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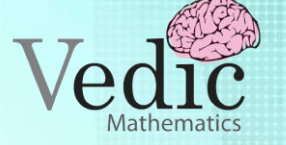
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Today in History on 28 July

- **1586: Sir Thomas Herriot introduces potatoes to Europe on his return from England.**

In 1586, Sir Thomas Herriot, a mathematician and astronomer, brought potatoes to England from Colombia. Potatoes, a richer food source than cereals, were introduced to Europe by Thomas Herriot. It is also believed that Sir Walter Raleigh also introduced potatoes to England. However, according to some sources, Sir Thomas Herriot is credited with introducing potatoes to Europe.



- **1741: Captain Bering discovers Mount Saint Elias, Alaska.**

In 1741, Captain Bering discovered Mount Saint Elias, Alaska. The event took place in July 1741, when a Russian expedition led by Bering reached the

coast of Alaska and saw snow-capped mountains, which were later named the Mount Saint Elias Range. The discovery was part of the Great Northern Expedition, which aimed to discover a passage or strait between America and Asia.



- **1742: Prussia and Austria signed a peace agreement.**

In 1742, Prussia and Austria signed two peace agreements: the Treaty of Breslau on June 11, followed by the Treaty of Berlin on July 28. These treaties formally ended the First Silesian War, a conflict within the larger War of the Austrian Succession. The Treaty of Breslau, a preliminary agreement, saw Austria cede most of Silesia to Prussia. The Treaty of Berlin, signed in Berlin, formalized these territorial changes and was mediated by England.





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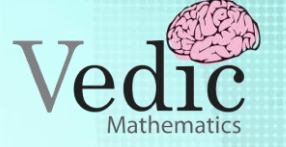
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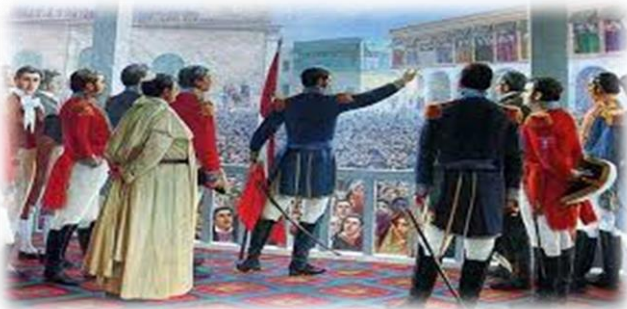


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➤ 1821: Peru declared independence from Spain.

On July 28, 1821, Peru declared its independence from Spain. This declaration, proclaimed by General José de San Martín, marked the beginning of Peru's independence and a new chapter in its history. While the declaration was made in 1821, it took several more years of conflict to fully secure sovereignty. This declaration was part of a larger wave of independence movements across South America against Spanish rule.



➤ 1866: The metric system of measurement received legal recognition in America.

In 1866, the Metric Act legally recognized the metric system in the United States, allowing its use in commerce and providing an official conversion table. While not mandatory, this act marked a significant step towards metric adoption. While the act provided legal recognition, the complete adoption of the metric system in the US has been a gradual and ongoing process.



Important NEWS on 28 July

➤ India Achieves 20% Ethanol Blending in Petrol Way Ahead of Targeted Year

India has reached a historic milestone in its energy transition journey by achieving 20% ethanol blending in petrol in 2025, five years ahead of its original 2030 target. This breakthrough, announced by Union Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister





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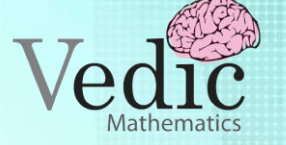
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Hardeep Singh Puri, marks a transformative shift in India's fuel strategy, enhancing energy security, promoting sustainability, and empowering rural economies.



➤ PM Modi Makes History: Breaks Indira Gandhi's Record as India's 2nd Longest Serving PM

Prime Minister Narendra Modi achieved a major milestone by surpassing Indira Gandhi's record of 4,077 consecutive days in office. With this, he became India's second-longest serving Prime Minister in a single uninterrupted term, solidifying his position in India's political history.



