

CURRENT AFFAIRS

Current affairs section is a major part of every competitive exam. This section tests your general awareness more than your knowledge of trivia and random information. So, it is beneficial to go through the newspapers daily and look out for important events at the national and international level.

5 Crore Free LPG connections distributed under Ujjwala Scheme

On 3rd August 2018, Union Government announced that it reached target of providing 5 crore free LPG (Liquefied Petroleum Gas) connections under Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY). It aims at providing clean-cooking fuel to poor households and prevents health hazards associated with indoor air pollution and bringing in qualitative changes in living standards.

Initially, Government of India set target to provide deposit free LPG connections under PMUY to 5 crore BPL households by 31st March 2019. Now the target reached almost eight months ahead of schedule.

In the current year, considering the huge success of the Scheme, target was revised to 8 crore connections with budgetary allocation of Rs.12,800 crore. The revised target of PMUY will be achieved by 2020.

In addition to SECC identified households, the scheme also extended to SC/ST households, beneficiaries of Antyoday Anna Yojana (AAJ), PMAY (Gramin), forest dwellers, most backward classes (MBC) etc

PMUY has been recognised by World Health Organisation (WHO) as one of the decisive intervention by the Government to address the Indoor Air Pollution which accounts for nearly 10 lakh deaths in a year in the country.

The scheme implemented by Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas through its Oil Marketing Companies i.e., IOC, BPCL and HPCL.

15th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas to be held in Varanasi

Pravasi Bharatiya Divas 2019 will be held in the holy city of Varanasi from 21 – 23 January 2019. Pravasi Bharatiya Divas 2019 would be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Mauritius Prime Minister Pravind Jugnauth.

Pravasi Bharatiya Divas commemorates the return of Mahatma Gandhi from South Africa to Mumbai on 9th January 1915. Pravasi Bharatiya Divas marks the contribution of the overseas Indian community towards the development of India.

The event in 2019 will be jointly organised by the Union Ministry of External Affairs in association and Uttar Pradesh government.

Ministry of External Affairs organises Regional Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (RPBD) periodically outside India also, to connect with the Indian Diaspora in specific regions, familiarise them with the policies and programmes of the Government, enable them to contribute to India's development. The concept of Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) was launched during the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas convention at Hyderabad on 9th January 2006.

Two Indians were conferred with "Ramon Magsaysay Award"

Two Indians, Bharat Vatwani (for Restoring Health & Dignity to troubled lives) and Sonam Wangchuk (for Harnessing nature, culture & education) made the country proud as their names figured in the list of 2018 Ramon Magsaysay Award winners.

Shraddha Rehabilitation Foundation is NGO established by Dr Bharat Vatwani, a Mumbai-based Psychiatrist, in 1989. The foundation aims to find, restore and reunite, the mentally ill destitutes back with their families.

Sonam Wangchuk is an engineer, innovator and education reformist in the Ladakh region of Jammu and Kashmir. Wangchuk was instrumental in the launch of Operation New Hope in 1994, a collaboration of government, village communities and the civil society to bring reforms in the government school system.

Established in 1957, the Ramon Magsaysay Award is internationally-recognised as Asia's Nobel Prize and the highest award given to Asian individuals and organisations. The winners of the Ramon Magsaysay Awards come from different parts of Asia, although there are some instances, where the winners came from countries outside Asia who had served, worked or accomplished something in different Asian countries.

Over the past 50 years, the Magsaysay Awardees have dedicated themselves to work that has transformed their societies for the better. The winners conferred with the Magsaysay Award this year, will receive the awards at formal Presentation Ceremonies to be held on Friday, 31st August 2018 at the Cultural Center of the Philippines, to which the public is cordially invited.

World Day against Trafficking in Persons

To raise awareness of the plight of human trafficking victims, World Day against Trafficking in Persons is observed every year on 30th July every year. Theme of this year is "responding to the trafficking of children and young people"

International Labour Organisation (ILO) estimates that 21 million people are victims of forced labour globally. Every country in the world is affected by human trafficking, whether as country of origin, transit or destination for victims.

According to UNODC Global Report on Trafficking in Persons, children make up almost third of all human trafficking victims worldwide. UNODC draws attention to issues faced by trafficked children and to possible action initiatives linked to safeguarding and ensuring justice for child victims.

United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) designated July 30 as the World Day against Trafficking in Persons by adopting resolution in 2013.

National Viral Hepatitis Control Program launched

Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare launched National Viral Hepatitis Control Programme to control viral hepatitis at New Delhi. This program launched on the occasion of World Hepatitis Day observed on 28th July every year.

On the occasion of this program, the Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare stated that the government has strong intention to eliminate viral hepatitis by 2030.

National Viral Hepatitis Control Program was launched in collaboration with the World Health Organisation. The key strategies of this program include preventive and promote interventions with focus on awareness generation, safe injection practices and socio-cultural practices, sanitation and hygiene, safe drinking water supply etc

On this occasion, the Union Minister of Health and Family welfare J P Nadda further said that the Ministry launched a campaign to end TB by 2025, five years ahead of global target.

MODEL QUESTIONS

1. Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) launched at Ballia, Uttar Pradesh on
- | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1) 1 st May, 2016 | 2) 1 st May, 2017 |
| 3) 1 st September, 2016 | 4) 1 st December , 2016 |
| 5) 1 st August , 2016 | |

2. The highest beneficiaries are from received free LPG connections under PMUY as declared on 3rd August 2018.
- 1) West Bengal
 - 2) Bihar
 - 3) MP
 - 4) Rajasthan
 - 5) Uttar Pradesh
3. Some of the Beneficiaries of PMUY are identified through SECC List-2011. In this context, SECC stands for
- 1) State-Economic Caste Census
 - 2) Socio-End Caste Census
 - 3) Socio-Economic Category Census
 - 4) Socio-Economic Caste Census
 - 5) Socio-Economic Caste Consortium
4. World Hepatitis Day observed every year on... ?
- 1) 7 April
 - 2) 14 June
 - 3) 28 July
 - 4) 24 March
 - 5) 25 April
5. World Hepatitis Day is one of eight official global public health campaigns marked by the World Health Organisation. What is the theme of World Hepatitis Day 2018?
- 1) Prevention of viral Hepatitis. Act now
 - 2) Hepatitis: Think Again
 - 3) Test. Treat. Hepatitis
 - 4) Eliminate Hepatitis
 - 5) Know Hepatitis-Act now
6. Union Health Minister J.P. Nadda elected to Rajya Sabha from
- 1) Himachal Pradesh
 - 2) Andhra Pradesh
 - 3) Rajasthan
 - 4) Madhya Pradesh
 - 5) UP
7. Which famous Indian woman pediatrician was appointed as Deputy Director General for Programmes of World Health Organisation?
- 1) Dr. Harsha Vardhan
 - 2) Dr. Devi Shetty
 - 3) Soumya Swaminathan
 - 4) Binayak Sen
 - 5) K. Srinath Reddy
8. Which award is hailed as Asian Noble Prize?
- 1) Jnanpith Award
 - 2) Nikki Asian Prize
 - 3) Ramon Magsaysay Award
 - 4) Bhart Ratna
 - 5) Noble Peace Prize
9. Ramon Magsaysay Award given annually to individuals or organisations from Asia region for their altruistic and philanthropic service. Who is Ramon Magsaysay?
- 1) First President of UNO General Assembly
 - 2) Freedom fighter of India
 - 3) Ex-President of Philippines
 - 4) First Secretary General of UNO
 - 5) First president of ADB

