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## Today in History on 17 MAY

### ➤ 1498: Vasco da Gama anchored for the first time near Calicut.

In 1498, Vasco da Gama anchored for the first time near Calicut. On May, 1498, Vasco da Gama's fleet arrived near Calicut (now Kozhikode in the state of Kerala), located on the Malabar coast (present-day Kerala state of India). The king of Calicut, Zamorin, gave Vasco da Gama a warm welcome. Zamorin gave Vasco da Gama the title of "Dom" and agreed to enter into a trade treaty with him.



### ➤ 1540: Sher Shah defeats Humayun at Hardoi.

In 1540, Sher Shah defeats Humayun, the battle took place at Kannauj (Bilgram), which is in Uttar Pradesh. After this defeat, Humayun was exiled from India and Sher Shah established his rule over North India. Humayun's defeat weakened the Mughal Empire and temporarily ended Mughal rule in India.

Sher Shah captured Delhi and established the Sur Empire in North India.



### ➤ 1975 - Japanese woman Mrs. Junko Tabei became the first woman to climb Mount Everest.

On May 1975, Japanese woman Junko Tabei became the first woman to climb the peak of Mount Everest. She, along with her team, overcame many challenges and with strong willpower, achieved the incredible feat of reaching the summit of Mount Everest. Her achievement made her an inspiration, which inspires women to pursue mountaineering.





#### ➤ 1987 - Sunil Gavaskar retires from Test cricket.

In 1987, Indian cricketer Sunil Gavaskar retired from Test cricket. This retirement was his farewell series, which was against Pakistan. In which Gavaskar scored 96 runs. Gavaskar used his cricket skills even after retirement and worked as a cricket commentator and columnist. He was inducted into the International Cricket Council's Hall of Fame in 2009.



#### ➤ 2000 - The Federalists, the upper house of the Russian parliament, ratified the Nuclear Test Ban Treaty.

In 2000, the Federalists, the upper house of the Russian parliament, ratified the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT). This means that the house of the Russian parliament has accepted the treaty as legal and it has become binding on Russia. The treaty bans nuclear weapon tests and other nuclear explosions worldwide.



#### Important NEWS on 17 MAY

#### ➤ Maharashtra launches policy to promote use of artificial sand

Taking a significant step towards environmental sustainability and controlled construction activities, the Maharashtra government has approved a new policy to promote the use of artificial sand (m-sand). In a cabinet meeting held in May 2025, it was decided that the use of m-sand will be mandatory in government and semi-government construction projects. It aims to prevent overexploitation of river sand and promote sustainable construction practices.







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### ➤ Andhra Pradesh government announces property tax exemption for defence personnel living in villages

In a significant move in honour of India's armed forces, Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan announced full property tax exemption for houses owned by active defence personnel located in gram panchayat areas across the state. The move is an extension of the earlier benefit limited only to retired servicemen or those posted in border areas, and now applies to all active personnel, regardless of their current posting.



### ➤ US-China agree to cut tariffs to ease trade war tensions

In a significant development towards global economic stability, the United States and China have agreed to cut reciprocal tariffs by 115% under a 90-day ceasefire in their long-running trade war. The deal, finalised after high-level talks between US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessant and Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng in Geneva, is a major step towards

easing tensions between the world's two largest economies.



### ➤ Former Defence Secretary Ajay Kumar takes charge at UPSC

Retired 1985 batch IAS officer of Kerala cadre and former Defence Secretary Ajay Kumar has been appointed as the Chairman of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC). With vast experience in defence reforms and digital governance, his appointment was approved by President Draupadi Murmu and will fill the vacancy created after the completion of Preeti Sudan's term on April, 2025.







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### ➤ Cabinet approves Rs 3,706 crore HCL-Foxconn chip plant at Jewar

In a significant move towards self-reliance in semiconductor manufacturing, the central government has approved ₹3,706 crore to a joint venture (JV) of HCL and Foxconn to set up a semiconductor assembly and packaging plant at Jewar in Uttar Pradesh. This is the sixth project under India's ₹76,000 crore Semiconductor Mission and will be the first such plant in Uttar Pradesh. It is expected to start production in 2027 and will create around 2,000 jobs and contribute to meeting 40% of India's chip demand.



### ➤ India wins 7 medals at Archery World Cup 2025

India performed brilliantly at the Archery World Cup Stage 2 held in Shanghai, winning a total of 7 medals, including 2 gold, 1 silver and 4 bronze. Star archer Deepika Kumari returned to the international stage to win her 18th World Cup medal, while young talent Parth Salunkhe won his first bronze medal at the

senior level, showcasing India's growing strength and depth.



