

GENERAL AWARENESS UPDATES : - (20th June, 2017 to 24th June, 2017)

- Afghan President Ashraf Ghani inaugurated the first Afghanistan-India air corridor at the Kabul International Airport. The corridor is a direct route that will bypass Pakistan and is meant to improve commerce in Afghanistan.
- The iconic Taj Mahal Palace Hotel in the Mumbai City has acquired an 'image trademark', making it the first building in the country to get intellectual property rights protection for its architectural design.
- Shri Piyush Goyal, Minister of State (IC) for Power, Coal, New and Renewable Energy and Mines launched the Energy Conservation Building Code 2017 (ECBC 2017). Developed by Ministry of Power and Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), ECBC 2017 prescribes the energy performance standards for new commercial buildings to be constructed across India.
- The defense arm of the Tata Group has signed an agreement with American firm Lockheed Martin to produce and export new generation F-16 fighter aircraft, potentially kick-starting a mega 'Make in India' project.
- Bihar Governor Ram Nath Kovind has resigned from his post. The resignation follows his nomination as the ruling NDA's presidential candidate. West Bengal Governor Keshari Nath Tripathi will discharge the functions of the Governor of Bihar, in addition to his own duties.
- The World Refugee Day is observed across the world on 20th June to commemorate the strength, courage, and perseverance of millions of refugees.
- UNICEF announced, on the World Refugee Day (20 June), the appointment of Muzoon Almellehan, a 19-year-old education activist, and Syrian refugee, as its newest – and youngest – Goodwill Ambassador. The appointment makes Muzoon the first person with official refugee status to become an Ambassador for UNICEF.
- The International Day of Yoga is celebrated across the world on 21st June. It aims to raise awareness worldwide of the many benefits of practicing yoga. The theme for the 2017 celebration, organized by the Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations, is 'Yoga for Health.'
- Indian Mars Orbiter Mission (MOM) also called Mangalyaan completes 1000 Earth days in its orbit on 19th June 2017. The interplanetary mission of ISRO was launched on 5th November 2013.
- IDBI Bank has started insolvency resolution process against Lanco Infratech Ltd. following a directive from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). This is the first resolution process initiated by the lenders against 12 large borrowers identified by the RBI recently. The other accounts identified by RBI include Essar Steel, Bhushan Steel, Electrosteel Steel, Alok Industries, Jyoti Structures, Monnet Ispat and Jaypee Associates.
- The father of India's nuclear fusion reactor research program, Padma Shri Prof Predhiman Krishan Kaw, passed away.
- Ramamani Iyengar Memorial Yoga Institute, Pune has been selected as the first recipient of the Prime Minister's Award for outstanding contribution to promotion and development of Yoga.

- The Punjab Government has announced free education for girls in government schools and colleges from Nursery to Ph.D.
- Saudi Arabia's King Salman has appointed his son, Mohammed bin Salman, as heir, in a major reshuffle. A royal decree removed Crown Prince Mohammed bin Nayef, a 57-year-old nephew of the king, as next-in-line to the throne and replaced him with Mohammed bin Salman, 31, who was previously the deputy crown prince.
- Justice Dalveer Bhandari has been nominated by India as its candidate for another nine-year term as judge of the International Court of Justice (ICJ), the principal judicial organ of the UN. The ICJ was established in 1945. The ICJ headquarters in the Hague, Netherlands.
- Sachin Tendulkar's mother-in-law and social activist Annabel Mehta, a British national, has been awarded the MBE (Member of the Order of the British Empire) for her work and service to the underprivileged.
- The number one clean city of India - Indore (Madhya Pradesh) has got another milestone to its name. It has reportedly become the first city in India where the robot is being used on an experimental basis to control its ever growing and unruly traffic.
- Qatar Airways was announced the World's Best Airline at the SKYTRAX 2017 World Airline Awards. Qatar Airways was voted Best Airline by travelers across the world in the annual passenger survey.
- China has unveiled the world's first train that operates on a virtual track using sensor technology instead of metal rails.
- Axis Bank, India's third largest private sector bank in association with Kochi Metro Rail Corporation (KMRL) has launched KMRL Axis Bank 'Kochi1' Card, India's first open loop EMV contactless metro card that would make travel a convenient and hassle free experience for commuters in Kochi.
- Indian agricultural microbiologist Shrihari Chandraghatgi has been conferred the Ministry of Environment Award for 2017 in Japan for developing cutting edge technologies to address burning environmental problems.
- Under the Swachh Bharat Mission Gramin (SBM-G), rural Uttarakhand and rural Haryana have declared themselves as the 4th and 5th Open Defecation Free (ODF) States of India, respectively. The two states joined the league of Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh, and Kerala, which were the first three states to be declared ODF.
- Bengaluru has become the country's first city where one can have fuel delivered at one's doorstep, just like milk and newspapers.
- World Bank's Board of Executive Directors has approved a loan assistance of 44 million dollars for the Assam State Public Finance Institutional Reforms (ASPIRe) Project. The project aims at improving predictability and transparency in budget execution and efficiency in tax administration in Assam.
- The Department of Science and Technology (DST) under Ministry of Science and Technology has launched the Visiting Advanced Joint Research Faculty (VAJRA) scheme in a bid to bring together the Indian scientists abroad and India-based researchers for conducting joint researches in India.

- The West Bengal Government's Kanyashree Prakalpa was awarded the first prize in United Nations Public Service Award for Asia Pacific.
- The Reserve Bank of India reconstituted the Oversight Committee by appointing three more members. The high-level panel was formed to examine the process to resolve mounting bad loans in the banking sector. According to the RBI former chief vigilance commissioner, Pradeep Kumar will head the now reconstituted 5-member panel.
- The central bank has extended the scope of Banking Ombudsman Scheme. As per RBI, under the amended scheme, a customer would also be able to lodge a complaint against the bank for its non-adherence to RBI instructions with regard to mobile banking/ electronic banking services in India. As per the amendment, the pecuniary jurisdiction of the Banking Ombudsman to pass an award has been doubled to 20 lakh rupees. Banking Ombudsman is a quasi-judicial authority functioning under the Banking Ombudsman Scheme, 2006.