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## International News

### Europe

**Russia-Ukraine Conflict:** Russian President Vladimir Putin stated that any Western troops deployed to Ukraine would be considered legitimate targets for Moscow to attack. Meanwhile, German Chancellor Friedrich Merz said that Germany's future direct military involvement in Ukraine would depend on the type and extent of US involvement.

### Middle East & Asia

**Iran Nuclear Issue:** Iranian Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi and EU foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas discussed the latest developments regarding Tehran's nuclear issue amid the threat of new sanctions.

**Bhutan-India Relations:** Bhutan's Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay is in New Delhi to meet with India's External Affairs Minister, Dr. S. Jaishankar. The Bhutanese PM also visited the Shri Ram Janmbhoomi Temple in Ayodhya.

**Sri Lanka:** A bus carrying municipal employees plunged into a ravine, killing fifteen people and injuring at least 18 others.

**Myanmar:** Myanmar and China's Sichuan Province are set to cooperate in the agriculture, livestock, and industrial sectors.

### North America

**US Foreign Policy:** The United States announced new visa restrictions on Central American nationals accused of acting on behalf of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) and undermining the rule of law. US President

Donald Trump stated that India and the United States have a "special relationship" and there is "nothing to worry about" the ties between the two countries.

**US Military:** US President Donald Trump signed an executive order to rename the Department of Defense to the "Department of War."

### Other Global Developments

**Public Health:** The World Health Organization (WHO) declared that Mpox is no longer an international health emergency, citing a sustained decline in cases since the emergency was declared last year.

**Space & Astronomy:** On the night of September 7, a total lunar eclipse, also known as a "Blood Moon," will coincide with the Corn Moon. The total phase is expected to last for about 82 minutes and will be visible in Asia, Australia, Africa, and parts of Europe.

**TEDx Events:** Several TEDx events are scheduled for September 6 in various locations, including TEDxMonashUniversityMalaysia, TEDxLUMS in Lahore, and TEDxTheHague

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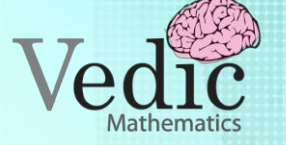
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## MCQS

1. According to the provided news brief, what condition did German Chancellor Friedrich Merz state would determine Germany's future direct military involvement in Ukraine?

- A. The outcome of the upcoming elections in Ukraine.
- B. The type and extent of US involvement.
- C. The results of a new round of peace talks.
- D. A formal request from the Ukrainian government.

**Answer:** B. The type and extent of US involvement.

The news brief directly states, "German Chancellor Friedrich Merz said that Germany's future direct military involvement in Ukraine would depend on the type and extent of US involvement."

2. Bhutan's Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay's visit to India included a meeting with which Indian official?

- A. Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- B. External Affairs Minister, Dr. S. Jaishankar.
- C. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.
- D. President Droupadi Murmu.

**Answer:** B. External Affairs Minister, Dr. S. Jaishankar.

The news brief mentions that during his visit to New Delhi, the Bhutanese Prime Minister met with "India's External Affairs Minister, Dr. S. Jaishankar."

3. According to the news brief, what action did US President Donald Trump take regarding the Department of Defense?

- A. He announced a new budget increase for the Department of Defense.
- B. He signed an executive order to reduce the size of the department.
- C. He signed an executive order to rename the Department of Defense to the "Department of War."
- D. He appointed a new Secretary of Defense.

**Answer:** C. He signed an executive order to rename the Department of Defense to the "Department of War."

The news brief explicitly states, "US President Donald Trump signed an executive order to rename the Department of Defense to the 'Department of War.'"

4. What did the World Health Organization (WHO) declare about Mpox?

- A. It is now a global pandemic.
- B. It is no longer an international health emergency.
- C. It is a new strain of the flu.
- D. A new vaccine has been approved for it.







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**Answer:** B. It is no longer an international health emergency.

The news brief states, "The World Health Organization (WHO) declared that Mpox is no longer an international health emergency."

**5. The total lunar eclipse on September 7 will be visible in which of the following regions?**

- A. The Americas.
- B. Asia, Australia, Africa, and parts of Europe.
- C. Only North America.
- D. Only South America and Antarctica.

**Answer:** B. Asia, Australia, Africa, and parts of Europe.

The news brief specifies that the lunar eclipse "will be visible in Asia, Australia, Africa, and parts of Europe."

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