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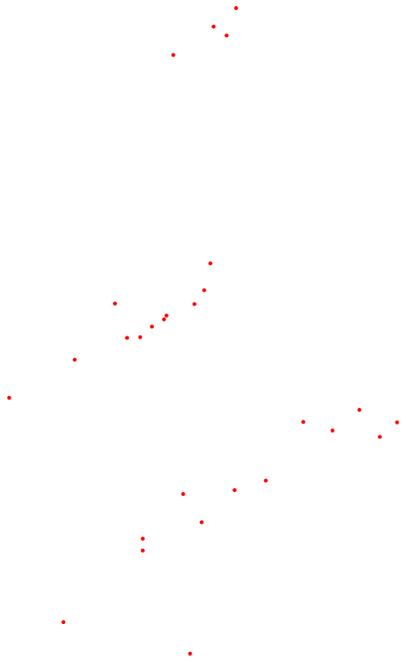


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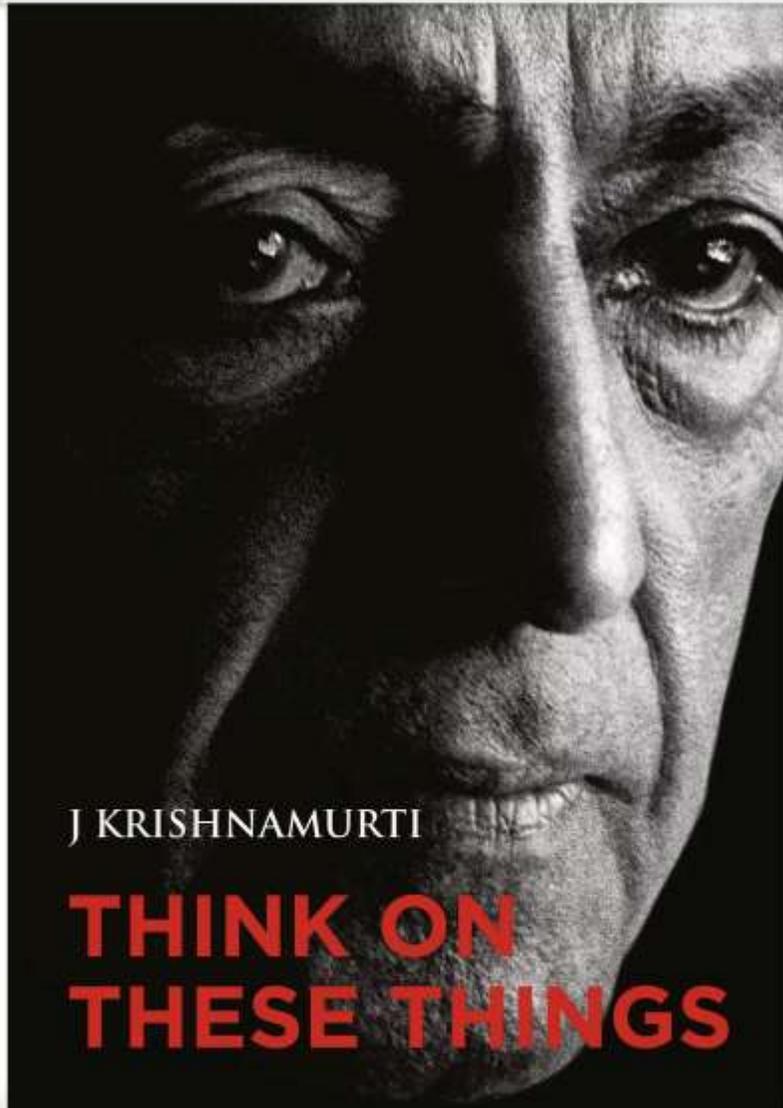


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Conversations with Iran to continue: Jaishankar

Commitment to protect Indians in West Asia is 'overriding priority', Minister tells Parliament

Energy security and trade flows will always be 'paramount', he says in a *suo motu* statement

Statement does not offer any solutions to serious geopolitical costs India has to bear, says Congress

Kallol Bhattacharjee
NEW DELHI

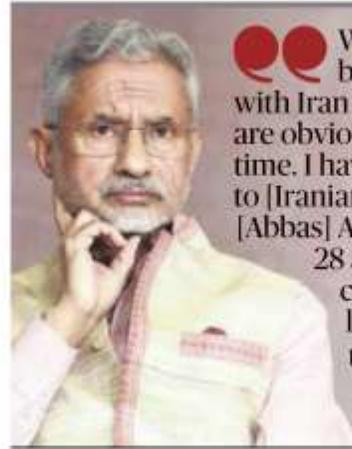
The Indian government tried reaching out to the Iranian leadership after the U.S.-Israel attack on February 28 killed its Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, but could not establish contact because of the ongoing conflict, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar told Parliament while making a *suo motu* statement on Monday. He said Iran had sought "permission... for three ships in the region to dock at our ports" before the U.S. torpedoed *IRIS Dena* off Sri Lanka.

Speaking in Parliament as it resumed the Budget Session, Mr. Jaishankar reiterated the Centre's commitment to protect the Indians in the region, de-

scribing their safety as an "overriding priority". He said that "energy security and trade flows will always be paramount" and informed the MPs about the diplomatic-level conversation India has had with the U.S. during the period.

"While attempts have been made, contacts with Iran at the leadership level are obviously difficult at this time. I have, however, spoken to Foreign Minister [Abbas] Araghchi on February 28 and March 5. We will continue these high-level conversations in the coming days," he said.

While India has not condemned the incident so far, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri had signed the condolence book at the Iranian Embassy in New Delhi on March 5 as Iran mourned the death of Khamenei who was assassinat-



While attempts have been made, contacts with Iran at the leadership level are obviously difficult at this time. I have, however, spoken to [Iranian] Foreign Minister [Abbas] Araghchi on February 28 and March 5. We will continue these high-level conversations in the coming days

S. JAISHANKAR
External Affairs Minister

ed along with several top officials and his close family members.

Mr. Jaishankar informed the MPs about the diplomatic-level conversation India has had with the U.S. during this period.

He assured that the Indian missions are "working hard" to help stranded Indian tourists and said commercial flights were

operated "whenever there has been a partial opening of airspace".

"Our estimate is that about 67,000 of our nationals have done so (returned) as a result. The Ministry of Civil Aviation has also put out figures for the last three days. On March 7, there were a total of 51 inbound flights operated by Indian carriers, 49 on

Khamenei's son new Supreme Leader of Iran

Iran's Assembly of Experts announced that it had chosen Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei, son of Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, the former Supreme Leader who was killed by in a strike on February 28, as the country's new Leader. » PAGE 14

March 8 and there were 50 flights planned for March 9," said Mr. Jaishankar, who also informed that Mr. Araghchi has "expressed his country's thanks" to India after Iranian naval vessel *IRIS Lavan* was allowed to dock at Kochi.

"The Iranian side requested permission on February 28 for three ships in the region to dock at our

ports. This was accorded on March 1 in Kochi. *IRIS Lavan* actually docked on March 4 in Kochi. The crew is currently in Indian naval facilities," he said, referring to the docking "as the right thing to do". Mr. Jaishankar briefed the MPs about the conversations Prime Minister Narendra Modi and he have had with the leaderships of Gulf states and said, "In each case, we received assurances that the well-being of the Indian community will be the priority for the host government."

The Minister referred to the threat to energy security that is being perceived because of the attacks on energy installations in the region and the blockade of the Strait of Hormuz and said the "government remains committed" to ensuring energy security.

"The interests of the Indian consumer has and will always be the overriding priority. Where required, Indian diplomacy has supported the endeavours of our energy enterprises in this volatile situation," he said.

The Congress said that Mr. Jaishankar's statement "inexplicably made no protest against the sinking of *IRIS Dena* in India's strategic backyard, which compromises our role as a net-security provider in the Indian Ocean Region". The party said the Minister's statement did not "condemn the targeted killing of the head of state of a sovereign nation; nor did it offer solutions to redress the serious geo-economic and geopolitical costs that India is having to bear, and escalations that we may have to face."



- **India–Iran Diplomatic Engagement Continues**

- India has decided to continue diplomatic conversations with Iran despite the ongoing geopolitical tensions in West Asia.

भारत ने पश्चिम एशिया में बढ़ते भू-राजनीतिक तनाव के बावजूद ईरान के साथ कूटनीतिक वार्ता जारी रखने का निर्णय लिया है।

- External Affairs Minister **S. Jaishankar** informed Parliament that contacts at the leadership level remain difficult due to the conflict situation.

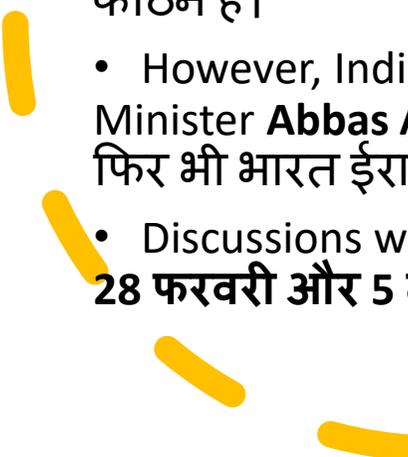
विदेश मंत्री **एस. जयशंकर** ने संसद को बताया कि संघर्ष की स्थिति के कारण शीर्ष नेतृत्व स्तर पर संपर्क स्थापित करना कठिन है।

- However, India continues diplomatic engagement through foreign minister–level talks with Iranian Foreign Minister **Abbas Araghchi**.

फिर भी भारत ईरानी विदेश मंत्री **अब्बास अराघची** के साथ विदेश मंत्री स्तर पर कूटनीतिक संपर्क बनाए हुए है।

- Discussions were held on **February 28 and March 5** and India plans to continue high-level communication.

28 फरवरी और 5 मार्च को वार्ता हुई और भारत आगे भी उच्च स्तरीय संवाद जारी रखेगा।



2. India's Priority: Safety of Indians in West Asia

पश्चिम एशिया में भारतीय नागरिकों की सुरक्षा भारत की सर्वोच्च प्राथमिकता है।

- The Indian government reiterated that protecting Indian nationals in the region is the **"overriding priority."**
भारतीय सरकार ने दोहराया कि क्षेत्र में भारतीय नागरिकों की सुरक्षा **"सर्वोच्च प्राथमिकता"** है।
- Indian diplomatic missions are working to assist stranded Indian tourists and residents.
भारतीय दूतावास फंसे हुए भारतीय पर्यटकों और नागरिकों की सहायता के लिए काम कर रहे हैं।
- Around **67,000 Indians have already returned** from the conflict-affected region.
लगभग **67,000 भारतीय नागरिक संघर्ष प्रभावित क्षेत्रों से वापस लौट चुके हैं।**
- Flights and evacuation measures have been arranged whenever airspace opens partially.
जब भी हवाई क्षेत्र आंशिक रूप से खुलता है तब उड़ानों और निकासी व्यवस्था की जाती है।

3. Energy Security and Trade Concerns

भारत के लिए ऊर्जा सुरक्षा और व्यापारिक आपूर्ति श्रृंखला अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण है।

- India depends heavily on **West Asian oil imports**, which form a large share of India's energy supply.
भारत अपनी ऊर्जा आवश्यकता का बड़ा हिस्सा **पश्चिम एशिया से आयातित तेल** से पूरा करता है।
- Any conflict affecting the **Strait of Hormuz** can disrupt global oil supply and raise prices.
हॉर्मुज जलडमरूमध्य में तनाव वैश्विक तेल आपूर्ति को बाधित कर सकता है और कीमतें बढ़ा सकता है।
- India therefore supports efforts to stabilize the region and keep energy routes open.
इसलिए भारत क्षेत्र में स्थिरता बनाए रखने और ऊर्जा मार्गों को खुला रखने का समर्थन करता है।

