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International News

Geopolitical & Military Developments:

Russia-Ukraine Conflict: Russia has accused Ukraine of a drone strike on the Kursk nuclear power station, which allegedly damaged a transformer and reduced capacity at one reactor. The incident reportedly occurred on Ukraine's Independence Day. In a separate development, Ukraine's President Zelenskyy has expressed a desire for direct talks with Russian President Putin.

Israel-Gaza & Yemen Conflicts: A UN-backed report has officially declared a famine in the Gaza Governorate, attributing the situation to actions taken by the Israeli government. Israel, however, disputes this report. Meanwhile, Israel has conducted airstrikes on Yemen's capital, Sanaa, targeting Houthi rebels. The Houthis claim the strikes killed six people and injured dozens more.

US-China Tensions: China has condemned the United States for what it calls "harassment" of Chinese students, citing interrogations and maltreatment at US borders.

Diplomatic & Economic News:

International Postal Services: Several countries, including India, have temporarily suspended most international postal services to the United States. This action is in response to a new US executive order that withdraws the duty-free exemption for low-value goods, making all goods, regardless of value, subject to customs duties.

US Tariffs: The US has imposed new secondary tariffs on India. US Vice President JD Vance stated in an interview that these tariffs are part of a strategy to exert economic pressure on India to force Russia to end the war in Ukraine. In response, India's envoy to Russia stated that India will continue to purchase oil from wherever it gets the "best deal."

Japan-South Korea Relations: The leaders of Japan and South Korea have pledged closer ties and issued their first joint statement in 17 years. They have agreed to deepen cooperation in technology and trade and to form a joint task force to address the challenges of aging populations and declining birth rates.

Other Major Stories:

SpaceX Starship: Elon Musk's SpaceX has scrubbed the tenth test flight of its Starship rocket due to a ground systems glitch.

Australia's "Mushroom Murderer": An Australian woman convicted of murdering three people and attempting to murder a fourth with poisonous mushrooms in 2023 is back in court to face her surviving victim and the victims' families.

Pakistan-Bangladesh Relations: Pakistan's Foreign Minister has met with Bangladeshi party leaders in Dhaka to strengthen ties. A visa exemption agreement for diplomatic and official passport holders has been signed between the two countries.





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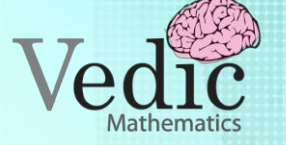
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MCQS

1. Which country has accused Ukraine of a drone strike on the Kursk nuclear power station?

- A) Belarus
- B) Russia
- C) Poland
- D) Moldova

Answer: B) Russia

The provided information states, "Russia has accused Ukraine of a drone strike on the Kursk nuclear power station, which allegedly damaged a transformer and reduced capacity at one reactor." This directly identifies Russia as the accuser.

2. A UN-backed report has declared a famine in which region, attributing it to actions by the Israeli government?

- A) West Bank
- B) Sinai Peninsula
- C) Gaza Governorate
- D) Negev Desert

Answer: C) Gaza Governorate

According to the news, "A UN-backed report has officially declared a famine in the Gaza Governorate, attributing the situation to actions taken by the Israeli government."

3. Why have several countries, including India, temporarily suspended most international postal services to the United States?

- A) Due to a new US law imposing stricter security checks on mail.
- B) Because of a new US executive order that removes the duty-free exemption for low-value goods.
- C) In response to US tariffs on certain goods.





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D) As a result of a cyber-attack on US postal services.

Answer: B) Because of a new US executive order that removes the duty-free exemption for low-value goods.

The text clearly states that the suspension of postal services is "in response to a new US executive order that withdraws the duty-free exemption for low-value goods, making all goods, regardless of value, subject to customs duties."

4. What is the stated purpose of the new secondary tariffs the U.S. has imposed on India?

- A) To increase trade revenue for the US.
- B) To protect American industries from Indian competition.
- C) To pressure India to stop purchasing oil from Russia.
- D) To penalize India for its nuclear program.

Answer: C) To pressure India to stop purchasing oil from Russia.

The information provided states, "US Vice President JD Vance stated in an interview that these tariffs are part of a strategy to exert economic pressure on India to force Russia to end the war in Ukraine."

5. What recent agreement did the leaders of Japan and South Korea make for the first time in 17 years?

- A) A military alliance to counter North Korea.
- B) A joint statement pledging closer ties and cooperation on technology, trade, and demographic challenges.
- C) An agreement to jointly develop a new space program.
- D) A trade agreement to eliminate all tariffs between the two countries.

Answer: B) A joint statement pledging closer ties and cooperation on technology, trade, and demographic challenges.

The news highlights that "The leaders of Japan and South Korea have pledged closer ties and issued their first joint statement in 17 years. They have agreed to deepen cooperation in technology and trade and to form a joint task force to address the challenges of aging populations and declining birth rates."

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