

CURRENT AFFAIRS



CAC – 24th & 25th September 2017:

1. Union Minister launches Pradhan Mantri LPG Panchayat in Gujarat

- i. Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas Dharmendra Pradhan has launched Pradhan Mantri LPG Panchayat at Mota Ishanpur village in Gandhinagar district of Gujarat.
- ii. About 100 such beneficiaries- most of them women have participated in this LPG Panchayat. Mr Pradhan also inaugurated the Skill Development Institute at Adalaj near Ahmedabad as part of National Skill Development Mission.

Pro Tip:

Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) was launched by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on 1st May 2016 in Ballia, Uttar Pradesh.

Under the PMUY, 5 Cr LPG connections will be provided to BPL families with a support of Rs.1600 per connection in the next 3 years.

Mr Vijay Rupani is present Chief Minister of Gujarat.

The National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) is a one-of-its-kind, Public Private Partnership (PPP) model in India, under the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE).

2. Angela Merkel Wins 4th Term as Chancellor of Germany

- i. Angela Merkel won a fourth term as chancellor in Germany elections that lifted the far-right party Alternative for Germany into parliament for the first time since the immediate aftermath World War II.
- ii. Merkel's Christian Democrat-led bloc took 32.5% to defeat Martin Schulz's Social Democrats, whose 20% is its worst result since the war, the exit polls for national broadcasters ARD and ZDF showed.

Pro Tip:

Berlin is the Capital of Germany.

Euro is the Currency of Germany.

3. China's Hui Ka Yan Becomes Asia's Richest Man

- i. Hui Ka Yan, the chairman of big China real estate developer China Evergrande Group, has become Asia's richest man according to the Forbes Real-Time Billionaires List.
- ii. Among mainland Chinese, Hui's estimated fortune of \$42.2 billion puts him ahead of Tencent Holdings Chairman Ma Huateng (\$39.1 billion), Alibaba Group Chairman Jack Ma (\$38.9 billion), and Wanda Group Chairman Wang Jianlin (\$30.4 billion). Ma Huateng currently ranks second in Asia and Jack Ma third.

Pro Tip:

Forbes magazine was founded 100 years ago on September 17, 1917, by B.C. Forbes.

4. Andhra CM Naidu Declares 2017 as e-Pragati Year

- i. Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu declared the year of 2017 as e-Pragati year. The flagship program will help the government to make real-time governance.
- ii. The Chief Minister also inaugurated the Andhra Pradesh Sports Policy 2017.

Pro Tip:

Shri E.S Lakshmi Narasimhan is the Present Governor of Andhra Pradesh.

5. President Ram Nath Kovind's First Foreign Trip will be to Africa

- i. President Ram Nath Kovind will make his first foreign trip as head of state to the strategically-significant African continent in the first week of October. The President will visit to Ethiopia and Djibouti.
- ii. Addis Ababa, the capital of Ethiopia is the seat of African Union, had hosted the first India-Africa summit outside India in 2012. There are more than 540 Indian firms in Ethiopia.

Pro Tip:

Indian ambassador to Ethiopia and Djibouti is Anurag Srivastava.

6. India, US, Afghanistan Join Hands for 1st Trade Show in Delhi

- i. For the first time, India, US and Afghanistan will hold a joint trade and investment show in Delhi, as New Delhi steps up to its role of being a bigger development partner to Afghanistan.
- ii. The trade event, sponsored by the US and hosted by India, will be inaugurated by Afghan CEO Dr Abdullah.

Pro Tip:

Kabul is the capital of Afghanistan.

7. India Third in Nuclear Power Installations: Study

- i. India is third in the world in the number of nuclear reactors being installed, at six, while China is leading at 20, the World Nuclear Industry Status Report 2017.
- ii. The number of nuclear reactor units under construction is, however, declining globally for the fourth year in a row, from 68 reactors at the end of 2013 to 53 by mid-2017.

8. 7th ASEM Economic Minister's Meeting Held in South Korea

- i. The 7th ASEM (Asia–Europe Meeting) Economic Ministers’ Meeting was held in Seoul, South Korea. Theme for this year’s meeting was ‘Innovative Partnership for Inclusive Prosperity’.
- ii. The meeting was conducted under the Chairmanship of the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy of the Republic of Korea. 51 member countries signed a Joint Statement on Supporting the Multilateral Trade System.

Pro Tip:

Commerce Minister Mr. Suresh Prabhu represented India.
ASEM was established in 1996.

9. DRUZBA 2017, Pak-Russia Joint Military Drill Started

- i. The joint exercise DRUZBA 2017 between special forces of Pakistan and Russia Armies started in Minralney Vody, Russia.
- ii. Pakistan and Russia are holding two-week long joint military drill focusing on counter-terrorism operations to enhance military ties between the two countries.

Important Takeaways from Above News-
Moscow is the Capital of Russia.
Islamabad is the Capital of Pakistan.

