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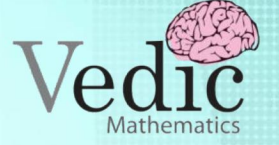
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## Today in History on 12 MAY

### ➤ 1459: Jodhpur founded by Rao Jodha.

Rao Jodha founded the modern city of Jodhpur on 12 May 1459. It was declared the second "metropolis" of Rajasthan after its population crossed 2.6 million. It was also the capital of the historic princely state of Marwar of the same name. Jodhpur is also a famous tourist destination with its many magnificent palaces, forts and temples in the middle of the Thar Desert.



### ➤ 1689: England and Holland form the League of Augsburg.

In 1689, England and Holland formed the League of Augsburg. The league was created to oppose the expansionist policies of Louis XIV of France. In 1686, Emperor Leopold I, the kings of Sweden and Spain, and the electors of Bavaria, Saxony, and the Palatinate formed an alliance against the expansionist plans of Louis XIV. In 1689, England and Holland also joined the alliance, making it an important political force.



### ➤ 1915: Revolutionary Rashbihari Bose left India.

In 1915, revolutionary Rashbihari Bose left India and went to Japan, where he founded the Indian Independence League to garner support for the independence movement. He remained in Japan until 1945, not only playing an important role in conducting many revolutionary activities in India, but he also remained engaged in the effort to get independence for India throughout his life while living abroad.





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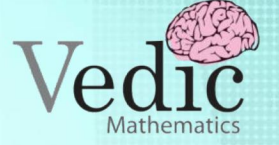
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#### ➤ 1947: The cartoon Rabbit Transit is first shown.

Rabbit Transit is a 1947 Looney Tunes cartoon directed by Friz Freleng. This short was released in May, 1947 and features Bugs Bunny and Cecil Turtle. The title is a play on "Rapid Transit". However, Cecil unveils an unexpected advantage by revealing his rocket-propelled shell, disrupting Bugs' initial confidence.



#### ➤ 1922: 20-ton meteorite falls near Virginia in the United States

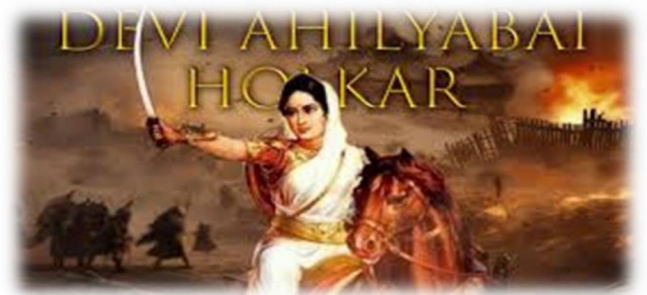
In 1922, a 20-ton meteorite fell near Virginia in the United States. This event took place on May 12. Some people saw a giant fireball in the sky before the meteorite fell, which was visible for 20 seconds. This meteorite weighed 20 tons, making it a huge event, much larger than any normal meteorite.



#### Important NEWS on 12 MAY

#### ➤ Maharashtra government announces biopic on Ahilyabai Holkar on 300th birth anniversary

As a tribute to one of India's most revered rulers, the Maharashtra government has announced a biopic on the life of Ahilyabai Holkar. The announcement comes on the occasion of her 300th birth anniversary (2025). The film will be produced in several regional languages, including Marathi, and will be screened on Doordarshan and OTT platforms. It aims to bring the legacy of this great queen to the modern generation and immortalise her contributions.





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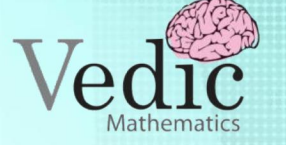
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### ➤ 'Operation Abhyas': Civil Defence Mock Drill conducted in Bengaluru amid rising tensions

Under a nationwide directive from the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), a comprehensive civil defence mock drill called 'Operation Abhyas' was conducted in Bengaluru with the aim of enhancing public awareness about emergencies and strengthening disaster preparedness. The exercise was conducted by the Karnataka State Fire and Emergency Services Department and involved live practice of rescue and first aid operations in situations such as fire, rescuing people trapped under debris and evacuation from high-rise buildings.