4. Iranian Naval Ship Docking in Kochi

ईरानी नौसैनिक जहाज को भारत के कोच्चि बंदरगाह पर डॉकिंग की अनुमति दी गई।

- Iran requested permission for three ships to dock in India.
ईरान ने अपने तीन जहाजों को भारत में डॉक करने की अनुमति मांगी।
 - The Iranian naval ship **IRIS Lavan** docked at **Kochi port on March 4**.
ईरानी नौसैनिक जहाज **IRIS Lavan** ने **4 मार्च को कोच्चि बंदरगाह पर डॉक किया**।
 - The crew is currently at Indian naval facilities.
जहाज का दल फिलहाल भारतीय नौसैनिक सुविधाओं में है।
 - India described the docking as a **routine maritime cooperation step**.
भारत ने इसे **सामान्य समुद्री सहयोग** की प्रक्रिया बताया।
-

5. Political Debate in India

भारत में इस मुद्दे पर राजनीतिक बहस भी हुई।

- Opposition parties questioned whether India should have condemned attacks affecting Iranian leadership.
विपक्षी दलों ने सवाल उठाया कि क्या भारत को ईरानी नेतृत्व पर हमले की निंदा करनी चाहिए थी।
- They argued the situation has **serious geopolitical and economic consequences for India**.
उनका कहना है कि इस स्थिति के **भारत पर गंभीर भू-राजनीतिक और आर्थिक प्रभाव** हो सकते हैं।

Topic

Iran Political System

Strait of Hormuz

India–Iran Trade

Chabahar Port

India's Diaspora in West Asia

Iran Nuclear Program

Iran Missile Program

Strategic Importance of Iran

Key Facts

Supreme Leader is the highest authority; elected indirectly by the Assembly of Experts

Around **20% of global oil trade passes through this strait**

Major sectors: crude oil, fertilizers, agriculture, pharmaceuticals

Developed by India to access Afghanistan and Central Asia bypassing Pakistan

More than **9 million Indians live in the Gulf region**

Enrichment facilities at **Natanz and Fordow**

Iran possesses the **largest missile arsenal in the Middle East**

Gateway between **South Asia, Central Asia and the Middle East**

- 
- Consider the following statements regarding India–Iran relations:
 - The Strait of Hormuz is a critical energy chokepoint through which a large portion of global oil trade passes.
 - India is developing Chabahar Port in Iran to gain access to Central Asia.
 - The Supreme Leader of Iran is directly elected by the public.
 - Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
 - A. 1 and 2 only
 - B. 2 and 3 only
 - C. 1 only
 - D. 1, 2 and 3
- 

Oil derivatives traders see Middle East supply shock as short-lived



Price spiked An aerial view of a crude oil tanker travelling at high speed over the sea. (GUY LAWRENCE)

Reuters

Oil options and futures are signalling that the latest Middle East conflict may be short-lived, as traders pile into structures that profit from a retreat in prices after the initial spike.

Options and futures markets often provide the earliest signal of whether traders see a supply shock as fleeting or structural, creating opportunities to profit from sharp swings in prices.

War sends shockwaves

The latest U.S. attack on Iran has sent shockwaves through energy markets as war-risk insurance costs surge, freight rates hit record levels and disruptions at the Strait of Hormuz are feared among hundreds of vessels. Oil prices on Friday were at multi-year highs.

In a sign traders see the price shock as temporary, 30-day oil futures that expired on Friday jumped 17.5 points to \$69.96 over the past week through Tuesday, while 60- and 90-day futures rose only 5.9 and 2.6 percentage points, LSEG data show.

"What we're watching in real time is the difference between a logistical crisis and a structural one," Brian E. Kinsella, former Goldman Sachs energy specialist, told the Reuters Global Markets Forum.

Heading on logistical

"The market is testing if it's logistical and I think that is the right read," he added.

The Brent futures curve is sending a similar signal. The spread between the front-month Brent contract and the six-month contract widened to about \$10, the steepest backwardation since the Russia-Ukraine war in 2022, pointing to tight near-term supply while suggesting short-term disruption.

Put-to-call ratio

Meanwhile, the put-to-call ratio on West Texas Intermediate options roughly halved to 0.36 on Monday from Friday's close. CME data showed, pointing to heavy bullish call buying before rebounding to 0.56 on Tuesday as demand increased for downside protection.

A call option gives the holder the right, but not the obligation, to buy a crude futures contract at a set price, while a put option gives the right to sell one.

The ratio, meanwhile, compares bearish put options, which profit from declines, with bullish call options that benefit from rising prices to gauge market sentiment.

" Dealers are already short a meaningful amount of these cheap out-of-the-money calls, creating a more negative gamma profile in crude," said Rebecca Rubin, senior energy trader at CIBC Private Wealth US. That contrasts with the more typical environment where dealers are long gamma and sell into rallies. Gamma shows how much an option's sensitivity to the futures price (delta) will change if the market moves.

Much of the 2022 Brent strip still trades below \$70 a barrel, a sign markets are not yet pricing a structural shift into long-term supply, Rubin said.

Producers have also used the rally to hedge forward output, creating natural selling pressure on longer-dated volatility.

Risk premiums remain concentrated at the front of the futures curve, reinforcing the view that traders still see the disruption as temporary, said Darrell H. Fletcher, managing director of commodities at trading firm Borsoschock Capital Markets.

Brent opens open interest

Brent opens open interest plunged in late February before rebounding in early March, suggesting traders unwound positions before rebuilding hedges.

Front-month open interest fell from around 3,86,000 contracts on February 18 to roughly 75,000 by February 26, before surging to more than 7,00,000 contracts on March 2 as fresh positions were established.

"The open interest data seems like a pretty clear tell that it was a sharp unwind in positioning and not a structural reallocation," the analyst clearly stated a trade while the back end is what is to pay attention to," Kinsella said.

Futures positioning shows a similar pattern, with more than 40% of open interest concentrated in April through July expiries and thinner positioning further out the curve, according to CME data.

From 1776 to 2026: Adam Smith's lessons for the global economy

'Wealth of Nations' marks 250th anniversary on Mar. 9, debate over legacy of Smith's ideas continues, but his ideas on trade, wealth, labour resonate; free-market economics advocates have long claimed him as spiritual father, while some more recent readings even peg him a moderate progressive

NEWS ANALYSIS

Revered

LONDON

The rich, the tariffs, the monopolies. Such are the rallying calls of many of today's most heated economic debates. They could also come straight from the pen of revered economist Adam Smith, hailed by some as the "father of capitalism" and others as an early progressive.

Smith knew nothing of Donald Trump or tech billionaires when he railed against trade protectionism and extreme affluence in "The Wealth of Nations", the best-read economic book in history, which celebrates its 250th birthday on Monday.

"It is the maxim of every prudent master of a family never to attempt to make at home what it will cost him more to make than to buy," the Scot wrote in the seminal work, for example.

It would be a reasonable law to prohibit the importation of all foreign wares, merely to encourage the making of cloth and iron, in Scotland, for example," he adds.

The foundational text of classical economics was published on March 9, 1776, the same year as the U.S. Declaration of Independence, 25 years before



Reading path: Monument commemorating Adam Smith (1723-90). (GUY LAWRENCE)

the French Revolution, and amid the early convulsions of the Industrial Age.

Yet it's not hard to find parallels between the doctrines the book denounces — such as rival mercantile empires seeking to minimise imports and maximise exports — and President Trump's trade tactics and "America First" credo today.

Free markets, free trade And while Smith is most often cited for his free markets and free trade zeal, when it comes to distribution of wealth, he could almost be characterised as a free-market socialist. He advocated for a "patronage" system, which would allow the rich to employ the poor and miserable," he says in one of his best-known quotes.

"It is not very unreasonable that the rich should possess the greater part of the property," he writes in the book's opening pages.

Events to mark the 250th anniversary of "The Wealth of Nations" are taking place throughout the year in Glasgow, Edinburgh, London and Smith's birthplace of Kirkcaldy.

Smith's ideas continue to contribute to the public debate, not only in proportion to their relevance for all nations, but also in something more than that proportion," Smith writes in the 1790 preface to the second edition of his book.

"The economic progress of a nation is not something that can be planned by its government, or the market, but something that is the result of the actions of individuals," he writes.

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to support anything you want to say," King's College London research associate Leo Steeds said of the Scottish Enlightenment thinker.

Smith also accepted that there were certain circumstances when tariffs were called for, either because the terms of trade were unfair or for reasons of security — arguments increasingly heard in the United States, Europe and other trading blocs.

"Smith did understand these arguments," said Edmund Butler, director of the free market policy think tank the Adam Smith Institute in London.

"But he thought these things (tariffs) really should be as temporary as possible. He thought the more trade you have, the better everybody is."

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"The economic progress of a nation is not something that can be planned by its government, or the market, but something that is the result of the actions of individuals," he writes.

India's next export frontier: Why the country should start shipping trains to various countries

OPINION

Raj K. Mazumdar

India's train manufacturing industry is almost every type of rolling stock — locomotives, coaches, wagons, metro cars and modern trams — in large numbers and at competitive cost. Over decades, the railway manufacturing ecosystem has matured through dedicated Production Units of Indian Railways, PUs and a large vendor base. Yet, despite this legacy and expertise, India remains largely absent from the global market for railway vehicles.

This paradox deserves attention. At a time when the country is striving to expand its manufacturing ecosystem and position itself as a reliable industrial partner or "for-developer" technology chain, the railway rolling stock presents a major untapped opportunity.

Across Asia, Africa and Latin America, countries are rapidly expanding rail networks to address agricultural, energy security and congestion. Many of these nations face the same constraints India faced in earlier decades: limited capital, difficult climatic conditions, heavy passenger loads and mixed-traffic operations. They require reliable and economical solutions rather than the most technologically advanced ones.

India is precisely the equipment where India's expertise is most relevant. Historically, the global railway supply industry has been dominated by a small group of large multinational corporations. Their products are technologically sophisticated but

often expensive and maintenance-intensive. For emerging high-income markets this model works well, but for developing and middle-income countries the lifecycle cost and not the purchase price becomes the decisive factor. A train that is cheaper to operate and easier to maintain over 30 years can be more valuable than a more advanced train that requires complex support systems.

India's railway equipment has evolved into demanding operating conditions: high utilisation, temperature extremes, dust, overloading and diverse track quality. Designers have therefore prioritised robustness, maintainability and operational efficiency. These characteristics match the needs of emerging railway networks worldwide. In other words, India's expertise is naturally suited to the "global South" market segment.

However, exporting trains is fundamentally different from manufacturing them for domestic use. In-

qualification would remove the most common barriers to entry.

The second requirement is providing aesthetic, ergonomic and user-friendly design solutions on sound product development principles. All the touch points of user experience should not only be aesthetically pleasing but also providing a comfortable journey experience. The design ecosystem is very young in this respect. For this, there is a need to establish design firms in the design ecosystem and capacity building.

The third requirement is lifecycle responsibility. Successful exporters do not merely supply trains; they provide an end-to-end solution. For instance, they offer training, spare-parts, remote technical and reliability monitoring. For many countries, assurance of long-term service availability is more important than just a competitive price. Manufacturers must therefore expand from a manufacturing program and mindset — selling availability rather than hardware.

Another element is coordinated institutional participation in international infrastructure contracts, engineering capability, industry standards, financing arrangements and project management integration often determine outcomes. India already has a strong advantage in this respect through its experience in development partnerships and long-term contracts with partner nations. When manufacturing capability is combined with product consistency and financing

support, the offering becomes significantly more attractive.

