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Today in History on 14 July

- **1965: NASA spacecraft flies past Mars and takes the first close-up images of another planet**

In 1965, NASA spacecraft Mariner 4 flew past Mars and took the first close-up images of another planet. On July 14, 1965, Mariner 4 flew past Mars and on July 15, it began sending images of the planet to Earth. These images changed centuries-old beliefs about Mars and ushered in a new era of Martian exploration.



- **1933: The Nazi Party begins a forced sterilization program of German citizens.**

In 1933, the Nazi Party begins a forced sterilization program of German citizens. The law was passed "for the prevention of hereditarily diseased offspring", and was intended to sterilize genetically unfit people. Under this program, Germans with

physical or mental health conditions were forced to undergo forced sterilization.



- **1850: First public demonstration of machine-made ice.**

In 1850, the first public demonstration of machine-made ice took place. This demonstration took place on July 14, and was done by American scientist Dr. John Gary. His purpose was to cool people suffering from fever, and it was after this demonstration that the development of the refrigerator gained momentum.



- **1979: USSR conducted its nuclear test.**





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In 1979, the Soviet Union conducted a nuclear test. In 1979, the Soviet Union conducted 31 nuclear tests. These tests took place in Atau, Kazakhstan and Balapan. In 1979, the Soviet Union also deployed its SS-20 missiles, which was responded by NATO. Additionally, in 1979, the Soviet Union also attacked Afghanistan.



Important NEWS on 14 July



➤ India's Solar Power Grows 4,000%, Says Piyush Goyal

➤ 1456: Hungary defeats the Ottoman Empire.

Union Minister Shri Piyush Goyal announced that India's solar power capacity has grown by 4,000% over the last few years. Speaking at the India Energy Storage Week (IESW) in New Delhi, he said the country has reached 227 GW of renewable energy and is on track to become energy self-reliant. This is a big step for India's clean energy future.

In 1456, Hungary defeated the Ottoman Empire at the Siege of Belgrade. This was a significant victory that halted the Ottoman Empire's expansion into the Balkan region for 70 years. In this battle, the Ottoman army, led by Hungarian commander John Hunyadi, suffered heavy losses and had to retreat. After this victory, Hungary fought several more battles against the Ottoman Empire, but was defeated at the Battle of Mohács in 1526. After this defeat, the Kingdom of Hungary was divided, and the Ottoman Empire's influence grew in Central Europe.





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➤ NESTS and UNICEF Start TALASH for Tribal Youth Development

National Education Society for Tribal Students (NESTS) and UNICEF India launched TALASH, a new program to support the education and personal growth of tribal students. The initiative will help students studying in Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRSs) across 28 states and 8 union territories. It aims to build self-confidence, life skills, and guide students in choosing the right careers.



➤ UN Expert Francesca Albanese Sanctioned by US: Background, Reactions, and Implications

The United States government has imposed sanctions on Francesca Albanese, a United Nations human rights expert known for scrutinizing Israeli conduct in the Palestinian territories. Albanese, who serves as the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967, was added to a U S sanctions

list in an unprecedented move targeting a UN-appointed independent expert.



➤ Abhijit Kishore Reappointed COAI Chairperson for 2025-26

The Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI) has announced its leadership for the year 2025-26, with Abhijit Kishore, Chief Operating Officer of Vodafone Idea Ltd, reappointed as Chairperson and Rahul Vatts, Chief Regulatory Officer of Bharti Airtel, as Vice Chairperson. The announcement was made at the COAI's Annual General Body meeting, held on July, 2025, in New Delhi.



➤ India to Host Shooting World Cup in 2027 and Junior Worlds in 2028



India will host the Shooting World Cup in 2027 and the Junior World Championship in 2028, as announced by the National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) on July, 2025. The decision was made by the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF). These events are a big step in making India a major center for global shooting competitions



➤ India Drops to 133rd in FIFA Rankings, Worst Since 2016

Indian men's football team dropped to 133rd place in the FIFA world rankings, going down by six positions. This fall comes after two recent losses in June against Thailand and Hong Kong. It marks India's lowest ranking since December 2016, raising concern about the team's future in upcoming tournaments.



