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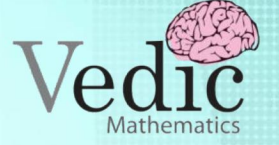
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Today in History on 21 MAY

- **1819: The first bicycle was seen in New York City, USA, called a "Swift Walker".**

the first bicycle, known as a "swift walker" or velocipede, was seen in New York City in 1819. These early bicycles were quite different from modern ones, with a wooden frame and two wheels, and were propelled by the rider pushing off the ground.



- **1840: New Zealand declared a colony of the British Empire.**

In 1840, New Zealand was officially declared a colony of the British Empire. On 21 May 1840, William Hobson declared New Zealand to be under British jurisdiction and was appointed Lieutenant Governor. It was part of the British Empire's New South Wales colony, and from 16 June 1840 the laws of New South Wales applied to New Zealand. This was an important step in the British Empire's

colonisation, leading to an increase in the number of British settlers in New Zealand.



- **1851: Slavery ends in Colombia.**

In 1851, slavery ends in Colombia. The Colombian Congress passed a law on May 21, 1851, stating that slaves would be free as of January 1, 1852, and their owners would be compensated with bonds. Slavery in Colombia dated from the pre-Spanish era and continued until its definitive abolition in 1851. However, the abolition of slavery did not occur immediately with Colombia's independence.



- **1881: The American Red Cross is founded.**





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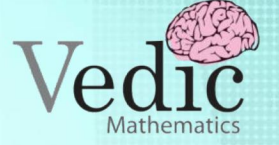
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Since our founding by Clara Barton on May 21, 1881, the American Red Cross has been dedicated to serving people in need. She founded the organization after learning about the International Red Cross, founded in Geneva, Switzerland in 1863. The first local chapter of the American Red Cross was established in 1881 at the English Evangelical Lutheran Church in Dansville, New York.



➤ 1904: FIFA (International Football Federation) is founded.

FIFA was founded on 21 May 1904 in Paris by representatives of seven national associations - Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Spain and Sweden. These national associations together founded FIFA with the aim of promoting the sport of association football and co-ordinating the rules and procedures of football internationally.



Important NEWS on 21 MAY

➤ Archaeological Survey of India restores 16th century stepwell in Delhi's Mehrauli

The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has completed the restoration of Rajon Ki Baoli, a 16th century stepwell located in Delhi's Mehrauli. The project is being hailed as a significant step towards preserving India's architectural and environmental heritage, combining historical restoration with sustainable water management practices.





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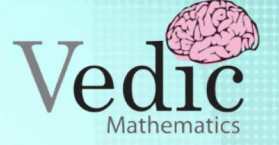
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➤ India celebrates 125 years of solar research with Kodaikanal Observatory stamp

Paying a proud tribute to one of India's oldest and most prestigious solar research institutes, the Department of Posts released a commemorative postage stamp to commemorate the 125th anniversary of the Kodaikanal Solar Observatory. The release was done on May, 2025 at the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA) in Bengaluru, recognising the historical and scientific significance of the observatory in solar astrophysics research since its inception in 1899.



➤ Amit Shah inaugurates advanced ₹500 crore MAC to combat terrorism

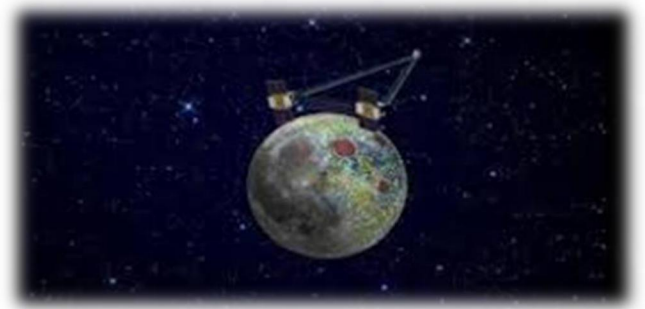
In a significant move towards strengthening national security and counter-terrorism efforts, Union Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurated the advanced Multi Agency Centre (MAC) in May 2025. Developed at a cost of ₹500 crore, this centralised, artificial intelligence (AI)-enabled intelligence

platform will operate under the Intelligence Bureau (IB). It aims to share real-time information among 28 key security and law enforcement agencies of the country — such as RAW, armed forces, and state police.