Equally important is building an export-oriented supply chain. Railway vehicles are assemblies of many specialised systems — braking, control electronics, doors, passenger information and air-conditioning. A coordinated vendor ecosystem capable of supporting overseas projects is critical to success. Export success depends not on a single factory but on an integrated industrial network.

Strategic dimension There is also a strategic dimension. Railway exports become an instrument of economic diplomacy. Many developing countries prefer partners who offer technology sharing and training rather than simple equipment supply. India's long experience in operating services over a large public transport network makes it uniquely positioned to provide the collaborative model. Offering training programs and technical cooperation alongside equipment supply strengthens long-term partnerships.

The global market is increasingly shifting toward suppliers who provide complete mobility solutions rather than standard products. A train is now expected to come with maintenance planning, lifecycle monitoring and workforce training. By combining the expertise India can position itself not as a low-cost alternative but as a dependable long-term partner for railway development.

The opportunity is timely. Many countries are

planning rail expansion as part of sustainable transport and climate commitments. Electrified railways are among the most energy-efficient transport modes, and demand for affordable systems is likely to grow significantly over the next two decades. Entering this market now would allow India to build presence while demand is expanding rather than after it stabilises.

For India's manufacturing addition, railway exports could enhance global credibility. Success in this sector would demonstrate that the country can deliver complex engineering systems internationally — an important signal for infrastructure exports.

The path forward is therefore clear. India must move from building trains to building the infrastructure that supports them. This requires designing for international certification, user experience, committing to lifecycle service, integrating maintenance and performance support and pursuing industrial participation.

If approached systematically, India's railway stock could become one of its signature engineering exports — much like pharmaceuticals or information technology services in earlier decades. The challenge is to ensure that what remains is the decision to treat trains not merely as domestic infrastructure but as a global opportunity.

(The writer is Ex-Addl Member, Railway Board)



High platform: A goods train waits for a signal as passengers sit on a platform at a railway station in Hyderabad. (AP/PTI)



Large industrial facility, possibly a railway manufacturing plant.

From 1776 to 2026: Adam Smith's lessons for the global economy

'Wealth of Nations' marks 250th anniversary on Mar. 9; debate over legacy of Smith's ideas continues; but his ideas on trade, wealth, labour resonate; free-market economics advocatess have long claimed him as spiritual father, while some more recent readings even peg him a moderate progressive

NEWS ANALYSIS

Reuters
LONDON

Tax the rich. Trash the tariffs. End monopolies. Such are the rallying calls of many of today's most heated economic debates. They could also come straight from the pen of revered economist Adam Smith, hailed by some as the "father of capitalism" and others as an early progressive.

Smith knew nothing of Donald Trump or tech billionaires when he railed against trade protectionism and extreme affluence in "The Wealth of Nations", the best-read economics book in history, which celebrates its 250th birthday on Monday.

"It is the maxim of every prudent master of a family never to attempt to make at home what it will cost him more to make than to buy," the Scot wrote in the seminal work, for example.

"Would it be a reasonable law to prohibit the importation of all foreign wines, merely to encourage the making of claret and burgundy in Scotland?" he adds.

The foundational text of classical economics was published on March 9, 1776, the same year as the U.S. Declaration of Independence, 13 years before



Looking past: Monument commemorating Adam Smith (1723-90). GETTY IMAGES/STOCK

the French Revolution, and amid the early convulsions of the Industrial Age.

Yet it's not hard to find parallels between the doctrines the book denounces - such as rival mercantilist empires seeking to minimise imports and maximise exports - and President Trump's trade tactics and "America First" credo today.

Free markets, free trade

And while Smith is most often cited for his free markets and free trade zeal, when it comes to distribution of wealth, he could almost be channelling Bernie Sanders or Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, leftist U.S. lawmakers.

"It is not very unreasonable that the rich should



Events to mark the 250th anniversary of "The Wealth of Nations" are taking place throughout the year in Glasgow, Edinburgh, London and Smith's birthplace of Kirkcaldy

contribute to the public expense, not only in proportion to their revenue, but something more than in that proportion," Smith writes in the 1,000-page-plus tome, which draws on everything from grape-growing to pin factories.

"No society can surely be flourishing and happy, of which the far greater part of the members are

poor and miserable," he says in one of his best-known quotes.

Debates rage

Many scholars of the book - full name "An Inquiry into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations" - say it remains uncannily relevant to the economic issues of our time, though debates continue to rage about what Smith was actually saying.

Advocates of free-market economics have long claimed him as their spiritual father, while some more recent readings even peg him as a moderate progressive - something akin to a left-leaning, modern-day European social democrat.

"You can find a 'Smith'

to support anything you want to say," King's College London research associate Leo Steeds said of the Scottish Enlightenment thinker.

Smith also accepted that there were certain circumstances when tariffs were called for, either because the terms of trade were unfair or for reasons of security - arguments increasingly heard in the United States, Europe and other trading blocs.

"Smith did understand those arguments," said Eamonn Butler, director of the free market policy think tank the Adam Smith Institute in London.

"But he thought these things (tariffs) really should be as temporary as possible. He thought the more trade you have, the better everybody is."

Sleight of invisible hand

One of the most famous metaphors from the "Wealth of Nations" is that of the "invisible hand", most often interpreted as meaning how free markets channel the self-interest of different participants to the best outcome for all.

"It is not from the benevolence of the butcher, the brewer, or the baker, that we expect our dinner, but from their regard to their own interest," Smith writes.

But other students of the work note the invisible hand metaphor was used

just once in the book and must be taken alongside his wider arguments rather than being used to justify "laissez-faire" policies.

"This book ... is actually a critique of the way in which special interests, monopolists, powerful people, lobbies capture the State," said Pratap Bhanu Mehta, a leading Indian academic and public intellectual.

"He says: You fix that, then free markets come."

U.S. economist Joseph Stiglitz, a professor at Columbia University and Nobel Prize laureate, agreed.

"It was much more of an enlightened self-interest looking at society more broadly," he said. "Modern economics is based on infinitely selfish people. And clearly, Adam Smith didn't believe that."

Indeed, Smith - who taught moral philosophy at the University of Glasgow - is explicit about his views on selfishness at the expense of others.

"All for ourselves, and nothing for other people, seems, in every age of the world, to have been the vile maxim of the masters of mankind," he writes.

Events to mark the 250th anniversary of "The Wealth of Nations" are taking place throughout the year in Glasgow, Edinburgh, London and Smith's birthplace of Kirkcaldy on the Scottish coast.

1. Historical Background of Adam Smith

Adam Smith was a Scottish economist and philosopher whose ideas laid the foundation of modern economics.

एडम स्मिथ एक स्कॉटिश अर्थशास्त्री और दार्शनिक थे जिनके विचारों ने आधुनिक अर्थशास्त्र की नींव रखी।

- He was born in **1723 in Kirkcaldy, Scotland.**

उनका जन्म **1723 में स्कॉटलैंड के किर्ककाल्डी में हुआ।**

- His famous book **"An Inquiry into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations"** was published on **9 March 1776.**

उनकी प्रसिद्ध पुस्तक **"एन इन्क्वायरी इनटू द नेचर एंड कॉज़ेज ऑफ द वेल्थ ऑफ नेशन्स"** **9 मार्च 1776** को प्रकाशित हुई।

- The book is considered the **foundational text of classical economics.**

यह पुस्तक **शास्त्रीय अर्थशास्त्र की आधारभूत रचना मानी जाती है।**

- In **2026 the world marks the 250th anniversary** of this book.

2026 में इस पुस्तक की 250वीं वर्षगांठ मनाई जा रही है।

2. Core Economic Ideas of Adam Smith

(a) Free Market Economy

Smith argued that markets should operate with minimal government intervention.

स्मिथ का मानना था कि बाजार को न्यूनतम सरकारी हस्तक्षेप के साथ कार्य करना चाहिए।

- He criticized **mercantilism**, the system where governments heavily control trade.
उन्होंने मरकैंटिलिज्म (व्यापार पर सरकारी नियंत्रण) की आलोचना की।
 - He supported **free trade between nations**.
उन्होंने देशों के बीच मुक्त व्यापार का समर्थन किया।
 - According to Smith, free markets increase efficiency and productivity.
स्मिथ के अनुसार मुक्त बाजार से उत्पादकता और दक्षता बढ़ती है।
-

(b) Invisible Hand Theory

The most famous concept of Adam Smith is the "**Invisible Hand**."

एडम स्मिथ का सबसे प्रसिद्ध सिद्धांत "अदृश्य हाथ" है।

- Individuals pursuing their own self-interest unintentionally promote public welfare.
जब व्यक्ति अपने हित में काम करते हैं तो अनजाने में समाज का भी लाभ होता है।
- Market forces such as **demand, supply, price and competition** regulate the economy.
मांग, आपूर्ति, कीमत और प्रतिस्पर्धा जैसी शक्तियाँ अर्थव्यवस्था को नियंत्रित करती हैं।

(c) Division of Labour

Smith emphasized that productivity increases when work is divided into specialized tasks.

स्मिथ ने कहा कि जब काम को छोटे-छोटे कार्यों में बाँटा जाता है तो उत्पादकता बढ़ती है।

- Example: **Pin factory example in Wealth of Nations.**
उदाहरण: वेल्थ ऑफ नेशन्स में पिन फैक्ट्री का उदाहरण।
 - Division of labour leads to specialization and efficiency.
श्रम विभाजन से विशेषज्ञता और दक्षता बढ़ती है।
-

(d) Role of Government

Adam Smith was not completely anti-government.

एडम स्मिथ पूरी तरह सरकार विरोधी नहीं थे।

He believed government should perform three main roles:

1. Defence of the nation
राष्ट्र की रक्षा
2. Administration of justice
न्याय व्यवस्था
3. Public works and infrastructure
सार्वजनिक अवसंरचना और सेवाएँ

3. Economic Relevance in Modern Global Economy

Trade Policies

Modern debates on **tariffs and protectionism** reflect Smith's ideas.

आज के टैरिफ और संरक्षणवाद पर विवाद स्मिथ के विचारों से जुड़े हैं।

- Many economists oppose trade barriers citing Adam Smith.
कई अर्थशास्त्री टैरिफ और व्यापार प्रतिबंधों का विरोध स्मिथ के विचारों के आधार पर करते हैं।
 - However, Smith also accepted **temporary tariffs for security reasons**.
हालांकि स्मिथ ने सुरक्षा कारणों से अस्थायी टैरिफ को स्वीकार किया।
-

Debate on Wealth Distribution

Some modern economists argue Smith was also concerned about inequality.

कुछ आधुनिक अर्थशास्त्री मानते हैं कि स्मिथ असमानता को लेकर भी चिंतित थे।

- Smith warned that **monopolies and powerful interest groups can capture the state**.
स्मिथ ने चेतावनी दी थी कि एकाधिकार और शक्तिशाली समूह सरकार पर कब्जा कर सकते हैं।



Event

American Independence
(1776)

Industrial Revolution

End of Mercantilism



Significance

Same year as publication of
Wealth of Nations

Smith's ideas supported
industrial capitalism

Shift toward free trade policies



Aspect	Adam Smith	Karl Marx
Time Period	18th century economist (1723–1790)	19th century philosopher/economist (1818–1883)
Famous Work	The Wealth of Nations	Das Kapital
Economic System Supported	Capitalism and free market economy	Socialism / Communism
View on Market	Markets should operate freely with minimal government interference	Markets under capitalism exploit workers
Key Concept	“Invisible Hand” – self-interest leads to economic benefit for society	“Class Struggle” – conflict between workers and capitalists
Role of Government	Limited role: defence, justice, public goods	Strong role: state control of production
Ownership of Means of Production	Private ownership encouraged	Collective / state ownership
View on Profit	Profit is reward for investment and entrepreneurship	Profit is exploitation of labour
Social Classes	Did not emphasize class conflict	Society divided into bourgeoisie and proletariat
Goal of Economy	Wealth creation and economic growth	Classless society and equality

Similarities Between Adam Smith and Karl Marx

Point	Explanation
Study of Capitalism	Both analysed how capitalist economies function
Concern about Workers	Both discussed labour and working conditions
Influence on Modern Economics	Both are foundational thinkers in economic theory

बिंदु	विवरण
पूंजीवाद का अध्ययन	दोनों ने पूंजीवादी अर्थव्यवस्था का अध्ययन किया
श्रमिकों पर ध्यान	दोनों ने श्रम और मजदूरों की स्थिति पर विचार किया
आधुनिक अर्थशास्त्र पर प्रभाव	दोनों का आर्थिक विचारधारा पर गहरा प्रभाव

Major Differences (Core Ideology)

Topic	Adam Smith	Karl Marx
Economic Philosophy	Classical Liberalism	Scientific Socialism
Main Idea	Free markets create prosperity	Capitalism leads to inequality
View on Capitalism	Positive and supportive	Critical and opposed
End Result	Efficient economy through competition	Revolution leading to communism

विषय	एडम स्मिथ	कार्ल मार्क्स
आर्थिक दर्शन	उदारवादी पूंजीवाद	वैज्ञानिक समाजवाद
मुख्य विचार	मुक्त बाजार से समृद्धि	पूंजीवाद से असमानता
पूंजीवाद पर दृष्टिकोण	सकारात्मक	आलोचनात्मक
अंतिम लक्ष्य	प्रतिस्पर्धा से विकास	साम्यवादी समाज

-
- Consider the following statements regarding Adam Smith:
 - Adam Smith is known as the father of modern economics.
 - His book “The Wealth of Nations” was published in 1776.
 - Adam Smith believed government should have no role in the economy.
 - Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
 - A. 1 and 2 only
 - B. 2 and 3 only
 - C. 1 only
 - D. 1, 2 and 3

BERLIN

German State election deals blow to Merz as Greens look set to win



The German Greens are set to narrowly beat Friedrich Merz's CDU in an election in Baden-Wuerttemberg, dealing the Chancellor a blow ahead of polls this year as surveys show the far right surging. Final results showed the Greens taking 30.2% of the vote, just ahead of the CDU with 29.7% and the far-right AfD with 18.0%.

WASHINGTON

Six killed after U.S. military strikes 'drug boat' in Eastern Pacific



The U.S. military said it killed six men on Sunday in a strike on an alleged drug-smuggling vessel in the eastern Pacific Ocean. Sunday's attack brought the death toll to at least 137 people since the Donald Trump administration began targeting those it calls "narco-traffickers" in small vessels in early September.

DAMASCUS

Syrian President extends support to Lebanon to disarm Hezbollah



Syrian President Bashar al-Assad on Monday declared his support for his Lebanese counterpart Joseph Aoun in the latter's effort to disarm Hezbollah, state media reported. The West Asia war expanded to Lebanon on March 9, after Iran-backed Hezbollah fired rockets towards Israel.

WASHINGTON

Anthropic takes U.S. government to court over row with Pentagon



A company Anthropic, filed suit on Monday against the Donald Trump administration, alleging the U.S. government retaliated against the tech firm for refusing to let its Claude AI model be used for autonomous lethal warfare. The company seeks to block the Pentagon from placing it under a national security blanket.

Iran picks Mojtaba Khamenei as new leader

The 57-year-old will be the third Supreme Leader of the Republic, after Khamenei and Khatami. U.S. President Donald Trump had said last week the new leader should be acceptable to him. Putin offers his 'unwavering support' for Mojtaba, while China says his selection is based on Constitution

Steady job

Iran's Assembly of Experts, an 88-member clerical body, announced on Sunday night that it had chosen Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei, son of Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, the former Supreme Leader who was assassinated by a joint American-Israeli strike on February 28, as the country's new leader. The 57-year-old cleric will be the third Supreme Leader of the Islamic Republic, after Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, founder of the republic, and Ali Khamenei, who held the position for 37 years. Though Iran has an elected President, the Supreme Leader is the head of the state and the commander-in-chief of the country's armed forces, making him the most powerful authority in the system.

"By a decisive vote, the Assembly of Experts appointed Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei as the third Leader of the sacred system of the Islamic Republic," the Assembly said in a statement. On February 28, after U.S.-Israeli strikes killed Ali Khamenei and several other top Iranian officials, President Donald Trump had asked Iranans to overthrow the government. On March 5, Mr. Trump said he wanted to have a role in the selection of Iran's new Supreme Leader. He called Mojtaba Khamenei a "lightweight" and said the new leader should be acceptable to him. Soon after the Assembly made the announcement, Iranian Foreign Ministry issued a statement congratulating the new leader. "In the current and critical sit-



People hold images of new Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei and late Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei in Tehran on Monday.

uation facing the country, this choice will undoubtedly govern our nation's sovereignty and territorial integrity and will strengthen national unity and cohesion," it said in a statement. Other branches of the state, including the armed forces, welcomed the appointment. Ali Larijani, Secretary of the National Security Council,

said Mr. Khamenei "will be a source of goodness and blessings". Born in 1963 in Maashad, Mojtaba Khamenei, the second son of Ali Khamenei, fought "on the frontlines" during the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war, according to an official biography released by the state media. After the war, he moved to Qom for advanced security studies. He has both close ties with both the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) and the clerical establishment. The younger Khamenei has maintained strong ties with figures associated with the Axis of Resistance, stating the biography, referring to Iran's non-state allies in the region. "He shared a particularly close relationship with Ezzeddin Musawi and Fayez Hassan Nasrallah," the secretary general of Hezbollah, the Lebanese Shia militia, who was assassinated by an Israeli strike in September 2024. Hezbollah, which has fought in the Iran-Iraq war, issued a statement pledging loyalty to the new Supreme Leader. "Russia and China, Iran's close partners, welcomed the appointment. Ali Larijani, Secretary of the National Security Council,

for Tehran and solidarity with our Iranian friends, Russian President Vladimir Putin said in a message to Mr. Khamenei. "Russia has been and will remain a reliable partner to Iran, at a time when Iran is confronting armed aggression, you know in this high position will undoubtedly require great courage and dedication." China's Foreign Ministry spokesman Gao Hucheng told reporters in Beijing on Monday that Iran's decision to appoint the younger Khamenei was "based on its constitution". "China opposes interference in Iran's internal affairs under any pretext, and Iran's sovereignty, security, and territorial integrity should be respected," he said when asked about the threat against the new leader, according to an AFP report.

Agence France-Presse

Iran launched new strikes on energy installations in the Persian Gulf on Monday, including a petroleum complex in Bahrain, as oil prices spiralled above \$100 a barrel. Bahrain's Al Muhannaq oil facility was hit, causing a fire and damage, with the country's state-owned energy firm Bapco declaring force majeure. Energy producers in Qatar and Kuwait earlier made similar declarations, which are a warning that events beyond their control may lead them to miss export targets. With the key shipping route through the Strait of Hormuz of Iran remaining closed, it almost all tankers, the price of crude oil contracts spiralled 10% to their highest levels since

Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022. Two Emirati servicemen were, meanwhile, killed after their helicopter crashed due to a "technical malfunction", Abu Dhabi's Defence Ministry said. Fresh hits Saudi Arabia's Defence Ministry said the kingdom took down and destroyed two waves of drones heading towards the Shaybah oil field. Bahrain said another Iranian drone attack on the island of Hiras injured 32 people overnight. Qatar said it intercepted 17 ballistic missiles and six drones launched from Iran with no casualties reported. The UAE said it detected 15 ballistic missiles, destroying 12 while three fell into the sea, and intercepted 17 of 18 drones.

Probe suggests U.S. struck Iran school, killing over 160

Associated Press

New footage shows what an expert investigative group says is likely an American Tomahawk missile hitting a compound in southern Iran, metres from the school where a deadly unclaimed blast killed over 160 people, at the start of the war against in West Asia. It comes as mounting evidence points to U.S. culpability for the February 28 strike, which hit a school adjacent to a Revolutionary Guard (IRGC) base in Minab, in the country's southern Hormozgan Province. The new footage, first analysed by the investigative group Bellagio, was taken the day the school was struck but circulated

New video evidence shows an American Tomahawk missile hitting a site adjacent to the school

on Sunday by Iran's semi-official Mehr news agency. The Associated Press was able to prosecute the video and determine it was taken from a site adjacent to the school, while smoke was already rising from the school vicinity. Satellite imagery of the compound is consistent with visual identifiers found in the video. Trevor Hart, a Bellagio researcher, identified the munition as a Tomahawk cruise missile — which only the U.S. is known to possess in this war. It's the first evidence of a munition used in the strike.

U.S. Central Command has acknowledged using Tomahawk missiles in the war and even released a photo of the US Sparrowhawk, part of the US Abraham Lincoln aircraft carrier group located within range of the school, firing a Tomahawk missile on the same day. Bellagio said the footage "appears to contradict" U.S. President Donald Trump's claim that Iran was responsible for the deadly school blast. Hartina Hill, an expert on international law at Oxford University, wrote on X that even if the strike was a mis-identification — and the attacker believed that the school had been a part of the neighbouring IRGC base — it would still be "a very serious violation of international law".

Clock ticking



Under rubble an aerial picture shows a rescue team using heavy machinery to search for people following a landslide at Bontomatene landslide in Bekasi, West Java, on Monday. A landslide on Indonesia's biggest landfill buried trucks and food stalls, killing five people, rescuers said as they searched for at least four more reported missing.

Top Turkish Opposition leader takes stand in court

Associated Press

Istanbul's jailed Mayor Ekrem Imamoglu is the main challenger to President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's 23-year rule. He was elected as the candidate of Republican People's Party, the main opposition party for an election this in 2024 just days after he was detained. Mr. Imamoglu described the trial as "one of the roughest tests of democracy" in Turkey's history.

