

GENERAL AWARENESS UPDATES:- (12th December – 16th December, 2017)

- Electronics and Information Technology Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad has launched first NIC-CERT, a setup of National Informatics Centre to prevent and predict cyber attacks on government utilities.
- Mount Hope, replaced Mount Jackson, to become UK's new highest mountain.
- The government has fixed Rs 2,890 per gram as the price of new series of sovereign gold bonds (SGBs). The government, in consultation with the Reserve Bank, has decided to offer a discount of Rs 50 per gram to investors applying online and making payments digitally.
- Saudi Arabia will have its first public cinemas in more than 35 years after the government announced the lifting of the ban on movie theatres.
- Australia beat Argentina in the final of the Hockey World League Final (HWLF) to win gold at Kalinga Stadium, Bhubaneswar, Odisha. Argentina beat India (who won bronze earlier) in the semifinals.
- India is all set to host the 2023 World Cup, the global cricketing event's 13th edition. India will also host the upcoming Champions Trophy in 2021. The ICC World Cup 2019 will be held in England and Wales.
- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) lowered India's GDP forecast for the current fiscal to 6.7 %.
- Rajasthan has become the first state in the country to launch free email addresses in Hindi (in Devanagari script) for its residents. The first e-mail ID was created for CM Vasundhara Raje.
- India has become the first-ever team to register 300+ totals 100 times in ODIs, after posting 392/4 against Sri Lanka in Mohali. This was also the 25th instance of India scoring 350+ in an ODI innings, second-most by a team after South Africa (26). India was driven by captain Rohit Sharma's 208*, his third ODI double hundred which is also a record in ODIs.
- 21-year-old Indian Golfer Shubhankar Sharma claimed his maiden European Tour victory in the Joburg Open, in South Africa.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi commissioned India's first modern conventional submarine, INS Kalvari, into Navy's fleet in Mumbai. The Navy last inducted a conventional diesel-electric submarine, INS Sindhusashtra, procured from Russia in July 2000.
- India signed a Financing Agreement for IBRD (International Bank for Reconstruction and Development) loan of USD 250 million (equivalent) for the "Skills Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion (SANKALP) Project" with the World Bank.
- India has upgraded its ranks in 'The Legatum Prosperity Index 2017' and is now on 100th position.
- The National Energy Conservation Day was celebrated on 14th December.

- Norway became the world's first country to shut down national broadcasts of its FM network by completing its transition to digital radio.
- OBOPAY has announced that the company has secured a license for Prepaid Payment Instrument (PPI) from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to operate a semi-closed loop wallet in the country.
- The Board of Control for Cricket in India decided to lift the ban on the Rajasthan Cricket Association (RCA) provided former IPL chief Lalit Modi stays away from its functioning, the Board decided in its Special General Meeting (SGM).
- Bollywood actor, writer, and filmmaker Neeraj Vora, in the coma since a year, died at a Mumbai hospital.
- The Union Cabinet cleared the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Bill, 2017, or the Triple Talaq bill, which makes the practice a non-bailable offense. The bill proposes a three-year jail term for men who practice instant Triple Talaq. Under the draft law, triple talaq in any form - spoken, in writing or by electronic means such as email, SMS, and WhatsApp - would be banned or illegal.
- The Indian diaspora is the largest in the world, with over 15 million migrants from India living abroad, according to the World Migration Report 2018 published by the International Organisation for Migration, the United Nations migration agency.
- In the latest list released by Forbes, Michael Jordan has been named as the highest-paid athletes of all time. Former world number one golfer Tiger Woods is standing at the second spot.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed Rs 3 crore penalty on IndusInd Bank for breaching rules on income classification norms. As per the RBI Statement, the penalty was imposed after the regulator observed violation of various regulations issued by the RBI on non-performing loans and extension of non-fund based limits.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed certain restrictions on Corporation Bank on carrying out banking activities as its share of bad loans rose sharply. The RBI has triggered prompt corrective action (PCA) against it in view of high non-performing loans and requirement to raise capital.
- Jitesh Singh Deo from Lucknow was declared the winner of the 2017 Mr. India pageant which was held in Mumbai. Indian footballer Prathamesh Maulingkar won the title of Mr. India Supranational and will compete at Mr. Supranational 2018.
- World youth champion Sachin Siwach was named the Asian Boxing Confederation's best youth boxer of the year 2017 after winning an online poll conducted by the continental body.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 60-megawatt Tuirial hydroelectric power project from Aizawl, Mizoram. Mizoram had become the third power-surplus state in the north-east after Sikkim and Tripura.
- Income inequality is highest in India since 1980. Since 1980 India has led to substantial increase in inequality so much that top 0.1% of earners has continued to capture more growth than all those in the bottom 50% combined, according to the World Inequality Lab in its World Inequality Report 2018.

- Vijay Diwas is celebrated across the Nation on 16th December. The day marks the glorious victory over Pakistan in 1971 during the Indo-Pakistani War of 1971, in alliance with Bangladesh Mukti Bahini.
- Jammu and Kashmir Bank launched a special financial scheme, "J&K Bank Sahafat Finance Scheme", for journalists of the state. The scheme will enable journalists to buy cameras, laptops, tablets, and books.
- Oxford Dictionaries has crowned "youthquake" as its word of 2017 in a nod to the unexpected level of youth engagement in this summer's election in the United Kingdom.
- The emblems of the Beijing 2022 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games have been named "Winter Dream" and "Flight," respectively.