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you.”

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LIVE QUIZZES TESTS CLASSES

WPI more than doubles to 8.3% in April

India's WPI inflation rises to its highest level in 3.5 years on the impact of the West Asia crisis on prices in India; experts say that this jump in wholesale prices could soon be passed on to consumers, and could also start hurting the profitability of companies if it is not passed on

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

In the first sign of the impact of the West Asia crisis on prices in India, wholesale inflation in India jumped to 8.3% in April 2026, its highest level in 3.5 years, driven by the sharp rise in crude oil and natural gas prices. Inflation in this category stood at 67.2% in April.

Data on the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) released by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry on Thursday showed that the last time wholesale inflation in India was higher than this was in October



2022. It had stood at 3.9% in March 2026.

Notably, food inflation at the wholesale level remained relatively low, at 2% in April 2026, compared with 1.9% a month

earlier. "The first sign of the impact of war on the Indian economy has been seen in the WPI inflation number for April which came at 8.3%," Madan Sabnavis, chief economist at

the Bank of Baroda said.

"This is a direct result of the global developments which have manifested on the oil front."

Shashwat Singh, Fundamental Analyst at Bajaj Broking too said that the rise in wholesale inflation was largely driven by higher crude oil prices, fuel and power costs, imported inflation, and elevated input prices amid the ongoing geopolitical tensions in West Asia.

Within the index, inflation in the crude oil and natural gas sectors stood at a 46-month high of 67.2% in April 2026, coming on the back of a 39-month

high in March.

While the higher international prices of both products are a driving factor for this, there is also a significant base effect pushing the inflation numbers up. That is, the sector witnessed deflation of 7.6% and 15.5% in March and April of last year.

Fuel inflation

The fuel and power category, too, saw inflation rise to 24.7% in April 2026, the highest since October 2022. This was driven by inflation in the mineral oils category, which rose to 39.5% in April 2026.

Mr. Singh pointed out

that this elevated wholesale inflation could soon pass on to the retail level and directly affect consumers. He added that it could also hurt the profitability of companies.

"Higher logistics, freight, and commodity prices are now increasingly getting reflected in wholesale inflation, which could eventually pass through to consumer inflation as well," Mr. Singh said.

"The spike also suggests margin pressure for manufacturing and industrial companies if cost increases cannot be fully passed on to consumers."

Topic: WPI inflation more than doubles to **8.3% in April 2026**

विषय: April 2026 में WPI inflation दोगुने से अधिक होकर **8.3%** हुई।

Core Reason: West Asia crisis pushed up **crude oil, natural gas, fuel, freight and commodity prices.**

मुख्य कारण: West Asia crisis के कारण **crude oil, natural gas, fuel, freight और commodity prices** बढ़ीं।

Importance: Wholesale inflation may later pass on to retail consumers and increase pressure on company margins.

महत्व: Wholesale inflation आगे चलकर retail consumers तक पहुंच सकती है और companies के profit margins पर दबाव डाल सकती है।

Point	Detail	हिंदी
Indicator	WPI Inflation	थोक मूल्य सूचकांक मुद्रास्फीति
April 2026 WPI	8.3%	8.3%
March 2026 WPI	3.9%	3.9%
Highest since	October 2022	अक्टूबर 2022 के बाद सबसे अधिक
Main cause	West Asia crisis impact	पश्चिम एशिया संकट का प्रभाव
Major drivers	Crude oil, natural gas, fuel, power	कच्चा तेल, प्राकृतिक गैस, ईंधन, बिजली
Food inflation	2% in April 2026	April 2026 में 2%
Fuel & power inflation	24.7%	24.7%
Crude oil & natural gas inflation	67.2%	67.2%
Mineral oils inflation	39.5%	39.5%
Risk	Wholesale price rise may pass to retail inflation	थोक महंगाई खुदरा महंगाई में बदल सकती है

What is WPI?

WPI क्या है?

