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Top Stories of The Day

- *Japan to Deploy Surface-to-Air Missiles on Yonaguni Island, Raising Tensions Near Taiwan*
- *Anthropic–Pentagon Dispute Escalates as AI Firm Resists Military Use Without Safeguards*
- *Power Shift in Venezuela After Maduro's Capture as U.S. Influence Over Oil Grows*
- *Pakistan–Afghanistan Conflict Intensifies with Cross-Border Air Strikes and 'Open War' Claim*
- *Iran Expands Ballistic Missile Capabilities Amid Regional Security Concerns*
- *DRDO Successfully Tests Indigenous VSHORADS Missile System at Chandipur*
- *Micron Inaugurates ₹22,500-Crore Semiconductor ATMP Facility in Gujarat*
- *India Posts Strong 7.8% GDP Growth in Q3 FY26 Under New Base Year Series*
- *IMD and Nagaland Higher Education Dept Sign 20-Year MoU to Boost Weather Research*
- *India and EU Grant Each Other MFN Status Under Landmark Free Trade Agreement*

Japan to install missiles near Taiwan: Are China tensions set to spike?

What Is Japan Planning?

- Government of Japan plans to place surface-to-air missiles on Yonaguni Island.
- Yonaguni is the westernmost Japanese island, about 110 km east of Taiwan.
- The missiles are meant to defend against aircraft and possible military threats in the region.

Why This Move Matters

- The region around Taiwan and Japan is already tense because of growing military activity by China.
- Taiwan's status is disputed: China claims Taiwan as its territory, but Taiwan operates independently.
- Deploying missiles near Taiwan could make Japan's air defence stronger but may also increase tensions with China.

What Japan Says

- Japan says it is strengthening its defence because of threats from China's growing military power.
- The move is part of a broader plan to protect Japan's southwestern islands.
- Japan has already placed similar systems on other islands like Miyako and Ishigaki.
- The exact deployment on Yonaguni is expected to happen by around 2030–2031.

How China Reacted

- Officials in China view the plan as provocative and say it could worsen regional tensions.
- Beijing has also taken other actions like imposing export restrictions on some Japanese companies, which Tokyo protested.
- The wider regional disagreement reflects competition over influence in the East China Sea and around Taiwan.

What Experts Say

- Analysts believe that placing missiles closer to Taiwan could make the region more volatile.
- Some fear it could draw Japan closer into any future conflict involving Taiwan, China, and other powers.
- Others say Japan needs to strengthen its defences given China's military build-up.

Japan-China Disputes:

- Territorial Dispute: Senkaku/Diaoyu Islands
- Both countries claim the islands known as:
- Senkaku Islands (Japan's name)
- Diaoyu Islands (China's name)
- Located in the East China Sea.
- China regularly sends coast guard and naval vessels near the islands.
- Japan considers them its sovereign territory.

Taiwan Factor

- Japan is geographically close to Taiwan.
- Any China–Taiwan conflict would directly affect Japan's security.
- Japan has strengthened defences in islands like Yonaguni near Taiwan.

Anthropic vs the Pentagon: Why AI firm is taking on Trump administration

What Is the Issue?

- Anthropic is a U.S. artificial intelligence (AI) company known for building the AI model Claude.
- The company had contracts with the U.S. Department of Defense (Pentagon) to use its AI in defence work.
- A serious dispute has now emerged between Anthropic and the Pentagon over how the AI can be used.

Why the Disagreement Started

- The Pentagon wants unrestricted access to the AI for any lawful military purpose.
- Anthropic wants to keep ethical safety limits on how Claude can be used.
- Two main limits Anthropic insists on keeping are:
- AI must not be used for mass domestic surveillance.
- AI should not be used in fully autonomous weapons without human control.

Pentagon's Position

- The Pentagon says its request is lawful and that it simply needs flexibility to use AI for national security.
- Officials argue they are not planning illegal mass surveillance or fully autonomous weapon systems.
- The Pentagon set a deadline for Anthropic to agree or face consequences.

Anthropic's Stand

- Anthropic's CEO, Dario Amodei, has refused to drop the safety limits.
- He says using AI without safeguards could harm civilians and undermine democratic values.
- The company supports using AI for defence but believes the two ethical limits should stay.

