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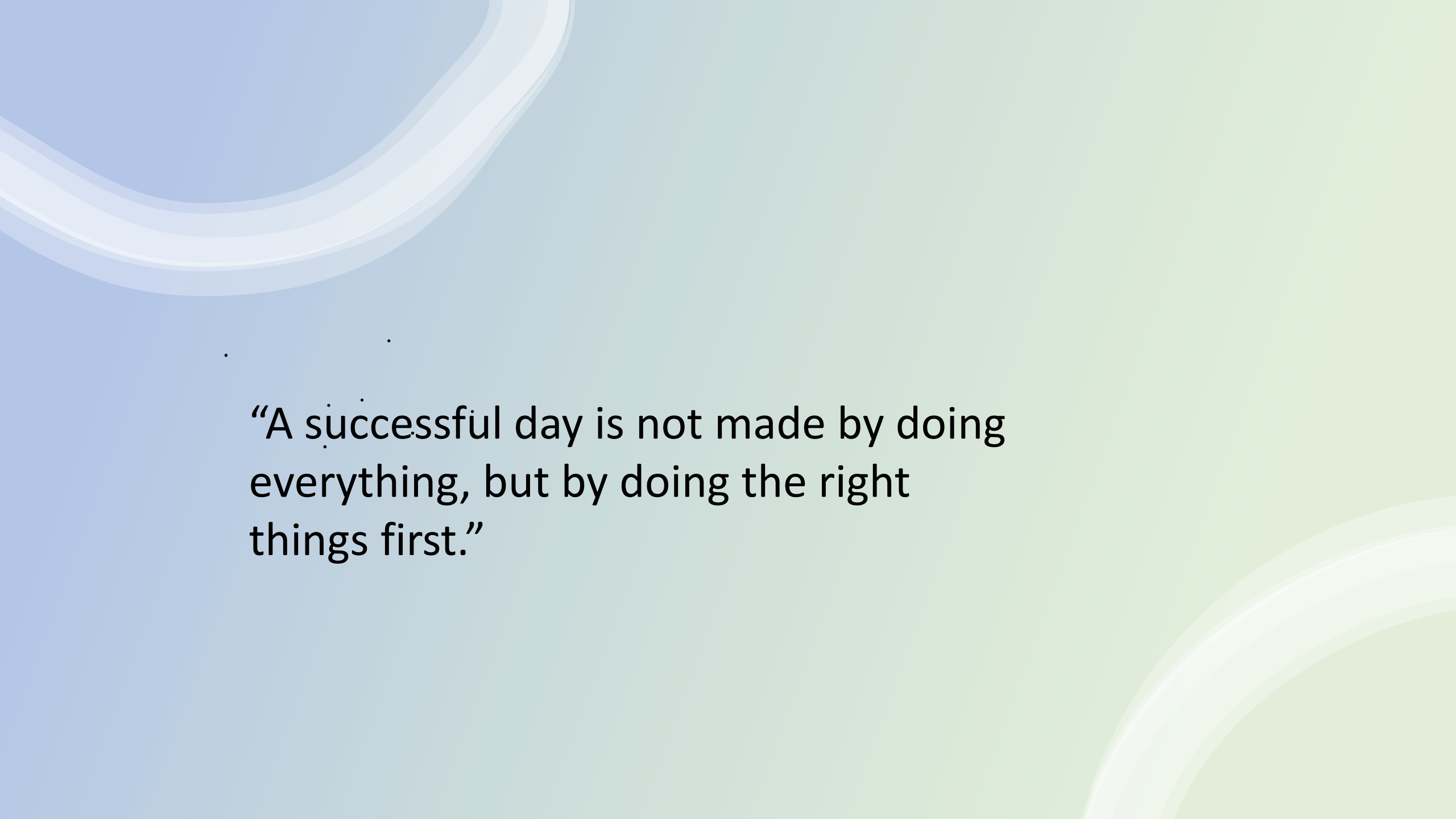


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“A successful day is not made by doing everything, but by doing the right things first.”

# UMANG 360



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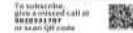
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Grouping reaffirms support for Palestine

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**Seventeen years later, imprints of war remain**

For Tamils of Sri Lanka, the struggle did not end

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Marsh sizzles as LSG gets the better of CSK

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**INSIDE**



**28 kidnapped Nagas and Kukis freed in Manipur**

**GUWAHATI**  
Two days after they were held captive following the killing of three church leaders, 28 people belonging to the Kuki and Naga communities were released by different groups on Friday. **3 PAGE 8**



**Kyiv attack toll is 24; Ukrainian strike claims 4**

**KYIV**  
Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said on Friday that a Russian missile struck on a Kyiv apartment building the previous day killed 24 people, including what local officials said were three teenagers. Emergency workers finished digging through the building's rubble after more than a day. **Zelensky said on 4. 3 PAGE 13**

**Cong. terms PM's appeal on gold 'death warrant'**

**NEW DELHI**  
The Congress on Friday described Prime Minister Narendra Modi's appeal to defer gold purchases for a year as a "death warrant" for the jewellery sector and demanded that the Centre announce a special economic relief package for the nearly 3.5 crore people dependent on the industry. **3 PAGE 8**

**Rationalisation of airfares needed, SC suggests gov.**

**NEW DELHI**  
The Supreme Court on Friday urged the Union government to examine measures for the "rationalisation" of airfares, pointing to the stark disparity in ticket prices charged by different airlines for the same route in a single day. **3 PAGE 9**

**Kudleg Sengar's sentence reprieve is set aside by SC**

**NEW DELHI**  
The Supreme Court on Friday set aside a Delhi High Court order suspending the sentence of former BJP MLA Kudleg Singh for long in the 2017 Unnati case. The Bench asked the High Court to decide, upon suspension of sentence of Sengar which. **3 PAGE 6**

**Petrol and diesel prices hiked by ₹3 per litre**

The move aims at helping oil marketing firms stem losses caused by the surge in global prices

The Opposition slams the timing of the hike, days after results of Assembly elections were declared

The Centre imposes a windfall tax of ₹3 a litre on petrol exports; levy on diesel is reduced to ₹16.5

**Spectators' shock**

**NEW DELHI**  
Petrol and diesel prices were hiked by ₹3 a litre across all variants on Friday, in the first major increase in more than four years. The move will help state-run oil marketing companies (OMCs) stem some of their losses caused by global price and supply pressures due to the war in West Asia.

**Oil prices**

The price of the regular variant of petrol is now ₹27.77 a litre in Delhi, while that of diesel is ₹19.67 a litre. Premium and high-octane variants have also seen a similar increase. Compressed natural gas (CNG) prices were also hiked by ₹2 a kg.

**Opposition slams**

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**Centre imposes**

The Centre imposes a windfall tax of ₹3 a litre on petrol exports; levy on diesel is reduced to ₹16.5



Protesting fury: A protest against the hike in petrol and diesel prices in Vijayawada on Friday. (I. S. Rao)

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**White peaks**



Summer breaks: A snow-capped mountain vista seen on a misty Friday morning from Puhams in south Kashmir. (Anas Islam)

**Trump says U.S., China 'settled many problems'**

**Ananth Krishnan**

United States President Donald Trump wrapped up his China visit saying both sides had agreed on "historic trade deals" and "settled a lot of problems", following his second day of talks with Chinese President Xi Jinping. "We've settled a lot of problems that other people wouldn't have been able to solve," Mr. Trump said in his opening remarks, before their private talks.

**Following a grand ceremonial reception and state banquet on the first day of his visit, Mr. Trump with Xi on Friday hosted by Mr. Xi in the 'Chinese leadership's expansive Zhongnanhai compound, where the two leaders walked and drank tea.**

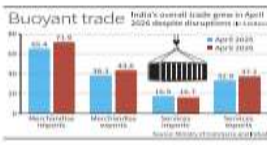
**'The G2'**

"These are two great countries, I call it the G2," Mr. Trump said in an interview with a U.S. channel aired on Friday, using a term that the Chinese government, "officially at least, has not embraced, and one that other major powers, including India, do not view favourably."

