

# Current Affairs

## The Most Overhyped Subject in UPSC

Most aspirants are not struggling because Current Affairs is difficult. They are struggling because **nobody taught them HOW to read Current Affairs.**

### ? Feel it's difficult?

You're not alone — but the problem isn't the subject.

### ? Don't know where to start?

The right framework changes everything.

### ? Read hours but remember nothing?

You're reading like a reader, not like an officer.

**Today's Goal:** Learn Current Affairs like a Future IAS Officer — not like a Newspaper Reader.



# Current Affairs Resources

## Which Newspaper Should I Read?

### 🏆 The Hindu — Recommended for Beginners

- Better Editorial Quality
- Better International Relations Coverage
- Better Economy Analysis
- Better Environment Coverage
- Better UPSC Relevance

Indian Express is also excellent —  
but for beginners, The Hindu is  
easier to standardize.

### Other Essential Resources

- 📄 The Hindu
- 📄 Yojana Magazine
- 📄 Kurukshetra Magazine
- 📄 ONE IAS Current Affairs Magazine
- 📄 Economic Survey
- 📄 Budget Summary
- 📄 PIB Compilation



You do NOT need 10 Current Affairs sources. You need **ONE source** revised multiple times.



# Which Pages of The Hindu Should You Read?

Read Daily



Front Page



National



Editorial



Explained



Economy



Science & Tech



International



Environment

Skip These Sections

Cinema

Sports

Crime News

Local Political Fights

Celebrity News

UPSC is preparing **Administrators**. Read only what matters to Administrators.

# Page-Wise UPSC Importance

Every section of The Hindu serves a specific purpose in your UPSC preparation. Here's how to map each page to your syllabus:

Page	Why Important?	GS Relevance
Front Page	Major National Developments	Prelims + GS2
National	Governance, Polity, Schemes	GS2
Editorial	Mains Answer Writing	All Papers
Explained	Concept Building	All Papers
Economy	Economic Analysis	Prelims + GS3
International	Foreign Policy & IR	GS2 IR
Environment	Ecology & Climate	Prelims + GS3
Science & Tech	Innovation & Policy	Prelims + GS3



★ **Editorial Page — Highest Value Page.** One good editorial can improve your Mains, Essay, Ethics, and Interview performance simultaneously.

# How to Read a News Article?

Most beginners read line by line and try to memorize everything. That is the **wrong method**. Instead, ask these 5 questions for every article:

- 1 What Happened?**  
Identify the core event or development being reported.
- 2 Why Did It Happen?**  
Understand the background, causes, and context.
- 3 Why Is It In News?**  
What makes this newsworthy today?
- 4 Why Does UPSC Care?**  
Connect it to governance, policy, or constitutional values.
- 5 Which GS Paper?**  
Tag it to GS1, GS2, GS3, GS4, Essay, or Prelims.

⚠ If you cannot answer these 5 questions, **don't make notes yet**. Understand first.

# Sample News Analysis

Headline: Tariffs to Carbon – The New Rules Shaping India's Trade

✗ How Most Beginners Read It

They read "Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism" and stop there. No context. No connection. No UPSC value extracted.

✗ Reading without analysis is just consuming information  
— not building knowledge.

## ✓ How UPSC Aspirants Read It

- What is CBAM?
- Who introduced it?
- Why was it introduced?
- Impact on India?
- Impact on Trade?
- Impact on Farmers?
- Impact on Fertilizer Prices?
- Impact on Exports?
- Which GS Paper?

That depth of questioning — that is UPSC Thinking.

## Tariffs to carbon, the new rules shaping India's trade

**P**roposed in July 2021, the European Union (EU)'s Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) entered its definitive phase from January 1, 2026. As a climate policy tool, CBAM seeks to prevent carbon leakage by imposing a carbon-linked charge on imports based on their embedded emissions. Carbon-intensive products such as steel, cement, aluminium, fertilizers, electricity, and hydrogen will be affected. While CBAM could encourage wider adoption of carbon-pricing policies and help reduce global emissions, it also poses significant challenges for developing countries such as India.