Israel accused of chemical attacks in Lebanon

Associated Press

The human rights group Human Rights Watch said in a report on Monday that the Israeli military "unlawfully" hit a village in southern Lebanon with shells containing white phosphorus, a controversial incendiary munition. Through geotagging and verifying aerial images, the New York-based rights group said it identified white phosphorus using artillery at residential areas in the southern Lebanese village of Yuhunan on March 3, 2026. It happened hours after the Israeli military warned



Residential conflict-torn area from Israeli bombardments in the southern Lebanese area of Marjoun on March 3, 2026.

the residents of the village and dozens of others in southern Lebanon to evacuate. White phosphorus can be used to create smoke screens and to illuminate battlefields. Human Rights Watch said it could not independently identify if any residents were still in the area or if anyone was harmed. White phosphorus can be used to create smoke screens and to illuminate battlefields. Human rights advocates

say the use of white phosphorus is illegal under international law when the white-hot chemical substance is fired into populated areas. It can set buildings on fire and burn human flesh down to the bone. Survivors are at risk of infection and organ or respiratory failure, even if their burns are small. The Israeli military's unlawful use of white phosphorus over residential areas is "extremely alarming and will have dire consequences for civilians," said Ramon Kassas, Lebanon researcher at the Human Rights Watch. Organizations like the Human Rights Watch and Am-

nesty International said the munition was used in Israel's last war with Hezbollah, over a year ago, on numerous occasions. In southern Lebanon, while civilians were still present. Last month, Lebanon accused Israel of using the herbicide glyphosate on the Lebanese side of their shared border, with President Joseph Aoun decrying it as a "crime against the environment". Lebanese authorities said on Monday that Israel's attacks since March 2 have killed at least 486 people in Lebanon's north. (With inputs from AFP)

Rubio accuses Iran of trying to 'hold world hostage' with strikes

Agence France-Presse

U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio accused Iran of taking the world hostage through its retaliatory strikes and insisted that the United States was on track with its war objectives. "I think we are all seeing right now the threat this clerical regime poses to the region and to the world. They are trying to hold the world hostage," Mr. Rubio said. "They are attacking neighbouring countries, their energy infrastruc-

ture, their civilian population," he said. The objective of this mission is to destroy their ability to continue to do that, and we are well on our way to achieving that." Iran has fired off a barrage of missiles and drones on Israel and on Gulf countries, which are key bases for the United States. The joint U.S.-Israeli attack began on February 28. Mr. Rubio was speaking at an event at the State Department to honour wrongly detained Americans and hostages. He was joined by family members of Robert Levinson, a

former FBI agent who disappeared in 2007 on the Iranian island of Kish. The U.S. concluded in 2020 that the Iranian government was involved in his presumed death. Levinson was said to be on a mission to investigate cigarette counterfeiting, although The Washington Post reported in 2019 that he had been working with the CIA and had gone on a rogue mission to gather intelligence. Levinson is "particularly" a reminder of the nature of the regime that we are dealing with in Tehran," Mr. Rubio said.

Iran picks Mojtaba Khamenei as new leader

The 57-year-old will be the third Supreme Leader of the Republic, after Khomeini and Khamenei; U.S. President Donald Trump had said last week the new leader should be acceptable to him; Putin offers his 'unwavering support' for Mojtaba, while China says his selection is based on Constitution

Stanly Johny

Iran's Assembly of Experts, an 88-member clerical body, announced on Sunday night that it had chosen Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei, son of Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, the former Supreme Leader who was assassinated by a joint American-Israeli strike on February 28, as the country's new leader.

The 57-year-old cleric will be the third Supreme Leader of the Islamic Republic, after Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, founder of the republic, and Ali Khamenei, who held the position for 37 years. Though Iran has an elected President, the Supreme Leader is the head of the state and the commander-in-chief of the country's armed forces, making him the most powerful authority in the system.

"By a decisive vote, the Assembly of Experts appointed Ayatollah Seyyed Mojtaba Hosseini Khamenei as the third Leader of the sacred system of the Islamic Republic of Iran," the Assembly said in a statement.

On February 28, after U.S.-Israeli strikes killed Ali Khamenei and several other top Iranian officials, President Donald Trump had asked Iranians to overthrow the government. On March 5, Mr. Trump said he wanted to have a role in the selection of Iran's new Supreme Leader. He called Mojtaba Khamenei a "lightweight", and said the new leader should be acceptable to him.

Soon after the Assembly made the announcement, Iranian Foreign Ministry issued a statement congratulating the new leader. "In the current and critical sit-



People hold images of new Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei and late Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei in Tehran on Monday. REUTERS

uation facing the country, this choice will undoubtedly guarantee our nation's sovereignty and territorial integrity and will strengthen national unity and cohesion," it said in a statement. Other branches of the state, including the armed forces, welcomed the appointment. Ali Larijani, Secretary of the National Security Council,

said Mr. Khamenei "will be a source of goodness and blessings".

Born in 1969 in Mashhad, Mojtaba Khamenei, the second son of Ali Khamenei, fought "on the frontlines" during the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war, according to an official biography released by the state media. After the war, he moved to Qom for advanced semin-

ary studies. He has built close ties with both the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) and the clerical establishment.

The younger Khamenei has maintained strong ties with figures associated with the Axis of Resistance, stated the biography, referring to Iran's non-state allies in the region. "He shared a particularly close relationship with Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah," the Secretary General of Hezbollah, the Lebanese Shia militia, who was assassinated by an Israeli strike in September 2024. Hezbollah, which is fighting Israeli forces in southern Lebanon, issued a statement pledging loyalty to the new Supreme Leader.

Russia and China, Iran's close partners, welcomed the new Supreme Leader. "I would like to reaffirm our unwavering support

for Tehran and solidarity with our Iranian friends," Russian President Vladimir Putin said in a message to Mr. Khamenei. "Russia has been and will remain a reliable partner to Iran. At a time when Iran is confronting armed aggression, your tenure in this high position will undoubtedly require great courage and dedication."

China's Foreign Ministry spokesman Guo Jiakun told reporters in Beijing on Monday that Iran's decision to appoint the younger Khamenei was "based on its constitution". "China opposes interference in other countries' internal affairs under any pretext, and Iran's sovereignty, security, and territorial integrity should be respected," he said when asked about the threats against the new leader, according to an AFP report.



1. Leadership Change in Iran

Iran's Assembly of Experts has appointed **Mojtaba Hosseini Khamenei** as the new Supreme Leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

ईरान की असेंबली ऑफ एक्सपर्ट्स ने मोजतबा हुसैनी खामेनेई को इस्लामिक रिपब्लिक ऑफ ईरान का नया सर्वोच्च नेता नियुक्त किया है।

- He becomes the **third Supreme Leader of Iran**, after Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini and Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

वे ईरान के तीसरे सर्वोच्च नेता बने हैं, आयतुल्लाह रुहोल्लाह खोमेनी और आयतुल्लाह अली खामेनेई के बाद।

- Mojtaba Khamenei is the **son of former Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei**.

मोजतबा खामेनेई पूर्व सर्वोच्च नेता अली खामेनेई के पुत्र हैं।

- The decision was taken by Iran's **88-member Assembly of Experts**, a clerical body responsible for selecting the Supreme Leader.

यह निर्णय **88 सदस्यीय असेंबली ऑफ एक्सपर्ट्स** ने लिया, जो सर्वोच्च नेता का चयन करती है।

2. Role and Power of the Supreme Leader of Iran

The Supreme Leader is the most powerful authority in Iran's political system.

ईरान की राजनीतिक व्यवस्था में सर्वोच्च नेता सबसे शक्तिशाली पद होता है।

Main powers include:

मुख्य शक्तियाँ:

- **Commander-in-chief of the armed forces**
सशस्त्र बलों का सर्वोच्च कमांडर
- **Control over the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC)**
इस्लामिक रिवोल्यूशनरी गार्ड कॉर्प्स (IRGC) पर नियंत्रण
- **Authority over judiciary, state media and key institutions**
न्यायपालिका, राज्य मीडिया और प्रमुख संस्थाओं पर नियंत्रण
- **Final say in foreign policy and nuclear policy**
विदेश नीति और परमाणु नीति पर अंतिम निर्णय

6. Axis of Resistance

Mojtaba Khamenei is known to maintain links with groups connected to the **Axis of Resistance**.

मोजतबा खामेनेई के संबंध एक्सिस ऑफ रेजिस्टेंस से जुड़े समूहों से बताए जाते हैं।

This network includes:

इस नेटवर्क में शामिल हैं:

- **Hezbollah (Lebanon)**
- **Hamas (Palestine)**
- **Houthis (Yemen)**
- **Pro-Iran militias in Iraq and Syria**

ये सभी समूह मध्य पूर्व में ईरान के रणनीतिक सहयोगी माने जाते हैं।

Topic

Geography

Oil Reserves

Gas Reserves

Strategic Strait

Facts

Located between Middle East, Central Asia and South Asia

4th largest proven oil reserves

2nd largest natural gas reserves

Strait of Hormuz

-
- Consider the following statements:
 - The Supreme Leader is the highest authority in Iran's political system.
 - The Assembly of Experts is responsible for selecting the Supreme Leader.
 - The President of Iran has greater powers than the Supreme Leader.
 - Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
 - A. 1 and 2 only
 - B. 2 and 3 only
 - C. 1 only
 - D. 1, 2 and 3

● Why crude oil prices matter so much for India

INDIA'S DEPENDENCE ON imported oil is the central reason why crude price movements matter so much for the economy. Nearly 90% of the country's crude oil requirement is met through imports. According to official data, India imported crude oil worth about \$161 billion in the last fiscal. At the same time, energy demand continues to grow alongside economic expansion. Total petroleum product consumption is projected to increase by 4.65% to reach a record 252.9 million metric tonnes in FY26.

This rising demand, combined with high import dependence, means global oil price movements have a direct bearing on India's economic stability.

● How a surge in prices affects India's import bill

THE MOST IMMEDIATE impact is seen in the import bill. Estimates suggest that every \$1 increase in crude oil prices raises India's annual oil import bill by roughly ₹13,000 crore. In dollar terms, analysts estimate that a \$1 rise in crude prices increases India's annual import bill by about \$1.5-2 billion, depending on import volumes. This means that a \$10 rise in crude oil prices can increase India's annual import bill by more than ₹1.3 lakh crore. For an economy that already spends billions of dollars on energy imports each year, this can significantly increase pressure on external finances.



What the oil price surge could mean for the Indian economy

Crude oil prices touched nearly \$120 a barrel on Monday as the Iran war disrupted key shipping routes. With India importing nearly 90% of the crude oil it consumes, even a modest increase in prices can translate into billions of dollars in additional costs for the economy, writes *Saurav Anand*

● Impact on India's current account deficit

HIGHER OIL PRICES directly affect India's current account deficit (CAD), which is the difference between a country's imports and exports. As per the RBI, India's CAD rose to \$13.2 billion (1.3% of GDP) in the third quarter of FY26, from \$11.3 billion (1.1% of GDP) in the year-ago period.

Experts say every \$10 increase in the average price of crude oil for the year (vis-à-vis the baseline estimate) would push up the CAD in the range of 30-40 bps; so for instance, an average price of \$100-105/bbl would imply a CAD of ~1.9-2.2% of GDP.

EVERY \$1 RISE IN CRUDE PRICES CUTS THE INTEGRATED MARGIN OF OMCs BY ABOUT ₹0.58/LITRE, ASSUMING RETAIL PRICES, REFINING CRACKS AND EXCHANGE RATE STAY UNCHANGED

\$161 billion

INDIA'S CRUDE OIL IMPORT BILL IN FY25

● Will pump prices go up?

NOT IMMEDIATELY. RETAIL fuel prices depend on several factors including taxes, refining margins and pricing decisions by oil marketing companies (OMC). Pump prices for petrol and diesel have remained unchanged since April 2022. During this period, Indian Oil Corporation, Bharat Petroleum Corporation and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation absorbed losses when crude prices were high and benefited when prices declined. However, if crude prices remain elevated for a prolonged period, fuel retailers may eventually pass on part of the hike to consumers. Every \$1 rise in crude cuts the integrated margin by about ₹0.58/litre, assuming retail prices, refining cracks and exchange rate stay unchanged. So OMCs would start slipping into losses once benchmark oil moves above \$92-94 per barrel, under the same assumptions.

● Potential effect on inflation

AS FUEL PRICES rise, transport costs go up. Businesses often pass on the higher costs to consumers, pushing up the prices of goods and services. A \$10 hike in crude prices could raise inflation by 20-30 basis points, based on how much of the price hike is passed on through retail selling prices (RSP) of fuel. For every 10% hike in crude oil prices, the WPI inflation rises by 80-100 bps, against the 40-60 bps uptick in the CPI inflation assuming that a full transmission into RSP of fuels takes place. If the government absorbs part of the price hike by cutting taxes or increasing subsidies, the impact may be moderate.

