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## Today in History on 23 MAY

### ➤ 1923 - Belgium founded Sabena Airlines.

In 1923, Belgium founded the Sabena airline. Sabena was founded as Belgium's national carrier on May 23, 1923, and was already an organization called the Syndicat National pour l'Etude des Transports Aériens (SNETA) which was created in 1919. Sabena operated its first commercial flight from Brussels to London via Ostend on July 1, 1923.



### ➤ 2023 - Neeraj Chopra becomes world number one javelin thrower.

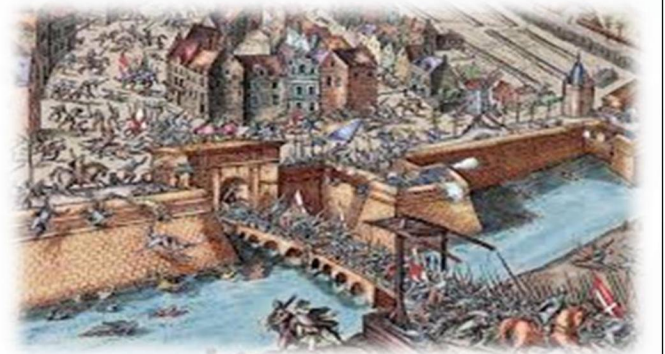
At the 2023 World Championships, Neeraj Chopra won a historic gold medal for India by throwing the javelin 88.17m. Neeraj Chopra won the gold medal at the IAAF World U20 Championships 2016 in Bydgoszcz, Poland. Tokyo Olympics gold medallist Neeraj Chopra has become the first athlete from the

country to become the world number one javelin thrower.



### ➤ 1568 – The Netherlands declare their independence from Spain,

In 1568, the Eighty Years' War began, when the Dutch, led by Prince William I of Orange, revolted against the Habsburg Empire, which was ruled by King Philip II of Spain. In 1581, the Seven United Provinces of the Netherlands declared their independence from Spain.



### ➤ 1848 - Otto Lilienthal was born

In 1848, Otto Lilienthal was born. He was a German aviation pioneer known for his flights with gliders.







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He was born on May 23, 1848 in Anklam, Germany. Lilienthal began studying the forces acting on wings in the air stream in the late 1870s. The results of that research appeared in 1889 in a book called Der Vogelflug als Grundlage der Fliegekunst ("Bird flight as the basis of aviation") and in an important series of articles that provided a foundation for the eventual attempt to achieve mechanical flight.



### Important NEWS on 23 MAY

#### ➤ India set to become world's top potato producer by 2050

According to scientists at the Peru-based International Potato Center (CIP), India is poised to overtake China to become the world's largest potato producer by 2050. As per estimates, India's annual potato production capacity can reach 100 million tonnes (100 million tonnes). This growth is being made possible by strategic partnerships, agricultural innovations and government policy support.



#### ➤ 1934 – Auto-Lite Strike ends with the Battle of Toledo.

In 1934, the Battle of Toledo ended during the Auto-Lite Strike. The strike was started by auto parts workers working at the Electric Auto-Lite Company factories in Toledo, Ohio. The strike was one of the most significant strikes of 1934 and helped popularize the concept of collective bargaining.







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### ➤ 'Ancient ship' to be inducted into Indian Navy's fleet

The Indian Navy will induct the ancient sewn ship into its fleet in May 2025 and will also name it. The ceremony held in Karwar, Karnataka will formally mark the induction of the ship into the Indian Navy. The sewn ship is a redesigned version of a 5th century ship, inspired by a painting from the Ajanta caves. The ceremony will be presided over by Union Culture Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat as the chief guest.



### ➤ F-16 vs MiG-29: Comparing Classic 4th Generation Fighters

The American F-16 Fighting Falcon and the Soviet MiG-29 Fulcrum are among the iconic 4th generation fighter jets. Developed during the Cold War, these two aircraft were designed to meet different tactical needs. Over the decades, these aircraft have faced off in various wars and military exercises, and even today they are known for their agility, multi-purpose capability and combat effectiveness.



### ➤ Geeta Samota: First CISF woman officer to climb Mount Everest

CISF Sub-Inspector Geeta Samota created history when she became the first CISF officer to climb Mount Everest (8,849 m) in May 2025. This achievement not only exemplifies her struggle and determination, but also highlights the growing participation of Indian women in adventure sports and paramilitary forces.