Even as India pursues bilateral trade negotiations with the EU, CBAM will still apply, making carbon-intensive exports to Europe costlier. Market access, therefore, is increasingly being shaped not only by tariffs but also by compliance with carbon-emission standards. Its effects may also extend beyond targeted sectors through global price shifts and the gradual adoption of similar policies by other developed countries.

### Sectors to be impacted

India's steel and aluminium sectors are likely to face the most immediate impact, given their dependence on European markets and carbon-intensive production processes. Although the carbon levy will formally be paid by EU importers, part of the burden is likely to shift to exporters through tighter contracts and stricter supplier selection. As European buyers increasingly prefer low-emission suppliers, Indian exporters may have to absorb some of the additional costs to remain competitive in the European market or invest in cleaner



Poornima Varma  
Faculty member at  
the Indian Institute of  
Management  
Ahmedabad (IIMA)

technologies to retain market access. In the short run, compliance costs could shrink profit margins and hurt export competitiveness despite ongoing free trade agreement negotiations.

The effects of CBAM are not confined to direct trade impacts. As a major net importer of fertilizers, India may also face indirect price pressures through global price transmission. Key fertilizer exporters to the EU – Egypt, Russia, Morocco and China – are also major suppliers of fertilizers to India. As these suppliers face higher carbon-compliance costs, part of the burden is likely to be passed on through higher global fertilizer prices. India's fertilizer import bill is therefore likely to increase, jeopardising the agricultural sector, farm profitability and high food prices. More broadly, CBAM signals a structural shift in global trade, as other developed countries consider adopting similar carbon tariff compliance policies, potentially constraining market access for developing countries such as India.

### The CBAM framework

CBAM is structurally distinct from traditional non-tariff measures (NTMs), such as product standards. While NTMs affect market access through compliance requirements and are largely qualitative, with scope for interpretation, CBAM is price-based and quantifiable, directly linking market access for carbon-intensive products to carbon emissions.

In this changed scenario, even if exporters comply with the product quality standards in destination markets, the carbon intensity of production is likely to raise export costs and thereby constrain market access. Additionally, investing in cleaner energy and transitioning

toward carbon-neutral production is significantly more expensive than complying with conventional product quality standards, especially in the short run.

Market access and export growth are no longer determined by tariffs alone. As global trade becomes increasingly linked to carbon-emission measures, comparative advantage now depends not only on production efficiency and pricing, but also on the carbon efficiency of production processes. In this context, countries such as India must adopt a two-pronged strategy of domestic reform and effective international negotiation.

### Moves to consider

Domestically, greater investment in clean energy and stricter implementation of carbon policies are essential to improve firms' carbon efficiency. Internationally, India must negotiate for equitable treatment of developing countries so that the short-run costs of carbon compliance can be eased through a phased transition. Since climate policies such as CBAM also raise the cost of importing emission-intensive and more expensive goods such as fertilizers, reducing import dependence through higher domestic production and better implementation of the Soil Health Cards Scheme and the promotion of balanced and need-based application of fertilizers is equally important. India must also seek transitional support and technology transfer to ensure a level playing field in trade agreements with developed countries. The challenge is not merely adapting to carbon-constrained trade regimes, but ensuring that the transition does not undermine growth and sustainability.

*The views expressed are personal*

# What Should You Extract From a News?

Using the CBAM Example – One News, Multiple Uses

## Prelims

- What is CBAM?
- Who introduced it?
- When implemented?
- Affected sectors?

## Mains


- Impact on Indian Exports
- Challenges for India
- Opportunities
- Way Forward

## Essay

- Climate Justice
- Green Trade
- Sustainable Development

## Ethics

- Common But Differentiated Responsibility
- Climate Equity
- Administrative Responsibility

 **One News. Multiple Uses.** This is how toppers extract maximum value from every article they read.

# The Ideal Current Affairs Note Structure

One news item is not just one note. **UPSC thinking** means extracting every possible angle from a single piece of news. Every news should produce multiple targeted notes.

