

GENERAL AWARENESS UPDATES:- (8th October, 2017 to 15th October, 2017)

- The Indian Air Force (IAF) celebrated its 85th anniversary on 08th October 2017. The Indian Air Force was officially established on 08th October 1932. Birender Singh Dhanoa is present Air Chief Marshal of Indian Air Force.
- President Ram Nath Kovind has launched 100 crore rupees Mata Amritanandamayi Math Project "Jeevamritham" to provide the filtration system for cleaning drinking water to 5000 villages across India, in Kollam district in Kerala.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is to launch a financial literacy drive in 80 blocks in nine states on pilot basis to educate people on e-transactions, formal sector borrowings and insurance purchases.
- In the United States, hurricane Nate has made landfall near the mouth of the Mississippi River in Louisiana.
- The Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel 2017 was awarded to Richard H. Thaler "for his contributions to behavioural economics".
- The Norwegian Nobel Committee has awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for 2017 to the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) "for its work to draw attention to the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons and for its ground-breaking efforts to achieve a treaty-based prohibition of such weapons". ICAN's headquarters is in Geneva, Switzerland. Beatrice Fihn is the Executive Director of ICAN.
- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has launched the Intensified Mission Indradhanush (IMI) at Vadnagar in Gujarat. Through this program, Government of India aims to reach each and every child under two years of age and all those pregnant women who have been left uncovered under the routine immunisation program.
- Rajesh Nath, Managing Director of VDMA India, has been conferred the 'Cross of the Order of Merit', also known as Bundesverdienstkreuz, the highest civilian honour awarded to individuals for their services to Germany.
- The government has made biometric identification Aadhaar mandatory for all post office deposits, PPF, the National Savings Certificate scheme and Kisan Vikas Patra.
- India's Anupama Ramachandran has clinched the World Open Under-16 Snooker Championship title at St. Petersburg in Russia.
- World Mental Health Day is observed on 10 October every year, with the objective of raising awareness of mental health issues. 'Mental health in the workplace' is the theme of World Mental Health Day 2017.
- Uttarakhand State Government and a charitable funding agency named Swan Cultural Center and Foundation launched 'Solar Briefcase' in Kedarnath Dham. The initiative was taken to provide electricity to far-flung areas in the hill state.
- The Union Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh inaugurated the four-day First 'BIMSTEC Disaster Management Exercise- 2017' (BIMSTEC DMEx-2017) in New Delhi. BIMSTEC stands for 'Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation', and includes Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

- India is ranked the eighth most valuable nation brand while the United States retained its top position in the league of nations according to Brand Finance's Nation Brands 2017.
- World Bank reduced India's GDP growth forecast to 7% for 2017-18 from 7.2% estimated earlier.
- IIT-Kharagpur has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Samsung India for the setting up of a digital academy on the institute's campus.
- Actor Anupam Kher has been appointed the new chairman of Film and Television Institute of India (FTII), located in Pune. He succeeds former television actor Gajendra Chauhan.
- Himachal Pradesh government implemented the Senior Citizen Health Insurance Scheme (SCHIS) to provide easy access to curative geriatric health care services by way of additional cover. The scheme would provide top-up coverage of Rs 30,000 per senior citizen to all existing Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojna (RSBY) smart card holders.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved Rs. 2,000 crore specifically for setting up Aadhaar centres in post offices. Aadhaar enrolment and updation facilities will be available in around 15,000 post offices by March 31, 2018.
- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) lowered India's growth forecast for 2017 to 6.7% from its earlier estimate of 7.2 percent. Created in 1945, the IMF is governed by and accountable to the 189 countries. IMF is Headquartered in Washington, D.C. Managing Director of IMF is Christine Lagarde.
- 11 October has been marked as the International Day of the Girl Child. This year's theme is "The Power of the Adolescent Girl: Vision for 2030."
- Visa has tied up with the Andhra Pradesh government for Digital Dhan Sankalp project. It is an initiative to develop Visakhapatnam into India's first 'less cash' city.
- The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has bought an additional 7% stake in Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) for Rs 900 crore from public sector lender IDBI Bank Ltd. This raises its total shareholding in SIDBI to 10%. Harsh Kumar Bhanwala is the present Chairman of NABARD. Mohammad Mustafa is SIDBI's CMD. Mahesh Kumar Jain is the Managing Director & CEO of IDBI Bank.
- Iceland created history by qualifying for the 2018 World Cup. Iceland became the smallest country to clinch a position at the 21st FIFA World Cup. The previous smallest country to have reached the World Cup was Trinidad & Tobago.
- The mixed pair of Jemson Ningthoujam and Ankita Bhakat clinched the gold in the World Archery Youth Championship in Rosario, Argentina.
- FIFA has decided to suspend the Pakistan Football Federation (PFF) with immediate effect in accordance with the decision of the Bureau of the FIFA Council on account of undue third-party interference.
- The Cabinet has approved two new World Bank supported schemes of Rs. 6,655 crore- Skills Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion (SANKALP) and Skill Strengthening for Industrial Value Enhancement (STRIVE). SANKALP is Rs 4,455 crore Centrally sponsored scheme including Rs. 3,300

crore loan support from World Bank whereas STRIVE is a Rs. 2,200 crore - central sector scheme, with half of the scheme outlay as World bank loan assistance.