Latest Escalation

- The Pentagon, supported by U.S. President Donald Trump's direction, has labeled Anthropic a "supply-chain risk" and ordered federal agencies to stop using its AI technology.
- A supply-chain risk designation usually applies to companies tied to foreign adversaries, making this move highly controversial.
- The $200 million Pentagon contract with Anthropic is being terminated, and other companies could be barred from working with it.
- Anthropic says it will challenge this action in court.

Why This Matters

- The dispute highlights a growing conflict between AI safety ethics and national security demands.
- It raises broader questions about who decides how powerful AI tools are used — companies with safety commitments or government agencies with defence needs.
- The case may shape future AI-government relations and influence how AI is regulated in defence.

Who runs Venezuela now? Trump, oil and the fight for power

Background: What's Happening in Venezuela?

- In January 2026, the United States carried out a military operation in Venezuela that resulted in the capture of President Nicolás Maduro and his wife.

- This operation ended Maduro's long rule, creating a power struggle over who actually controls the country and its valuable oil.

Who Is in Charge Now?

- Delcy Rodríguez — Maduro's former vice-president — was named interim president after Maduro's capture.
- She is leading Venezuela's government and has been cooperating with the U.S. on some policies.
- Rodríguez has asked the U.S. to lift sanctions and blockade, and she calls the countries friends and partners.

What Is the Role of the United States?

- U.S. President Donald Trump and his administration say they are helping bring transition and stability.
- Trump says the U.S. now has access to Venezuela's oil and benefits from increased exports.
- Some critics argue that the U.S. influence over Venezuela's oil and politics is too strong and may overshadow Venezuelans' own control.

Oil: Why It Matters

- Venezuela has some of the largest oil reserves in the world, making oil a major source of wealth and international interest.
- Control over oil exports and revenue is central to both U.S. and Venezuelan power dynamics.
- The U.S. now directly manages some oil proceeds after taking control of Venezuelan exports.

Key Points to Understand

- Venezuela's government leadership shifted after Maduro's capture by U.S. forces.
- Delcy Rodríguez currently serves as the interim president.
- The U.S. has increasing influence over Venezuela's oil and political direction.
- The situation raises debate about sovereignty, democracy, and foreign involvement.

Pakistan bombs Kabul: Why are Afghanistan and Pakistan fighting?

- Pakistan launched air strikes inside Afghanistan, hitting places including the capital Kabul, and other provinces such as Kandahar and Paktia.
- Pakistan's defence minister said this marked an "open war" between the two neighbours after months of clashes.
- Afghan authorities also say they struck Pakistani military targets in retaliation.

Why Did Pakistan Attack?

- Pakistan claims its forces were attacked by Afghan Taliban fighters near the Durand Line (the disputed border), prompting the military operation.
- Islamabad also accuses Afghanistan's Taliban government of harbouring militant groups like the Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan that carry out attacks in Pakistan.

Afghanistan's Response

- The Afghan Taliban government says it carried out air and drone strikes against Pakistani military positions in cities such as Islamabad, Abbottabad and Nowshera.
- Both sides have claimed heavy casualties on the other, but the exact numbers are unclear.

Root Causes of Tension

- Cross-Border Militancy: Pakistan accuses Afghanistan of being a safe haven for militancy, especially groups targeting Pakistan.
- Border Dispute: The long disputed 2,600+-kilometre Durand Line remains a point of friction.
- Failed Diplomacy: Previous ceasefires and peace talks, including efforts by Qatar and Turkey, have repeatedly fallen apart.

What is the Durand Line?

- The Durand Line is the 2,640-km long border between Afghanistan and Pakistan.
- It was drawn in 1893 during British colonial rule.
- It separates Afghanistan from what was then British India.

Why is it Called the Durand Line?

- It is named after Sir Mortimer Durand, a British diplomat.
- The agreement was signed between Durand and Abdur Rahman Khan, the Amir of Afghanistan.

Why is It Controversial?

- Afghanistan has never fully accepted the Durand Line as an official international border.
- It divides Pashtun tribal areas, separating families and ethnic groups across both countries.
- After Pakistan's creation in 1947, Afghanistan questioned the validity of the border.

Strategic Importance

- The border area is mountainous and difficult to control.
- It has often been used by militant groups for cross-border movement.
- Tensions over fencing and border control frequently lead to clashes between Afghan and Pakistani forces.