## Prelims Note

Facts, locations, organizations, reports

## GS1 Note

Geography, history, society, culture

## GS2 Note

Polity, governance, international relations

## GS3 Note

Economy, environment, disaster management

## GS4 Note

Ethics, integrity, governance models

## Essay Point

Arguments, multi-dimensional perspectives

✔ Example — **Wayanad Landslide**: Prelims (Location, National Park, Western Ghats) → GS1 (Geography) → GS3 (Disaster Management) → Essay (Climate Change & Development). One News. Many Uses. That is UPSC Thinking.

# Separate Notebooks = Better UPSC Understanding

## ✗ What Most Beginners Do

One notebook. Everything mixed together. The result is confusion, no syllabus understanding, and an inability to locate information during revision.

## ✓ The Smart System



Prelims Notebook



GS1 Notebook



GS2 Notebook



GS3 Notebook



GS4 Notebook



Essay Notebook

### ✗ Confusion

Topics bleed into each other

### ✗ No Syllabus Clarity

No sense of GS paper boundaries

You automatically learn the UPSC syllabus while making notes. The structure itself becomes your teacher.

# How to Make Notes?

The goal of note-making is **revision**, not reproduction. Write what you understood — not the entire newspaper.

## ✗ Bad Note

"CBAM was introduced by EU in 2023 as a carbon pricing mechanism for imports..."

This is just copying the newspaper. It adds no analytical value and is impossible to revise quickly.

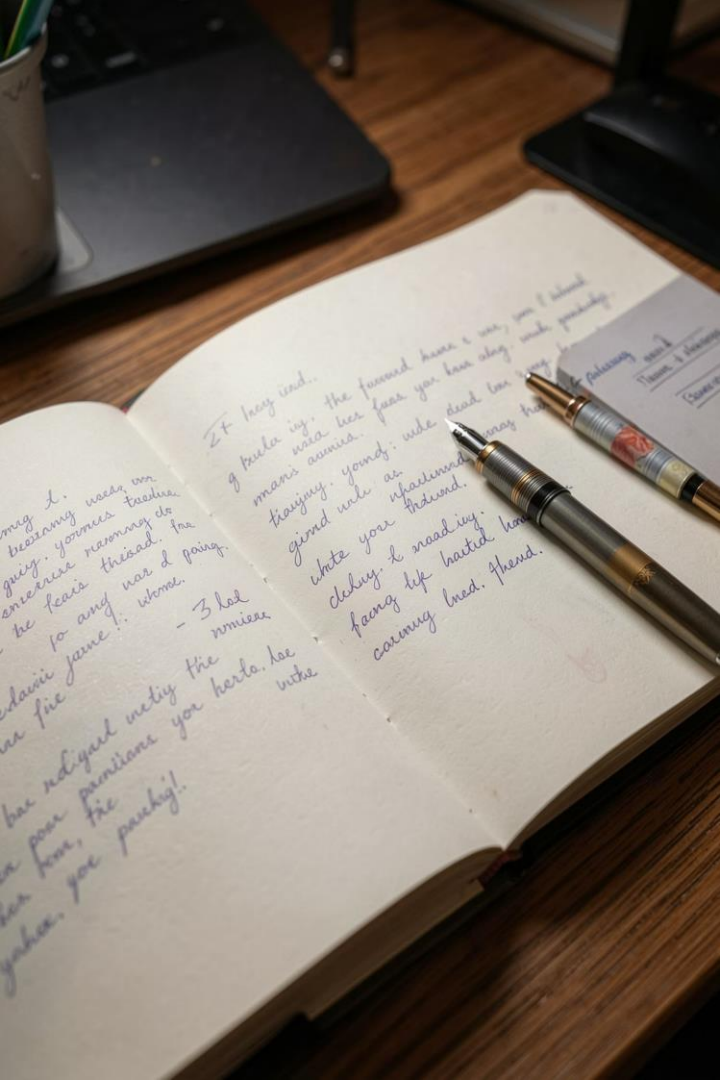
## ✓ Good Note

CBAM increases compliance cost for carbon-intensive exports.