### ➤ WHO adopts first ever Global Pandemic Treaty

The World Health Organization (WHO) adopted the world's first Global Pandemic Treaty during its annual World Health Assembly held in Geneva on







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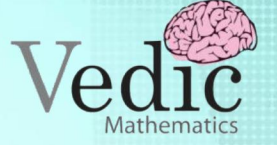
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May 2025. 124 countries voted in favour of the treaty, 11 abstained, and none opposed. It aims to ensure an equity-based and coordinated global health response in the event of future pandemics.



### ➤ Google vs Baidu: The battle for AI supremacy between West and East

As artificial intelligence (AI) is rapidly redefining industries, economies and global power balances, the competition between Google and Baidu has become symbolic of a larger tech race between the US and China. These two tech giants are not only search engine leaders in their respective regions but are also playing leading roles in the AI revolution, where they are investing heavily in research, development and implementation of cutting-edge AI technologies.



### ➤ Tamil Nadu achievements in the Agri, dairy, and fisheries sector

The State's average agricultural growth has achieved a record average of 5.66% from 2021 to 2024. It stood at 1.36% between 2012-13 and 2020-21. The area under irrigation in the State, which was 36.07 lakh hectares in 2020-21, increased to 38.33 lakh hectares in 2023-24. Tamil Nadu ranked first in India in the productivity of finger millet (ragi) and guava.



### Current affairs MCQS on 23 MAY

Q.1. Recently, which state government has launched the 'Indira Saura Giri Jala Vikasam' scheme?

- (a) Telangana
- (b) Maharashtra
- (c) Odisha







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(d) Kerala

**Answer: (a) Telangana**

Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy launched the 'Indira Solar Giri Jala Vikasam' scheme at Macharam in Amrabad mandal of Nagarkurnool district. The scheme aims to provide irrigation using solar-powered borewells in electricity-less tribal lands. It will cover 6 lakh acres of land of Scheduled Tribe (ST) farmers under the Forest Rights Act (FRA). Farmers with more than 2.5 acres of land will get individual units, while small landholders will form borewell user groups. The tribal welfare department will identify eligible farmers by May 25.

**Q.2. Where did the Indian Coast Guard recently conduct Operation Olivia?**

- (a) Tamil Nadu
- (b) Odisha
- (c) Andhra Pradesh
- (d) West Bengal

**Answer: (b) Odisha**

The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) announced that around 6.98 lakh Olive Ridley turtles were successfully rescued at the Rushikulya river mouth in Odisha in February 2025 under its annual mission Operation Olivia. This achievement reflects India's commitment towards marine biodiversity conservation.

**Q.3. Who recently won the Italian Open title for the first time?**

- (a) Jannik Sinner
- (b) Carlos Alcaraz
- (c) Rafael Nadal
- (d) Novak Djokovic

**Answer: (b) Carlos Alcaraz**

Carlos Alcaraz defeated Jannik Sinner to win his first Italian Open title. Alcaraz booked his place at this month's French Open by beating world number one Sinner 7-6 (5), 6-1 in the final. Alcaraz is the only player to beat Sinner more than once since the start of last year and has won four consecutive matches against Sinner.

**Q.4. Recently, which IIT launched the Manasvi Mentorship Program for high school girls?**

- (a) IIT Delhi
- (b) IIT Bombay
- (c) IIT Madras
- (d) IIT Kanpur

**Answer: (a) IIT Delhi**

Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi invited 100 school girls from classes 9 to 12, primarily from the Delhi NCR region, for Manasvi: STEM Mentorship Program for High School Girls, a flagship initiative of the Office of Academic Outreach and New Initiatives. The program aims to inspire young girls to explore careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM), address the gender imbalance in these fields, and equip them with the skills and mindset required for future success.

**Q.5. Recently, which initiative did India launch for women in the maritime sector?**

- (a) Sagar Shakti
- (b) Nari Samudra
- (c) Samman in the Sea
- (d) Samudra Suraksha

**Answer: (c) Samman in the Sea**

The Government of India has launched the 'Samman at Sea' initiative to increase women participation in the maritime sector. The initiative was unveiled by Union Minister Shri Sarbananda Sonowal during the International Maritime Women's Day celebrations in Mumbai. It aims to create a gender equitable workforce across maritime operations, from docks to decision-making boards. The policy is in line with the Government's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) objectives.

**Q.6. What is the contribution of fisheries sector to India's economy recently?**

- (a) 9%
- (b) 7%
- (c) 5%
- (d) 3%







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**Answer:(a) 9%**

Union Fisheries Minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh said the fisheries sector is contributing more than the agriculture sector to the country's economy. He said the agriculture sector is contributing about 4-5 per cent to the national economy. However, the contribution of the fisheries sector is 9 per cent. Speaking after laying the foundation stone of an integrated aqua park at an event in Agartala, he said 11 aqua parks will be built across the country and four of them will come up in the Northeast.

