

CURRENT AFFAIRS OF MAY 2017

Awards

The Indian wildlife and environment cartoonist who has been awarded this year's WWF International President's Award for his efforts to inspire change and attitudes towards nature – **Rohan Chakravarty**

The Indian actress who has been awarded the International Humanitarian Award instituted by Asian Voice, a leading British Asian newsweekly – **Jacqueline Fernandez**

The MD and CEO of ICICI Bank who has been awarded the Woodrow Wilson Award by the Woodrow Wilson Centre in Washington DC – **Ms Chand Kochhar**

The wildlife biologist and scientist with the Mysuru-based Nature Conservation Foundation who has been awarded the Whitley Award for his work to protect tiger corridors in Karnataka – **Sanjay Gubbi**

The renowned environmentalist from Assam who has been awarded the Whitley Award, also known as the Green Oscars, for her efforts in conserving greater adjutant storks – **Purnima Devi Barman**

The British actress, model and activist who has been awarded the first genderless award for the Best Actor at the MTV Movie and TV Awards – **Emma Watson**

Social worker and Chairperson of Women's Indian Association who has been awarded the Avvaiyar Award for 2017 by Tamil Nadu government – **Padma Venkataraman**

The Chief Minister who has been chosen for the Transformative Chief Minister Award in recognition for his role in advancing the US-India partnership at the state level by the US India Business Council – **Chandrababu Naidu**

Persons

The well-known Indian film director, dialogue writer, actor and politician who passed away on 30 May 2017 – **Dasari Narayana Rao**

The Governor of Manipur and former Rajya Sabha MP who has been appointed as the Chancellor of Jamia Millia Islamia University – **Najma Heptulla**

The former IPS officer, DGP of Punjab Police and Padma Shri recipient of 1989 who passed away on 26 May 2017 – **KPS Gill**

The new Defence Secretary who has taken over the post from Shri G. Mohun Kumar – **Sanjay Mitra**

The English actor best known for playing the secret agent James Bond in films like 'The Man with the Golden Gun', 'The Spy Who Loved Me' who passed away on 23 May 2017 – **Roger Moore**

The new Chairman of National Commission of Minorities – **Gairul Hasan Rizvi**

The Ethiopian politician and academic who has been elected as the new Director General of World Health Organisation for a 5-year term to succeed Margaret Chan with effect from 01 July 2017 – **Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus**

The Union Minister of State for Environment, Forests and Climate Change who passed away on 18 May 2017 – **Anil Madhav Dave**

The Indian mountaineer from Arunachal Pradesh who has become the first woman in the world to scale Mt. Everest twice in 5 days – **Anshu Jamsenpa**

The new Prime Minister of France who has been appointed by the President Emmanuel Macron – **Edouard Philippe**

The Indian film actor who has been appointed by WHO as its goodwill ambassador for hepatitis in South-East Asia region – **Amitabh Bachchan**

The new President (12th) of South Korea who has assumed the office on 10 May 2017 – **Moon Jae-in**

The candidate of En Marche!(political party) who has won France's 2017 Presidential elections defeating Marine Le Pen of the National Front – **Emmanuel Macron**

The first Indian woman to be appointed Chief Justice of a High Court who passed away on 05 May 2017 – **Leila Seth**

Sports

The country which has won the Sudirman Cup 2017 (Badminton) defeating China in the finals at Gold Coast, Australia – **South Korea**

The Indian cricketer who has been awarded the CEAT Cricket Rating's International Cricketer of the Year Award 2016-17 – **Ravichandran Ashwin**

The team which has won the Federation Cup 2016-17 football tournament defeating Mohan Bagan in the finals in Cuttack – **Bengaluru FC**

The legendary cricketer who has been named an Honorary Life Member of the Marylebone Cricket Club, as he became the fourth Indian to do so after Sachin Tendulkar, Rahul Dravid and Sourav Ganguly – **VVS Laxman**

The Indian pacer who has become the leading wicket-taker in Women's One-Day Internationals in a match against South Africa surpassing Australian Cathryn Fitzpatrick's record of 180 wickets – **Jhulan Goswami**

The mascot of Asian Athletics Championship to be held in Bhubaneshwar from 06 to 09 July 2017 – Olly (Olive Ridley turtle)

Defence

The place in Karnataka where a newly built Aeronautical Test Range (ATR) of the Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) was inaugurated by the Defence Minister Shri Arun Jaitley – **Chitradurga**

The bilateral naval exercise between the Navies of Singapore and India in the South China Sea from 18 to 24 May is named – **SIMBEX-17**

