

GENERAL AWARENESS UPDATES : - (25th February, 2017 to 4th March, 2017)

- India and ADB have signed USD 375 million pact for loans and grants to develop 800 km Visakhapatnam—Chennai Industrial Corridor, which is the first phase of a planned 2,500-km East Coast Economic Corridor.
- A Rs 17,000 crore deal has been cleared by the government for jointly developing with Israel a medium-range surface-to-air missile (MR-SAM) for the Indian army.
- India and Bangladesh signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the sustainable development of Sylhet, a metropolitan city in North-Eastern Bangladesh, with financial aid from India.
- Rajasthan has become the second largest crude oil producer in the country after the offshore field Bombay High.
- The government has roped in actress Shilpa Shetty as a brand ambassador for the Indian government's cleanliness initiative Swachh Bharat Mission.
- Rajasthan Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje inaugurated a medical project Rajasthan Heart Attack Treatment programme (RAHAT) at the Eternal Heart Care Center Hospital in Jaipur. RAHAT programme aims to provide people in remote and rural areas with timely treatment during heart attacks. It has been launched by the private hospitals in the state.
- India's largest software services firm Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) has been rated as one of the top three 'most-valuable brands' in the Information Technology (IT) service sector by Brand Finance, the leading global brand valuation firm.
- The world's first robot table tennis tutor FORPHEUS in Japan has set a new Guinness World Record for its uncanny ability of being able to play the game better than most humans.
- Star Indian badminton player Saina Nehwal was appointed as a member of the International Olympic Committee's (IOC) Athletes' Commission (AC) in 2016. She will also represent the panel in the Badminton World Federation (BWF).
- National Science Day was celebrated on 28th of February to commemorate the invention of the Raman Effect in India by the Indian physicist, Sir Chandrasekhara Venkata Raman. Chandrasekhara Venkata Raman was honored with the Nobel Prize in Physics in the year 1930.
- Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu flagged off the first Antyodaya Express, a long distance, fully unreserved, superfast train service between Kochi's Ernakulam Junction and Howrah Junction through video conferencing from Rail Bhavan.
- Indian international cricketer Virat Kohli has been named as the 'Captain of the Year' at the 10th annual ESPN Cricinfo Awards. Kohli led India to nine wins out of 12 Tests in the year 2016.
- The author Neil Gaiman has been appointed as a global Goodwill Ambassador of the UN Refugee Agency, UNHCR.
- Built by Pawan Hans Limited, a Public Sector Undertaking of the Ministry of Civil Aviation, India's first heliport has been inaugurated in north Delhi's Rohini.

- The government has shifted the responsibility of promoting digital transactions in the country to the Ministry of IT and Electronics (MEITY) from NITI Aayog. MEITY is responsible for promotion of e-governance for empowering citizens as well as promoting inclusive and sustainable growth of electronics and IT in the country. Now NITI Aayog will focus on monitoring and suggesting ways to improve various government schemes rather than getting involved with implementation.
- Popular Gujarati writer and noted play writer Tarak Mehta passed away. The popular comic television serial 'Tarak Mehta Ka Ooltah Chashmah' is a television adaptation of Padma Shri Tarak Mehta's column 'Duniya Ne Undha Chasma'.
- To recognize the contribution of women cricketers, the BCCI for the first time, has introduced the Lifetime Achievement Award for Women. Former captain, Ms. Shanta Rangaswamy became first woman to be honored BCCI lifetime achievement award.
- Ace pistol shooter Jitu Rai clinched the bronze medal in the 10m air pistol. He also won the gold medal in men's 50 meter free pistol event of the ISSF World Cup.
- Ajay Tyagi took charge as the chairman of Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI). He has replaced Mr. U.K Sinha.
- The World Bank has announced an assistance programme of over \$1 billion in the areas of urban transport and climate resilient agriculture in Maharashtra, over the next 2-3 years.
- Telecom Secretary J S Deepak was named India's next Ambassador to the World Trade Organisation (WTO) from June 2017.
- The Himachal Pradesh cabinet approved the proposal to make Dharamshala as the second capital of the state.
- Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) has won the annual Visitor's Award for the 'Best University', 2017. Deepak Pant from the Central University of Himachal Pradesh won the Visitor's Award for 'Innovation' while the Visitor's Award for 'Research' has been jointly won by Shyam Sunder from Banaras Hindu University (BHU) and Professor Nirranjan Karak from Tezpur University.
- Long-term life insurance provider HDFC Life has launched an exclusive Data-Led Group Term Insurance Plan in partnership with personal finance app ET Money of Times Internet. This is the country's first term insurance plan which is based on the spending pattern of the users. ET Money Benefit, the group term life insurance plan can be exclusively availed by 1 million users of the ET MONEY app.
- World Wildlife Day was celebrated on 3 March 2017 under the theme "Listen to the Young Voices".