➤ NASA's GRAIL mission solves mystery of moon's asymmetry

In a major breakthrough, a new NASA study based on data from the GRAIL (Gravity Recovery and Interior Laboratory) mission has finally solved the decades-old mystery of why the near side of the Moon looks dramatically different from its far side. The findings provide important information about the Moon's interior structure, volcanic history and thermal evolution.



➤ President Murmu confers highest literary honour on Gulzar and Rambhadracharya

A grand celebration of India's literary richness—President Draupadi Murmu conferred the 58th Jnanpith Award to eminent poet-lyricist Gulzar and scholar-saint Rambhadracharya on May 2025 at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi. The ceremony honoured two great personalities whose works added depth and breadth to Indian literature.



➤ India's exports to grow 9% in April 2025 amid US tariff uncertainty

India's merchandise exports grew 9% to \$38.49 billion in April 2025, the highest in six months. The growth was led by a sharp jump in exports of electronics and engineering goods to the US. Tariff uncertainty in the US led Indian exporters to ramp up exports ahead of potential trade sanctions.



➤ Guidelines for issuing 'pouthi pattas'

The Tamil Nadu government has issued guidelines to the District Collectors for issuing 'pouthi pattas'. They are also known as succession pattas and issued to legal heirs in cases where the pattadhars have deceased. Earlier, the 'pouthi pattas' were issued routinely during jamabandhis held in the State.



Current affairs MCQS on 21 MAY

Q.1. Recently, which organization has launched the 'Campus Calling' program to promote gender sensitivity and student safety?

- (a) University Grants Commission (UGC)
- (b) National Commission for Women (NCW)
- (c) Ministry of Education



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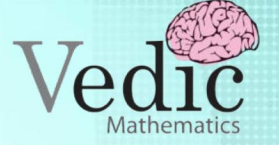
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(d) All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE)

Answer: (b) National Commission for Women (NCW)

The National Commission for Women (NCW) has recently launched the 'Campus Calling' programme to promote gender sensitisation and student safety. It aims to prevent sexual harassment and raise awareness about cyber crimes affecting students in colleges and universities. The programme is being implemented in collaboration with youth development forum 'Yuvmanthan'. It plans to reach over 1,000 higher education institutions, making it one of NCW's largest youth-focused initiatives. Each college will have two male and two female campus ambassadors to lead gender awareness efforts. These ambassadors will promote safety, equality and respect and encourage youth participation in creating safe campuses.

Q.2. Recently, which medal did Neeraj Chopra win in the Doha Diamond League?

- (a) Gold
- (b) Bronze
- (c) Silver
- (d) None

Answer: (c) Silver

The country's golden boy Neeraj Chopra created history in the Doha Diamond League 2025. He set a new personal best by throwing the javelin crossing the 90-meter distance for the first time. Neeraj threw the javelin 90.23 meters away in the third attempt in the final match. Earlier, his best throw was 89.94 meters, which he threw in the Stockholm Diamond League on 30 June 2022. Despite this brilliant throw, Neeraj had to settle for the silver medal, as Germany's Weber Julian won the gold medal by throwing the javelin 91.06 meters away in the sixth and last throw. Neeraj maintained the lead for five out of six throws, but Julian won at the last moment.

Q.3. Recently, in which country 138 people died due to Lassa fever?