The annual joint Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) exercise being conducted by Indian Navy's Western Naval Command at Karwar naval station is named – **Karavali Karunya**

The missile system with a range of 15 km acquired from Israel which was test-fired from a test range in Odisha – **Spyder**

The country with which India is conducting Co-ordinated Patrol (CORPAT) from 09 – 25 May 17 under the aegis of Andaman and Nicobar Command – **Indonesia**

Places - India

The State in which the retirement age of doctors has been raised from 60 to 62 years – **Uttar Pradesh**

The place in Assam where the Union Cabinet has approved the setting up of AIIMS to be completed in about 4 years – **Kamrup**

The venue of the first meeting of CMs of 5 States on Indo-China Border chaired by the Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh (Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Jammu and Kashmir, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh) – **Gangtok**

The place in Maharashtra where India's First Integrated Bio-refinery for Renewable Fuels & Chemicals for producing ethanol from a variety of biomass was inaugurated by Shri Nitin Gadkari – **Rahu, Pune**

The north-eastern state which has been declared a disturbed area under the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act for 3 more months from 03 May 2017 – **Assam**

The State which has become the first in the country to shift to January to December format for financial year – **Madhya Pradesh**

Places – International

The African country which has been accepted as the new member (14th) of OPEC – **Equatorial Guinea**

The venue of 2017 session of Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction held from 22 to 26 May 2017 (Minister of State for Home Affairs, Shri Kiren Rijiju is leading the Indian delegation) – **Cancun, Mexico**

The country in which world's largest floating solar photovoltaic (PV) power plant with a capacity of 40 MW became operational – **China**

The country which has banned captive breeding of dolphins and killer whales in order to eventually put an end to marine circuses – **France**

The South American nation which has declared an end of its public health emergency over Zika, the mosquito-borne virus – **Brazil**

The city which has become the first in the world to get its own font (the font known by the city's name has been developed by Microsoft and is available in 23 languages for Office 365 users) – **Dubai**

Miscellaneous

The campaign launched by Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation to promote toilet use and freedom from open defecation under the Swachh Bharat Mission is named – **Darwaza Band**

The tropical cyclone which recently caused widespread impacts across Sri Lanka, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Bangladesh, and Northeast India was named – **Cyclone Mora**

The longest river bridge in India (9.15 km length) built across Lohit river connecting the villages Dhola and Sadiya which was inaugurated by the Prime Minister on 26 May 2017 is named – **Bhupen Hazarika Setu**

The new bacterium found on the International Space Station by NASA scientists and named after Indian President APJ Abdul Kalam – **Solibacillus kalamii**

The first semi-high speed train Tejas with facilities like on-board like LED TV and tea/coffee vending machine, flagged off by Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu will run between – **Mumbai CST and Karmali (Goa)**

The car manufacturing company which has decided to stop selling its cars in India from the end of this year – **General Motors**

The airport in India which has become the busiest single runway airport in the world with 837 flights per day (beating London's Gatwick airport which operates 757 flights/day) – **Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport, Mumbai**

The new base year of the all-India Index of Industrial Production (IIP) which has been revised from 2004-05 to reflect the changes in the industrial sector and to also align it with the base year of other macroeconomic indicators like the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), Wholesale Price Index (WPI) – **2011-12**

The vaccine which has been included in the Universal Immunization Programme of India by the Union Health Minister Shri JP Nadda – **Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine (PCV)**

The theme of National Technology Day observed on 11 May 2017 – **Technology for Inclusive and Sustainable Growth**

The first Hindi entertainment channel to be launched by Discovery channel is named – **Discovery JEET**

The variety of mango grown in Kurnool district of Andhra Pradesh which has been granted GI (geographical indication) tag (the mango is named after the town it is grown in) – **Banganapalle**

The portal launched by the Ministry of Communications for Information sharing on Mobile Towers and EMF Emission Compliances is named – **Tarang Samachar**

The medieval saint on whose 1000th birth anniversary a commemorative stamp was released by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi – **Sri Ramanujacharya**

Important Days of May

World Asthma Day: 02 May 2017 Designated by: Global Initiative for Asthma Theme: Asthma: Better Air, Better Breathing	World Press Freedom Day: 03 May 2017 Designated by: UN General Assembly First Observed in: 1994 Theme: Critical Minds for Critical Times: Media's role in advancing peaceful, just and inclusive societies
World Red Cross and Crescent Day: 08 May 2017 Designated by: International Committee of the Red Cross First Observed in: 1948 Theme: Everywhere for Everyone	International Day of Vesak: 10 May 2017 (Full Moon day of May every year) Designated by: United Nations General Assembly First Observed in: 2000

