Current Affairs: Staying Informed about Our World

Current Affairs is the study of significant events happening at the local, state, national, and international levels. It helps us understand the world we live in, its challenges, and its developments.

Global Issues

This term broadens the focus to significant challenges and phenomena that transcend national borders and require international cooperation.

- **Definition:** Problems or challenges that affect the entire world or a significant portion of it, requiring global solutions and coordinated efforts from governments, international organizations, and civil society.
- **Key Global Issues:**
    - **Climate Change and Environmental Degradation:**
        - **Causes:** Greenhouse gas emissions (burning fossil fuels), deforestation, industrial pollution.
        - **Impacts:** Rising global temperatures, extreme weather events (floods, droughts), sea-level rise, desertification, loss of biodiversity.
        - **International Efforts:** Paris Agreement, UN Climate Change Conferences (COPs), sustainable development goals.
    - **Terrorism and Insecurity:**
        - **Definition:** The unlawful use of violence and intimidation, especially against civilians, in the pursuit of political aims.
        - **Examples:** Boko Haram (Nigeria), ISIS, Al-Qaeda.
        - **Impact:** Loss of lives, displacement, economic disruption, political instability, fear.
        - **International Efforts:** UN Security Council resolutions, international cooperation on intelligence sharing, counter-terrorism strategies.
    - **Poverty and Inequality:**
        - **Definition:** Widespread lack of basic necessities (food, water, shelter, healthcare, education) and significant disparities in wealth and opportunity within and between countries.
        - **Causes:** Conflict, poor governance, economic systems, lack of education, natural disasters.
        - **International Efforts:** UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), poverty alleviation programs by World Bank/IMF, humanitarian aid.

- **Global Health Crises/Pandemics:**
  - **Examples:** COVID-19, HIV/AIDS, Ebola, Malaria, Tuberculosis.
  - **Impact:** High mortality rates, strain on healthcare systems, economic disruption, social dislocation.
  - **International Efforts:** World Health Organization (WHO), vaccine development and distribution, global health security initiatives.
- **Migration and Refugee Crises:**
  - **Causes:** Conflict, persecution, economic hardship, natural disasters.
  - **Impact:** Humanitarian crises, strain on host countries, social integration challenges, human trafficking.
  - **International Efforts:** UNHCR (UN Refugee Agency), international conventions on refugees, humanitarian assistance.
- **Human Rights Violations:**
  - **Definition:** Infringement upon the fundamental rights and freedoms inherent to all human beings.
  - **Examples:** Genocide, torture, arbitrary detention, denial of freedom of speech or assembly, discrimination.
  - **International Efforts:** Universal Declaration of Human Rights, international human rights conventions, UN Human Rights Council, Amnesty International.
- **Nuclear Proliferation:**
  - **Definition:** The spread of nuclear weapons, fissionable material, and weapons-applicable nuclear technology and information to nations not recognized as "Nuclear Weapon States" by the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT).
  - **Impact:** Increased risk of nuclear war, regional instability.
  - **International Efforts:** NPT, International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), disarmament treaties.
- **Cybersecurity and Digital Threats:**
  - **Definition:** Protecting computer systems and networks from digital attacks, theft, or damage.
  - **Threats:** Cyber warfare, hacking, data breaches, online fraud, misinformation.
  - **Impact:** Economic losses, disruption of critical infrastructure, loss of privacy, political interference.
  - **International Efforts:** International cooperation on cybercrime, development of cybersecurity norms.
- **Drug Trafficking and Organized Crime:**
  - **Impact:** Fuels violence, corruption, addiction, undermines state institutions.
  - **International Efforts:** UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), international law enforcement cooperation.

REVISION

These terms are dedicated to a comprehensive review of all topics covered in Current Affairs from JSS3 3rd Term to SS2 3rd Term, in preparation for final examinations.

- **Revision Strategies:**
    - **Structured Review:** Go through notes systematically, term by term, ensuring all sub-topics are covered.
    - **Newspaper Reading and News Consumption:** Stay updated daily. Current Affairs is highly dynamic; recent events are always relevant. Read reputable newspapers (local and national), watch/listen to news, and follow reliable online news sources.
    - **Mapping and Location:** Use maps to locate countries, continents, states, and key geographical features related to current events.
    - **Flashcards:** Create flashcards for key facts (e.g., capitals, dates of events, functions of agencies).
    - **Discussion Groups:** Engage in discussions with peers to debate issues and share knowledge.
    - **Past Questions Analysis:** Practice extensively with past examination questions to understand question formats, common areas of focus, and improve time management.
    - **Essay Writing Practice:** Practice writing structured answers for essay-type questions, clearly explaining concepts and providing relevant examples.
    - **Connecting the Dots:** Practice linking different topics (e.g., how economic issues affect security, or how international policies impact local communities).
    - **Focus on Significance:** For historical events, understand *why* they were important. For global institutions, understand their *relevance* and *impact*.