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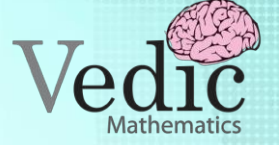
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Today in History on 16 July

➤ 1661: Swedish bank issues first notes in Europe.

In 1661, Stockholms Banco in Sweden issued the first bank notes in Europe. The bank, founded by Johan Palmstruch, issued notes called "kreditivsedler", which were credit notes issued in exchange for deposits. These notes were easier to carry than metal coins, and soon became popular. The main purpose of issuing these notes was to solve the problem of the heavy copper coins that existed in Sweden at the time.



➤ 1856: Remarriage of Hindu widows legalised.

In 1856, the Hindu Widow Remarriage Act was passed, which legalised the remarriage of Hindu widows. The Act was passed on July 16, 1856, and came into force on July 26, 1856. Prior to this, it was

not socially acceptable for Hindu widows to remarry, and this Act was an important step in changing this practice.



➤ 1945: America conducted the first test of the atomic bomb.

In July 1945, the United States conducted the first test of an atomic bomb, codenamed "Trinity," in New Mexico. This test marked the beginning of the nuclear age and demonstrated the immense destructive power of nuclear fission. The test was part of the Manhattan Project, a top-secret research and development project focused on creating nuclear weapons.





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➤ 1951: Nepal did not get independence from Britain.

Nepal did not get independence from Britain in 1951. In 1923, Britain had recognized Nepal's complete independence. In 1951, the Rana rule ended in Nepal and King Tribhuvan took power. What happened in Nepal in 1951 was actually the end of the Rana rule, which was ruling Nepal from 1846 to 1951. Rulers from the Rana dynasty held the post of Prime Minister, but in 1951 King Tribhuvan took power in his hands and declared a constitutional monarchy.

Ukraine's army, national bank, and laws to be above those of the Soviet Union.



Important NEWS on 16 July

➤ President Murmu Nominates Four Members to Rajya Sabha

President Droupadi Murmu nominated four prominent individuals to the Rajya Sabha, the Upper House of Parliament. The nominations were made on the advice of the Council of Ministers under Article 80 of the Constitution. The move ensures representation from varied fields like law, education, diplomacy, and social service.



➤ 1990: Ukraine declares independence.

In 1990, Ukraine declared its state sovereignty, an important step paving the way for declaring independence in 1991. On July 16, 1990, the Ukrainian parliament, the Verkhovna Rada, adopted the "Declaration of State Sovereignty of Ukraine," declaring Ukraine to be a sovereign state separate from the Soviet Union. The declaration called for



➤ Khmer Rouge Sites in Cambodia Added to UNESCO Heritage List

On July, 2025, UNESCO added three historic sites in Cambodia, linked to the Khmer Rouge's brutal regime, to its World Heritage List. This decision was made during the 47th Session of the World Heritage Committee in Paris, marking 50 years since the regime's rise. The move aims to preserve these places as reminders of the tragic past and promote peace and education.



➤ Centre Appoints Dr Abhijat Sheth as New NMC Chief

The Central Government has appointed Dr Abhijat Sheth as the new Chairperson of the National Medical Commission (NMC). The move comes at a time when the medical regulator is under scrutiny following a corruption probe involving several officials. Dr Sheth will take over from Dr B N Gangadhar, who had resigned earlier but stayed in office due to a lack of suitable replacements.



➤ India Launches World's First Traditional Knowledge Digital Library

India became the first country in the world to launch a Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL). This important step aims to protect and promote India's rich traditional medicine systems using modern digital tools like Artificial Intelligence (AI). The World Health Organization (WHO) praised India's efforts, calling it a big moment for global healthcare innovation.



➤ Jannik Sinner Stuns Alcaraz to Win First Wimbledon Title

Jannik Sinner won his first Wimbledon title by defeating two-time champion Carlos Alcaraz on July,

2025, in London. This was a big moment in tennis, as it showed how strong the rivalry between the two young stars has become. The win also gave Sinner his fourth Grand Slam title and ended many winning streaks held by Alcaraz.



➤ Chelsea Beat PSG to Win Inaugural Edition of Club World Cup 2025

Chelsea FC won the FIFA Club World Cup 2025 by defeating Paris Saint-Germain (PSG) 3-0 in the final on July, 2025, at MetLife Stadium in New Jersey, USA. Young midfielder Cole Palmer was the star, scoring two goals and assisting the third in a dominant display. This is Chelsea's second Club World Cup title and a proud moment in their football history.



