

GENERAL AWARENESS UPDATES : - (29th May, 2017 to 5th June, 2017)

- 29 May is celebrated as the International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers. The theme for the 2017 International Day of UN Peacekeepers is "Investing in Peace Around the World".
- Vadodara, which was declared the 10th cleanest city in the country made a new Guinness world record for the maximum number of people sweeping a single venue. About 5,058 residents of the city came together to achieve the feat at the venue which was a bridge that connected Akota, an urban area.
- The Manipur government has declared Dailong village of Tamenglong district as a Biodiversity Heritage Site of the state.
- China launched a national satellite navigation and positioning system. It is the largest in the country and boasts the widest coverage. The system, featuring faster speed, higher accuracy and wider coverage, will be compatible with other satellite navigation systems, such as the BeiDou Navigation Satellite System and Global Position System (GPS).
- Indian Oil Corporation has overtaken Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) to become India's most profitable state-owned company.
- Satyabrata Rout has been awarded Sangeet Natak Akademi Puraskar for the year 2016.
- Uttarakhand Mountaineer Love Raj Singh Dharmshaktu has become the first Indian to summit Mount Everest a record six times.
- Actress Priyanka Chopra will be honoured with the Dadasaheb Phalke Academy Award, for being an international icon, in 'Internationally Acclaimed Actress' category. The Dadasaheb Phalke Award is India's highest award in cinema. The first recipient of this award was Devika Rani.
- The government launches new campaign called 'Darwaza Band' for promotion of toilet usage in the rural areas across the country. Bollywood star Amitabh Bachchan will lead the campaign. The campaign also features actor, Anushka Sharma.
- The Employees Provident Fund Organisation has approved hike in investment limit in exchange traded funds (ETFs) to 15%, from the existing 10%.
- The government has expanded the Banks Board Bureau (BBB) headed by former comptroller and auditor general Vinod Rai by adding two more members.
- Government-run Prasar Bharati has got into an agreement with Morocco's Societe Nationale de Radiodiffusion et de Television (SNRT) to step up cooperation in the broadcasting sector.
- Manipur Governor and former Minority Affairs Minister Najma Heptulla has been appointed as the Chancellor of Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi.
- Indian tax laws are perceived to be second most complex in the Asia-Pacific region, becoming even less predictable over the last three years, according to Deloitte survey. India ranks only after China in having most complex jurisdiction for taxation and most complicated requirements of tax.
- Indian fencer C A Bhavani Devi struck gold in the Turnoi Satellite Fencing Championship at Reykjavik (Iceland). With this win, Bhavani Devi has also become the

first Indian to win a gold medal in an international fencing event. Fencing, also called Olympic fencing, is a sport in which two competitors fight using 'rapier-style' swords.

- World No Tobacco Day is observed around the world every year on May 31. The theme for World No Tobacco Day 2017 is "Tobacco – a threat to development."
- 43rd G7 Summit was held on 26-27 May, 2017 in Taormina, Sicily, Italy. The Group of 7 (G7) is a group consisting of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States. The theme of the Italian G7 Summit 2017 is-" Building the Foundation of Renewed Trust." Next G-7 Summit will be held in Canada in 2018.
- The Reserve Bank of India will soon put into circulation currency notes in one rupee denomination. New one rupee notes will be predominantly pink-green on obverse and reverse in combination with other colours. The note will bear signature of Shaktikanta Das, Secretary in the Ministry of Finance.
- According to India Development Report released by World Bank, India had one of the lowest female participation in the workforce, ranking 120th among 131 countries.
- World No-Tobacco-Day is observed on 31st May globally. This year Union Health Minister of India Jagat Prakash Nadda is chosen for WHO Director-General Special Recognition Awards for accelerating India's tobacco control initiatives and taking bold measures to protect people against hazards of tobacco use.
- Coming next year, India will be having its own GPS system. 'NavIC' will be operational early 2018. NavIC or 'Navigation with Indian Constellation' the name given by PM Narendra Modi after the launch of Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System IRNSS-1G, is designed to provide accurate position information to users within the country.
- Barcelona striker Lionel Messi won the European Golden Shoe for a record-equaling fourth time having scored 37 goals in the Spanish league.
- Odisha is the first State in India to have developed an automatic public address system that can be activated along its entire coast. Odisha can now warn the vast population residing along its 480 km-long coast by pressing a single button from a control room in the State capital in the event of the occurrence of natural disasters like a tsunami or a cyclone.
- Varanasi will get the country's first 'freight village' spread over around 100 acres. It will be developed by the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.
- The Reserve Bank of India has initiated prompt corrective action (PCA) for Dena Bank in view of high net non-performing assets and negative return on assets. Last month (May 2017), the central bank had initiated PCA for IDBI Bank and UCO Bank in view of high NNPA's and negative ROA.
- State Bank of India and the World Bank announced that they had financed 100 MW of rooftop solar projects worth Rs.400 crore in India.
- Bharti Airtel has received approvals from the Securities & Exchange Board of India (SEBI), BSE and the National Stock Exchange of India for its proposed merger with Telenor India.
- Indian-Origin Leo Varadkar is set to become the Republic of Ireland's next Prime Minister after winning the leadership of the Fine Gael party.
- Aleksandar Vucic has been sworn in as Serbia's new president.

