

A close-up photograph of Narendra Modi, the Prime Minister of India. He is wearing glasses and a light-colored kurta with a dark shawl. His hands are pressed together in a traditional Indian greeting (Namaste) in front of his face. A small red tilak is visible on his forehead.

Today in History

May 12, 2014

▲ **Narendra Modi became prime minister of India after his Hindu-nationalist BJP party trounced the ruling Congress Party in the world's biggest general election**

1847: William Clayton invented the odometer, an instrument that indicates distance travelled by a vehicle

1885: The linotype machine was patented, replacing hand-set metal letters with entire lines of lead type

1935: The first meeting took place between Bill Wilson and Dr Bob Smith, founders of Alcoholics Anonymous

2000: The Tate Modern art gallery opened in London in a disused power station