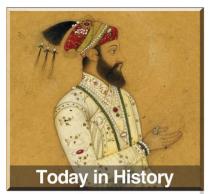
## GN45744 On this day in history Week22 May 26 - June 1



May 26, 1659

Aurangzeb, sixth and last of the great Mughal emperors, formally ascended the throne. The Mughal Empire reached its greatest extent during his 49-year reign

1865: The last Confederate resistance of the American Civil War ended. The four-vear war left around 700,000 dead

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May 27, 1997

▲ A reconstruction of the Globe theatre opened in London with Shakespeare's Henry V, some 400 years after the play was first staged at the original Globe

1703: Peter the Great founded the city of St Petersburg to give Russia a



May 28, 2004

▲ The Millau viaduct, a multispan cable-stayed bridge across the gorge valley near Milan in France was completed. Its pier P2 is the tallest structure in France

1934: The Dionne sisters, the first surviving set of quintuplets, were born



May 29, 1453

▲ An Ottoman army commanded by 21-year-old Sultan Mehmed II captured Constantinople, capital of the Byzantine Empire, after a 53-day siege

1953: Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay became the first men to top the

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May 30, 1989

Pro-democracy protesters in Beijing's Tiananmen Square erected a 10m styrofoam statue, the Goddess of Democracy, as a symbol of their ongoing struggle

1431: Joan of Arc, who led the French army to victory over the English, was burned at the stake for heresy

1949: An ejector seat was used for the first time in a live flying emergency

1967: The eastern region of Nigeria declared independence as the Republic of Biafra, triggering a civil war

2002: NASA's Odyssey mission found water in the form of ice below the surface of Mars

Picture: Getty Images © GRAPHIC NEWS



May 31, 1859

▲ The world's largest four-faced chiming clock, London's Big Ben, began telling the time. The bell's instantly recognisable "Bong" was first heard some weeks later

1891: Construction of the 9,288km Trans-Siberian Railway began

1911: The Titanic was launched in Belfast. The largest vessel then afloat famously sank on its maiden voyage to New York

1994: The death toll in the Rwandan genocide reached 800,000

2021: The WHO began using the Greek alphabet for Covid-19 variants to avoid stigmatizing countries where variants were first detected

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June 1, 1947

▲ The Doomsday Clock, intended to show how close humanity was to catastrophic destruction, first appeared on the cover of the **Bulletin of Atomic Scientists** 

1967: The Beatles released the album Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band. It won four Grammy Awards

1996: Ukraine transferred the last of its nuclear warheads to Russia

2001: Nepal's Crown Prince shot dead his parents and seven others in an argument over his choice of bride

2016: Switzerland officially opened the world's longest railway tunnel. The Gotthard Base Tunnel enabled trains to travel at up to 250km/h

Picture: Getty Images

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