

## **GENERAL AWARENESS UPDATES : - (23<sup>rd</sup> July, 2017 to 29<sup>th</sup> July, 2017)**

- Meghalaya Chief Minister Dr. Mukul Sangma launched 'Mission Football' at JN Sports Complex, Shillong recently. Mission Football is an initiative to help develop skills of football enthusiasts and develop young footballers for the country.
- India will host the fifth Global Conference on Cyber Space (GCCS) in November 2017. One of the largest cyber security conferences in the world, GCCS will be held in New Delhi. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be inaugurating the conference whose theme will be based on Cyber4All: An Inclusive, Sustainable, Developmental, Safe and Secure Cyberspace.
- India has been ranked 132nd out of 152 countries on the inaugural "Commitment to Reducing Inequality Index" released by international NGO Oxfam in association with Developmental Finance International. Sweden led the index while Nigeria remained the worst performer.
- India and Bangladesh have signed a pact to connect both the countries by waterways. The waterways will facilitate movement of passengers and goods between India's northeast and West Bengal with Bangladesh.
- US Navy commissioned world's largest aircraft carrier, USS Gerald R Ford into the fleet.
- India lost to England by a narrow margin of nine runs in the ICC Women's World Cup final at Lord's in London. Chasing a target of 229, India was bowled out for 219 in 48.4 overs. Captain of England women's cricket team is Heather Knight.
- India skipper Mithali Raj was chosen as the captain of the ICC Women's World Cup 2017 team by the International Cricket Council. The 34-year-old Indian was selected as captain after she led India to the final of the just-concluded ICC Women's World Cup.
- Mr. Ram Nath Kovind took over as the 14th President of India. He was administered the oath of office by the Chief Justice of India Justice J S Khehar.
- The UN has selected Dubai as the data hub for the Middle East North Africa and South Asia (MENASA) region for the city's integrated initiatives to mine and manage its data.
- The country celebrated the 18th Anniversary of 'Kargil Vijay Diwas'. Kargil Vijay Diwas, celebrated on 26 July, commemorates India's emphatic victory against Pakistan and honors the war heroes.
- Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) has started full-fledged merchant banking operations to benefit the expanding number of growth-oriented micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), especially those with a strong technology and innovation quotient. The initiative is aimed at enhancing the access of MSMEs to the capital markets, including the SME Trading Platform and Institutional Trading Platform.
- Aurionpro Solutions, a global leader in digital innovation, enterprise security and banking solutions, announced its Branch-in-a-Box product, the Virtual Teller Machine (VTM) a fully integrated self-service kiosk for automating 90% of banking transactions at the branch level. Mr. Samir Shah is the CEO of Aurionpro.
- The International Boxing Association (AIBA) has announced that India will host their first Men's World Championship in 2021. The 2018 Women's World Championships will also be held in New Delhi.

- Reliance Infrastructure subsidiary Reliance Defence and Engineering Limited (RDEL) announced the launch of its first two Naval Offshore Patrol Vessels (NOPVs) at their shipyard in Pipavav, Gujarat. The two NOPVs, 'Shachi' and 'Shruti' are among five ships being constructed by RDEL under the P-21 project of the Indian Navy. It is the first private shipyard in India to obtain defence production licence and sign a contract for defence ships in 2011.
- Google CEO Sundar Pichai has been appointed to the board of directors of Alphabet, the search giant's parent company. Alphabet is the second most valuable U.S. company behind Apple. CEO of California-based US multinational conglomerate Alphabet is Larry Page.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the former President, Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam's memorial at Pei Karumbu in Rameswaram, Tamil Nadu.
- The Madras High Court ruled that Vande Mataram should be sung in all schools and colleges across the state "at least once a week", and in government and private offices "at least once a month". Vande Mataram is written by Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay.
- Axis Bank announced the acquisition of Snapdeal-owned mobile payments provider Freecharge in an all-cash deal worth Rs.385 crore. Shikha Sharma is the MD and CEO of Axis Bank.
- Economic Affairs Secretary Subhash Chandra Garg has been appointed as India's Alternate Governor on the Board of Governors of the Asian Development Bank (ADB). Garg has been appointed in place of former DEA Secretary Shaktikanta Das.
- The count of tigers in Uttarakhand shot up to 242 with an increase of 63 big cats in the year 2017. Uttarakhand is the second state in terms of tiger count behind Karnataka, which has 400 big cats.
- World Hepatitis Day (WHD) takes places every year on 28 July and brings the world together under a single theme to raise awareness of the global burden of viral hepatitis and to influence real change. The Theme for World Hepatitis Day 2017 is 'Eliminate Hepatitis'.
- Amazon's share price propelled founder Jeff Bezos to the top of a list of the world's richest individuals—for less than a day. But Mr Bezos slipped back into second place later in the day.
- Mumbai Metro announced the launch of India's first Mobile Ticketing System 'OnGo' which will help commuters pass the AFC gates using their mobile phones.
- Nawaz Sharif has resigned as prime minister of Pakistan following a decision by the country's Supreme Court to disqualify him from office. The ruling came after a probe into his family's wealth following the 2015 Panama Papers dump linking Mr Sharif's children to offshore companies. The ruling Pakistan Muslim League has selected Minister for Petroleum and Natural Resources, Shahid Khaqan Abbasi to be the interim prime minister of Pakistan.
- Olympic silver medallist P V Sindhu has been appointed a Group-I officer in Andhra Pradesh. She was appointed the deputy collector. PV Sindhu is the fifth Indian woman to clinch a medal in Olympics history after Karnam Malleswari, Mary Kom, Saina Nehwal and Sakshi Malik.

- The Asian Football Confederation (AFC) Competition Committee officially awarded Indonesia the hosting of the AFC Under-19 Championship 2018.
- The 7th International Tiger Day is observed globally on 29 July. This year's International Tiger Day would be celebrated with the slogan 'Fresh Ecology For Tigers' Protection'.
- National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), the umbrella organization for all retail payment systems has received a final nod from the Reserve Bank of India to function as the Bharat Bill Payment Central Unit (BBPCU) and operate the Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS). A. P. Hota is the MD & CEO of NPCI. The Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS) is an RBI conceptualized system driven by National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has set up Supervisory Colleges for six Scheduled Commercial Banks which have sizeable international presence: - State Bank of India, ICICI Bank Ltd., Bank of India, Bank of Baroda, Axis Bank Ltd. and Punjab National Bank.
- Mass rapid transportation technologies such as hyperloop, metrino and pod taxis could soon be a reality in India after Niti Aayog cleared half-a-dozen proposals of the transport ministry exploring options to improve public transport. The Chairperson of NITI Ayog is Shri Narendra Modi. Vice Chairperson of NITI Ayog is Dr. Arvind Panagariya. The full form of NITI is National Institution for Transforming India.