

## **GENERAL AWARENESS UPDATES : - (19<sup>th</sup> March, 2017 to 25<sup>th</sup> March, 2017)**

- First fully India-made train (rake) 'Medha' was flagged off for the maiden run from Dadar to Borivali, at Lokmanya Tilak Terminus.
- Punjab cabinet has decided to provide 33 per cent reservation for women in all government jobs. The cabinet also decided to increase representation of women in the Panchayati Raj Institutions and Urban Local Bodies from the present 33 per cent to 50 per cent.
- Coming in support of weak and non-performing Public Sector Banks (PSBs), the Finance Ministry has chalked out a turnaround-linked Rs 8,586-crore capital infusion plan for 10 PSBs.
- The boards of Aditya Birla Group and Vodafone Group have approved a merger between Idea Cellular and Vodafone India Ltd. Vodafone India will own 45.1 percent stake in the merged entity. Promoters of Idea will hold 26 percent stake in the company and the remaining will be held by the public. Mr. Kumar Mangalam Birla has been appointed as the Chairman of Vodafone-Idea merged entity.
- The Centre has swapped the Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) of state-owned Indian Bank and IDBI Bank. Mahesh Kumar Jain, who was Managing Director & CEO at Indian Bank, has been appointed as Managing Director & CEO of IDBI Bank. Kishore Piraji Kharat, who was IDBI Bank CEO, has now been appointed as Managing Director and CEO of Indian Bank.
- Former Pakistan all-rounder Shahid Afridi has been appointed as the ambassador for the fifth edition of the Blind Cricket World Cup 2018.
- New-Delhi headquartered The Bharatiya Mahila Bank (BMB) will be merged with the country's largest lender State Bank of India (SBI).
- All branches of State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur (SBBJ), State Bank of Hyderabad (SBH), State Bank of Mysore (SBM), State Bank of Patiala (SBP) and State Bank of Travancore (SBT) will function as branches of State Bank of India from April 1, 2017.
- The Uttarakhand High Court has given the status of "living human entities" to the Ganga and Yamuna. The Director of Namami Gange project for cleaning and rejuvenating the river, the Chief Secretary and the Advocate General of Uttarakhand will act as the "legal parents" of the holy rivers and work as the human face to protect, conserve and preserve them and their tributaries.
- India ranked 122nd out of 155 countries in the recently released World Happiness Report, 2017. The top three happiest countries in the list are- Norway, Denmark and Iceland.
- In Cricket, Tamil Nadu has won the domestic 50-over competition, the Vijay Hazare Trophy, for the fifth time.
- Cheteshwar Pujara has become the first Indian to face 500-plus balls in an innings. He broke past Rahul Dravid's record of 495 balls, which were the most faced by an Indian in one Test innings.
- The RBI proposed to fix the upper limit for Pre-paid Payment Instruments (PPIs) at Rs 1 lakh. As per the draft, the amount in a PPI should not exceed Rs 1 lakh at any point of

time if the customer provides full KYC and Rs 20,000 if the customer provides minimum KYC details to the PPI issuing entity.

- Russian bank VTB has decided to close its only office in New Delhi, India to cut costs but will continue to work in India.
- Major Rohit Suri, from the Parachute Regiment who led the army team that carried out a surgical strike in PoK last year, was presented the second highest peacetime gallantry award Kirti Chakra by President Pranab Mukherjee.
- In the recently released Human Development Index by United Nations, India is ranked 131 out of 188 countries in the list. The list is topped by Norway.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will dedicate to the nation, the country's longest road tunnel named Chenani-Nashri tunnel, built on the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway. The Prime Minister will inaugurate the 9.2 km long twin-tube tunnel on JK highway on April 2, 2017.
- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of India signed a \$350 million loan for improving about 1,500 kilometers of major district roads in Madhya Pradesh in line with the State's Road Development Plan.
- PepsiCo's sports drink brand Gatorade has roped in Indian shuttler PV Sindhu as its brand ambassador.
- The World Bank has signed a 100 million US dollar credit agreement with the Centre and Uttarakhand to improve the quality of health care services in all 13 districts of the state.
- Indian spinner Ravichandran Ashwin has broken the record for most wickets in a single Test season, taking his 79th wicket this season during the Dharamsala Test against Australia.
- The World Sparrow Day was observed across the World on 20 March 2017.
- United Nations' (UN) International Day of Forests was observed on March 21 which promotes the importance of forests and trees in our lives. The 2017 theme is 'Forests and energy'.
- World Water Day is held annually on 22 March as a means of focusing attention on the importance of freshwater and advocating for the sustainable management of freshwater resources. In 2017, the theme for World Water Day is 'Wastewater'.
- The World Meteorological Day was observed globally on 23rd March 2017. The theme of WMD 2017 is 'Understanding Cloud' to highlight the enormous importance of clouds for weather, climate and water.
- World Tuberculosis Day was celebrated on 24 March. The theme for World Tuberculosis Day 2017 is 'Unite to End TB: Leave no one behind'.