

## **GENERAL AWARENESS UPDATES : - (16<sup>th</sup> April, 2017 to 24<sup>th</sup> April, 2017)**

- Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh launched two web applications to check corruption and keep track of government activities. The two web applications are 'Anti-Corruption Cell' and 'Digital Application for Review by Public And Nation' (DARPAN).
- The Finance Ministry have permitted the Labour Ministry to go ahead with 8.65% rate of interest on Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) for 2016-17.
- For the first time in Indian Railway history Habibganj station in Bhopal has been handed over to the private firm to be operated by it. However, trains at the station will still be run by the Railways.
- India's economy will grow by 7.2% in 2017-18, according to a new World Bank report titled "Globalization Backlash".
- The sixth prestigious M.S. Swaminathan Award for contribution in the field of agriculture has been given to R.R. Hanchinal, Chairperson of Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers Rights Authority, the government of India.
- An Indian environmental engineer Trupti Jain has won 2017 prestigious 'Cartier Women's Initiative Award' for providing women working on farms with water management solutions and protecting small farmers against droughts and flash flood.
- Emma Morano, an Italian woman believed to have been the oldest person alive and the last survivor of the 19th century died at the age of 117.
- Sai Praneeth has won the title match of Men's singles at Singapore Open Badminton beating his compatriot Kidambi Srikanth. This was the first time that two Indians featured in a men's singles Superseries final and India became only the fourth country to have both players in a Super series final.
- Sixteen-time world champion Pankaj Advani has won his sixth Asian Billiards title and seventh overall Asian championship.
- Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu launched India's First Train With Glass Ceiling, LED Lights And Rotable Seats in 'Vistadome' Coaches. He flagged off the train with Vistadome coaches between Visakhapatnam and Araku through video conferencing.
- Bharat Earth Movers Limited (BEML) has received the Hindustan PSU Award under the category 'Fastest Growing Organisation – Miniratna'.
- The UP government changed the name of Gorakhpur and Agra Airports as well as the name of the department of welfare of the differently abled. The Gorakhpur Airforce Station has been renamed as Mahayogi Goraknath Airport after the founder of the Nath monastic movement. The Agra Airport will be renamed after Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay airport. The Department of Disabled Welfare will now be known as 'Divyang Jan Vikas Empowerment'.
- India has jumped one spot to 8th rank in the 2017 A.T. Kearney Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Confidence Index. USA has topped the Index for the fifth year in a row.
- The Reserve Bank of India has set up two new Offices of the Banking Ombudsman for the State of Jammu and Kashmir (in Jammu) and Chhattisgarh (in Raipur).

- The Reserve Bank of India has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on “Supervisory Cooperation and Exchange of Supervisory Information” with the Royal Monetary Authority of Bhutan.
- The Reserve Bank of India signed an MoU on “Supervisory Cooperation and Exchange of Supervisory Information” with Bank of Guyana.
- The ICICI Bank Data Centre in Hyderabad has achieved the distinction of becoming the country's first Platinum rated project under IGBC (Indian Green Building Council) Green Data Centre Rating System.
- Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has appointed Vinay Shah as the new Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Director of its mortgage loan arm and listed entity LIC Housing Finance.
- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) projected the world economy to grow at a pace of 3.5 percent in 2017.
- The 2017 BRICS Film Festival will be held in Chengdu, southwest China’s Sichuan Province from June 23 to 27, 2017. The first BRICS Film Festival was held in New Delhi, India, in September 2016.
- TAL Manufacturing Solutions, a wholly owned subsidiary of Tata Motors has launched India’s first industrial-articulated robot and it goes by the name “BRABO”. The robot is indigenously developed for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) in India.
- The English translation of writer Perumal Murugan’s novel Mathorubhagan (One Part Woman) has won the Sahitya Akademi’s award for translation in English 2016. The translation was done by Aniruddhan Vasudevan and the book was published by Penguin.
- Bangalore-based Sagar Baheti has become the first visually impaired Indian runner to complete the historic Boston Marathon, the world's oldest and the hardest marathon to qualify for.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Paytm founder Vijay Shekhar Sharma were the only two Indians to make it to an annual list of ‘100 most influential people in the world’ 2017, released by the Time magazine.
- The 14th Edition of United Nations International Day of Vesak 2017 will be hosted by Sri Lanka from 12-14 May 2017. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be the chief guest for UN Vesak Day. Vesak Day is regarded by all Buddhist traditions as the anniversary of the birth of the Buddha. The theme of this edition is ‘Buddhist teachings for social justice and sustainable world peace’.
- Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) has announced Video gaming as full sports at the 2022 Asian Games which is scheduled to be held in Hangzhou, China from 10-25 September 2022.
- General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC Re) has become the first re-insurer to open an office at India’s first International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) at Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City).
- AU Financiers India, a non-banking finance company (NBFC), has converted itself into a small finance bank by the name AU Small Finance Bank.
- India and South Korea have signed an Inter-governmental MoU for Defence Industry cooperation between their shipbuilding yards.

- The Gujarat Narmada Valley Fertilizers & Chemicals Ltd (GNFC) won the prestigious Golden Peacock Award 2017 in the category of Innovative Product/ Service for pioneering a cashless township transformation model.
- The National Health Mission (NHM) in Haryana launched a mobile-based application named 'Kilkari' to create awareness among pregnant women, parents and health workers on the importance of ante and post natal care.
- In a bid to expand the green cover, the Maharashtra government recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Railways, under which trees will be planted on the land adjacent to the railway tracks in the state.
- Bollywood film "Newton" has won the best film honour at the Hong Kong International Film Festival. The lead actor of the film is Raj Kumar Rao. Amit Masurkar-directed "Newton", is a political satire.
- One of the sports to miss out from the programme list of the 2018 Asian Games in Jakarta and Palembang is cricket. Apart from cricket, skateboarding, sambo and surfing are among the other sports which have been removed from the programme in order to reduce the burden on Indonesian organisers.
- Rafael Nadal has won the Men's Singles title of Monte Carlo Masters Tennis tournament 2017. Earlier, India's Rohan Bopanna and his Uruguayan partner Pablo Cuevas lifted the men's doubles crown at the Monte Carlo Masters.
- Maharashtra has become the first state to launch a special awareness drive to ensure that transgenders in the state register as voters in greater numbers. The state branch of the Election Commission of India (ECI) launched the drive on April 15, celebrated as Third Gender Day.
- Every year on 18 April, ICOMOS (International Council on Monuments and Sites) celebrates the International Day for Monuments and Sites (also called as World Heritage Day). The theme for 2017 is "Cultural Heritage & Sustainable Tourism".
- The World Earth Day was observed all over the world on 22 April with the message to protect the environment. The campaign theme for 2017 is 'Environmental and Climate Literacy'. The first Earth Day celebrations took place in 1970.
- World Book and Copyright Day (WBCD) was observed on 23rd April 2017. The event is organized by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). Conakry, the capital of Guinea has been designated World Book Capital 2017.
- Every year April 24 is being observed as National Panchayati Raj Diwas across India. This day marks the passing of the Constitution (73rd Amendment) Act, 1992 that came into force with effect from 24 April 1993.