

## **GENERAL AWARENESS UPDATES : - (26<sup>th</sup> January, 2017 to 30<sup>th</sup> January, 2017)**

- India celebrated its 68th Republic Day on 26th January 2017. On January 26, 1950, the Constitution of India came into force, and Republic Day is celebrated to honour that day. Republic Day celebrations are spread over three days and end with the Beating Retreat ceremony on January 29. This year's guest of honour was the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan.
- Havildar Hangpan Dada, who killed four terrorists before laying down his life in Kupwara on May 26 last year, has been awarded Ashok Chakra, the highest peace time gallantry award.
- Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has announced a total ban on polythene carry bags from May 1, 2017 across the state.
- Burj Khalifa tower, the world's tallest building located in Dubai, has lit up in the colours of the Indian National flag on 25th January 2017 and 26th January 2017 to celebrate India's 68th Republic Day.
- India is ranked at the sixth spot in a list of eight great powers for the year 2017 by a leading American foreign policy magazine which is topped by the US.
- The Union Minister for Chemicals and Fertilizers Ananth Kumar inaugurated India's first Post Office Passport Seva Kendra (POPSK) at Metagalli post office in Mysuru.
- Arunachal Pradesh launched 'Dulari Kanya', a special scheme to check infant mortality in the state. Under the scheme, the government will deposit Rs 20,000 in the bank account of a girl child, born in any government hospital. It would be paid along with the accrued interest after she attains 18 years of her age.
- Meghalaya Governor V Shanmuganathan has resigned after a controversy was triggered by reports in local media, which accused him of sexual misconduct. He also held an additional charge as Governor of Arunachal Pradesh since September 2016 till his resignation on 26 January 2017.
- President Pranab Mukherjee has given Governor of Assam Banwarilal Purohit additional charge of Meghalaya. Besides, President also gave Governor of Nagaland PB Acharya additional charge of Arunachal Pradesh.
- A Keshav Krishna, a scientist at the National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI) has been selected for the National Geoscience Award for 2016. The award was given by the Union Ministry of Mines in recognition of his work in the field of geo-environmental studies.
- Jamaican sprinter, Usain Bolt will have to hand back one of his nine Olympic gold medals won in the 4x100m relay event at the 2008 Beijing Olympics due to his Jamaican team-mate Nesta Carter who was tested positive for a banned substance.
- India Post has become the third entity to receive a final license from the Central Bank to start its payment bank operations. Country's largest telecom service provider Bharti Airtel and digital payments firm Paytm are the other two to have received the license while only Airtel has started operations so far. The government has appointed AP Singh as interim MD and CEO of the India Post Payment Bank.
- National Immunization Day was observed on 29th January 2017.

- Denmark has announced that it will appoint a 'digital ambassador' to manage its relationship with technology giants like Google and Apple, becoming the first country to do so.
- Roger Federer has won the Australian Open, beating long-time rival Rafael Nadal in the finals in Melbourne, Australia. For Federer, it's his fifth Australian Open title and his 18th Grand Slam singles title in total.
- In Australian Open tennis, Serena Williams beat her sister Venus Williams in the final to win her 23rd Grand Slam singles title. This is also her seventh Australian Open win and her 23rd Grand Slam victory.
- The Union Finance Ministry has announced that the General Anti Avoidance Rule (GAAR) will be effective from the 1 April, 2017. GAAR seeks to prevent companies from routing transactions through other countries to avoid taxes. The rules are framed mainly to minimize and check avoidance of tax.
- India has been ranked at 79th spot out of 176 countries in the Corruption Perception Index (CPI) for the year 2016 released by the Berlin-based corruption watchdog Transparency International (TI). New Zealand and Denmark jointly shared the first position as the least corrupt nations.
- The Theatre Readiness Operational Exercise (TROPEX), an annual Indian Navy exercise began. TROPEX 17 exercise is aimed at testing combat readiness of the combined fleets of the Indian Navy, and the assets of the Indian Air Force, Indian Army and the Indian Coast Guard.
- In order to woo the young audiences at the 2020 Olympics, the organisers of the Tokyo Games have unveiled Japan's cult anime character 'Son Goku' as its Olympics ambassador.
- Miss France Iris Mittenare was crowned Miss Universe 2016.
- The Supreme Court (SC) appointed former Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) chief Vinod Rai as BCCI chief.
- Switzerland's Roger Federer became the second player in tennis history after Novak Djokovic to cross \$100 million (over ₹680 crore) in tournament earnings after winning the Australian Open.