

GENERAL AWARENESS UPDATES : - (21st August, 2017 to 27th August, 2017)

- Under project Navika Sagar Parikrama, a team of women officers of the Indian Navy would circumnavigate the globe on an Indian-built sail boat INSV Tarini. This is the first ever Indian circumnavigation of the globe by an all-women crew.
- In his first foreign visit after assuming office, Nepalese Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba arrives India on a four-day trip. Deuba took over as prime minister in June 2017.
- The first regional centre of the New Development Bank, set up by India and other BRICS nations, was officially opened (in South Africa) by South African President Jacob Zuma and the bank's Indian head K V Kamath. NDB has an authorized capital of USD 100 billion. Headquarter of NDB is in Shanghai, China. President of NDB is K.V. Kamath.
- SBI tops share of wilful default to PSBs. The country's largest lender, SBI, accounts for over 27 per cent of the total amount owed to public sector banks by wilful defaulters. As many as 1,762 wilful defaulters owed SBI Rs.25,104 crore. Punjab National Bank (PNB) is next on the list. Arundhati Bhattacharya is currently the Chairman of the State Bank of India.
- American Tennis Player Serena Williams has topped the Forbes' list of highest paid female athletes of 2017 with \$27 million in earnings between June 2016 and June 2017.
- The Union Government announced the National Sports Awards. Para athlete Devendra and hockey player Sardar Singh will be honoured with the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award.
- The National Bank of Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has sanctioned a loan assistance of Rs 1,349.55 crore to the Rajasthan government for the creation of rural infrastructure in the state under the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF).
- O Panneerselvam was on 21 August 2017 sworn in as the Deputy Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, following the much-speculated merger of All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK) factions.
- Oinam Bembem Devi, the flagbearer of Indian women's football for over the past two decades was named the winner of the prestigious Arjuna Award. Bembem becomes the second Indian woman footballer to win the award, the first being Shanti Mullick in 1983.
- Union Minister for Human Resource Development (HRD) Prakash Javadekar launched the 'Swasth Bachche, Swasth Bharat' Programme in Kochi, Kerala.
- As per Forbes List, The former rapper-turned-actor Mark Wahlberg is Hollywood's highest-paid actor, earning \$68 million pretax in 12 month scoring period. From India, Shahrukh Khan is the highest paid actor (Rank 8). The highest paid Female Actress is Emma Stone (\$26 million).
- NITI Aayog launched the 'Mentor India Campaign'. It is a strategic nation building initiative to engage leaders who can guide and mentor students at more than 900 Atal Tinkering Labs, established across the country as a part of the Atal Innovation Mission.
- Ashok Mittal, Chairman of the Railway Board submitted his resignation to Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu. His resignation comes in the wake of a number of a high-profile

accidents and derailments on the Indian Railways. Ashwani Lohani, the CMD of Air India has been named as the new Chairman of Railway Board.

- Brian Aldiss, one of the most prolific and influential science fiction writers of the 20th century, has died aged 92.
- Alibaba Group's Jack Ma is back on top as Asia's richest man following gains in the company's earnings and share price.
- The government has hiked the ceiling for the creamy layer from Rs. 6 lakh per annum to Rs. 8 lakh per annum for central government jobs, according to the Finance Minister Arun Jaitley. In the OBC category, those earning up to Rs. 8 lakh per annum will get reservation benefits.
- The Supreme Court of India pronounced that individual privacy is a fundamental right protected by the Constitution. A nine-judge Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court, led by Chief Justice of India J.S. Khehar ruled that the right to privacy is intrinsic to life and liberty, thus coming under Article 21, and comes under the various fundamental freedoms in PART III of the Indian Constitution. With this now India has total seven fundamental rights. Right to equality, Right to freedom, Right against exploitation, Right to freedom of religion, Cultural and Educational rights, and Right to constitutional remedies are the other 6 fundamental rights of India.
- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved the renaming of the new Central Sector Scheme- SAMPADA (Scheme for Agro-Marine Processing and Development of Agro-Processing Clusters) as "Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY)". The objective of PMKSY is to supplement agriculture, modernize processing and decrease Agri-Waste. The Agricultural Minister of India is Radha Mohan Singh.
- External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj will inaugurate the country's first Videsh Bhavan, assimilating all Regional Passport Offices under one roof, at the Bandra Kurla Complex (BKC).
- Andhra Pradesh's Eastern Power Distribution Company Ltd (EPDCL) and the Southern Power Distribution Corporation of AP Ltd. (SPDCL) have become the first state-owned distribution companies in India to accept payments through Bharat QR. Bharat QR Code is the world's first interoperable quick response code acceptance solution launched by the Reserve Bank of India.
- Of the 56 regional rural banks (RRBs), Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank and Andhra Pragathi Grameena Bank recorded net profit of more than Rs 150 crore during 2016-17. These are among the 49 RRBs that recorded a profit in 2016-17. The first RRB of India is Prathama Bank located in Moradabad, Uttar Pradesh. Prathama Bank is promoted by Syndicate Bank.
- Rajiv Bansal, additional secretary in the petroleum ministry, has been named the interim CMD of Air India.
- Ajay Vipin Nanavati was appointed chairman of Syndicate Bank. In 2015, the government had bifurcated the posts of chairman and managing directors in public sector banks. While the chairman became responsible for overall policy directions, the managing director and chief executive officer became the executive head, accountable for day-to-day functioning of the bank.

- Nandan Nilekani has been appointed as the New Chairman of the software giant Infosys. Nilekani has replaced R Seshasayee, who resigned as chairman of the board. Vishal Sikka has stepped down as CEO of the company recently.
- Real Madrid forward Cristiano Ronaldo has won the UEFA Men's Player of the Year award for the 2016/17 season. Ronaldo picked up the trophy for the second consecutive season and third time in total. With this, he became first to be named Men's Player of the Year for three times.
- Former RBI Governor Raghuram Rajan has penned a book titled 'I Do What I Do: On Reform, Rhetoric & Resolve'. The book is a collection of essays and speeches during his stint as Reserve Bank of India (RBI) governor. He co-authored 'Saving Capitalism from the Capitalists' with Luigi Zingales and wrote 'Fault Lines: How Hidden Fractures Still Threaten the World Economy', for which he was awarded the Financial Times-Goldman Sachs prize for best business book.
- Manipur's Nungthang Tampak village has emerged as the '100 percent computer literate' not only in the state but in the entire North East. Nungthang Tampak has become India's second 100 percent computer literate village. Kerala's Chamravattom village is the country's first 100 percent computer literate village.
- In a first, Nepal launched its climate-smart snow leopard landscape management plan, leading the way in safeguarding this endangered species, also found in India, and its habitat. This is the first climate-smart landscape management plan for snow leopard conservation in the world.
- Commerce and industry minister Nirmala Sitharaman has constituted a task force on artificial intelligence (AI) to ensure "India's economic transformation". The task force will be headed by V. Kamakoti. The committee will focus on a wide spectrum of areas including agriculture and transportation.
- England has been awarded the right to host the 2018 Table Tennis Team World Cup, which will be held in London.
- HDFC Bank announced a software upgrade to create a single point-of-sale (PoS) machine which will accept payments through Unified Payments Interface (UPI), BharatQR, SMS Pay and the bank's mobile wallet, in addition to the traditional mode of swiping cards.
- Barcelona forward Lionel Messi scored a second-half brace against Alaves, becoming the first ever player to score 350 goals in La Liga.