

GENERAL AWARENESS UPDATES : - (21st May, 2017 to 28th May, 2017)

- May 21st was observed as Anti-Terrorism Day in the memory of former Indian PM Mr. Rajiv Gandhi. Rajiv Gandhi, while conducting an election campaign in Sriperumbudur (located near Chennai) in Tamil Nadu was assassinated by a suicide bomber on 21 May 1991.
- Arunachal Pradesh mountaineer Anshu Jamsenpa has become the world's first woman to scale Mt Everest twice in five days. Her ascent of the world's tallest peak in the Himalayas on 21st May 2017 was her fifth overall. Mount Everest height is about 8,848 meters above sea level. First Persons to climb Mt Everest in 1953 were Sir Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay.
- Scientists at NASA have named a new organism discovered by them after A.P.J. Abdul Kalam. The name of the bacterium is Solibacillus kalamii.
- India's state-of-the-art high-speed train Tejas Express, which can run up to the speed of 200 km per hour, has made its trip between Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus, Mumbai, and Karmali, North Goa.
- Soumitra Chatterjee and Y.C. Deveshwar were conferred the Banga Samman, West Bengal's highest civilian award, by Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee.
- Hassan Rouhani was re-elected as the President of Iran after winning Iranian presidential elections 2017.
- The Bengaluru FC defeated Mohun Bagan (2-0) to lift 38th Federation Cup football tournament.
- In Cricket, Mumbai Indians lifted the 10th Indian Premier League trophy for the third time, as they recorded a scintillating 1-run win against Rising Pune Supergiant in the title clash at Hyderabad during final. Krunal Pandya from Mumbai Indians was named the man of the match.
- India overtook Japan to become the second-largest steel producer in the world after China in 2016, according to data released by the International Stainless Steel Forum (ISSF).
- HDFC Life announced the launch of an artificial intelligence-based application 'SPOK' that can automatically read, understand, categorize, prioritize and respond to customer emails sent to the private insurer.
- A United Nations-backed panel has publicly released a draft treaty banning the possession and use of all nuclear weapons. Nine countries that are known to possess nuclear weapons are- the US, UK, Russia, China, France, India, Pakistan, North Korea and Israel. It should be noted that the United States dropped nuclear weapons on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki on August 6 and 9, 1945, respectively.
- Every year, May 22 is observed as International Day for Biodiversity or World Biodiversity Day. This date commemorates the date of Adoption of the Agreed Text of the Convention on Biological Diversity at UNEP Headquarters, Nairobi on 22 May 1992. The theme for 2017 for World Biodiversity Day is "Biodiversity and Sustainable Tourism".

- Rohan Chakravarty, a wildlife and environment cartoonist from India, has won WWF (World Wildlife Fund) International President's Award 2017 for his efforts to change attitudes towards nature.
- Indian businessman Mathunny Mathews died aged 81 in Kuwait. He was known as one of the heroes who made possible the largest civilian evacuation in known history and the main inspiration behind the 2016 Bollywood historical drama 'Airlift'.
- India's R Vaishali won the women's title in the Asian Continental Blitz Chess Championship in Chengdu, China.
- Nepal Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' has resigned paving way for Nepali Congress President Sher Bahadur Deuba to become the next Prime Minister. Bidhya Devi Bhandari is the President of Nepal.
- The Maharashtra government has decided to form 'good morning' squads to monitor and prevent open defecation in villages and districts across the state. These squads will comprise representatives of local bodies, self-help groups, NGOs, students and social workers working in the area of sanitation and cleanliness.
- Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus has been chosen to head the World Health Organisation (WHO) and is the first African to do so since the creation of the United Nations agency in 1948. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus has replaced Margret Chan who steps down after ten years as the WHO chief.
- Japan is going to build a war museum at the hillock at Maiba Lokpa in Bishnupur district in Manipur where a Japanese camp was located during World War II.
- Actor Sir Roger Moore, best known for playing James Bond, has died at age 89. He played the famous spy in seven Bond films including Live and Let Die and A View to a Kill.
- The Human Resource Development Ministry and the External Affairs Ministry launched an online verification portal 'e-sanad' to make the document verification process easier for students who are planning to study abroad.
- State-owned BSNL started satellite phone service through INMARSAT which will be initially offered to government agencies and later opened for others citizen in phased manner. INMARSAT full form is International Maritime Satellite.
- Lenin Moreno was sworn in as Ecuador's president.
- Olympic silver medalist P.V. Sindhu became a member of the BWF Athletes' Commission.
- Indian off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin won the coveted International Cricketer of the Year award at the CEAT Cricket Rating (CCR) International awards 2017.
- Two Indian cities — Mumbai and Kota — have been named among the world's most crowded in a list topped by Dhaka, according to World Economic Forum (WEF) citing UN-Habitat data. Dhaka is followed by India's financial capital Mumbai. Kota in Rajasthan was ranked seventh.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the country's longest bridge - the Dhola-Sadia Bridge in Assam. Mr Modi named the bridge after legendary singer Bhupen Hazarika. This three-lane, 9.15-kilometre bridge has been built over the Brahmaputra river.

- Google's vice-president for South East Asia and India, Rajan Anandan has been appointed the new chairman of Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI).
- India announced a \$500 million line of credit to Mauritius as the two countries resolved to deepen ties in a range of areas including the maritime domain.
- The government has selected five merchant bankers, including Goldman Sachs and Citigroup, to manage the government's 3 per cent stake sale in IOC (Indian Oil Corporation) which could fetch about Rs 6,000 crore to the exchequer. The other bankers who have been selected by the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) for managing the stake sale are Deutsche Equities, SBI Capital Markets and ICICI Securities.
- The Orange City (Nagpur) has become India's first city to have electric mass mobility system. It will have a fleet of 200 electric vehicles including taxis, buses, e-rickshaw and autorickshaws, all of which will be fully owned by cab aggregator Ola.