

GENERAL AWARENESS UPDATES : - (12th February, 2017 to 17th February, 2017)

- The government recently appointed heads of 10 Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs), including the first woman to head one of the 20 premier B-schools in the country. Prof. Neelu Rohmetra of Jammu University is the first woman to be appointed director of an IIM at Sirmaur.
- ISRO launched record 104 satellites in a single mission.
- Every year 12th to 18th of February is celebrated as the National Productivity Week. This year the theme of week is 'From Waste to Profits-through Reduce, Recycle and Reuse.'
- India beat Pakistan by 9-wickets to win T20 Blind World Cup at Bengaluru's M Chinnaswamy Stadium.
- World Radio Day was observed on February 13. The theme for the 2017 edition of World Radio Day is 'Radio is You'. In 2011, the Unesco General Conference had proclaimed February 13 as World Radio Day, the day United Nations Radio was established in 1946.
- The centre has approved setting up the Electronic Development Fund with a total corpus of Rs. 6,831 crore to support entrepreneurship and innovation in electronics and IT.
- The FIFA governing body has named Argentina's former soccer player Diego Maradona as the new Ambassador of the FIFA. The Fédération Internationale de Football Association is the international governing body of football, futsal, and beach soccer. President is Gianni Infantino and Headquarters are in Zurich, Switzerland.
- Indian off-spin specialist Ravichandran Ashwin became the fastest cricketer to take 250 wickets in Test matches. He achieved this feat in his 45th test match against Bangladesh, when he dismissed captain of Bangladesh team Mushfiqur Rahim at the Rajiv Gandhi International stadium in Hyderabad. Ashwin surpassed Australian fast bowler Dennis Keith Lillee, who played 48 matches to reach the milestone of 250 Test wicket.
- India's first floating elementary school particularly for drop outs has been inaugurated on Loktak lake at Langolsabi Leikai of Champu Khangpok floating village in Manipur on the occasion of World Wetlands Day on February 2, 2017.
- The Karnataka assembly unanimously passed the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Karnataka Amendment) Bill, 2017 to legalize the conduct of 'Kambala' and bullock cart races in Karnataka. The Bill seeks to amend the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, (Central Act 59 of 1960) and exempt the two sports from the ambit of the Act keeping in mind their traditional nature.
- AIDS Healthcare Foundation (AHF) celebrated its annual International Condoms Day on 13 February 2017 to raise awareness about HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases (STDs).
- The Union Minister of State for Labour and Employment Bandaru Dattatreya launched the National Career Service (NCS) for youths and Jeevan Praman facility to EPFO pensioners through Post Offices. The Post Offices will serve as an Employment Registration Centres for Unemployed rural youth on behalf of the 'National Career Service' Portal where youths can register themselves for employment.

