

## **GENERAL AWARENESS UPDATES : - (19<sup>th</sup> July, 2017 to 22<sup>nd</sup> July, 2017)**

- TR Zeliang has been appointed as the Chief Minister of Nagaland by Governor PB Acharya.
- The Maharashtra government has approved a revised policy of the 'Majhi Kanya Bhagyashree' scheme, according to which families who have a yearly income of up to Rs.7.5 lakh will be benefited. The scheme was launched by the state government on April 1, 2016, in place of 'Sukanya' scheme. It is aimed at improving the skewed girl child ratio, prevent sex determination and female foeticide, and support female education.
- India and Sri Lanka have signed a MoU to develop a village in Anuradhapura District (in Sri Lanka) at a cost of 30 crores Sri Lankan rupees.
- Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has appointed Bharat Arun as the Indian Cricket team's bowling coach. Ravi Shastri is the newly appointed coach of Indian Cricket team.
- World football's governing body FIFA lifted the ban on the Sudan Football Association (SFA) imposed on it for the failure to abide by agreements mentioned in articles 14 and 19 of the FIFA statute.
- UIDAI, which issues Aadhaar numbers, has launched mAadhaar app for mobile users that will allow users to carry unique identification profile on mobile. It allows users to carry their Aadhaar demographic information, i.e. name, date of birth, gender, address and the photograph linked with their Aadhaar number, on their smartphones.
- The NDA candidate Ram Nath Kovind has been elected President of India. Mr. Kovind got 7,02,044 votes while his opponent, the joint Opposition candidate Meira Kumar, got 3,67,314 out of a total of 10,69,358. Succeeding Pranab Mukherjee, Kovind will be sworn in as the 14th president of India on July 25. He is the first President from Uttar Pradesh.
- Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik dedicated to the nation the state's longest bridge and named it after Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose. The 2.88 km bridge over the river Kathajodi will connect the state capital of Bhubaneswar with Cuttack reducing the distance between the two cities by 12 km.
- Australia became the 35th country to join the International Solar Alliance (ISA), an initiative launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in November 2015 in Paris. It is co-led by India and France. The aim of ISA is to support developing countries to boost their solar production capacity.
- Largest private sector lender ICICI Bank will be selling personal loans of up to Rs.15 lakh through its ATMs that can be availed of by select salaried customers even if they haven't previously applied for one. The facility offers a bouquet of features - swift application in simple steps, multiple eligible loan amount options up to Rs. 15 lakh based on pre-checked CIBIL scores and instant transfer of the money to the customer's account.
- In a first of its kind, Telangana State will have eco-friendly bridges over a canal cutting across the tiger corridor linking the Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve (TATR) in the Chandrapur district of Maharashtra with the forests in Telangana's Kumram Bheem Asifabad district.

- Markets regulator SEBI has entered into a pact with the European Securities and Markets Authority (ESMA) for exchange of information concerning Central Counterparties (CCPs). CCPs are entities that help facilitate clearing and settlement activities.
- The Telangana government launched a special portal called “Janahitha” to receive complaints from the public. The portal is a single window for all grievances and their redressal management.
- Tamil film actor Kamal Haasan has been appointed brand icon of Pro Kabaddi League franchise Tamil Thalaivas, co-owned by India batting legend Sachin Tendulkar.
- Finance Minister Arun Jaitley formally launched Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana (PMVVY), a pension scheme exclusively for senior citizens with 8% fixed rate of interest on their savings. It can be purchased offline as well as online through Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) of India which has been given the sole privilege to operate this scheme.
- Bank of Baroda has entered into an agreement with Directorate General of Supplies & Disposal (DGS&D) for extending various banking services to Government e-Marketplace (GeM).
- Kerala will be hosting the fifth edition of South India Writers Ensemble (SIWE) at Chengannur, a town in Kerala’s coastal Alappuzha district from 24 July 2017. The core theme of the festival this year is ‘tolerance’.
- State Bank of India (SBI), the Carlyle Group and GE have announced that they have signed definitive agreements, whereby SBI and Carlyle Group will acquire GE Capital’s entire stake in SBI Card, the second-largest credit card franchise in India. SBI Card is operated through two joint venture companies, SBI Cards & Payment Services and GE Capital Business Process Management Services, which issue credit cards and process card transactions in the Indian market. Following the transactions, SBI and Carlyle will own 74 percent and 26 percent respectively in each of the two entities.
- Veteran BJP leader L.K. Advani received the Lifetime Achievement Award for his contributions as a parliamentarian in the Lok Sabha. JD-U leader Sharad Yadav also received the Lifetime Achievement Award as a Rajya Sabha representative.

The other awardees from the Lok Sabha-

- Best Parliamentarian- Revolutionary Socialist Party MP N.K. Premachandran,
- Best Woman Parliamentarian- Congress leader Kumari Sushmita Dev and
- Best Debut Woman Parliamentarian- BJP leader Meenakshi Lekhi.

The awardees from the Rajya Sabha-

- Best Parliamentarian- CPI-M leader Sitaram Yechury,
- Best Woman Parliamentarian- Samajwadi Party MP Jaya Bachchan and
- Best Debut Woman Parliamentarian- Congress MP Rajni Patil.