

International News

Key Global Developments:

Geopolitical Tensions & Conflicts:

Russia-Ukraine War: Vladimir Putin is reportedly ready for peace talks, but has set a "big condition." Russia also showcased visuals of a "giant Shahed drones plant," indicating a potential increase in drone production. There are hints of a NATO-Russia war after Putin reportedly ripped a 30-year-old military pact with a NATO nation.

Middle East: The conflict between Israel and Hamas continues, with reports of Israeli forces killing aid seekers in Gaza and a worsening hunger crisis. A "cautious calm" has returned to Sweida, Syria, after Druze-Bedouin fighting reportedly killed over 1,100 people. Israel has sent medical aid to Druze in Syria's Sweida. US officials are reportedly frustrated with Netanyahu's actions regarding Syria strikes.

India-Pakistan: The 2025 India-Pakistan conflict, which began on May 7, 2025, after India launched "Operation Sindoor" in response to a terrorist attack in Kashmir, has resulted in a ceasefire. Casualties were reported on both sides.

Sudan: The Sudanese Civil War enters its third year, exacerbating an already severe humanitarian crisis and causing widespread displacement.

Myanmar: The civil war continues with no signs of reprieve, despite a recent earthquake. Potential elections in 2025 are expected to worsen the conflict.

Sahel Region: Violence is deeply rooted in the Sahel, particularly in Burkina Faso and Mali, with jihadist groups expanding their influence and leading to a refugee crisis in neighboring countries.

Political Landscape:

Japan: Prime Minister Ishiba's coalition has lost its upper house majority in elections, marking the first time the LDP has lost in both chambers since 1955. A "Japanese First" party has emerged as an election force with tough immigration talk.

United States: Trump-Epstein ties are under scrutiny as sexual harassment allegations from 1996 resurface. Donald Trump has also shared an AI video depicting Obama being arrested and has been vocal about his blame on Biden's policy for a border agent shooting in NYC. The US is also facing its first megafire risk of 2025 in Oregon.

Bangladesh: Bangladesh is set to revive its caretaker government system.

Nepal: Nepal PM Oli is expected to visit India in mid-September.

Brazil: Brazil's top court has defied Trump and signaled no retreat on the Bolsonaro probe.

Turkey: Erdogan has reaffirmed his full backing for a two-state deal on ethnically split Cyprus.

Economic & Business News:

Global Markets: Nifty 50 is hovering around the 25,000 mark amidst mixed sentiment, driven by strong domestic earnings but weighed down by global trade concerns, especially potential new US tariffs on EU goods proposed by President Trump. Asian markets opened cautiously.

Corporate Earnings: ICICI Bank and HDFC Bank are key gainers on Nifty 50 after strong Q1 FY26 earnings. Reliance Industries also reported its highest-ever quarterly profit.

Trade: The US is edging towards an August 1 deadline for new tariffs on European goods, with President Trump reportedly pushing for higher taxes. The EU is planning a retaliation strategy.

Energy: Crude oil prices opened slightly higher.

China: China has quietly issued 2025 rare earth quotas.

UK: UK consumer sentiment has suffered its first big fall in nearly 3 years, and the UK is set to announce a "root and branch" reform of its water industry.

UAE: Air Arabia won a bid to launch a Saudi low-cost airline in Dammam, supporting Vision 2030 goals. The UAE now allows visitors from 52 nations to drive with their home country licenses.

Other Significant News:

Health: A global measles surge is linked to falling vaccination rates. Rising dairy demand may worsen global nutrition and climate risks.

Environment: Extreme weather from climate change is spiking grocery bills.

Technology: Microsoft has alerted businesses and governments to a server software attack.

Disasters: Monsoon havoc in Pakistan has resulted in 54 deaths in 24 hours. Afghanistan was struck by two more earthquakes, the fifth in a week. A 6.2 magnitude earthquake hit Alaska, with no damage reported.

International Forums: The High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) is being convened from July 14-23, with a ministerial segment from July 21-23, focusing on sustainable development goals.

MCQS

1. In the Middle East, a "cautious calm" has reportedly returned to which Syrian city after Druze-Bedouin fighting that reportedly killed over 1,100 people?

- a) Damascus
- b) Aleppo
- c) Sweida
- d) Homs

Answer: c) Sweida

The news states, "A 'cautious calm' has returned to Sweida, Syria, after Druze-Bedouin fighting reportedly killed over 1,100 people."

2. Which country's Prime Minister Ishiba's coalition has lost its upper house majority in recent elections, marking the first time the LDP has lost in both chambers since 1955?

- a) South Korea
- b) Japan
- c) Australia
- d) Canada

Answer: b) Japan

The news reports, "Prime Minister Ishiba's coalition has lost its upper house majority in elections, marking the first time the LDP has lost in both chambers since 1955."

3. What is the Nifty 50 index reportedly hovering around, amidst mixed sentiment, on July 21, 2025?

- a) 20,000 mark
- b) 22,500 mark



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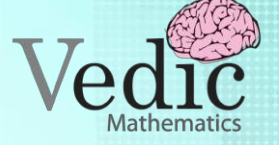
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- c) 25,000 mark
d) 27,500 mark

Answer: c) 25,000 mark

The news states, "Nifty 50 is hovering around the 25,000 mark amidst mixed sentiment, driven by strong domestic earnings but weighed down by global trade concerns..."

4. How many deaths due to monsoon havoc were reported in Pakistan in the last 24 hours, as of July 21, 2025?

- a) 32
b) 45
c) 54
d) 68

Answer: c) 54

The news mentions, "Monsoon havoc in Pakistan has resulted in 54 deaths in 24 hours."

5. What is the name of the Indian military operation launched on May 7, 2025, in response to a terrorist attack in Kashmir, which led to the 2025 India-Pakistan conflict?

- a) Operation Vijay
b) Operation Parakram
c) Operation Sindoor
d) Operation Meghdoot

Answer: c) Operation Sindoor

The news states, "The 2025 India-Pakistan conflict, which began on May 7, 2025, after India launched 'Operation Sindoor' in response to a terrorist attack in Kashmir, has resulted in a ceasefire."