➤ Uyarvukku Padi scheme

The Uyarvukku Padi scheme has enabled 77,752 students to secure admission into higher education institutions. Over 41.38 lakh students and nearly 1 lakh teachers have been trained under the Naan Mudhalvan skill development initiative. The Kalloori Kanavu initiative has benefited over 1.87 lakh students since 2022, including 81,149 in the year 2025-26.



Current affairs MCQS on 16 July

Q.1. Who has recently been appointed as the Director General of Railway Protection Force (RPF)?

- (a) Abhijit Kishore
- (b) Sonali Mishra
- (c) Harsh Vardhan Shringla
- (d) Amitabh Kant

Answer: (b) Sonali Mishra

Senior officer Sonali Mishra has been appointed as the new Director General (DG) of the Railway Protection Force (RPF). She is being described as the first woman officer to hold this post. The Institution Committee of the Central Government has approved her name. She will replace DG Manoj Yadav, who is retiring on 31 July 2025. Sonali Mishra's tenure will last till 31 October 2026.



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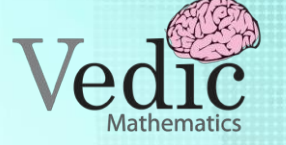
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Q.2. Who has recently been appointed as the President of Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI)?

- (a) Shabbir Khan
- (b) Abhijit Kishore
- (c) Sahil Kinni
- (d) Aditya Mangala

Answer: (b) Abhijit Kishore

The Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI) has announced its leadership for the year 2025-26. Abhijit Kishore, Chief Operating Officer of Vodafone Idea Limited has been reappointed as Chairman and Rahul Vats, Chief Regulatory Officer of Bharti Airtel has been appointed as Vice Chairman. The announcement was made at the Annual General Meeting of COAI held in New Delhi.

Q.3. Who recently won the Wimbledon 2025 women's singles title?

- (a) Jannik Papi
- (b) Iga Swiatek
- (c) Serena Williams
- (d) Naomi Osaka

Answer: (b) Iga Swiatek

Poland's star tennis player Iga Swiatek became the Wimbledon 2025 champion in spectacular fashion. She defeated America's Amanda Anisimova 6-0, 6-0 in the women's singles final on the grass court of the All England Club. Swiatek has won the title of this tournament for the first time. This Grand Slam has seen the first female champion for the eighth time in a row.

Q.4. Who has recently been appointed as the President and CEO of BMW Group India?

- (a) Hardev Singh Brar
- (b) Aditya Mangala
- (c) Sanjog Gupta
- (d) Sudhanshu Mittal

Answer: (a) Hardev Singh Brar

BMW Group India has announced the appointment of Hardeep Singh Brar as President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO). The appointment will be

effective from September 1, 2025. According to a statement issued by BMW India Group, Brar, a former Kia India executive, will replace Vikram Pawah. Vikram Pawah will now take over as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of BMW Australia and New Zealand.

Q.5. Who recently won the Wimbledon 2025 men's singles title?

- (a) Carlos Alcaraz
- (b) Iga Swiatek
- (c) Jannik Sinner
- (d) Rafael Nadal

Answer: (c) Jannik Sinner

Jannik Sinner's emotionally restrained, composed and precise tennis produced the greatest gift ever when he defeated two-time defending champion Carlos Alcaraz 4-6, 6-4, 6-4, 6-4 to win his first Wimbledon and fourth major title.

Q.6. Recently, President Draupadi Murmu nominated how many prominent persons to the Rajya Sabha?

- (a) Two
- (b) Four
- (c) Six
- (d) Eight

Answer: (b) Four

President Draupadi Murmu has nominated four eminent persons to the Rajya Sabha (Upper House of Parliament) on the advice of the Council of Ministers under Article 80 of the Constitution. The move is aimed at providing representation in Parliament to experts from diverse fields such as law, education, diplomacy and social service.

Q.7. Where did the three-day national conference of the All India Institute of Ayurveda start recently?

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

Answer: (b) New Delhi





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All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA), New Delhi, is organizing a three-day national symposium, Shalyakon 2025, to commemorate the auspicious 'Sushruta Jayanti'. Sushruta Jayanti, celebrated annually, commemorates the great Acharya Sushruta, considered the father of surgery. The symposium will feature live demonstrations of surgery, including general surgery, anorectal surgery and urology.