Point	English	हिंदी
Full Form	Wholesale Price Index	थोक मूल्य सूचकांक
Measures	Price changes at wholesale level	थोक स्तर पर कीमतों में बदलाव
Published by	Office of Economic Adviser, Ministry of Commerce and Industry	वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय के अधीन Office of Economic Adviser
Base Year	2011-12	2011-12
Coverage	Goods only	केवल वस्तुएं
Services included?	No	नहीं
CPI difference	CPI measures retail inflation faced by consumers	CPI उपभोक्ताओं द्वारा झेली जाने वाली खुदरा महंगाई मापता है

WPI vs CPI

WPI और CPI में अंतर

Basis	WPI	CPI
Full Form	Wholesale Price Index	Consumer Price Index
Level	Wholesale market	Retail consumer level
Measures	Producer/wholesale prices	Consumer prices
Includes Services	No	Yes, indirectly in consumption basket
Published by	Ministry of Commerce & Industry	NSO, Ministry of Statistics
Used for	Producer price trend, input cost analysis	Retail inflation, monetary policy
RBI Focus	Less direct	Main inflation target

Sector / Category	Inflation in April 2026	Exam Significance
Overall WPI	8.3%	Highest in 3.5 years
Food Inflation	2%	Relatively low
Crude Oil & Natural Gas	67.2%	46-month high
Fuel & Power	24.7%	Highest since October 2022
Mineral Oils	39.5%	Main driver of fuel inflation

Area	Impact	हिंदी
Consumers	WPI may pass through to CPI	WPI आगे CPI में बदल सकती है
Companies	Profit margins may fall if costs are not passed on	लागत आगे न बढ़ाने पर profit margin घट सकता है
Manufacturing	Input cost rises	input cost बढ़ती है
Transport	Freight/logistics cost increases	freight/logistics cost बढ़ती है
Inflation expectation	Future inflation fear rises	भविष्य की महंगाई की आशंका बढ़ती है
RBI policy	May influence monetary policy stance	RBI की monetary policy पर असर पड़ सकता है
Fiscal policy	Fuel tax and subsidy decisions become important	fuel tax और subsidy decisions महत्वपूर्ण बनते हैं

Way Forward

आगे की राह

Measure

Purpose

Strategic petroleum reserves

Manage oil supply shocks

Diversify oil imports

Reduce dependence on one region

Promote renewable energy

Reduce fossil fuel dependence

Encourage electric mobility

Lower oil import demand

Rational fuel taxation

Reduce inflationary pass-through

Improve logistics efficiency

Reduce freight cost pressure

Monitor profiteering

Prevent unfair price rise

Strengthen inflation targeting

Maintain macroeconomic stability

Q. With reference to Wholesale Price Index inflation, consider the following statements:

Wholesale Price Index inflation के संदर्भ में निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार करें:

1. WPI measures price changes mainly at the wholesale level.

WPI मुख्यतः wholesale level पर price changes को मापता है।

2. WPI includes both goods and services.

WPI goods और services दोनों को शामिल करता है।

3. A rise in global crude oil prices can increase WPI inflation in India.

global crude oil prices में वृद्धि भारत में WPI inflation बढ़ा सकती है।

4. WPI inflation may later pass through to retail inflation.

WPI inflation बाद में retail inflation में pass through हो सकती है।

Which of the above statements are correct?

उपरोक्त में से कौन से कथन सही हैं?

A. 1, 3 and 4 only

B. 1 and 2 only

C. 2, 3 and 4 only

D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

India back on EU approved list of aquaculture exporters

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan

NEW DELHI

In a major boost for India's seafood industry, the country has been re-included in the list of nations that can export aquaculture products to the EU from September 2026, as it has proven its compliance with EU restrictions related to use of antimicrobials in animals used for food.

In October 2024, the EU omitted India from the list of countries allowed to export aquaculture products to the EU from September 2026, raising concerns in the domestic industry, as

India has proven its compliance with EU restrictions on anti microbial use in food producing animals

the EU is a major export destination for Indian seafood. Aquaculture covers finfish, including eels, and products of finfish (such as roes and caviar), and crustaceans.