Current Relevance

- The Durand Line remains a major source of tension between Afghanistan and Pakistan.
- Border disputes, militant infiltration, and military operations are often linked to this line.

Key Points for Easy Understanding

- Pakistan's air strikes into Afghanistan escalated a long-running conflict into what Islamabad calls open war.
- Islamabad blames cross-border attacks and militant refuge in Afghan territory for the escalation.
- Afghanistan has struck back with its own military actions, deepening the crisis.
- Long-standing border issues and failed peace efforts have contributed to the violent clash.

What are Iran's ballistic missile capabilities?

What Are Ballistic Missiles?

- Ballistic missiles are weapons that are launched into a high arc and hit targets at long distances.
- They can carry conventional explosives or, potentially, nuclear warheads if developed.
- These missiles travel outside the atmosphere before re-entering to strike their target.

Iran's Ballistic Missile Arsenal

- Largest in the Middle East
- Iran has one of the largest stockpiles of ballistic missiles in the region.
- Its missiles vary in range and capability, designed for deterrence and defence.

Range and Reach

- Iran has a self-imposed limit of around 2,000 km range on many missiles, though some may go slightly beyond.
- This range allows Iranian missiles to reach parts of the Middle East, including Israel and U.S. military bases in the region.

Types of Iranian Ballistic Missiles

- Short and Medium-Range Missiles
- Fateh-313 – A short-range missile (up to about 500 km), useful in regional conflicts.
- Shahab-3 – A medium-range ballistic missile (about 1,000–2,000 km) that forms a core part of Iran's missile force.

Longer-Range and Advanced Types

- Iran also fields longer-range variants like the Sejil and Ghadr, with ranges approaching 2,000 km or more, capable of striking distant targets.
- Tehran has shown hypersonic missile projects (like the Fattah-2), which aim for very high speeds and agility, making them harder to intercept.

Missiles in Recent Use

- During conflicts such as the 2025 war with Israel, Iran fired ballistic missiles that hit targets inside Israel, causing damage and casualties.
- Iran has also used missiles against U.S.-led forces in the region when responding to attacks such as the killing of Quds Force commander Qassem Soleimani.

Missile Strategy and Purpose

- Iran says its missiles are meant to deter attacks from regional rivals like Israel and the United States.
- Much of its missile production and deployment is seen as a key part of national defence policy.

Underground Missile Infrastructure

- Iran has built underground missile bases and "missile cities" to protect launchers from attack. These facilities help store and fire missiles even under conflict conditions.

Technical Support and Development

- Iran's missile technology is partly developed using knowledge from partners like North Korea and Russia, and sometimes with assistance from China.
- It has also improved guidance, range, and survivability through reverse-engineering and innovation.

DRDO Successfully Conducts VSHORADS Flight Trials

- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully conducted three consecutive flight trials of the Very Short-Range Air Defence System (VSHORADS) from the Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur off the coast of Odisha.

Purpose of the trials:

- To revalidate the capability of the VSHORADS missile system in neutralising high-speed aerial threats flying at varying speeds, ranges and altitudes, simulating real battlefield conditions.

Outcome:

- All three flight tests were successful.
- The missiles intercepted and destroyed all high-speed aerial targets mimicking enemy aircraft.
- Tests met all extreme engagement parameters, confirming effectiveness.
- Data captured via telemetry, radars and electro-optical systems validated performance.

What is VSHORADS?

- VSHORADS stands for Very Short-Range Air Defence System.
- It is a man-portable air defence missile system (MANPAD) designed to engage low-altitude aerial targets such as aircraft, helicopters, and UAVs at short ranges.
- The system is indigenously developed by DRDO's Research Centre Imarat (RCI) with other DRDO labs and industry partners.

Operational Role:

- VSHORADS is meant to augment India's short-range air defence capability, especially in challenging terrains like mountain fronts.
- It can be deployed rapidly by infantry and forces needing mobile air defence solutions.

Technical Features:

- It uses dual-waveband infrared guidance and modern avionics for improved tracking.
- The propulsion is provided by a dual-thrust solid rocket motor.
- Operational range is typically around 6 km with high maneuverability against fast moving threats.

Importance in Indigenous Defence Ecosystem:

- VSHORADS replaces older foreign systems and aligns with India's Atmanirbhar Bharat (self-reliant defence vision).
- It fits into a multi-layered air defence architecture that includes systems like QRSAM and others.

Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur:

- The ITR facility in Odisha is a key missile test range of India, where many strategic flight tests including ballistic missiles and air defence systems are conducted.

Micron Semiconductor ATMP Facility Inauguration in Gujarat

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the Semiconductor Assembly, Test, Marking and Packaging (ATMP) facility of Micron Technology in Sanand, Gujarat.

Significance of the event:

- Marks the official commencement of commercial production and shipment of the

first "Made-in-India" semiconductor memory modules.
- Represents a major milestone in India's semiconductor manufacturing journey and strengthens India's integration into the global semiconductor value chain.
- Union Minister of Electronics and IT Ashwini Vaishnaw will also be present.

Key project details:

- Investment: Over ₹22,500 crore under the India Semiconductor Mission (ISM).
- Ground-breaking: September 2023.
- Facility size: ~500,000 sq. ft. cleanroom, among the world's largest raised-floor cleanrooms.
- Output: Advanced DRAM and NAND memory products, integrated circuit packages, SSD storage devices, etc., for global markets.

What is an ATMP facility?

- An Assembly, Test, Marking and Packaging (ATMP) facility is part of the back-end process in semiconductor manufacturing, where chips are assembled into usable modules, tested, marked for identification, and packaged for shipment.

Why semiconductor manufacturing matters:

- Semiconductors are critical for modern technologies like smartphones, data centres, AI, computing, defence systems, IoT and automobiles.
- Global semiconductor market is projected to reach ~USD 1 trillion by 2030, making strategic investment vital for supply-chain diversification.

India Semiconductor Mission (ISM):

- Launched by the Government of India to support semiconductor fabrication, design, and packaging investments through financial incentives and ecosystem development.
- Sanand plant was the first project approved under ISM 1.0 to reach commercial production.

Employment and socioeconomic impact:

- The facility currently employs ~2,000 workers and is expected to create ~5,000 direct jobs when fully operational.
- Inclusive hiring practices also support employment of persons with disabilities.

India's semiconductor ecosystem:

- India is emerging as a global semiconductor hub, with multiple projects in states like Gujarat, Assam, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh and Punjab under the broader semiconductor push.
- Future semiconductor fabs (fabrication plants) and packaging facilities are planned, contributing to self-reliance in tech manufacturing.

India Maintains Strong Economic Growth

- The Indian economy continued its strong growth momentum with real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) expanding by 7.8% in the third quarter (October–December) of Fiscal Year 2025-26, as per data released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI). This is the first GDP estimate under the new 2022-23 base year series replacing the old 2011-12 base.

Key drivers:

- Robust expansion in the manufacturing and services sectors.
- Higher private consumption and festive-season demand.
- GST rate rationalisation supported output incentives.

Comparison with past figures:

- Growth exceeded 7.4% in the year-ago quarter.
- It was slightly lower than the 8.2% in the previous quarter.

Full year outlook:

- The full fiscal year (FY26) GDP growth is now estimated at about 7.6%, higher than earlier estimates.

Significance:

- India remains among the fastest-growing major economies globally.
- The data revision under the new GDP series provides a more accurate picture of current economic structures.

What is GDP?

- Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is the total value of final goods and services produced within a country in a given period. It is a key measure of economic activity and performance.

Types of GDP:

- Real GDP: Adjusted for inflation and reflects actual growth in production.
- Nominal GDP: Measured at current prices without inflation adjustment.

Base Year and GDP Calculation:

- The government periodically updates the GDP base year to better reflect current economic patterns, production structures, and price levels.
- Changing the base year from 2011-12 to 2022-23 improves accuracy and relevance of GDP estimates.

Sectoral Drivers:

- Manufacturing and services sectors are major growth engines, accounting for a large share of GDP.
- In many quarters, manufacturing sees double-digit expansion while services like trade, hotels, transport, and finance also contribute significantly.

GDP and Investment:

- Higher GDP growth boosts investor confidence, can lead to improved credit ratings, and attracts foreign and domestic investment.

Policy Implications:

- Strong growth may influence Monetary Policy, including decisions on interest rates by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- Growth figures inform Union Budget planning, fiscal deficit estimates, and policy reform priorities.

IMD & Nagaland Higher Education Dept Sign MoU to Boost Weather Research

- The Department of Higher Education, Government of Nagaland signed a 20-year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the India Meteorological Department (IMD) to strengthen weather forecasting, atmospheric research, and agrometeorological services in Nagaland.