Q.8. Who was Kota Srinivas Rao, who passed away recently?

- (a) Politician
- (b) Actor
- (c) Historian
- (d) Social worker

Answer: (b) Actor

Veteran Telugu actor Kota Srinivasa Rao passed away in Hyderabad at the age of 83. Kota Srinivasa Rao acted in more than 750 films in various languages. He was also awarded the Padma Shri in 2015 for his contribution to Indian cinema.

Q.9. Recently, 90 houses built with the help of India were inaugurated in which country?

- (a) Nepal
- (b) Japan
- (c) Sri Lanka
- (d) Singapore

Answer: (c) Sri Lanka

Sri Lankan Prime Minister Dr. Harini Amarasuriya and Indian High Commissioner Santosh Jha jointly inaugurated 90 newly constructed houses in Elapathagama village in Anuradhapura. These houses have been built under the India-assisted Sri Sobitha Nahimigama Project. At the event, the Indian High Commissioner spoke on India and Sri Lanka's shared vision for inclusive growth. He also mentioned other India-supported projects in the region such as railway upgradation and the Sacred City Complex.

Q.10. Where was the World Expo 2025 held recently showcasing India's Chenab Bridge and Anji Bridge?

- (a) Singapore
- (b) Japan
- (c) Nepal
- (d) India

Answer: (b) Japan

The Vande Bharat and Chenab Bridges have emerged as the main attractions at the ongoing World Expo 2025 in Osaka, Japan, drawing high praise from enthusiastic crowds and visitors for their remarkable journey of modernisation and technological innovation, the Railway Ministry said.

Q.11. Which state recently became the first to lead Cruise India Mission?

- (a) Tamil Nadu
- (b) Assam
- (c) Gujarat
- (d) Maharashtra

Answer: (c) Gujarat

Gujarat has become the first state in India to officially join the Cruise India Mission. The mission is an initiative of the central government aimed at developing a world-class cruise tourism ecosystem. Gujarat's 2,340 km long coastline and rivers like Narmada, Sabarmati will help make it a hub of cruise tourism. The move is significant towards India's leadership in cruise tourism.

Q.12. Recently, US President Donald Trump announced what percentage tariff on imports from Mexico and the European Union?

- (a) 30%
- (b) 20%
- (c) 40%
- (d) 25%

Answer: (a) 30%

US President Donald Trump has announced a 30 percent duty on imports from Mexico and the European Union. This rate will come into effect from August 1. Mr. Trump said that the trade deficit is a threat to America's national security. The European





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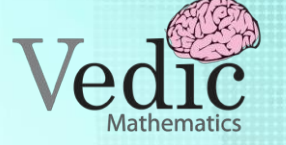
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Union, which has 27 member countries, has criticized the imposition of 30 percent duty. The President of the European Council said that this will increase inflation and hamper economic growth. He also said that the European Union will protect its interests.

Q.13. Foreign Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar recently made an official visit to which country?

- (a) Nepal
- (b) Japan
- (c) Singapore
- (d) Sri Lanka

Answer: (c) Singapore

External Affairs Minister (EAM) Dr. S. Jaishankar will visit Singapore and the People's Republic of China. In Singapore, the External Affairs Minister will meet his counterpart and the leadership of Singapore as part of regular exchanges between the two countries. Thereafter, the External Affairs Minister will visit the People's Republic of China to attend the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Council of Foreign Ministers Meeting (CFM) being held in Tianjin. The External Affairs Minister will also hold bilateral meetings during the CFM.

Q.14. Recently, which state government approved the SGST reimbursement scheme to promote indigenous bell metal industry?

- (a) Tamil Nadu
- (b) Assam
- (c) Gujarat
- (d) Uttar Pradesh

Answer: (b) Assam

To provide support to local artisans, the government launched the Assam GST Reimbursement Scheme for Indigenous Bell Metal Industries, 2025. The scheme will refund the SGST paid by traditional bell metal manufacturers, helping them remain competitive.

Q.15. What is the name of the initiative launched recently for holistic education of tribal students?

- (a) Sankalp
- (b) Talaash
- (c) Utkarsh
- (d) Pragati

Answer: (b) Talaash

The National Tribal Students Education Society (NESTS), an autonomous organization under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, in partnership with UNICEF India, has launched TALASH (Centre for Tribal Competency, Life Skills and Self-Esteem), a national program to support the all-round development of students in Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS). TALASH aims to improve both education and personal development of tribal students across India.

