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Today in History on 25 July

- **1813: The first boat race competition was organised in Calcutta, India.**

In 1813, the first recorded boat race competition in Calcutta, India, was held on the Hooghly River, with seven sailing boats participating. This event is noted as the first organized boat race in the region.



- **1547: Henry II of France is crowned.**

In 1547, King Henry II of France was crowned at Reims Cathedral on July 25. He became king after the death of his father, Francis I. Henry II was born on March 31, 1519. After the death of his older brother Francis, the Dauphin, in 1536, he became heir to the throne. Henry II ruled from 1547 to 1559. During his reign, he continued the policies of Francis I, who oppressed French Protestants. He died on July 10, 1559, of injuries sustained in a tournament.



- **1585: Amsterdam bans 45 Roman Catholics**

In 1585, Amsterdam banned 45 Roman Catholics. This event took place on July 25. This event took place in the context of the Protestant Reformation, when Protestant influence was growing in Amsterdam and efforts were being made to drive Catholics out of the city. In 1585, the magistrates of Amsterdam ordered 45 Roman Catholics to leave the city, because they were involved in anti-Protestant activities.





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➤ 1689: France declares war on England.

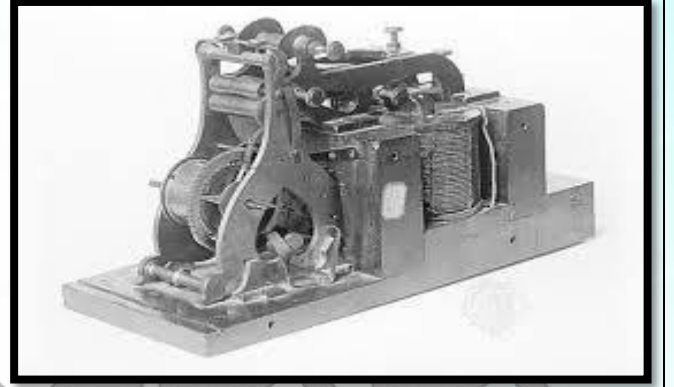
In 1689, France declared war on England. This event was part of the Nine Years' War (1689-1697), a wider conflict in Europe. In this war, a coalition was formed against France, which included the Holy Roman Empire, the Dutch Republic, England, Spain, Savoy, Sweden, and several German states. This war was primarily associated with the power struggle between King William III and James II. James II was deposed during the "Glorious Revolution" in 1688, and William and Mary were made rulers of England.



➤ 1837: First successful demonstration of the use of electric telegraph.

In 1837, the electric telegraph was successfully demonstrated for the first time. The demonstration was done by Cooke and Wheatstone, and it was done between Euston and Camden Town in London. In 1837, William Fothergill Cooke and Charles

Wheatstone developed an electrical telegraph system in collaboration with each other. They successfully demonstrated the system between Euston and Camden Town in London on July 25, 1837.



Important NEWS on 25 July

➤ India Witnesses 44% Surge in IP Filings Over Five Years

India has witnessed a 44% surge in IP filings over five years, driven by government policy reforms, fee concessions, and digitization of IP services. The growth reflects rising awareness, a vibrant startup ecosystem, and efforts to protect indigenous products through Geographical Indications (GI), patents, and trademarks.





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➤ Concerns Raised Over Fake Biostimulants in Indian Agriculture By Minister

The Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Shivraj Singh Chouhan, recently raised alarms over the unregulated sale of fake and ineffective biostimulants being distributed to farmers in India. In a high-level meeting at Krishi Bhawan, the minister criticized the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) scientists and senior agricultural officials for inadequate regulation and oversight, emphasizing that such practices are harming farmers and undermining agricultural productivity.



➤ Replica of Ashoka Pillar Unveiled in Waskaduwa, Sri Lanka

On July 2025, a replica of the Ashoka Pillar was unveiled at the Waskaduwa Sri Subhuthi Viharaya, a renowned Buddhist temple in Kalutara district, Sri Lanka. The initiative is a significant symbol of India-Sri Lanka spiritual and cultural diplomacy, acknowledging the contributions of Emperor Ashoka to Sri Lankan Buddhism.



➤ Cabinet Gave Green Signal To UK FTA Ahead of PM Visit To UK

The Indian Cabinet has approved a landmark Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with the United Kingdom, known officially as the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA). The pact is set to be signed during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to London on July, 2025. The agreement aims to boost bilateral trade by reducing tariffs, improving market access, and strengthening cooperation in services, innovation, and intellectual property.





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➤ National Sports Governance Bill, 2025: Bringing BCCI Under RTI and Sports Reform Framework

The National Sports Governance Bill, 2025 is a landmark step toward overhauling India's sports administration. One of the key highlights of this bill is the inclusion of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) under the purview of the Right to Information (RTI) Act and formal recognition as a National Sports Federation (NSF). The bill proposes structural reforms, greater transparency, and mechanisms for dispute resolution across all NSFs.