“Under EU rules, the use of antimicrobials in livestock for growth or yield purposes is not allowed, nor can animals be treated with antimicrobials re-

served for human infections,” the European Commission said in its statement. “The countries on the list have proven their compliance with the EU restrictions on antimicrobial use in food-producing animals.”

It added that the list will be formally adopted “in the coming days”, with the rules on imports applying from September 3, 2026.

The development builds on the fact that in September 2025, the EU added 102 new Indian fisheries to its list of approved establishments that can export to EU member countries.

- **Topic:** India back on EU-approved list of aquaculture exporters

विषय: भारत फिर से EU-approved aquaculture exporters list में शामिल

- **Core Issue:** India has been re-included in the list of countries allowed to export **aquaculture products** to the European Union from **September 2026**.

मुख्य मुद्दा: भारत को **September 2026** से European Union को **aquaculture products** export करने की अनुमति वाली list में फिर से शामिल किया गया है।

- **Reason:** India proved compliance with EU rules on **antimicrobial use in food-producing animals**.

कारण: भारत ने food-producing animals में **antimicrobial use** से जुड़े EU नियमों का पालन सिद्ध किया।

-

Key Facts in Table

मुख्य तथ्य तालिका में

Point	Detail	हिंदी
Sector	Aquaculture / Seafood exports	Aquaculture / समुद्री खाद्य निर्यात
Export destination	European Union	यूरोपीय संघ
India's status	Re-included in EU-approved list	EU-approved list में फिर शामिल
Effective from	September 2026	सितंबर 2026
Earlier issue	India was omitted in October 2024	अक्टूबर 2024 में भारत को list से हटाया गया था
Main compliance area	Antimicrobial use in food-producing animals	food-producing animals में antimicrobial use
Major products covered	Finfish, eel, fish roe, caviar, crustaceans	finfish, eel, fish roe, caviar, crustaceans
Recent positive step	EU added 102 new Indian fisheries to approved establishments list in September 2025	सितंबर 2025 में EU ने 102 Indian fisheries को approved establishments list में जोड़ा
Importance	Boost to Indian seafood industry	भारतीय seafood industry को बढ़ावा

English

Aquaculture means farming of aquatic organisms like fish, prawns, shrimps, oysters and aquatic plants.

It is also called fish farming or blue farming.

It is important for food security, exports and livelihood generation.

हिंदी

Aquaculture का अर्थ है fish, prawns, shrimps, oysters और aquatic plants जैसे जलीय जीवों की farming.

इसे fish farming या blue farming भी कहा जाता है।

यह food security, exports और livelihood generation के लिए महत्वपूर्ण है।

What are Antimicrobials?

Antimicrobials क्या होते हैं?

Term	Explanation	हिंदी
Antimicrobials	Medicines used to kill or control microorganisms	microorganisms को मारने या रोकने वाली medicines
Antibiotics	Medicines used mainly against bacteria	bacteria के खिलाफ उपयोग होने वाली medicines
Antimicrobial Resistance	When microbes stop responding to medicines	जब microbes medicines के प्रति resistant हो जाते हैं
AMR Risk	Excessive or wrong use of antimicrobials can reduce medicine effectiveness	antimicrobials के गलत/अधिक use से medicines ineffective हो सकती हैं

EU Rules on Antimicrobial Use

Antimicrobial Use पर EU Rules

Rule	Explanation	हिंदी
No growth promotion use	Antimicrobials cannot be used to increase growth or yield	growth या yield बढ़ाने के लिए antimicrobials का use allowed नहीं
No reserved antimicrobials	Animals cannot be treated with antimicrobials reserved for human infections	human infections के लिए reserved antimicrobials animals में use नहीं हो सकते
Food safety focus	Rules aim to reduce antimicrobial residues in food	rules का उद्देश्य food में antimicrobial residues कम करना है
AMR control	Rules help prevent antimicrobial resistance	rules AMR रोकने में मदद करते हैं

Why This News is Important for India

भारत के लिए यह खबर क्यों महत्वपूर्ण है?