**President Donald Trump with China's President Xi Jinping on Friday at the Zhongnanhai leadership compound in Beijing. (AP/Wide World)**

**resume imports of U.S. beef. Both sides on Friday did not share details of any understanding on U.S. access to rare earths — a key issue for U.S. businesses which have called on China to relax its export controls on critical minerals.**

**India's goods exports surge 14% in April to \$43.6 billion: Centre**



**T.C.A. Shreedhar Bhatnagar**

Despite significant headwinds to trade due to the West Asia crisis, the value of India's merchandise exports grew nearly 14% in April 2020 to \$43.6 billion, official data released on Friday showed. This performance was due in part to the overall rise in prices as well as to the efforts by Indian exporters to diversify their markets, Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agrawal said on Friday. The overall trade deficit, counting merchandise and services, fell 30% in April 2020 to \$7.9 billion. "The positive growth in value can have some contribution from price increase prices of many things are going up," Mr. Agrawal said at a press briefing. "It is also to the credit of our industry, which has been able to maintain the supply chains and look at new markets and diversify their exports."

# Petrol and diesel prices hiked by ₹3 per litre

The move aims at helping oil marketing firms stem losses caused by the surge in global prices

The Opposition slams the timing of the hike, days after results of Assembly elections were declared

The Centre imposes a windfall tax of ₹3 a litre on petrol exports; levy on diesel is reduced to ₹16.5

**Saptaparno Ghosh**  
NEW DELHI

**P**etrol and diesel prices were hiked by ₹3 a litre across all variants on Friday, in the first major increase in more than four years.

The move will help state-run oil marketing companies (OMCs) stem some of their losses caused by global price and supply pressures due to the war in West Asia.

The price of the regular variant of petrol is now ₹97.77 a litre in Delhi, while that of diesel is ₹90.67 a litre. Premium and high-octane variants have also seen a similar increase. Compressed natural gas (CNG) prices were also hiked by ₹2 a kg.

This is the first major hike – defined as more than ₹1 a litre – on regular retail fuel since the approximately ₹9 hike executed in

a staggered manner over the course of a week in March 2022, soon after Russia invaded Ukraine.

Since then, OMCs have periodically announced minimal increases of a few paise per litre, but no major hikes. The Centre also imposed a windfall gains tax of ₹3 a litre on petrol exports, while reducing the levy on diesel to ₹16.5 a litre and aviation turbine fuel to ₹16 a litre, effective Saturday.

The Opposition parties, however, slammed the Centre for the timing of the price hike, just days after results were declared in four State elections.

The Union government has been highlighting the losses being borne by OMCs, of approximately ₹1,000 crore a day from petrol, diesel, and LPG combined, due to high global oil prices. Experts say the current hike will have a



**Fuelling fury:** A protest against the hike in petrol and diesel prices in Vijayawada on Friday. G.N. RAO

limited impact, with an estimated ₹10 per litre hike needed to cover even half of the under-recoveries faced by the OMCs. Last Sunday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi asked citizens to curb their consumption of petrol and diesel to reduce India's oil imports.

Sukhmal Jain, former Director for Marketing at the state-owned OMC Bharat Petroleum, told *The Hindu* that the hike was necessary, given the recent disruption to global energy markets. "The recent fuel price adjustment is a calibrated and necessary step

to partially offset the sharp rise in crude oil prices, freight and operational costs being faced by India's OMCs," Mr. Jain said.

## Hike across the board

The price hikes were marginally lower in Chennai and steeper in Kolkata and

Mumbai. Petrol prices in Chennai rose ₹2.83 per litre to ₹103.67, while diesel prices increased ₹2.86 per litre to ₹95.25. The price of the premium variant, 'XG', is now ₹95.99 per litre in Delhi as compared to ₹92.99 earlier. The high-octane XP95 is now ₹104.88 per litre, up from ₹101.89.

However, according to Sourav Mitra, Partner for Oil & Gas at Grant Thornton Bharat, OMCs may continue to face under-recoveries despite the hike. "Prior to the price hike, under-recoveries were at around ₹13-15 per litre of petrol and ₹17-18 per litre for diesel. Hence, it had been projected that an almost ₹10 per litre retail hike would be needed to cover 50% of under-recoveries," he said. "In this context, the current hike remains below estimates."

In 2022, the price of petrol was increased by about

₹9 per litre to ₹105.41, in a staggered manner between March 28 and April 6. India's crude oil basket averaged \$112.87 per barrel and \$102.97 per barrel in March and April of 2022. Currently, the price of oil stands at \$106.18 per barrel.

In May 2022, the Centre cut excise duty on petrol and diesel by ₹8 and ₹6 per litre, respectively. This cut was passed on to customers in the form of lower prices of the two fuels.

During the latest crisis, due to disruptions in energy traffic through the Strait of Hormuz, the government in March reduced the excise duty on both petrol and diesel by ₹10 per litre. This time, however, the cut was not passed on to customers and was instead aimed at providing a cushion to OMCs absorbing under-recoveries.

(With inputs from PTI)

## • Domino effect: How crude prices affect the economy

Crude prices, which fell after 2014, could now remain in the \$100 range. Higher crude prices worsen trade deficit, stoke inflation, depress growth, hurt the exchange rate and increase government debt.

Year	Crude Oil India Basket (\$ per barrel)	Price of petrol in Delhi (Rs/litre)	Wholesale inflation	Real GDP growth rate	Trade balance* (as % of GDP)	% change in rupee-dollar exchange rate**	Fiscal deficit (as % of GDP)
2011-12	113.5	64.4	8.95	5.24	-10.07	-12.72	5.91
2012-13	108.1	68.1	6.9	5.46	-10.41	-5.94	4.93
2013-14	105.5	70.3	5.2	6.39	-7.21	-9.5	4.48
2014-15	84.1	66.6	1.26	7.41	-6.74	-3.98	4.1
2015-16	46.2	61.9	-3.65	8	-5.62	-5.64	3.87
2016-17	47.8	65.9	1.73	8.26	-4.73	2.3	3.48
2017-18	56.8	68.8	2.92	6.8	-6.11	-0.31	3.46
2018-19	69.6	75.4	4.28	6.45	-6.81	-5.97	3.44
2019-20	60.6	72.7	1.68	3.87	-5.68	-8.25	4.64
2020-21	44.6	80.9	1.29	-5.78	-3.81	2.57	9.16
2021-22	78.8	98.1	13	9.69	-6.04	-3.05	6.71
2022-23	93.4	97.9	9.41	7.61	-7.91	-7.8	6.46
2023-24	82.5	96.7	-0.73	9.19	-6.63	-1.38	5.49
2024-25	78.6	94.8	2.27	6.49	-7.22	-2.58	4.76
2025-26	71.7	94.8	0.71	7.41	-8.25	-9.58	4.36

Source: CMIE; \* minus sign refers to trade deficit; \*\* minus sign implies rupee depreciation; Note: Full charts on [indianexpress.com](https://www.indianexpress.com)

Point	Detail	हिंदी
Price hike	₹3 per litre	₹3 प्रति लीटर
Fuels affected	Petrol and diesel	पेट्रोल और डीजल
Scope	Across India	पूरे भारत में
First major hike since	Around 4 years	लगभग 4 वर्षों बाद
Main reason	Rising global crude oil prices	global crude oil prices में वृद्धि
Geopolitical reason	West Asia crisis	पश्चिम एशिया संकट
Beneficiaries	Oil Marketing Companies	तेल विपणन कंपनियां
OMCs' under-recovery	Around ₹1,000 crore per day	लगभग ₹1,000 करोड़ प्रति दिन
Opposition criticism	Timing after Assembly election results	विधानसभा चुनाव परिणामों के बाद timing पर सवाल
Petrol export windfall tax	₹3 per litre imposed	₹3 प्रति litre windfall tax
Diesel export levy	Reduced to ₹6.5 per litre	₹6.5 प्रति litre किया गया
ATF levy	Reduced to ₹6 per litre	₹6 प्रति litre किया गया

City	Petrol Price	Diesel Price	हिंदी
Delhi	₹97.77/litre	₹90.67/litre	दिल्ली
Mumbai	₹105.41/litre	Not clearly mentioned	मुंबई
Chennai	₹103.67/litre	₹95.25/litre	चेन्नई

