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## Competitive Exams: Events Current Affairs 2009

### Current Affairs 2009: Events and Timeline

#### Events in Year 2008

##### February

- 2 February-The activists of Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) try to disrupt a press conference of Samajwadi Party leader Amar Singh in Mumbai.
- 2 February-Baba Ram Rahim Gurmeet Singh, the head of the Sirsa-based Dera Sacha Sauda sect escaped a bomb blast near Nilokheri in Karnal district of Haryana.
- 3 February-Members of teams trying to conduct social audit of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) were attacked in Manohar Thana block of Jhalwar district in Rajasthan.
- 5 February-The Orissa government decides to provide a monthly pension of Rs. 200 to HIV positive persons under the State-sponsored 'Madhu Babu Pension Yojana.'
- 7 February-Union Health and Family Welfare Minister Anbumani Ramadoss dedicates to the nation the first in-vitro fertilisation (IVF) facility in the public sector set up at the All-India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in New Delhi.
- 12 February-Year of Russia in India was inaugurated jointly by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and his Russian counterpart Victor Zubkov in New Delhi.
- 13 February-Priyaranjan Dasmunsi, Saifuddin Soz and Suresh Pachauri are made governors of West Bengal, Jammu and Kashmir, and Madhya Pradesh units of the Congress respectively.
- 15 February-The Election Commission issues notice to Congress president Sonia Gandhi seeking her response to an allegation that she had incurred disqualification as member of Parliament under Article 102 (1) (d) of the Constitution for accepting the Order of Leopold from the King of Belgium in November 2006.
- 19 February-Viswapati Trivedi becomes the Joint Chairman-cum-Managing Director of the National Aviation Company of India Limited (NACIL).
- 20 February-The former Queen Mother of Jaipur Gayatri Devi sat on a dharna near the Moti Doongri Fort protesting encroachment, by the land mafia, of land she donated.

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- 24 February-In an affidavit filed before the Gujarat High Court, the CID has officially implicated former Gujarat Additional Director General of Police, D. G. Vanzara, as the chief conspirator in the Sohrabuddin fake encounter case.
- 24 February-Tarun Vijay joins Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee Research Foundation, the BJP's newly created think tank, as its Director. He has been the Chief Editor of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh organ Panchjanya.
- 26 February-Ratakonda Dayakar named India's new Ambassador to Sweden. Dayakar is 1976 batch IFS officer.
- 26 February-Union Agriculture Minister Sharad Pawar predicts the foodgrain production to reach the record level of 219.32 million tonnes during 200708.
- 27 February-Three teachers in Jalaun district in UP sent to jail under the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act. They were found to be discriminating against the dalit children by making SC students have their mid-day meal separately.

## March

- 3 March-Central government launches Dhan Laxmi scheme in seven states. Under this scheme an insurance cover of Rs. 1 lakh would be provided for the girl child at her birth. The scheme aims to improve the girl-child ratio.
- 5 March-S. M. Krishna resigns from his post of Maharashtra Governor.
- 9 March-J. P. Chalasani is appointed the new chief executive of the Reliance Power, an Anil Dhirubhai Ambani Group company.
- 10 March-D. D. Lapang sworn in as the Chief Minister of a new Congress-led government in Meghalaya.
- 14 March-Hyderabad International Airport is inaugurated.
- 18 March-Donkumar Roy of the Meghalaya Progressive Alliance (MPA) sworn in as the Chief Minister of Meghalaya.
- 23 March-India test fires nuclear-capable surface-to-surface missile Agni-I having a range of 700 to 900 km.
- 24 March-The Sixth Pay Commission recommends increase in the salaries of all government employees by 40%.
- 25 March-Former Haryana Chief Minister Bhajan Lal disqualified from the Haryana Vidhan Sabha under the anti-defection law
- 26 March-Raghu Menon is new Chairman-cum-Managing Director of the Air India and National Aviation Company India Ltd (NACIL).

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- 26 March-Tata Motors buys two British automobile manufacturing companies, Jaguar and Land Rover, from Ford, their American owners.
- 27 March-Communist Party of India (CPI) re-elects A. B. Bardhan as the general secretary for the fourth consecutive term.