<p>World Migratory Bird Day: 10 May 2017 Designated by: AEW Secretariat First Observed in: 2006 Theme: Their future is our future Note: International Migratory Bird Day started in 1993 is observed in Canada, Mexico, US and Central America.</p>	<p>International Day of Families: 15 May 2017 Designated by: World Federation of Haemophilia Theme: Families, education and well-being First Observed in: 1990</p>
<p>World Telecommunication and Information Society Day: 17 May 2017 Designated by: United Nations General Assembly Theme: Big Data for Big Impact First Observed in: 2007</p>	<p>International Day for Biological Diversity: 22 May 2017 Designated by: UN General Assembly Theme: Biodiversity & Sustainable Tourism First Observed in: 2001</p>
<p>World Turtle Day: 23 May 2017 Designated by: American Tortoise Rescue First Observed in: 2000</p>	<p>International Day for UN Peacekeepers: 29 May 2017 Designated by: United Nations General Assembly First Observed in: 2003 Theme: Investing in Peace around the World</p>
<p>World No Tobacco Day: 31 May 2017 Designated by: World Health Organisation First Observed in: 1987 Theme: Tobacco - a threat to development</p>	

Swachh Survekshan - 2017

Swachh Survekshan 2017 was carried out in 434 cities across the country and the following are the highlights of the survey.

Criteria and weightages for different components of sanitation related aspects used for the Survey are:

- A: Solid Waste Management including Door-to-Door collection, Processing and Disposal, ODF status etc: 45% of total 2,000 marks i.e 900 marks
- B: Citizen feedback : 30% i.e 600 of total marks
- C: Independent observation : 25% i.e 500 marks

Quality Council of India which conducted the survey deployed 421 assessors for on the spot assessment of 17,500 locations in 434 cities and towns. Another 55 persons regularly monitored the survey process in real time.

Top 10 cities

1. Indore, 2. Bhopal, 3. Visakhapatnam, 4. Surat, 5. Mysuru, 6. Tiruchirapally, 7. New Delhi Municipal Council, 8. Navi Mumbai, 9. Vadodara and 10. Chandigarh

The last 10

434. Gonda (UP), 433. Bhusawal (Maharashtra), 432. Bagaha (Bihar), 431. Hardoi (UP), 430. Katihar (Bihar), 429. Bahraich (UP), 428. Muktsar (Punjab), 427. Abohar (Punjab), 426. Shahjahanpur (U.P.) and 425. Khurja (UP).

Other rankings at National Level

Fastest Mover Big City: Faridabad (Haryana)
Fastest Mover Medium City: Rewa (M.P.)
Fastest Mover Small City: Khargone (M.P.)
Cleanest Medium City: Tirupati (A.P.)
Cleanest Small City: Ambikapur (Chhattisgarh)

Zonewise Best cities

Category	North Zone	South Zone
Cleanest Big City	New Delhi Municipal Council	Tiruchirapally, T.N.
Fastest Moving Big City	Varanasi	Vijayawada, A.P.
Cleanest Medium City	Karnal, Haryana	Kakinada, A.P.
Fastest Moving Medium City	Jhansi, U.P.	Ongole, A.P.
Cleanest Small City	Leh, J & K	Suryapet, Telangana
Fastest Moving Small City	Ferozpur, Punjab	Tadipatri, A.P.
Category	East Zone	West Zone
Cleanest Big City	Jamshedpur, Jharkhand	Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra
Fastest Moving Big City	Bhubaneswar, Odisha	Gwalior, M.P.
Cleanest Medium City	Bhilainagar, Chhattisgarh	Ujjain, M.P.
Fastest Moving Medium City	Rourkela, Odisha	Sagar, M.P.
Cleanest Small City	Chas, Jharkhand	Navsari, Gujarat
Fastest Moving Small City	Rajnandgaon, Chhattisgarh	Pithampur, M.P.
Category	North East Zone	
Cleanest Big City	Gangtok, Sikkim (Cleanest State Capital)	
Fastest Moving Big City	Aizwal, Mizoram (Overall)	
Cleanest Medium City	Nagaon, Assam (Overall outside capital cities)	

Presidential Awards for Classical Tamil

Tholkappiyar Award 2015-16: Dr. R. Kalaikkovan

Tholkappiyar Award 2014-15: Dr. A. Krishnamurthy

Tholkappiyar Award 2013-14: Dr. S.N. Kandaswamy

Wall of Valour in Educational Institutions

Launched by: Minister of Human Resource Development Shri Prakash Javadekar and Minister of State for Defence Dr. Subhash Bhamre jointly

Purpose: To help create a spirit of respect for our real heroes.