## Why Fuel Prices Were Hiked

### Fuel Prices क्यों बढ़ाए गए?

Reason	Explanation	हिंदी
Crude oil price rise	Global crude prices increased due to geopolitical tensions	geopolitical tensions से crude oil prices बढ़े
West Asia crisis	Supply disruption risk increased	supply disruption का खतरा बढ़ा
OMC losses	Oil companies were selling below cost	OMCs cost से कम कीमत पर fuel बेच रही थीं
Freight cost	Higher shipping and logistics cost	freight और logistics cost बढ़ी
Operational cost	Oil companies faced higher operational burden	OMCs पर operational cost बढ़ा
Under-recovery	Losses were around ₹13–15/litre on petrol and ₹17–18/litre on diesel before hike	hike से पहले petrol पर ₹13–15 और diesel पर ₹17–18/litre under-recovery

# What are Oil Marketing Companies?

## Oil Marketing Companies क्या हैं?

Point	Explanation
Meaning	Companies that refine, distribute and sell petroleum products
Examples	Indian Oil, Bharat Petroleum, Hindustan Petroleum
Role	Supply petrol, diesel, LPG, ATF and other fuels
Problem	If retail prices are not increased despite high crude prices, OMCs suffer losses
Exam angle	Important for energy pricing, subsidy burden and inflation

## Important Terms for Exam

### परीक्षा हेतु महत्वपूर्ण शब्द

Term	Meaning	हिंदी अर्थ
Crude Oil	Raw petroleum extracted from earth	धरती से निकला कच्चा तेल
Petrol	Transport fuel used mainly in cars and bikes	वाहनों में उपयोगी ईंधन
Diesel	Fuel used in transport, agriculture and industry	परिवहन, कृषि और उद्योग में उपयोगी ईंधन
OMC	Oil Marketing Company	तेल विपणन कंपनी
Under-Recovery	Loss when selling price is below actual cost	लागत से कम कीमत पर बेचने से नुकसान
Windfall Tax	Extra tax on unusually high profit	असामान्य लाभ पर अतिरिक्त कर
Excise Duty	Tax imposed by Union government on fuel	केंद्र द्वारा लगाया गया fuel tax
ATF	Aviation Turbine Fuel	विमान ईंधन
Pass-through	Cost increase passed to consumers	लागत वृद्धि को उपभोक्ताओं पर डालना

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Area	Impact	हिंदी
Consumers	Daily transport cost increases	daily transport cost बढ़ेगी
Inflation	May increase CPI inflation through transport cost	transport cost के कारण CPI बढ़ सकती है
WPI	Fuel and power inflation may rise	fuel and power inflation बढ़ सकती है
Agriculture	Diesel cost affects irrigation and farm transport	diesel cost agriculture को प्रभावित करती है
Logistics	Freight cost rises	freight cost बढ़ता है
Industry	Input and distribution cost increases	input और distribution cost बढ़ती है
OMCs	Losses may reduce	OMCs का नुकसान कम हो सकता है
Government	Tax revenue and fiscal balancing affected	tax revenue और fiscal balance प्रभावित हो सकते हैं

## Fuel Price Mechanism in India

### भारत में Fuel Price Mechanism

Point	Explanation
Dynamic pricing	Petrol and diesel prices can change based on global crude prices and exchange rate
Important factors	Crude oil price, rupee-dollar exchange rate, taxes, dealer commission, freight
Taxes	Centre imposes excise duty; States impose VAT
Political sensitivity	Fuel price hikes directly affect common citizens
Policy dilemma	Balance between consumer relief, OMC losses and government revenue

### Why Opposition Criticised the Move

#### Opposition ने आलोचना क्यों की?

Reason	Explanation
Timing	Hike came soon after Assembly election results
Public burden	Petrol-diesel price rise affects common people
Inflation concern	Fuel hike can increase prices of other goods
Political issue	Fuel prices are highly sensitive in elections
Demand	Opposition may demand tax cut instead of price hike

**Q. With reference to fuel pricing in India, consider the following statements:**

भारत में fuel pricing के संदर्भ में निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार करें:

1. A rise in global crude oil prices can increase under-recoveries of Oil Marketing Companies if retail prices are not revised.

यदि retail prices नहीं बढ़ाए जाएं, तो global crude oil prices बढ़ने से Oil Marketing Companies की under-recoveries बढ़ सकती हैं।

2. Diesel price hike can affect inflation through higher freight and logistics costs.

Diesel price hike higher freight और logistics costs के माध्यम से inflation बढ़ा सकता है।

3. Windfall tax is imposed only on agricultural income.

Windfall tax केवल agricultural income पर लगाया जाता है।

4. India's high crude oil import dependence makes it vulnerable to global oil price shocks.

भारत की high crude oil import dependence इसे global oil price shocks के प्रति संवेदनशील बनाती 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

IN BRIEF



SC closes Goa Cong. leader's plea after snakebite death

A day after Goa Congress leader Ketan Bhutkar died following a snakebite, the Supreme Court on Friday closed his plea challenging a Bombay High Court order cancelling the Ponda Assembly bypoll. A Bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Manoj Misra declared the proceedings abated after being informed of Bhutkar's death on Thursday night. Appearing for the deceased leader, advocate Abhinav Jethi requested the court to leave the larger question of law open while closing the proceedings. The bench recorded the administration of both sides and disposed of the plea.

Psychiatrist-writer Anand Nadkarni passes away at 66

Dr. Anand Nadkarni, psychiatrist, writer, and founder of the Institute for Psychological Health (IPH) in Thane, died at a Mumbai hospital on Friday morning. He was 66. Diagnosed with a progressive neurodegenerative tumour in March, he underwent surgery on May 6 and later developed complications. A gold medalist from Mumbai University, he taught at K.E.M. Hospital and worked extensively in the areas of awareness and addiction treatment. He founded IPH in 1990 and was associated with the Muktiangan centre in Pune. Dr. Nadkarni has over 27 works and contributed to theatre and films.

Rathindra Bose, BJP legislator from Cooch Behar, elected as Speaker of Bengal Assembly

Shri. Subhojit Ghosh, Kolkata



Ch. Suvendu Adhikari congratulating Rathindra Bose after re-election as Assembly Speaker, in Kolkata on Friday. PTI

Rathindra Bose, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MLA from the Cooch Behar Lok Sabha constituency, was on Friday elected as the Speaker of West Bengal Legislative Assembly. Mr. Bose was elected unanimously through a voice vote. The legislators of Trinamool Congress and Opposition parties did not oppose his election. The 65-year-old politician is a thirteen-year accountancy by profession. He defeated Trinamool Congress's Ajit De Bhattacharya by a margin of 23,284 votes in the recently concluded West Bengal Assembly poll. Mr. Bose has been associated with the BJP and BJD for the last several years. After being elected the Speaker, he said his respon-

sibility will be to amply conduct the proceedings of the House. "I will try to maintain a cordial relationship between the Treasury benches and the Opposition and that the Opposition members get opportunity to speak in the House," the Speaker said. This is the first occasion when a leader from north Bengal has been selected for the speaker's post. Mr. Bose, who has been serving as the BJP's State vice-pres-

Rampant corruption in exams taking young lives, says Priyanka

Shayank Kumar, Lucknow

Congress MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Friday denounced the alleged suicide of National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) aspirant Bish Mishra in Lakshimpur Khari and targeted corrupt exam irregularities and cancellations for driving students to severe distress. She said millions of aspirants face a psychological burden of repeated disappointments in competitive examination of clearing the test. "The news of Bish Mishra's suicide in Lakshimpur Khari, Uttar Pradesh, is deeply saddening. My deepest condolences to his grieving parents and family. According to the

victim's family, Bish was under mental stress due to the cancellation of the NEET exam. The rampant corruption in exams is taking the lives of young people. The future of millions of students is being ruined every year. When will this cycle stop? When will accountability be brought? Mr. Vadra wrote on X. "Third NEET attempts" This was Bish's third NEET attempt, and he was highly motivated to succeed. At the same time, his father said, "Those in distress may contact Sanghvi, Society Research & Health prevention helpline: 011-90799002.