10. C.N.R. Rao Chosen for International Honour for Materials Research

- i. Eminent scientist, Professor C.N.R Rao, has become the first Asian to be chosen for the prestigious Von Hippel Award for his immense contribution in materials research.
- ii. The award is the US-based Materials Research Society’s (MRS) highest honour. Mr Rao is the Bharat Ratna awardee. The award will be presented in Boston on November 29, during an MRS meeting.

Pro Tip:

Susan Troler-McKinstry is the President of MRS.

11. Sports Ministry Recommends P.V. Sindhu for Padma Bhushan

- i. Olympic silver medallist shuttler P.V. Sindhu has been recommended for the prestigious Padma Bhushan, country’s third highest civilian award, by the Sports Ministry.
- ii. She is two-time bronze medallist at World Championship. In March 2015, Sindhu was awarded India’s fourth highest civilian honour, the Padma Shri.

Pro Tip:

PV Sindhu has recently become the first Indian to win the Korea Open Superseries.

12. Rajkumar Rao Bags GQ Actor of the Year Award

- i. Rajkumar Rao was awarded the GQ Actor of the Year Award, in Mumbai. GQ (Gentlemen's Quarterly) magazine conducted the GQ Men of the Year Awards for 2017, in Mumbai.
- ii. Woman of the Year award was won by Anushka Sharma.

Pro Tip:

'Newton' will be India's official entry for the Best Foreign Film category at the Oscars 2018.

13. Rajiv Mehrishi Took Oath as New CAG

- i. Former home secretary Rajiv Mehrishi took over as the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India. Mehrishi succeeded Shashi Kant Sharma.
- ii. President Ram Nath Kovind administered the oath of office and secrecy to Mehrishi (62) at a function in Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi. Mehrishi will have a tenure of about three years.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

V.Narhari Rao was the first CAG of India, post Independence.(1948-1954)

14. Masala Bonds to be Treated as ECB: RBI

- i. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced that Masala bonds will be treated as External Commercial Borrowings (ECB) from 3rd October 2017 thereby freeing up more investments by FPIs.
- ii. Masala bonds are rupee-denominated overseas bonds. Currently, the limit for investment by foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) in corporate bonds is Rs 2,44,323 crore.

Pro Tip:

The 24th Governor of RBI is Mr.Urjit Patel.

15. The Shersah of Kargil- The biography of Captain Vikram Batra Unveiled

- i. Kargil war hero Captain Vikram Batra was martyred at the tender age of 24. The biography of Captain Vikram Batra "The Shersah of Kargil" has been written by 21-year-old Deepak Surana.
- ii. Though books on Captain Batra have been written before, according to Deepak this is the first book that is based entirely on primary sources.

Pro Tip:

General Bipin Rawat is the 27th Chief of Army Staff of the Indian Army.

16. ICC Launches Anti-Corruption Probe into Sri Lanka Cricket

- i. The International Cricket Council (ICC) has launched an anti-corruption investigation in Sri Lanka. The ICC's Anti-Corruption Unit (ACU) officers had recently visited the country as part of the probe.
- ii. The ICC Anti-Corruption Unit works to uphold integrity in cricket and this includes conducting investigations where there are reasonable grounds to do so.

17. MC Mary Kom, First Indian to be AIBA Representative at IOC Athletes' Forum

- i. Five-time world champion and Olympic bronze-medallist M C Mary Kom has become the first Indian to be picked as the International Boxing Association's (AIBA) representative for the International Olympic Committee (IOC) Athletes' Forum.
- ii. The event, however, overlaps with the Asian Championship in Vietnam, which is scheduled from November 2 to 12.

Pro Tip:

Headquarters of AIBA is in Lausanne, Switzerland.

Thomas Bach is the president of International Olympic Committee.

18. India Becomes World No. 1 in Both ODIs and Tests

- i. India beat Australia by 5 wickets in the third ODI played between the two sides at Indore. The victory helped them to pip South Africa to claim the no. 1 spot in the ICC ODI rankings.
- ii. This now means that India is now at the top of both the Test and ODI rankings. This was India's ninth consecutive ODI win while it is Australia 11th successive defeat away from home.

Pro Tip:

Top three teams in ODI are 1. India, 2. South Africa, and 3. Australia.

19. India bags 4 more Medals at 5th Asian Indoor & Martial Arts Games in Turkmenistan

- i. In the 5th Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games at Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, India bagged four medals. Sajjan Prakash of India finished second with the silver medal in the Men's 100-metre butterfly event. Divya Gurling Shilwant and Pratiksha Chandrakant Parhar bagged a bronze each in women's Alysh classic in 70 kg and 75 kg categories in the Belt Wrestling Discipline.
- ii. Wrestler Keduovilie Zumu from Nagaland won the bronze medal in the 90 kg category of Kazakh Kuresh style belt wrestling. India is at 11th spot in the medals tally with 5 gold, 7 silver and 7 bronze.