➤ Public Sector Banks Write Off Over ₹12 Lakh Crore In last 9 Years

In a significant financial disclosure, the Ministry of Finance recently informed the Rajya Sabha that Public Sector Banks (PSBs) have written off more than ₹12 lakh crore in non-performing assets (NPAs) between FY2016 and FY2025. Despite the massive write-offs, efforts to recover the loans continue under various legal mechanisms.



➤ Naagam App

Tamil Nadu Forest Department launched the NAAGAM mobile app at the Children's Park in Guindy. The event has also featured the release of a booklet on 'Common Snakes of Tamil Nadu' and the launch of a structured snake rescuer training program. The event honoured Padma Shri awardees Vadivel Gopal and Masi Sathayan from the Irular tribe for their contributions to snake rescue and conservation.





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Current affairs MCQS on 25 July

Q.1. Recently, Vice President Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar has submitted his resignation to whom under Article 67 (a) of the Constitution?

- A. President
- B. Prime Minister
- C. Union Council of Ministers
- D. Chief Justice of India

Answer: A. President

Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar resigned from his post citing health reasons in his resignation letter submitted under Article 67(A) of the Constitution. President Draupadi Murmu accepted his resignation, marking an unusual mid-term departure from the second-highest constitutional post. The resignation coincided with the start of the turbulent Monsoon Session of Parliament.

Q.2. Recently, which state government has launched the 'Shaktishree' initiative in universities and





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colleges for the safety and empowerment of girl students?

- A. Jharkhand
- B. Odisha
- C. Maharashtra
- D. Karnataka

Answer: B. Odisha

The Odisha government has decided to launch a special programme 'Shaktishree' to ensure safety of girl students in colleges and universities in the state. Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi announced this in Bhubaneswar. The new programme will be implemented in all 16 universities and 730 government and aided colleges under the state's Higher Education Department. The announcement comes after a recent incident of a girl student of FM College in Balasore immolating herself following alleged harassment by a faculty member.

Q.3. Recently, ISRO Chairman V. Narayanan has announced to establish India's own space station by which year?

- A. Year 2030
- B. Year 2035
- C. Year 2045
- D. Year 2047

Answer: B. Year 2035

ISRO chief V. Narayanan announced that India will set up its own fully independent space station by 2035 and send an astronaut to the Moon and bring him back safely to Earth by 2040. He recalled the beginning of India's space journey and how it began with a rocket carrying a 35 kg payload.

Q.4. According to the recent IMF report, which country has emerged as the global leader in fast payments?

- A. India
- B. China
- C. America
- D. Japan

Answer: A. India

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) says that India leads the world in faster payments. In June this year, the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) recorded 18.39 billion transactions worth over Rs 24.03 lakh crore. According to a recent IMF note titled "Growing retail digital payments: The importance of interoperability", UPI has revolutionised India's payments ecosystem and is processing over 18 billion transactions every month.

Q.5. Recently, the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) was jointly established by which two organizations?

- A. World Trade Organization (WTO) and United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF)
- B. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and World Health Organization (WHO)
- C. World Health Organization (WHO) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- D. World Bank and Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

Answer: B. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and World Health Organization (WHO)

India's role in global food standards was appreciated at the 88th session of the Executive Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CCEXEC 88). The session was held recently at the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) headquarters in Rome. The committee reviewed India's leadership on millet group standards and appreciated its efforts. The Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) is the global body setting international food standards. It was established by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO). Its main objective is to protect the health of consumers and ensure fair practices in international food trade.

Q.6. Recently, which medal has India won in badminton in the ongoing FISU World University Games in Berlin, Germany?

- A. Gold





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- B. Silver
C. Bronze
D. None of these

Answer:C. Bronze

India created history by winning its first medal in badminton at the ongoing FISU World University Games in Berlin, Germany. India won the bronze medal in the mixed team event after losing 3-1 to Chinese Taipei in the semi-finals. Out of the four matches, Devika Sihag was the only Indian player to beat higher-ranked Huang Ching Ping in the women's singles match.

Q.7. Recently, which institute has developed the world's first AI model to translate the historical Modi script into Devanagari?

- A. IIT Delhi
B. IIT Mumbai
C. IIT Guwahati
D. IIT Roorkee

Answer:D. IIT Roorkee

Taking forward India's digital heritage mission, IIT Roorkee has created the world's first AI model that transliterates ancient Modi script into Devanagari. The tool, called MoScNet, helps convert old handwritten manuscripts into readable text, making them accessible for research, education and preservation.

Q.8. Recently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has announced an incentive amount of how much rupees for employees working in the private sector?

