

GENERAL AWARENESS UPDATES : - (28th August, 2017 to 3rd September, 2017)

- India and China have agreed to withdraw their troops from Doklam after being in a standoff for over two months. The standoff had started after India objected to China constructing a road in the disputed area.
- Justice Dipak Misra was sworn in as the 45th Chief Justice of India. President Ramnath Kovind administered the oath of office to Mr. Misra. He assumes office following the retirement of Justice J.S. Khehar. Justice Misra will have a tenure of about 14 months till October 2, 2018. H. J. Kania was the first Chief Justice of Independent India.
- The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has launched a Central Database of all Insurance Sales Persons in the country. Chairman of IRDAI is TS Vijayan.
- Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Minister Mr. Vijay Goel announced that the first edition of Rural Games or Grameen Khel Mahotsav will kick-start from Delhi.
- External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj inaugurated the country's first 'Videsh Bhavan'. The Bhavan integrates all offices of the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) in Maharashtra. It is located in the Bandra Kurla Complex (BKC), Mumbai.
- According to a report by the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), the island of Tuvalu was the least visited country in 2016.
- PV Sindhu won the Silver medal in World Badminton Championship 2017. She lost the historic match against Japan's Nozomi Okuhara in an epic final, in Glasgow, Scotland. For India, it still is a historic edition since for the first time country's shuttler are returning with two medals. Saina Nehwal won a bronze. Prakash Padukone was the first Indian to win a medal in this event when he took a bronze in the men's singles in 1983.
- Special CBI judge Jagdeep Singh sentenced Dera Sacha Sauda chief Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh to 20 years of imprisonment.
- The National Sports day was celebrated on 29th August to mark the birthday of legendary hockey player Major Dhyan Chand.
- India and Germany signed an agreement on technical cooperation under the Indo-German Energy Programme – Green Energy Corridors (IGEN-GEC). The main objective of this program component is to improve the sector framework and conditions for grid integration of renewable energy.
- In Kenya, selling or even using plastic bags will risk imprisonment of up to four years or fines of \$40,000. It is the world's toughest law which is aimed at reducing plastic pollution.
- Nitasha Biswas, a transwoman from Kolkata was crowned the first Miss TransQueen India. The competition was held in Gurugram, Haryana.
- The goods and services tax, GST, launched on 1 July, has got off to a good start, with collections exceeding the revenue target for the first month. According to the Finance Minister Arun Jaitley, taxes worth Rs 92,283 crore were collected in July from just 64.42 per cent of the total taxpayer base. France was the first to introduce GST. Only Canada has dual GST model.

- Kerala Chief Minister Shri Pinarayi Vijayan launched the host city logo for Kochi, one of the venues of FIFA U-17 World Cup India 2017. The tournament will be hosted in the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium of the city. In October 2016, Kochi became the first Indian city to be officially declared as one of the venues for hosting the 2017 FIFA U-17 World Cup. The Official Mascot of the FIFA U-17 World Cup India 2017 is a clouded leopard called Kheleo. This is the first FIFA tournament hosted by India. The final will be held at the Salt Lake Stadium in Kolkata on 28 October 2017.
- The Indian U-15 football team completed a brilliant comeback win over Nepal to win the SAFF U-15 Championships in Kathmandu, Nepal.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi to attend the 9th BRICS Summit, in Xiamen in China's Fujian province during 3rd to 5th of September. The 8th BRICS Summit was held on 16th October 2016 at Goa, India. BRICS countries include- Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa.
- The Indian Commodity Exchange (ICEX) launched the world's first diamond futures contracts to provide exporters with a hedging tool. Indian Commodity Exchange Limited is deemed recognized Stock exchange under the SCRA, 1956.
- Google-owned YouTube has refreshed its iconic logo and introduced some major design changes to its desktop and mobile apps. The logo ditches the red color inside the "Tube" part of the name and places the now familiar play icon to the left side of the YouTube name. Susan D. Wojcicki is the CEO of YouTube.
- The Indian Space Research Organisation is all set to launch PSLV-C39 carrying Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS-1H). The satellite IRNSS-1H is a part of the indigenous navigation system called 'NavIC,' that was initially planned to have a constellation of seven satellites. The current chairman of ISRO is A. S. Kiran Kumar.
- Badminton ace PV Sindhu, who recently won Silver at the World Championship, was appointed the first brand ambassador of tyre maker Bridgestone India. The Padma Shri recipient became the first Indian woman to win an Olympic silver medal in the Olympic Games Rio 2016.
- Gobindobhog rice, a speciality from Burdwan district of West Bengal, has got the geographical indication (GI) status.
- Ujjivan Small Finance Bank Ltd, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Ujjivan Financial Services Ltd, has been given scheduled bank status by RBI. Ujjivan SFB commenced its operations as a Small Finance Bank with effect from February 1, 2017. Samit Ghosh is the MD & CEO of Ujjivan SFB.
- Jammu and Kashmir and Arunachal Pradesh were the fastest expanding State economies in 2015-16, according to a new series of gross State domestic product data with 2011-12 as the base year published by the Central Statistics Office. The two States also reported the fastest rise in per capita income in the same year. Top 5 Largest state Economies are-
 1. Maharashtra
 2. Tamil Nadu
 3. Gujarat
 4. Uttar Pradesh
 5. Karnataka

