

GENERAL AWARENESS UPDATES : - (12th June, 2017 to 19th June, 2017)

- India and Mauritius have signed an MoU to institutionalize cooperation between Parliaments of the two countries.
- The government of India has launched 'Tele Law' service to provide legal aid for the people living in rural areas through video conferencing. Under the scheme, the Tele-Law portal will be available across the CSC (Common Service Centres) network connecting the citizens to legal service providers. In the first phase, the Tele-Law scheme will be tested as a pilot across 1000 CSCs in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.
- The Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER), Dr Jitendra Singh announced the launch of "Hill Area Development Programme" (HADP) for Northeast in Imphal, Manipur.
- Kolkata, the 'City of Joy' is about to experience a wonder in the form of an underwater Metro train which will run beneath the Hooghly river. The project will connect Howrah to the west and Salt Lake to the east. The project is expected to be completed by December 2019.
- Shashikant Kutwal has won the gold medal at the 17th World Individual Chess Championship for differently-abled.
- Legendary poet and essayist Haraprasad Das was conferred with the coveted Kalinga Literary Award for his work and contribution to literature at the fourth edition of Kalinga Literary Festival (KLF). This year the KLF introduced two new awards -- the Kalinga International Literary Award, which was received by Anand Neelakantan for his contribution towards literature, and the Kalinga Karubaki Award, which was given to Paramita Satpathy for her contribution to Odia poetry.
- The book "Indira Gandhi – A life in Nature" was launched. The book was authored by Former Union minister Jairam Ramesh.
- A 12-year-old Padmalaya Nanda from Odisha has created history by becoming the youngest girl to bag the "Little Miss Universe Internet 2017" and "Little Miss Actress" crowns at the Little Miss Universe 2017 at the port city of Batumi in Georgia.
- China has launched world's largest floating solar farm in Anhui province. The 40-megawatt power plant has 160,000 panels resting on a lake that emerged after the collapse of a coal mine in central Anhui province.
- India's Jitu Rai and Heena Sidhu combined to clinch the gold medal in mixed team 10m air pistol event of the ISSF World Cup, beating Russia in the final in Gabala, Azerbaijan.
- The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has taken over the administration of Sahara India Life Insurance, a first of its kind move in the insurance sector. Lucknow-based Sahara India Life Insurance was the first wholly Indian owned life insurance company in the private sector.
- Group of Seven (G7) Environment Ministers Meeting was held in Bologna, Italy to discuss issues ranging from climate change to sustainable development and litter at sea. '5-year Bologna Roadmap' was adopted at the meeting, which focuses on important issues such as resource efficiency indicators, citizen involvement, awareness on food waste and economic analysis of the efficient use of resources.

- India ratified two key ILO conventions on child labor, according to a statement issued by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) in Geneva, Switzerland. Government of India deposited with the International Labour Office the instruments of ratification of the two fundamental ILO Conventions concerning the elimination of child labour, the Minimum Age Convention (No 138) and the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention (No 182).
- Ex-Uttarakhand CM [Ramesh Pokhriyal](#) authors book on Vajpayee 'Yug Purush, Bharat Ratna, Atal Ji'.
- Leo Varadkar, a 38-year-old Indian-origin doctor, scripted history by becoming Ireland's youngest and the first openly gay Prime Minister of the Catholic-majority country.
- According to the Code Compliance Rating of banks done by the Banking Codes and Standards Board of India (BCSBI) 2017, only one (IDBI Bank) out of public sector banks and eight out of 17 private sector banks got 'high' rating for their adherence to code compliance. The eight private sector banks that got 'high' rating are- Axis Bank, DCB Bank, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, IndusInd Bank, Kotak Mahindra Bank, RBL Bank and YES Bank. The three foreign banks – Citibank, HSBC and Standard Chartered Bank, got 'high' ranking.
- Indian warships began a week-long naval exercise off the coast of Western Australia. The second AUSINDEX exercises are aimed at increasing interoperability between Australian and Indian naval forces, executing complex naval manoeuvres.
- India has claimed the top spot among the global remittance-receiving nations, surpassing China.
- India continued to rise in the Global Innovation Index (GII) rankings for the second year in succession, after four consecutive years of decline. In 2017 rankings released in Geneva (Switzerland), India improved its position from 66 to 60.
- The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has launched the Intensified Diarrhea Control Fortnight (IDCF) in order to intensify efforts to reduce child deaths due to diarrhoea.
- China-led Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank has approved USD 150 million equity investment loan to the India Infrastructure Fund. It is the bank's first such loan to fund private projects.
- Israeli author David Grossman has won the Man Booker International Prize 2017 for his novel 'A Horse Walks Into a Bar'.
- The Fifth Bhupen Hazarika National Award, 2017 has been conferred to an eminent writer from Arunachal Pradesh Yeshe Dorjee Thongshi. His most important novel is Mauna Onth Mukhar Hriday (Silent lips, murmuring hearts) which won the Sahitya Akademi award in 2005.
- Stepping up its fight against tax evasion, the Centre has made it mandatory to quote the Aadhaar number for opening bank accounts and for transactions exceeding Rs.50,000. With the amendments to the Prevention of Money Laundering (Maintenance of Records) Rules, 2005 notified earlier this month, banks will have to demand both Aadhaar and the Permanent Account Number (PAN) for verification of identity, starting June 1.
- The country's competition watchdog has imposed a penalty of Rs.87 crore on Korean carmaker Hyundai Motor India for anticompetitive conduct.

- Katy Perry became first person to reach 100 million Twitter followers, making her the most-followed person on the platform. Katy Perry is an American singer-songwriter.
- Former German Chancellor, Helmut Kohl, died. Mr. Kohl was the longest-serving German chancellor of the 20th Century. Kohl was credited with bringing East and West Germany together after the fall of the Berlin Wall. Together with his French ally President Francois Mitterrand, he was responsible for the introduction of the Euro.
- The Reserve Bank of India has initiated prompt corrective action (PCA) on Bank of Maharashtra placing a restriction on the banking activities. This RBI has said that the action is taken on the bank in view of the high level of bad loans. This is the sixth bank to be placed under PCA by the RBI. RBI has initiated PCA on Central Bank of India, IDBI Bank, UCO Bank, Dena Bank and Indian Overseas Bank.
- Connaught Place in the national capital is the most expensive prime office market in India and the ninth most expensive office market in the world according to the bi-annual Global Prime Office Occupancy Costs survey of US-based CBRE. Hong Kong (Central) became the world's highest-priced office market.
- The government has roped in Bollywood megastar Amitabh Bachchan to promote Goods and Services Tax (GST), ahead of the sweeping tax reform's implementation scheduled from July 1. GST Council is Headed by Finance Minister of India Arun Jaitley.
- India's Kidambi Srikanth has lifted the Indonesia Open Super Series badminton title by defeating Japanese qualifier Kazumasa Sakai in the Men's Singles final at Jakarta, Indonesia. For World No.22 Srikanth, it is his third Super Series title. He had earlier won the 2014 China Open and 2015 India Open.
- The French open title 2017 was held recently from 22 May-11 June 2017 at Roland Garros in Paris, France. The winners are:
 1. French Men's Singles Open Title: Spain's Rafael Nadal (10th French Title)
 2. French Women's Singles Open Title: Latvia's Jelena Ostapenko
 3. French Men's Doubles Title: Michael Venus (New Zealand) and Ryan Harrison (USA)
 4. French Women's Doubles Title: Bethanie Mattek-Sands (USA) and Lucie Safarova (Czech Republic).
 5. French Open Mixed Doubles title: Rohan Bopanna (India) and Gabriela Dabrowski (Canada)