



## Current Affairs and Media Issues BA(JMC)-MDC-111

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## Syllabus- Unit 1

### Understanding Current Affairs:

#### 1. Sources of Current Affairs Information in India

Staying updated on current affairs is crucial for various purposes, including competitive exams, general knowledge, and informed citizenry. Here are key sources:

##### Newspapers:

- **The Hindu:** Known for its comprehensive coverage, strong editorial section, and in-depth analysis of national and international news.
- **The Indian Express:** Offers insightful investigative journalism and often provides diverse perspectives on issues.
- **Livemint/Economic Times:** Essential for business, economy, and financial news.

##### Government Publications and Websites:

- **Press Information Bureau (PIB):** The official source for government press releases, policies, and initiatives. Provides direct information from ministries.
- **Yojana Magazine:** A monthly magazine published by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, focusing on socio-economic issues, government schemes, and development programs.
- **Kurukshetra Magazine:** Another monthly magazine from the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, specifically dedicated to rural development and related schemes.
- **India Year Book:** An annual publication offering a comprehensive overview of India's progress in various fields.
- **NITI Aayog Reports:** Provides policy recommendations, evaluations, and strategic plans for the government.
- **Economic Survey:** An annual document presented before the Union Budget, detailing the state of the Indian economy.

##### Television and Radio:

- **Rajya Sabha TV (now Sansad TV):** Offers in-depth discussions, debates, and analyses of parliamentary proceedings and current issues.
- **All India Radio (AIR) - Spotlight/Discussion:** Provides summaries and discussions on important current affairs topics.

##### Online Portals & Magazines:

- Reputable online news portals (e.g., The Hindu, Indian Express, Livemint, The Wire, Scroll.in).
- Current affairs compilation websites/apps for competitive exams (e.g., Testbook, BYJUS, Vision IAS, InsightsOnIndia). These often condense daily news and provide analysis.
- **Economic and Political Weekly (EPW):** A scholarly journal offering critical analysis of social, economic, and political issues.

**Key Focus Areas for Current Affairs:** Editorials, government initiatives/schemes, international organizations, defense, social issues, economic news.

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## 2. Ministries of Government of India

The Government of India functions through various ministries, each responsible for specific sectors and policy areas. As of July 2025, there are numerous Union Ministries. Here's a general overview of some key ministries:

- **Ministry of Defence (MoD):** Responsible for national security and armed forces.
- **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA):** Deals with internal security, policing, border management, and Centre-State relations.
- **Ministry of Finance (MoF):** Manages government finances, budget, taxation, and economic policy.
- **Ministry of External Affairs (MEA):** Handles India's foreign policy and international relations.
- **Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare:** Focuses on agricultural development, farmer welfare, and food security.
- **Ministry of Education (MoE):** Oversees education policy, school education, higher education, and literacy.
- **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW):** Responsible for public health, healthcare policies, and family welfare programs.
- **Ministry of Road Transport and Highways:** Develops and maintains national highways and transport infrastructure.
- **Ministry of Railways:** Manages India's railway network.
- **Ministry of Commerce and Industry:** Deals with trade, industry, and investment policies.
- **Ministry of Jal Shakti:** Focuses on water resources, drinking water, and sanitation.
- **Ministry of Women and Child Development:** Addresses issues related to women's empowerment and child development.
- **Ministry of Labour and Employment:** Deals with labor laws, employment generation, and social security for workers.
- **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment:** Works for the welfare and empowerment of marginalized sections of society.
- **Ministry of Rural Development:** Focuses on rural infrastructure, poverty alleviation, and rural employment.
- **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs:** Deals with urban planning, housing, and urban development schemes.

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## Unit 1

**Policy 1: National Education Policy (NEP) 2020**

\*Objective: The NEP 2020 aims for a transformational reform in India's education system, from school to higher education. It seeks to make education more holistic, flexible, multidisciplinary, and aligned with 21st-century skills.

\*Key Features:

- School Education:
  - New 5+3+3+4 curricular structure (replacing 10+2).
  - Emphasis on foundational literacy and numeracy.
  - Experiential learning, critical thinking, and reduced curriculum content.
  - Multilingualism and vocational education integration.
- Higher Education:
  - Flexibility in course choices, multiple entry/exit options.
  - Establishment of a National Research Foundation (NRF).
  - Move towards multidisciplinary universities and colleges.
  - Increased Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER).
- Technology Integration: Emphasis on digital learning and educational technology.

\*Review/Impact:

- Positive: The policy is ambitious and addresses many long-standing issues in the Indian education system. Its focus on critical thinking, vocational skills, and multidisciplinary learning is widely welcomed. The move towards a more flexible higher education system could empower students.
- Challenges: Implementation is a massive undertaking, requiring significant financial investment, teacher training, and changes in mindset. Resistance from traditional academic structures, lack of adequate infrastructure (especially in rural areas for digital learning), and ensuring equitable access to quality education across diverse socio-economic backgrounds are major hurdles. The pace of implementation and achieving the ambitious goals will require sustained effort and commitment.

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