

GENERAL AWARENESS UPDATES : - (6th August, 2017 to 13th August, 2017)

- National Handloom Day was celebrated on 7th of August to give an impetus to the sector and encourage the use of handmade loom. It was on this day that the Swadeshi Movement was launched in 1905.
- A High-Level Committee set up to review the Institutionalization of Arbitration Mechanism in India has submitted its report to the Union Law Ministry. It was headed by Justice (retired) BN Srikrishna.
- Noted economist Rajiv Kumar will be the next Vice-Chairman of NITI Aayog (National Institution for Transforming India), which is a think-tank that replaced the Planning Commission. He will succeed Arvind Panagariya, who had recently quit as Vice Chairman of Niti Aayog. PM Narendra Modi is present Chairperson of NITI Aayog.
- Indian professional boxer Vijender Singh outslugged his Chinese opponent Zulpikar Maimaitiali to retain the WBO Asia Pacific Super Middleweight title and win the WBO Oriental Super Middleweight title. It was Beijing Olympic bronze medallist's ninth successive win in his professional career.
- The 2030 Water Resources Group (2030WRG) will help the Maharashtra Government raise \$270 million for the Green Climate Fund, which will be invested in integrated watershed programmes such as Jalyukt Shivar Yojana. The Green Climate Fund (GCF) is a new fund under the UN and is guided by the principles and provisions of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.
- Amazon India has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Telangana Department of Handloom and Textiles, to educate, train and enable weavers and artisans to directly sell their products to Amazon customers across the country. Jeff Bezos is the Chief Executive Officer of Amazon.
- The Union government has appointed Justice Dipak Misra as the next Chief Justice of India. He will be replacing incumbent Justice J S Khehar, who is set to retire on August 27, 2017. It is to be noted that Justice H.J Kania was the first Chief Justice of India.
- India has celebrated 75th anniversary of the Quit India Movement. This year's theme is "SANKALP SE SIDDHI"- the Attainment through Resolve.
- The Goa Legislative Assembly passed a bill which reclassifies coconut as a 'tree', ensuring legal protection for it. The previous Laxmikant Parsekar-led government had changed classification of coconut tree to a 'palm'.
- Hritik Roshan has been signed as a brand ambassador by a health and wellness startup Cure.fit in a deal worth Rs.100 crore. The actor will be associated with the brand for five years.
- The country's largest private sector lender, ICICI Bank, launched instant credit cards enabling its savings account customers to get a credit card instantly, in a completely digital and paperless manner. CEO of ICICI Bank is Chanda Kochhar.
- According to a survey, almost all rural households in Kerala and Haryana had access to a toilet. The survey was released by the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation and was carried out by the Quality Council of India (QCI). Kerala and Haryana top sanitation survey. Bihar and Uttar Pradesh has least access to toilets compared to other states.

- Online entertainment platform Netflix announced that it has acquired Millarworld, a comic book company.
- India has ratified the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol. The Kyoto Protocol is an international agreement linked to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), which commits its parties by setting internationally binding emission reduction targets.
- The second round of National Deworming Day (NDD) was observed on 10 August in 33 States and Union Territories to tackle worm Infections, targeting more than 11 crore children. August 10, is the second round of National Deworming Day, held twice a year. Under the NDD programme, children aged between 1-19 are provided deworming tablets in schools and anganwadis across the country, except in Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh where deworming is carried out once a year.
- India ranked 43rd position in 2017 Global Retirement Index (GRI). It is published by French asset management company Natixis Global. The top three countries in 2017 GRI are Norway, Switzerland, and Iceland.
- BitBay, one of the top ten cryptocurrency trading platforms in the world, has launched a dedicated platform for trade and exchange of digital currencies such as bitcoin, litecoin, ether, Lisk, monero, dash and gamecredits.
- After the Hindi version, Oxford University Press (OUP) has launched online dictionaries in Tamil and Gujarati as part of its special focus on Indian languages.
- In an effort to modernize the Sriram Sagar project and increase the area served, Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao initiated a Rs. 2,000-crore project that seeks to modernize the project. This project on the Godavari river has the potential to serve several districts in the state.
- The Multi Commodity Exchange Ltd (MCX), the country's largest commodity exchange has received capital markets regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India's (Sebi) approval to launch options trading in gold.
- M. Venkaiah Naidu was sworn in as the 13th Vice President of India at Rashtrapati Bhawan, New Delhi. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader defeated opposition candidate Gopalkrishna Gandhi, the grandson of Mahatma Gandhi in the vice-presidential election held on 5 August. Naidu succeeds Hamid Ansari, who finished his decade-long tenure as the vice president and Rajya Sabha chairman.
- The National Green Tribunal (NGT) imposed an interim ban on use of non-biodegradable plastic bags which are less than 50 microns in the entire national capital.
- According to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), it will pay Rs 30,659 crore dividend to the government for the year ended June 30, less than half of what it paid in 2016. The 24th Governor of RBI is Dr. Urjit Patel.
- In an apparent bid to take on Google-owned YouTube, Facebook has rolled out 'Watch', a redesigned video platform for creators and publishers.
- Davinder Singh Kang has become the first Indian to qualify for the final round of the javelin throw World Championships.
- The International Youth Day was observed across the world on 12 August with the theme 'Youth Building Peace'.

