

GENERAL AWARENESS UPDATES : - (12th March, 2017 to 18th March, 2017)

- B P Kanungo was appointed Deputy Governor in Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for three years.
- Finance Minister Arun Jaitley was given the additional charge of the Defence Ministry after Manohar Parrikar resigned to take on the new role of Goa Chief Minister.
- The AIADMK IT Wing has launched the first-of-its-kind women safety application in Tamil Nadu. The app is called 'Ammavin Aran' meaning 'mother's fortress'. The app will give the user details about the nearest police station and hospital along with map details and phone number.
- The Arunachal Pradesh government has launched a new scheme Adarsh Gram Yojana. The scheme aims to reach the poor people in rural areas of the state to serve them better. Under the scheme, 123 villages (comprising one village per circle) will be developed as 'Model Villages' during the fiscal year 2017-18.
- Focussing on women welfare and new born, Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao has come out with an innovative scheme – KCR Kit. The scheme is designed to address complications during the time of pregnancy and aimed at reducing infant mortality rate and encourage institutional deliveries. The KCR Kit consists of 16 essential things needed for a new-born and will be useful for up to three months. The government proposes to earmark Rs.605 crore for the scheme.
- As per RBI data, ICICI Bank topped the list of banks that witnessed most number of frauds during April to December period of 2016 with state-owned SBI taking the second spot. However, in value terms, frauds involving 2,237 crore rupees were reported in SBI, followed by Punjab National Bank with 2,250 crore rupees and Axis Bank with 1,998 crore rupees.
- Chinese smart phone company OnePlus has roped in Bollywood star Amitabh Bachchan as its new brand ambassador for India.
- Pakistan is set to conduct its first national census in 19 years.
- Shiv Sena's Vishwanath Mahadeshwar elected as the Mayor of Mumbai.
- Indian cricketing legend Sachin Tendulkar was announced as the official ambassador of Women's Cricket World Cup 2017 by the International Cricket Council (ICC). The women's World Cup this year starts on June 24, 2017 at England and Wales with eight top cricketing countries locking horns to grab the coveted trophy.
- SSP Chawrasia has become only the second Indian golfer to successfully defend the Hero Indian Open title. He is the third player to win back-to-back Indian Open. The other two golfers who did so earlier are Jyoti Randhawa who won in 2006 and 2007 and Japan's Kenji Hosoishi who won in 1967 and 1968.
- World Consumer Rights Day was observed on 15th March 2017 and theme for this year is 'Building a Digital World Consumers can Trust'.
- The Union government has launched 'Mission Fingerling' to achieve 'Blue Revolution' with the holistic development and management of fisheries in the country.

- Reliance Communications has received approval of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), BSE and NSE for the proposed scheme of arrangement for demerger of the wireless division of the company into Aircel Ltd and Dishnet Wireless Ltd.
- The World Bank has agreed to provide a loan to develop internal transmission arrangements of the upcoming Rewa Ultra Mega Solar project in Madhya Pradesh. It will provide 25% of the loan amount under its Clean Technology Fund, where the money will be provided at an interest rate of only 0.25%. This would be the first solar power project in the country to receive a loan under Clean Technology Fund (CTF).
- Central Bank of India has been awarded first prize in the implementation of Official Language Policy in the western region for the year 2015-2016.
- According to the Mercer's 19th annual Quality of Living survey, Vienna, the capital of Austria, has topped the list of cities offering the highest quality of life for the eighth year in a row. In India, Hyderabad emerged as the best city in terms of living standards among Indian cities for the third year in a row. Baghdad was ranked the worst place to live due to continuous violence in the city.
- Commonwealth Day was celebrated across the Commonwealth Nations on 13th March 2017, with the theme 'A peace-building Commonwealth'.
- Shashank Manohar has resigned as International Cricket Council (ICC) chairman after merely eight months in office, citing personal reasons. He became the first independent chairman of ICC but had several run-ins with the BCCI on revenue sharing pattern.
- The government has approved the National Health Policy.
- HDFC Bank launched an instant digital Loan Against Securities (LAS) facility in collaboration with the National Securities Depository Ltd. (NSDL). The bank stated that customers can avail themselves of overdraft facility against shares.
- State Bank of India and real estate developers' body Confederation of Real Estate Developers' Associations of India (CREDAI) have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to jointly conduct various initiatives towards development of the realty sector. The MoU will be in force for a period of 3 years.
- Two Indian companies namely Tata Steel Limited and Wipro Limited have been named in the list of World's Most Ethical Companies 2017 by American think tank Ethisphere Institute.
- Union Minister of State for Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises, Babul Supriyo has been named as Vice President of the 2017 U-17 FIFA World Cup organizing committee. For the first time, India is to host FIFA U-17 World from October 6 to 28, 2017. Host cities are Mumbai, New Delhi, Kolkata, Kochi, Margao and Guwahati.
- India with World Health Organization (WHO) signed a 'call for action' and pledged to scale up measures to end the Tuberculosis by 2030.
- The Times Higher Education (THE) released its Asia University Rankings 2017. The top rank in the Asia University Rankings was attained by the National University of Singapore (NUS). According to the 2017 ranking, Indian Institute of Science (IISc) in Bengaluru has been ranked best Indian University and has been placed at 27th position among the universities in Asia. Besides, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay was another Indian university among top 50 placed at 42nd position.

- Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) allowed celebrities to endorse Mutual Fund products at the industry level and issued new advertising code that will require fund houses to communicate in a simple manner with the public.
- Singapore's Changi Airport has been voted the World's Best Airport by air travellers at the 2017 World Airport Awards for the fifth consecutive year.
- RBI has been authorized by Government of India (GOI) to conduct field trials of plastic notes of Rs.10 in five cities across the country viz Kochi, Mysore, Jaipur, Shimla and Bhubaneswar.
- The Essar group's township at Hazira in Surat district of Gujarat has become India's first private sector township to go cashless.
- Sanjauli police station of Sanjauli, the main suburb of the city of Shimla, Himachal Pradesh has become the first police post in the country to be linked with Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems (CCTNS), a nationwide online tracking system.
- Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan launched ESAF (Evangelical Social Action Forum) Small Finance Bank, Kerala's first private sector bank since the country's Independence, in Thrissur, Kerala.
- Former Australia captain Michael Clarke has launched his autobiography named 'My Story'.
- New Chief Minister of Five Indian States:
 - Goa : Manohar Parrikar
 - Manipur : Nongthombam Biren Singh
 - Uttarakhand : Trivendra Singh Rawat
 - Punjab : Captain Amarinder Singh
 - Uttar Pradesh : Yogi Adityanath