### Possible impacts:

- Steel sector competitiveness
- Cement export pricing
- Fertilizer cost chain
- Overall trade competitiveness

**i** Notes should **help revision** — not become another newspaper. Short, analytical, and structured always wins.



# What Should You Write in Notes?

## ✗ Do NOT Write

- Entire news articles
- Full editorials
- Long paragraphs
- Verbatim sentences

⚠ Bad Note Example: "CBAM was proposed by the European Union in July 2021 and entered implementation phase..." — Too long, impossible to revise quickly.

✔ Good Note — CBAM: EU Carbon Tax Mechanism • Impacts Indian Steel Exports • Linked To Climate Policies • GS3 Economy • Essay Example. Revision Friendly ✔

## ✔ Write Only These

### → Keywords

Core terms and concepts only

### → Examples & Schemes

Government schemes, reports, statistics

### → Way Forward

Solutions and policy recommendations

# Language of Current Affairs Notes

## Most Beginners Fear:

| "My English is weak. I can't make good notes."

**Good News:** UPSC preparation starts with **understanding**, not language. Make notes in whatever language helps you think clearly.

Anything is acceptable initially. **Understanding First.**

**Language Later.**

✓ Malayalam

✓ English

✓ Manglish

🕒 A picture is remembered longer than a paragraph. **Smart note-making beats lengthy note-making every time.**



3. भारत में सैनिक सशक्तिकरण पर महिला केंद्रित प्रत्यक्ष लाभ अंतरण योजनाओं के प्रभाव पर चर्चा कीजिए।  
(150 शब्द) 10  
Discuss the impact of women centric direct cash transfer schemes on gender empowerment in India.  
(150 words) 10

In recent years, schemes like Ladki Behana, Ladli Behana and DBT like Mahila Shree has profound impact on women development.

Impact on Gender empowerment

Positive Impacts

i) provided them a fixed source of disposable income for daily needs

ii) can invest in Household expend by buying better

## Poor Handwriting

What UPSC examiners actually care about:

- ✓ Content quality
- ✓ Understanding of the question
- ✓ Structure of the answer
- ✓ Relevant facts, examples, diagrams, and analysis
- ✓ Time management and completion of the paper

Handwriting matters only to the extent that:

- It should be **legible and readable**.
- Examiners should not struggle to understand words.
- Very messy handwriting can cause loss of marks because the examiner may miss points or become fatigued while reading.

# Why Most Current Affairs Notes Fail

## UPSC STRATEGY

The purpose of note making is **NOT documentation**. The purpose of note making is **REVISION**.

### Student A ❌

📖 300 Pages Notes

😞 Never Revised

Collects everything, revises nothing  
— and forgets everything before the exam.

### Student B 🏆

📖 30 Pages Smart Notes

🔄 Revised 10 Times

Writes less, revises more — and scores better. Smart beats bulky, every time.

Golden Rule: If you cannot revise your note before the exam, it is not a good note.

# Evernote: The UPSC Digital Library

## 😓 Student A – Exam Day Panic

UPSC Mains is tomorrow. The question is "*Climate Change and Agriculture.*" Student A is frantically searching through 6 physical notebooks, flipping pages in panic, unable to find the right information in time.

⚠️ Searching 6 notebooks manually under exam pressure = lost time, lost marks, lost confidence.

## ✅ Student B – Instant Retrieval

Student B opens Evernote, types "**Climate Change**", and within seconds retrieves:

- Organized notes from multiple GS papers
- Reports and data points
- Articles and editorials
- Statistics and way forward

✔️ That is the advantage of Evernote — your entire UPSC preparation, searchable in seconds.



# How to Organize Evernote

## 📁 Create Notebooks by GS Paper

📁 GS1

📁 GS2

📁 GS3

📁 GS4

📁 Essay

📁 Prelims

📁 Maps

#ClimateChange

#Agriculture

#Governance

#Women

#Education

#Security

## # Create Tags by Theme


Cross-tag your notes so a single search retrieves everything relevant — across all notebooks, instantly.

Future Search = Instant Revision. This system saves hundreds of hours over the course of your UPSC preparation.

