

GENERAL AWARENESS UPDATES:- (26th November – 3rd December, 2017)

- Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has been awarded the Bronze Medal for its creative and informative display at the 37th India International Trade Fair 2017 at Pragati Maidan.
- Constitution Day was celebrated on 26th November. On the day in 1949, the constitution was adopted which came into force on January 26, 1950. Dr BR Ambedkar is known as the Father of Indian Constitution.
- The International Multilateral Maritime Search and Rescue Exercise 2017 (IMMSAREX 2017) began in Cox Bazar, Bangladesh.
- Scientists have developed the world's first artificial intelligence politician that can answer a person's queries regarding local issues such as policies around housing, education and immigration. The virtual politician, called SAM, was created by Nick Gerritsen, a 49-year-old entrepreneur in New Zealand.
- New York based rating agency Standard & Poor's (S&P) kept its sovereign rating for India unchanged at 'BBB-', with outlook for the nation as 'stable'. BBB- rating is the lowest investment grade and just one notch above junk status.
- Indian Institute of Science (IISc) has been ranked 29th among the top 150 universities on Global University Employability Ranking 2017 published by Times Higher Education.
- The Golden Temple has been awarded the 'most visited place of the world' by 'World Book of Records' (WBR), a London-based organisation. Golden temple is in Amritsar, Punjab.
- The government of India will assist Mauritius to develop and set up digital locker services. DigiLocker is a key initiative of the Indian government under its flagship Digital India program. The service is aimed at paperless governance.
- Punjab State Government notified the 'Punjab Goods Carriages (Regulation and Prevention of Cartelization Rules), 2017', banning goods carriage operators from forming cartels in the state.
- Gopi Thonakal created history by becoming first Indian man to win Asian Marathon Championship, held at Dongguan in China.
- World's first Sanskrit 3D film 'Anurakthi' was among the main attraction in 3D category at the International Film Festival of India in Panaji in Goa. The movie directed by Asokan PK revolves around the traditional art form of Kerala, Koodiyattam.
- The iconic Trump Tower comprising 140 ultra-luxury apartments has been launched in Kolkata. This is the third Trump Tower to be launched in India. The US President Donald Trump is the founder of the Trump Organization. India already has Trump-branded project in Pune partnering Panchshil Realty.
- Odisha government launched a scheme to boost fish production in the state with a budgetary provision of Rs 96 crore. The 'Fish Pond Yojana' scheme was launched by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik.
- Indian online payments firm BillDesk-owned Hatio Innovations has launched cryptocurrency exchange 'Coinome' in India offering trading of Bitcoin and Bitcoin

Cash. Coinome allows users to register via an instant e-KYC process by using Aadhaar number.

- State-run lender Bank of Baroda launched digital Supply Chain Finance solution which aims to accelerate working capital loan opportunities for the small and medium enterprises and large corporate clients.
- Miss South Africa Demi-Leigh Nel-Peters was crowned Miss Universe 2017.
- Indian contingent to BWF Para-Badminton World Championships in Ulsan, South Korea has clinched 10 medals, including two golds.
- India won 5 gold medals at the AIBA World Women's Youth Boxing Championships, in Guwahati. Ankushita was named the boxer of the tournament.
- The Indian men's and women's kabaddi teams were both crowned the champions of Asia after beating Pakistan and South Korea in Gorgan, Iran.
- The 7th international military games will be held in Wuhan city in the central China's Hubei Province.

Emblem - consists of a dove, a star, ribbons and other elements

Mascot - Bing Bing. Its design is based on the Chinese sturgeon, a critically endangered fish known as the "panda in water".

Slogan - Military glory, world peace

- Former revenue secretary NK Singh will be the chairman of the 15th Finance Commission (FC) that will recommend distribution of taxes between the Centre and the states.
- Multi-lateral funding agency Asian Development Bank (ADB) announced that it has increased annual funding to India to up to \$4 billion from existing \$2.7 billion from next year to accelerate inclusive economic transformation. Founded on 19 December 1966 ADB has its Headquarter in Mandaluyong, Philippines. President of ADB is Takehiko Nakao.
- The Ministry of Finance appointed former economic affairs secretary Shaktikanta Das as India's G20 Sherpa for the Development Track of the grouping. There are two tracks in G-20 — Finance Track and Development Track. Finance Track is managed by the secretary (economic affairs) as India's Deputy to G-20 and the Development Track is coordinated by the Sherpa.
- India and Greece have signed Air Services Agreement (ASA) and MoU on Cooperation (MoC) in field of New and Renewable Energy.
- A new Payments Bank 'Paytm Payments Bank' was formally launched. Currently, India has four Payments Bank including Paytm Payments Bank. The other three operational ones are Airtel Payments Bank, India Post Payments Bank and Fino Payments Bank. A payments bank is a differentiated bank. A customer can open a savings bank account in them and have deposits of upto Rs. 1 lakh. These banks cannot however lend money to their customers. Vijay Shekhar Sharma is the Chairman in the Paytm Payments Bank.
- Russia will assist India to set up a national crisis management centre in the country to handle disaster and other emergency situations.