- The Government of India has decided to launch a new sub-scheme named “Aajeevika Grameen Express Yojana (AGEY)” as part of the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM). The Self Help Groups under DAY-NRLM will operate road transport service in backward areas.
- The Centre has appointed lyricist Prasoon Joshi as Chairman of the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) for a period of three years. Mr. Joshi has replaced former Chairman Pahlaj Nihalani.
- Legendary Indian athlete Milkha Singh has been appointed WHO Goodwill Ambassador for Physical Activity in South-East Asia Region.
- In Kenya, Uhuru Kenyatta has been re-elected as President.
- Poet and writer Vijay Nambisan, who became the first All India Poetry Champion in 1988, passed away.
- Ruth Pfau, a German nun who devoted her life to combatting leprosy in Pakistan, has died at the age of 87. Pfau was known locally as Pakistan's Mother Teresa.
- Israeli Holocaust survivor Yisrael Kristal, certified by Guinness World Records as the world's oldest man, died aged 113.
- Union Minister of State for HRD Mahendra Nath Pandey has launched an Indian National Anthem video in sign language, featuring differently-abled and partially differently-abled children. The national anthem of India is "Jana Gana Mana" which was written by the Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore. The Anthem was first sung on 27th December 1911 in the Calcutta Session of the Indian National Congress. The Anthem was officially accepted as the Indian National Anthem by the Constituent Assembly on 24th January 1950.
- Around 3.5 lakh college students in Gujarat will get tablets at a subsidised rate of Rs.1,000 each under a state government scheme launched by chief minister Vijay Rupani. Under this scheme, the first year college students in the state will get 7-inch ‘NAMO E-Tab’ tablets, which have a market value of Rs.8,000 each, by just paying Rs.1,000.
- Jharkhand Assembly has passed Religious Freedom Bill 2017. It aims to stop the forced conversions in the state. The bill will now be sent to the governor, following whose approval it would go to the President for assent.
- According to the Economic Survey, India has now emerged as one of the most open economies in the world for receiving foreign direct investments (FDI), on the back of a host of liberalisation measures. Mauritius, Singapore and Japan have been top three source countries of FDI inflows to India contributing 36.2%, 20% and 10.8%, respectively, during 2016-17, according to the survey.
- With the \$2.4 billion it just received from Japanese technology and telecom giant SoftBank, Flipkart has become the third most funded private company globally. The top two are both ride hailing platforms— China based Didi Chuxing and the US based Uber.
- Bollywood star Aishwarya Rai Bachchan has become the first female actor ever to hoist the Indian National Flag at the Indian Film Festival of Melbourne (IFFM), Australia's annual celebration of film from India and the subcontinent.

- David Rasquinha has been appointed as Managing Director of Exim Bank of India.
- The Hugo Award for Best Novel 2017 was given to Nora K. Jemisin, an American speculative fiction writer for her work 'The Obelisk Gate'. The awarded book was the second in the trilogy that started with 'The Fifth Season', which was New York Times Notable Book of 2015 and won Jemisin the Hugo Award for Best Novel in 2016.
- The atomic age began with the US dropping the first atomic bomb dubbed “Little Boy” on August 6, 1945, on the Japanese city of Hiroshima. Three days later, on August 9, 1945, the second bomb—“Fat Man”—was dropped on Nagasaki.