### ➤ T.N. government extends V-C search panel is term for four universities

The Tamil Nadu government, through a series of notifications dated May, 2025, has extended the time limit for the search committees to choose Vice-Chancellors to four State universities to August 13, 2025. It has also made amendments to the original notifications for the search committees, omitting the provisions where the committees submit their recommendations to the Governor-Chancellor. Instead, the search committees for Anna University, Madurai Kamaraj University, Annamalai University, and Tamil Nadu Teachers' Education University will submit their recommendations directly to the government.







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### Current affairs MCQS on 17 MAY

**Q.1. Recently the Centralized Information Management System (CIMS) portal was launched by which organisation?**

- (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
- (b) NITI Aayog
- (c) State Bank of India (SBI)
- (d) Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology

**Answer:(a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has made it mandatory for regulated entities (RE) to report details of their digital lending apps (DLAs) through the Centralised Information Management System (CIMS) portal. The Centralised Information Management System (CIMS) is a modern data management platform introduced by RBI to handle large-scale data processing, analysis and sharing.

**Q.2. Recently which state's road transport corporation received three Fortuna Global Excellence Awards?**

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

**Answer:(a) Karnataka**

The Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) has won three Fortuna Global Excellence Awards - 2025 (India edition) for its innovative initiatives and leadership in public transport. The awards were presented under the categories of

Business Leader of the Year, Visionary Leadership of the Year (Government Service) and Brand Strategy Leader of the Year.

**Q.3. Who was Subanna Ayyappan, who passed away recently?**

- (a) Politician
- (b) Actor
- (c) Scientist
- (d) Writer

**Answer:(c) Scientist**

Padma Shri awardee and eminent agriculture and fisheries scientist Dr. Subbanna passed away. Born on 10 December 1955 in Yalandur in Chamarajanagar district, Dr. Ayyappan had an illustrious academic journey. He completed his graduation and post-graduation in fisheries from Mangaluru, followed by PhD from University of Agricultural Sciences, Bengaluru. He held several top positions at the national level and played a key role in promoting India's Blue Revolution, which gave a huge boost to aquaculture development. In 2022, the government recognised his contributions by honouring him with Padma Shri.

**Q.4. Recently the UK has increased the residence period required for permanent residence from 5 years to how many years?**

- (a) 8 years
- (b) 9 years
- (c) 10 years
- (d) 12 years

**Answer:(c) 10 years**

Prime Minister Keir Starmer unveiled the UK immigration policy which increases the waiting period for permanent residency from 5 years to 10 years. This will have a huge impact on Indian nationals, who are the largest group of immigrants to the UK. Starmer also promised that additional measures will be taken to curb immigration to the UK if necessary.







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**Q.5. Which country recently launched a \$1.4 billion national food security scheme?**

- (a) Israel
- (b) Japan
- (c) Brazil
- (d) South Africa

**Answer:(a) Israel**

Faced with growing threats to food supplies, Israel has unveiled its National Food Security Plan 2050, a comprehensive strategy to prepare the country for climate shocks, labor shortages, and growing dependence on food imports. The plan, presented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security in collaboration with other government bodies, will require an estimated 2.5-5 billion NIS (US\$710 million-US\$1.4 billion) in investment.

**Q.6. Recently the President of which country signed an executive order to reduce drug prices?**

- (a) Canada
- (b) United Kingdom
- (c) Australia
- (d) United States

**Answer:(d) United States**

US President Donald Trump has recently signed an executive order to reduce the price of medicines in America. The Trump administration has claimed that after this the price of medicines in America will be reduced by 30 to 80 percent. In fact, America will now force all pharmaceutical companies to sell medicines in America at the same minimum prices at which they sell medicines to other developed countries.

**Q.7. Who recently became the first woman leader of the opposition in Australia?**

- (a) Penny Wong
- (b) Julia Gillard
- (c) Susan Ley
- (d) Tanya Plibersek

**Answer:(c) Susan Ley**

In Australia, Susan Ley has been appointed leader of the Liberal Party, becoming the first woman to

lead the federal party in its 80-year history. She defeated her rival Angus Taylor in a party room ballot and took over as Australia's first female opposition leader. The Liberal-National Coalition, which is currently Australia's main opposition party, suffered a historic defeat in the elections.

**Q.8. Where did the 78th Cannes Film Festival start recently?**

- (a) Italy
- (b) France
- (c) Spain
- (d) Germany

**Answer:(b) France**

The Indian Pavilion was inaugurated at the 78th Cannes Film Festival held in France. The 78th edition of the prestigious Festival de Cannes began with a soulful mix of cinematic tributes, political reflections and artistic celebration. From emotional tributes to departed artists to powerful calls for democracy and freedom, the opening ceremony set the tone for twelve days of storytelling, activism and global cultural exchange at the world's most glamorous film stage.