➤ 2025 Kuruvai Farming in Cauvery Delta

Kuruvai (short-term rice) farming has started well in Tamil Nadu's Cauvery delta, with 3.09 lakh acres planted so far out of the 5.7 lakh-acre target. This is 60,000 acres more than last year, showing better progress even outside the main delta area. The Mettur dam, which is very important for the delta, is almost full with 93 tmcft (thousand million cubic feet) of water.



Current affairs MCQS on 14 July

Q.1. Which country has recently become the 21st member to adopt Euro as its official currency?

- (a) Hungary
- (b) Poland
- (c) Sweden
- (d) Bulgaria

Answer: (d) Bulgaria

Recently, EU ministers approved Bulgaria to adopt the euro from January 1, 2026, making it the 21st member of the eurozone. Bulgaria is located in southeastern Europe and occupies the eastern part of the Balkan Peninsula. It is bordered by Romania to the north, Turkey and Greece to the south, North Macedonia to the southwest, and Serbia to the west.



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It is bordered by the Black Sea to the east. The Balkan Mountains cross the central part of the country.

Q.2. Where did Home Minister Amit Shah chair the 27th Eastern Zonal Council meeting recently?

- (a) Patna
- (b) Bhubaneswar
- (c) Ranchi
- (d) Kolkata

Answer:(c) Ranchi

Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah chaired the 27th meeting of the Eastern Zonal Council in Ranchi, Jharkhand. The meeting was attended by Chief Minister of Jharkhand Shri Hemant Soren, Chief Minister of Odisha Shri Mohan Charan Manjhi, Deputy Chief Minister of Bihar Shri Samrat Choudhary and Finance Minister of West Bengal Smt. Chandrima Bhattacharya, Chief Secretaries and other senior officials of the member states and senior officials of the Central Government.

Q.3. Which Union Minister recently inaugurated the India Energy Storage Week 2025?

- (a) Nitin Gadkari
- (b) Harsh Malhotra
- (c) Mansukh Mandaviya
- (d) Dharmendra Pradhan

Answer:(b) Harsh Malhotra

India Energy Storage Week 2025 kicked off in Delhi with a special session in which Minister of State Harsh Malhotra highlighted India's move towards green mobility and electric vehicles (EVs). Speaking at Yashobhoomi, he explained how the government's schemes and policies are helping India move towards a cleaner and more sustainable transport future.

Q.4. Who has recently written the book "10 Paise Ka Postcard"?

- (a) Prem Prakash
- (b) Sucheta Raj Khanna

(c) S.A. Ahmed

(d) Aditya Agarwal

Answer:(c) S.A. Ahmed

Retired Indian Army officer SN Ahmed's heartwarming book "Das Paise Ka Postcard" was recently released in Hyderabad. The book depicts the era when postcards used to be the main medium of communication between people. It was released by well-known actor and director Vinay Verma. There are plans to present this book as a play as well, which will bring back the warmth of handwritten communication.

Q.5. Where was the Asmita Weightlifting League launched recently?

- (a) Lucknow
- (b) Modinagar
- (c) Varanasi
- (d) Kanpur

Answer:(b) Modinagar

Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya inaugurated the 2025 season of Asmita League in Modinagar, Uttar Pradesh. The 2025 season of Asmita started with the Weightlifting League, where 42 girls participated in eight different weight categories in the two-day competition held in the open category.

Q.6. Where was the Carnac Bridge renamed as Sindoor Bridge recently?

- (a) Delhi
- (b) Mumbai
- (c) Chennai
- (d) Kolkata

Answer:(b) Mumbai

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis inaugurated the newly built Carnac Bridge in Mumbai, which has now been renamed as Sindoor Bridge. The name change is in honour of the success of Operation Sindoor, a recent military operation against terror camps in Pakistan. The renaming is also aimed at erasing the colonial legacy of British





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governor James Rivett-Carnac, who ruled during a period of tyranny.

Q.7. What is the name of India's first indigenously built diving support vessel recently handed over to the Indian Navy?

- (a) INS Vikrant
- (b) INS Nistar
- (c) INS Arihant
- (d) INS Tarmugli

Answer:(b) INS Nistar

Recently Hindustan Shipyard Limited has handed over the 'Nistar' vessel to the Indian Navy in Visakhapatnam. 'Nistar' is India's first indigenously designed and built diving support vessel. Its name is derived from the Sanskrit word 'Nistar', which means liberation or rescue. This vessel is capable of performing deep sea diving and rescue operations and will assist submarine personnel in emergencies.

