

**GENERAL AWARENESS UPDATES : - (7<sup>th</sup> May, 2017 to 13<sup>th</sup> May, 2017)**

- World Red Cross Day is observed on May 8 every year to commemorate the birth anniversary of Henry Dunant, the founder of the Red Cross as well as the founder of International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). The theme for this year (2017) is “Less Known Red Cross Stories”.
- The World Migratory Bird Day is observed every year on 10 May. The theme of WMBD 2017 is “Their Future is Our Future – A Healthy Planet for Migratory Birds and People”.
- India celebrated National Technology Day on 11th May. On 11th May 1998 India had achieved a major technological breakthrough by successfully carrying out nuclear tests at Pokhran, Rajasthan.
- Union Minister for Road Transport and Highway Nitin Gadkari inaugurated the country's first bio-refinery plant which produces ethanol from the variety of biomass. The project is situated at Rahu in Pune district.
- Odisha will introduce boat ambulance service in four districts where people face problems in availing 108 ambulance service due to intervening large water bodies in the form of rivers and dams disrupting road communication.
- Renowned tea planter from Assam Prabhat Kamal Bezboruah has been named the new chairman of the Tea Board of India. With this, Bezboruah becomes the first non-IAS and an industry insider to be at the helm of the Kolkata-headquartered Tea Board, the governing body of the industry.
- Facebook has launched its 'Express Wi-Fi' commercially in India and the service is now available via 700 hotspots across four states of Uttarakhand, Gujarat, Rajasthan and Meghalaya.
- Emmanuel Macron has been elected as President of France.
- Kashmir based freelance photographer Saqib Majeed has bagged prestigious 2016 Wisden-MCC (Melbourne Cricket Council) Cricket ‘Photograph of the Year’ for capturing a stunning image of boys playing cricket at the Nishat garden in the outskirts of Srinagar.
- Leila Seth, the first woman judge of the Delhi high court and member of the Justice J. S. Verma committee that was set up to re-look at rape laws in India died of a cardiac arrest.
- Indian boxer Shiva Thapa ended up with a silver medal in the 60-kg category at the Asian Boxing Championships in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. Thapa also became the first boxer from the country to win medals at three consecutive championships.
- Britain wins 26th edition of the Azlan Shah Cup at Ipoh, Malaysia, after defeating Australia in a thrilling hockey final.
- India has been unanimously elected as the President of UN-Habitat, an organ of the United Nations Organisation.
- The government of Pakistan has approved the appointment of Sohail Mahmood as Pakistan’s next high commissioner to India. He replaces the incumbent envoy to India Abdul Basit.

- Hollywood actor Emma Watson picked up the first-ever Genderless Acting Award for the Best Actor category for "Beauty and the Beast" at the MTV Movie and TV Awards.
- Child actor Sunny Pawar, best known for his performance in the Oscar-nominated film Lion, has been chosen for the Rising Star Award.
- "Mukti Bhawan", a movie about a man who accompanies his father on a journey to Varanasi, has won the Best Film at the New York Indian Film Festival (NYIFF).
- Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has unveiled the logo and mascot of the 22nd Asian Athletics Championships scheduled to be held at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar from July 6 to 9, 2017. The mascot, named Olly Turtle, depicts the Olive Ridley turtles.
- Moon Jae-In began his five-year term as president of South Korea.
- Jhulan Goswami, India's fast bowler, is now the leading wicket-taker in Women's ODIs, going past Australia's Cathryn Fitzpatrick record of 180 wickets.
- The government of India has set up a high-level task force to compute timely data on employment in the country. The task force has been created under the chairmanship of NITI Aayog's vice chairman Arvind Panagariya.
- Market regulator Stock Exchange board of India (SEBI) had allowed investors to buy mutual fund schemes for up to Rs 50,000 through digital wallets.
- Konkona Sen Sharma has been named the best director for her directorial debut 'A Death in the Gunj' and the best actress for 'Lipstick Under My Burkha' at 2017's New York Indian Film Festival (NYIFF).
- Justice (Retd.) Mukul Mudgal was elected as head of International Federation of Association Football (FIFA's) governance committee at the world football governing body's 67th Congress in Bahrain's capital city of Manama.
- ICICI Bank chief Chanda Kochhar has become the first Indian woman to be conferred with the prestigious Woodrow Wilson Award for Global Corporate Citizenship.
- The government has exempted the residents of Jammu and Kashmir, Assam, Meghalaya and citizens above 80 years from mandatory quoting of Aadhaar to obtain PAN cards and file tax returns.
- Telangana has introduced a logo for identifying vehicles driven by persons with hearing impairment and has become the first state in the country to do so.
- Bollywood superstar Amitabh Bachchan has been appointed by the World Health Organisation as its Goodwill Ambassador for Hepatitis in South-East Asia Region to spread awareness about the disease. Amitabh Bachchan has served as UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador for Polio in India.
- VVS Laxman has been awarded with an honorary life membership by the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC). The elegant Hyderabad batsman becomes the fifth Indian to receive the honour after fellow stalwarts, Sachin Tendulkar, Rahul Dravid, Sourav Ganguly and Zaheer Khan.