Key provisions of the MoU:

- Installation of an X-Band Polarimetric Doppler Weather Radar (DWR) at Dimapur Government College under the Government of India's Mission Mausam scheme to provide real-time data and improve forecasting accuracy.
- Focus on academic engagement, research collaboration, capacity building, training, and knowledge exchange in meteorology and atmospheric sciences.
- The 20-year MoU will support collaborations on urban meteorology, disaster preparedness, agricultural advisories, and unique weather hazards of the region.

Expected impact:

- Enhanced weather forecasting capabilities tailored to Nagaland's hilly terrain.
- Improved disaster risk reduction and agricultural planning through accurate and location-specific weather forecasts.
- Greater research opportunities for students and faculty of higher educational institutions in meteorology.

About IMD

- The India Meteorological Department (IMD) functions under the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) and is India's primary agency for weather forecasting, climate monitoring, and meteorological research. It operates a network of meteorological observatories, radars, upper air stations, satellites, and data dissemination systems.

X-Band Polarimetric Doppler Weather Radar (DWR)

- Purpose: It provides high-resolution data on wind patterns, rainfall intensity, storm structure, and severe weather systems.
- Usefulness: Essential for short-range forecasting, early warning for extreme events, and improved monsoon monitoring.

Mission Mausam Scheme

- Launched as an initiative to strengthen India's weather services, Mission Mausam supports installation of meteorological infrastructure, integration of weather data, and promotion of climate research in underserved regions.

Agrometeorological Services

- These services provide weather and climate advisories to farmers, helping them make decisions on crop sowing, irrigation, pest management, and harvesting.
- In hilly regions like Nagaland, agro-met advisories are crucial for rain-fed agriculture and risk mitigation.

Urban Meteorology Research

- Focus on understanding weather patterns in urban areas to manage heat waves, air quality issues, and localized storms.

India and EU to Grant Each Other MFN Status for Five Years Under Trade Deal

- Republic of India and the European Union (EU) have agreed to grant each other Most Favoured Nation (MFN) status for five years as part of the India-EU Free Trade Agreement (FTA) that was finalised on 27 January 2026 after nearly two decades of negotiations.

Key provision:

- Under the MFN clause in the proposed trade deal, neither side can offer more favourable tariff concessions or trade terms to other trade partners without extending the same benefits to the other party during the five-year period once the FTA comes into force, reinforcing non-discriminatory trade practices.

Trade deal context:

- The FTA is expected to reduce or eliminate tariffs on the majority of goods exchanged between India and the EU, enhancing market access for both sides.
- The agreement also includes commitments to abide by World Trade Organization (WTO) principles, cooperation in digital trade, customs facilitation, and aligning food safety and certification processes with international standards.

What is Most Favoured Nation (MFN) Status?

- MFN status is a principle in international trade under WTO rules that requires a country to grant the same trade advantages (like low tariffs) it gives to any one trading partner to all WTO members — ensuring non-discrimination in tariff treatment.

Purpose of MFN in FTAs:

- While MFN is a standard WTO obligation, in the context of an FTA, a mutual MFN clause means neither party can give better tariff treatment to a third country without offering equal terms to the FTA partner for a set period (here five years). This prevents preferential treatment leakage and strengthens the deal's stability.

India–EU Free Trade Agreement:

- The India–EU FTA was concluded on 27 January 2026 after nearly 20 years of negotiations.
- The pact aims to significantly boost bilateral trade, joining markets worth over USD 11 trillion and covering 93% of Indian exports to the EU duty-free.
- Certain sensitive agricultural products such as dairy, rice, sugar and beef have been excluded from tariff liberalisation to protect domestic sectors.

WTO and Trade Rules:

- The World Trade Organization (WTO) oversees global trade norms, including the MFN principle. However, FTAs are exceptions to MFN under WTO as they allow participating members to offer preferential treatment to each other. The India-EU deal's time-bound MFN clause is an additional bilateral commitment.

European Union – Key Facts

Establishment & Evolution

- Established by the Maastricht Treaty (1993), officially called the Treaty on European Union.
- Originated from the European Economic Community (EEC) formed in 1957 (Treaty of Rome).
- Purpose: Promote economic integration, political cooperation, and peace in Europe.

