

## **GENERAL AWARENESS UPDATES : - (30<sup>th</sup> April, 2017 to 6<sup>th</sup> May, 2017)**

- The Haryana government has decided to open canteens offering meals at subsidized rates to registered construction workers under the "Antyodaya Anna Yojana" at 23 locations in the state.
- The National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) will observe 'Ganga Cleanliness Pledge Day' on 02nd May 2017 at various places in the river's basin states to spread awareness and ensure public participation in the program.
- India will give Rs.35 crore to children of freedom fighters in Bangladesh in the next five years under the new 'Muktijodha scholarship' scheme.
- Former Union minister Ashwani Kumar has been selected by Japan for this year's Spring Imperial Decorations, for his contribution to the strengthening of bilateral ties and promotion of friendship between the two countries.
- International Labour Day, also known as International Worker's Day or May Day is observed on 01st of May every year to promote and encourage the international labour associations.
- Aymanam ward in the Kerala district became India's first digitalised panchayat ward.
- The Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016 (RERA) has come into force. It is aimed at protecting the interests of homebuyers across the country and bringing transparency.
- The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has appointed Syrian refugee and Olympic athlete Yusra Mardini as a Goodwill Ambassador.
- India's top cueist Pankaj Advani lost to China's Lv Haotian in the summit clash of Asian Snooker Championship held in Doha, Qatar. This is the first silver Advani has won this season, the rest all being gold medals at the National Championships of Billiards, 6-red Snooker and 15-red Snooker, as well as the Asian Billiards Championship.
- Joshna Chinappa scripted history by becoming the first Indian to clinch the Asian Squash title with a thrilling win over compatriot Dipika Pallikal Karthik in the women's final.
- Minister of State (I/C) for Labour and Employment, Shri Bandaru Dattatreya launched two schemes "One IP- Two Dispensaries" and "Aadhaar based Online Claim Submission" on the occasion of International Labour Day (1st May). 'One IP- Two Dispensaries' scheme gives an option to an Insured Person (IP) to choose two dispensaries, one for self and another for the family through an employer. Under Aadhaar based Online Claim Submission scheme all EPF Members who have activated their Universal Account Number (UAN) and seeded their KYC (Aadhaar) with EPFO will be able to apply for PF final settlement, Pension withdrawal benefit and PF part withdrawal from their UAN Interface directly.
- Mr. Anthony Lianzuala took over as the New Controller General of Accounts (CGA), Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance with effect from May 1, 2017, in New Delhi. He is the First person from the North-Eastern Region to hold this position.
- Dubai has become the first city in the world to get its own Microsoft font. The font, available in three styles as 'Dubai', 'Dubai Medium' and 'Dubai Light', can be in italics, underlined and bold.

- Every year, 3rd May is celebrated as the World Press Freedom Day by UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization).
- Madhya Pradesh has become the first state to switch to the January-December financial year from the existing April-March cycle.
- Manoj Sinha, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Communications and Minister of State for Railways, formally launched the 'Tarang Sanchar portal'. The web portal is for Information sharing on Mobile Towers and EMF Emission Compliances. Additionally, any person can request for EMF emission measurement at a location by paying a fee of Rs.4000 online.
- Mallikarjun Kharge is the new chairman of the 21-member (14 from Lok Sabha and 7 from Rajya Sabha) Public Accounts Committee (PAC) of Parliament. The chairman of PAC is appointed by the speaker of Lok Sabha.
- The 'Swachh Survekshan 2017' survey results were recently announced by Urban Development Minister M Venkaiah Naidu. Indore in Madhya Pradesh is India's cleanest city while Gonda in Uttar Pradesh is the dirtiest.
- Union Cabinet approved Vijayawada Airport as International Airport recently.
- China-sponsored Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) has recently approved USD 160 million loan for a power project in Andhra Pradesh, the first credit from the bank for an Indian project.
- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has given its approval for restructuring the schemes of the Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) under new Central Sector Scheme – SAMPADA (Scheme for Agro-Marine Processing and Development of Agro-Processing Clusters) for the period 2016-20. The objective of SAMPADA is to supplement agriculture, modernize processing and decrease agri-waste.
- India has opened its first private small arms manufacturing plant at Malanpur, Madhya Pradesh in a joint venture with Israel. The plant has been set up as a joint venture Punj Lloyd Raksha Systems between Indian defence conglomerate Punj Lloyd and Israel Weapons Industries (IWI).
- The Madhya Pradesh government has passed a resolution granting river Narmada the status of a living entity. A month ago, the Uttarakhand High Court had declared Ganga, Yamuna and their tributaries living entities with the status of a legal person.
- The Indian men's national football team has made it into the top 100 of the FIFA world football rankings for the first time in 21 years. India, with a total of 331 points, is now placed 100th. The last time India had been in the top 100 of the rankings was way back in 1996, with the 94th spot in February 1996 being the country's best ever FIFA ranking.
- The promulgation of the Banking Regulation (Amendment) Ordinance, 2017 inserting two new Sections (viz. 35AA and 35AB) after Section 35A of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 enables the Union Government to authorize the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to direct banking companies to resolve specific stressed assets by initiating insolvency resolution process, where required. The RBI has also been empowered to issue other directions for resolution, and appoint or approve for appointment, authorities or committees to advise banking companies for stressed asset resolution.

The recent enactment of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), 2016 has opened up new possibilities for time-bound resolution of stressed assets. The SARFAESI and Debt Recovery Acts have also been amended to facilitate recoveries.

- Hollywood film *The Black Prince*, featuring singer-poet Satinder Sartaaj and veteran actress Shabana Azmi, was awarded the Special Jury Remi Award at the 50th annual Worldfest-Houston International Film Festival (WHIFF). The film is a historic biopic on the life story of the last king of Punjab - Maharajah Duleep Singh. The film is Directed by Kavi Raj.