

GENERAL AWARENESS UPDATES:- (24th September, 2017 to 30th September, 2017)

- Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas Dharmendra Pradhan has launched Pradhan Mantri LPG Panchayat at Mota Ishanpur village in Gandhinagar district of Gujarat.
- Angela Merkel won a fourth term as chancellor in Germany elections.
- Hui Ka Yan, the chairman of big China real estate developer China Evergrande Group, has become Asia's richest man according to the Forbes Real-Time Billionaires List.
- President Ram Nath Kovind will make his first foreign trip as head of state to the strategically-significant African continent in the first week of October. The President will visit Ethiopia and Djibouti.
- India is third in the world in the number of nuclear reactors being installed, at six, while China is leading at 20, the World Nuclear Industry Status Report 2017.
- Eminent scientist, Professor C.N.R Rao, has become the first Asian to be chosen for the prestigious Von Hippel Award for his immense contribution in materials research.
- 'Newton' will be India's official entry for the Best Foreign Film category at the Oscars 2018.
- Rajiv Mehrishi took over as the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India. Mehrishi succeeded Shashi Kant Sharma. V.Narhari Rao was the first CAG of India, post Independence.(1948-1954).
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced that Masala bonds will be treated as External Commercial Borrowings (ECB) from 3rd October 2017. Masala bonds are rupee-denominated overseas bonds.
- Kargil war hero Captain Vikram Batra was martyred at the tender age of 24. A biography of Captain Vikram Batra "The Shershah of Kargil" has been written by 21-year-old Deepak Surana.
- Five-time world champion and Olympic bronze-medallist M C Mary Kom has become the first Indian to be picked as the International Boxing Association's (AIBA) representative for the International Olympic Committee (IOC) Athletes' Forum.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana or 'Saubhagya', to supply 24/7 electricity supply to poor households. The total outlay for the Saubhagya scheme will be Rs 16,320 crore.
- PM Narendra Modi reconstituted the Economic Advisory Council (EAC) to guide him on economic issues and appointed economist Bibek Debroy as its chairman.
- Odisha Government launched 'Sampurna (Sishu Abond Matru Mrityuhara Purna Nirakaran Abhijan) Yojna' scheme for pregnant women, in Odisha. Under the scheme, Odisha government will provide Rs.1,000 as transport cost for pregnant women to travel to the hospital.
- Asian Development Bank (ADB) has downgraded India's growth projection to 7 percent for the current financial year 2017-18. In the financial year 2018-19, the forecast

is adjusted down to 7.4 percent, from 7.6 percent. ADB headquarters in Manila, Philippines. Takehiko Nakao is the President of ADB.

- Shashi Shankar was appointed as the Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of India's biggest oil and gas producer ONGC.
- Artificial intelligence banking platform Payjo has launched an AI-powered chat assistant for State Bank of India to addresses customer enquiries. The chat assistant, known as SBI Intelligent Assistant, or SIA, will help customers with everyday banking tasks just like a bank representative. Arundhati Bhattacharya is currently the Chairman of the State Bank of India.
- Reigning Asian champion Govindan Lakshmanan of Services cruised to victory in the men's 5000-metre race on the opening day of the 57th National Open Athletics Championships at the Nehru Stadium in Chennai. In the 5000m women's race, L Surya won Gold.
- The World Tourism Day is celebrated across the world on 27th of September. The theme for World Tourism Day 2017 is 'Sustainable Tourism – a Tool for Development'.
- The Kandla Port, one of the top 12 major ports in the country, has been renamed as Deendayal Port in the name of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay. Kandla Port is the largest port of India by volume of cargo handled.
- Bilal Dar, a young boy from Srinagar has become the brand ambassador for Srinagar Municipal Corporation. Dar has been contributing to the 'Swachhta Abhiyan' since the age of 12.
- The Union Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh launched the Platform for Effective Enforcement for No Child Labour (PENCIL) Portal at the National Conference on Child Labour organised by the Ministry of Labour and Employment.
- Angola swore in Joao Lourenco as the country's President, making him the first new President of the country in 38 years.
- The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) security at the Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport (CSIA) in Mumbai has been recognised as the best service in this domain by a global quality rating agency.
- India appears at No. 40 in the global competitiveness ranking of 137 countries by the World Economic Forum (WEF). The ranking is one lower than last year. Switzerland was ranked as the world's most competitive economy.
- IDBI Bank has launched 'Project Nishchay' in partnership with the Boston Consulting Group (BCG) to accelerate its turnaround program and improve financial performance. Managing Director and CEO of IDBI Bank is Mahesh Kumar Jain. IDBI Bank Headquarters in Mumbai.
- Eman Ahmed, the world's heaviest woman who made news when she arrived in Mumbai earlier this year for a weight-loss surgery, passed away in Abu Dhabi. Eman Ahmed Abd El Aty was an Egyptian woman.
- World Rabies Day is celebrated annually on 28th Sep. to raise awareness about rabies prevention. This day also marks the anniversary of Louis Pasteur's death, the French chemist and microbiologist, who developed the first rabies vaccine. The 2017 World Rabies Day theme is 'Rabies: Zero by 30'.