● Which sectors are most affected by a price surge?

EVERY TIME GLOBAL crude oil prices surge, the impact is felt far beyond the oil markets. An oil price spike affects several sectors of the economy. Transport and logistics companies face higher diesel costs, raising freight rates. Airlines see operating costs increase because jet fuel accounts for a major share of expenses. Petrochemicals and fertiliser industries depend on crude derivatives as feedstock, making them sensitive to oil price movements. Manufacturing sectors also face cost pressures as transport and energy costs rise. These effects eventually reach consumers through higher prices for goods and services.

● Has India built any protection against oil shocks?

INDIA HAS TAKEN steps in recent years to reduce its vulnerability to global oil shocks. These include diversifying import sources, building strategic petroleum reserves and increasing purchases from new suppliers.

However, given the country's growing energy demand and heavy dependence on imports, global crude price movements will continue to have a major influence on the economy. In simple terms, when oil prices rise sharply, the impact spreads across multiple layers of the economy — from the import bill and current account deficit to inflation and household expenses.

What the Oil Price Surge Could Mean for the Indian Economy

1. Importance of Crude Oil for India

Crude oil prices have a major impact on the Indian economy because India depends heavily on imported oil.

कच्चे तेल की कीमतों का भारतीय अर्थव्यवस्था पर बड़ा प्रभाव पड़ता है क्योंकि भारत आयातित तेल पर अत्यधिक निर्भर है।

- India imports **about 85–90% of its crude oil requirement.**
भारत अपनी **85–90%** कच्चे तेल की आवश्यकता आयात से पूरी करता है।
- India imported crude oil worth about **\$161 billion in FY25.**
भारत ने **FY25** में लगभग **161 अरब डॉलर** का कच्चा तेल आयात किया।
- Rising oil prices directly affect inflation, fiscal balance and economic growth.
तेल की कीमत बढ़ने से मुद्रास्फीति, राजकोषीय संतुलन और आर्थिक विकास प्रभावित होते हैं।

2. Impact on India's Import Bill

The first and most immediate impact of rising crude prices is on India's oil import bill.

कच्चे तेल की कीमत बढ़ने का पहला प्रभाव भारत के आयात बिल पर पड़ता है।

- Every **\$1 increase in crude oil price increases India's import bill by about \$1.5–2 billion annually.**
कच्चे तेल की कीमत में **1 डॉलर वृद्धि** से भारत का आयात बिल लगभग **1.5–2 अरब डॉलर** बढ़ जाता है।
- A **\$10 increase** can raise the import bill by **\$13 billion or more.**
10 डॉलर की वृद्धि से आयात बिल लगभग **13 अरब डॉलर** बढ़ सकता है।
- This increases pressure on India's **foreign exchange reserves and fiscal balance.**
इससे भारत के विदेशी मुद्रा भंडार और राजकोषीय संतुलन पर दबाव पड़ता है।

3. Impact on Current Account Deficit (CAD)

Higher oil prices widen the **Current Account Deficit (CAD)**.

तेल की कीमत बढ़ने से चालू खाता घाटा (CAD) बढ़ता है।

- CAD is the difference between **total imports and total exports**.
CAD का अर्थ कुल आयात और कुल निर्यात के बीच का अंतर है।
- RBI estimates suggest that every **\$10 increase in crude prices may increase CAD by 0.3–0.4% of GDP**.

RBI के अनुमान के अनुसार **10 डॉलर की वृद्धि से CAD GDP का लगभग 0.3–0.4% बढ़ सकता है।**

4. Impact on Inflation

Oil price increases directly contribute to inflation.

तेल की कीमत बढ़ने से सीधे मुद्रास्फीति बढ़ती है।

- Transport costs rise as fuel becomes expensive.
ईंधन महंगा होने से परिवहन लागत बढ़ती है।
- Higher transport costs increase prices of goods and services.
परिवहन लागत बढ़ने से वस्तुओं और सेवाओं की कीमत बढ़ती है।
- A **\$10 rise in oil prices may increase inflation by around 20–30 basis points**.
तेल की कीमत में 10 डॉलर वृद्धि से मुद्रास्फीति लगभग 20–30 बेसिस पॉइंट बढ़ सकती है।

- **Will Petrol and Diesel Prices Rise?**

- Retail fuel prices may not rise immediately.

पेट्रोल और डीजल की कीमत तुरंत नहीं बढ़ सकती।

- Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) may initially absorb the cost increase.

तेल विपणन कंपनियां (OMCs) प्रारंभ में लागत वृद्धि को वहन कर सकती हैं।

- If high prices persist, consumers eventually bear the burden.

यदि कीमतें लंबे समय तक ऊंची रहती हैं तो अंततः उपभोक्ताओं को बोझ उठाना पड़ता है।

Sectors Most Affected

Sector

Impact

Transport & Logistics

Higher fuel costs increase freight charges

Aviation

Fuel forms a major part of airline operating cost

Fertiliser Industry

Uses petroleum derivatives as feedstock

Petrochemical Industry

Highly dependent on crude oil

Manufacturing

Higher input and energy costs

How India Protects Itself from Oil Shocks

India has adopted several strategies to reduce oil shock risks.

भारत ने तेल झटकों से बचने के लिए कई रणनीतियाँ अपनाई हैं।

Strategic Petroleum Reserves (SPR)

रणनीतिक पेट्रोलियम भंडार

Diversification of oil import sources

तेल आयात स्रोतों का विविधीकरण

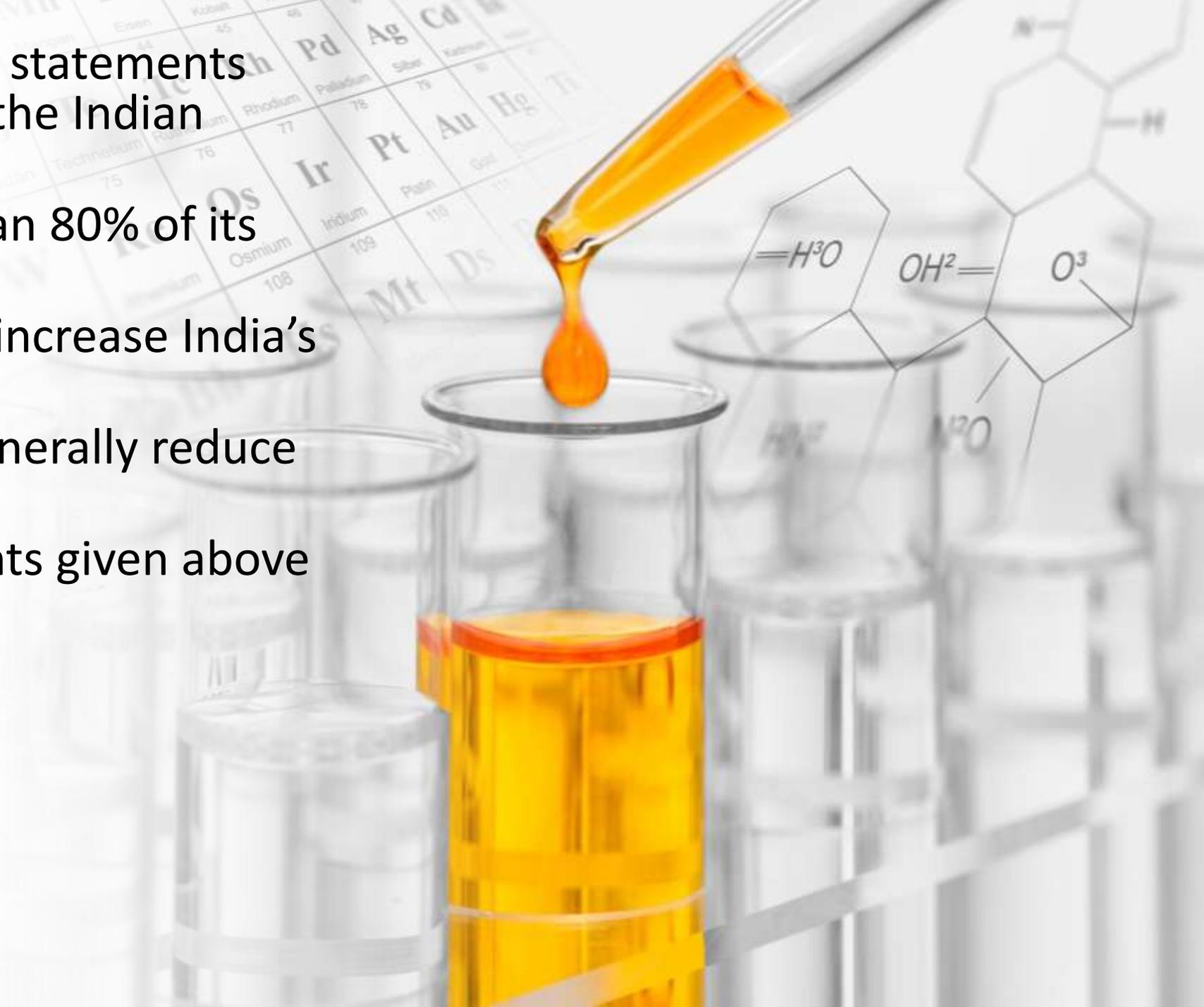
Increasing renewable energy share

नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा का विस्तार

Promoting **electric vehicles and biofuels**

इलेक्ट्रिक वाहन और जैव ईंधन को बढ़ावा

- Consider the following statements regarding crude oil and the Indian economy:
- India imports more than 80% of its crude oil requirement.
- Rising crude oil prices increase India's Current Account Deficit.
- Higher crude prices generally reduce inflation in India.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3



The background features decorative curved lines in shades of blue and green, positioned in the top right and bottom left corners.

India–Seychelles Joint Military Exercise Lamitiye 2026



Geographical Facts About Seychelles

Feature	Details	विवरण
Capital	Victoria	विक्टोरिया
Location	Western Indian Ocean	पश्चिमी हिंद महासागर
Type of Country	Island Nation	द्वीपीय राष्ट्र
Nearest Countries	Madagascar, Mauritius, Somalia	मेडागास्कर, मॉरीशस, सोमालिया
Organisation Membership	Commonwealth, African Union, Indian Ocean Rim Association	कॉमनवेल्थ, अफ्रीकी संघ, IORA

Topic	Details	विवरण
Exercise Name	Lamitiye 2026	लामितिये 2026
Countries Participating	India and Seychelles	भारत और सेशेल्स
Edition	11th Edition	11वां संस्करण
Nature of Exercise	Joint Military Exercise	संयुक्त सैन्य अभ्यास
Location	Seychelles Defence Academy, Seychelles	सेशेल्स डिफेंस अकादमी, सेशेल्स
Duration	March 9 – March 20, 2026	9 मार्च – 20 मार्च 2026
Meaning of Name	Lamitiye means “Friendship” in Creole language	क्रियोल भाषा में “Lamitiye” का अर्थ “मित्रता” है
Frequency	Biennial (Every 2 years)	द्विवार्षिक (हर 2 वर्ष में)
Started In	2001	2001

Factor

Explanation

विवरण

Indian Ocean Strategy

Seychelles lies in western Indian Ocean

सेशेल्स पश्चिमी हिंद महासागर में स्थित

Maritime Security

Helps secure sea lanes in Indian Ocean

हिंद महासागर के समुद्री मार्गों की सुरक्षा

SAGAR Policy

Supports India's "Security and Growth for All in the Region" policy

भारत की "सागर नीति" को समर्थन

Anti-Piracy Cooperation

Strengthens cooperation against piracy

समुद्री डकैती के खिलाफ सहयोग

Exercise	Countries	Type
Malabar	India, USA, Japan, Australia	Naval Exercise
Yudh Abhyas	India – USA	Army Exercise
Varuna	India – France	Naval Exercise
Indra	India – Russia	Tri-service Exercise
Lamitiye	India – Seychelles	Joint Military Exercise

