

## **GENERAL AWARENESS UPDATES:- (17<sup>th</sup> September, 2017 to 23<sup>rd</sup> September, 2017)**

- According to a circular issued by the railway board, the passengers in the reserved coaches can only sleep between 10 pm and 6 am to allow others to sit in the seats for the rest of the time. The existing permissible time for sleeping was between 9 pm and 6 am. Mr. Piyush Goyal is the Present Railways Minister of India.
- An indigenous artillery gun, Advanced Towed Artillery Gun System (ATAGS), being developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has set a new world record in range by hitting targets at a distance of 48.074 km.
- India and Japan signed an agreement that will allow their airlines to operate the unlimited number of flights between the two countries. The National Civil Aviation Policy, 2016, allows the government to enter into an 'open sky' air services agreement on a reciprocal basis with SAARC nations as well as countries beyond a 5,000-kilometre radius from New Delhi.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Sardar Sarovar Dam - the world's second-biggest - on the river Narmada in Gujarat. The 1.2-km-long dam is 163 meters deep.
- The sole Marshal of the Indian Air Force, Arjan Singh, has passed away. Arjan Singh had the honor of leading the fly-past of more than a hundred IAF aircraft over the Red Fort on India's first Independence Day, August 15, 1947. In 2002, on the occasion of Republic Day, he was granted the honorary rank of Marshal, the highest military rank attainable, which before him only two Army chiefs, K M Cariappa and Sam Manekshaw, had achieved.
- Olympic silver medallist shuttler P V Sindhu beat world champion Nozomi Okuhara in a thrilling final to clinch the women's singles title at the Korea Open Super Series.
- Google Tez has become the latest UPI-based payments app in the country. The new Google Tez app can be used to pay for movie tickets, utility bills, and make other transactions online. Sundar Pichai is the Present CEO of Google. Alphabet Inc. is the Parent company of Google.
- Airtel Payments Bank has become the first payments bank in India to integrate the UPI on its digital platform. Airtel Payments Bank is also India's first Payment Bank.
- The 69th Annual Prime time Emmy Awards were announced at, Los Angeles, California, U.S. 'The Handmaid's Tale' became the first web television series to win the award for Outstanding Drama Series.
- The President of Peru, Pedro Pablo Kuczynski has appointed Mercedes Araoz Fernandez as new Prime Minister of Peru. Lima is the Capital of Peru.
- Senior IPS officer Y.C Modi has been named the chief of the National Investigation Agency (NIA).
- Dr. KS Chugh, the "father of nephrology in India", dies of cancer.
- Tripura has become the first state in the country to set up family welfare district committees to examine the complaints of women against their husbands and in-laws and find an amicable solution. Manik Sarkar is the Present CM of Tripura. Tathagata Roy is the Governor of Tripura.

- Cab aggregator Ola kicked off a tourism campaign, in association with Karnataka State Tourism Development Corporation to promote and raise awareness about responsible tourism named “GhoomoResponsibly”.
- Cyclist Mark Beaumont has broken the world record for cycling around the world - by 44 days. The 34-year-old cycled the 18,000-mile route in 79 days.
- Uttarakhand Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat announced the appointment of actor Akshay Kumar as the brand ambassador of the Swachh Bharat Mission in the state. Akshay was also appointed as the brand ambassador for the cleanliness campaign in Uttar Pradesh in August 2017 and his film "Toilet: Ek Prem Katha" was made tax-free in the state.
- Three Indian entrepreneurial legends, Ratan Tata, Lakshmi Mittal and Vinod Khosla have been included in Forbes’s special list of the world’s ‘100 Greatest Living Business Minds.
- The Union Cabinet has approved the revamped Khelo India program at a cost of Rs.1,756 crore for the period 2017-18 to 2019-20. The Programme aims at mainstreaming sport as a tool for individual development, community development, economic development and national development. Each athlete selected under the scheme shall receive an annual scholarship worth Rs. 5.00 lakh for 8 consecutive years.
- World trade in goods is estimated to grow at 3.6 percent in 2017, according to revised estimates circulated by the World Trade Organisation.
- China restored the maximum speed of bullet trains on the Beijing-Shanghai high-speed railway line to 350 kilometers per hour, making it the fastest commercially run train, six years after it reduced the speed due to a fatal accident.
- RBI has notified that peer-to-peer (P2P) lending platforms need to be regulated and treated on par with non-banking financial companies (NBFCs). Few important P2P lending platforms in India are LenDen Club, Faircent, Qbera, Lendbox, Rupaiya Exchange and Monexo.
- Fino Payments Bank has launched its mobile banking app called BPay.
- National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has appointed B Sambamurthy as interim Chairman of the board. NPCI is the umbrella organization for all retail payment systems in the country.
- India has replaced China as the top retail destination in 2017 as part of the global retail development index.
- A Nigerian, Zannah Mustapha has won the UN High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) 2017 Nansen Refugees Award, for his humanitarian work in championing the rights of children.
- The official emblem and slogan for FIFA Women's World Cup France 2019 were unveiled in Paris, France. The emblem features the competition trophy wrapped in blue and white, with eight shards of light around football at the top of the trophy symbolizing the eighth edition of the FIFA Women's World Cup. The slogan of the tournament "Dare To Shine" reflects the development of football, especially women's football. Gianni Infantino is the President of FIFA.
- Jake LaMotta, former boxing champion whose life of violence in and out of the ring was portrayed in the movie "Raging Bull," passed away.