➤ India's First Hydrogen-Powered Train Coach Successfully Tested

India has entered a new era of green transportation with the successful testing of its first hydrogen-powered train coach at the Integral Coach Factory (ICF), Chennai, on July, 2025. This breakthrough marks a critical step toward sustainable mobility in railways and places India among a handful of countries adopting hydrogen-based rail technology. The initiative is part of a broader push to meet India's net-zero emissions targets and modernize its railway infrastructure with clean energy alternatives.



➤ India Resumes Tourist Visas for Chinese Citizens After Five Years

India has officially resumed the issuance of tourist visas to Chinese nationals after a five-year pause, marking a significant diplomatic and people-to-people development. This step reflects a cautious yet positive recalibration in India-China bilateral ties, especially in the realm of tourism, soft diplomacy, and regional engagement. The move also coincides





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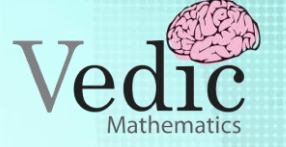
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with India's broader efforts to revive inbound tourism and follows the reopening of the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra, a symbolic spiritual pilgrimage that draws many Chinese-origin followers.



➤ Former Finance Secretary Ajay Seth to Lead IRDAI

The Government of India has appointed Ajay Seth, a seasoned bureaucrat and former Finance Secretary, as the new Chairman of the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI). A 1987-batch IAS officer from the Karnataka cadre, Seth brings a wealth of experience in fiscal policy, economic affairs, and infrastructure development. His appointment is seen as a strategic move to bolster regulatory oversight and reform in India's growing insurance sector.



➤ Riley Powell Defeats Pankaj Advani at IBSF World 6-Red Snooker Championship 2025

In a dramatic upset at the IBSF World 6-Red Snooker Championship 2025, 16-year-old Welsh cueist Riley Powell defeated India's snooker legend Pankaj Advani in the final held in Manama, Bahrain. The closely contested match ended 5-4 in Powell's favour, denying Advani a record 29th world title on his 40th birthday. The win marks a significant milestone in Powell's budding career and highlights the global rise of young talent in the sport of snooker.





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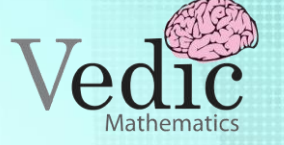
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➤ Elayaperumal statue

The CM Stalin inaugurated the memorial hall and statue of former Tamil Nadu Congress Committee (TNCC) president L. Elayaperumal, a prominent leader who belonged to the Scheduled Caste, in Chidambaram. The recommendations of the Committee on Untouchability, Economic and Educational Development of the Scheduled Castes, headed by L Elayaperumal, formed the basis for the historic amendment to the Tamil Nadu Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, passed by the Tamil Nadu Assembly in 1970.



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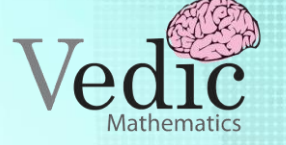
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Current affairs MCQS on 28 July

Q.1. Recently, the central bank of which country has announced the phase-out of OTP authentication?

- A. UAE
- B. Iran
- C. Iraq
- D. Japan

Answer: A. UAE

The Central Bank of the United Arab Emirates (CBUAE) has issued a directive that requires all financial institutions to phase out SMS and email-based one-time password (OTP) authentication for customer transactions by March 31, 2026. The move, aimed at strengthening digital banking security, will affect banks, finance companies, exchange houses, insurance companies and payment service providers across the UAE, marking a significant shift towards more secure, risk-based authentication technologies.

Q.2. Recently, 'Kargil Shaurya Vatika' has been constructed in the assembly premises of which state?

