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Trump blasts allies, tells them 'get your own oil'

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COULDRON OF CONFLICT » PAGE 8

Assessing damage: Red Crescent Society members at the site of a strike in Tehran on Tuesday. REUTERS

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NEARBY

Trinamool, BJP workers clash over Form 6 row

KOLKATA

Workers of the Trinamool Congress and the BJP clashed outside the Chief Electoral Officer's office here over allegations that "fraudulent" Form 6 applications, used for inclusion of names in voters' list, were being submitted in large numbers in West Bengal. » PAGE 4

Bastar is almost Maoist-free, but IEDs still a threat

NEW DELHI

Once a Maoist stronghold, the Bastar division of Chhattisgarh has been mostly cleared of the insurgents, but the threat from Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) remain. "We will take some time to de-mine the areas," said Inspector General of Police Sundarraj P. » PAGE 4

BJP's Assam poll manifesto promises UCC

GUWAHATI

The BJP on Tuesday released its manifesto for the April 9 Assam Assembly election, promising to work towards implementing the Uniform Civil Code (UCC), protecting the land, and dignity of indigenous people, and pushing its development agenda. » PAGE 5

Russian tanker in Cuba begins discharging cargo

MATANZAS

A Russian-flagged tanker carrying some 7,00,000 barrels of crude docked in Cuba's Matanzas oil terminal on Tuesday, shipping data showed, marking the first significant oil delivery to the island since the U.S. cut off its fuel supply. » PAGES 8 & 14

Yellow brick road

A farmer dries harvested maize cobs in an open field near Polavaram in Andhra Pradesh on Tuesday. The sun-drying process, a common post-harvest practice, helps reduce moisture content and permits safe storage and better marketability. G.N. RAO

Eight killed in Bihar as rush at temple descends into a deadly stampede

Amarnath Tewary
PATNA

At least eight people, mostly women devotees, were killed and several others injured in a stampede at the Sheetla Mata Temple in Nalanda district of Bihar on Tuesday.

The government has ordered a probe into the incident, which occurred in outgoing Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's home district. Police officers at the Deep Nagar station have been suspended.

Some local residents claimed that security at the temple was short-handed as most of the district's police personnel had been deployed for President Droupadi Murmu's visit to a university just a few kilometres away.

Others blamed the temple management for taking bribes to allowing devotees to bypass the queue.

Mr. Kumar, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Murmu expressed grief over the incident.

The incident took place as a large number of devotees, mostly women, had gathered to offer prayer at the temple in Maghra village, near Biharsharief town, on Tuesday morning, including many from the neighbouring districts of Patna and Nawada.

"Due to the heavy rush of devotees at the temple to offer prayer, a stampede happened in which eight lives were lost, some due to suffocation and some due to loss of water, Nalanda Superintendent of Police Bharat Soni said. Police personnel from neighbouring districts were called in to control the situation.

The Deep Nagar Station House Officer Rajmani was suspended, along with some others, and a Special Investigation Team (SIT) has been formed to probe the incident, said Bihar Director General of Police Vinay Kumar, who reached the site of the stampede along with other senior police officials from Patna.

Bihar Chief Secretary Pratyaya Amrit has also been instructed to initiate a probe into the incident and submit a report to the government.

"All the injured persons have been admitted to the Sadar hospital at Biharsharief, the district headquarters, and are said to be out of danger," said District Magistrate Kundan Kumar.

Mr. Kumar expressed his grief at the tragedy and announced an *ex gratia* of ₹6 lakh to the families of the victims, including ₹4 lakh from the Disaster Management Department and ₹2 lakh from the CM's Relief Fund.

Mr. Modi announced ₹2 lakh in financial aid to be paid to the families from the PM's National Relief Fund, and ₹50,000 to the injured.

Ms. Murmu also expressed her condolences to the bereaved families and prayed for the speedy recovery of the injured.

Rashtriya Janata Dal leader Tejashwi Yadav expressed his condolences and demanded that the State government "initiate a high-level probe into the stampede" and take care of all those injured in the incident.