AIADMK faction says open to talks with EPS; VCK urges CM not to induct rebel MLAs

Vehmani says instead of driving people away from AIADMK, general secretary should invite faction for a discussion; rebel MLAs joining Cabinet will raise serious questions of propriety; Ravikumar

The Hindu Bureau

AIADMK rebel leader S.P. Vehmani on Friday said his faction was willing to hold discussions with party general secretary Edappadi K. Palaniswami on intra-party issues. In a social media post, Mr. Vehmani reiterated his group's position regarding the need for analysing the reasons for the AIADMK's defeat in the recent Assembly election. Referring to Mr. Palaniswami's statement that he was ready to make any sacrifice, Mr. Vehmani said that instead of driving people away from the party, the general secretary should invite his faction for a discussion, at least once. Mr. Vehmani's statement comes close to the heels of VCK general secretary and Union Minister P.V. Narayana's request to Palaniswami to induct the AIADMK rebel MLAs into the Cabinet. He argued that doing so would "raise se-



AIADMK general secretary Edappadi K. Palaniswami with S.P. Vehmani during a meeting in Coimbatore last year. S. Sankar

rious questions of political morality and ethical propriety". Further, the direction to abstain from voting is issued by the party, party and not the legislature party. Therefore, the whip should be binding on all members, object or the party ticket. Any MLA who defies such a whip is liable for disqualification proceedings under Paragraph 2 of the Tenth Schedule," Mr. Ravikumar said. While there was no immediate constitutional prohibition on the appoint-

ment of some of these MLAs as Ministers, he argued that legality cannot be the sole basis for the government's constitutional morality and democratic ethics. "If the Chief Minister nevertheless intends to induct them into the Ministry, the only constitutionally clearer course would be for those MLAs to resign from the Assembly membership, join the TVK, and seek a fresh mandate from the people in by-elections," he said.

Further, the direction to abstain from voting is issued by the party, party and not the legislature party. Therefore, the whip should be binding on all members, object or the party ticket. Any MLA who defies such a whip is liable for disqualification proceedings under Paragraph 2 of the Tenth Schedule," Mr. Ravikumar said. While there was no immediate constitutional prohibition on the appoint-

Will ensure safe return of people who fled their homes, says Suvendu

The Hindu Bureau, Kolkata

Barfing allegations of post-truth violence, West Bengal Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari on Friday said he will ensure the safe return of people who fled their homes. However, he added that if any of them was found to be involved in the violence against BJP workers after the 2022 Assembly election, they would land in prison. In 2021, there had been allegations of widespread attacks on BJP workers after the 2022 Assembly election, they would land in prison. In 2021, there had been allegations of widespread attacks on BJP workers after the 2022 Assembly election, they would land in prison. In 2021, there had been allegations of widespread attacks on BJP workers after the 2022 Assembly election, they would land in prison.

Tamil Nadu govt. may gradually increase women's rights grant

T. Ramakrishnan, Chennai

The TVK government, which is planning to re-launch the Kolathayar Meghal Urulal Thozhil (KEMT) scheme and rename it as Madhavaperiyar Magazhi Thozhil, may increase the monthly grant gradually, given the State's financial position. Initially, the amount may be increased from ₹1,000 to ₹1,500, according to a government representative. The TVK had said in its manifesto that an assistance of ₹2,500 would be given to all women heads of families up to the age of 60. At present, the number of beneficiaries is 1.3 crore. The scheme necessitates an annual outlay of ₹18,000 crore. If the amount goes up by ₹500 per beneficiary, the budgetary provision for a full year would be ₹23,400 crore. According to a study conducted last year at the Government of Tamil Nadu State Planning Commission, 15% of KEMT beneficiaries are senior citizens aged above 60. If one is to refer to this statistic, 15 lakh beneficiaries could be taken out of the retirement scheme. In that case, the total number would re-

M.P. cracker unit blast: NSA invoked against manager and owner

Shayank Kumar, Lucknow

Defence Minister Bharat Singh on Friday invoked the NSA, whose provisions make getting laid tough against factory manager Ajay Khan, and the District Magistrate has ordered that both Mr. Khan and Mr. Malhotra be lodged in Vijaya Ghar. Both were arrested on May 7, a Mumbai City Court judge the expulsion of one of the suspended members. Garbis was ordered to be expelled from the club's premises. The court said the action appeared to be intended to prevent the investigation of the CPI(M) and discuss the future of the "Urban Naxal" movement. In its application, the agency attached a copy of the Mumbai Press

India's first satellite-tagged Ganges soft-shell turtle released in Kaziranga National Park

The Hindu Bureau, Guwahati

India's first satellite-tagged Ganges soft-shell turtle, an endangered species, was released in the 1,302 sq. km Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve in Assam on Friday. The release of the freshwater reptile coincided with the observation of Endangered Species Day. The release of the soft-shell turtle reported from India, five are known from the Kaziranga landscape. The Ganges soft-shell turtle (Apistodactylus apistodus), a Schedule I animal under the Wildlife Protection Act of 1972, can be distinguished from other freshwater turtles by its narrow, cap primary and head-shaped markings on the top of the head. In India, the species inhabits ponds, lakes, and reservoirs. Recorded as endangered on the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List, this large turtle is a major river predator and helps clean up the system by its scavenging dead and decaying animal matter.

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# India's first satellite-tagged Ganges soft-shell turtle released in Kaziranga National Park

**The Hindu Bureau**  
GUWAHATI

India's first satellite-tagged Ganges soft-shell turtle, an endangered species, was released in the 1,302 sq. km Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve in Assam on Friday.

The release of the freshwater reptile coincided with the observation of Endangered Species Day.

## Himanta hails event

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma termed the event a major step for wildlife conservation and a proud moment for the State, "as we continue to protect every species that calls our forests home".

Assam is one of the world's top priority areas in freshwater turtle conservation. Of the eight soft-



The release of the freshwater reptile coincided with the observation of Endangered Species Day. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

shell turtles reported from India, five are known from the Kaziranga landscape.

The Ganges soft-shell turtle (*Nilssonia gangetica*), a Schedule I animal under the Wildlife Protection Act of 1972, can be differentiated from other riverine turtles by its distinct arrowhead-shaped markings on the top of the head. In

India, the species inhabits large rivers, lakes, and reservoirs.

Recorded as endangered on the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List, this large turtle is a major river predator and helps clean up the system by feeding on dead and decaying animal matter.

"Understanding seasonal movement patterns, home range, and identifying critical habits like nesting and breeding will help in active management of soft-shell in the Brahmaputra river basin," Abhijit Das, a senior scientist at the Wildlife Institute of India, said.

He led a team under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change in the satellite-tagging exercise in collaboration with the Kaziranga National Park authorities and the Assam Forest Department. The National Geographic Society funded the project.

Forest officials said a healthy adult turtle was captured, fitted with the transmitter under veterinary supervision, and released back into its natural habitat along the northern bank of the Brahmaputra.