Dimension	Importance
Export boost	Indian seafood exporters regain access to EU market
Trade confidence	Shows India's compliance with strict global food safety norms
Farmer benefit	Fish farmers and aquaculture units may get better market opportunities
Foreign exchange	Seafood exports can earn foreign currency
Food safety image	Improves India's reputation in quality and safety standards
Blue Economy	Supports India's blue economy and coastal livelihood goals

India and Seafood Export: Exam Points

India और Seafood Export: परीक्षा बिंदु

Point	Detail
India's strength	Major producer and exporter of marine products
Key export item	Frozen shrimp is one of India's major seafood export items
Major export markets	USA, China, EU, Japan, Southeast Asia
Regulatory bodies	MPEDA, EIC, FSSAI, Department of Fisheries
Main challenge	Quality standards, residues, traceability, disease control
Opportunity	Value-added seafood exports and sustainable aquaculture

Benefit	Explanation
Seafood exports may rise	EU is a major market for Indian seafood
Better price realization	Exporters may get access to high-value market
More jobs	Fisheries, processing, cold chain and logistics may benefit
Global credibility	Compliance with EU norms improves India's trade image
Coastal economy support	Fishermen and aquaculture farmers may benefit
Encourages quality reform	Better monitoring of antimicrobial use and residues

Challenges Ahead

आगे की चुनौतियां

Challenge	Explanation
Strict EU standards	Exporters must continuously follow EU norms
Traceability	Product source and farming practices must be trackable
AMR control	Misuse of antibiotics must be prevented
Small farmer compliance	Small aquaculture farmers may need training and support
Testing infrastructure	Residue testing labs and certification systems must improve

Q. With reference to India's aquaculture exports to the European Union, consider the following statements:

India के aquaculture exports to European Union के संदर्भ में निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार करें:

1. India has been re-included in the EU-approved list for aquaculture exports from September 2026.
भारत को September 2026 से aquaculture exports के लिए EU-approved list में फिर शामिल किया गया है।
2. EU rules allow antimicrobials in livestock for growth promotion if export quantity increases.
EU rules export quantity बढ़ाने के लिए livestock में antimicrobials के growth promotion use की अनुमति देते हैं।
3. Antimicrobials reserved for human infections cannot be used in food-producing animals under EU restrictions.
EU restrictions के तहत human infections के लिए reserved antimicrobials का food-producing animals में use नहीं किया जा सकता।
4. Aquaculture includes finfish, eels, fish roe, caviar and crustaceans.
Aquaculture में finfish, eels, fish roe, caviar और crustaceans शामिल हैं।

Which of the above statements are correct?

उपरोक्त में से कौन से कथन सही हैं?

- A. 1, 3 and 4 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 2, 3 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

RIGA

Latvian Prime Minister resigns over stray Ukrainian drones row



AFP

Latvian Prime Minister Evika Silina resigned on Thursday after her left-leaning Progressives partner quit the coalition, stripping her majority. It followed Defence Minister Andris Spruds' ouster over stray Ukrainian drones breaching Latvian airspace. Ms. Silina's resignation comes just months ahead of general elections. AP

TRICK : RuDe Germany SELL Poland & Finland

- **Ru**-Russia,
- **De**-Denmark,
- **Germany**,
- **S**-Sweden,
- **E**-Estonia,
- **L**-Latvia,
- **L**-Lithuania,
- **P**-Poland,
- **F**-Finland



Baltic Sea is an arm of the Atlantic Ocean, enclosed by Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, Sweden, Germany, Poland, Russia and North and Central European Plain.

Baltic states, the northeastern region of Europe, includes the countries of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania, on the eastern shores of the Baltic Sea.

All of these countries are part of EU, NATO, Nordic Baltic Eight (NB8).



Topic: Latvian Prime Minister resigns over stray Ukrainian drones row

विषय: Latvian Prime Minister ने stray Ukrainian drones विवाद पर इस्तीफा दिया।

Core Issue: Latvian Prime Minister **Evika Silīņa** resigned after her left-leaning coalition partner, **Progressives**, quit the government, causing her to lose majority support.