Membership

- Currently consists of 27 member countries.
- The United Kingdom left the EU in 2020 through Brexit.
- Headquarters: Brussels, Belgium.

Key Institutions

- European Commission – Executive arm; proposes legislation and ensures implementation.
- European Parliament – Directly elected legislative body.
- Council of the European Union – Represents member state governments.
- European Council – Sets overall political direction.
- Court of Justice of the European Union – Ensures uniform interpretation of EU law.
- European Central Bank – Manages the Euro and monetary policy.
- Official currency: Euro (€).
- Used by 20 out of 27 EU countries (Eurozone members).
- President of the European Council: António Costa
- President of the European Commission: Ursula von der Leyen
- Presidency of the Council of the European Union: Cyprus
- President of the European Parliament: Roberta Metsola

Currency

Lets Revise

- ❖ On which island is Japan planning to deploy surface-to-air missiles? Yonaguni Island.
- ❖ What type of missiles does Japan plan to deploy near Taiwan? Surface-to-air missiles.
- ❖ Which country has objected to Japan's missile deployment plan? China.
- ❖ What is the name of the AI model developed by Anthropic? Claude.
- ❖ Which U.S. government department is in conflict with Anthropic? United States Department of Defense.
- ❖ Venezuela is globally significant mainly due to its vast reserves of which resource? Oil.
- ❖ The Venezuela crisis highlights tensions between sovereignty and what external factor? Foreign intervention.
- ❖ The Durand Line forms the border between which two countries? Afghanistan and Pakistan.
- ❖ In which year was the Durand Line agreement signed? 1893.
- ❖ Why is the Durand Line strategically sensitive? Due to cross-border militancy and difficult mountainous terrain.

- The Durand Line separates Afghanistan from which former political entity? British India.
- Which Iranian medium-range ballistic missile has a range of about 1,000–2,000 km? Shahab-3.
- Which short-range missile of Iran has a range of about 500 km? Fateh-313.
- Which DRDO laboratory led the development of VSHORADS? Research Centre Imarat.
- What type of missile system is VSHORADS? Man-Portable Air Defence System (MANPADS).
- Which company's semiconductor ATMP facility will be inaugurated in Gujarat? Micron Technology.
- By how much did India's GDP grow in the third quarter of the current fiscal year as per Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)? 7.8%.
- Which weather monitoring system will be installed under the recent agreement between IMD & Nagaland Higher Education Dept? X-Band Polarimetric Doppler Weather Radar (DWR).
- India has agreed to grant MFN status to which organisation under the recent trade deal? European Union.
- For how many years will India and the EU grant each other MFN status? Five years.

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Current affairs form the dynamic backbone of preparation for competitive examinations such as UPSC, SSC, and banking services. They bridge the gap between theoretical concepts and real-world developments, transforming static knowledge into practical understanding. In an age marked by rapid geopolitical changes, economic reforms, and policy innovations, a significant portion of these exams—often 30-35%—draws directly or indirectly from recent events.

Mastery of current affairs not only enhances scores but also cultivates analytical thinking, clarity of perspective, and decision-making skills—qualities indispensable for future administrators and professionals.

Key Dimensions of Importance

• Syllabus Integration: Current events seamlessly connect with core subjects like polity, economy, history, and geography. For instance, understanding constitutional provisions becomes more meaningful when linked to recent judicial reforms or landmark judgments.

• Scoring Edge: Many questions in prelims and mains are derived from contemporary developments. A well-prepared aspirant can secure quick and confident marks through accurate knowledge of high-yield topics from reliable news sources.

• Interview Excellence: In personality tests and interviews, panels evaluate awareness of pressing national and global issues—ranging from climate diplomacy to economic policy—requiring thoughtful, balanced responses.

As many toppers emphasize, current affairs are not a separate subject but the soul of exam preparation. Consistent engagement with credible sources like The Hindu, PIB releases, and Yojana magazine strengthens critical thinking and nurtures a well-rounded outlook, moving beyond rote memorization.

In a competitive landscape where millions aspire for limited opportunities, current affairs serve as a decisive differentiator. Adopting structured habits—daily news analysis, monthly revisions, and regular mock tests—empowers candidates to adapt confidently to evolving exam patterns. Ignoring this essential component is like navigating uncertain waters without direction—while mastering it ensures clarity, confidence, and a competitive advantage.

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