India's first satellite-tagged Ganges soft-shell turtle released in Kaziranga National Park

श्रीलङ्का के अंतर्गत इन्द्र प्रकाश द्वारा प्रेषित satellite-tagged Ganges soft-shell turtle Kaziranga National Park में छोड़ा गया।

**Core Issue:** An endangered **Ganges soft-shell turtle** was fitted with a satellite transmitter and released in **Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve, Assam.**

एक **श्रीलङ्का के अंतर्गत** endangered **Ganges soft-shell turtle** को **इन्द्र प्रकाश** द्वारा satellite transmitter चलाकर **Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve, Assam** में छोड़ा गया।

Point	Detail	हिंदी
Species	Ganges soft-shell turtle	गंगा soft-shell turtle
Scientific name	<i>Nilssonina gangetica</i>	<i>Nilssonina gangetica</i>
Conservation status	Endangered on IUCN Red List	IUCN Red List में Endangered
WPA status	Schedule I under Wildlife Protection Act, 1972	Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 के तहत Schedule I
Location	Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve	काजीरंगा राष्ट्रीय उद्यान और टाइगर रिजर्व
State	Assam	असम
River basin focus	Brahmaputra river basin	ब्रह्मपुत्र नदी बेसिन
Project support	Wildlife Institute of India, Kaziranga authorities, Assam Forest Department	WII, Kaziranga authorities, Assam Forest Department
Funding	National Geographic Society	National Geographic Society
Purpose	Track movement, nesting, breeding and habitat use	movement, nesting, breeding और habitat का अध्ययन

Feature	Explanation
Type	Freshwater reptile
Habitat	Large rivers, lakes and reservoirs
Indian distribution	Found in river systems of northern and eastern India
Identification	Distinct arrowhead-shaped markings on top of head
Ecological role	Major river predator and scavenger
Food habit	Feeds on dead and decaying animal matter
Importance	Helps clean aquatic ecosystem

Purpose	Explanation	शुुलुह
Movement tracking	Helps know seasonal movement pattern	seasonal movement हलुव दुुलुव ढुु
Home range study	Identifies the area used by the turtle	turtle इवु home range हलुव दुुलुव ढुु
Nesting sites	Helps locate nesting habitats	nesting sites इह हणदुव ढुुह ढुु
Breeding areas	Helps identify breeding grounds	breeding grounds इवु हलुव दुुलुव ढुु
Conservation planning	Helps in active management of species	species management सुवदुव
Habitat protection	Helps protect critical river habitats	critical habitats इवु ढुुदुव सुवदुव सुवदुव

## Assam and Turtle Conservation

### Assam और Turtle Conservation

Point	Explanation
Assam's importance	One of the world's priority areas for freshwater turtle conservation
Kaziranga landscape	Home to five of India's eight soft-shell turtle species
Riverine ecosystem	Brahmaputra basin supports rich freshwater biodiversity
Conservation need	Turtles face habitat loss, fishing pressure and illegal trade
Scientific monitoring	Satellite tagging gives real-time ecological data

## Conservation Status and Protection

### संरक्षण स्थिति और सुरक्षा

Category	Status
IUCN Red List	Endangered
Wildlife Protection Act, 1972	Schedule I
Meaning of Schedule I	Highest legal protection in India
Threat level	High conservation concern
Conservation need	Habitat protection, anti-poaching, river health monitoring

## Threats to Freshwater Turtles

### Freshwater Turtles को खतरे

Threat	Explanation
Habitat loss	Riverbank alteration, sand mining, wetland degradation
Pollution	Industrial waste, sewage and plastic pollution
Illegal trade	Turtles are trafficked for meat and pet trade
Fishing nets	Accidental capture in fishing gear
Dams and barrages	Disturb river flow and breeding habitats
Climate change	Affects nesting temperature and survival

## Ecological Importance

### पारिस्थितिक महत्व

Role	Importance
Scavenger	Cleans dead and decaying matter from rivers
Predator	Maintains aquatic food chain balance
Indicator species	Shows health of freshwater ecosystem
Biodiversity value	Part of India's riverine biodiversity

**Q. With reference to the Ganges soft-shell turtle, consider the following statements:**

**Ganges soft-shell turtle के संदर्भ में निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार करें:**

1. It is scientifically known as *Nilssonina gangetica*.  
इसका वैज्ञानिक नाम *Nilssonina gangetica* है।
2. It is listed as Endangered on the IUCN Red List.  
यह IUCN Red List में Endangered के रूप में सूचीबद्ध है।
3. It is protected under Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.  
यह Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 के Schedule I के तहत संरक्षित है।
4. It is mainly found in desert ecosystems.  
यह मुख्यतः desert ecosystems में पाया जाता 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

## EC orders probe into voting by foreigners in TN.

S. Vijay Kumar  
CHENNAI

The Election Commission of India (EC) has ordered a probe into the allegations of foreign nationals casting votes in the recent Assembly elections in Tamil Nadu.

A report has been sought from the returning officers of at least two cities and five districts across the state on how the foreigners managed to vote despite the special intensive revision (SIR), official sources said on Friday.

The investigation was launched after many foreign nationals of Indian origin were arrested or detained by law enforcement agencies in Chennai and Madurai for fraudulently casting votes.

Senior officers who supervised the election process were inquiring into how the names of foreigners were included in the electoral rolls even after the SIR, a Statewide exercise to revise the rolls through door-to-door enumeration.

The exercise was expected to result in the deletion of the names of the deceased, duplicate, permanently shifted and

non-Indian voters, the sources said.

With about 28 foreign nationals belonging to various countries, including Sri Lanka, the United Kingdom and Canada, being arrested or detained in connection with the SIR, the details of foreigners who landed in Tamil Nadu before the April 23 election are being verified to find out whether or they had voted.

"Some might have cast vote and left the country, while others might have followed a specific path. The date of foreigner arrivals are being analysed as part of further investigation," a police officer told *The Hindu*.

**Changing charge**  
The accused have been booked under Section 172 (persecution at elections) and Section 173 (obstruction of the Bharatiya Kisan Sabha, Section 31 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950), which makes giving any false statement in the declaration form a punishable offence, said Mr. Pradhan.

The officer added that the status of the voters in the declaration form and their impact on the election results would be decided by the EC.

## NEET re-exam will be conducted on June 2

Union Education Minister says that next year onwards the exam would be computer-based; he says the CBI will conduct a thorough probe, adding that root of leak appeared to be OMR sheets

The Hindu Bureau  
NEW DELHI

Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Friday said that the National Testing Agency (NTA) will conduct a re-exam for NEET UG 2020 on June 2 and said the exam will shift to a computer-based test from next year onwards to ensure transparency.

On May 12, the NTA had announced the cancellation of the NEET UG 2020 and said that the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) would carry out a computer-based inquiry into the alleged irregularities linked to the exam.

"From next year, the NEET exam will be conducted in a computer-based format. The main root of the leak is the Optical Mark Recognition (OMR) sheets. CBI will thoroughly investigate the leak issue," said Mr. Pradhan. He further stated that the Government would not let the nettle become a bone again and that it was resolved to take strict steps against students put in for exam preparations.

The examination duration will be extended by 15 minutes to accommodate for candidates who are unable to complete the exam within the 15 minutes. Accordingly, exams scheduled from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. will now conclude at 3.15 p.m.

"The Government of India will speak with States regarding transportation and I will personally speak with CME so that students face minimal difficulties," Mr. Pradhan said. He also said that all students would get their admit cards by June 14.

On the incident of the alleged paper leak, he said, "After exams were conducted on May 3, the NTA got a complaint through



High status: Union Minister of Education Dharmendra Pradhan addressing a press conference in New Delhi on Friday.

prudence redoubt on May 7 that there was a leak due to the circulation of a question paper. Several investigations from May 8 to 11 and confirmed that the question paper was an excuse to leak questions out. My didn't occur any wrong candidate, due to the conspiracy of the education mafia, to rob merit-based candidates of their rightful seat. We have presented the Rashtriya Kisan Commission recommendation, despite which this leak has happened. So we have cancelled the exam on May 12," said Mr. Pradhan.

Weight behind the NTA. Mr. Pradhan also backed the NTA, and called for the testing agency to be scrapped. "NTA has been formed by Supreme Court recommendations and we should ensure that it does not create students each year. We will ensure zero errors," said Mr. Pradhan, adding that the issue should be resolved in their respective states.

Mr. Pradhan said that the issue should be resolved in their respective states. "The investigation so far has revealed the source of the leak as chemistry paper leak as well as the role of individual students involved in multiple instances who paid several lakhs to attend the special coaching classes," the agency said.

## After killing of 28 church leaders, 28 civilians released in Manipur; 14 Kukis still in captivity

The Hindu Bureau  
GUWAHATI

Two days after they were held captive following the killing of three church leaders, 28 people belonging to the Kuki and Naga communities were released by different groups on Friday. The gesture following appeals from Manipur's political leaders, church bodies, and community-based organisations, pointed to the easing of tensions across the State's tribal areas.

However, the groups continued to hold at least 10 others hostage. A State government communiqué said 28 people were released. Fourteen of those released were Kukis, and 14 were Nagas.

The Indigenous Tribal



Tears of relief: People console the women who were released after they were held captive by Kuki groups in Kangpokpi on Friday.