- Gujarat's commercial capital Ahmedabad was formally accorded the status of India's first World Heritage City by UNESCO.
- India's largest autonomous public organization 'Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)' has been ranked ninth in the world, amongst a total of 1,207 government institutions, according to the Scimago Institutions ranking World Report 2017.
- Prominent Konkani writer Mahabaleshwar Sail was presented with the Saraswati Samman 2016 for his novel 'Hawthan'. The novel 'Hawthan', published in 2009, captures cultural lives of traditional potter community in Goa. Harivansh Rai Bachchan was the first recipient of this award.
- The Reliance Foundation was rewarded with the prestigious Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Award at Rashtrapati Bhawan. Chairperson of the foundation, Nita Ambani collected the award from President Ram Nath Kovind. Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS) also received the Rashtriya Khel Protsahana Purushkar for its 'Identification and Nurturing of Budding and Young Talent' (IDCO) program.
- Rajiv Mehrishi was appointed Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG).
- Former bureaucrat Sunil Arora was appointed Election Commissioner by the law Ministry. While Achal Kumar Joti is the Chief Election Commissioner of India, Om Prakash Rawat is the other Election Commissioner. The Election Commission of India (ECI) was established under India's Constitution in 1950.
- Economist Rajiv Kumar took over as the vice-chairman of government think tank NITI Aayog. Mr. Kumar replaced Arvind Panagariya. Amitabh Kant is the CEO of NITI Aayog. NITI stands for National Institution for Transforming India.
- Swedish defence major SAAB announced its tie-up with Adani Group to manufacture the Gripen E fighter jets in India under the Defence Ministry's \$10 billion single-engine fighter jet procurement programme.
- Indian-origin veteran civil servant JY Pillay took over as Singapore's acting President until a new head of the state is elected later September.
- Piyush Goyal has been appointed as the Union Railway Minister. He replaced former Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu, who had earlier offered to resign following multiple train derailments. Further, Nirmala Sitharaman was given the Defence Ministry, becoming only the second woman to hold the post after Indira Gandhi.
- The government has issued an alert on the spread of new malware 'Locky Ransomware' that can lock computers and demand ransom for unlocking them.
- Defence Minister Arun Jaitley handed over the Long-Range Surface-to-Air Missile (LRSAM) jointly developed by India and Israel, to the Indian Navy. LRSAM is an advanced combat suit for missile defence against air targets and missiles, and has full capabilities of air and surface surveillance, threat alert and fire control. He inaugurated the ASTRA Manufacturing Unit at the BDL's Bhanur unit. The ASTRA weapon system is an indigenously developed air-to-air Beyond Visual Range (BVR) missile developed by the DRDO.