

## **GENERAL AWARENESS UPDATES : - (16<sup>th</sup> January, 2017 to 21<sup>st</sup> January, 2017)**

- India has slipped 3 places to 92nd rank on the global index of talent competitiveness that measures how countries grow, attract and retain talent. The list is topped by Switzerland.
- 2016 was India's warmest year ever since the documenting of meteorological records began in 1901.
- India has signed a financing agreement with World Bank for 48 million dollars for Nagaland Health Project.
- The RBI Note Mudran printing press in Mysuru has set records in currency note printing. It printed highest number of currency notes in December 2016 breaking all its past record. It printed 10.9 million currency notes in a day.
- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has cut India's growth forecast for the current fiscal by one percentage point, citing demonetisation woes, from 7.6% to 6.6%.
- Kozhikode Corporation was declared as the first Elderly-Friendly Corporation in Kerala.
- The Minister of State for Youth Affairs and Sports Shri Vijay Goel inaugurated the Khelo India National level Competitions on various sports for Under-14 and Under-17 children in New Delhi. The competition has been organized by Sports Authority of India under aegis of Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports in Swimming, Cycling and Wrestling.
- India and Mauritius signed an MoU for cooperation in the field of cooperatives and related areas.
- India has been ranked at 60th position among 79 developing economies with a score of only 3.38 in the Inclusive Development Index (IDI) of the World Economic Forum (WEF). The list has been topped by Lithuania among the 79 developing countries.
- Indian passport has been ranked a lowly 78 in a global ranking of the world's most powerful passports which was topped by Germany. Germany stands at the top while Singapore becomes the highest ranked Asian passport.
- Karang, a small lake island in Manipur, has become the country's first cashless island.
- The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MOP & NG) inaugurated one month long oil and gas conservation campaign 'Saksham-2017' in Dimapur in Nagaland. The main aim of the campaign is to spread the awareness on fuel conservation so as to minimize the wastage of petroleum products.
- The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) has registered Sitalpati or cool mat from the Cooch Behar district, West Bengal as an intangible cultural heritage.
- Punjab Royals have bagged the Pro Wrestling League Season 2 title. In the summit clash in New Delhi, the Punjab team beat Haryana Hammers.
- State-owned Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd (BSNL) announced mobile TV service 'Ditto TV'. BSNL also launched limited fixed mobile telephony, an app that virtually turns mobiles into cordless phone working in sync with landline phones.
- YES Bank has launched a first of its kind unique Customizable Savings Account to enable the customers to design an account as per their convenience. Mumbai-based bank

has become the first bank in India to launch such type of account that enables the customer to choose various features of a savings account that suits one's own lifestyle.

- Farrukh Amonatov of Tajikistan won the 15th edition of the Delhi International Chess tournament.
- The largest warship of the Indian Navy, INS Vikramditya, will be equipped with its own dedicated ATM. India's largest public sector bank State Bank of India is providing the Navy the services for the ATM which will be on the satellite link. A currency chest will also be provided to keep running the ATM.
- Mr Donald Trump has taken over as the 45th President of the United States. He took over the reins from Barack Obama.
- Government has clarified that Co-operative Banks are not authorised to accept deposits under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Deposit Scheme (PMGKDS). The PMGKDS permits voluntary declarations of previously undisclosed income with an effective tax rate of 50% and requires assesseees to deposit a further 25% of such wealth into a four-year interest-free deposit. The scheme was launched on 17th of last month and will remain open for declarations upto 31st March this year.
- Aimed at propagating financial literacy among school children, Kerala Gramin Bank has conceived a novel programme called FI@School. Under the project, every branch of the bank has to identify and enter into a virtual tie up with a school in its locality to organise various programmes such as formation of financial literacy clubs, account opening camps at schools, junior debit card distribution, financial literacy related classes, distribution of financial literacy booklets, competition on financial literacy etc.
- Dharamsala town in Kangra district of Himachal Pradesh has been declared as the second capital city of the state by the Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Virbhadra Singh. Dharamshala is located about 250 km from the state capital Shimla.
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a penalty of Rs.75 lakhs on Bombay Mercantile Co-operative Bank for violations of norms related to KYC and anti-money laundering.
- Madhya Pradesh government led by Shivraj Singh Chouhan has launched 'Aanandam programme' of the newly-formed Aanand Department. Aanandam scheme will help the poor people to get the daily needs like jackets, sarees, blankets, utensils, school bags from the wealthy people.
- Mawlynnong village in Meghalaya, known as Asia's cleanest village, has become a role model for other states in maintaining cleanliness.
- The West Bengal State Department of Fisheries has announced to protect the endangered Hilsa Fish from getting extinct and thus has proposed to introduce law for the same. With the introduction of the proposed provision, Hilsa Fish would become the first fish to get legal protection.
- Punjab National Bank and India Post Payments Bank have signed a memorandum of understanding, whereby PNB will provide technology platform for pilot launch of IPPB on receipt of regulatory nod from the Reserve Bank of India. IPPB has been incorporated under the Department of Posts with 100 per cent government equity.
- Scientists have named three relatively little-known diseases (Mers, Lassa fever and Nipah virus) they think could cause the next global health emergency.

- Veteran Indian Scientist CV Vishveshwara and pioneer in the discovery of black hole in India died of prolonged illness.
- The first flight is likely to take off next month under the government's ambitious regional connectivity scheme UDAN. The scheme UDAN (Ude Desh Ke Aam Naagrik), seeks to boost regional air connectivity and provides various incentives to airlines. The fare for a one hour journey of approximately 500 kilometre on a fixed wing aircraft or for a 30 minute journey on a helicopter will be capped at two thousand 500 rupees under the scheme.
- Washington based World Bank has sanctioned Rs 1,376 crore for upgradation and improvement of the Tripura power system network.
- London's insurance giant Lloyd has received the final approval from the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) to set up its first branch in India. The specialist insurance and reinsurance company would open its first branch office in India before April 2017 and will be located at Mumbai.
- A 3-member committee headed by PM Modi selected Alok Kumar Verma as next CBI chief for a period of 2 years.
- The International Olympic Committee (IOC) and Chinese e-commerce firm Alibaba Group entered into a long-term partnership through 2028. This makes Alibaba the worldwide sponsor of Olympic Games through 2028.