- A. Uttar Pradesh
- B. Rajasthan
- C. Karnataka
- D. Haryana

Answer: B. Rajasthan

The Rajasthan Vidhan Sabha premises in Jaipur has now become not only a place for law making but also a pilgrimage for national inspiration. On the occasion of the 26th anniversary of Kargil Vijay Diwas, the 'Kargil Shaurya Vatika' was inaugurated here. In a ceremony organized on this occasion, Vidhan Sabha Speaker Vasudev Devnani honored the wives of 21 soldiers martyred in the Kargil war of 1999 by presenting them shawls and mementos. In this garden, the wives of the martyrs paid tribute to them by planting a vermilion plant.

Q.3. Recently, which shipyard limited launched the pollution control vessel (PCV) 'Samudra Prachet' for the Indian Coast Guard?

- A. Goa Shipyard Limited
- B. Cochin Shipyard Limited
- C. Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited
- D. None of these

Answer: A. Goa Shipyard Limited

Defence public sector unit Goa Shipyard Limited has launched its second indigenous pollution control vessel (PCV) 'Samudra Prachet' for the Indian Coast Guard. According to a GSL official, the vessel has two arms capable of collecting oil spills while moving and also has a radar to detect oil slicks. The vessel will play a vital role in enhancing India's oil spill response capabilities in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). It will also strengthen the Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan through indigenisation of strategic marine resources.

Q.4. Recently, India has successfully achieved the target of mixing what percentage of ethanol in petrol by the year 2025?

- A. 10%
- B. 15%
- C. 20%
- D. 25%

Answer: C. 20%

India has achieved a historic milestone in its energy transformation journey by achieving 20% ethanol blending in petrol by 2025, five years ahead of its original 2030 target. This achievement, announced by Union Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri, marks a transformational shift in India's fuel strategy that will enhance energy security, promote sustainability and empower rural economies.

Q.5. According to the recent Morgan Stanley report, by when will India become the third largest economy in the world?

- A. Year 2028
- B. Year 2030





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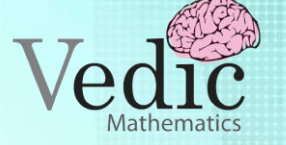
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C. Year 2035

D. Year 2047

Answer: A. Year 2028

According to a Morgan Stanley report, India will become the world's third-largest economy by 2028 and its GDP will more than double to \$10.6 trillion by 2035. The report estimates that three to five Indian states, including Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh and Karnataka, could reach the \$1 trillion mark, making them among the world's top 20 economies by 2035.

Q.6. Recently, which state has launched the country's first "Mining Tourism Initiative" to promote mining tourism?

A. Bihar

B. Odisha

C. Jharkhand

D. Chhattisgarh

Answer: C. Jharkhand

Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren said his government has launched the country's first mining tourism initiative and signed an agreement with Coal India subsidiary CCL. The move comes after Mr Soren recently visited the Gava Mine Museum in Barcelona, where he saw ancient mining techniques and relics from the Neolithic era. Jharkhand is endowed with rich mineral resources and has about 40% of the country's total minerals.

Q.7. Recently, India's first Hornbill Conservation Center has been announced to be built in the Annamalai Tiger Reserve of which state?

A. Kerala

B. Karnataka

C. Andhra Pradesh

D. Tamil Nadu

Answer: D. Tamil Nadu

The Tamil Nadu government has announced to set up India's first "Hornbill Conservation Centre" in the Anaimalai Tiger Reserve (ATR) in Coimbatore district. The initiative is a significant step towards biodiversity conservation, aimed at the conservation

of key bird species like the hornbill and restoration of their habitats.

Q.8. According to the Ministry of Commerce recently, what percentage of India's intellectual property (IP) filings have increased in the last five years?

A. 40%

B. 42%

C. 44%

D. 48%

Answer: C. 44%

Intellectual property (IP) registrations in India have grown by 44% in the last five years, thanks to government policy reforms, duty concessions and digitisation of IP services. This growth reflects growing awareness in the country, a vibrant startup ecosystem and efforts to protect indigenous products through geographical indicators (GIs), patents and trademarks.

Q.9. When will the World Food India Program, 2025 be held in New Delhi?

A. 25 August

B. 25 September

C. 25 October

D. 25 November

Answer: B. 25 September

The fourth edition of World Food India will be held in New Delhi from 25-28 September 2025. The event, which was first held in New Delhi in 2017, showcases India's rich food culture and the investment potential of its food processing sector to domestic and international investors.