Details: A wall of 15 x 20 to be designated in 1,000 educational institutions across the country. Portraits of Param Vir Chakra (PVC) decorated soldiers will be displayed on the walls to instil sense of nationalism among the students. This is part of a nationwide 'Vidya Veerta Abhiyan', initiated by writer and former Rajya Sabha member Shri Tarun Vijay.

South Asia Satellite (GSAT-9)

Launch date: **05 May 2017**

Launch Vehicle: Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (**GSLV-F09**)

Launched from: **Sriharikota**

The 2230 kg South Asia Satellite (GSAT-9) is a geosynchronous communications and meteorology satellite by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) for the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) region.

Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Maldives and Sri Lanka are the users of the multi-dimensional facilities provided by the satellite.

Books in News

Confessions of a Dying Mind: The Blind Faith of Atheism - **Haulianlal Guite**

Abbreviations in News

SAMPADA: Scheme for Agro-Marine Processing and Development of Agro-Processing Clusters

SIMBEX: Singapore-India Maritime Bilateral Exercises

Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards 2016

Akademi Ratna (Akademi Fellow)

Person	Field
Shri Arvind Parikh	Sitar
Smt. R. Vedavalli	Carnatic Vocal
Shri Ram Gopal Bajaj	Theatre
Shri Sunil Kothari	Dance Scholar

Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards in the field of Music

Person	Field
Shri Prabhakar Karekar and Smt Padma Talwalkar	Hindustani Vocal
Shri Arvind Mulgaonkar	Tabla
Shri Kala Ramnath	Violin
Smt Neela Ramgopal and Smt K Omanakutty	Carnatic Vocal
Shri J. Vaidyanathan	Mridangam
Shri Mysore M Manjunath	Violin
Shri Ningthoujam Shyamchand Singh	Nata Sankirtana
Smt Ratnamala Prakash and Hussain brothers (Ahmad Hussain and Mohd Hussain)	Sugam Sangeet

Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards in the field of Dance

Person	Field
Smt Geeta Chandran	Bharat Natyam

Shri Jitendra Maharaj	Kathak
Shri Kalamandalam Ramachandran Unnithan	Kathakali
Shri Maisnam Kaminikumar Singh	Manipuri
Shri AB Bala Kondala Rao	Kuchipudi
Shri Ratikanta Mohapatra	Odissi
Shri Haricharan Bhuyan Borbayan	Sattriya
Shri Gopal Prasad Dubey	Chhau
Smt Anita Ratnam	Contemporary

Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards in the field of **Theatre**

Person	Field
Shri Kusum Kumar	Playwriting
Shri Satyabrata Rout, Shri Bipin Kumar and Shri Rajkamal Nayak	Direction
Shri Gireesan V, Shri Oinam Biramangol Singh and Shri Mohan Joshi	Acting
Smt Anjana Puri	Music for theatre
Shri K Govind Bhat	Yakshagana

Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards in the field of **Traditional/Folk/Tribal Music/Dance/Theatre**

Person	Field
Smt Annabattula Lakshmi Mangatayaru and Smt Leela Sai	Kalavantulu (A.P.)
Shri Yogesh Gadhavi	Folk music (Gujarat)
Shri Vidyanand Saraik	Folk music (Himachal Pradesh)
Shri Somnath D. Chari	Traditional Music (Goa)
Shri Laxmidhar Raut	Pala (Odisha)
Shri Charanji Lal	Mand (Rajasthan)
Shri Gulzar Ahmad Ganai	Chakri (Jammu & Kashmir)
Shri Braj Kishore Dubey	Folk Music (Bihar)
Shri Prabhitangsu Das and Shri Dattatreya Aralikatte	Puppetry

Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards - **Overall Contribution/Scholarship to Performing Arts**

Person	Field
Shri Pappu Venugopal Rao	Scholarship
Shri Avinash Pasricha	Overall Contribution

Most Crowded Cities

According to UN Habitat the following are the most crowded cities in the world.

City	People/SqKm
Dhaka, Bangladesh	44,500
Mumbai, India	31,700
Medellin, Columbia	19,700
Manila, Philippines	14,800
Casablanca, Morocco	14,200
Lagos, Nigeria	13,300
Kota, India	12,100

Public Affairs Index

Public Affairs Index (PAI) is a data driven platform to rank the 30 States of India from the lens of governance. While it is a complex task to rank the Indian states which are economically, culturally and socially so diverse, Public Affairs Centre (PAC) has developed PAI as a unique statistical tool to evaluate the performance of governance in the States. PAI is largely based on secondary data and has been extracted from Union Government Ministries and Departments.

