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International News

Russia-Ukraine Conflict & Diplomacy

Hopes for a peace summit between Russian President Vladimir Putin and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky have reportedly diminished. U.S. President Donald Trump, who had previously raised expectations for a meeting, stated that the two leaders are like "oil and vinegar."

Trump has said he will make an "important" decision in two weeks regarding Ukraine peace efforts, which could include "massive sanctions" on Moscow or no action at all.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov stated that "no meeting" is planned between Putin and Zelensky, claiming the agenda is "not ready at all."

Meanwhile, Ukrainian President Zelensky, speaking alongside NATO chief Mark Rutte, said that Ukraine has "no agreements with the Russians."

A recent Russian strike on a U.S.-owned factory in Ukraine has been reported, with President Trump expressing his discontent.

Disasters and Accidents

A tour bus carrying 54 passengers from Niagara Falls overturned near Buffalo, New York, resulting in five deaths and several injuries. Among the victims are reportedly Indian nationals.

Other International Relations

Pakistan's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar has offered to hold talks with India on all issues, including Kashmir.

India and Russia have announced a plan to enhance cooperation on the strategically important Northern Sea Route (NSR).

In commemoration of the 80th anniversary of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the twin bells of Urakami Cathedral in Nagasaki, which were destroyed in the bombing, have been restored.

Cultural and Commemorative Days

August 23 is recognized as the International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition.

It is also the European Day of Remembrance for Victims of Stalinism and Nazism.

The rare Black Moon, the third new moon in a season with four, is set to occur on this date though it will not be visible.

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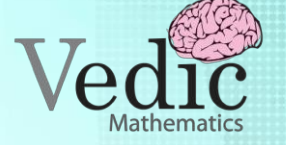
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MCQS

1. What did U.S. President Donald Trump say to describe the relationship between Russian President Vladimir Putin and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky?

- a) Like "two peas in a pod."
- b) Like "oil and vinegar."
- c) Like "two sides of the same coin."
- d) Like "a match made in heaven."

Answer: b) Like "oil and vinegar."

The news report states that President Trump described the two leaders as being "like 'oil and vinegar,'" suggesting they are fundamentally incompatible and unlikely to mix well, which diminishes the hopes for a peace summit.

2. What significant event related to the Russia-Ukraine conflict was reported to have occurred on this date?

- a) A major peace treaty was signed.
- b) A Russian strike on a U.S.-owned factory in Ukraine.
- c) A meeting between Putin and Zelensky was successfully held.
- d) Russia withdrew its troops from Ukraine.

Answer: b) A Russian strike on a U.S.-owned factory in Ukraine.

The news summary explicitly mentions that "A recent Russian strike on a U.S.-owned factory in Ukraine has been reported," and that President Trump expressed his discontent about it.

3. What was the outcome of the tour bus accident near Buffalo, New York?

- a) No fatalities, but several injuries.
- b) Five deaths and several injuries, with some victims being Indian nationals.
- c) The bus was hijacked, leading to a police standoff.
- d) All passengers were safely rescued without injury.

Answer: b) Five deaths and several injuries, with some victims being Indian nationals.

The report states, "A tour bus...overturned near Buffalo, New York, resulting in five deaths and several injuries. Among the victims are reportedly Indian nationals."

4. What did Pakistan's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar offer to do with India?

- a) Sever all diplomatic ties.
- b) Hold talks on all issues, including Kashmir.
- c) Enter into a new trade agreement.
- d) Collaborate on military exercises.

Answer: b) Hold talks on all issues, including Kashmir.

The news brief states, "Pakistan's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar has





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offered to hold talks with India on all issues, including Kashmir."

5. Which of the following is NOT one of the commemorative days or events mentioned for August 23?

- a) International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition.
- b) European Day of Remembrance for Victims of Stalinism and Nazism.
- c) The occurrence of a rare Black Moon.
- d) International Day of Peace.

Answer: d) International Day of Peace.

The summary lists the International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition, the European Day of Remembrance for Victims of Stalinism and Nazism, and the rare Black Moon as events occurring on August 23. The International Day of Peace is not mentioned.



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