Leaders' Forum (ITLF), a Kuki-Zo organisation, said the security forces had intervened and proposed a one-for-one hostage exchange. It said the proposal was rejected as 28 Kuki were in the custody of Nagas, while 14 Nagas were held by the Kukis. An ITLF spokesperson said the Kukis released all the Nagas hostages, but the Nagas released only half the number of Kukis they held captive. "The remaining 14 Kukis must be released immediately," he said.

The government said the Kukis and Nagas released all the

were held hostage in the Kuki-dominated Kangpokpi and the Naga-majority Kangpokpi districts. It said the situation on May 13 worsened as a Kuki militant known as Kungun killed a Naga village helper after successful extremists gunned down three church leaders belonging to the Thadou community. It further stated that all our officers were continuing to secure the safe release of the remaining hostages. The government sought the people's cooperation in maintaining peace, and securing the release of the others.

Laid to rest  
Kuki-Zo organisations approached Naga civil society bodies to help secure the release of the remaining Kukis. The appeal followed the mass burial of the church leaders on the premises of the Thadou Baptist Association of India church at Morthing in Kangpokpi after an appeal notified by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs failed to begin. More than 200 people were killed in the ethnic violence that erupted between the Kuki-Zo and Meitei people in Manipur on May 3, 2023.

The Commission is now headed by former Supreme Court Judge Ratu Singh Chaudhari after Ajit Lamba, former Chief Justice of Gauhati High Court, resigned as the chairperson of the three-member

## Commission probing Manipur violence gets fifth extension

Vijaya Singh  
NEW DELHI

The three-member Commission of Inquiry (COI) notified by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs to probe the 2023 Manipur ethnic violence got a fifth extension on May 13. The MHA notified that the Commission constituted on May 3, 2023, "shall submit its report to the Central government as soon as possible but not later than November 15, 2023."

The Commission is now headed by former Supreme Court Judge Ratu Singh Chaudhari after Ajit Lamba, former Chief Justice of Gauhati High Court, resigned as the chairperson of the three-member

panel in February this year.

Manipur's Commission of Inquiry has received around 1,000 affidavits but the summoning or examination of witnesses is yet to begin. More than 200 people were killed in the ethnic violence that erupted between the Kuki-Zo and Meitei people in Manipur on May 3, 2023. Around 60,000 people were displaced from their homes.

The CoI is mandated to probe the causes, extent of the violence and steps targeted to prevent a repeat. It also has to identify different communities, the sequence of events and whether there were any lapses or dereliction of duty on the part of any of the responsible authorities.

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## CBI nabs alleged 'kingpin' behind NEET paper leak

Devesh K. Pandey  
NEW DELHI

In a major breakthrough, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has arrested Pune-based chemistry lecturer J.V. Kulkarni, an alleged kingpin behind the NEET UG 2020 paper leak.

According to the agency, investigation revealed that Mr. Kulkarni had access to the question papers as he was allegedly involved in the examination process on behalf of the National Testing Agency (NTA). During the last week of April 2020, he allegedly mobilised students with the help of co-accused persons, including Mr. Manish Waghmare, a heavy salon owner who was arrested on May 13.

The agency had earlier arrested seven accused persons, including Mr. Waghmare. The others were identified as Dhyanraj Lakshman from Ahlyanagar and Shubham Khatri from Nashik in Maharashtra; Manoj Patil, Vikas Rimal, and Dhruv Rimal from Jaipur; Rajeshwar and Yash Yadav from Gurgaon, Haryana.

"The investigation so far has revealed the source of the leak as chemistry paper leak as well as the role of individual students involved in multiple instances who paid several lakhs to attend the special coaching classes," the agency said.

## CBI launches AI-powered verification system 'Abhay'

The Hindu Bureau  
NEW DELHI

The CBI has launched an AI-based software called "Abhay" for authentication of CBI notices, a system designed to protect citizens from the growing menace of digital street scams.

In the digital age, fraudulent notices are used to trap victims. "Once the victim is deceived, their compliance frustrates initiate a strict legal process, keeping the victim under surveillance for days under the guise of a digital arrest, a concept that has no legal existence in Indian law," the CBI said.

Citizens can access 'Abhay' at any time through the CBI's official website," the agency said.

## Don't blame the court for delay: CJI to Sena factions on dispute over party symbol

Krishnakumar Rajagopal  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday turned livid at the "party politicians" of warring Odisha (Biju) and Jharkhand (Shinde) factions of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) of delaying a final decision on their dispute over the party symbol issue.

"Stop your people from going to the media and making statements that the party is in a dispute over the party symbol issue," the Chief Justice said. "The court has already decided the issue. Stop your people from going to the media and making statements that the party is in a dispute over the party symbol issue."

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## State's duty is to ensure living wages for workers, not label them as 'terrorists', says SC

Krishnakumar Rajagopal  
NEW DELHI

The Uttar Pradesh government should not think of those who protested for higher wages in Noida on April 13 as "terrorists," the Supreme Court said on Friday, reminding the State of its obligation to provide a "living wage" to workers, in accordance with the Constitution's Directive Principles of State Policy.

"They were asking for higher wages... Don't think they are terrorists," Justice B.V. Nagaraja said. The two-person Bench including Justice Jyoti Singhania, said the State should ensure that living wages are paid to workers, and advocate calm dialogue and advocate Shatrugh

pointed to Article 43 of the Constitution, which mandates that the state "shall endeavour" through law or economic organisation or any other legitimate way, to secure to all workers a "living wage, standard of living, and decent standard of life and full enjoyment of leisure and social and cultural opportunities." Instead of fulfilling its obligations, the advocate noted, the State has detained them as "terrorists" and "provocateurs" of the protests in Noida.

The Bench directed the State of Uttar Pradesh to produce the two young men, said to be in the Kanpur jail, on May 18 in the Court. The Bench also stopped them from being moved out of judicial custody into police custody.

The Bench of one of the dissenting judges, Justice Bhuvan Singh, said that the State has a duty to ensure that living wages are paid to workers, and advocate calm dialogue and advocate Shatrugh

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## Growing 'attacks' on the judiciary by 'parasites', CJI says

Anantika Bhambhani  
NEW DELHI

While hearing a lawyer's plea seeking designation as a senior advocate, Chief Justice of India (CJI) S. J. Kaul on Friday gave a stern warning to "parasites" who are attacking the judiciary.

"There are parasites in society who attack the system... they don't get any employment and don't have any place in the profession... some of them become social media activists, and they start attacking the judiciary," he said.

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delay by the Delhi High Court in implementing the Supreme Court's guidelines governing the designation of senior advocates. The Bench, also comprising Justice Jyoti Singhania and Justice Jyoti Singhania, said that the court should not be used as a platform for "parasites" who are attacking the judiciary.

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# CBI launches AI-powered verification system 'Abhay'

**The Hindu Bureau**

NEW DELHI



The CBI has launched an AI-based helpbot called "Abhay" for authentication of CBI notices, a system designed to protect citizens from the growing menace of digital arrest scams.

In the digital arrest scam, fraudulent notices are used to trap victims. "Once the victim is deceived into compliance, fraudsters initiate a sham legal process, keeping the victim under surveillance for days under the guise of a 'digital arrest', a concept that has no legal existence in Indian law," the CBI said. "Citizens can access 'Abhay' at any time through the CBI's official website," the agency said.

# Rupee breaches 96 for the first time

CHRISTINA TITUS  
Mumbai, May 15

**THE INDIAN RUPEE** breached the 96 mark for the first time on Friday amid rising oil prices and a strengthening dollar, market participants said. After hitting an intraday low of 96.14, the currency pared some losses to settle at 95.97 against the dollar, down 20 paise from the previous close. Since the outbreak of the West Asia war on February 28, the rupee has come under sustained pressure, weakening by around 5.5%.

