

GENERAL AWARENESS UPDATES : - (26th March, 2017 to 1st April, 2017)

- India has become the third largest aviation market in terms of domestic passenger traffic. United States enjoys the top position, followed by China.
- Pujara achieved the landmark for scoring the most runs in a Test season by an Indian, surpassing the mark of 1269 by Gautam Gambhir which he achieved in the 2008/09 season. Ricky Ponting's holds the record for the most runs ever by a batsman in a season.
- World Theatre Day was observed globally on 27th March.
- General Insurance Corporation (GIC Re) is likely to be the first PSU insurer to tap the capital market by launching its Initial Public Offering (IPO).
- American financial magazine Barron's has listed the name of HDFC Bank Managing Director Aditya Puri in its list of world's 30 best CEOs. He holds the 23rd position in the list beating social media giant Facebook's CEO Mark Zuckerberg who is listed on the 30th spot. The top position has been secured by Mary Barra of General Motors.
- Veteran actor Anupam Kher was honored with the Kala Ratan Award by Vice President Hamid Ansari.
- Tanushree Pareek became the first woman combat officer to be commissioned in the 51-year history of the BSF, the country's largest border guarding force.
- Gauri Singh, a 14-year-old girl, became the first girl to explore the route from Sea Link near Worli Koliwada to the Gateway of India. The 36 km long distance route was completed in 6 hours and 30 minutes.
- FIFA confirmed that the Salt Lake stadium in Kolkata will be the venue of the final of the FIFA Under 17 World Cup to be held later in 2017. The slogan of the tournament will be "Football Takes Over".
- Odisha became the first state in the country to carry financial inclusion and extend banking services to unbanked areas through Self Help Groups (SHGs).
- Karur Vysya Bank (KVB) has been adjudged the 'Best Small Bank for 2016'.
- ICICI Bank announced a partnership with mobile app firm Truecaller for a new UPI-based mobile payment service. The new feature is called Truecaller Pay, and it will allow users of the app to instantly create a UPI ID, send money to any UPI ID or a mobile number registered with the BHIM app.
- Leading communication app Truecaller has tied up with Google to integrate the tech giant's video calling app Duo within the Truecaller app.
- Indian-origin British Director Gurinder Chadha has been honored with the Sikh Jewel Award for 2017 for her immense contribution to British cinema.
- Paytm becomes the first e-commerce company to be a member of the self-regulatory voluntary organization 'Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI)'
- The International Hockey Federation (FIH) confirmed Bhubaneswar as the venue for two of its major events the Men's Hockey World League Final in December 2017 and the men's World Cup in 2018.

- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi formally opened the longest road tunnel of South Asia- 'Chenani-Nashri Tunnel'.
- India's off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin received Garfield Sobers Trophy for being named the ICC Cricketer of the Year as well as the ICC Test Cricketer of the Year. With this Ashwin has become the third Indian and the 12th player overall to win the award after Rahul Dravid in 2004 and Sachin Tendulkar in 2010.
- Information & Broadcasting Minister M Venkaiah Naidu launched the online film certification system, 'e-cinepramaan' with an aim to censor corruption and promote clean cinema.
- The 3rd G-20 Framework Working Group (FWG) Meeting under the G-20 German Presidency was held in Varanasi on 28th and 29th of March, 2017. The first two G-20 FWG meetings under the G-20 German Presidency have already been held at Berlin in Dec 16 and at Riyadh in Feb 17. Since the inception of the FWG in 2009, this is the fourth occasion that India is hosting this meeting.
- The 9th World Environmental Education Congress (WEEC) will be held in Vancouver, Canada between September 9 – 15, 2017. The theme will be 'Weaving new connections'.
- General Bipin Rawat, Chief of the Army Staff (COAS), released the book 'Home of the Brave' on the history of Indian Army's Counter Insurgency Force, the Rashtriya Rifles (RR). The book is authored by Mr. Nitin A Gokhale, Defence & Security Analyst and Brig. S K Chatterji (Retired).
- The biggest river festival of India, Namami Brahmaputra, began in 21 districts of Assam. President Pranab Mukherjee inaugurated the festival on the banks of the river Brahmaputra, which is considered country's only male river.
- The Loan Agreement for New Development Bank (NDB) financing of US\$ 350 Million for Development and Upgradation of Major District Roads Project in Madhya Pradesh was signed between Government of India and the New Development Bank (NDB). This is the First Loan Agreement for NDB assisted project in India.
- The returns on small savings schemes, including Public Provident Fund (PPF), National Savings Certificate (NSC) and Kisan Vikas Patra, will be lowered by 0.1 percent for the April-June quarter.
- El Salvador, Central America's smallest nation, has become the first country in the world to ban metals mining nationwide.
- American astronaut Peggy Whitson made history when she floated outside the International Space Station (ISS). She broke the record for the most spacewalks by a woman. Whitson made her eighth career spacewalk, surpassing the record of seven previously held by American Sunita Williams.
- Indian forward player S V Sunil was named the Asian Hockey Federation (AHF) Player of the Year for 2016. Drag-flick specialist Harmanpreet Singh was chosen as the Promising Player of the Year in the continental body's annual awards.
- Former cricketer Sachin Tendulkar launched his Android and iOS app called '100MB'. The app has been developed by Pune-based technology firm JetSynthesys. The app allows users access to their personal social media account within the app and access to exclusive information and interaction with Tendulkar.

- Kanha tiger reserve in Madhya Pradesh has become the first tiger reserve in India to officially introduce a mascot of its own. The Mascot has been named 'Bhoorsingh the Barasingha'. Barasingha or Swamp Deer is the State animal of Madhya Pradesh.
- 82nd Establishment Day of RBI was observed on 01st April 2017. The Reserve Bank of India was set up on the basis of the recommendations of the Hilton Young Commission. The Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 (II of 1934) provides the statutory basis for the functioning of the Bank, which commenced operations on April 1, 1935.
- From April 1, the associate banks which will be merging with State Bank of India will sport the lender's signage and logo, with its iconic keyhole set against the background of inky blue. On the design, "SBI" legend will be seen in white colour and will be written in a new font called Effra. As per the Reserve Bank of India, all branches of the associate banks will function as branches of SBI from April 1, 2017. With the merger, State Bank of India will enter the league of Top 50 Global Banks with a balance sheet size of Rs.41 trillion.
- Minister of Railways Shri Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu released the book titled 'Indian Railway- The weaving of a National Tapestry' jointly authored by Shri Bibek Debroy (Member, NITI Aayog), Shri Sanjay Chadha (Joint Secretary, Ministry of Commerce) & Ms. Vidya Krishnamurthi.