मुख्य मुद्दा: Latvian Prime Minister **Evika Silīņa** ने इस्तीफा दिया क्योंकि उनकी coalition partner party **Progressives** सरकार से बाहर हो गई, जिससे उनकी majority समाप्त हो गई।

Trigger: The controversy followed the ouster of Defence Minister **Andris Sprūds** over stray Ukrainian drones entering Latvian airspace.

कारण: Latvian airspace में stray Ukrainian drones के प्रवेश को लेकर Defence Minister **Andris Sprūds** को हटाया गया, जिसके बाद राजनीतिक संकट बढ़ा।

Point	Detail	हिंदी	
Country	Latvia	लातविया	
Capital	Riga	रीगा	
Prime Minister who resigned	Evika Siliņa	एविका सिलिना	
Immediate reason	Coalition partner quit government	गठबंधन सहयोगी सरकार से बाहर हुआ	
Coalition partner	Progressives	प्रोग्रेसिक्स पार्टी	
Defence Minister involved	Andris Sprūds	एंद्रिस स्पूड्स	
Main controversy	Stray Ukrainian drones breached Latvian airspace	Ukrainian drones ने Latvian airspace में प्रवेश किया	
Political impact	Government lost majority	सरकार ने बहुमत खो दिया	
Timing	Months ahead of general elections	आम चुनावों से कुछ महीने पहले	

Point

Detail

Region

Baltic region of Northern Europe

Capital

Riga

Neighbours

Estonia, Russia, Belarus, Lithuania

Sea Border

Baltic Sea

EU Member

Yes

NATO Member

Yes

Currency

Euro

Strategic Importance

Located near Russia and Belarus; important for NATO's eastern flank

Why This News is Important

यह समाचार महत्वपूर्ण क्यों है?

Dimension	Explanation	हिंदी
Political instability	PM resignation creates uncertainty before elections	चुनाव से पहले राजनीतिक अस्थिरता
Security issue	Drone breach shows airspace vulnerability	drone breach airspace security की कमजोरी दिखाता है
Russia-Ukraine war link	Ukrainian drones issue affects neighbouring European states	Russia-Ukraine war का प्रभाव पड़ोसी European countries पर
NATO relevance	Latvia is a NATO member close to Russia	Latvia Russia के निकट NATO member है
Coalition politics	Shows fragility of coalition governments	coalition governments की कमजोरी दर्शाता है
Defence accountability	Defence Minister was removed over airspace breach	defence accountability का मामला

Q. With reference to Latvia, consider the following statements:

Latvia के संदर्भ में निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार करें:

- 1.** Latvia is one of the Baltic States of Europe.
Latvia यूरोप के Baltic States में से एक है।
- 2.** Riga is the capital of Latvia.
Riga, Latvia की राजधानी है।
- 3.** Latvia is a member of NATO and the European Union.
Latvia NATO और European Union का सदस्य है।
- 4.** Latvia shares a land border with Ukraine.
Latvia की Ukraine के साथ स्थलीय सीमा लगती है।

Which of the above statements are correct?

उपरोक्त में से कौन से कथन सही हैं?

- A. 1, 2 and 3 only
- B. 1 and 4 only
- C. 2, 3 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

SC: Present set-up lets govt pick CEC, ECs of its choice

'No Minister Will Oppose PM; Need Neutral Member'

AmitAnand.Choudhary
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Questioning the appointment process for chief election commissioner (CEC) and election commissioners (ECs) where a panel of the PM, a Cabinet minister and the leader of opposition, pick the candidate, Supreme Court on Thursday said the present system allows the govt to appoint a person of its choice as two out of three member would favour it.

Why this "show-off about independence" in the appointment process, the SC asked, saying an independent person should be made part of panel in place of a minister.

Referring to SC's earlier direction that the panel should comprise the PM, CJI and LoP, a bench of Justices Dipankar Datta and Satish Chandra Sharma said it was not necessary the CJI be included

“The level of confidence must be to that degree (that it must appear) as if there had been a third neutral person in the selection committee. Why should it be a minister from the cabinet...