With US-Iran peace efforts continuing to falter, oil prices have surged. Crude oil rose 3.7% to \$109.64 a barrel on Friday, while the dollar index strengthened to 99.21 from 97.90 a week earlier. In the current cal-

## BIG FALL

Rupee vs dollar



## Asian currencies performance

% change on May 15

-0.99	Thai Baht
-0.64	Malaysian Ringgit
-0.26	Offshore Chinese Renminbi
-0.23	Chinese Renminbi
-0.21	Indian Rupee
-0.16	Singapore Dollar
-0.15	South Korean Won
-0.13	Philippine Peso
-0.11	Taiwanese Dollar
0.00	Indonesian Rupiah
0.01	Japanese Yen
0.04	Hong Kong Dollar

Source: Bloomberg

»INSIDE« INDICES LOG 1ST WEEKLY DIP IN 3-WEEK PAGE 7

endar year, the currency depreciated 6.8%.

“Over the past few days the rupee held the 96 level, but it

broke below that today (Friday). Once that level was breached, market participants began covering their short positions, which

also contributed to the move,” said Dilip Parmer, research analyst at HDFC Securities.

He added that the higher-than-expected trade deficit also added to the pressure. India’s merchandise trade deficit widened to \$28.38 billion in April due to supply disruptions and elevated oil prices amid the West Asia crisis.

“As oil prices rose to \$109, the rupee weakened in anticipation of a further spike in oil price,” said Ritesh Bhansali, deputy CEO, Mecklai Financial Services.

“That said, I don’t expect the rupee to reach 96.5, as there is talk that the government and RBI may introduce measures to attract capital,” he added.

Continued on Page 23

# INDIAN RUPEE HITS RECORD LOW AGAINST DOLLAR



140V ZY, INVERTED SCALE SOURCE: RBI

Year	PM's Age	USD vs INR
2014	64	₹ 59.1
2015	65	₹ 63.7
2016	66	₹ 67.1
2017	67	₹ 64.0
2018	68	₹ 67.4
2019	69	₹ 69.5
2020	70	₹ 75.5
2021	71	₹ 72.5
2022	72	₹ 77.5
2023	73	₹ 82.6
2024	74	₹ 83.7



# HOW LONG DID THE RUPEE TAKE TO FALL BY ₹10?

DATE	RUPEE W.R.T. USD	DURATION
JULY 2000	₹45	—
MAY 2012	₹55	11 YEARS 10 MONTHS
AUG 2013	₹65	1 YEAR 2 MONTHS
MARCH 2020	₹75	6 YEARS 6 MONTHS
DEC 2024	₹85	4 YEARS 9 MONTHS
MARCH 2026	₹95	1 YEAR 3 MONTHS

Point	Detail	हिंदी
Currency	Indian Rupee	भारतीय रुपया
Against	US Dollar	अमेरिकी डॉलर
Level breached	₹96 per dollar	₹96 प्रति डॉलर
Intraday low	₹96.14 per dollar	₹96.14 प्रति डॉलर
Closing level	₹95.97 per dollar	₹95.97 प्रति डॉलर
Previous close	₹95.77 per dollar	₹95.77 प्रति डॉलर
Fall in one day	20 paise	20 पैसे
Crude oil price	Around \$109.64/barrel	लगभग \$109.64/barrel
Dollar Index	Strengthened to 99.21	99.21 तक मजबूत
Rupee depreciation since West Asia war	Around 5.5%	लगभग 5.5%
Merchandise trade deficit	\$28.38 billion in April	अप्रैल में \$28.38 billion
Major reason	Oil price surge and stronger dollar	तेल कीमतों में वृद्धि और मजबूत डॉलर

## Why Rupee Fell

### रुपया क्यों गिरा?

Reason	Explanation	हिंदी
Rising crude oil prices	India imports large quantity of crude oil	भारत बड़ी मात्रा में crude oil import करता है
West Asia crisis	Increased uncertainty in oil supply	oil supply में uncertainty बढ़ी
Strong US dollar	Dollar index strengthened	dollar index मजबूत हुआ
Higher trade deficit	Import bill exceeded exports by large margin	imports exports से अधिक हुए
Oil import bill	Higher crude prices increase dollar demand	crude महंगा होने से dollar demand बढ़ती है
Market sentiment	Investors feared further oil price rise	investors को oil price और बढ़ने का डर
Capital flow pressure	Weak sentiment may reduce inflows	weak sentiment से capital inflow घट सकता है

## Rupee Depreciation: Meaning

### Rupee Depreciation का अर्थ

Term	Meaning	हिंदी अर्थ
Depreciation	Fall in value of currency under market forces	market forces से currency value गिरना
Example	₹95 to ₹96 per dollar means rupee weakened	₹95 से ₹96 per dollar जाना rupee weakening है
Appreciation	Rise in value of currency	currency value बढ़ना
Exchange Rate	Price of one currency in terms of another	एक currency की कीमत दूसरी currency में

## Impact of Weak Rupee on India

### कमजोर रुपये का भारत पर प्रभाव

Area	Impact	हिंदी
Crude oil imports	Oil import bill rises	oil import bill बढ़ता है
Inflation	Petrol, diesel, LPG and transport cost may rise	fuel और transport cost बढ़ सकती है
Current Account Deficit	CAD may widen	CAD बढ़ सकता है
Foreign debt	External debt repayment becomes costlier	foreign debt repayment महंगा होता है
Imports	Electronics, machinery, fertilisers become costlier	electronics, machinery, fertilisers महंगे होते हैं

Students abroad	Foreign education cost rises	विदेश में पढ़ाई महंगी होती है
Travel abroad	Foreign travel becomes costlier	foreign travel महंगा होता है
Exporters	Exporters may benefit if global demand remains strong	exporters को फायदा हो सकता है
IT sector	Dollar earnings improve in rupee terms	IT sector की rupee earnings बढ़ सकती हैं

## Rupee Fall: Winners and Losers

### रुपये की गिरावट: किसे फायदा, किसे नुकसान

Beneficiaries	Losers
Exporters	Importers
IT companies	Oil marketing companies
Pharma exporters	Consumers
Textile exporters	Students studying abroad
Remittance receivers	Foreign travellers
Tourism inflow sector	Companies with dollar debt

## What is Dollar Index?

### Dollar Index क्या है?

Point	Explanation
Meaning	Measures US dollar strength against a basket of major global currencies
Importance	Strong dollar usually pressures emerging market currencies
Effect on India	Rupee may weaken when dollar index rises
In this news	Dollar index strengthened to 99.21

## What is Trade Deficit?

### Trade Deficit क्या है?

Term	Meaning
Trade Deficit	When imports are greater than exports
Formula	Trade Deficit = Imports – Exports
April figure	India's merchandise trade deficit widened to \$28.38 billion
Impact on rupee	Higher deficit increases dollar demand and weakens rupee

**Q. With reference to depreciation of the Indian rupee, consider the following statements:**

**Indian rupee depreciation के संदर्भ में निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार करें:**

- 1. A rise in global crude oil prices can put pressure on the Indian rupee.**  
Global crude oil prices में वृद्धि Indian rupee पर दबाव डाल सकती है।
- 2. A stronger US dollar index generally supports emerging market currencies like the rupee.**  
Stronger US dollar index सामान्यतः rupee जैसी emerging market currencies को support करता है।
- 3. A higher trade deficit can increase demand for dollars.**  
Higher trade deficit dollar demand बढ़ा सकता है।
- 4. Rupee depreciation may benefit exporters earning in dollars.**  
Rupee depreciation dollar में earning करने वाले exporters को लाभ दे 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

Madhya Pradesh High  
Court declares Bhojshala  
complex a temple





Point

Details

Location

Dhar district, Madhya Pradesh

Associated ruler

Raja Bhoja of Paramara dynasty

Period

Mainly linked with 11th century CE

Cultural association

Sanskrit learning, education, Goddess Saraswati

Disputed name

Bhojshala-Kamal Maula Mosque complex

Present management

Archaeological Survey of India

## Period

11th century

Raja Bhoja's period

Medieval period

Colonial period

Modern period

## Development

Dhar was an important centre under Raja Bhoja of Paramara dynasty.

Bhojshala is traditionally associated with Sanskrit learning and Goddess Saraswati worship.

The site later came to be associated with Kamal Maula Mosque also.

British-era records and archaeological interest brought the site into historical discussion.

The site became disputed due to claims related to worship rights and religious character.