# The UPSC Current Affairs Revision System

Most students read every day but **never revise**. The result: everything is forgotten. Reading creates memory. **Revision creates selection.**

- 1 — Day 1 — Read  
First exposure to the news. Make your structured notes across GS papers.
- 2 — Day 7 — First Revision  
Review your notes within one week. Reinforce initial memory before it fades.
- 3 — Day 30 — Second Revision  
Monthly review. Connect current affairs to static syllabus topics.
- 4 — Day 90 — Third Revision  
Quarterly review. Long-term retention begins here. This is exam-ready knowledge.

 **The 7 – 30 – 90 Rule:** Three strategic revisions transform short-term reading into long-term, exam-ready understanding.

# How Current Affairs Notes Help in UPSC

## PRELIMS

- ✓ Facts
- ✓ Reports
- ✓ Organizations
- ✓ Environment

## MAINS

- ✓ Examples
- ✓ Data
- ✓ Case Studies
- ✓ Way Forward

## ESSAY

- ✓ Arguments
- ✓ Multi-Dimensional Thinking

## ETHICS

- ✓ Real Life Examples
- ✓ Governance Models

## Bonus Benefits

✓ Better Language

✓ Better Handwriting

✓ Better Thinking

✓ Better Revision

✓ Better Confidence

Current Affairs is not about collecting information. Current Affairs is about building understanding. And understanding is what creates future Civil Servants.

# Current Affairs Masterclass

## How Toppers Read Newspapers in Just 45 Minutes

### ✗ Most Beginners

- 🕒 2-3 Hours of reading
- 😞 Low retention
- 😞 No revision
- 😞 Burnout

### ✓ Topper Approach

- 🕒 Just 45 Minutes
- 🎯 Maximum output
- 🎯 Structured reading
- 🎯 Consistent revision

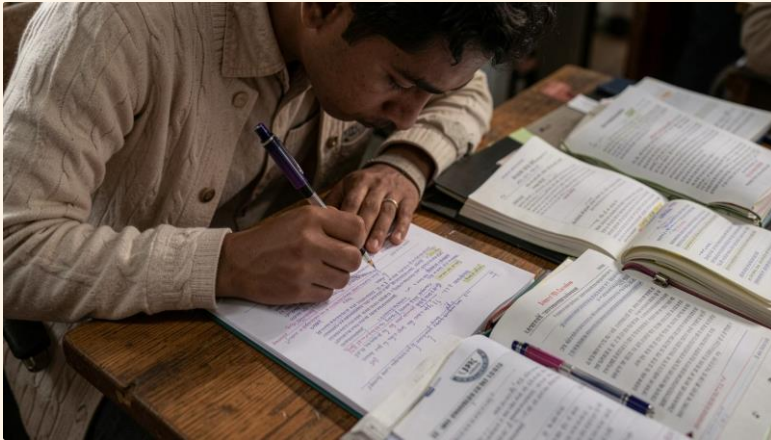
### Suggested Time Division



📌 You are **NOT** preparing for Journalism — you are preparing for **UPSC**. While reading every news ask: ✓ Why is this in the news? ✓ Which GS paper? ✓ Can UPSC ask this? ✓ How can I use this in Mains? **This single habit separates serious aspirants from casual readers.**

# Current Affairs to Answer Writing

Most students **read** news. Toppers **convert** news into answers.



## Every News Should Give You 5 Elements

*Example: Climate Change*

- **Fact:** India targets Net Zero by 2070
- **Initiative:** National Green Hydrogen Mission
- **Example:** International Solar Alliance
- **Way Forward:** Climate Finance & Technology Transfer

✓ Your Mains answer immediately becomes:  
 ✓ Relevant ✓ Contemporary ✓ Data Rich ✓ Examiner Friendly



One Fact



One Example



One Government



One Statistic



One Way Forward

# The Biggest Current Affairs Mistakes

## Common Mistakes to Avoid

### ✗ Reading Every News

Not all news is UPSC-relevant. Filter ruthlessly.

### ✗ Following Multiple Sources

One good source done well beats ten done poorly.

### ✗ Making Huge Notes

Notes should aid revision, not replace reading.

### ✗ No Revision

Reading without revision is effort wasted.

### ✗ No PYQ Analysis

Previous year questions reveal UPSC's pattern.