Tragic incident: People receive treatment at a hospital after the stampede at Sheetla Mata Temple in Bihar's Nalanda district. ANI

Most parts of India to see more heatwave days: IMD

Jacob Koshy
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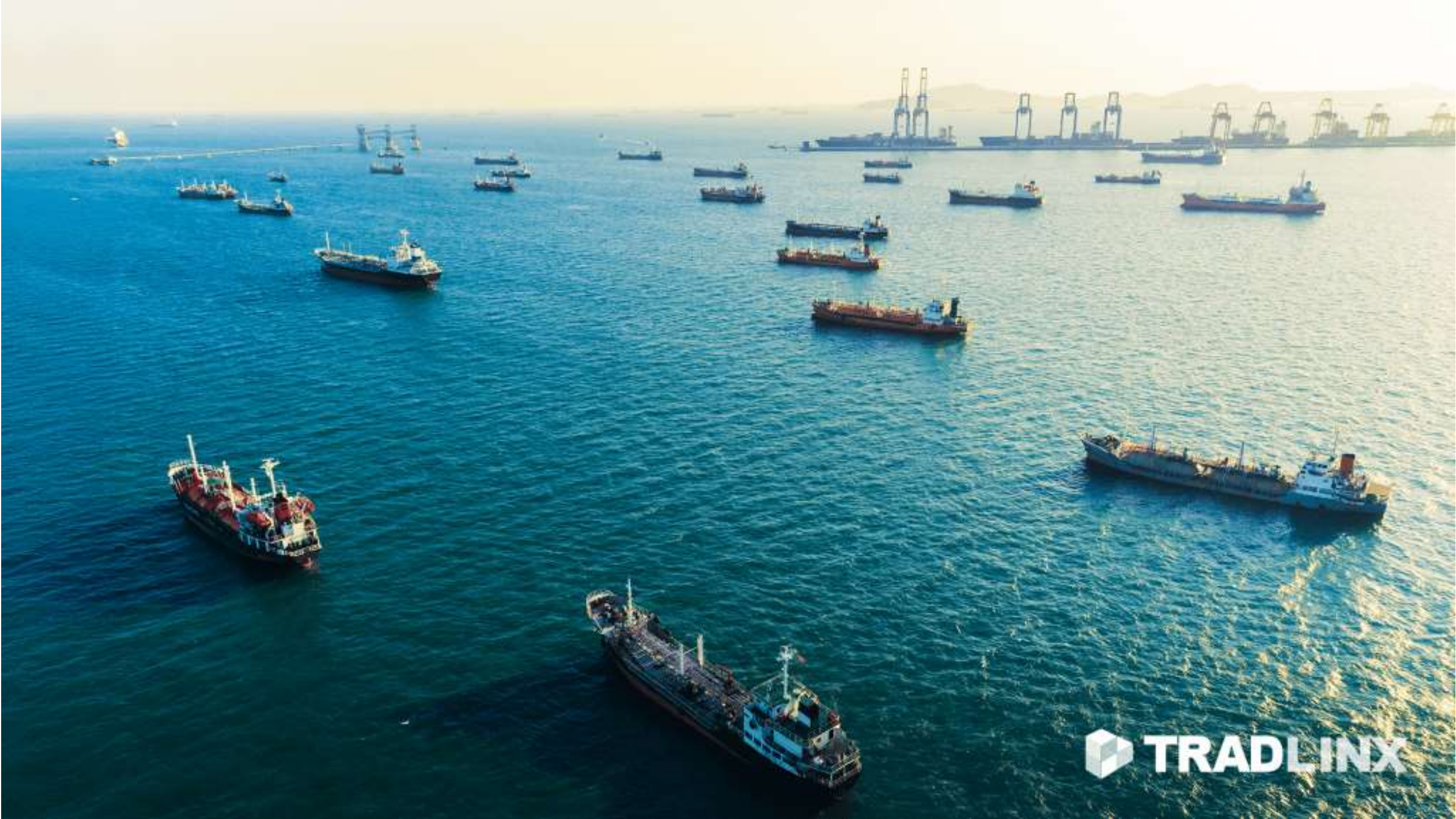
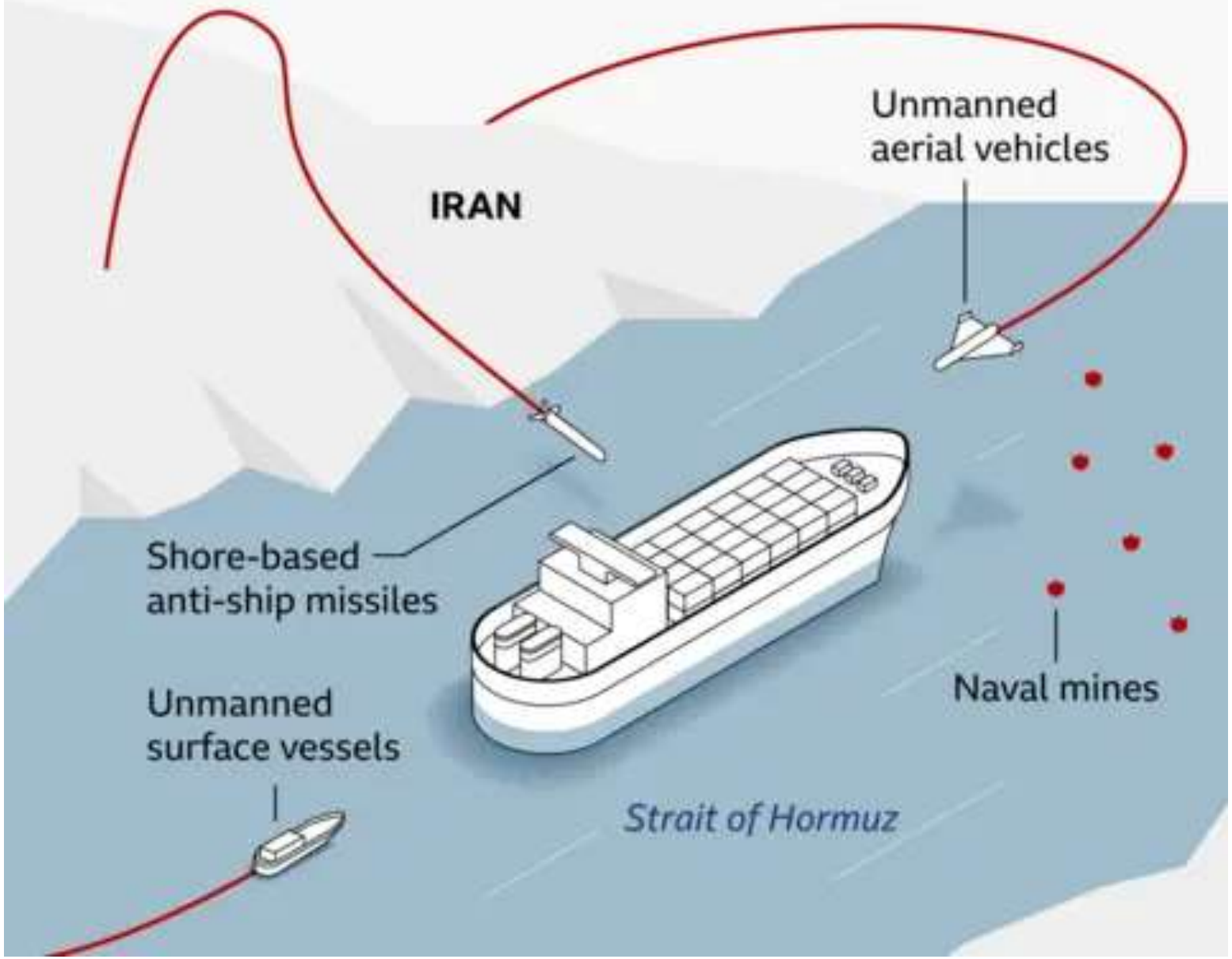
- According to the given article, the U.S. President criticized some allies and linked their energy security to the Strait of Hormuz during tensions involving Iran.
- दिए गए लेख के अनुसार, अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति ने कुछ सहयोगियों की आलोचना की और ईरान से जुड़े तनाव के बीच उनकी ऊर्जा सुरक्षा को होर्मुज जलडमरूमध्य से जोड़ा।
- The broader exam issue is not the quotation itself, but the strategic importance of the Strait of Hormuz and the possibility that regional conflict can affect global oil supply.
- परीक्षा के लिए मुख्य बात केवल कथन नहीं है, बल्कि होर्मुज जलडमरूमध्य का सामरिक महत्व और यह संभावना है कि क्षेत्रीय संघर्ष वैश्विक तेल आपूर्ति को प्रभावित कर सकता है। U.S. Energy Infor... +1