—SC bench

If the court decides what the best manner to appoint election commissioners is, then court enters the legislative arena

—Govt

but some independent person has to be part of it. No minister will oppose the PM, and the presence of the LoP would be ornamental, the bench said. When a CBI director is picked by a panel of PM, CJI and LoP, why not for EC, it said.

Though attorney general K Venkataramani submitted that the neutrality and independence of CEC/ECs arises from their functioning, the bench said it started from the appointment process. It said the poll panel should not only act neutral but should also appear neutral.

► Continued on P 14

SIR Ph-3 in 16 states & 3 UTs, including Delhi

New Delhi: Election Commission Thursday announced Phase-3 of special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, to be conducted across 16 states and three Union territories, including NCT of Delhi, between May and Dec, reports **Bharti Jain**.

SIR-3, to verify eligibility of a total 36.7 crore electors, will be carried out in a phased manner across Odisha, Mizoram, Sikkim, Manipur, Uttarakhand, Andhra, Arunachal, Haryana, Telangana, Punjab, Karnataka, Meghalaya, Maharashtra, Jharkhand, Nagaland and Tripura. Besides Delhi, it includes UTs of Chandigarh, and Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu.

The schedule factors ongoing Census 2027 and the common field machinery involved in SIR and Census house listing, EC said Thursday.

► Continued on P 14

Point	Detail	हिंदी
Institution involved	Supreme Court of India	भारत का सर्वोच्च न्यायालय
Issue	Appointment of CEC and ECs	CEC और ECs की नियुक्ति
Present selection panel	PM + Cabinet Minister + LoP	PM + Cabinet Minister + LoP
SC concern	Government can appoint person of its choice	सरकार अपनी पसंद का व्यक्ति नियुक्त कर सकती है
Reason	2 out of 3 members are from government side	3 में से 2 सदस्य सरकार पक्ष के हैं
SC suggestion	Need neutral member	neutral member की जरूरत
Earlier SC direction	PM + CJI + LoP panel	PM + CJI + LoP panel
Government argument	Court should not enter legislative arena	Court को legislative arena में नहीं आना चाहिए
Related institution	Election Commission of India	भारत निर्वाचन आयोग

Who are CEC and ECs?

CEC और ECs कौन होते हैं?

Post	Meaning	Role
CEC	Chief Election Commissioner	Heads Election Commission of India
EC	Election Commissioner	Assists in conducting elections
ECI	Election Commission of India	Conducts free and fair elections
Appointed by	President of India	Based on selection process under law

Constitutional Provisions

संवैधानिक प्रावधान

Article	Provision
Article 324	Superintendence, direction and control of elections vested in Election Commission
Article 324(2)	CEC and ECs appointed by President, subject to law made by Parliament
Article 324(5)	Security of tenure for CEC; ECs removed on CEC recommendation
Constitutional Status	Election Commission is a constitutional body

Selection Committee	Prime Minister
	Cabinet Minister nominated by PM
	Leader of Opposition / leader of largest opposition party
Final Appointment	President of India
Concern	Executive dominance because PM and Cabinet Minister are from government side

Earlier SC-Preferred Model

पहले SC द्वारा सुझाया गया मॉडल

Member	Reason
Prime Minister	Executive representation
Chief Justice of India	Neutral constitutional authority
Leader of Opposition	Opposition representation

Purpose: To ensure neutrality, independence and public confidence in Election Commission appointments.

उद्देश्य: Election Commission appointments में neutrality, independence और public confidence सुनिश्चित करना।

Why Independence of Election Commission Matters

Election Commission की स्वतंत्रता क्यों महत्वपूर्ण है?

