

GENERAL AWARENESS UPDATES : - (22nd January, 2017 to 25th January, 2017)

- More than 3.5 lakh people in Gujarat's Rajkot district set a new world record by singing the national anthem at an event.
- Bihar on 21st January 2017 claimed to have formed the world's longest human chain, covering an estimated distance of 11,292 kilometres, involving over two crore citizens against alcoholism and liquor.
- Russian Railways is helping India's national transporter increase the speed of its passenger trains up to 200 km per hour.
- Technology giant Apple has emerged as the most innovative company for 2016, according to Boston Consulting Group's (BCG's) annual list which ranks world's 50 most innovative firms.
- India's ace shuttler Saina Nehwal has won the Malaysia Masters Grand Prix Gold title at Sarawak in Malaysia.
- Hong Kong has withdrawn the visa-on arrival facility for Indians travelling to Hong Kong effective from January 23, 2017.
- Mumbai based dairy firm Kwality Ltd has signed an MoU with Bank of Baroda to provide Rs.4000 crore loans to one lakh farmers out of the established networks from whom the company procures milk. The MoU aims to provide financial assistance to improve socio-economic lives of farmers and encourage them towards digitisation.
- A Bengaluru start-up 'TeamIndus' has proposed nameplate on the Moon for Rs.500. Space start-up TeamIndus will get the names of public 'donors' micro-engraved on a small-sized aluminium object, which will be placed on the lunar surface when its lander descends on the moon.
- The World Economic Forum Annual Meeting 2017 was held in Davos-Klosters, Switzerland. The theme of 47th World Economic Forum Annual Meeting 2017 is Responsive and Responsible Leadership.
- The Election Commission of India celebrated the National Voters' Day across the country on 25th January 2017 for enhanced participation of citizens in the electoral process. 25th January is also the foundation day of the Election Commission, which came into being on this day in 1950.
- The Minister of Commerce & Industry, Smt Nirmala Sitharaman launched Rubber Soil Information System (RubSIS) in New Delhi to provide detail about the soil quality to the rubber growers to enhance productivity besides reducing the cost of production.
- India has partnered with the British experts over the project 'ASAP-Delhi that aims to study the air pollution level in Delhi and health problems associated with it.
- Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro has awarded the first ever Hugo Chavez Prize for Peace and Sovereignty to Russian President Vladimir Putin.
- China has built the world's biggest solar park, Longyangxia Dam Solar Park, in the western province of Qinghai. The park spans over 27 square km of area and can produce 850 MW of power.
- National Girl Child Day was celebrated on 24th January 2017.

- The Indian postal department released a special stamp cover titled Golden girls of India – Pride of Nation on January 21, 2017 during a district-level philatelic exhibition in Agartala to honor the sporting personalities in the country. The special covers feature the 2016 Olympic medalist gymnast Dipa Karmakar, shuttler PV Sindu and wrestler Sakshi Malik. They were also awarded the nation's highest sports award Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna in 2016. Besides the three, the cover also depicted the image of Dipa's coach Bishweshwar Nandi who was awarded the 2016 Dronacharya award.
- Tamil Nadu assembly under the chairmanship of Chief Minister O Panneerselvam unanimously passed the Jallikattu Bill to replace the ordinance issued on January 21, 2017 to allow the states traditional sport. The bill amends the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, making Jallikattu a permanent sport in rural Tamil Nadu.
- The Delhi International Airport (Private) Limited (DIAL) has won the 'Golden Peacock Award for Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) in the transportation sector under the Aviation category for the year 2016. Delhi Airport has also been adjudged the world's number one airport in ACI ASQ survey in 25- 40 Million Passengers Per Annum (MPPA) category for two consecutive years - 2014 and 2015.
- Wholesale_ reinsurance provider Swiss Re has received approval from the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) to open a branch in Mumbai. With the composite branch license, Swiss Re will be able to operate in India and it can offer both non-life and life and health reinsurance solutions directly to clients and brokers in the country.
- The Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) of India, Syed Nasim Zaidi informed that the state government of Goa has opted for an initiative involving electronic transmission of postal ballot to service voters in the upcoming assembly polls. This initiative will make Goa the first state in the country to do so.
- Virat Kohli became the fastest batsman in the world to score 1,000 runs as captain in One-Day Internationals (ODIs). He took 17 innings to reach the landmark, breaking the earlier record set by South Africa's AB deVilliers which was achieved in 18 innings.