2. Key countries / organisations / leaders / regions involved

- Key countries: Iran, United States, Oman, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Iraq, Kuwait, Qatar, and other Gulf states.
- मुख्य देश: ईरान, संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका, ओमान, सऊदी अरब, यूएई, इराक, कुवैत, कतर और अन्य खाड़ी देश। Encyclopedia Brit... +1
- Key organisation: NATO, which currently has 32 member countries.
- मुख्य संगठन: NATO, जिसके वर्तमान में 32 सदस्य देश हैं। NATO
- Key region: West Asia / Persian Gulf region, which is central to global energy trade.
- मुख्य क्षेत्र: पश्चिम एशिया / फारस की खाड़ी क्षेत्र, जो वैश्विक ऊर्जा व्यापार का केंद्र है। U.S. Energy Infor... +1


TRADLINX

Potential risks to vessels crossing the Strait of Hormuz




MARITIME TRAFFIC THROUGH STRAIT OF HORMUZ
IRAN
STRAIT OF HORMUZ
PERSIAN GULF
OMAN
UAE
GULF OF OMAN
NBC NEWS

Parameter	Pre-Crisis (Normal)	Peak Crisis (March 2026)	Current (Latest Trend)
Daily Oil Flow (Barrels/Day)	~20–21 million barrels/day	Near collapse / sharp disruption	~1–5 million barrels/day (very low flow)
प्रतिदिन तेल प्रवाह	~20–21 मिलियन बैरल/दिन	लगभग ठप / भारी गिरावट	~1–5 मिलियन बैरल/दिन (बहुत कम)

| **Global Share of Oil Trade** | ~20% of global oil supply | Disrupted significantly | Still critical but unstable |
| **वैश्विक तेल हिस्सेदारी** | ~20% वैश्विक आपूर्ति | गंभीर रूप से प्रभावित | अभी भी महत्वपूर्ण लेकिन अस्थिर |

| **Daily Ship Traffic (All vessels)** | ~120–140 ships/day | 0–13 ships/day (worst days) | ~6–11 ships/day |
| **प्रतिदिन जहाज आवागमन** | ~120–140 जहाज/दिन | 0–13 जहाज/दिन (सबसे खराब स्थिति) | ~6–11 जहाज/दिन |

| **Daily Tanker Movement** | ~40 oil tankers/day (approx both directions) | Almost stopped / 1 tanker on some days | Limited, slowly resuming |
| **तेल टैंकर आवागमन** | ~40 टैंकर/दिन | लगभग बंद / कुछ दिनों में 1 | सीमित, धीरे-धीरे बढ़ रहा |

| **Total Ships Crossed (March 1–15)** | Normally ~1500+ expected | Only ~89 ships crossed | Gradual increase later |
| **कुल जहाज (1–15 मार्च)** | सामान्यतः ~1500+ अपेक्षित | केवल ~89 जहाज | धीरे-धीरे सुधार |

| **Shipping Drop (%)** | Normal baseline | ↓ 94%–95% drop | Slight recovery |
| **शिपिंग में गिरावट** | सामान्य स्तर | ↓ 94%–95% गिरावट | हल्की सुधार |

| **Ships Stuck / Waiting** | Minimal | ~150–1000 ships anchored outside | Still many waiting |
| **फंसे हुए जहाज** | बहुत कम | ~150–1000 जहाज बाहर रुके | अभी भी कई रुके |

| **Oil Price (Brent)** | ~$60–65 per barrel | Peak ~$120–126 per barrel | ~$90–105 per barrel |
| **तेल कीमत (ब्रेंट)** | ~$60–65 प्रति बैरल | अधिकतम ~$120–126 | ~$90–105 |

| **Price Increase vs Last Year** | Baseline | +60% to +100% spike | ~+30% higher than last year |
| **पिछले वर्ष से वृद्धि** | सामान्य स्तर | +60% से +100% वृद्धि | ~+30% अधिक |