- The World Maritime Day is celebrated across the world on 28 September. The theme for 2017 World Maritime Day is 'Connecting Ships, Ports and People'.
- The Asian Development Bank will increase its annual lending to India to a maximum of \$4 billion between 2018 and 2022 to help fasten inclusive economic transformation towards upper middle-income status.
- Twitter has announced a test project allowing tweets to be expanded to 280 characters, double the existing limit in the latest effort to boost flagging growth at the social network. Twitter is based in San Francisco. Jack Dorsey is the chief executive officer of Twitter.
- India's largest private sector lender, ICICI Bank announced a new home loan scheme that offers borrowers the benefit of 1% cashback on every EMI, for the entire tenure of the loan. The offer will be valid for home loans with a minimum tenure of 15 years and the maximum tenure of 30 years. CEO of ICICI Bank is Chanda Kochhar. Headquarter of ICICI is in Mumbai.
- India will host the South Asian Boxing Championship for the first time in Guwahati from December 6 to 10. Boxing Federation of India (BFI) stated that the country will also host the 'India International Open tournament' in New Delhi in the third week of January 2018.
- Playboy magazine founder Hugh Hefner has passed away.
- Madhya Pradesh has won the 'Best Tourism State' national award, named as 'Hall of Fame Award', for the third consecutive year.
- Saudi Arabia's King Salman has issued a decree allowing women to drive for the first time. Saudi Arabia is the only country in the world to forbid women from driving. Riyadh is the Capital of Saudi Arabia.
- Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu declared the year of 2017 as e-Pragati year. The flagship program will help the government to make real-time governance.
- India leapt up the global rankings by 12 places to take the 14th spot in terms of best country for expats to live and work in, according to the HSBC survey. The list has been topped by Singapore. An Expat (expatriate) is a person who lives outside their native country.
- Multilateral lending agency Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a loan of \$80 million (about Rs 524 crore) for the modernization of Himachal Pradesh's technical and vocational education and training (TVET) institutions.
- The International Day for Universal Access to Information (IDUAI) was observed globally on 28 September 2017.
- Former Union Minister Satya Pal Malik has been appointed as the new Governor of Bihar while Assam Governor Banwarilal Purohit will now be the new Governor of Tamil Nadu. Lt Governor of Andaman and Nicobar, Prof Jagdish Mukhi will replace Mr Purohit as the Governor of Assam. Admiral (Retd) Devendra Kumar Joshi will be the Lieutenant Governor of Andaman and Nicobar in place of Prof. Mukhi. Brigadier (Retd) BD Mishra has been appointed as the Governor of Arunachal Pradesh and former member of Bihar Legislative Council Ganga Prasad Governor of Meghalaya.
- Veteran film, television and theatre actor and Padma Shri Tom Alter has died, aged 67.