- The nation's largest lender State Bank of India is creating a 15,000-sqft innovation center in Navi Mumbai investing around Rs 100 crore. The center, to be built at its Global IT Centre in Belapur in Navi Mumbai, will be the largest innovation center by any financial services company in the country. Rajnish Kumar is the present Chairman of SBI.
- India has emerged as the second largest market for the industry, a report by professional networking giant LinkedIn has revealed. Jeff Weiner is the CEO of LinkedIn.
- President Ram Nath Kovind gave away the National award for senior citizens to Indian boxing coach Gurbax Singh Sandhu and Lal Bahadur Shastri National Award for Excellence in Public Administration, Academics and Management for 2017 to Dr. Bindeshwar Pathak. Gurbax Singh Sandhu has been coaching both the men and women boxers. Dr. Bindeshwar Pathak is the founder of Sulabh International.
- The Bihar Cabinet has approved reservations for persons with disabilities in government jobs and educational institutions.
- Indian pacer Ashish Nehra has confirmed his retirement from International Cricket. He will play his last match against New Zealand on November 1, 2017.
- The International Day for Disaster Reduction was observed across the world on 13 October. The theme for 2017 IDDR is 'Home Safe Home: Reducing Exposure, Reducing Displacement'.
- The Union Minister for Finance Arun Jaitley participated in the G-20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors (FMCBG) Meeting in Washington D.C.
- India, which has more than a fifth (21 percent) of its children wasted (weigh too little for their height), slipped three places to 100th in the 2017 Global Hunger Index (GHI).
- The State Bank of India has launched a new product to provide a short-term working capital demand loan to its MSME clients. The new initiative, called SME Assist, would offer loans to MSME customers on the basis of their input credit claims under Goods and Services Tax (GST).
- US-based fintech company Mastercard has announced the launch of its global research and development arm Mastercard Labs in Pune, India. Ajay Banga is the CEO of Mastercard.
- The International Cricket Council Board has given an in-principle nod to the proposed nine-team Test Championship and a 13-team One-Day International league at the end of the meeting in Auckland. The Test competition will begin after the 2019 World Cup and the 50-over event sometime in 2020. Dave Richardson is the chief executive officer of ICC.
- Communications Minister Manoj Sinha launched the Sampurna Bima Gram (SBG) Yojana, an initiative for expansion of clientele base of Postal Life Insurance (PLI). Under the scheme for expansion of PLI, benefits of Postal Life Insurance (PLI) will no more be confined to government and semi-government employees, but will also be available to professionals such as doctors, engineers, management consultants, chartered accountants, architects, lawyers, bankers etc.

- The world's largest combustion research center was inaugurated at the Indian Institute of Technology, Madras (IIT-M) in Tamil Nadu.
- The US and Israel announced their withdrawal from the UN's cultural agency UNESCO after Washington accused it of anti-Israeli bias.
- The fifth India-Sri Lanka Joint Training Exercise (JTE) MITRA SHAKTI 2017 started at Aundh Military Station, Pune. The exercise is based on Counter Terrorist Operations and an Infantry company from both the countries is participating in the same. Nirmala Sitharaman is the Present Defence Minister of India.
- Eminent critic, biographer and orator M K Sanu has been chosen for the Mathrubhumi Literary Award for 2016 in recognition of his rich contribution to the Malayalam literature.
- Switzerland's Esther Staubli has become the first female referee to officiate a match at the FIFA U-17 World Cup. She was the referee in the match between Japan and New Caledonia in the final round group E match.
- Jackson Singh Thounaojam created history at Delhi's Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium by scoring India's first goal in a FIFA U-17 World Cup during India's match against Colombia.
- Going digital, the Rajasthan assembly has become the first in India to call attention and adjournment motions and proposals online from legislators to send them to the state government.
- The International Day of Rural Women was observed on 15th October to recognize "the critical role and contribution of rural women, including indigenous women, in enhancing agricultural and rural development, improving food security and eradicating rural poverty." 2017 Theme: Challenges and opportunities in climate-resilient agriculture for gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls.