faced by the world. Delhi-based think tank Observer Research Foundation hosts the conference in partnership with the Ministry of External Affairs.

7. 16th Ex Dosti: The 16th edition of the trilateral Dosti exercise involving coast guards of India, Sri Lanka and Maldives from Feb 22 to 25 in Maldives.

This year, Bangladesh participated as an observer, which highlights the growing importance of maritime collaboration in tackling evolving challenges.



8. First private spacecraft lands on Moon



The Odysseus lunar lander, nicknamed "Odie" or IM-1, created history on Feb 22 by becoming the first US-made commercial spacecraft to touch down on the Moon.

- The lander developed by the private space company Intuitive Machine, based in Houston, USA, landed near the lunar South pole.
- It is the first successful landing by a US spacecraft on the Moon in the last 50 years, the last being NASA's Apollo 17 mission in 1972.
- The Odysseus lander's mission is designed to assess the lunar environment of the moon's south pole ahead of NASA's current plan to return a crewed mission there in late 2026.

9. Bhagwan Singh and Mahesh Khurana from Bhopal completed the 'World's Highest Frozen Lake Marathon' – Pangong Frozen Lake Marathon 2024, held on Feb 20 in Leh-Ladakh.

The Pangong Lake is situated at an altitude of 18,680 feet with temperatures plunging to -15°C, posing an ultimate challenge to the participants. 120 participants from all over the world participated in the marathon.

10. The 77th British Academy Film Awards, popularly known as the BAFTAs, were declared on Feb 18 in London.



Best film	Oppenheimer by Christopher Nolan
Leading actress	Emma Stone, Poor Things
Leading actor	Cillian Murphy, Oppenheimer
Best Director	Christopher Nolan for Oppenheimer

11. Prime Minister of Greece visits India

Mr Kyriakos Mitsotakis, Prime Minister of Greece, arrived in New Delhi on Feb 20 on a four-day state visit to India. He delivered the keynote address at the 9th Raisina Dialogue held in New Delhi. He also held parleys with the President and Prime Minister of India. He visited Mumbai for a business meeting with GMR Group, before returning to Athens.

- Greece is a country in southeastern Europe with thousands of islands throughout the Aegean and Ionian seas. Influential in ancient times, it's often called the cradle of Western civilization. Its capital is Athens and its currency is Euro. Ms. Katerina Sakellaropoulou is the President of Greece.

12. Shanti Prayas IV: The multinational military exercise was held from Feb 20 to March 04 at the Birendra Peace Operation Training Centre in the Kabhre district, 50 km east of Kathmandu in Nepal.



- India also participated in the exercise which saw participation of 1,125 army personnel from 19 countries.
- The exercise was organised jointly by the Nepal and US Army with the assistance of the Global Peace Operation Initiative of the US government.

13. Goa to get Blended Finance Facility

The Goa government announced on Feb 20 setting up of a Blended Finance Facility in partnership with the World Bank for climate resilience.

- The facility will enable Goa to access and mobilise concessional finance to implement low-carbon and climate friendly investments.

- The funds will be used for empowering local communities with new technologies and business models that will be crucial in responding to challenges posed by climate change.
- The announcement was made at the World Bank's India Climate and Development Partners' Meet, held in Panaji from Feb 19 to 21, jointly hosted by the Goa government and the World Bank.

14. Asser AI launches 'Pratham'



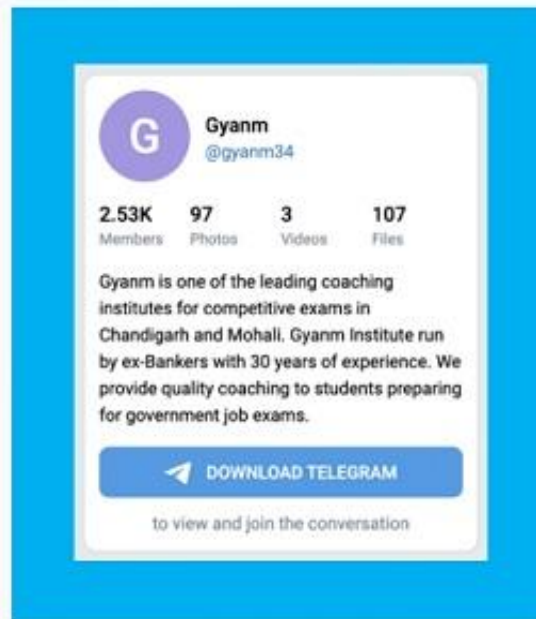
In a pioneering move, a Mumbai based leading computer vision company, Asser AI launched 'Pratham' on Feb 20. It is a groundbreaking platform that is patented for its innovative approach to democratising computer vision and artificial intelligence.

- This innovative platform is the first of its kind in the world and opens the doors of artificial intelligence to a broader audience, enabling them to unlock the full potential of computer vision without the complexities of coding or the requirement of AI specialists.
- Pratham allows users to effortlessly upload videos or connect their CCTV cameras directly to the platform. From people count and vehicle count to object count, Pratham covers a diverse range of applications.



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Some Other Minor News!

1. The Election Commission has allotted, man blowing turha, a traditional trumpet, as the symbol of the Nationalist Congress Party-Sharadchandra Pawar.



2. According to a recent survey conducted by a US-based global decision intelligence agency Morning Consult, Prime Minister Narendra Modi again emerged as the most popular global leader with 78 percent approval rating.

3. Two new Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors at Kakrapar Atomic Power Station: KAPS-3 and KAPS-4 were inaugurated on Feb 22 at Navsari in South Gujarat.

4. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved the Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) of sugarcane on Feb 21 for Sugar Season 2024-25 at ₹ 340/quintal at a sugar recovery rate of 10.25%. The revised FRP will be applicable w.e.f. 01 Oct 2024.

5. The Centre has approved an amendment in the Foreign Direct Investment, FDI policy, allowing 100% foreign investment in the space sector. 100% FDI under the Automatic route will be allowed for the manufacturing of components and systems or sub-systems for satellites, ground segments, and user segments.



6. The Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) accorded approval for procurement of more than 200 BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles and associated equipment for the Indian Navy, at a cost of around Rs 19,000 crore.

7. The ADB sanctioned a \$23 million loan for promoting fintech education, research, and innovation within the Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT) in India.

8. The union government has increased the compensation of fishermen in the event of death in mishap from one lakh rupees to five lakh rupees.

9. Tvesa Malik, Indian woman golfer won the Super Sport Ladies Challenge on Feb 23 at the Sunshine Ladies Golf Tour in South Africa.

10. Mobile World Congress 2024 was held from Feb 26 to 29 in Barcelona, Spain. The event is hosted every year where various companies from around the world showcase their latest products and innovations.



11. A S Rajeev, former Managing Director and CEO of Bank of Maharashtra, appointed as the Vigilance Commissioner of the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC)

12. India's largest Remote Pilot Training Organisation has been set up in Guwahati by the Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati, in collaboration with EduRade. Spanning across 18 acres, this initiative boasts the capability to simultaneously fly 9 medium-class drones.

13. Wencai Zhang was appointed as the Managing Director and World Bank Group Chief Administrative Officer by its President, Ajay Banga.



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