

GENERAL AWARENESS UPDATES : - (30th July, 2017 to 5th August, 2017)

- The United Nations World Day against Trafficking in Persons 2017 was observed across the world on 30th July. This year, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) selected 'Act to Protect and Assist Trafficked Persons' as the focus of the Day.
- Defense Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has developed India's first unmanned tank,. It is called Muntra (Mission UNmanned TRAcked).
- The Punjab government has recently announced the launch of its flagship 'Apni Gaddi Apna Rozgar' scheme by flagging off over 100 uber MOTO bikes. Under the scheme, the state government will be providing commercial two wheelers and four wheelers to unemployed youth at subsidized rates.
- Canara Bank has launched its first 'Digital Banking Branch' named 'CANDI' in Bengaluru. The most attractive feature of the Digital Branch is a humanoid robot that addresses basic queries of customers on banking products and services. This is a first-of-its kind initiative by a public sector bank in the country.
- The decline in the rate of inflation and high real interest rates have prompted State Bank of India to cut the savings bank deposits rate from 4 per cent to 3.5 per cent on deposits below Rs.1 crore. The Chairman of SBI is Smt. Arundhati Bhattacharya.
- The RBI has imposed a penalty of Rs.3 crore on state-owned Union Bank of India for "non-compliance" with the directions on Know Your Customer (KYC) norms.
- The 20-year-old Caeleb Dressel established himself as America's newest star of the pool recently, becoming the first swimmer to win three gold medals on a single night at either the worlds Championships or the Olympics. Caeleb Dressel accomplished this feat at 2017 FINA World Aquatics Championships in Budapest, Hungary.
- The Delhi Metro Railway Corporation (DMRC) was recently declared as the world's first green metro after it added a green certification for all its major buildings and installations.
- Arvind Panagariya, the first vice-chairman of Niti Aayog announced his resignation. Chairman of NITI Aayog is Narendra Modi.
- Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), headed by Urjit Patel, decided to reduce the Policy Repo Rate under the liquidity adjustment facility (LAF) by 25 basis points from 6.25 per cent to 6.0 per cent with immediate effect. Consequently, the reverse repo rate under the LAF stands adjusted to 5.75 per cent, and the marginal standing facility (MSF) rate and the Bank Rate to 6.25 per cent.
- World breastfeeding week 2017 is being celebrated from 1st to 7th August 2017 with the theme "Sustaining Breastfeeding Together".
- The Supreme Court of India imposed a ban on the use of five harmful metals viz lithium, mercury, arsenic, antimony, and lead in firecrackers. The bench was headed by Justice Madan B Lokur.
- Ustad Hussain Sayeeduddin Dagar, a classical vocalist and one of the leading exponents of Dhrupad tradition, passed away following a brief illness.

- Regulator SEBI has set up a committee, under the chairmanship of former law secretary T K Viswanathan, on 'fair market conduct', which will suggest measures for improving surveillance of the markets and strengthen rules for trades.
- The 7th Meeting of BRICS Trade Ministers was held in Shanghai, China. The 8th BRICS Summit was held on 16th October 2016 at Goa. BRICS countries include- Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa.
- The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has appointed an expert panel committee, headed by former Supreme court Judge Justice B N Srikrishna, that would study various issues relating to data protection in the country.
- SEBI has approved the appointment of Dharendra Swarup as the chairman of the board of directors of the BSE.
- Former India hockey captain Dhanraj Pillay was honored by East Bengal football club on its foundation day with its highest award, Bharat Gaurav.
- Venkaiah Naidu is going to succeed Hamid Ansari as the new Vice-President of India. Venkaiah Naidu secured 516 and Gopalkrishna Gandhi 241 votes.
- India signed a loan agreement with Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) for financing of USD 329 million for Gujarat Rural Roads Project.
- Harry Potter creator JK Rowling has been named the world's most highly-paid author with earnings of £72.2m (\$95m).
- The Centre recently approved the Adityanath-led UP government's proposal to rename the Mughalsarai railway station after the Jan Sangh leader as Deen Dayal Upadhyaya (DDU) station.
- Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath announced the appointment of Bollywood actor Akshay Kumar as the brand ambassador of the Swachh Bharat Mission in the state.
- A bill to enable transfer of Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) share in NABARD to the Union Government; and to increase authorized capital of the development institution from Rs.5,000 crore to Rs.30,000 crore was passed by the Lok Sabha. At present in Nabard, the Centre has a share of 99.6% and the RBI has the remaining share.
- Senior bureaucrat Mohammad Mustafa was appointed as Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) in Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI).
- The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) has approved the proposed merger between Bharti Airtel and Telenor India.
- The Punjab government has initiated the process of inducting Indian women team cricketer Harmanpreet Kaur as a DSP in the state police.
- Aadi Perukku festival was celebrated in Tamilnadu. Aadi Perukku is celebrated for the birth of the Tamil month of Aadi.
- Brazil's Neymar has become the world's most expensive footballer, with Paris Saint-Germain signing him for a five-year deal from Barcelona for a fee of Rs.1,680 crore (€222 million).
- Microsoft ties up with the state of Telangana to use its artificial intelligence-based MINE platform to screen children for eye problems and prevent avoidable blindness.

- Thumby Aviation, a private helicopter service provider, and Bangalore International Airport Ltd (BIAL) have partnered to launch HeliTaxi services (helicopter service) from Bengaluru Airport.