

GENERAL AWARENESS UPDATES : - (14th August, 2017 to 20th August, 2017)

- Chief minister Naveen Patnaik launched 'She Means Business' program of Facebook for women entrepreneurs in Odisha. Under the scheme 25, 000 women entrepreneurs and self-help group (SHG) members will be given training on digital marketing skills within next one year.
- Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis launched Namu Yuva Rojgar Kendra, an initiative providing job opportunities to unemployed youth in Mumbai. There are various schemes like farmers' weekly market, farmers' mobile market and mother's Tiffin, under this Yuva Rojgar Kendra.
- The World Health Organisation (WHO) declared Somalia free of polio. The UN health agency announced that it had not recorded any case of polio disease in Somalia in the last three years.
- Union Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister, Dr. Harsh Vardhan, launched 'Gaj Yatra' in Karnataka, a nationwide campaign to protect elephants on the occasion of World Elephant Day (12 August).
- S. Aparna, an IAS officer from Gujarat cadre has been appointed as Executive Director, World Bank to represent the constituency of India, Bangladesh, Bhutan and Sri Lanka for three years. The World Bank is headquartered in Washington D.C. It was founded in 1944. Jim Yong Kim is the President of The World Bank.
- The greatest sprinter of modern times, Usain Bolt from Jamaica retired from the Athletics world.
- Home Minister Rajnath Singh has launched the live twitter wall for promoting 'Bharat Ke Veer' portal. Bharat Ke Veer portal was launched by Rajnath Singh and actor Akshay Kumar in April 2017. 'Bharat Ke Veer' portal aims to facilitate online donation directly to the families of paramilitary troopers who have sacrificed their lives for the country in the line of duty from January 1, 2016.
- Industrial Finance Corporation of India (IFCI) Ltd, a government company, is set to have a new Managing Director & CEO in E Sankara Rao. IFCI Limited is the first Development Financial Institution in the country to cater to the long-term finance needs of the industrial sector.
- A 10-year-old mountaineer from Visakhapatnam, Kaamyaa Karthikeyan, successfully summited Mount Stok Kangri, one of the highest peaks in the Himalayas, making her one of the youngest people in the world to achieve this feat.
- World Player of the Year, Cristiano Ronaldo was banned for five-match by the Spanish football federation.
- India (New Delhi) will host the next steering committee meeting of the proposed 1,814 kilometre-long Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) gas pipeline. The Turkmenistan–Afghanistan–Pakistan–India Pipeline, also known as Trans-Afghanistan Pipeline, is a natural gas pipeline being developed by the Asian Development Bank (ADB). On 24 April 2008, Pakistan, India and Afghanistan signed a framework agreement to buy natural gas from Turkmenistan.