- The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has asked companies to put in place a proper plan to recall food products from markets, if found unsafe.
- Bitcoin rose above the symbolic \$10,000 threshold for the first time, bringing its rise for the year to more than 900 per cent. Bitcoin was trading at around \$1,000 dollars at the beginning of 2017.
- Robin Campillo's French film '120 Beats Per Minute', about a passionate fight against indifference towards AIDS, won the prestigious Golden Peacock award for best film at the 48th International Film Festival of India. The film's actor Nahuel Perez Biscayart won the Silver Peacock in the best actor male category. Malayalam film 'Take Off' won Silver Peacocks for best direction (Mahesh Narayanan) and best actor female (Parvathy). Actor Amitabh Bachchan was also presented the Indian film personality of the year award. 48th International Film Festival of India was held in Goa.
- Myanmar's de facto leader Aung San Suu Kyi has been stripped of the Freedom of Oxford award over her "inaction" in handling the raging Rohingya refugee crisis and turning a "blind eye to violence" in the country that forced over 600,000 people to flee to Bangladesh. Oxford City Council in London voted unanimously to permanently remove the honour given to 72-year-old Suu Kyi in 1997.
- The Hyderabad Metro Rail was opened for public.
- One rupee note turned 100 on 30th November 2017. The first one rupee note was printed in India on November 30, 1917, with the photo of King George V.
- Mirabai Chanu became the first Indian in over two decades to claim a gold medal at the World Weightlifting Championship in Anaheim, USA. Olympic bronze medalist Karnam Malleshwari had won the top prize in worlds twice- in 1994 and 1995.
- The Boxing Federation of India (BFI) was recognised as a national body by the Indian Olympic Association, which removed the terminated Indian Amateur Boxing Federation (IABF) as its affiliate after months of indecision.
- Logo and mascot of Hockey World Cup 2018 have been unveiled at Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar by Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik. Odisha had successfully hosted the Asian Athletics Championships recently.
- World AIDS day is celebrated every year all over the world on 1st December to raise public awareness about Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndrome, AIDS. The theme for World AIDS day 2017 is 'Right to health'. It is a pandemic disease caused due to the infection of Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV).
- Border Security Force (BSF) celebrated its 52nd Anniversary of Raising Day on 1st December. BSF is the biggest border guarding force in the world. It came into existence on the eventful day of 1st December, 1965.
- India and Singapore sign agreement on enhancing naval cooperation.
- The government has fixed 2,952 rupees per gram as price of new series of sovereign gold bonds (SGBs). Sovereign Gold Bonds are Government securities denominated in multiples of gram(s) of gold. They are substitute for investment in physical gold. To buy the bond, investor has to pay the issue price in cash to an authorised SEBI Broker. These Bonds are issued by the Reserve Bank of India on behalf of the Government of India and are traded on stock exchange.

- The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved setting up of National Nutrition Mission (NNM) with a three year budget of Rs.9046.17 crore commencing from 2017-18. The program through the targets will strive to reduce the level of under-nutrition, anemia and low birth weight babies.
- Former Miss Asia Pacific Dia Mirza was appointed as UN Environment's Goodwill Ambassador for India.
- Infosys announced the appointment of Salil S. Parekh as its new CEO and Managing Director.
- Miss Korea Jenny Kim has bagged the title of Miss Supranational 2017 at the gala event, which was held in Poland's Spa Resort of Krynica- Zdroj.
- India has been re-elected to the Council of the International Maritime Organisation under Category B.
- The word 'populism' has been announced as Cambridge Dictionary's Word of the Year 2017. The dictionary defined populism as "political ideas and activities that are intended to get the support of ordinary people by giving them what they want".
- External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj attended the Shanghai Cooperation Organization summit at Sochi in Russia. In June 2017, India and Pakistan had become full-fledged members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation.
- Veteran journalist A Surya Prakash has been appointed the chairman of the Prasar Bharati board for a second consecutive term till February 8, 2020.
- Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta has been sworn in for a second and final five-year term.
- International Day of Disabled Persons was observed on 3rd December. Theme for 2017: "Transformation towards sustainable and resilient society for all".
- The first phase of Chabahar port was inaugurated by Iranian President Hassan Rouhani. The port will open up a new strategic transit route between Iran, India and Afghanistan, bypassing Pakistan.
- Just a day after becoming the first captain to register a hat-trick of centuries in a three-match series, the Indian skipper Virat Kohli scaled yet another milestone when he scored his sixth double century, the highest as a captain. He overtook West Indies great Brian Lara, who held the record previously with five double tons in Tests. With a sixth double hundred, Kohli has also tied with Sachin Tendulkar and Virender Sehwag for the most 200-plus scores for India in Tests.