Dimension	Importance
Free and fair elections	Democracy depends on credible elections
Level playing field	Ruling and opposition parties must be treated equally
Public trust	Voters must believe election process is impartial
Model Code of Conduct	Neutral enforcement is necessary
Electoral rolls	Fair voter list management is essential
Constitutional morality	ECI must act independently, not under executive pressure

SC vs Government Arguments

SC और Government के तर्क

Supreme Court View	Government View
Selection panel should appear neutral	Parliament has made law for appointment
Cabinet Minister may not oppose PM	Court should not decide appointment mechanism
Independent person needed in panel	Appointment process is legislative domain
ECI should not only be neutral but also appear neutral	Judicial interference may disturb separation of powers

Cuba runs out of fuel, plunging country into darkness and protests

Havana: Protests broke out across the Cuban capital of Havana on Wednesday evening as the city confronted its worst rolling blackouts in decades amid a US blockade that has starved the island of fuel. Crowds of hundreds of angry Cubans poured onto the streets in several outlying neighbourhoods, blocking roads with burning piles of rubbish, banging pots and shouting "Turn on the lights!" and "The people, united, will never be defeated!"

The shortages and blackouts have dramatically worsened since Jan when US President Trump, who has said he wants to oust Cuba's commu-



People watch as firefighters put out a barricade set up by residents protesting against prolonged power outages in Havana on Wednesday

nist-run govt, imposed an embargo and threatened tariffs on any nation supplying the country with fuel.

Havana resident Rodolfo Alonso, shirtless and sweating,

said he had decided to protest after his neighbourhood of Playa went for more than 40 hours without electricity. "I live in a community where there are lots of older people, many of

'Cuba ready to consider \$100m US aid offer'

Cuba is open to reviewing a \$100 million US aid proposal, Cuba's foreign minister Bruno Rodriguez said Thursday, as the island grapples with a severe energy shortage. "We are ready to hear the details of the proposal and how it would be implemented," Rodriguez said on X, a day after US secretary of state Marco Rubio renewed an offer to provide \$100 million in aid with conditions. Speaking to Fox News host Sean Hannity on Wednesday, Rubio said that crisis-hit Cuba's leadership must change as the US renewed an offer of \$100 million in aid if the communist-run island agrees to cooperate. "It's a broken, non-functional economy, and it's impossible to change it. I wish it were different," he said. AGENCIES

them bed-ridden. Our food is spoiling," said Alonso, a state worker. "We started banging pots to see if they'd give us just three hours of electricity. That's all we want. This is not a

political problem."

Cuba's energy and mines minister Vicente de la O earlier on Wednesday said the nation had completely run out of diesel and fuel oil, and that its po-

wer grid had entered a "critical" state. "We have absolutely no fuel (oil), and absolutely no diesel," de la O said on state-run media. "We have no reserves." Blackouts have increased dramatically this week, with many districts of Havana without light for 20 to 22 hours a day, the minister said.

"Cuba is open to anyone that wants to sell us fuel," the minister said. Neither Mexico nor Venezuela have sent fuel to the island since Trump's order threatening tariffs. Only a single Russian-flagged oil tanker has delivered crude oil to Cuba since Dec, providing temporary relief in April. REUTERS

Point	Detail	हिंदी
Country	Cuba	क्यूबा
Capital	Havana	हवाना
Region	Caribbean	कैरेबियन क्षेत्र
Crisis	Severe fuel shortage	गंभीर ईंधन संकट
Main shortage	Fuel oil and diesel	fuel oil और diesel
Impact	Rolling blackouts	लगातार power cuts
Protest location	Havana	हवाना
Duration of power cuts	20–22 hours/day in many districts	कई क्षेत्रों में 20–22 घंटे/day
Government statement	Grid entered "critical state"	electricity grid "critical state" में
External factor	US blockade / sanctions pressure	US blockade / sanctions pressure
Aid offer	US offered \$100 million aid with conditions	US ने conditions के साथ \$100 million aid offer किया
Cuba's response	Open to reviewing aid proposal	Cuba proposal review करने को तैयार

Point	Detail
Region	Caribbean Sea
Capital	Havana
Nearby countries	USA, Mexico, Haiti, Jamaica, Bahamas
Sea/Water bodies	Caribbean Sea, Gulf of Mexico, Atlantic Ocean
Political system	Communist one-party state
Strategic importance	Located close to USA, historically important in Cold War politics