Q.8. Which state government recently launched DG Lakshmi Yojana to empower urban women?

- (a) Telangana
- (b) Karnataka
- (c) Andhra Pradesh
- (d) Tamil Nadu

Answer:(c) Andhra Pradesh

The Andhra Pradesh government has launched the 'Digi-Lakshmi' scheme to digitally empower urban poor women. Under the goal of 'one family, one entrepreneur', a total of 9,034 Common Service Centers (CSCs) will be set up in all urban bodies of the state, which will be operated by eligible women from self-help groups (SHGs). The scheme will be implemented by the Mission Director of MEPMA.

Q.9. Where was the 25th National Fisheries Farmers Day celebrated recently?

- (a) Bhubaneswar
- (b) Puri
- (c) Cuttack
- (d) Chennai

Answer:(a) Bhubaneswar

The 25th National Fish Farmers Day 2025 was celebrated at Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)-Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture (CIFA), Bhubaneswar. The event was organized by the Department of Fisheries, Union Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying. Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying Rajiv Ranjan Singh, Union Minister of State for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying Prof. S.P. Singh Baghel and other dignitaries were present on the occasion.

Q.10. Which country recently imposed sanctions on UN Human Rights Council Special Rapporteur Francesca Albanese?

- (a) Israel
- (b) Russia
- (c) America
- (d) China

Answer:(c) America

The United States government has imposed sanctions on Francesca Albanese, the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967. The move follows her repeated criticism of Israel's military conduct in Gaza, which she has described in UN reports as "acts of genocide" and violations of international law.

Q.11. Who was recently selected for the Chinthal Ravindran Award 2025?

- (a) Sonali Mansingh
- (b) Zara Choudhary
- (c) Sharan Kumar Limbale
- (d) Saima Wazed

Answer:(c) Sharan Kumar Limbale

Marathi writer and critic Sharankumar Limbale has been selected for the Chinta Ravindran Award 2025. The award consists of a cash prize, a memento and a citation. The honour will be conferred on July 26 at a special function organised in memory of Chinta Ravindran at K.P. Keshavamenon Hall in Kozhikode.





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The award recognises Limbale's contribution to literature and social thought.

Q.12. Where will the new Akashvani Kendra be established recently?

- (a) Bhopal
- (b) Ujjain
- (c) Indore
- (d) Gwalior

Answer:(b) Ujjain

The government said it will set up an All India Radio Centre in Ujjain to strengthen regional broadcasting and disseminate timely information to the people of Madhya Pradesh. Union Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting L. Murugan and Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav discussed measures to strengthen cooperation between the Centre and the state in key areas including media outreach, mass communication and broadcasting infrastructure.

Q.13. Where did the world famous Shravani Mela start recently?

- (a) Varanasi
- (b) Deoghar
- (c) Haridwar
- (d) Ujjain

Answer:(b) Deoghar

Shravani Mela has started at Baba Baidyanath Dham in Deoghar, Jharkhand. Lakhs of Kanwariyas thronged this holy city to start their month-long pilgrimage in the holy month of Sawan. The fair was formally inaugurated in a traditional ceremony with Vedic chanting at Dumma, located on the Jharkhand-Bihar border. Jharkhand ministers Sudivya Kumar Sonu, Deepika Pandey Singh and Sanjay Prasad Yadav jointly inaugurated the fair.

Q.14. Who was recently appointed as an advisor to Goldman Sachs?

- (a) Boris Johnson
- (b) Keir Starmer
- (c) Rishi Sunak

(d) David Cameron

Answer:(c) Rishi Sunak

Former British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak has been appointed a senior adviser at Goldman Sachs, returning to the global investment bank where he began his career two decades ago. The move comes at a time when the financial institution is seeking experienced policymakers to help deal with a turbulent geopolitical and regulatory landscape.

Q.15. Which is the first company to reach a valuation of \$4 trillion recently?

- (a) Apple
- (b) Nvidia
- (c) Microsoft
- (d) Amazon

Answer:(b) Nvidia

Nvidia became the first company to hit a market value of \$4 trillion, marking a new milestone in Wall Street's claim that artificial intelligence will transform the economy. Shortly after the stock market opened, Nvidia's stock reached \$164.42, pushing its valuation above \$4 trillion. The stock then fell and closed slightly below the record range.