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in his visit to his Lok Sabha constituency, Varanasi, flagged off remotely Varanasi-Vadodara country's third Mahamana Express. He has also inaugurated Utkarsh Bank, which specialises in micro-finance to extend assistance to self-help groups.
- The first of the Scorpene class submarines, INS Kalvari, was delivered to the Indian Navy by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL). The submarine will soon be commissioned into the Indian Navy. Commissioning is a ceremony that officially makes it part of the Navy's fleet.
- The Himachal Pradesh government has launched first-of-its-kind electric bus service in the 51km-long stretch road between Manali and Rohtang Pass. With this initiative, the state has become the first in the world to ply electric buses at an altitude of 13 thousand feet.
- 'Newton' will be India's official entry for the Best Foreign Film category at the Oscars 2018, according to the Film Federation of India. The movie directed by Amit Masurkar, starring Rajkumar Rao, tells the story of a polling officer Newton Kumar who is bent on conducting free and fair elections in the conflict-ridden jungles of Chhattisgarh.
- Union Textiles Minister Smriti Irani and Rajasthan Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje inaugurated the 6th edition of the four-day international textile and apparel fair, 'VASTRA' in Jaipur.
- London's transport regulator stripped Uber of its licence to operate. In London, Uber has faced criticism from unions, lawmakers and traditional black cab drivers over working conditions.
- Yesteryear Bollywood actor Shakila, known for her work in films like Aar Paar and CID, died after a heart attack. She was famous after the song "Baabuji dheere chalna...".
- The elusive snow leopards, long considered an endangered species, has been upgraded to 'vulnerable' status.
- Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas Dharmendra Pradhan will inaugurate one of the ambitious programmes of the Centre, LPG Panchayat, aimed at encouraging rural communities to turn to clean fuel. The First LPG Panchayat will be held in Gandhinagar, where Pradhan will preside over the interaction between women using LPG under the Pradhan Mantri Ujjawala Yojana (PMUY) and the companies.
- State Bank of India (SBI) has launched the FTSE SBI Bond Index series in partnership with global index provider FTSE 100, which will give tools to investors from India, the UK and globally to analyse India's government bond market. This index, launched in collaboration with the London Stock Exchange, will ensure that international investors have an international benchmark that is transparent and well governed.
- Dr. Harshvardhan launched "Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyay Vigyan Gram Sankul Pariyojana" which will experiment and endeavour to formulate and implement appropriate S&T Interventions for Sustainable Development through cluster approach in Uttarakhand. Dr. Harsh Vardhan is the incumbent minister at Ministry of Science & Technology, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and Ministry of Earth Sciences.

- Minister of State Health and Family Welfare Anupriya Patel launched a nationwide health campaign, themed 'Nurturing the Nurturer', to sensitise women about the early screening and the preventive care for cancer.
- State Bank of India (SBI) is India's most trusted and most popular bank according to a survey conducted by Brand Finance, a business valuation and strategic consultancy headquartered in London. On the trust charts, SBI is followed by HDFC Bank and Central Bank of India whereas, on the popularity charts, ICICI Bank and HDFC Bank take the second and third spots respectively.
- Multilateral funding agency ADB has sanctioned a USD 300 million loan facility for carrying forward fiscal reforms in West Bengal. ADB headquarters in Manila, Philippines. Takehiko Nakao is the President of ADB.
- Liliane Bettencourt, the heir to the French L'Oreal hairspray empire and the world's wealthiest woman, has died. She was from France.