- (a) Ghana
- (b) Kenya
- (c) Nigeria
- (d) Ethiopia

Answer: (c) Nigeria

The death toll from the Lassa fever outbreak in Nigeria, Africa's most populous country, has risen to 138 since the beginning of the year. The Nigeria Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (NCDC) said 717 confirmed cases have been recorded so far. The NCDC said the mortality rate has risen to 19.2 per cent. Overall, the rise in casualties remains worrisome.

Q.4. Recently, the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT) announced to set up its first overseas campus in which place?

- (a) Singapore
- (b) Dubai
- (c) London
- (d) New York

Answer: (b) Dubai

The Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT) has announced setting up of its first overseas campus in Dubai, UAE. This is a significant step towards expanding IIFT's global presence and strengthening India's participation in international business education. Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said this truly reflects the spirit of the National Education Policy 2020, which adds a new chapter to the internationalisation of Indian education and its growing role in shaping thought leadership globally. "This is also a testimony to the strengthening India-UAE partnership, and this new campus will play a vital role in moulding the business leaders of tomorrow," he said.

Q5. Who recently won the Superbet Chess Classic tournament?

- (a) D Gukesh
- (b) Vishwanathan Anand





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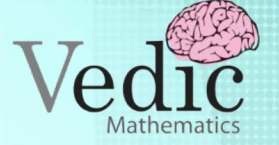
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(c) R. Pragyanananda

(d) Arjun Erigaisi

Answer: (c) R. Pragyanananda

Indian chess maestro Grandmaster R. Praggnanandhaa achieved a major milestone in his career by winning his first Grand Chess Tour tournament - Superbet Classic 2025 held in Bucharest, Romania. He emerged victorious after a tense tiebreak battle against top ranked players including Maxime Vachier-Lagrave and Alireza Firouzja, marking a historic moment for Indian chess on the global stage.

Q6. Recently, HCLTech has partnered with which IIT for AI skill development?

(a) IIT Delhi

(b) IIT Bombay

(c) IIT Kanpur

(d) IIT Guwahati

Answer: (d) IIT Guwahati

Technology company HCLTech has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Guwahati to provide advanced education in artificial intelligence (AI) and related technologies to its employees. Under the agreement, eligible HCLTech employees will be awarded a four-year online Bachelor of Science (Hons) degree in Data Science and AI, HCLTech said.

Q7. Recently, FIFA lifted the ban on the football federation of which country?

(a) Democratic Republic of Congo

(b) Zambia

(c) Sudan

(d) Cameroon

Answer: (a) Democratic Republic of Congo

FIFA has officially lifted the suspension imposed on the Football Federation of the Republic of Congo (FECOFoot), ending a three-month impasse triggered by allegations of third-party interference. The ban, imposed due to a long-running dispute between FECOFoot and Congo's sports ministry,

had disrupted national football operations and led to the closure of key sports facilities, including the federation's headquarters.

Q8. According to the United Nations, what is the estimated growth rate of the Indian economy in the current financial year?

(a) 5.8%

(b) 6.3%

(c) 6.8%

(d) 7.2%

Answer: (b) 6.3%

At a time when the global economy is facing what the United Nations calls a "precarious moment," India has emerged as a rare bright spot. The mid-year update of the World Economic Situation and Prospects projects India's growth at 6.3 per cent in the current fiscal year, the highest among large economies. This momentum is expected to continue into 2026, with growth estimated at 6.4 per cent. In contrast, the global outlook remains subdued amid rising trade tensions, policy uncertainty, and a decline in cross-border investments.

Q9. Where was the three-day multilateral dialogue forum Sagarmatha Samvaad held recently?

(a) New Delhi

(b) Thimpu

(c) Kathmandu

(d) Colombo

Answer: (c) Kathmandu

Union Environment Minister Bhupendra Yadav organized the Sagarmatha Dialogue before representing India in Kathmandu. During this, he appealed to protect the mechanism of globalization. In the conference, the Union Minister presented a five-point global action plan. The conference was based on the theme "Climate Change, Mountains and the Future of Humanity". Ministers, scientists and policy makers from all over the world participated in it.