- A. ₹5,000
B. ₹10,000
C. ₹15,000
D. ₹20,000

Answer:C. ₹15,000

Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the new Rozgar Protsahan Yojana during a public meeting in Motihari, Bihar. Under this scheme, youth getting a job for the first time in the private sector will be given an incentive amount of ₹ 15,000. Its objective is to promote employment generation in the country

and connect the youth to the formal employment sector.

Q.9. Recently, which country has delivered Abrams tanks to Ukraine in a military aid package of about \$47 million?

- A. Australia
B. America
C. Britain
D. Japan

Answer:A. Australia

The Australian government has said it has delivered M1A1 Abrams tanks to Ukraine as part of a 245 million Australian dollar (US\$160 million) package to help defend the country in its ongoing war with Russia. Australia is one of the largest non-NATO countries providing aid, ammunition and defence equipment to Ukraine since Moscow invaded its neighbour in February 2022.

Q.10. Recently, the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) is developing a malaria vaccine by which name?

- A. Malarium
B. Adfalcivax
C. Plasmodics
D. Malefast

Answer:B. Adfalcivax

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) is developing a novel chimeric malaria vaccine called Adfalcivax. Adfalcivax is a multi-stage malaria vaccine that targets two major stages of Plasmodium falciparum (the most deadly malaria parasite), namely the pre-erythrocytic stage (liver stage) and the sexual stage (which enables transmission of the disease through mosquitoes). This vaccine has been developed using a safe, food-grade bacterium called Lactococcus lactis.

Q.11. Recently, former Chief Minister and Communist leader of which state VS Achuthanandan has passed away?

- A. Karnataka





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B. Andhra Pradesh

C. Kerala

D. Tamil Nadu

Answer: C. Kerala

Former Kerala Chief Minister VS Achuthanandan passed away at a private hospital in Thiruvananthapuram. He was 101 years old. He was the Chief Minister of the state from 2006 to 2011. The veteran communist and freedom fighter was a powerful symbol of the communist movement in Kerala and had a strong, if not dominant, presence in the state politics for decades.

Q.12. Recently, the International Cricket Council has handed over the hosting of the final of the World Test Championship till the year 2031 to whom?

A. Australia

B. England

C. India

D. New Zealand

Answer: B. England

The International Cricket Council (ICC) has handed over the rights to host the World Test Championship (WTC) final to England till 2031. The ICC said that the hosting rights for the next three editions will remain with the England and Wales Cricket Board. A release issued by the ICC said that the board has awarded the rights to host the ICC World Test Championship final for the 2027, 2029 and 2031 editions to the England and Wales Cricket Board following their successful track record of hosting the recent finals.

Q.13. Recently, the Bima Sakhi scheme is an initiative of which organization?

A. Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises

B. NITI Aayog

C. Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)

D. Reserve Bank of India (RBI)

Answer: C. Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)

Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

with the Department of Rural Development to promote Bima Sakhi Yojana in rural India. The MoU was signed during the Financial Inclusion Summit 'Anubhuti' held in Goa in July 2025. Bima Sakhi Yojana is a performance-based stipend scheme launched by Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) for women empowerment. Selected women are given training and monthly stipend for three years - ₹7,000 in the first year, ₹6,000 in the second year and ₹5,000 in the third year. The scheme aims to appoint two lakh Bima Sakhis across India in the next three years.

Q.14. Recently, the "Meri Panchayat" app has won the WSIS Champion Award, 2025 in which city?

A. Paris, France

B. Geneva, Switzerland

C. New York, USA

D. London, England

Answer: B. Geneva, Switzerland

India's mobile application "Meri Panchayat" has received global recognition by winning the WSIS Awards 2025 Champion Award in the Cultural Diversity and Identity, Linguistic Diversity and Local Content category. Developed by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj in collaboration with the National Informatics Centre (NIC), the app is a significant step towards strengthening grassroots governance and digital participation in rural India. The award was presented by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) at the WSIS+20 High-Level Event 2025 organized in Geneva, Switzerland.

Q.15. Recently, Al Waleed bin Khalid, famous as the 'Sleeping Prince' of which country, has passed away after being in coma for 20 years?

A. Thailand

B. Kuwait

C. UAE

D. Saudi Arabia

Answer: D. Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia's Prince Al Waleed bin Khalid bin Talal Al Saud passed away. He was in a coma for the last





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20 years. He was known as the Sleeping Prince. Prince Al Waleed was the son of Prince Khalid bin Talal, a senior member of the Saudi royal family, and nephew of billionaire Prince Al Waleed bin Talal. He was born in April 1990. He died in a horrific road accident during military training in London in 2005. He suffered severe brain damage and internal bleeding in the accident. After this, he went into a coma.

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