Feature	Exam Importance
Cuba	Largest island country in the Caribbean
Havana	Capital and major port city
Florida Strait	Separates Cuba from the USA
Gulf of Mexico	Lies northwest of Cuba
Caribbean Sea	Lies south of Cuba
Haiti	Located east/southeast of Cuba
Jamaica	Located south of Cuba
Bahamas	Located north of Cuba

Causes of Cuba's Energy Crisis

Cuba के Energy Crisis के कारण

Cause	Explanation	हिंदी
Fuel shortage	Cuba has run out of diesel and fuel oil	Cuba में diesel और fuel oil खत्म हो गया
Import dependence	Cuba depends on external fuel supplies	Cuba fuel import पर निर्भर है
US sanctions/blockade	Restrictions affect fuel supply and financial access	US sanctions fuel supply और finance access को प्रभावित करते हैं
Reduced support from allies	Mexico and Venezuela have not sent fuel recently	Mexico और Venezuela से fuel supply नहीं आई
Old energy infrastructure	Power grid is weak and ageing	power grid कमजोर और पुराना है
Economic crisis	Cuba faces shortage of foreign exchange	Cuba के पास foreign exchange की कमी
Russian tanker relief	A Russian oil tanker provided temporary relief	Russian oil tanker ने temporary relief दिया

Area	Impact
Electricity	Long blackouts across Havana
Public life	People face heat, darkness and lack of basic services
Food security	Food spoils due to lack of refrigeration
Hospitals/services	Essential services face operational difficulty
Public anger	Citizens protest and block roads
Economy	Production, transport and tourism affected
Governance	Public trust in state capacity declines
Diplomacy	Cuba may consider foreign aid despite political tensions

Point	Explanation
Long history of hostility	US-Cuba relations have remained tense since the Cold War
Communist government	Cuba has been ruled by a communist system
US embargo/blockade	US restrictions have affected trade and finance
Aid diplomacy	US has offered \$100 million aid with conditions
Cuba's concern	Cuba may see conditional aid as political pressure
Strategic angle	Energy crisis can increase external dependence

What is an Energy Crisis?

Energy Crisis क्या है?

Term	Meaning	हिंदी अर्थ
Energy crisis	Shortage of fuel/electricity supply	ईंधन/बिजली आपूर्ति की कमी
Fuel oil	Heavy oil used in power plants and ships	power plants और ships में उपयोगी भारी तेल
Diesel	Fuel used in transport and generators	transport और generators में उपयोगी ईंधन
Blackout	Complete loss of electricity supply	बिजली आपूर्ति का बंद होना
Rolling blackout	Planned/rotational power cut	अलग-अलग क्षेत्रों में क्रमिक power cut
Grid	Electricity transmission network	बिजली आपूर्ति नेटवर्क

Q. With reference to Cuba, consider the following statements:

Cuba के संदर्भ में निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार करें:

1. Cuba is located in the Caribbean region.
Cuba Caribbean region में स्थित है।
2. Havana is the capital of Cuba.
Havana, Cuba की राजधानी है।
3. Cuba shares a land border with the United States.
Cuba की United States के साथ स्थलीय सीमा है।
4. Cuba's recent crisis is linked to fuel shortage and prolonged blackouts.
Cuba का हालिया संकट fuel shortage और prolonged blackouts से जुड़ा है।

Which of the above statements are correct?

उपरोक्त में से कौन से कथन सही हैं?

- A. 1, 2 and 4 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2, 3 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

Word of the day

Spiel:

plausible glib talk

Synonyms: presentation, speech, talk, pitch

Usage: *The waiter gave us a long spiel about the specials.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/spiel

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ʃpi:l/



Word of the day

Kerfuffle:

a disorderly outburst or tumult

Synonyms: commotion, stir, disturbance

Usage: *There was a kerfuffle before the event began*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/kerfuffle

International Phonetic Alphabet: /kəʃʌfəl/

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