1 May
1888, Nikola Tesla was issued several patents relating to the induction magnetic motor, alternating current (AC) synchronous motor, AC transmission and electricity distribution (Patent nos. #381,968-70; 382,279-82).

1949, Nereid, the third largest moon of Neptune, was discovered by Gerard Kuiper.

1964, first BASIC (Beginner’s All purpose Symbolic Instruction Code) program was run by John George Kemeny and Thomas Eugene Kurtz. BASIC is a family of general-purpose, high-level programming languages whose design philosophy emphasizes ease of use.

2 May
1775, Benjamin Franklin completed the first scientific study of the Gulf Stream.

1800, Chemist William Nicholson was the first to produce a chemical reaction by electricity.

1892, an industrial method for the production of calcium carbide (CaC2) was discovered by Thomas L. Wilson. Its main use industrially is in the production of acetylene and calcium cyanamide.

4 May
2003, the first cloned equine (named Idaho Gem), a mule foal was born at the University of Idaho, U.S.

5 May
1963, the world’s first human liver transplant was performed in America by Dr. Thomas E. Starlz at a Denver, Col., hospital.

6 May
1851, a patent was issued to John Gorrie for his invention of refrigerator titled an “Improved Process for the Artificial Production of Ice” (Patent #8080).

1953, a heart-lung machine designed by Dr. John Heysham Gibbon was used to successfully complete the first open-heart surgery.

7 May
1963, the United States launched the Telstar 2 communications satellite. On its tenth orbit, it transmitted the first transatlantic TV program seen in colour.

9 May
1882, a stethoscope of the now classic design, invented by William F. Ford was issued a U.S. patent (No. 257,487).

10 May
1852, “the theory of valence” was announced by Sir Edward Frankland. The theory states that any atom can combine with a certain limited number of other atoms.

12 May
1936, the Dvorak typewriter keyboard was patented by Dvorak and Dealey (Patent #2,040,248).

1941, Konrad Zuse completed the world’s first fully functional programmable computer (Turing-complete computer), his “Z3 machine”.

13 May
1913, the first four-engine airplane was first built and flown by Igor Sikorsky of Russia.

1857, Sir Ronald Ross, English physician, bacteriologist and mathematician who located the malarial parasite in the gut of the Anopheles mosquito, identifying it as the disease vector, was born. For this discovery, he became the first British Nobelist, when he was awarded the 1902 Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine.

14 May
1796, English physician Edward Jenner administered the first vaccination against smallpox to an eight-year-old boy.

1926, the first flight over the North Pole was made by Americans Richard Byrd and Floyd Bennett.

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15 May
1618, Johannes Kepler discovered his harmonics law published in his five-volume work Harmonices Mundi.

1859, Pierre Curie, French physicist and co-winner of the Nobel Prize for Physics in 1903, was born. His studies of radioactive substances were made together with his wife, Marie Curie.

1903, the world’s first magnetic tape recorder was demonstrated for the first time by Jack Mullin.

1992, the space shuttle Endeavour completed its maiden voyage with a safe landing in the California desert.

17 May
1749, Edward Jenner, English physician and surgeon who discovered vaccination for smallpox, was born.

18 May
1974, India became the sixth nuclear power with the underground test of a nuclear fission device in Pokhran, Rajasthan.

20 May
1875, the International Bureau of Weights and Measures (BIPM) was established in Sèvres, France, by the International Metric Convention, (also known as the Treaty of the Meter), initially signed by representatives of 17 nations.

1990, the Hubble Space Telescope sent its first photograph from space.

24 May
1844, the first telegraph message was sent by inventor Samuel F.B. Morse over an experimental line from Washington, D.C., to Baltimore, the message said: “What hath God wrought?”

1960, MIDAS II, the first American surveillance satellite to successfully reach orbit, was launched from Cape Canaveral, Florida.

26 May
1981, Satya Pal Asija was the first in the U.S. to receive a patent for computer software for his computer program Swift.

27 May
1919, a patent for the Pyrex glass was issued to Eugene C. Sullivan and William C. Taylor. Pyrex is the trademark for their sodium borosilicate glass.

28 May
1878, the name ‘Vaseline’ was registered as a trademark for the petroleum jelly developed by an English-born chemist Robert Augustus Chesebrough.

1959, rhesus monkey (Able) and squirrel monkey (Baker) both female, were fired 300 miles into space in the nose cone of Jupiter Missile AM-18 from Cape Canaveral, Florida.

2003, the world’s first cloned horse (named Prometea) and the first to be born from and carried by its cloning mother, was born.

30 May
1898, Krypton (Kr), element no. 36, was discovered by Sir William Ramsay, a Scottish chemist, and Morris M. Travers, while studying liquefied air.

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