- After Puttamraju Kandriga in Andhra Pradesh, Indian cricket icon and Rajya Sabha MP Sachin Tendulkar is now set to adopt Donja in Osmanabad (Maharashtra) under the Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojna.
- “Gujarat Narmada Valley Fertilizers and Chemicals (GNFC)” township became India’s first cashless township.
- Union Government has decided to launch ‘Indradhanush 2.0’ for recapitalisation of public sector lenders so that the banks remain solvent and fully comply with the global capital adequacy norms namely Basel-III. Earlier in 2015, under Indradhanush roadmap, the government had announced to infuse Rs 70,000 crore for recapitalization in state-run banks over four years while the banks had to raise a further Rs 1.1 lakh crore from the markets to meet their capital requirement in line with global risk norms known as Basel-III.
- Indian Navy’s survey class vessel INS Sarvekshak has become the first ship in India to be fitted with solar power system on board.
- Larsen & Toubro Limited (L&T), an Engineering and construction major has entered into a Joint Venture with European defence major MBDA Missile Systems. The main aim of the JV is development of missiles in India under the Make in India initiative.
- The world’s longest elevated cycle path has been opened in Xiamen, China which can handle about 2,023 cyclists with a speed limit of 15 miles per hour. The path is five miles long and 16 feet wide having 11 entrances and connects to 11 bus stops and two underground rail stations.
- Frank-Walter Steinmeier has been elected as the new President of Germany. He will succeed incumbent President Joachim Gauck who will step down on March 18, 2017.
- The first ever ITTF World Tour event in India will begin at the Thyagaraj Sports Complex in New Delhi. The 1.5 lakh US dollar India Open also happens to be the biggest ever ITTF event in terms of prize money.
- Government has allocated an amount of Rs 500 crore to India Post Payments Bank for the financial year 2017-18 to help it in setting up 650 branches across country by September 2017.
- International Finance Corporation (IFC), part of the World Bank Group, has teamed up with Finance Industry Development Council (FIDC) to conduct training programmes for Non Banking Finance Companies (NBFCs). The training programmes will be on 'movable asset financing' and 'commercial credit reporting'.
- Jehan Daruvala, a Force India F1 team racing driver, became the first ever Indian to claim the New Zealand Grand Prix at the Chris Amon Circuit in Manfeild, New Zealand.
- Mumbai based Kush Bhagat has been awarded the Candidate Master (CM) title by the World Chess Federation body, FIDE for his outstanding performance in Western Asian Youth Chess championship 2016 at UAE.
- Cabinet has approved merger of five subsidiary banks with State Bank of India. SBI will acquire State bank of Bikaner and Jaipur, State Bank of Hyderabad, State Bank of Mysore, State Bank of Patiala and State Bank of Travancore.
- Tamil Nadu Governor C Vidyasagar Rao appointed Edappadi K Palaniswami as chief minister.

- West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee declared Kalimpong a separate district of West Bengal.
- India has become one of the nine members of the new 'Network for Improving Quality of Care for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health' that aims to improve the quality of care for new mothers and babies.
- The 2017 Cobra Gold Military Exercise kicked off at the Sattahip Royal Thai Marine Corps Base in Chonburi Province, Thailand. Cobra Gold 2017 is co-organized by United States and Thailand for expanding regional cooperation and collaboration for disaster relief. As many as 30 nations are participating in the drill including India, China, Singapore, South Korea and Malaysia, who are either involved in or are observing the exercises.
- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) launched its first fully integrated capacity development centre, South Asia Regional Training and Technical Assistance Center (SARTTAC) in New Delhi. SARTTAC will help the local member countries of South Asia including Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, and Sri Lanka. The main objective of SARTTAC is to help its member countries strengthen their institutional and human capacity to design and implement macroeconomic and financial policies that promote growth and reduce poverty.
- The multinational Airbus Group division Airbus joined hand with Telangana government, for setting up centre of excellence in Hyderabad.
- Jamaica's sprinter Usain Bolt won the 'Sportsman of the Year' award at the Laureus World Awards or the 'Oscar of Sports' held in Monaco .
- The Left-handed opening batsman of Pakistan Nasir Jamshed has been provisionally suspended from all forms of cricket by the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) for violating its anti-corruption code.
- India has been ranked 143 out of 186 economies in the annual Index of Economic Freedom 2017 released by top US based Think Tank, The Heritage Foundation. The Index measures the degree of economic freedom in the countries of the world. Hong Kong, Singapore and New Zealand are the top three nations in the Index respectively.
- The Reserve Bank will start reimbursing merchant discount rate (MDR) charges to banks for payments made since January 1 through debit cards by citizens, in line with the government's move to further digital solutions.
- Mumbai based Citi Bank has launched instant chat services for customers named Citibank Online (CBOL). CBOL will focuses on resolving queries instantly regarding cards, loans, domestic and non-resident accounts, and online transactions. It features a regular chat facility for generic query resolutions.
- The Reserve Bank of India increased the gold loan limit for RRBs (Regional Rural Banks) to Rs 2 lakh from the current Rs 1 lakh to help the farmers and artisans, who are willing to pledge gold as collateral, have access to credit. The limit has been doubled for the loans not exceeding 12 months from the date of sanction.
- India's premier health institute the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi was awarded the first prize of the Government's Kayakalp Award under the Central Government Hospitals category in New Delhi for maintaining high standards of sanitation and hygiene.