Q.10. Recently, which state government has approved 1% stamp duty exemption for women on property up to Rs 1 crore?

A. Madhya Pradesh

B. Uttar Pradesh

C. Bihar

D. Uttarakhand

Answer: B. Uttar Pradesh





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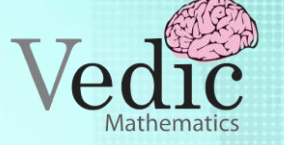
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The Uttar Pradesh Cabinet has approved a proposal to increase the 1% stamp duty exemption for women buying properties worth up to ₹1 crore. Earlier, this exemption, which had a maximum limit of ₹10,000, was applicable only on properties worth up to ₹10 lakh. With the revised limit, women buyers can now avail stamp duty exemption up to ₹1 lakh.

Q.11. Recently, India has started giving tourist visa again to the citizens of which country after 5 years?

- A. China
- B. Pakistan
- C. Maldives
- D. Afghanistan

Answer: A. China

India has officially resumed issuing tourist visas to Chinese nationals after a gap of five years, marking an important diplomatic and people-to-people moment in India-China relations. The move reflects a cautious but positive rebalancing of ties between the two countries in the areas of tourism, soft diplomacy and regional cooperation. The decision comes at a time when India is making extensive efforts to revive inbound tourism and recently resumed the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra - a spiritual pilgrimage that enjoys special recognition among followers of Chinese origin.

Q.12. Which position has India achieved in the recently published Henley Passport Index, 2025?

- A. 77th
- B. 80th
- C. 82nd
- D. 85th

Answer: A. 77th

India's passport ranking in the 2025 Henley Passport Index has climbed eight places to 77th from 85th last year. Indian passport holders now have visa-free or visa-on-arrival access to 59 countries. The Henley Passport Index, compiled using data from the International Air Transport Association (IATA), ranks global passports based on travel freedom.

Q.13. Recently, which state has approved the launch of an initiative called 'CM-Flight' to encourage global human talent?

- A. Assam
- B. Bihar
- C. West Bengal
- D. Odisha

Answer: A. Assam

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma announced the Chief Minister Foreign Language Initiative for Global Human Talent (CM-FLIGHT) to enhance the employability of youth abroad. The scheme will provide structured training in foreign languages, including Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT) up to N2 level. The project is in line with Japan's Specified Skilled Worker (SSW) visa programme to facilitate paid short-term jobs in Japan. A subsidy of ₹1.5 lakh will be provided to each selected applicant for language training. The initiative aims to tackle unemployment and underemployment in Assam through international employment access.

Q.14. Recently, India's first fully indigenous 50 kW geothermal power plant will be installed in which state?

- A. Uttar Pradesh
- B. Tripura
- C. Rajasthan
- D. Arunachal Pradesh

Answer: D. Arunachal Pradesh

India's first 50 kW geothermal power plant, developed entirely with indigenous technology, will be set up in Tawang district of Arunachal Pradesh. This 50 kW geothermal power plant will produce electricity at a low temperature of 68 degrees Celsius by using the earth's internal energy.

Q.15. Recently, India Ratings and Research has reduced India's growth rate forecast for the current financial year 2025-26 to what percentage?

- A. 6.2%
- B. 6.3%





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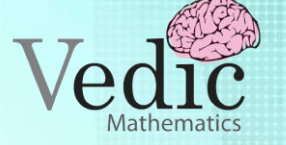
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C. 6.5%

D. 6.7%

Answer: D. 6.7%

Leading credit rating agency, India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra) has revised India's gross domestic product (GDP) growth forecast for FY26 to 6.3%, down from its previous estimate. The adjustment reflects the complex interplay of global uncertainties, weak investment sentiment and some supportive domestic factors such as low inflation and monetary easing. The revision comes amid widespread concerns over a global trade slowdown and cautious investor behaviour, making this update important for India's macroeconomic outlook.



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