

GENERAL AWARENESS UPDATES:- (16th October, 2017 to 24th October, 2017)

- Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) celebrates World Food Day each year on 16 October to commemorate the founding of the Organization in 1945. The Theme for World Food Day 2017 is "Change the future of migration. Invest in food security and rural development".
- Former President Pranab Mukherjee has released the third part of his memoir 'The Coalition Years: 1996-2012'. Mukherjee's memoir is the third in the series. The other two are -- The Dramatic Decade: The Indira Gandhi Years and The Turbulent Years: 1980-1996.
- Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has commissioned an indigenously-built anti-submarine warfare stealth corvette INS Kiltan into the Indian Navy at the Naval Dockyard in Visakhapatnam.
- The South Pacific island nation of 'Vanuatu' has become the world's first nation to accept bitcoin in exchange for citizenship. Vanuatu's citizenship program costs \$200,000 USD, meaning that at current prices the residency program costs less than 41.5 bitcoins. Port Vila is the capital city of Vanuatu. Tallis Obed Moses is the present President of Vanuatu.
- Actor Varun Dhawan will get a wax statue at Madame Tussauds Hong Kong, making him the youngest Indian actor to have his statue at the museum.
- Maidan heavyweights Mohun Bagan has won the 37th All India Governor's Gold Cup football tournament for the 10th time by defeating Partha Chakra.
- International Day for the Eradication of Poverty (IDEP) is observed globally on 17 October. The theme of this year's IDEP is 'Answering the Call of October 17 to end poverty: A path toward peaceful and inclusive societies'.
- This year's 2nd Ayurveda Day is celebrated on 17 October in New Delhi by the Ministry of AYUSH.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the first ever All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) in New Delhi, on the occasion of the 2nd Ayurveda Day. It is the first institute under the Ministry of AYUSH . Shripad Yasso Naik is the Minister of AYUSH.
- Private sector Yes Bank has committed Rs 156 crore to fund first Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) to be constructed at Varanasi under Hybrid Annuity-PPP Model. The bank has signed a deal with Essel Infraprojects for the financial closure of Rs 156 crore that will fund the STP under Namami Gange Project. Yes Bank Headquarters are in Mumbai. CEO of Yes Bank is Rana Kapoor.
- Hema Malini's biography 'Hema Malini: Beyond the Dream Girl' was launched. The biography has been penned by journalist turned writer Ram Kamal Mukherjee and also contains a short foreword written by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- Kavita Devi, a former competitive powerlifter, has become the first ever Indian woman to be signed by the World Wrestling Entertainment (WWE).
- India's first Olympic swimmer Shamsheer Khan passed away.

- Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan inaugurated the ambitious 'Bhavantar Bhugtan Yojna' for the farmers of the state.
- India has signed a Memorandum of Co-operation (MoC) with Japan to send youngsters there as technical interns for on-the-job training for a period of three to five years.
- US author George Saunders has won the 2017 Man Booker Prize. He became only the second American writer to win Britain's renowned Prize, which was awarded for his first full-length novel "Lincoln in the Bardo". The 2016 Man Booker Prize went to 'The Sellout' by Paul Beatty.
- World Statistics Day was celebrated on 20th October.
- The first-ever Tri-Services Joint Exercise between Indian and Russian Armed Forces, INDRA-2017 began near Vladivostok in Russia. The Exercise INDRA in its previous nine editions has been conducted as a single service exercise alternately between the two countries.
- The RBI has issued guidelines to banks to provide funds to women self-help groups, SHGs, in rural areas at 7 percent under the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) in the current fiscal (2017-18).
- The National Police Commemoration Day is observed every year on 21st October remembering the brave policemen who sacrificed their lives while discharging their duties.
- The Reserve Bank of India has clarified that linking of Aadhaar to the bank account is mandatory under the Prevention of Money-Laundering (Maintenance of Records) Second Amendment Rules, 2017 published in the Official Gazette on 01st June 2017. Aadhaar is a 12-digit unique identification number issued by the Indian government to every individual resident of India.
- Kerala government has given green signal to a proposal of the state Startup Mission (KSUM) to accord sabbatical leave to the faculty members of all colleges who intend to establish startups. An expert panel, headed by KSUM CEO Saji Gopinath, will select 10 faculty members on a pilot basis for the implementation of the project.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the first phase of ambitious Ghogha-Dahej Roll-on Roll-off ferry service at Ghogha in Bhavnagar district in Gujarat.
- The Government has made it mandatory for banks and financial institutions to check the original identification documents of individuals dealing in cash above the prescribed threshold, to weed out the use of forged or fake copies.
- The Jaipur and Srinagar Airport got First and Second rank respectively in the category of 2-5 million passengers in ACI-ASQ Survey.
- The playback singers Alka Yagnik and Udit Narayan and music composers Usha Khanna, Bappi Lahiri, Anu Malik have been selected for the Madhya Pradesh government's prestigious National Lata Mangeshkar Award.
- The 6-foot-9-inch Chandigarh hoopster Amjyot Singh became the third Indian - after Satnam Singh and Palpreet Singh Brar to walk into the National Basketball Association (NBA) league. The Indian skipper was picked by Oklahoma City Blue.
- Cristiano Ronaldo is the richest sports personality in the world, according to the latest Forbes' Rich List.

- Gaganjeet Bhullar had lifted his eighth Asian Tour title at the Macao Open. He won Macao Open Golf Title 2017.
- India beats Malaysia 2-1 in the finale to win the 2017 Asia Cup Hockey tournament held in Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- In Badminton, ace Indian shuttler Kidambi Srikanth has lifted the Denmark Open Superseries trophy at Odense, Denmark. He bagged his third Super Series title of the year and fifth overall. Kidambi Srikanth has recently (June 2017) won Australia Open Super Series title.
- India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) has appointed Mr. Suresh Sethi as its Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer.
- United Nations Day was observed globally on 24 October. Mr. Antonio Guterres of Portugal is the Secretary-General of the United Nations. UN is headquartered in New York.
- Central American country Nicaragua has signed the Paris Agreement on climate change, leaving the United States and Syria as the only two countries holding out to sign this global climate pact. President Donald Trump on 1 June 2017 withdrew the United States from the landmark 2015 Paris agreement to fight climate change.
- The State Bank of India has launched the second edition of its Hackathon named 'Digitize For Bank.' This hackathon will be held from 1st to 12th November 2017. This edition focuses on four 'Cognitive' themes namely Facial Recognition, Signature Recognition, Voice based Authentication and Cheque Truncation Value Enhancers. Rajnish Kumar is the present Chairman of SBI.
- Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh announced that former Director IB Dineshwar Sharma was handpicked by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) to hold a dialogue with stakeholders of Jammu and Kashmir.
- NS Venkatesh has been appointed as Chief Executive Officer of the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI).
- Real Madrid star Cristiano Ronaldo has beaten Lionel Messi and Neymar to win the Best FIFA Men's Player award for the second year running. Netherlands' Lieke Martens won The Best FIFA Women's Player award.
- The Indian government has announced an allocation of Rs 2.11 lakh crore over 2 years for the recapitalization of public sector banks. As part of the plan, the government will essentially issue bonds to banks worth Rs 1.35 lakh crore while Rs 76,000 crore will come through budgetary support.
- The Union Cabinet has approved the biggest ever highway project to develop and expand approximately 83,000 km of roads at an investment of Rs 6.9 lakh crore by 2022. The project also includes the new 28,400 km Bharatmala highway program connecting border areas, improving international, port and coastal connectivity. Bharatmala is government's mega plan and the second-largest highways project after National Highway Development Project that saw development of about 50,000 km, and aims at improving connectivity in border and other areas.