- India and Russia have signed Saint Petersburg Declaration as a roadmap to enhance cooperation after the 18th annual bilateral summit. The Declaration was signed following the annual bilateral summit between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Russian President Vladimir Putin.
- The Telangana Government has launched a digital wallet, named T-Wallet, which doesn't charge transaction fee from consumers. It allows a maximum transaction of Rs1 lakh for e-KYC (know your customer) users. For non-KYC users, the limit is set to Rs20,000.
- Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis launched a web portal 'Mahaswayam' that will cater to job seekers, employers, entrepreneurs, and training institutes who can avail details regarding skill development and employment.
- The UN General Assembly elected Slovak foreign minister Miroslav Lajcak to be the next president of the 193-member powerful body. 9th Secretary-General of United Nations is Antonio Guterres and its headquarter is in New York City, USA.
- India has ranked 137th out of 163 countries on Global Peace Index 2017 published by The Institute of Economics and Peace. Iceland has been named the world's most peaceful country.
- World Milk Day was observed on 1st June.
- All 12 major domestic ports will soon switch to renewable energy to meet their entire power requirements, making India the first country to have all government-owned ports running on solar and wind energy.
- The Delhi Police launched patrolling on bicycle to improve policing in congested localities in trans-Yamuna region of the city. The move is also being billed as a green initiative.
- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Punjab National Bank (PNB) signed a \$100 million loan to be guaranteed by the Government of India that will finance large solar rooftop systems on industrial and commercial buildings throughout India.
- World Environment Day (WED) is the biggest annual event for positive environmental action and takes place every year on 5th June. The theme for World Environment Day 2017 is "Connecting People to Nature".
- Market regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has set up a committee under the Chairmanship of Uday Kotak, Executive Vice Chairman and Managing Director of Kotak Mahindra Bank to help improve the standards of corporate governance of listed companies in India.
- The GST (Goods and Services Tax) Council has cleared the pending rules, including transition provisions and returns, with all the States agreeing to the July 01, 2017 rollout of the tax. The GST Council last month fitted over 1,200 goods and 500 services in the tax brackets of 5, 12, 18 and 28 per cent. In 2003 the Kelkar Task Force on indirect tax had suggested a comprehensive Goods and Services Tax (GST) based on VAT principle.
- India has been ranked 45th in IMD's World Competitiveness list, which saw Hong Kong topping the list. The list was compiled by the International Institute for Management Development's (IMD) World Competitiveness Center.

- Reliance Communications (RCom) Chairman Anil Ambani has announced that the merged entities of RCom and Aircel will be called Aircom. These merged entities are Reliance Communications and Maxis Communications Berhad (MCB).
- B Sai Praneeth has clinched the Thailand Open Grand Prix Gold badminton title by defeating Indonesia's Jonatan Christie in a closely-fought final in Bangkok.