

GENERAL AWARENESS UPDATES : - (6th June, 2017 to 11th June, 2017)

- Telangana government has recently launched single-women pensions scheme across the state. Single women will be given Rs 1,000 per month. It is the first such scheme in India.
- Chief Minister of Karnataka Siddaramaiah has recently launched India's first public bicycle sharing (PBS) initiative 'Trin Trin' in Mysuru. Mysuru is the first city in India to have a public bicycle sharing system. A total of 450 bicycles can be borrowed from 48 docking stations set up across the City for a nominal fee.
- To emphasize the importance of financial literacy, the Reserve Bank of India observed June 5-9, 2017 as Financial Literacy Week across the country. The Week focussed on four broad themes, viz. Know Your Customer (KYC), Exercising Credit Discipline, Grievance Redress and Going Digital.
- The book "The Ministry of Utmost Happiness", authored by Arundhati Roy, was released recently. Roy became the first Indian woman to win the prestigious Booker Prize with her 1997 work.
- Sher Bahadur Deuba was elected as Nepal's Prime Minister for the fourth time.
- Montenegro has officially joined North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and hence became the 29th member country of NATO.
- India signed an agreement to provide fresh assistance of 318 million US Dollar credit line to Sri Lanka for the development of the railway sector in the country.
- An agreement for International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) Credit of USD 39.2 Million from World Bank for the project 'Assam Citizen Centric Service Delivery' was signed recently.
- World Oceans Day is a global day of ocean celebration and collaboration for a better future. It is observed globally on 08th June. The overall theme for World Oceans Day 2017 is 'Our Oceans, Our Future'.
- Wedding ceremonies in Kerala are all set to become 'green', with the state government coming out with a green protocol to make auspicious occasions more nature-friendly. With the implementation of the protocol, plastic and other non-biodegradable articles including disposable glasses and plates and thermocol decorations will be kept at bay from marriage functions.
- K G Karmakar and Gauri Shankar were appointed as Independent Directors of India Post Payments Bank (IPPB). IPPB was launched on January 30th, 2017 in Ranchi and Raipur. The Tagline of IPPB is Aapka bank, aapke dwaar.
- Indian tennis ace Rohan Bopanna and Canadian partner Gabriela Dabrowski beat their German-Colombian opponents Anna-Lena Groenefeld and Robert Farah in the final to clinch their maiden French Open mixed doubles title in Paris, France. Bopanna has become only the fourth Indian to win a Grand Slam crown, after Leander Paes, Mahesh Bhupathi and Sania Mirza.
- Jelena Ostapenko won her first Grand Slam title by beating Simona Halep in the women's final of the French Open 2017. With this win, the unseeded Latvian became the youngest women's champion at Roland Garros in 20 years.

- India signed the OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) multilateral convention that aims to check cross-border tax evasion by multinational companies.
- NASA has chosen 12 new astronauts, including an Indian American named Raja Chari, who will be trained for missions into Earth orbit and to deep space.
- Shri J P Nadda has launched 'Skill for Life, Save a Life' initiative to promote skill development in the health sector.
- Axis Bank Ltd has announced biodegradable prepaid gift cards on the occasion of World Environment Day (05th June). With this, the bank has become the first to introduce biodegradable cards in the country. According to a circular issued by the Reserve Bank of India on 1 July 2014, the maximum validity of pre-paid gift instruments is three years.
- Indian cricket team captain Virat Kohli is the sole sportsperson from the country to feature in the world's 100 highest paid athletes (ranked 89th) in the latest Forbes list topped by soccer star Cristiano Ronaldo.
- India and Pakistan became full members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), the first-ever expansion of the China-dominated security grouping after 2001. With the inclusion of India and Pakistan, SCO now represents over 40% of world population and nearly 20% of the global GDP. The SCO was founded at a Summit in Shanghai in 2001. SCO is regarded as a counterweight to the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO). 2017 SCO summit was based on the theme "Future Energy".
- The International Olympic Committee has approved new events for the 2020 Tokyo Games, including a number of mixed gender competitions. The additions include a mixed team event for judo. Table Tennis will also get a mixed doubles competition. 2018 Olympic Winter Games will be held in PyeongChang.
- Thespian Bengali actor, Soumitra Chatterjee has been conferred with the France's highest civilian honour, the coveted Legion of Honour.
- Aiming to reduce emissions and promote sustainability to help India's smart city programme, France and the European Union have extended a grant of 3.5 million euros under the 'Mobilise Your City' (MYC) initiative. Three Indian cities- Nagpur, Kochi and Ahmedabad -- will get the grant as part of the EU's commitment under the Paris Climate agreement.
- Furthering the agenda for cooperative federalism, NITI Aayog has launched SATH, a program providing 'Sustainable Action for Transforming Human Capital' with the State Governments. The vision of the program is to initiate transformation in the education and health sectors.

The National Institution for Transforming India, also called NITI Aayog, was formed via a resolution of the Union Cabinet on January 1, 2015. The Government of India constituted the NITI Aayog to replace the Planning Commission instituted in 1950. Arvind Panagariya is Vice-Chairman of Niti Aayog. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is Chairperson of NITI Aayog.