

National Current Affairs

Recent Approvals by Central government – May 17 2017

- Proposal to establish **Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) – Assam** with 100% outlay of central government.
- Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and **Australia** on **Cooperation in Combating International Terrorism and Transnational Organized Crime**
- Agreement between **India and Tajikistan** on Cooperation and **Mutual Assistance in Customs Matters**
- **Faculty Exchange Agreement** between National Defence College, New Delhi and National Defence College, Dhaka, **Bangladesh**
- Amendment of the **Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958**
- Pan-India implementation of **Maternity Benefit Program**

AP amends Act to appoint PV Sindhu as Group-1 officer

- **Andhra Pradesh** Legislature on 16th of May has passed a Bill to **appoint** Olympics winner shuttler **PV Sindhu as a Group-1 officer in the government** by amending the state public services Act.
- The Andhra Pradesh Cabinet had passed a resolution on August 22, 2016 and offers a Group-1 (gazetted officer) post to Sindhu.
- The government also gave a **cash reward of Rs 3 crore** and a residential plot to Sindhu in Amaravati.

Country's first ornamental fish park to come up at Chennai

- The park will include an ultra-modern facility for ornamental fish equipped with multi-species hatchery and live feed culture units.
- **Tamil Nadu** is the second largest exporter of ornamental fish after West Bengal.
- The facility is being **developed by Fisheries College and Research Institute**, Ponneri in Tamil Nadu.
- It will fulfil a major requirement of the industry for mass production of high value aquarium fish.
- Centre has recently launched a pilot project on ornamental fisheries under the National Fisheries Development Board.

EPFO's Citizens' Charter 2017 & e-court management system launched

- Citizens' Charter 2017 is aim to bring transparency and accountability on the part of EPFO
- Its **vision** is of **social security coverage to all employees** as well as implementation of policies for benefit of all stakeholders.
- It will make service delivery system and grievance redressal mechanism more efficient and effective.
- All the parties can now file all their paper, evidence, documents online and all the details along with status can be accessed online. It is a step towards paperless court system

International Current Affairs

Mukesh Ambani tops Forbes list of Global Game Changers

- The top 3 spots in the list have been occupied by: **Mukesh Ambani** of India (1st), **Ziv Aviram, Amnon Shashua** of Israel (2nd), Stewart Butterfield of United States (3rd).
- The oldest person to feature on the list is **Christo Wiese**, 75, who is credited for creating Africa's largest retail empire.

Arunachal mountaineer Anshu Jamsenpa scales Mount Everest for fourth time

- **Anshu Jamsenpa** from Arunachal Pradesh **scaled the world's highest peak, Mount Everest for the fourth time.**
- She had scaled Mount Everest twice in May 2011 and again on May 18, 2013.

Business and Economy

India's GDP Growth Forecast for 2017 Revised Downward by UN

- As per **United Nations' "World Economic Situation and Prospects as of mid- 2017"** report, India's Gross Domestic Product (**GDP**) **growth forecast for FY 2017** has been **revised downwards to 7.3%** as compared to 7.7% projection
- **GDP growth forecast for FY 2018** has been revised upwards to **7.9%** as compared to 7.6% projection made in January 2017.
- The report mentioned that stressed balance sheets in Indian banking sector, will restrict the restoration of investment cycle in the country.

Kotak Mahindra Bank enables blockchain based trade financing operation

- **Kotak Mahindra Bank** enabled end to end trade financing for one of its clients by applying the **blockchain technology.**
- By utilising the blockchain technology, time for processing the **letter of credit (LC)** reduced from 20-30 days to few hours.
- LC is a written commitment to pay by buyer's/importer's bank to seller's/exporter's bank. The LC guarantees payment when prescribed list of documents are provided by the seller/exporter within the stipulated timeframe.

People in News

Dish TV India appoints Anil Dua as Group CEO

- Direct-to-home operator **Dish TV** India has **appointed Anil Dua as group Chief Executive Officer**
- He is an alumnus of IIT-Delhi and IIM-Ahmedabad, has worked in several companies including Unilever, Gillette and Hero MotoCorp.

Science & Technology

24x7 DD channel for Jharkhand

- Jharkhand has been given the most film-friendly award by the National Film Awards.
- A around-the-clock **Doordarshan channel for Jharkhand** has been announced.

IEST creates India's first smart grid project

- **IEST** has created the **country's first smart grid project** that will generate power from renewable sources of energy.
- The smart grid will help in generating power from solar, wind and vegetable waste resources, and it will depend on the weather conditions and availability of waste products.
- It is the first smart grid project in the country.

Operation Clean Portal launched

- Its aim is to **tab dishonest citizens hiding their income to the authorities and Government.**
- There have been 18 lakh people who have been identified by the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) after demonetisation with respect to irregularities in tax payment and income band.
- The features of the Operation Clean Money Portal are as follows:
 - (a) Providing comprehensive information at one place
 - (b) Creating a tax compliant society and Enabling Transparent Tax Administration by sharing status reports.

Indian Teen from Tamil Nadu develops the world's smallest satellite for NASA

- A 18-year-old boy from Tamil Nadu has created the **world's smallest satellite named 'KalamSat'.**
- It is developed by **Riftah Sharook.**
- **KalamSat** weighs only **64 grams** and is named after former President APJ Abdul Kalam.
- The main role of the satellite will be to **demonstrate the performance of 3-D printed carbon fibre**

Environment & Ecology

Henderson Island: World Heritage-listed site most polluted place on planet

- **Henderson Island** is a remote place in the South Pacific that has been found to be the **most polluted place on the planet**. It has 37 million pieces littered on its beaches.
- According to the research the beaches of the World Heritage-listed Island – littered with an estimated **37.7 million pieces of plastic**.
- It is a part of the UK's **Pitcairn Islands territory**.
- The debris weighed 17.6 tonnes and it is the highest density of plastic rubbish in the world
- There were 671.6 items of debris per square metre on Henderson Island, which lies between Chile and New Zealand in the South Pacific.
- The 55% of the world's seabirds including two species found on Henderson Island are at risk from marine debris.

Sports Current Affairs

Mohammad Anas breaks 400m National Record Qualifies For World Championships

- **Mohammad Anas** from Kerala has broken the national record in men's 400m race and **won a gold medal** at the third leg of the Indian **Grand Prix Athletics Meet** in **New Delhi**.
- He also qualified for the World Championships to be held in London in August.
- Rajiv Arokia and Sachin Baby were second and third in 46.32 seconds and 47.18 seconds respectively.

ICC hikes prize money for Champions Trophy 2017

- **International Cricket Council (ICC)** has **hiked the prize money for 2017 Champions Trophy by \$500,000**, making it \$4.5 million with a winner's share of \$2.2 million.
- The runner-up of the tournament will get a cheque of US \$1.1 million, while the other two semi-finalists will earn US \$450,000 each.
- Teams finishing third in each group will take home US \$90,000 each, while the teams finishing last in each group will get US \$60,000 each.