English	Hindi
Strait of Hormuz handles ~20% of global oil	प्क्षत्र्ख्न न्च्रम्ख्च्ख्रे ~20% ज्ञ्श्Cड़ ल्स्न्र द्र त्रक्क्रच्ल्व प्ग्न
Shipping dropped by ~95% in crisis	द्र त्रड़्ब ख्व्ळ श्ट्श्ह त्रण ~95% श्णघ्र ण्ह
Oil prices doubled during peak tension	द्घ्रख्र ल्ष्व्रत्र ख्व्ळ ल्स्न्र ड्ह्रख्ल चण्क्रण ड्ज्ञ्श्ह
Ships reduced from ~130/day to <10/day	न्ण्क्र ~130/श्रट्ष द्धः त्बड्घ्र <10/श्रट्ष
Major chokepoint for global energy security	ज्ञ्श्Cड़ रन्क्र्ब्र द्ध्र्घल्ल्र ड्व्र रक्ष्ग्ग द्ध्रुह्छ्स त्रब

Most parts of India to see more heatwave days: IMD

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

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"However a clearer picture could emerge only around end May. There is also a forecast for a 'super' El Nino. We shouldn't worry now but if these signals persist in May, the government should prioritise drought management."

- The article says that most parts of India may witness more heatwave days, while North India may remain relatively cooler than normal in summer.
- लेख के अनुसार भारत के अधिकांश भागों में लू के दिनों की संख्या बढ़ सकती है, जबकि उत्तर भारत में गर्मी अपेक्षाकृत सामान्य से कम रह सकती है।
- The India Meteorological Department has indicated region-wise variation in summer temperatures from April to June.
- भारत मौसम विज्ञान विभाग ने अप्रैल से जून के बीच तापमान में क्षेत्रवार भिन्नता का संकेत दिया है।
- The report also raises concern about the possible impact of summer conditions on monsoon onset and kharif sowing.
- रिपोर्ट में ग्रीष्म ऋतु की स्थितियों का मानसून आगमन और खरीफ बुवाई पर संभावित प्रभाव भी चिंता का विषय बताया गया है।
- Discussion around El Nino and weak rainfall makes this topic important for geography, agriculture, and economy.
- अल नीनो और कमजोर वर्षा की चर्चा इस विषय को भूगोल, कृषि और अर्थव्यवस्था के लिए महत्वपूर्ण बनाती है।

- This topic is about very hot weather conditions called heatwaves and how they affect people, farming, water, and rainfall.
- यह विषय बहुत अधिक गर्म मौसम की स्थिति यानी लू के बारे में है और यह लोगों, खेती, पानी तथा वर्षा को कैसे प्रभावित करती है।
- If heatwave days increase, health risks rise, crops suffer, electricity demand increases, and water stress becomes more severe.
- यदि लू के दिन बढ़ते हैं, तो स्वास्थ्य जोखिम बढ़ते हैं, फसलें प्रभावित होती हैं, बिजली की मांग बढ़ती है और जल संकट अधिक गंभीर हो जाता है।
- Summer temperature patterns also influence land heating, which can affect monsoon behaviour.
- गर्मी के मौसम में तापमान के पैटर्न भूमि के ताप को प्रभावित करते हैं, जिससे मानसून के व्यवहार पर असर पड़ सकता है।

3. What is a heatwave?

- A heatwave is a period of abnormally high temperature over a region for several days.
- लू वह स्थिति है जब किसी क्षेत्र में कई दिनों तक असामान्य रूप से बहुत अधिक तापमान बना रहता है।
- It is not just about one hot day; it is about persistent high temperatures that affect normal life.
- यह केवल एक गर्म दिन की बात नहीं है; यह लगातार बने रहने वाले उच्च तापमान की स्थिति है जो सामान्य जीवन को प्रभावित करती है।
- Heatwaves are more dangerous when humidity is also high, because the body cannot cool itself properly.
- जब आर्द्रता भी अधिक हो, तब लू अधिक खतरनाक हो जाती है क्योंकि शरीर स्वयं को ठीक से ठंडा नहीं कर पाता।

