

## **GENERAL AWARENESS UPDATES : - (11<sup>th</sup> July, 2017 to 18<sup>th</sup> July, 2017)**

- World Population Day was being observed globally on 11th July. The theme of 2017 is 'Family Planning- Empowering People, Developing Nations'.
- Khaltmaa Battulga was elected as Mongolian president.
- The government has merged the urban development and housing and urban poverty alleviation ministries. Now this will be known as Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA).
- The next tranche of sovereign gold bond (SGB) scheme was launched recently by the Government; this time, providing a 2.5 percent annual interest to investors. The minimum investment will be 1 gram of gold. The maximum limit can be subscribed up to 500 grams per person per fiscal year.
- Finance Minister Arun Jaitley launched 'Aaykar Setu', an e-initiative for the Income tax Department to directly communicate with the taxpayers and aimed at providing information on useful tax services.
- The famous blue-bordered sari of Mother Teresa, who has been canonized as Saint Teresa of Calcutta by the Vatican, has been recognized as an Intellectual Property of the Missionaries of Charity. This is the first time that a uniform has been made the intellectual property. It has obtained “distinctive symbolic identity” of the Missionaries of Charity.
- Ministry of Health and Family Welfare signed an MoU with the Government of West Bengal to formalize its support to set up a state-of-the-art Centre of Excellence in Transfusion Medicine at Kolkata.
- Rio Olympics silver medallist P V Sindhu was bestowed with the 'Sportsperson of the Year' award during the 'Maruti Suzuki Sportsperson of the Year' Charity Gala Awards. Sindhu's coach P Gopichand received the Coach of the Year award while the Flying Sikh Milkha Singh was given the Living Legend of the Year award. The 2008 Beijing Olympics gold medallist and the country's sole gold medal winner in individual events at Olympics, Abhinav Bindra was given the Lifetime Achievement Award.
- The National Green Tribunal banned the use of 'Chinese' kite strings, made of nylon or any synthetic material on the grounds that it poses threat to life and environment.
- Axis Bank has entered into a collaboration with Inter-American Investment Corporation (IIC) to facilitate trade with Latin America and the Caribbean. Axis Bank becomes the first Indian bank to participate in the Trade Finance Facilitation Programme as a confirming bank.
- Delhi became the second state to launch e-RTI portal that will enable citizens to file online Right to Information (RTI). Maharashtra is the first state to launch the online RTI platform.
- Maharashtra has become the first state in the country to provide women an injectable contraceptive for free. The state's public health department launched a program called Antara to offer women an injection of Medroxyprogesterone acetate (MPA), a birth-control hormone.

- Ravi Shastri has pipped Virender Sehwag to become Indian cricket team's new head coach. He replaces Anil Kumble as a head coach.
- Indian Railways achieves a major landmark in the field of Eco friendly fuel technologies at Indian Railways Organization for Alternate Fuel (IROAF) which has been awarded the coveted National level "Golden Peacock Award for the Year 2017 for Eco-Innovation" for substitution of fossil fuels (Diesel) by environment friendly CNG in DEMU passenger train services. Use of CNG in Train Sets for passenger transportation has been done for the first time in the world.
- Mithali Raj became the woman cricketer who has scored most runs in ODIs. Mithali Raj became the first women's player to reach 6000 ODI runs. She has 48 not-outs to her name, which is the most in women's cricket. Mithali Raj is the present Captain of Indian Woman's Cricket Team.
- India will host 8th edition of Theatre Olympics in 2018, the biggest theatre celebration of the world.
- Meghalaya Chief Minister Mukul Sangma has recently launched an ambitious flagship program titled "Livelihood Intervention and Facilitation of Entrepreneurship" (LIFE) at Songsak. LIFE will focus on capacity building, Under the program, every 10 SHGs (Self-Help Groups) will be motivated to act like a bank and help each other.
- YES Bank, India's fourth largest private sector bank, along with YES Global Institute has launched 'YES GST' program for MSMEs (Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises) under its MSME CSR initiative, 'Say YES to Sustainable MSMEs in India'. Through the program, the bank will help MSMEs to understand the impact of the changes in tax system and prepare them to know the new GST tax system.
- Country's largest bank SBI has waived charges for fund transfer of up to Rs 1,000 through its IMPS (Immediate Payment Service) to promote small transactions. SBI had been charging Rs 5 along with the applicable service tax for IMPS fund transfer of up to Rs 1,000. IMPS is an instant interbank electronic fund transfer service through mobile phones as well as internet banking. GST at the rate of 18 per cent is applicable on all financial transactions.
- Rajasthan becomes the first state in the country to fix minimum educational qualification for contesting cooperative body polls.
- Maharashtra has become the first state to make social boycott a crime after President Pranab Mukherjee cleared the legislation.
- For the first time in the country, a team of Indian scientists has claimed to have discovered an "extremely large supercluster of galaxies", Saraswati, in the universe. The Milky Way is the galaxy that contains our Solar System.
- Indian Railways launched its first 1,600 HP solar powered Diesel Electric Multiple Unit (DEMU) train with a unique facility of Battery Bank from Safdarjung station, New Delhi.
- World Youth Skills Day was being observed globally on 15th July. The theme of 2017 is "Skills for the Future of Work". The first World Youth Skills Day (WYSD) was celebrated on 15 July 2015.
- Raipur's Swami Vivekananda Airport was ranked first in Customer Satisfaction among 49 airports in the country.

- India is ranked 116 out of 157 nations on a global index that assesses the performance of countries towards achieving the ambitious sustainable development goals (SDGs). The SDG Index and Dashboards Report was produced by the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) and the Bertelsmann Stiftung.
- The Centre has appointed Mukesh Kumar Jain as Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Oriental Bank of Commerce, a public sector bank.
- India's Sundar Singh Gurjar has won gold on the opening night of 2017 World Para Athletics Championships in London. He triumphed in the men's javelin throw.
- The government has launched a GST training programme to skill around two lakh youths in six months to handle tax compliance issues like invoice making. The people would be trained under the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY).
- UNICEF appointed Indian- origin Canadian YouTube star Lilly Singh as its newest Global Goodwill Ambassador.
- The 18th edition of the International Indian Film Academy Awards was held in New York. Sonam Kapoor's film Neerja won the best film award. Actor Shahid Kapoor earned the Best Actor award for his role in Uda Punjab, while Alia Bhatt won the Best Actor (Female) award for the same film.
- Central Railway has taken a step towards women empowerment by appointing an all-female work staff at the suburban Matunga station. Matunga station has now become the first railway station run by women.
- Garbine Muguruza of Spain came out with the spectacular performance as she defeated seven-time Grand Slam Champion Venus Williams in straight sets to clinch her maiden Wimbledon title.
- Roger Federer won a record eighth Wimbledon title and became the tournament's oldest champion with a straight-sets victory over Marin Cilic. Federer claimed his 19th Grand Slam title. With this victory, Federer also became the first player since Bjorn Borg in 1976 to win Wimbledon without dropping a set in the entire tournament.
- India's Harinder Pal Sandhu wins Victorian Open squash tournament by defeating Rex Hedrick.
- Nelson Mandela International Day (or Mandela Day) is an annual international day in honour of Nelson Mandela, celebrated each year on 18 July, Mandela's birthday.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi gave the Information and Broadcasting portfolio to Smriti Irani. The Urban Development Ministry, which was also being handled by Naidu, has been given to Narendra Singh Tomar.