### ✗ Copy-Pasting Editorials

Understanding matters more than copying.

### ✗ Ignoring Syllabus

Every news must be mapped to the syllabus.

### ✗ Memorizing Without Understanding

UPSC tests application, not rote recall.

## The Golden Rule

UPSC does **not** reward Information Collection.

UPSC rewards **Information Processing**.

## The Right Priority Order

1 Reading

2 Revision > Reading

3 Application > Reading

4 Understanding > Reading

# Current Affairs Relation With UPSC Questions (2026)

78. The Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany visited India in January, 2026. Which of the following is/are **not** correct in terms of outcomes of this visit ?

1. Signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the All India Institute of Ayurveda and the University of Hamburg
2. Signing of a Memorandum of Understanding on Youth Hockey Development between Hockey India and the German Hockey Federation
3. Establishment of a bilateral dialogue mechanism on the Indo-Pacific
4. Opening of an Honorary Consul of Germany in Lucknow

Select the answer using the code given below :

- (a) 2 and 3
- (b) 1 and 4
- (c) 3 and 4
- (d) 1 only

## India, Germany agree to shore up defence cooperation

Kajal Bhattacharjee  
Abhinav Deshpande  
NEW DELHI/AHMEDABAD

India and Germany will enhance defence trade with an eye on 'co-production and co-development', Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Monday, as the two sides signed an agreement to strengthen bilateral defence industrial cooperation.

Welcoming German Chancellor Friedrich Merz to India, Mr. Modi said India will launch a consultation mechanism on increasing collaboration with Germany in the Indo-Pacific region.

In his remarks, Mr. Merz, who is on his first visit to Asia since assuming office in May 2025, said "rough winds" are blowing in world politics and that India and Germany should increase partnership to counter global trends of instability.

The list of 'outcomes' following the meeting between the two leaders also included several other Modi's and Joint Declarations of Intent covering areas like recruitment of skilled professionals by Germany, sports, and higher education.

"The growing cooperation in defence and security is a symbol of our mutual trust and shared vision. I express my heartfelt gratitude to Chancellor Merz for simplifying the processes related to defence trade. We will also work on a roadmap to enhance cooperation between our defence industries, which will open up new opportunities for co-development and co-production," Mr. Modi said following talks with Mr. Merz.

CONTINUED ON  
PAGE 10  
KITE FESTIVAL  
PAGE 12



John eHort: Prime Minister Narendra Modi and German Chancellor Friedrich Merz flying a kite in Ahmedabad on Monday. #

## German Chancellor in Gujarat, activists call for Ariha's return

Officials say Ariha is meeting parents, Indian embassy in Germany regularly; no progress on government request that she be raised in Indian home; Centre says all aspects of the bilateral relationship will be discussed during Modi-Merz talks

Suhassini Halidar  
NEW DELHI

Accusing the German government of violating the human rights and cultural rights of five-year old Ariha Shah, who was seized from her parents on allegations of abuse four years ago, activists demanded that Prime Minister Narendra Modi take up the matter with German Chancellor Friedrich Merz when they meet on Monday.

Despite several pleas from New Delhi, the German government has not agreed to India's request that Ariha, an Indian citizen, be allowed to return to India and to be brought up in foster care here.

Mr. Merz will begin his two-day visit, his first trip to India and Asia as Chancellor, on Monday in Ahmedabad, where he will hold bilateral talks with Mr. Modi.

The case of Ariha has been raised by External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar with German counterparts a number of times, and Mr. Modi had discussed it with the previous Chancellor



A hoarding featuring German Chancellor Friedrich Merz and Prime Minister Narendra Modi ahead of their visit in Ahmedabad. #

Olaf Scholz. After a meeting with German Foreign Minister Waidepind in September 2025, Mr. Jaishankar had said it was "essential" that Ariha "grows up in Indian surroundings".

"It is imperative that the Government of India raises Ariha's case at the highest level to ensure her immediate repatriation to India," Yatin Shah, from the Save Ariha Team, a group of social workers and Shah family associates, said in a statement about Ariha's situation after she was taken

into German foster care in September 2021.

"UN norms violated" The group repeated demands by Ariha's parents, Gujarat-Jain couple Dhara and Bhavesh Shah, that the child be taught Gujarati or Hindi and learn about the Jain religion she was born to, adding that depriving a child of her "mother tongue, religion, and cultural exposure directly violates the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child [UNCRC]", to which both

Germany and German Embassy officials countered the allegations that Ariha had been kept away from learning about her Indian culture, pointing out that Indian Embassy officials were given regu-

lar consular access to the girl. "We are continuously working on cultural immersion measures for Ariha, including language classes," said a German embassy spokesperson, adding that English classes had begun, while the government was in talks with the Indian embassy about teaching her Hindi.

At present, Ms. Dhara and Mr. Bhavesh are allowed to visit their daughter twice a month, and thus far the Indian embassy has been granted five consular access visits. The last such visit was on September 15, shortly after Mr. Jaishankar's meeting in Berlin, government sources said, adding that Indian books and materials had been shared with Ariha.

According to the Save Ariha team, German Youth Services Jugendamt, who had originally accused the Shahs of grievous abuse but subsequently dropped criminal charges, have already billed Ariha's parents about ₹22 lakh for foster care and another ₹6 lakh for administrative and legal costs.

# Current Affairs Relation With UPSC Questions (2026)

30. Ships from which of the following countries have to cross the Strait of Hormuz to reach out to the Indian Ocean ?

1. Bahrain
2. Syria
3. Qatar
4. Egypt

Select the answer using the code given below :

- (a) 1 and 2  
(b) 1 and 3  
(c) 2 and 3  
(d) 3 and 4

## Iran ceasefire teeters over disputes on Lebanon, Hormuz ahead of Pak. talks

**Associated Press**  
**Agence France-Presse**  
DUBAI/ISLAMABAD

The tentative ceasefire in the Iran war staggered on Thursday under the weight of Israel's intense bombardment of Lebanon, Tehran's continued chokehold on the Strait of Hormuz, and uncertainty over whether negotiators can find common ground on a range of other differences.

Hours after the ceasefire was announced on Wednesday, Israel pounded Beirut with air strikes, resulting in the deadliest day in the country since the war began on February 28.

Lebanon's Health Ministry said on Thursday that the latest Israeli strikes killed more than 300 peo-



A family picture among the rubble of a building hit by Israeli strikes the day before in central Beirut, Lebanon, on Thursday. AP

ple and wounded at least 1,150 across the country.

Israel's strikes "signal deception and non-compliance" and render negotiations "meaningless", Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian said. "Our hands remain on the trigger," he added.

Iran's Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf said Lebanon was a key part of the two-week ceasefire. "Lebanon and the entire Resistance Axis as Iran's allies, form an inseparable part of the ceasefire," Mr. Ghalibaf said in a post on X, adding that

"ceasefire violations carry explicit costs and STRONG responses".

Iran and the U.S. – which both declared victory in the wake of the ceasefire announcement – appeared to try to pressure each other on Thursday even as both countries were due to meet in Pakistan for talks this weekend.



Semiofficial news agencies in Iran suggested forces have mined the Strait of Hormuz while U.S. President Donald Trump warned that Iran would be hit even harder than before if it did not fulfil the agreement.

**CONTINUED ON**  
» **PAGE 12**  
» **'NUCLEAR CONCERN'**  
» **PAGE 16**

# The ONE IAS Current Affairs Formula



1

## Daily

-  The Hindu
-  Smart Notes



4

## Quarterly

-  Full Revision
-  PYQ Linking


2

## Weekly

-  Revision
-  MCQ Practice



5

## Before Exam


-  Revision Only
- No new sources. No panic.


3


## Monthly

-  ONE IAS Magazine
-  Yojana & Kurukshetra

✔ **Final Message:** Current Affairs is not about reading news. It is about **Understanding India. Understanding Governance. Understanding Economy. Understanding Society. Understanding the World.** And most importantly — **Understanding UPSC.**

 **Read Less**  
Quality over quantity, always.

 **Understand More**  
Depth beats breadth in UPSC.

 **Revise Multiple Times**  
Retention is built through repetition.