4. Why do heatwaves happen?

- Heatwaves can occur due to clear skies, dry air, low wind movement, and strong solar heating of land.
- लू साफ आसमान, शुष्क हवा, कम पवन गति और भूमि के तीव्र सौर ताप के कारण उत्पन्न हो सकती है।
- Inland continental areas heat up faster than coastal areas, so they often face more intense heat.
- स्थलीय आंतरिक क्षेत्र तटीय क्षेत्रों की तुलना में जल्दी गर्म होते हैं, इसलिए वहाँ अधिक तीव्र गर्मी देखी जाती है।
- Urban heat island effect makes big cities even hotter because concrete and roads trap heat.
- शहरी ऊष्मा द्वीप प्रभाव बड़े शहरों को और गर्म बना देता है क्योंकि कंक्रीट और सड़कें ऊष्मा को रोककर रखती हैं।

6. Link with El Nino

- El Nino refers to abnormal warming of sea surface temperatures in the central and eastern Pacific Ocean.
- अल नीनो का अर्थ मध्य और पूर्वी प्रशांत महासागर में समुद्र सतह तापमान का असामान्य रूप से बढ़ना है।
- El Nino is often associated with weaker monsoon conditions in India, though the effect can vary year to year.
- अल नीनो अक्सर भारत में कमजोर मानसून से जुड़ा माना जाता है, हालांकि इसका प्रभाव हर वर्ष अलग हो सकता है।
- Thus, discussion of El Nino becomes important when talking about rainfall, agriculture, drought, and food prices.
- इसी कारण वर्षा, कृषि, सूखा और खाद्य कीमतों की चर्चा में अल नीनो महत्वपूर्ण हो जाता है।

7. Why is this important for India?

- India is an agriculture-dependent country, so extreme summer and uncertain rainfall directly affect farmers.
- भारत कृषि-निर्भर देश है, इसलिए अत्यधिक गर्मी और अनिश्चित वर्षा का सीधा प्रभाव किसानों पर पड़ता है।
- Heatwaves increase health problems such as dehydration, heat exhaustion, and heatstroke.
- लू के कारण निर्जलीकरण, हीट एग्जॉशन और हीटस्ट्रोक जैसी स्वास्थ्य समस्याएँ बढ़ती हैं।
- High temperatures increase electricity demand for cooling and put pressure on coal, power grids, and urban systems.
- उच्च तापमान शीतलन के लिए बिजली की मांग बढ़ाते हैं और कोयला, बिजली ग्रिड तथा शहरी व्यवस्थाओं पर दबाव डालते हैं।
- Water demand rises sharply in summer, worsening stress in already vulnerable regions.
- गर्मी में जल की मांग तेजी से बढ़ती है, जिससे पहले से संवेदनशील क्षेत्रों में जल संकट और गहरा हो जाता है।

- IMD stands for India Meteorological Department, which is the main agency for weather forecasting in India.
- IMD का पूर्ण रूप India Meteorological Department है, जो भारत में मौसम पूर्वानुमान की मुख्य एजेंसी है।
- Kharif crops are generally sown with the onset of the southwest monsoon.
- खरीफ फसलें सामान्यतः दक्षिण-पश्चिम मानसून के आगमन के साथ बोई जाती हैं।
- Examples of kharif crops include rice, maize, cotton, soybean, and pulses in many regions.
- कई क्षेत्रों में धान, मक्का, कपास, सोयाबीन और दालें खरीफ फसलों के उदाहरण हैं।
- Heatwave impact is usually stronger in inland plains than in coastal areas because the sea moderates temperature near coasts.
- लू का प्रभाव सामान्यतः तटीय क्षेत्रों की तुलना में आंतरिक मैदानी भागों में अधिक होता है क्योंकि समुद्र तटों के पास तापमान को नियंत्रित करता है।
- Urban areas often suffer more because of the urban heat island effect.
- शहरी ऊष्मा द्वीप प्रभाव के कारण शहरों में प्रभाव अक्सर अधिक होता है।
- Preparedness measures include early warning, school timing changes, water kiosks, shaded shelters, and public awareness.
- तैयारी के उपायों में पूर्व चेतावनी, स्कूल समय में बदलाव, पानी की व्यवस्था, छायादार आश्रय और जन-जागरूकता शामिल हैं।