- Odisha Government will soon launch “Durgama Anchalare Malaria Nirakaran” (DAMON), a special program to prevent the spread of malaria in remote areas of Ganjam district.
- India's first museum on Partition of the Indian subcontinent to open in Amritsar, Punjab.
- Congress vice-president Rahul Gandhi launched the ‘Indira Canteen’ scheme, dedicated to former Prime minister Indira Gandhi- a state government initiative to provide food at low cost to cater to the urban poor. The canteens are loosely modelled on the late Tamil Nadu chief minister J. Jayalalithaa’s “Amma canteens”.
- National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has conferred the ‘best performance award’ for 2015-16 and 2016-17 to Karnataka Vikas Grameen Bank (KVGB) for its work in the field of credit-linking joint liability groups (JLGs). S Ravindran is the Chairman of KVGB. KVGB is sponsored by syndicate bank.
- Corporation Bank has bagged the best performance awards for SHG-bank linkage program for Karnataka for 2015-16 and 2016-17 from National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD).
- According to global leader in broadband testing ‘Ookla’, Norway has the fastest mobile Internet in the world.
- Melbourne (in Australia) has been named world’s most liveable city for a record seventh year in a row, according to the Economist Intelligence Unit’s Global Liveability Report 2017. Damascus in Syria was deemed the world's worst among the 140 cities surveyed.
- Alexander Zverev beats Roger Federer to win Rogers Cup.
- Italy to host a summit of G-7 interior ministers centered on security issues. The summit is expected to be held in October 2017. Originally the group comprised six members- France, Italy, West Germany, Japan, United Kingdom and the United States. Canada became the seventh, after which the name 'Group 7' or G7 Summit was used. Russia formally joined the group in 1998, resulting in the creation of a new governmental political forum, the Group of Eight or G8. However, Russia was eliminated from the group in 2014 after it annexed the Ukrainian territory of Crimea.
- State Bank of India has launched a CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) initiative, SBI Gram Seva, which will work in the areas of health, education, environment and rural infrastructure.
- The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) admitted proposals for the merger between Aircel and Reliance Communications wireless business. The Merged entities will be called as 'Aircom' and both will have 50% equity stake.
- The government has imposed a new penalty of USD 264 million (about Rs 1,700 crore) on Reliance Industries Ltd and its partners for producing less than the targeted natural gas from eastern offshore KG-D6 fields in 2015-16.
- To ensure hassle-free benefits to farmers under Interest Subvention Scheme, the Reserve Bank of India has advised banks to make Aadhaar linkage mandatory for availing short-term crop loans up to Rs 3 lakh in 2017-18.
- The 16th edition of IAAF (International Association of Athletics Federations) World Championships 2017 was held in London. 'Hero-the Hedgehog' was a Mascot of 2017

IAAF World Championships and 'Whizbee-the Bee' was the Mascot for the Para Athletics. The USA topped the tally of Medals with 30 medals.

- The Human Resource Development (HRD) Ministry has announced November 13 as the date for conducting its National Assessment Survey (NAS) for the students of class 3, 5, and 8. Approximately 30 lakh students will be assessed in the year 2017-18 making it the world's largest sample survey of student learning achievement.
- Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Dr. Harsh Vardhan, launched the "Harit Diwali, Swasth Diwali" campaign. Addressing a gathering of about 800 children from schools of Delhi and NCR, the Minister impressed upon the children the importance of their contribution towards reducing pollution by not bursting harmful fire crackers during Diwali.
- The Finance Ministry and the World Bank signed a grant agreement of \$24.64 million from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) of the World Bank for ecosystem service improvement project.
- Tata Power has become the first power utility to introduce a QR code based bill payments system in India.
- Emma Stone has been named Hollywood's best-paid female actor in Forbes annual list of top earners.
- Vishal Sikka of Infosys Ltd has resigned as Managing Director and Chief Executive of the company. U.B. Pravin Rao has been appointed as interim-managing director and chief executive.
- The United States named Pakistan-based Hizbul Mujahideen (HM) as a Foreign Terrorist Organisation and a Specially Designated Global Terrorist group.
- Pakistani rights activist Malala Yousafzai secured a place at Oxford University after getting her A-level results. Malala was made the youngest ever UN Messenger of Peace. She was also the youngest person to win the Nobel Peace Prize aged 17 in 2014.
- World Humanitarian Day (WHD) is held every year on 19 August to pay tribute to aid workers who risk their lives in humanitarian service, and to rally support for people affected by crises around the world. The campaign was launched on WHD with the theme- #NotATarget.
- World's most expensive player Neymar became the Goodwill Ambassador for Handicap International.
- Dr. Mamta Suri took charge as Executive Director of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) in New Delhi. IBBI was set up on 1st October 2016 under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 (Code).
- MIT World Peace University, the first of its kind in India, was inaugurated by Chief Minister of Maharashtra Devendra Fadnavis.
- The Sadbhavana Diwas or Harmony Day was celebrated to commemorate the birth anniversary (August 20) of Rajiv Gandhi.
- The Reserve Bank of India will shortly issue Rs.50 denomination banknotes in the Mahatma Gandhi (New) Series signed by Governor of RBI Dr. Urjit Patel.

- Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao has been selected for the prestigious Agriculture Leadership Award-2017.
- The Indian contingent created history in the World Dwarf Games by winning 37 medals including 15 golds, 10 silver and 12 bronze medals. It was held in Toronto, Canada.