

## GENERAL AWARENESS UPDATES : - (2<sup>nd</sup> July, 2017 to 10<sup>th</sup> July, 2017)

- Madhya Pradesh set [Guinness World Record](#) with plantation of 6 crores saplings in a day. The massive plantation campaign was undertaken to save the environment and conservation of the Narmada river.
- FINO Payments Bank has commenced operations as a payments bank with effect from 30th June 2017 according to the Reserve Bank of India. Besides FINO, the other applicants which have launched payment bank operations are Airtel M Commerce Services, Department of Posts and Paytm Payments Bank.
- The Serbian parliament voted in Ana Brnabic, an openly gay woman, as the country's prime minister. Brnabic becomes Serbia's first female prime minister and the first openly gay premier in the Balkans.
- Union Minister of State for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Rajeev Pratap Rudy and MP Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has laid the foundation stone of the country's biggest Global Skill Park in Bhopal.
- Rajkiran Rai G has assumed charge as Managing Director & CEO of Union Bank of India.
- Melwyn Rego has assumed charge as Managing Director & CEO of Syndicate Bank.
- The Reserve Bank stated that the ongoing accelerated reform initiatives like Goods and Service Tax and continuing political stability will push the economic growth scale to 7.3 per cent in terms of Gross Value Added -GVA in the current fiscal year (2017-18).
- Germany has lifted their maiden Confederation Cup Football title. In the final played at St Petersburg, the four-time World Cup winners defeated Chile by a solitary goal.
- The Centre and Asian Development Bank (ADB) has signed a 220 million dollar loan for improving connectivity as well as transport efficiency and safety on State Highways of Rajasthan. The Asian Development Bank was conceived in the early 1960s as a financial institution that would be Asian in character and foster economic growth and cooperation in one of the poorest regions in the world. Takehiko Nakao is present president of the Asian Development Bank. Manila, Philippines is headquarters of ADB.
- Entire Nagaland has been declared as "disturbed area" for six more months under the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA), which empowers security forces to conduct operations anywhere without any prior notice.
- The President gave his assent to the bill passed by Karnataka Assembly to legalise traditional buffalo race 'Kambala'.
- Achal Kumar Joti has been appointed as the next Chief Election Commissioner, the Law Ministry informed. He will succeed Nasim Zaidi as Chief Election Commissioner.
- A 14-day joint military training exercise, 'Exercise Maitree 2017', between India and Thailand started in Himachal Pradesh. The joint exercise of the Indian Army with the Royal Thailand Army commenced at Bakloh in Chamba district.
- An international body which focuses on climate policies has ranked The Energy Resources Institute (TERI) among the top think tanks in the world. TERI was ranked number two by the International Center for Climate Governance (ICCG), under the

category '2016 Top Climate Think Tanks in the Rest of the World--Absolute Global Rankings'.

- The Karnataka government has launched the 'Elevate 100' scheme to identify and nurture innovative start-ups. The aim is to identify 100 most innovative start-ups in the state to elevate them to the next level of success.
- A new fast-growing Israeli flower was named after Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Israeli Crysanthumun flower will now be called "MODI". Benjamin Netanyahu is the PM of Israel.
- The United Forum of Bank Unions has decided to observe July 19, the 48th anniversary of nationalization of major banks, as 'Save public sector banks' day. Members will wear a commemorative badge on the day, display posters in front of all branches, distribute leaflets and hold rallies/demonstrations at all centers across the country.
- China-based Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) announced its approval to a \$329 million loan to build access roads across 4,000 villages in Gujarat. The funds have been approved to construct road linkages for last-mile connectivity to schools and tribal areas in 33 districts of the state.
- The Malabar naval exercise involving Indian, American and Japanese navies kick started on July 10 in the Bay of Bengal. The aim of the Malabar exercise is to achieve deeper military ties and greater interoperability among the three navies in the strategically-important Indo-Pacific region.
- India's leading cueist Pankaj Advani teamed up with Laxman Rawat to demolish Pakistan in the final of the Asian Team Snooker Championship in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.
- India is ranked a high 23<sup>rd</sup> out of 165 nations in a global index that measures the commitment of nations across the world to cyber-security. The second Global Cybersecurity Index (GCI) was released by the UN telecommunications agency International Telecommunication Union (ITU).
- India has declared itself free from highly pathogenic Avian Influenza (H5N1 and H5N8) after surveillance in the states showed no evidence of its presence. Avian influenza refers to the disease caused by infection with avian (bird) influenza (flu) Type A viruses.
- Hamburg hosted the 12<sup>th</sup> G20 Summit on the 7th and 8th of July, 2017. The G20, or group of 20, is an international meeting between heads of states, finance ministers and central bank governors from the world's leading economies. German Chancellor Angela Merkel hosted this year's G20 Summit in Hamburg.
- 122 countries approved the first-ever treaty to ban nuclear weapons at the UN meeting boycotted by all nuclear-armed nations. None of the nine countries that possess nuclear weapons the United States, Russia, Britain, China, France, India, Pakistan, North Korea and Israel took part in the negotiations or the vote.
- Jigyasa, a student- scientist connect program was officially launched in New Delhi recently. Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), has joined hands with Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS) to implement this program.
- Saima Wazed Hossain, a globally renowned champion for the cause of autism spectrum disorder has been appointed as the WHO's goodwill ambassador for autism in the world body's Southeast Asia region.

- Guruswamy Jayraman, a 69-year-old Glenwood resident who migrated from Delhi to Australia in 1991, has been awarded Order of Australia for community work, the highest civilian award in Australia.
- Nepal SBI Bank, a subsidiary of the State Bank of India, launched its fully automatic digital banking services in the Nepalese capital Kathmandu. This is for the first time the State Bank of India has expanded the paperless banking system outside India.
- A key intelligence agency tasked with checking evasion of Goods and Services Tax (GST) has got its new chief. Senior bureaucrat 'John Joseph' has been appointed Director General of Goods and Services Tax Intelligence (DG GSTI). The DG GSTI is the new name given to the Directorate General of Central Excise Intelligence (DGCEI), mandated to check service tax and central excise duty evasion.
- Climate and energy efficiency solutions company Danfoss India has been conferred with the 'Golden Peacock Award' for Environment Management.
- India has topped the medal tally for the first time in the history of Asian Athletics Championships. The hosts ended the championships on top with a haul of 29 medals which included 12 gold, 5 silver, and 12 bronze.
- Ahmedabad city has been declared as a World Heritage City at the 41st session of UNESCO's world heritage committee being held at Krakow in Poland. Out of total 287 world heritage cities across the globe, there were only two cities in the Indian subcontinent- Bhaktpur in Nepal and Galle in Sri Lanka.