

## **GENERAL AWARENESS UPDATES : - (6<sup>th</sup> February, 2017 to 11<sup>th</sup> February, 2017)**

- Health Ministry launched Measles Rubella vaccination campaign in the country.
- The Union Minister for Sports Vijay Goel laid the foundation stone of the country's first centre of excellence for differently abled sportsmen at Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- Nagaland cabinet has decided to submit a memorandum to the Prime Minister to issue an ordinance to exempt the state from the provision of Part IX A of the Constitution which deals with the municipalities.
- In a move to bring about paradigm shift towards holistic development of villages, Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal launched the Chief Minister Samagra Gramya Unnayan Yojana (CMSGUY) in Guwahati.
- The world's longest commercial flight landed in New Zealand on 6 February 2017 with the arrival of Qatar Airways's 14,535km (9,032-mile) Doha-Auckland service.
- India to host FIBA Women's Asia Cup basketball tournament at Bengaluru in July, 2017. India has also been given another continental level tournament-the FIBA U-16 Women's Asian Championship - which will be held in October in Hyderabad.
- Indian skipper Virat Kohli has featured on the cover of the bible of cricket - Wisden Cricketers' Almanack. Kohli becomes only the third Asian origin player after Tendulkar and England all-rounder Moeen Ali to be featured on the cover of the magazine.
- The Union Human Resource Development Ministry led by Prakash Javadekar is set to constitute a National Testing Agency (NTA) which will be responsible for conducting examinations for higher and secondary education. The main aim of setting NTA is to ease the work of the bodies like CBSE, AICTE, from the responsibilities of conducting exams, and eventually enable them to focus more on academics.
- The Railway Ministry is set to develop the first ever railway line in Andaman and Nicobar Island that currently has no rail network.
- Axis Bank has tied up with Earthport Plc, a cross-border payment network, to enable faster outbound cross-border payments for its customers through Earthport's state-of-the-art global payments network. With this, Axis Bank has become the first bank in India to connect with Earthport's global payments network.
- Renowned Indian-origin British sculptor Anish Kapoor was honored with the prestigious \$1 million 2017 Genesis Prize by Israel for his utmost contribution for Jewish community.
- Queen Elizabeth II, the world's longest reigning sovereign, has become the first British monarch to reach her Sapphire Jubilee, with 65 years on the throne.
- The Billiards and Snooker Federation of India (BSFI) informed that India will host the World Billiards Championship for the next four years. In 2016, the World Billiards Championship was held in Bengaluru, in which Pankaj Advani won beating Peter Gilchrist of Singapore.
- The Reserve Bank of India announced that the cash withdrawal limit on savings accounts will be scrapped from March 13, 2017.
- Bank of Baroda (BOB) has tied up with IFFCO, a cooperative, to provide co-branded debit cards with inbuilt overdraft limit of Rs. 2,500 per cardholder to the farmers.

➤ The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved 'Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan' (PMGDISHA) to make 6 crore rural households digitally literate.

➤ RBI governor Urjit Patel led Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) kept the key repo rate unchanged at 6.25% in the first monetary policy review of 2017.

Policy Rates: Repo Rate - 6.25%; Reverse Repo Rate- 5.75%;  
Marginal Standing Facility Rate- 6.75%; Bank Rate- 6.75%

Reserve Ratio: CRR- 4%; SLR- 20.50%

➤ Gujarat has become the first state in the country to establish the cashless system in its public distribution system (PDS) of food grains. The beneficiaries who are eligible for subsidised food grains under the National Food Security Act (NFSA) will now need to carry only Aadhaar cards for getting their food grains in Gujarat.

➤ Sourabh Verma clinched the Men's Singles title defeating Lakshya Sen in the 81<sup>st</sup> Senior National Badminton Championships tournament played in Patna. Rituparna Das claimed the Women's Singles title defeating Reshma Karthik in the tournament.

➤ Arunachal Pradesh has become the first state in the northeast to implement e-cabinet solution for the state cabinet members. The entire business of the Cabinet can be conducted using the e-Cabinet solution.

➤ China has surpassed Germany to become the world's largest producer of solar energy.

➤ IAAF bans Russia from 2017 London World Athletics Championships. Russia has been barred from international competition since November 2015 following a damaging report alleging that state-sponsored doping was rife in the country. The ban had already been extended in March and then June 2016, preventing Russia's athletes from competing at the Rio Olympics.

➤ The government has sold 2 per cent stake in ITC to Life Insurance Corporation of India.

➤ The government has appointed three part-time non-official directors on the Central Board of the Reserve Bank of India for a four-year term. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has appointed Ashok Gulati, Manish Sabharwal and Rajiv Kumar as part-time Non-Official Directors on the Central Board.

➤ Official mascot of FIFA U-17 World Cup 'Kheleao' was unveiled. The clouded leopard (called Kheleao) is an endangered wild cat whose habitat extends from the Himalayan foothills to mainland Southeast Asia. The first-ever FIFA tournament to be hosted by India will be played from October 06th to 28th this year.

➤ Virat Kohli recorded his sixth Test 150, against Bangladesh at Hyderabad and set the record for most 150-plus scores by an Indian captain in Tests.

➤ India's top-order batsman Cheteshwar Pujara surpassed the 52-year long-standing record of former Indian cricketer Chandu Borde of highest first-class runs (in Tests as well as first-class matches) in a single cricketing season.

➤ Admission to all engineering colleges in the country will be done through a single entrance examination from next year (2018). A single test for engineering, as well as architecture courses, will be on lines of the National Eligibility-Cum-Entrance Test (NEET), a single, all-India test for entry to medical and dental colleges launched in 2016.

However, students seeking admission to the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) will have to clear the JEE-Advanced after taking the engineering entrance exam.

- A 33 member committee has been constituted under the chairmanship of Andhra Pradesh's Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu for the speedy implementation of the Sagarmala Project in Andhra Pradesh. Sagarmala project aims to improve the state's coastline and inland waterways.
- Ajay Tyagi has been appointed as chairman of Securities and Exchange Board of India.
- 2017 BRICS summit to be held in Xiamen, China in September 2017, under the theme "BRICS: Stronger Partnership for a Brighter Future". The BRICS comprises Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.
- Folk singer from Punjab Satinder Sartaaaj has been selected for the awareness project against human trafficking 'Blue Heart Campaign' by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).
- The inter-ministry hockey tournament 2016–17 was held at Central Secretariat Ground Vinay Marg, New Delhi. The final match was played between I & B Ministry and Ministry of Health. I & B Team won the final match.