

## **GENERAL AWARENESS UPDATES : - (9<sup>th</sup> April, 2017 to 15<sup>th</sup> April, 2017)**

- Minister of State (Independent Charge) for AYUSH, Shripad Yesso Naik inaugurated the National Convention on World Homeopathy Day on 10 April 2017 at New Delhi. The event was organized to commemorate the 262nd birth anniversary of the founder of Homeopathy, Dr. Christian Friedrich Samuel Hahnemann, a German physician.
- India has signed a joint declaration with Russia to promote innovation and the R&D ecosystem between the two countries.
- Madhya Pradesh government kick-started its ambitious 'Deendayal Rasoi Yojana' under which subsidised meals will be available at Rs.5 per plate to people, especially the economically disadvantaged sections of society.
- Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh launched the website and app named 'Bharat Ke Veer', to facilitate the monetary contribution to the kin of soldier personnel killed in action. The amount so donated will be credited to the account of 'Next of Kin' of those Central Armed Police Force/Central Para Military Force soldiers.
- North India is all set to get its first Deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) bank for wildlife in Bareilly. At present, the Laboratory for the Conservation of Endangered Species (LaCONES) in Hyderabad is the only such facility in the country.
- The Reserve Bank of India has allowed banks to invest in Real Estate Investment Trust (REITs) and Infrastructure Investment Trusts (InvITs). Banks are allowed to invest in equity-linked mutual funds, venture capital funds (VCFs) and equities to the extent of 20% of their Net Owned Fund (NOF).
- Saraswat Bank, the largest lender in the co-operative space, has appointed Smita Sandhane as its Managing Director (MD). She is the first woman chief of India's largest urban co-operative bank.
- India's largest e-commerce player Flipkart\_ buys eBay's India business.
- The 12th edition of Indo-Mongolian Joint Military Exercise Nomadic Elephant 2017 began at Vairengte in Mizoram.
- Nagaland's Police Officer Atu Zumvu has been awarded 'Shaurya Chakra' award. Nagaland attained statehood in 1963 and since then this is the first time a police officer from the state has been honoured with this award.
- The government has appointed retired Supreme Court judge Shiva Kirti Singh as the next chairman of the Telecom Disputes Settlement & Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT).
- UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, announced the appointment of internationally acclaimed actress and philanthropist Kristin Davis as its Goodwill Ambassador.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued a new set of enabling provisions titled 'Revised Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) framework' to resolve the problem of banks mounting non-performing assets (NPAs), or bad loans. Under the revised framework, if a bank crosses the third level of risk threshold (where a bank's common equity tier I capital falls below the threshold of 3.625 per cent by 3.125 per cent, or more) it will either be amalgamated or merged, or taken over by another entity.

- The Income Tax department has launched the second phase of the 'Operation Clean Money' to investigate over 60,000 individuals with an aim to detect black money generation post demonetisation.
- Nation remembered Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar on his 127th birth anniversary i.e 14 April 2017. Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar, chief architect of the Constitution of India, was born on 14th April 1891 at Mhow in Madhya Pradesh. He was also the first law minister of India.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that women are free to retain their maiden names in their passports now after the marriage.
- Similar to that of Uttar Pradesh's 'Anti-Romeo Squad', the Haryana government has launched 'Operation Durga' to ensure women safety in the state.
- Jharkhand Police has initiated 'Tare Zameen Par programme' to enlighten children in Naxal-affected areas in the Palamau district of Jharkhand. As a part of the programme, the state police appealed the locals to donate bags, shoes, books and clothes to improve the basic amenities of the children in the Naxal-affected areas.
- Department of Posts has joined hands with State Bank of India to promote 'SBI buddy e-wallet' and Point of Sale (POS) machines for cashless transactions at post office counters while booking speed post and registered post items.
- The Union Ministry of Agriculture has selected Himachal Pradesh for the Krishi Karman Award 2015-16 for the commendable increase in food grains production.
- A book on Draupadi named 'the Flaming Tresses of Draupadi' written by senior Congress leader M Veerappa Moily was released by President Pranab Mukherjee. The book is an English translation by D A Shankar of Moily's original work in Kannada.
- As per the announcement of government, from May 1, 2017, petrol and diesel prices will change every day in sync with international rates.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has emerged as the most followed world leader on photo-sharing app Instagram with a whopping 6.9 million followers, surpassing US President Donald Trump.
- The Government has set up an Inter-Disciplinary Committee to examine the existing framework with regard to Virtual Currencies. The Committee will be chaired by Special Secretary of Economic Affairs, Shri Dinesh Sharma.
- Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh N. Chandrababu Naidu announced the re-launch of 'Adarana scheme' for improving traditional occupations.
- The World Bank has approved a \$375 million loan to India's first inland water transport fairway 'National Waterway 1' (NW1) project on a 1,360 km stretch of the Ganga river between Varanasi and the seaport of Haldia.
- Mahabaleshwara Mavinakudige Subrahmanya has been appointed as the new MD and CEO of Karnataka Bank Ltd.
- TAL Manufacturing Solutions, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Tata Motors has launched a Made-in-India robot catering primarily to micro, small and medium industries. The indigenously built robot 'TAL Brabo' is available in two variants of payloads of 2 kg and 10 kg, priced at ₹5 lakh and ₹7 lakh, respectively. This is the first robot conceptualized and designed in India.

- The government has set up an 'Inter-Ministerial Committee', Chaired by Civil Aviation Secretary Shri Rajiv Nayan Choubey, to monitor the regional air connectivity scheme UDAN (Ude Desh Ka Aam Naagrik) which seeks to make flying affordable by connecting unserved and under-served airports.
- Nokia and Airtel along with state-owned network BSNL (Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd) have announced that they have partnered to set up 5G internet speed in India to introduce a fast internet ecosystem in the country.
- Haldia Port in West Bengal has topped the List in the First-Ever Ranking of Ports on Sanitation Parameters.
- The literary blockbuster novel 'The Underground Railroad' authored by Colson Whitehead, which depicts the journey of a young woman escaping from slavery via a fantastical train system has won the Pulitzer prize for fiction. The Pulitzer prizes are considered as the most prestigious journalism and arts awards in the U.S.A.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi released a book 'Matoshree', authored by Lok Sabha Speaker Sumitra Mahajan . The book 'Matoshree' covers the life and times of legendary Devi Ahilyabai Holker who ruled the Holkar Empire spread over the Malwa region from 1767 to 1795.