

## **GENERAL AWARENESS UPDATES : - (10<sup>th</sup> January, 2017 to 15<sup>th</sup> January, 2017)**

- 11th World Hindi Day was observed on 10<sup>th</sup> January.
- Youth Day, the birthday of Swami Vivekananda was observed on 12<sup>th</sup> January.
- 69th Army Day was observed on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2017. The day marks the taking over of the Indian Army by the first Indian Commander-in-Chief, Field Marshal KM Cariappa, on January 15, 1948. He took over the reins of the Army from Lieutenant General Sir Francis Butcher, the last British Commander-in-Chief and became the first Commander-in-Chief of the independent India.
- Megastar Amitabh Bachchan was given an award by the US Embassy in appreciation for his invaluable contributions to the US-India partnership on tuberculosis.
- Maharashtra government has launched India's largest public WiFi service called 'MumbaiWifi'.
- The 74th Annual Golden Globe Awards ceremony was organized at Beverly Hills, California, United States (US). The Golden Globe Awards are the annual awards that honour the best in Motion Pictures and American Television for the previous year. This year, 'La La Land', a romantic musical comedy-drama film won in all the seven categories including the top award of best musical or comedy. Veteran actress Meryl Streep was bestowed with the Cecil B. DeMille Lifetime Achievement Award.
- Mobile handset brand Gionee has roped in Virat Kohli as the brand ambassador.
- An eight-year old boy from Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri Abbu Ammaz has won gold medal in Thai Boxing Championship at the national level.
- Leicester City boss Claudio Ranieri has been named as the Coach of the Year at the FIFA Football Awards in Zurich.
- Indian Space Research Organisation and French Space agency (CNES) has signed a partnership agreement in satellite launch technology.
- Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has revised Indian Standard on gold hallmarking, which is effective from January 1, 2017. The hallmarked gold jewelry will now be available in three grades of 14 karat, 18 karats, and 22 karats.
- Former wrestler Mahavir Singh Phogat's biography 'Akhada' was released in Chandigarh.
- The Federation Internationale de Football Association FIFA has decided that the World Cup will be expanded to host 48 teams, up from 32.
- Yana Kudryavtseva, 13-time gymnastics world champion, retires aged 19.
- The month-long Magh Mela festival began on 12 January 2017 at Sangam in Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh.
- 'Khanderi', the second Scorpene class submarine that has superior stealth and the ability to launch a crippling attack with torpedoes as well as tube-launched anti-ship missiles whilst underwater or on the surface, was launched at the Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited, Mumbai.
- Norway has become the first country to cease FM radio broadcasting. The Government plans to roll out digital-only radio over the course of the year.

- The world's first 'Gender Literature Festival' is scheduled to be held in Patna, Bihar in the second week of April 2017. The main aim of the fest is to create a platform, to exchange ideas, and to share and learn experiences of renowned people in the field of gender literature. The festival will also act as a platform to increase visibility for gender equity and advocacy in the State of Bihar.
- Pongal was celebrated with traditional gaiety in Tamil Nadu.
- India's First Madame Tussauds Museum in Delhi unveils wax figures of Amitabh Bachchan and Lady Gaga.
- The Chief Minister of Kerala, Pinarayi Vijayan inaugurated the first solar-powered boat of the state water transport department, Aditya.
- Airtel Payments Bank, the first payments bank, started its nationwide operations on January 12, 2017 with an initial investment of Rs 3,000 crore and offering an interest rate of 7.25 per cent for savings accounts. This is the first payments bank which will be opened across 29 states in India to provide financial services to the millions who are outside the banking system.
- Gujarat won their first ever Ranji Trophy title beating Mumbai by five wickets in the final at the Holkar stadium in Indore.
- In Madhya Pradesh, Indore district witnessed inauguration of first of its kind scheme of the country– Digital Dakiya, which aims at encouraging cashless transactions. "Digital Dakiya or Digital Postman will visit different places to teach and encourage people about cashless transactions and its benefits.