

GENERAL AWARENESS UPDATES:- (10th November – 18th November, 2017)

- India has been re-elected as the member of the UNESCO's executive board, its top decision-making body.
- The Delhi government signed a twin city agreement ('Establishment of Friendship City Relationship') with the Seoul Metropolitan Government for strengthening cooperation in the fields of e-governance, transportation, climate change and smart city.
- Federal Bank has obtained RBI approval to open representative offices at Kuwait and Singapore. The bank already has its representative offices in Abu Dhabi and Dubai.
- Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao declared Urdu as the state's second official language. Every office in the state will now have an Urdu speaking officer. First official language of Telangana is Telugu.
- Natalie Portman has been awarded Israel's 2018 Genesis Prize in recognition of her commitment to social causes and deep connection to her Jewish and Israeli roots. The \$1 million award is also known as "the Jewish Nobel Prize,". Ms. Portman is the first woman to receive the prize.
- The Union environment ministry formed a seven-member committee headed by environment secretary, to formulate short and long-term measures to solve the problem of air pollution in the Delhi-NCR region.
- Haryana has emerged as the first state in the country to treat Hepatitis-C patients through oral medicine. This medicine would be provided free of cost.
- The government has raised the maximum amount that a central government employee can borrow from the government to Rs.25 lakh for new construction/ purchase of new house/ flat. Earlier this limit was only Rs.7.50 lakh.
- RBI issued fresh directions on managing risks and code of conduct in outsourcing of financial services by NBFCs. Non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) cannot outsource core management functions like internal audit, strategic and compliance functions for know your customer (KYC) norms, sanction of loans and management of investment portfolio.
- The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has been named as the recipient of the Mother Teresa Memorial Award for Social Justice, 2017. Harmony Foundation has instituted the only official award in memory of Mother Teresa. Harmony Foundation's theme for 2017 is 'Compassion Beyond Borders'.
- Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Economic Leaders' Meeting was held in Da Nang, Vietnam.
- India will soon have the first Cartoon Network-branded theme park. Turner International India, which owns the Cartoon Network brand, has entered into a brand partnership with Gujarat based real estate, entertainment and hospitality group Rajgreen for the launch of a 61,000 square meter property Amaazia, in Surat.
- A report by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has found that the air quality of holy city Varanasi is most polluted among the 42 cities monitored recently.

- India is the sixth most vulnerable country in the world in terms of facing extreme weather events, according to the report released by the Germanwatch. Haiti tops the list.
- Former Prime Minister of Nepal Kirti Nidhi Bista passed away at Kathmandu, Nepal.
- The World Diabetes Day (WDD) was observed globally on 14 November. The theme for 2017 WDD is 'Women and diabetes - Our right to a healthy future'.
- The 31st ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) Summit was held in Manila, Philippines, with the theme "Partnering for Change, Engaging the World". Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte chaired the summit.
- 37th India International Trade Fair (IITF) began at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi. This year the theme of the fair is "Startup India Standup India". Vietnam is the Partner Country, while Kyrgyzstan is the Focus Country. Jharkhand is participating as a Partner State in the event.
- To provide high-speed broadband service in all Gram Panchayats by March 2019, government has launched its second and final phase of BharatNet project. It will be implemented at an outlay of around 34 thousand crore rupees.
- For the first time, the nation's financial capital- Mumbai will host the 34th annual conference of the Asian Bankers Association (ABA). The two-day conference will be held with the theme 'Asia's turn to transform'.
- Uttar Pradesh tops in opening new Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) accounts.
- Filmmaker Sujoy Ghosh has resigned as Head of the jury of the Indian Panorama of the 48th International Film Festival of India (IIFI).
- In Football, Italy has failed to qualify for the FIFA World Cup for the first time since 1958. The four-time champions failed to make the cut after they lost the World Cup Qualifying European play-off against Sweden. Italy has now joined the Netherlands, US, Chile, Ghana, Ivory Coast and Cameroon in the list of big nations that have failed to qualify to tournament which will be held in Russia in June 2018.
- Ace Indian cueist Pankaj Advani lifts the IBSF World Billiards Championship at Doha, Qatar.
- India's first Tribal Entrepreneurship Summit began in Dantewada, Chhattisgarh. The event has been organized by NITI Aayog in partnership with the government of United States of America.
- The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has recognized the practice of Yoga as an approved sport, which can be practiced freely there. In 2015, United Nations designated June 21 as International Yoga Day.
- China has launched world's first all-electric ship that can travel up to 80 km with 2000-tonnes cargo after a two-hour charge.
- India's first wave-powered navigational buoy, developed by the National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), to guide ships in and out of ports, was launched in Chennai, Tamil Nadu. The buoy's beacon, for guiding ships, is powered by wave energy while conventional ones use solar power. The buoy stores energy generated by waves in a battery.