### ➤ First geothermal production well drilled in Arunachal Pradesh

In a historic step towards clean and renewable energy in Northeast India, the Centre for Earth Sciences and Himalayan Studies (CESHS) has successfully drilled the first geothermal production well at Dirang in West Kameng district of Arunachal

Pradesh. This achievement is a major breakthrough in harnessing the potential of geothermal energy in high altitude areas and paves the way for promoting eco-friendly heating and agro-processing technologies in the region.



### ➤ Kartarpur Corridor Closed After Indian Strikes Under 'Operation Sindoor'

In the wake of a retaliatory military operation named 'Operation Sindoor', India temporarily shut down the Kartarpur Corridor on May, 2025. The corridor, which enables visa-free access for Indian pilgrims to visit the Darbar Sahib Gurdwara in Pakistan, was suspended for the day as security measures were heightened following Indian missile strikes on terror camps across Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK).





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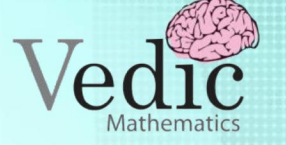
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#### ➤ Ajoy Chawla to Succeed C K Venkataraman as Titan's MD from January 2026

In a major leadership transition, Titan Company Ltd, a Tata Group enterprise, has announced the appointment of Ajoy Chawla as its next Managing Director. Chawla, currently leading Titan's highly successful jewellery division, will assume the role on January 1, 2026, succeeding C K Venkataraman, who retires at the end of December 2025.



#### ➤ FIFA Announces Host Cities for 2027 Women's World Cup in Brazil

FIFA has officially announced the eight cities in Brazil that will host matches during the 2027 FIFA

Women's World Cup. The tournament, set to take place from June 24 to July 25, 2027, will feature 32 teams competing across stadiums that previously hosted the 2014 Men's World Cup, ensuring world-class infrastructure and fan experience.



#### ➤ Tamil Nadu government opens help desk for the Tamils stranded in Jammu and Kashmir

In view of the rising tensions and hostilities in Jammu and Kashmir after Operation Sindoor was launched, the Tamil Nadu government has opened a help desk in the Tamil Nadu House in New Delhi to offer the Tamils information, help, and rescue. This is in line with the instructions of Chief Minister M.K. Stalin. Meanwhile, 52 Tamil Nadu students, studying at educational institutions in Jammu and Kashmir, and four others on a trip to the region have requested the government for help in returning home.





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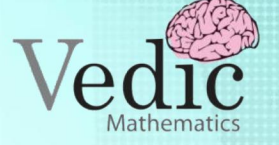
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### Current affairs MCQS on 12 MAY

**Q.1. What is the projected GDP growth rate for India in 2025 according to Moody's recently?**

- (a) 5.8%
- (b) 6.0%
- (c) 6.1%
- (d) 6.3%

**Answer: (d) 6.3%**

Moody's Ratings has lowered India's GDP growth forecast for 2025 to 6.3% due to an expected global economic slowdown caused by US policy uncertainties and trade sanctions. Geopolitical tensions between India and Pakistan pose further downside risks. While India's 2026 growth forecast remains at 6.5%, these factors are expected to dampen global trade and investment.

**Q.2. Where did the 11th Maritime Trade Maritime Logistics Middle East Summit 2025 start recently?**

- (a) Abu Dhabi
- (b) Dubai
- (c) Doha
- (d) Riyadh

**Answer: (b) Dubai**

The 11th Seatrade Maritime Logistics Middle East (SMLME) Conference kicked off at the Dubai World Trade Centre, bringing together top maritime leaders and policy makers from across the globe. The event was inaugurated by senior UAE officials and saw several major announcements, including the opening of a new office of the Indian Register of

Shipping (IRS) in Dammam, Saudi Arabia, marking 25 years in the UAE and 50 years globally.

**Q.3. Where did INS Kiltan reach recently to participate in the International Maritime Defence Exhibition 2025?**

- (a) Malaysia
- (b) Indonesia
- (c) Singapore
- (d) Thailand

**Answer: (c) Singapore**

Indian Naval Ship INS Kiltan arrived in Singapore to participate in IMDEX Asia 2025 at Changi Exhibition Centre. The visit is part of the Indian Navy's operational deployment and underlines the strong maritime partnership between India and Singapore.