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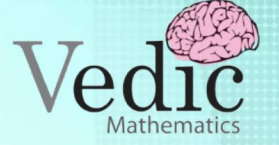
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Q.10. Where did Pushkar Kumbh start recently after 12 years?

- (a) Haridwar
- (b) Chamoli
- (c) Rishikesh
- (d) Dehradun

Answer: (b) Chamoli

After a wait of 12 years, the Pushkar Kumbh has begun at Keshav Prayag in Mana village in Uttarakhand's Chamoli district. The event, linked to ancient Vaishnav traditions, coincides with the entry of planet Jupiter into Gemini, a rare astronomical event. Thousands of devotees, especially from South India, have gathered at the holy confluence of the Alaknanda and Saraswati rivers for spiritual rituals and blessings.

Q.11. In which country was Yala Glacier declared dead recently?

- (a) Nepal
- (b) Bhutan
- (c) India
- (d) China

Answer: (a) Nepal

The Yala Glacier in Langtang, Nepal, once a major centre for glaciological training and cryosphere research in the Hindu Kush Himalaya (HKH) region, is now officially declared "dead". The event highlights the severe impacts of global warming on Himalayan glaciers, which will have far-reaching implications for the water security and ecological balance of South Asia.

Q.12. Where will the BRICS Energy Ministers' meeting be held recently?

- (a) Russia
- (b) South Africa
- (c) Brazil
- (d) India

Answer: (c) Brazil

Energy Minister Manohar Lal is on an official visit to Brazil to attend the upcoming BRICS Energy Ministers' Meeting. During the meeting, the minister

will discuss important issues such as energy security, access, affordability and sustainability with energy ministers of BRICS countries. The Ministry of Power has said in a statement that during the meeting, India will showcase its achievements over the last decade, including 90 per cent increase in power capacity, leadership in renewable energy, green hydrogen and biofuels, as well as innovation and sustainable development in the energy sector.

Q.13. In which stadium was Rohit Sharma stand inaugurated recently?

- (a) Eden Gardens
- (b) M. Chinnaswamy Stadium
- (c) Wankhede Stadium
- (d) Arun Jaitley Stadium

Answer: (c) Wankhede Stadium

The Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA) unveiled the Rohit Sharma stand at the iconic Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai, paying tribute to the Indian cricket legend who recently retired from Test and T20 cricket. The event also saw the inauguration of stands named after Ajit Wadekar and Sharad Pawar, commemorating their invaluable contributions to Indian cricket and cricket administration.

Q.14. Which ministry recently unveiled the 'One Nation, One Heartbeat' initiative?

- (a) Ministry of Culture
- (b) Ministry of Home Affairs
- (c) Ministry of Education
- (d) Ministry of Defence

Answer: (a) Ministry of Culture

To pay a heartfelt tribute to the undying spirit of patriotism and honour the heroes of the nation, the Ministry of Culture has launched a powerful and compelling initiative "Ek Desh Ek Dhadak". Designed to unite the nation in a shared rhythm of national pride, the campaign is already resonating strongly among citizens across India.

Q.15. Where was the Automotive and Weapon Systems Testing Centre inaugurated recently?





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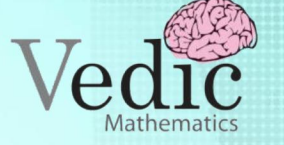
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- (a) Bengaluru
- (b) Chennai
- (c) Pune
- (d) Hyderabad

Answer: (b) Chennai

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) Chairman Dr. Sameer V. Kamat visited the Combat Vehicles Research and Development Establishment (CVRDE) at Avadi, Chennai and inaugurated the Automotive and Weapon Systems Test Centre at Vellore. The centre has 26 types of tracks that will help in testing the complete automotive performance parameters of tracked armoured fighting vehicles.