- A report by Bank of America-Merrill Lynch has stated that in the next decade, India will overtake Japan to become the third-largest economy.
- The Space Kingdom of Asgardia has launched its first satellite 'Asgardia-1' into Space. This so-called 'virtual nation' is the pet project of Russian scientist and billionaire Igor Ashurbeyli.
- National Press Day was celebrated on November 16 to commemorate the establishment of the Press Council of India.
- India's Ambani family has topped the Forbes list of Asia's Richest Families for the first time with a net worth of \$44.8 billion.
- The Reserve Bank of India has reportedly rejected HDFC Bank's plea to declassify its parent Housing Development Finance Corporation Limited (HDFC) as a foreign institutional investor (FII).
- Syria has officially signed up to the Paris Agreement, leaving the United States as the only country to reject the global climate-rescue pact.
- Binge watching in public is the new trend in India, and Indians are the second-highest public bingers in the world (88 percent), just behind Mexico (89 percent), according to a survey released by online streaming platform Netflix. Binge watching is the practice of watching multiple episodes of a television programme in rapid succession.
- The government launched the 'Bharat 22' exchange traded fund (ETF), managed by ICICI Prudential Mutual Fund, targeting an initial amount of about Rs.8,000 crore.
- The Food and Drug Administration has approved the first drug in the United States with a digital ingestion tracking system, named 'Abilify MyCite' developed by Otsuka Pharmaceutical Co. Ltd., to ensure that patients with mental illness take the medicine prescribed for them.
- Andhra Pradesh Mineral Development Corporation (APMDC) bagged an international award from Abu Dhabi, in the category of "social contribution in country value."
- Renowned Hindustani vocalist of Kirana Gharana, Jagdish Mohan has passed away.
- International rating agency Moody's Investors Service has upgraded India's local and foreign currency issuer ratings to Baa2 from Baa3 and changed the outlook on the rating to stable from positive.
- Nagaland became the first State in the Northeast to launch Point of Sale (POS) facility for electricity bill payment, where the mode of payment will be cashless.
- President Ram Nath Kovind launched various schemes entailing total expenditure of Rs.3,455 crore in Jharkhand. Kovind launched the Rs.636-crore 'Mukhyamantri Health Insurance Scheme'. He also launched JOHAR (Jharkhand's Opportunities for Harnessing Rural Development) schemes entailing the expenditure of Rs 1,500 crore to help tribal and Dalit families double their incomes in four years.
- RBI Governor Urjit Patel was appointed to the Financial Stability Institute Advisory Board (FSIAB) of the Bank of International Settlement (BIS). The Bank of International Settlement is a global financial organization owned by major central banks from across the world.
- Kevin Lilliana of Indonesia was crowned Miss International 2017 in Tokyo.

- France will host the 2023 Rugby World Cup.
- Eminent Hindi poet and Jnanpith awardee Kunwar Narayan passed away in New Delhi.
- The government has given the go-ahead for setting up India's first mega coastal economic zone (CEZ) at the Jawaharlal Nehru Port in Maharashtra.
- Paytm and ICICI Bank have collaborated to announce an all-new initiative where users can get interest-free short-term digital credit, called Paytm-ICICI Bank Postpaid.
- Private sector lender Yes Bank has signed an MoU with Innovation Centre Denmark India (ICDK India) to bring fintech innovations and startups from Denmark to India, and facilitate entry of Indian startups to the region. Denmark is ranked no. 1 in the Global Innovation Index.
- Shagun Chowdhary bagged a National Champion Crown when she won the women's trap event at the 61st National Shooting Championship. Representing ONGC, Chowdhary is the first Indian woman trap shooter to win an Olympic berth.
- The Nordic-Baltic embassies will host the first ever youth film festival of the European nations in Delhi showcasing movies from the region. The Nordic-Baltic countries Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway and Sweden, or NB8 are tied together geographically and historically through trade, culture and many common value systems.
- Sethurathnam Ravi has been appointed as the chairman of Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE).