

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

- The International Day of Families was observed on 15th of May. The theme of 2017 is “Families, education and well-being”.
- The government has revised the base year of Wholesale Price Index, WPI and Index of Industrial Production, IIP to 2011-2012 from 2004-05.
- Two South Indian States - Kerala and Tamil Nadu - secured first and second rankings for the second year in a row while Bihar stayed at the bottom in public affairs index (PAI) in governance in States.
- Telangana has become the first state in the country where the pilot ‘e-Sanad’ project for online attestation of documents, was rolled out.
- Reserve Bank of India has put restriction on Kolkata-based PSU UCO Bank’s lending and branch expansion plans as the state-run lender made net losses for the two successive fiscal amid severe stress on asset quality. RBI has initiated 'Prompt Corrective Action' (PCA) framework on UCO bank on account of high bad loans and negative return of assets. UCO has become the second lender to face business restrictions after IDBI Bank.
- India moved up to the 26th spot in the global electricity accessibility rankings of the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business index 2016.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Narmada Seva Mission for the conservation of the crucial river, which is a lifeline of Madhya Pradesh.
- ‘Maa committee’ has been formed to check mid-day meal quality in Uttar Pradesh schools.
- Sikkim Chief Minister Pawan Kumar Chamling was conferred with the first Bhairon Singh Shekhawat Lifetime Achievement Honour in Public Service by President Pranab Mukherjee.
- A 44-year-old Nepalese mountaineer Lhakpa Sherpa has broken her own world record for the most Everest summits by a woman after scaling the world's tallest peak for the eighth time. She bettered her own record of scaling Mt Everest seven times.
- France's newly-elected President Emmanuel Macron has named Edouard Philippe as Prime Minister of France.
- Arjun Maini, driving for Jenzer Motorsports, created history by becoming the first Indian driver to win a GP3 race.
- India has taken a new initiative to supply cheap LED bulbs for the citizens of London in the United Kingdom. Taking this process to the final stages India will launch ‘UJALA’ scheme in the United Kingdom.
- India has moved up to the second spot from third position in this year's (2017) 'Renewable energy country attractiveness index' released by EY (Earnest and Young). China has been ranked first in the index.
- India women’s cricket team openers Deepti Sharma and Poonam Raut created cricket history with a record 320-run stand. They became the first-ever pair to share a 300-run stand in a One-Day International. This feat was accomplished in a match against Ireland.

- Digital payment and commerce company Paytm has received the final nod from the Reserve Bank of India and is set to launch Paytm Payments Bank on May 23, 2017. Paytm is the third company from the 11 other applicants to launch payments bank after Airtel and IndiaPost. Paytm long-time executive and vice president Renu Satti will be the CEO of its Paytm payments bank.
- The US' National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) will launch the world's smallest satellite 'KalamSat' named after India's nuclear scientist and former President, APJ Abdul Kalam. Developed by Rifath Sharook, an 18-year-old boy, from Tamil Nadu's Pallapatti town, KalamSat weighs only 64 grams.
- Mukesh Ambani tops Forbes list of 'Global Game Changers' for bringing internet to masses.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate India's longest river bridge 'Dhola-Sadiya bridge' in Assam on May 26. The length of the Dhola-Sadiya bridge is 9.15 km and is built across river Lohit at the easternmost tip of Assam. Dhola-Sadiya bridge will be the longest bridge in India overtaking the Bandra-Worli sea link in Mumbai.
- Union Science and Technology Minister Harsh Vardhan was given additional charge of the Environment Ministry following the death of Union Environment Minister Anil Madhav Dave.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the Annual Meetings of the African Development Bank (AfDB) on May 23, 2017. This is the first time in the history of AfDB Group that India would be hosting the Annual Meetings of the bank.
- Hyderabad's Turbo Megha Airways has become the first private airline to get a licence to fly under UDAN, the government scheme for subsidized regional flights. Full form of UDAN is 'Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik'.
- According to a survey, carried out by the Quality Council of India, Visakhapatnam railway station is the cleanest among the 75 busiest stations in the country. The Darbhanga railway station in Bihar was the dirtiest among the busiest stations.
- World Telecommunication and Information Society Day was observed on 17th May.
- State-owned telecom operator BSNL has inked a clutch of agreements with Facebook and MobiKwik as it looks to popularize the internet and its value added services among customers. Under the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Facebook, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd (BSNL) will provide connectivity for the social network's 'Express Wi-Fi Program'.
- Bilateral Naval Exercise between Indian & Republic of Singapore Navy 'SIMBEX-17' commenced. SIMBEX is an acronym for "Singapore-India Maritime Bilateral Exercises".
- Sanjay Gubbi of Karnataka and Purnima Barman of Assam have won the prestigious Whitley Award, popularly known as Green Oscars, for their efforts in wildlife conservation. The awards are instituted by the U.K.-registered charity Whitley Fund for Nature Conservation. While Mr. Gubbi has been awarded for his work to protect tiger corridors in Karnataka, Ms. Barman has won the award for her work in conservation of Assam's Greater Adjutant Stork and its habitat.