-
- Consider the following statements regarding the Lamitiye military exercise:
 - Lamitiye is a joint military exercise conducted between India and Seychelles.
 - The exercise is held every year.
 - Seychelles is located in the western Indian Ocean.
 - Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
 - A. 1 and 3 only
 - B. 1 and 2 only
 - C. 2 and 3 only
 - D. 1, 2 and 3



India Remains World's
Second-Largest Arms
Importer (SIPRI Report)

Topic	Key Facts	विवरण
Report Source	Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)	स्टॉकहोम इंटरनेशनल पीस रिसर्च इंस्टीट्यूट (SIPRI)
India's Rank	2nd largest arms importer in the world	भारत दुनिया का दूसरा सबसे बड़ा हथियार आयातक
Reporting Period	2021–2025	2021–2025
Trend	Slight decline in imports due to domestic defence production	घरेलू रक्षा उत्पादन बढ़ने से आयात में हल्की कमी

India's Arms Import Trend

Indicator	Data	विवरण
Import Decline	About 4% decline compared to 2016–2020 period	2016–2020 की तुलना में लगभग 4% कमी
Reason	Push for self-reliance under Atmanirbhar Bharat	आत्मनिर्भर भारत नीति
Indigenous Production	Missiles, artillery systems, naval platforms	मिसाइल, तोप प्रणाली, नौसैनिक प्लेटफॉर्म

Major Arms Suppliers to India

Country	Share in India's Arms Imports	विवरण
Russia	~40%	रूस सबसे बड़ा हथियार आपूर्तिकर्ता
France	~24%	फ्रांस दूसरा सबसे बड़ा आपूर्तिकर्ता
Israel	~15%	इज़राइल तीसरा प्रमुख साझेदार

Change in Russia's Share

Period	Russia's Share in India's Arms Imports	विवरण
2011–2015	~70%	लगभग 70%
2016–2020	~51%	लगभग 51%
2021–2025	~40%	लगभग 40%

Interpretation:

India is gradually **diversifying defence procurement**.

भारत धीरे-धीरे रक्षा खरीद स्रोतों का विविधीकरण कर रहा है।

France and Israel's Role

Country	Key Defence Equipment	विवरण
France	Rafale fighter jets	राफेल लड़ाकू विमान
Israel	Drones, missiles, air defence systems	ड्रोन, मिसाइल और एयर डिफेंस सिस्टम

Global Arms Trade Trends (SIPRI)

Indicator	Data	विवरण
Increase in global arms transfers	About 9.2% rise (2016–20 to 2021–25)	वैश्विक हथियार व्यापार में लगभग 9.2% वृद्धि
Largest arms exporter	United States	अमेरिका
US Share	About 42% of global arms exports	वैश्विक हथियार निर्यात का लगभग 42%
Major Import Regions	Europe and Asia	यूरोप और एशिया

- SIPRI – Important Facts

Topic	Details	विवरण
Established	1966	1966
Headquarters	Stockholm, Sweden	स्टॉकहोम, स्वीडन
Function	Tracks global arms transfers, military spending and security trends	वैश्विक हथियार व्यापार और सैन्य खर्च का अध्ययन

Weapon / System	Type	Country	Approx Cost (latest deals)	Usage in Military
Rafale Fighter Jet	Multirole fighter aircraft	France	36 jets ≈ €7.87 billion; additional 26 naval Rafale ≈ \$7.4 billion	Air superiority, precision strike, nuclear delivery
Sukhoi Su-30MKI	Heavy fighter aircraft	Russia	~\$50–60 million per aircraft	Air dominance, long-range strike missions
MiG-29K	Carrier-based fighter jet	Russia	~\$40 million per aircraft	Aircraft carrier operations
P-8I Poseidon	Maritime patrol aircraft	USA	~\$3 billion for 12 aircraft	Anti-submarine warfare, maritime surveillance
C-17 Globemaster III	Strategic transport aircraft	USA	~\$4.1 billion for 10 aircraft	Heavy troop & equipment transport
C-130J Super Hercules	Tactical transport aircraft	USA	~\$1.1 billion deal	Special operations, troop transport
MQ-9B Sea Guardian Drone	High-altitude long-endurance UAV	USA	~\$3 billion for 31 drones (approx proposal)	Maritime surveillance, intelligence gathering

Heron TP Drone	Combat-capable UAV	Israel	~\$400 million approx	Long-range surveillance, reconnaissance
S-400 Triumf	Long-range air defence missile system	Russia	~\$5.4 billion deal	Air defence against aircraft & missiles
Barak-8 Missile System	Surface-to-air missile	Israel	~\$2.5 billion joint program	Air defence for Navy and Army
Spike Anti-Tank Missile	Anti-tank guided missile	Israel	~\$500 million approx	Destroy enemy tanks and armored vehicles
Scorpene Submarines (P-75)	Diesel-electric submarine	France	~\$3.7 billion program	Underwater warfare and maritime defence

Country	Share in India's Arms Imports	Major Systems Supplied
Russia	~36–40%	Su-30MKI, S-400, MiG-29, T-90 tanks
France	~22–24%	Rafale jets, Scorpene submarines
Israel	~14–15%	Drones, missiles, radar systems
USA	~9–10%	P-8I aircraft, C-17, Apache helicopters

Major Arms Supplier Countries for India

-
- Consider the following statements:
 - SIPRI is a Sweden-based institute that tracks global arms transfers.
 - India is the world's second-largest arms importer according to the 2021–25 SIPRI report.
 - The United States is the largest arms exporter in the world.
 - Which of the statements given above are correct?
 - A. 1 and 2 only
 - B. 2 and 3 only
 - C. 1 and 3 only
 - D. 1, 2 and 3

Shah Rukh Khan
Debuts in Hurun
Global Rich List
2026



Shah Rukh Khan Debuts in Hurun Global Rich List 2026

Topic	Key Information	विवरण
Personality	Shah Rukh Khan	शाहरुख खान
List Name	Hurun Global Rich List 2026	हुरुन ग्लोबल रिच लिस्ट 2026
Net Worth	\$1.3 Billion	1.3 अरब डॉलर
Category	Celebrity Billionaire	सेलिब्रिटी अरबपति
Announcement Date	5 March 2026	5 मार्च 2026

Hurun Global Rich List 2026 Overview

Indicator	Data	विवरण
Country with Most Billionaires	China – 1110 billionaires	चीन – 1110 अरबपति
Second Position	United States – 1000 billionaires	अमेरिका – 1000 अरबपति
Third Position	India – 308 billionaires	भारत – 308 अरबपति
Minimum Wealth Criteria	Above \$1 Billion	1 अरब डॉलर से अधिक

Why Shah Rukh Khan Entered the Billionaire List

Factor	Explanation	विवरण
Film Career	One of the highest earning actors in global cinema	विश्व के सबसे अधिक कमाई करने वाले अभिनेताओं में
Production House	Red Chillies Entertainment	रेड चिलीज़ एंटरटेनमेंट
Sports Franchise	Kolkata Knight Riders ownership	कोलकाता नाइट राइडर्स टीम
Brand Endorsements	Major global brand partnerships	बड़े ब्रांड विज्ञापन

Trend: Rise of Celebrity Billionaires

Celebrity	Industry	विवरण
Jay-Z	Music	संगीत
Taylor Swift	Music	संगीत
Rihanna	Music & Business	संगीत और व्यवसाय
Michael Jordan	Sports	खेल
Tiger Woods	Sports	खेल

A landscape photograph showing a stark contrast between lush green grass on the left and cracked, dry earth on the right. The sky is filled with dramatic, colorful clouds, transitioning from blue on the left to a golden-yellow glow on the right, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The text "India Ranks Fourth Globally in Land Investment Destinations" is overlaid in white, centered across the middle of the image.

India Ranks Fourth Globally in Land Investment Destinations

India Ranks Fourth Globally in Land Investment Destinations

Topic	Key Information	विवरण
Ranking	4th globally in land and development site investments	भूमि निवेश गंतव्यों में विश्व में चौथा स्थान
Report	<u>Colliers</u> Global Capital Flows Report	कॉलियर्स ग्लोबल कैपिटल फ्लो रिपोर्ट
Region	Asia-Pacific (APAC) Real Estate Market	एशिया-प्रशांत (APAC) रियल एस्टेट बाजार
Period	First Half of 2025	2025 की पहली छमाही

APAC Real Estate Investment Trends

Indicator	Data	विवरण
Total Investment in APAC	USD 71.9 billion	71.9 अरब डॉलर
Growth Trend	6% decline year-on-year	वर्ष-दर-वर्ष 6% गिरावट
Major Markets Covered	<u>Australia</u> , <u>China</u> , <u>India</u> , <u>Japan</u> , <u>Singapore</u>	ऑस्ट्रेलिया, चीन, भारत, जापान, सिंगापुर

India's Position in Global Investment Flows

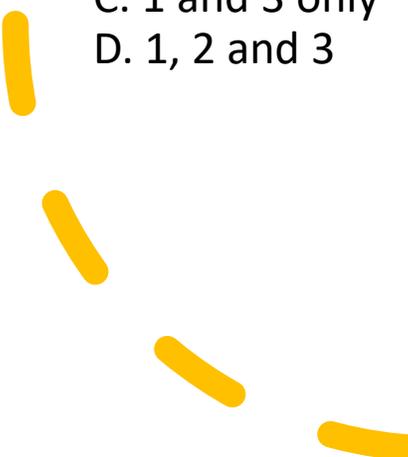
Indicator	Data	विवरण
Real Estate Investment in India (H1 2025)	USD 3 billion	3 अरब डॉलर
Institutional Investment	USD 1.6 billion	1.6 अरब डॉलर
Share of Institutional Inflows	52%	52%
Domestic Investment Growth	53% year-on-year	घरेलू निवेश 53% बढ़ा