**Q.4. Which state recently launched 'Jyoti Yojana' to educate migrant children?**

- (a) Tamil Nadu
- (b) Kerala
- (c) Karnataka
- (d) Andhra Pradesh

**Answer: (b) Kerala**

The Kerala government has launched the 'Jyothi' scheme, a comprehensive campaign aimed at including migrant children in the state's education system and Anganwadis. The initiative focuses on inclusion in education, health and well-being. The scheme seeks to address the neglect of children of migrant workers, who are often left out of the formal education system due to frequent relocations and lack of necessary documentation.

**Q.5. Which cryptocurrency was recently most valuable in 2025 based on market capitalization?**

- (a) Ethereum
- (b) Bitcoin
- (c) Tether
- (d) Ripple

**Answer: (b) Bitcoin**

Bitcoin was the most valuable cryptocurrency in 2025 based on recent market capitalization. Bitcoin





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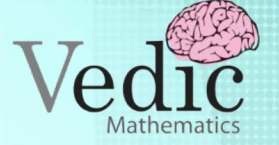
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is considered "digital gold" and its total supply is limited to only 21 million coins. Its growth is being fueled by factors such as institutional investment, ETF acceptance, and innovation, Forbes reports. After Bitcoin, the second and third positions are held by Ethereum and Tether, with current market capitalizations of \$220.63 billion and \$149.41 billion, respectively.

**Q.6. Recently, which country's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi arrived in New Delhi on a two-day visit?**

- (a) Iraq
- (b) Iran
- (c) Syria
- (d) Turkey

**Answer: (b) Iran**

Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi will arrive in New Delhi on a two-day visit to India. Dr. Araghchi will co-chair the 20th Joint Commission meeting between India and Iran. This is Dr. Araghchi's first visit to India after taking over as Iran's Foreign Minister in August last year. The Ministry of External Affairs has said that the Joint Commission meeting is taking place on the 75th anniversary of the signing of the India-Iran Friendship Treaty. The meeting is likely to discuss issues of mutual interests between the two countries and deepening bilateral relations.

**Q.7. Recently, which country strengthened Buddhist ties with India through a new MoU?**

- (a) Thailand
- (b) Vietnam
- (c) Cambodia
- (d) Laos

**Answer: (b) Vietnam**

In a significant diplomatic and spiritual initiative, India and Vietnam have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to further deepen cooperation based on the universal teachings of Buddha - compassion, wisdom and peace. The agreement was signed during an exhibition of sacred relics of Buddha organised on the occasion of the

United Nations 'Vaisakh Day 2025' in Vietnam, showcasing the shared cultural and spiritual heritage of the two countries.

**Q.8. Who was recently elected as the new Pope?**

- (a) Jorge Mario Bergoglio
- (b) Joseph Ratzinger
- (c) Robert Probst
- (d) John Paul II

**Answer: (c) Robert Probst**

American-born priest Robert Francis Prevost has been elected the new Pope of the Roman Catholic Church. 69-year-old Prevost was born in Chicago and has been a member of the Augustinian Order. Now he will be known as Pope Leo XIV. Robert Francis Prevost was serving as the head of the Dicastery for Bishops and the President of the Pontifical Commission for Latin America since the year 2023. Pope Francis, who appointed him to these posts, made him a cardinal. After the death of Pope Francis, Prevost has become the second Pope from America.

**Q.9. Who was recently named the best player of the year 2025 by the All India Football Federation?**

- (a) Sunil Chhetri and Bala Devi
- (b) Gurpreet Singh and Manisha Kalyan
- (c) Subhashish Bose and Soumya Guguloth
- (d) Sandesh Jhingan and Ashalata Devi

**Answer: (c) Subhashish Bose and Soumya Guguloth**

Subhasish Bose was named the best male player of the year at the All India Football Federation (AIFF) Awards 2025, while Soumya Guguloth received the best female player of the year award for the 2024-25 season in Bhubaneswar. Reacting to his win, Subhasish acknowledged the challenges of this season.