Point

Explanation

Raja Bhoja

Famous Paramara ruler of Malwa, generally linked with 11th century CE

Capital region

Dhar was an important centre of Paramara rule

Cultural image

Patron of learning, Sanskrit literature, architecture and philosophy

Bhojshala tradition

Believed by many traditions to be a centre of Sanskrit education

Saraswati link

Associated with Goddess Saraswati, deity of knowledge, speech and learning





## Issue

Hindu claim

Muslim claim

Main dispute

ASI role

Legal issue

## Explanation

Site is associated with Goddess Saraswati and ancient Bhojshala tradition

Site has also been used as Kamal Maula Mosque

Religious character and worship rights

ASI manages and protects the site as a heritage monument

Courts examine historical evidence, archaeological reports and worship rights



- 
- Madhya Pradesh High Court, Indore Bench, declared the **Bhojshala-Kamal Maula Mosque complex** in Dhar district as a temple dedicated to **Goddess Saraswati**.

रखतू रखतू: Madhya Pradesh High Court इह Indore Bench ड Dhar district सल Bhojshala-Kamal Maula Mosque complex इल Goddess Saraswati इल तुरप्रसकुर temple रखतू

Point	Detail	शुद्ध
Case location	Dhar district, Madhya Pradesh	१ कश्च चर खे बरुडू
Court	Madhya Pradesh High Court, Indore Bench	खे बरुडू पण्डु इ कुनरु सुअरु कु
Judges	Justice Vijay Kumar Shukla and Justice Alok Awasthi	न सुडू अणु ग इक्षरुवुडू अरुघु घन सुडू ष चरु १ अरुह
Disputed site	Bhojshala-Kamal Maula Mosque complex	करुडू टु कुरुडू रकुडू रकुडूवरुसेरु हणुडू घ
Court finding	Religious character declared as temple	१ कुरुडू दुषुडू temple रकुडू वणुगुव
Deity linked	Goddess Saraswati	रुडूहडू घरुह
Earlier ASI order	2003 order restricted Hindu worship and allowed Muslim prayers	2003 ASI order रकुडू hindu worship दु हणुडू र घ Muslim prayers इ हरे ष अरुडू कुरु
Court action	Quashed the 2003 ASI order	2003 ASI order इ इरुडू शु गुर
Survey agency	Archaeological Survey of India	करुडूहणु हणुडू दु रकुडू
Survey period	22 March to 30 June 2024	अणु रकुडू कुडू न अणुअणु
Administration	ASI will continue overall management	ASI overall management न कुरुडू डुव

Aspect	Explanation	श्रावह
Location	Dhar district of Madhya Pradesh	रे बूट डड श्रघश्र चरुर्ल
Nature	Disputed religious and historical site	श्ररुर्ल श्ररुर्ल ङ घ चरुर्ल ड चि
Historical link	Associated with Sanskrit learning	द्व/रु श्रु ल्र द्दुर्ल ररुर्ल न्रल्र प्र
Religious claim	Linked with Goddess Saraswati temple tradition	दुर्ल दुर्ल temple ह्रुर्ल दुर्ल
Other name	Bhojshala-Kamal Maula Mosque complex	रुर्ल र्रुर्ल ररुर्ल ररुर्ल ह्रुर्ल
Governance	Protected/managed by ASI	ASI र्रुर्ल र्रुर्ल/रुर्ल

## Important Timeline

### महत्वपूर्ण समयरेखा

Year / Date	Event
2003	ASI order restricted Hindu worship and allowed Muslim prayers
January 2024	Supreme Court ordered status quo at the site until dispute adjudication
22 March – 30 June 2024	ASI conducted scientific survey
May 2024	Supreme Court refused to stay ASI survey
15 May 2026	Madhya Pradesh High Court declared the complex a temple

## Constitutional and Legal Angle

### संवैधानिक और कानूनी पक्ष

Area	Relevance	☞
Article 25	Freedom of conscience and free profession, practice and propagation of religion	
Article 26	Freedom to manage religious affairs	
Article 49	State duty to protect monuments of national importance	
Places of Worship Act, 1991	Important for disputes related to religious character of places of worship	
ASI role	Scientific survey, conservation and administrative control	
Judiciary role	Adjudicates disputes involving rights, evidence and historical claims	

**Q. With reference to Bhojshala complex, consider the following statements:**

**Bhojshala complex के संदर्भ में निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार करें:**

1. It is located in Dhar district of Madhya Pradesh.  
यह Madhya Pradesh के Dhar district में स्थित है।
2. The site is associated with Goddess Saraswati and Sanskrit learning traditions.  
यह स्थल Goddess Saraswati और Sanskrit learning traditions से जुड़ा है।
3. Archaeological Survey of India works under the Ministry of Home Affairs.  
Archaeological Survey of India, Ministry of Home Affairs के अंतर्गत कार्य करता है।
4. Status quo means maintaining the existing condition of a disputed site until final adjudication.  
Status quo का अर्थ है अंतिम निर्णय तक disputed site की वर्तमान स्थिति को बनाए रखना।

**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

# National Endangered Species Day 2026

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## Endangered Species क्या होती है?

### English

### हिंदी

A species facing a very high risk of extinction in the wild.

ऐसी species जो जंगलों/प्राकृतिक आवास में विलुप्ति के उच्च खतरे में हो।

It may decline due to habitat loss, hunting, pollution, climate change or invasive species.

इसका कारण habitat loss, hunting, pollution, climate change या invasive species हो सकते हैं।

Endangered species need legal protection and conservation action.

Endangered species को legal protection और conservation action की जरूरत होती है।

## Endangered Species Act, 1973

### Endangered Species Act, 1973

#### Point

#### Detail

Country

United States

Year

1973

Purpose

Protection of endangered and threatened species

Protection includes

Species and their critical habitats

Species associated with recovery

Bald eagle and American alligator

## भारत से संबंधित संरक्षण पक्ष

Area	Detail
Event in India	Big Cat Conservation Events 2026
Organised by	Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
Linked with	International Big Cat Alliance Summit 2026
Species covered	Tiger, Asiatic lion, leopard, snow leopard, cheetah
Conservation focus	Awareness, wildlife protection and biodiversity conservation

## Big Cat Conservation in India

### भारत में Big Cat Conservation

Species	Important Fact
Tiger	India has more than 70% of the world's wild tiger population
Asiatic Lion	Found naturally mainly in Gir landscape, Gujarat
Leopard	Widely distributed big cat in India
Snow Leopard	Found in Himalayan high-altitude ecosystem
Cheetah	Reintroduced in India under cheetah reintroduction programme

Point	Detail
Launched	1973
Objective	Conservation of tiger population and habitat
Legal support	Wildlife Protection Act, 1972
Authority	National Tiger Conservation Authority
Importance	One of India's most successful wildlife conservation programmes

## National Tiger Conservation Authority

### राष्ट्रीय बाघ संरक्षण प्राधिकरण

Point	Detail
Full Form	NTCA
Works under	Wildlife Protection Act, 1972
Main role	Tiger conservation, monitoring and tiger reserve management
Importance	Provides institutional support to Project Tiger

## Law / Initiative

Wildlife Protection Act, 1972

Forest Conservation Act, 1980

Biological Diversity Act, 2002

Project Tiger, 1973

Project Elephant, 1992

International Big Cat Alliance

## Importance

Legal protection to wild animals, birds and plants

Regulates diversion of forest land

Conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity

Tiger conservation

Elephant conservation

Global cooperation for big cat conservation

**Q. With reference to National Endangered Species Day and wildlife conservation, consider the following statements:**

**National Endangered Species Day और wildlife conservation के संदर्भ में निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार करें:**

1. National Endangered Species Day is observed on the third Friday of May every year.  
National Endangered Species Day हर साल May के तीसरे Friday को मनाया जाता है।
2. The Endangered Species Act was enacted in the United States in 1973.  
Endangered Species Act, United States में 1973 में लागू किया गया था।
3. Project Tiger was launched in India in 1973.  
Project Tiger भारत में 1973 में शुरू किया गया था।
4. National Tiger Conservation Authority functions under the Ministry of Finance.  
National Tiger Conservation Authority, Ministry of Finance के अंतर्गत कार्य करता 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

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Thank you 😊