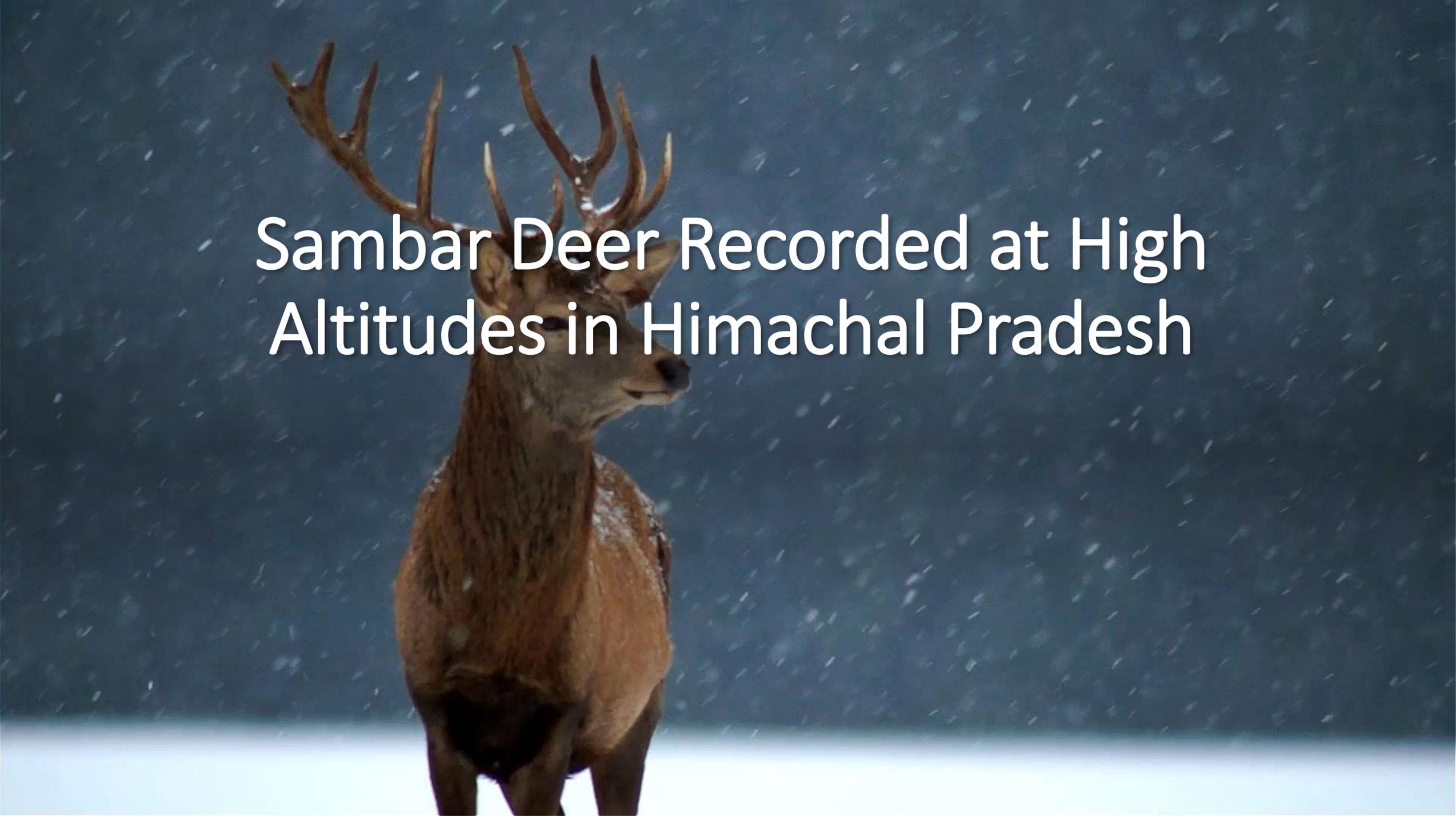
Key Real Estate Segments Attracting Investment

Segment	Details	विवरण
Residential Real Estate	Largest investment segment	आवासीय रियल एस्टेट
Office Space	Major commercial property demand	कार्यालय परिसंपत्तियाँ
Retail & Mixed Use	Growing demand in urban areas	खुदरा और मिश्रित उपयोग परियोजनाएँ
Emerging Assets	Data centres, senior housing, life sciences facilities	डेटा सेंटर, वरिष्ठ नागरिक आवास

Reasons for India's High Investment Ranking

Factor	Explanation	विवरण
Rapid Urbanisation	Growing demand for housing and infrastructure	तेजी से शहरीकरण
Economic Growth	Expanding middle class and consumption	बढ़ती मध्यम वर्गीय आबादी
Policy Reforms	RERA, REIT framework and ease of doing business	RERA और REIT सुधार
Technology Sector	Demand for office and IT parks	आईटी और टेक कंपनियों की मांग

- 
- Consider the following statements:
 - India ranked fourth globally as a destination for cross-border land investments.
 - The ranking was reported by Colliers Global Capital Flows Report.
 - Asia-Pacific (APAC) includes countries such as India, China, Japan and Australia.
 - Which of the statements given above are correct?
 - A. 1 and 2 only
 - B. 2 and 3 only
 - C. 1 and 3 only
 - D. 1, 2 and 3
- 

A Sambar deer with large, multi-tined antlers stands in a snowy environment. The deer is facing right, and its fur is a mix of brown and tan. The background is a dark, blue-tinted sky with falling snow, and the ground is a bright, white snowfield.

Sambar Deer Recorded at High Altitudes in Himachal Pradesh

Topic	Key Information	विवरण
Species	Sambar	सांभर हिरण
Scientific Name	Rusa unicolor	रूसा यूनिकोलर
Location	Himachal Pradesh – Chamba district	हिमाचल प्रदेश – चंबा जिला
Discovery Method	Camera trap monitoring	कैमरा ट्रैप मॉनिटरिंग
Significance	First record of sambar deer in high-altitude Himalayan habitats	उच्च हिमालयी क्षेत्रों में पहली बार दर्ज

Wildlife Sanctuaries Where It Was Recorded

Protected Area	Location	विवरण
<u>Kalatop-Khajjiar Wildlife Sanctuary</u>	Chamba district	कालाटोप-खज्जियार वन्यजीव अभयारण्य
<u>Gamul Wildlife Sanctuary</u>	Chamba district	गमुल वन्यजीव अभयारण्य

Elevation Range

Sanctuary	Elevation
Kalatop-Khajjiar	Above 2,500 metres
Gamul	Above 3,000 metres

अभयारण्य	ऊंचाई
कालाटोप-खज्जियार	2500 मीटर से अधिक
गमुल	3000 मीटर से अधिक

Discovery Through Camera Trap Monitoring

Aspect	Details	विवरण
Monitoring Method	Camera traps installed in wildlife areas	कैमरा ट्रैप
Observation	Adult and sub-adult male sambar deer recorded	वयस्क और किशोर नर सांभर दर्ज
Activity Time	Evening and night hours	शाम और रात में गतिविधि

Ecological Conditions Supporting Sambar Presence

Factor	Explanation	विवरण
Forest Type	Dense coniferous forests	घने शंकुधारी वन
Water Availability	Perennial water sources	स्थायी जल स्रोत
Habitat	Undisturbed Himalayan ecosystem	कम प्रभावित हिमालयी आवास

These ecological conditions support large herbivores like sambar deer.
ये परिस्थितियाँ बड़े शाकाहारी जीवों के लिए अनुकूल हैं।

- **Coexistence of Multiple Deer Species**

- This coexistence indicates ecological diversity.

यह सह-अस्तित्व पारिस्थितिक विविधता को दर्शाता है।

Species	Habitat	विवरण
Sambar	Forest ecosystems	वन पारिस्थितिकी
Musk Deer	Alpine forests	अल्पाइन वन
Barking Deer	Lower Himalayan forests	निम्न हिमालयी वन

Topic	Fact	विवरण
Largest Deer in South Asia	Sambar	दक्षिण एशिया का सबसे बड़ा हिरण
Conservation Status	Vulnerable	संकटग्रस्त (Vulnerable)
Red List Authority	International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)	IUCN रेड लिस्ट
Protection Law	Wildlife Protection Act 1972 Schedule III	वन्यजीव संरक्षण अधिनियम 1972

A quiz on ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026

V.V. Ramanan

QUESTION 1

Apart from Sanju Samson, which Indian won two player-of-the-match awards in the tournament?

QUESTION 2

Yuvraj Samra was one of the seven century-makers in the event. Which associate nation did he represent?

QUESTION 3

Apart from Samson, which other Indian notched up more than 300 runs in the tournament?

QUESTION 4

How did the Scots Matthew Cross, Michael Leask, and Oliver Davidson make news on February 7?

QUESTION 5

Name the lone Pakistani and West Indian in the ICC's Team of the tournament which has four Indians?

QUESTION 6

What was the prize money (in US Dollars) that India took home for emerging the champion?

QUESTION 7

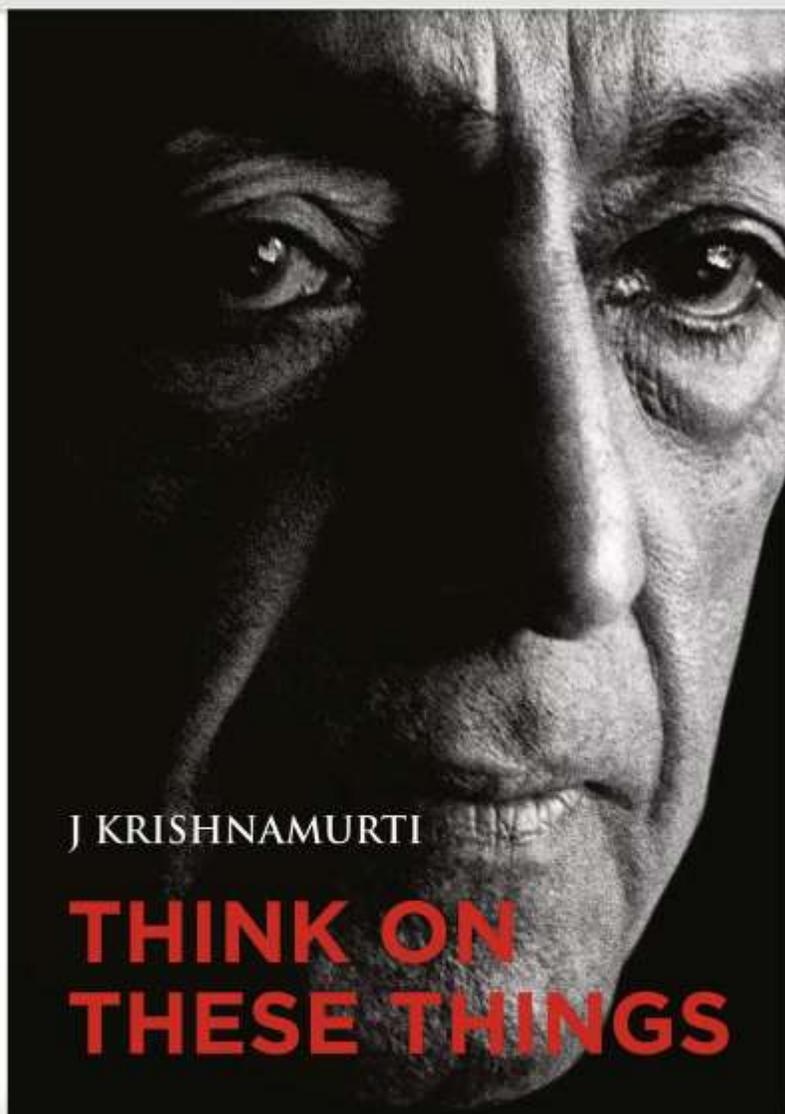
Which other teams, apart from New Zealand (2021 and 2026), have lost two summit clashes?



Name this American pacer who was the joint highest wicket-taker till the final where Varun and Bumrah went ahead by one wicket to tally 14 scalps. AP

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz:

1. On March 9-10, Allied forces firebombed _____ in the deadliest single air raid in human history. **Ans: Tokyo**
2. The deadliest effect of a firebombing is the _____, which forms when multiple fires come together. **Ans: Firestorm**
3. In 2003, the U.S. used X, whose composition has been called a successor to napalm. While napalm bombs contained a mix of benzene, gasoline, and polystyrene, X is kerosene-based and uses less benzene. Name X, which the U.S. used to fiery effect in the early stages of the 2003 Iraq War. **Ans: Mark 77**
4. The main way in which a firebombing kills people is not by burning them. Instead, the fires consume so much oxygen from the air that people, even those inside air-raid shelters, suffocate.



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Word of the day

Pusillanimous:

lacking in courage

Synonyms: poorly spirited

Usage: *The authorities are too pusillanimous to deal with this situation*

Pronunciation:

newsth.live/pusillanimouspron

International Phonetic Alphabet:

/ˌpjuːsɪl'æɪnɪməs/, /ˌpjuːsəl'æɪnəməs/

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6. Science & Tech

7. Environment & Ecology

8. Polity & Constitution Updates

9. Awards & Honours

10. Sports

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12. Defence

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Thank you 😊