**Q.9. Where was the world's longest banana fruit found recently?**

- (a) Lakshadweep
- (b) Goa
- (c) Andaman and Nicobar
- (d) Kerala

**Answer:(c) Andaman and Nicobar**

A wild banana species in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands has been found to have a fruit of about 4.2 metres, the longest fruit found in bananas worldwide. Details of the discovery were published in Botany Letters, an international peer-reviewed science journal, earlier this year. The fruit was found in Musa inandamanensis, an endemic species of wild banana, which was first observed in 2012 in a remote tropical forest near the Krishna Nala Reserved Forest in the Andaman and Nicobar







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Islands and was mentioned in a science journal in 2014.

**Q.10. Recently, India has launched its first 3-nanometer (3nm) chip design centre in which cities?**

- (a) Noida and Bengaluru
- (b) Indore and Chennai
- (c) Hyderabad and Lucknow
- (d) New Delhi and Bhopal

**Answer:(a) Noida and Bengaluru**

India has launched its first 3-nanometer (3nm) chip design centres in Noida and Bengaluru, marking a major step in advanced semiconductor development. These centres have been set up by Renesas Electronics India Pvt Ltd, making India one of the few countries working on next-generation chip design. The initiative is part of a broader government plan to create a complete semiconductor ecosystem, including design, manufacturing, ATMP (assembly, testing, marking and packaging) and supply chain support.

**Q.11. Recently, which state approved a ₹47 crore scheme to address human-elephant conflict?**

- (a) Karnataka
- (b) Madhya Pradesh
- (c) Assam
- (d) Uttar Pradesh

**Answer:(b) Madhya Pradesh**

A big step has been taken towards reducing human-elephant conflict in Madhya Pradesh. In the cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav, a special scheme of more than Rs 47 crore 11 lakh has been approved for the management of wild elephants. The aim of this scheme is to ensure the safety of elephants along with the safety of human life.

**Q.12. Recently, which date has been declared by the Government of India to celebrate Ayurveda Day?**

- (a) 22 September
- (b) 23 September
- (c) 24 September

(d) 25 September

**Answer:(b) 23 September**

In a significant move to enhance the continuity and global recognition of traditional Indian medicine, the Government of India has officially designated September 23 as Ayurveda Day, replacing the Hindu festival previously celebrated on Dhanteras, which has a different date. This change is expected to simplify the process of celebrating Ayurveda Day and associate Ayurveda Day with a globally relevant and symbolically rich date - the autumn equinox.

**Q.13. Who has recently written the book titled Win the Battle of Your Mind: Scroll Less, Read More?**

- (a) Namita Gokhale
- (b) Rita Ramamurthy Gupta
- (c) Arun Singhal
- (d) Sanjeev Chopra

**Answer:(b) Rita Ramamurthy Gupta**

A powerful new book, Win the Battle of Your Mind: Scroll Less, Read More, written by acclaimed author and Asia's first reading coach, Rita Ramamurthy Gupta, was launched by eminent educationist and clinician Dr Niranjana Hiranandani at Crossword Krishna Curve.

**Q.14. How many medals did India win in the recent Archery World Cup 2025 Stage 2?**

- (a) Seven
- (b) Five
- (c) Six
- (d) Eight

**Answer:(a) Seven**

India performed brilliantly at the Archery World Cup Stage 2 held in Shanghai, winning a total of 7 medals including 2 gold, 1 silver and 4 bronze. Star archer Deepika Kumari returned to the international stage and won her 18th World Cup medal, while young talent Parth Salunkhe won his first bronze medal at the senior level, showcasing India's growing strength and depth.





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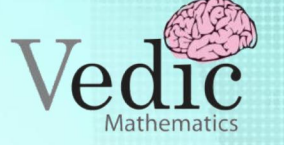
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**Q.15. Recently the United States signed a \$142 billion defense deal with which country?**

- (a) Israel
- (b) India
- (c) Saudi Arabia
- (d) United Kingdom

**Answer: (c) Saudi Arabia**

In a historic move to strengthen bilateral ties, the United States and Saudi Arabia have signed a massive \$142 billion arms deal during President Donald Trump's visit to Riyadh. The White House described the deal as the largest defence sales agreement in history, reflecting growing military and strategic cooperation between the two countries. The deal includes advanced weapon systems, air-to-air missiles, support services and commercial exports such as gas turbines.

