

**GENERAL AWARENESS UPDATES:- (10<sup>th</sup> September, 2017 to 16<sup>th</sup> September, 2017)**

- Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu laid the foundation stone for Ranchi Smart City coming up on the Heavy Engineering Corporation (HEC) land. This would be the country's first 'green-field' smart city. The smart city is coming up on 656 acres of HEC land which would be fully wi-fi, carbon free, garbage free locality with modernized housing, traffic management system and education hub.
- Private sector lender IndusInd Bank and India's second largest Microfinance company Bharat Financial Inclusion have signed a confidentiality agreement for the proposed merger between them.
- Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman flagged off the 'Navika Sagar Parikrama' by an all-women crew of Indian Navy aboard Indian Naval Sailing Vessel (INSV) Tarini from INS Mandovi jetty in Goa. Navika Sagar Parikrama is the first attempt by an Indian all-women crew to circumnavigate the globe.
- The air forces of China and Pakistan began a joint training exercise named "Shaheen VI". The exercise will run in China.
- The 2017 US Open was the fourth and final Grand Slam event of the year. Rafael Nadal was the winner of Men's Singles. Sloane Stephens was the winner of Women's Singles. The 83rd-ranked Stephens is only the second unseeded woman to win the tournament in the Open era.
- India has won 2nd South Asian Basketball, SABA, Under - 16 Championship. India defeated Bhutan in its last league match at Kathmandu in Nepal.
- The government is moving ahead with linking Aadhaar with mobile SIM cards and all unlinked phones will be deactivated after February 2018.
- The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) announced that the upper age limit for joining the National Pension Scheme (NPS) had been raised to 65 years, from the current 60. Hemant Contractor is the Chairman of PFRDA.
- The renowned Indian Badminton legend Prakash Padukone has been selected for the first life time award by Badminton Association of India (BAI). Mr. Himantha Biswa Sarma is the President of Badminton Association of India.
- The coastal city of Kochi is hosting the BWF World Senior Badminton Championships. The championship is been held in India for the first time.
- Halimah Yacob was sworn-in as the 8th President of Singapore. She became the country's first female President.
- Finance Minister Arun Jaitley has constituted a Group of Ministers (GoM) headed by Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Kumar Modi to monitor and resolve the IT challenges faced in the implementation of GST.
- The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) launched a nationwide Hackathon 'OpenGovDataHack' to support and showcase potential ideas/ talent from inner India.
- Paytm Payments Bank (PPB) has partnered with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) to launch a RuPay-powered digital debit card. As a payments bank, PPB

can take a demand deposit of up to Rs 1 lakh per customer, but it cannot undertake lending activities.

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Japanese counterpart Shinzo Abe laid the foundation stone of the 508-km long Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail in Ahmedabad. This is India's First Bullet Train Project.
- Hindi Diwas was celebrated on September 14.
- Karnataka is the first state to roll out an Electric Vehicle and Energy Storage Policy that looks not only at boosting sales of Electrical Vehicles but also setting up charging infrastructure and special manufacturing zones.
- India has been placed at a low 103 rank, the lowest among BRICS economies, on the World Economic Forum's Global Human Capital Index. The list has been topped by Norway. The list takes into account "the knowledge and skills people possess that enable them to create value in the global economic system" to measure the 'human capital' rank of a country.
- Former Indian cricketer Sachin Tendulkar launched -Mission 24 for Mumbai's M east ward which is known to have one of highest slum populations in the city. The project aims to improve the quality of lives of people living in M east ward of Mumbai.
- Vijaya Bank has bagged the first prize under the Rajbhasha Kirti Puraskar (Region C) for the year 2016-17.
- The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has formally announced that Paris has been awarded the 2024 summer Olympics and Los Angeles has been given the 2028 edition. Paris, which has hosted two previous Olympics, will stage the event 100 years after its last Games in 1924 while Los Angeles will also organize its third Games after 1932 and 1984.
- The International Day of Democracy was observed across the world on 15 September. The theme for the year 2017 is 'Democracy and Conflict prevention'.
- Dr. Harsh Vardhan launched the "Wood is Good" campaign. Wood is a climate-friendly material, as it is a renewable resource, having zero carbon footprint.
- India has started 'Operation Insaniyat' **to provide** assistance to Bangladesh in response to the humanitarian crisis being faced on account of the large influx of Rohingya refugees into that country from Myanmar.
- The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) formally awarded Goa the rights to host the 36th National Games.
- The book titled 'Unstoppable: My Life So Far' authored by tennis star Maria Sharapova was unveiled. The book talks about Sharapova's rise from nowhere to tennis stardom, and the unending fight to stay on top.
- President Ram Nath Kovind launched a nation-wide campaign 'Swachhata Hi Sewa' from Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh.
- India's first Centre for Animal Law has been established at the NALSAR University of Law in Hyderabad, Telangana.
- India's second largest private sector bank HDFC Bank topped the list of the country's top 50 brands, according to a report released by marketing and advertising

conglomerate WPP Plc and Kantar Millward Brown. The bank has retained the top slot for the fourth year in a row. Airtel is at 2nd spot and State Bank of India is at 3rd.

- Suzuki Motor will invest more than Rs. 1,150 crore along with Japanese partners Toshiba and Denso to set up India's first lithium-ion battery facility in Gujarat.
- The International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer was observed globally on 16 September. The theme for 2017 is 'Caring for all life under the sun'.
- The world's oldest person Violet Mosse-Brown from Jamaica has died at the age of 117. She was born on March 10, 1900, in Jamaica.