## April

- 3 April-Communist Party of India (Marxist) elects Prakash Karat as its general secretary for another term.
- 27 April-According to the UK-based independent consultancy firm Brand Finance Tata is one of the largest global brands. Tata is ranked 57th among top 100 brands.
- 28 April-Iranian President Ahmadinejad arrives in India.
- 28 April-India sets a world record by sending 10 satellites into orbit in a single launch.
- 30 April-Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV-C9) successfully puts all the 10 satellites into orbit.

## May

- 5 May-President Pratibha Patil presents Padma Vibhushan awards to Pranab Mukherjee, Sachin Tendulkar and Asha Bhosle.
- 8 May-Jerome Bonnafont, the French Ambassador to India, puts forward the proposal of a large scale nuclear cooperation between India and France
- 13 May-Bomb blasts rock Jaipur. About 80 people are killed in serial blasts.
- 18 May-The bruised body of social activist and member of NGO Vikas Sahyog Kendra, Lalit Kumar Mehta was found in Kandra forest in Palamau in Jharkhand. Mehta was involved in social audit of NREGS and is suspected to have been killed by those having vested interests.
- 20 May-Calling Chattisgarh government's Salwa Judum vigilante campaign against naxalism as an abdication of the state itself, an experts group of the Planning Commission called for its immediate scrapping.
- 21 May-Railway Minister Lalu Prasad Yadav announces cash awards amounting to Rs. 17.40 crore for officers and staff of all zonal railways.
- 22 May-Following resounding victory of the Trinamool Congress in the panchayat elections in Nandigram area, violence erupts in Purbo Medinipur district. In clashes between workers of Trinamool and the Communist Party of India (Marxist) five persons were injured.
- 23 May-Prithvi II, a nuclear-capable, 350-km range surface-to-surface ballistic missile, is successfully test-fired.

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- 23 May-The Union Environment and Forests Ministry has decided to create four new tiger reserves at (1) the Sunabeda Tiger Reserve in Orissa (2), the Shahyadri Tiger Reserve in Maharashtra (3), the Pilibhit Tiger Reserve in Uttar Pradesh and (4) the Ratapani Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh. Besides, Nagarahole National Park in Karnataka to be upgraded as a separate reserve.
- 23 May-President Pratibha Patil starts her maiden visit to Jammu and Kashmir
- 23 May-A week ahead of first anniversary of police firing on agitating Gujjars violence erupts in Rajasthan. Four Gujjar protesters and one policeman killed in clashes in Bharatpur district. The tally goes up to 17 later.
- 24 May-Eighteen killed and 38 others injured in police firing in Dausa district of Rajasthan in the ongoing Gujjar-police clashes.
- 25 May-The Bhartiya Janta Party comes to power in Karnataka. In the assembly elections held earlier in the week, BJP win 110 seats. Congress is second with 80.

## June

- 4 June-The government announces an increase in petrol, diesel and LPG prices by Rs. 5, Rs. 3 and Rs. 50 respectively.

## July

- 22 July-The United Progressive Alliance led government in India survives a crucial no-confidence vote based on disagreements between Indian National Congress and Left Front over the Indo-US nuclear deal.
- 25 July-A series of seven bomb blasts rock Bangalore, India killing 2 and injuring 20 and on the next day, a number of bomb blasts in Ahmedabad, Gujarat, India, kills 45 and injures over 160 people.

## August

- 3 August-A stampede at a Hindu temple at Naina Devi in Bilaspur, Himachal Pradesh, kills 162 and injures 400.

## October

- 12 October-Pope Benedict XVI announces the canonization of Sister Alphonsa Muttathupadathu, the first woman of Indian origin to be canonized as a saint by the Roman Catholic Church, and the first canonized saint of the Syro-Malabar Catholic Church.
- 22 October Launched Chandrayaan-1 from Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh at 06: 22 IST (00: 52 UTC). The vehicle was successfully inserted into lunar orbit on 8 November 2008.

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## November

- November 26-November 29 – A series of terrorist attacks in Mumbai, India kills 164, and injures at least 250.
- Full date unknown
- Mumbai Urban Transport Project is completed.
- Bangalore International Airport is completed.
- Sheila Dixit won the Delhi Assembly elections for the third consecutive time.

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