**Q.7. Where did the first edition of Khelo India Beach Games 2025 start recently?**

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

**Answer:(b) Diu**

According to the Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, the first Khelo India Beach Games will be held in the Union Territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu. The Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports announced the calendar of Khelo India Games to be held in 2025 after the successful completion of Khelo India Winter Games in Jammu and Kashmir and Gulmarg in January-February 2025, Khelo India Para Games in Delhi in March-April 2025 and 7th Khelo India Youth Games to be held in Bihar in May 2025.

**Q.8. Which former President was recently diagnosed with grade 5 prostate cancer?**

- (a) Donald Trump
- (b) Barack Obama
- (c) Joe Biden
- (d) Bill Clinton

**Answer:(c) Joe Biden**

Former US President Joe Biden has been diagnosed with an aggressive form of prostate cancer that has spread to his bones, his office announced. The cancer, though advanced, is hormone-sensitive, making it manageable but not curable. Biden and his

family are reviewing treatment options. The diagnosis comes amid ongoing scrutiny of his health since he left office.

**Q.9. Where did the Archaeological Survey of India recently renovate a 16th century stepwell?**

- (a) Mehrauli
- (b) Agra
- (c) Jaipur
- (d) Varanasi

**Answer:(a) 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 seen as a significant step towards preserving India's architectural and environmental heritage, combining historical restoration as well as sustainable water management practices.

**Q.10. Which country recently received the Trachoma Elimination Certificate during the 78th World Health Assembly in Geneva?**

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

**Answer:(b) India**

In a significant global health achievement, India was awarded the certificate of elimination of trachoma as a public health problem by the World Health Organisation (WHO) at the 78th World Health Assembly (WHA) in Geneva. The achievement reflects India's focused healthcare strategies, strong disease control programmes and long-term commitment to eliminate neglected tropical diseases (NTDs).

**Q.11. Recently DPIIT signed an agreement with whom for clean energy innovation?**

- (a) World Bank
- (b) IRENA
- (c) GEAPP
- (d) UNEP







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#### Answer:(c) GEAPP

The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Global Energy Alliance for People and Planet (GEAPP) to promote innovation, sustainability, and entrepreneurship in India's clean energy and manufacturing sectors. This two-year partnership will support early-stage climate-tech startups through funding, mentorship, early-stage opportunities, and market linkages.

#### Q.12. Where were 14,000 cases of the new JN.1 variant of COVID-19 reported recently?

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

#### Answer:(c) Singapore

A new wave of COVID-19 has emerged in many parts of Asia, from Singapore and Hong Kong to Thailand, raising global concern. This surge is mainly due to the spread of new Omicron sub-variants, such as JN.1 and its related descendants, leading to heightened vigilance among health authorities. Infections in Singapore rose to over 14,000 in early May 2025, up from 11,100 cases in the last week of April.

#### Q.13. What is the percentage increase in India's seafood exports recently?

- (a) 15.50%
- (b) 16.25%
- (c) 17.81%
- (d) 18.90%

#### Answer:(c) 17.81%

According to the data of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, India's seafood exports have registered a robust growth of 17.81 percent this year, reaching \$0.58 billion. The country is playing its important role as the fourth largest producer of seafood products in the international market.

#### Q.14. Who recently launched the annual calendar under Khelo India to strengthen India's sports ecosystem?

- (a) Anurag Thakur
- (b) Kiren Rijiju
- (c) Amit Shah
- (d) Mansukh Mandaviya

#### Answer:(d) Mansukh Mandaviya

Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya launched the annual calendar under Khelo India to strengthen India's sports ecosystem. This effort reflects the government's vision of building a structured, inclusive and competitive sports ecosystem that engages youth in various disciplines throughout the year.

#### Q.15. What is the name of the nationwide agriculture campaign launched recently by the Union Agriculture Ministry?

- (a) Annadata Samman Abhiyan
- (b) Food Security Mission
- (c) Vikasit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan
- (d) Krishi Vikas Yatra

#### Answer:(c) Vikasit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan

Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan recently launched the nationwide "Vikasit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan" running from May 29 to June 12, 2025. It aims to make agriculture modern and prosperous under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Developed India Mission. Agriculture feeds almost half of India's population and is the key to national food security. The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare has a six-point strategy: increasing production, reducing costs, ensuring fair prices, compensating for disaster losses, crop diversification and promoting organic farming.