**Q.10. Where was the sixth edition of Marshal of the Air Force Arjan Singh Memorial Hockey Tournament 2025 held recently?**

- (a) New Delhi





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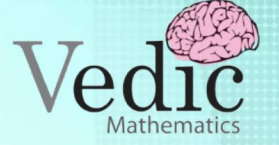
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- (b) Mumbai  
(c) Chandigarh  
(d) Lucknow

**Answer: (c) Chandigarh**

The Indian Air Force organised the sixth edition of the Marshal of the Air Force Arjan Singh Memorial Hockey Tournament at the Raghbir Singh Bhola Hockey Stadium in Chandigarh. Twelve teams, including Air Force hockey teams and teams from two other countries, participated in the tournament. The tournament is held in memory of Marshal of the Air Force Arjan Singh DFC (Distinguished Flying Cross), who was a prominent personality in the history of the Indian Air Force. Arjan Singh's unmatched passion for hockey and inspirational leadership in both military and sports fields have been inspiring.

**Q.11. Which state government recently notified the Hesaraghatta Grassland Conservation Reserve?**

- (a) Tamil Nadu  
(b) Andhra Pradesh  
(c) Karnataka  
(d) Telangana

**Answer: (c) Karnataka**

The Government of Karnataka has notified the Hesaraghatta Grasslands Conservation Reserve under Section 36A of the Wildlife Protection Act (WPA) 1972. Conservation reserves are considered as protected areas under the WPA, 1972. These can be declared by state governments and the central government to conserve landscapes, marine landscapes, flora and fauna.

**Q.12. Recently Adani Power has signed an agreement with which country to set up a 5000 MW hydropower plant?**

- (a) Nepal  
(b) Bhutan  
(c) Myanmar  
(d) Bangladesh

**Answer: (b) Bhutan**

The Government of Bhutan and the Adani Group have signed a landmark Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for joint development of 5000 MW hydropower and pumped storage projects aimed at harnessing the country's hydropower potential and strengthening regional energy security. The partnership is in line with Bhutan's 2040 Renewable Energy Roadmap and further strengthens India-Bhutan energy cooperation.

**Q.13. Recently, the World Bank announced a \$1 billion aid package for which country?**

- (a) Bangladesh  
(b) Nepal  
(c) Sri Lanka  
(d) Maldives

**Answer: (c) Sri Lanka**

The World Bank has announced a \$1 billion aid package to boost employment and promote private sector growth in Sri Lanka over the next three years. The initiative targets energy, agriculture, tourism and regional development - sectors seen as crucial to long-term economic recovery. The announcement was made following a meeting between Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Dissanayake and World Bank President Ajay Banga in Colombo. It was the first visit by a World Bank president to Sri Lanka in 20 years.

**Q.14. Where was India's first geothermal production well dug recently?**

- (a) Himachal Pradesh  
(b) Uttarakhand  
(c) Arunachal Pradesh  
(d) Sikkim

**Answer: (c) Arunachal Pradesh**

In a significant step towards sustainable and renewable energy in India's Northeast region, the Centre for Earth Sciences and Himalayan Studies (CESHS) has successfully drilled the first geothermal production well at Dirang in Arunachal Pradesh's West Kameng district. This landmark development marks a breakthrough in harnessing high-altitude





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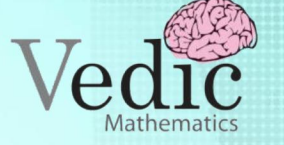
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geothermal potential and promises to bring eco-friendly heating and agro-processing technologies to the region.

**Q.15. Who will be awarded the Humanitarian Award in the 72nd Miss World competition?**

- (a) Sonu Sood
- (b) Priyanka Chopra
- (c) Akshay Kumar
- (d) Salman Khan

**Answer: (a) Sonu Sood**

Bollywood actor and philanthropist Sonu Sood will be honoured with the prestigious Humanitarian Award at the 72nd Miss World Festival for his remarkable philanthropic efforts during the COVID-19 pandemic. The awards ceremony will take place on May 31, 2025 at the Hitex Arena in Hyderabad, Telangana and will celebrate his unwavering dedication towards social welfare through the Sood Charity Foundation.

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