PAI 2016 ranked the states of India on the basis of 10 broad themes, spread across 25 focus subjects and focusing on 68 individual indicators. The report also incorporates a study on Sentiment Analysis.

While the new PAI 2017 report is similar to PAI 2016, it has been upgraded and made more comprehensive. PAI 2017 has 10 themes, 26 focus subjects and 82 indicators. It also includes a new study on Inequality, which focuses on the extent of the gap existing between the various strata of society from an economic, social and gender perspective.

The following are the top 5 ranked States in the PAI 2017

State	Score
Kerala	0.551
Tamil Nadu	0.543
Gujarat	0.536
Himachal Pradesh	0.535
Karnataka	0.531

The following are the top ranked in each theme of the PAI 2017

Theme	State
Essential Infrastructure	Goa
Support to Human Development	Kerala
Social Protection	Jammu and Kashmir
Women and Children	Nagaland
Crime, Law and Order	Nagaland
Delivery of Justice	Tripura
Environment	Arunachal Pradesh
Transparency and Accountability	Haryana
Fiscal Management	Telangana
Economic Freedom	Gujarat
Inequality	Kerala

Indian Premier League 2017

Winners: **Mumbai Indians**

Runner-up: **Rising Pune Supergiant**

Orange Cap for the leading run-scorer: **David Warner**

Purple Cap for the leading wicket-taker: **Bhuvneshwar Kumar**

Most Valuable Player: **Ben Stokes**

Emerging Player of the Tournament: **Basil Thampi**

Fair Play Award: **Gujarat Lions**

Stylish Player of the Season: **Gautam Gambhir**

IRCTC Survey on Cleanliness of Stations

The Minister of Railways, Shri Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu released Third Party Audit Report on Station Cleanliness and Inaugurated Swachh Rail Portal. First survey conducted by IRCTC in 2016 by conducting interviews of passengers at the stations on various parameters of cleanliness and rating them on these basis. The second survey has been conducted by Quality Council of India (QCI) who with the help of their partners have conducted the survey of 407 major railway stations (75 A1 category and 332 A category stations) of Indian Railways.

The parameters adopted for conducting the survey are: Evaluation of Process of cleanliness in Parking, main entry area, main platform, waiting room,(33.33%) direct observation by QCI assessors of cleanliness in these areas (33.33%) and passenger feedback(33.33%). A 24x7 control room was set up and images were geo-tagged to monitor progress.

The following are the first 3 rankings in each category as per the survey:

Rank	A1 Category Station (Out of 75)	A Category Station (Out of 332)	Railway Zone
1.	Vishakhapatnam, East Coast Railway	Beas, Northern Railway	South East Central Railway
2.	Secunderabad, South Central Railway	Khammam, South-Central Railway	East Coast Railway
3.	Jammu Tawi, Northern Railway	Ahmednagar, Central Railway	Central Railway

Year of Polar Prediction

The Year of Polar Prediction is to be observed from mid-2017 to mid-2019 in order to cover an entire year in both the Arctic and Antarctic. The initiative involves the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), Germany's Alfred Wegener Institute (AWI) and a wide array of partners around the globe.

Quoting of Aadhaar for filing of return of income

Section 139AA of the Income-tax Act, 1961, as inserted by the Finance Act, 2017 provides for mandatory quoting of Aadhaar / Enrolment ID of Aadhaar application form for filing of return of income and for making an application for allotment of Permanent Account Number with effect from 1st July, 2017. Section 139AA (3) of the Act empowers the Central Government to notify the person(s) or State(s) to which the requirement of quoting of Aadhaar / Enrolment ID shall not apply.

The Central Government vide notification dated 11th May, 2017 has notified that the requirement of quoting of Aadhaar / Enrolment ID shall not apply to the following individuals if they do not possess the Aadhaar / Enrolment ID:

- An individual who is residing in the state of Assam, Jammu and Kashmir and Meghalaya.
- An individual who is a non-resident as per the Income-tax Act, 1961.
- An individual of the age of eighty years or more at any time during the previous year.
- An individual who is not a citizen of India.

SAMADHAN doctrine for Left Wing Extremism

The Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh unveiled a new doctrine to deal with Left Wing Extremism which is encompassed in the word SAMADHAN

S - Smart Leadership

A - Aggressive Strategy

M - Motivation and Training

A - Actionable Intelligence

D - Dashboard Based KPIs (Key Performance Indicators) and KRAs (Key Result Areas)

H - Harnessing Technology

A - Action plan for each Theatre

N - No access to Financing

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