Name	India Meteorological Department (IMD)
नाम	भारत मौसम विज्ञान विभाग (IMD)
Established	1875
स्थापना वर्ष	1875
Headquarters	New Delhi
मुख्यालय	नई दिल्ली
Ministry	Ministry of Earth Sciences
मंत्रालय	पृथ्वी विज्ञान मंत्रालय
Primary Role	Weather forecasting, climate monitoring, and disaster warnings
मुख्य कार्य	मौसम पूर्वानुमान, जलवायु निगरानी और आपदा चेतावनी देना
Key Functions	Forecast weather, issue cyclone/heatwave alerts, monitor monsoon, provide agromet services
मुख्य कार्य	मौसम का पूर्वानुमान, चक्रवात/लू चेतावनी, मानसून निगरानी, कृषि मौसम सेवाएँ प्रदान करना
Weather Forecast Types	Short-range, medium-range, long-range forecasts
पूर्वानुमान के प्रकार	लघु अवधि, मध्यम अवधि और दीर्घ अवधि पूर्वानुमान
Disaster Role	Early warning system for cyclones, floods, heatwaves, cold waves

Cyclone Warning Centres	Located in coastal cities like Chennai, Kolkata, Mumbai, Visakhapatnam
चक्रवात चेतावनी केंद्र	चेन्नई, कोलकाता, मुंबई, विशाखापट्टनम जैसे तटीय शहरों में स्थित
Heatwave Definition (IMD)	Temperature ≥ 40°C (plains) or significant deviation from normal
लू की परिभाषा (IMD)	तापमान ≥ 40°C (मैदानी क्षेत्र) या सामान्य से काफी अधिक विचलन
Monsoon Role	Declares onset, progress, and withdrawal of monsoon
मानसून में भूमिका	मानसून के आगमन, प्रगति और वापसी की घोषणा करता है
Agrometeorology	Provides weather-based advisory to farmers
कृषि मौसम विज्ञान	किसानों को मौसम आधारित सलाह प्रदान करता है
Seismology Role	Monitors earthquakes through seismic observatories
भूकंप विज्ञान में भूमिका	भूकंपीय वेधशालाओं के माध्यम से भूकंप की निगरानी करता है
Observational Network	Uses satellites, radars (Doppler), weather stations, ocean buoys
अवलोकन प्रणाली	उपग्रह, डॉप्लर रडार, मौसम केंद्र और समुद्री बुआ का उपयोग करता है
Forecast Models	Uses numerical weather prediction (NWP) models
पूर्वानुमान मॉडल	संख्यात्मक मौसम पूर्वानुमान (NWP) मॉडल का उपयोग करता है
Regional Offices	Multiple regional meteorological centres across India
क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय	भारत भर में कई क्षेत्रीय मौसम विज्ञान केंद्र
Public Services	Daily weather reports, alerts, aviation & marine forecasts
जन सेवाएँ	दैनिक मौसम रिपोर्ट, चेतावनी, विमानन और समुद्री पूर्वानुमान

Lights, Camera, Lift-off

THE NASA Artemis II SLS (Space Launch System) rocket with the Orion spacecraft is seen at Launch Complex 39B at the Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Florida, on Tuesday. AP

NASA begins Artemis II countdown

Associated Press
Cape Canaveral, March 31

NASA BEGAN the countdown Monday for humanity's first launch to the moon in 53 years. The 32-story Space Launch System rocket is poised to blast off Wednesday evening with four astronauts. After a day in orbit around Earth, their Orion capsule will propel them to the moon and back.

There are no stops — just a quick U-turn around the moon. The nearly 10-day flight will end with a splashdown in the Pacific."Our team has worked extremely hard to get us to this moment," said launch director Charlie Blackwell-Thompson.

"Certainly all indications are right now we are in excellent, excellent shape."

NASA's Artemis II mission should have soared in February, but was grounded by hydrogen fuel leaks. The leaks were fixed, but then a helium pressurization line became clogged, forcing a return to the hangar late last month.

Unlike Apollo, which sent only men to the moon from 1968 through 1972, Artemis' debut crew includes a woman, person of color and a non-US citizen.

Artemis II's pilot Victor Glover said that he wants young people to see them and think, "Girl power and that's awesome, and that young brown boys and girls can look at me and go 'Hey, he looks like me and he's doing what???"

• SPACE

How NASA will fly astronauts to the Moon and back for Artemis II

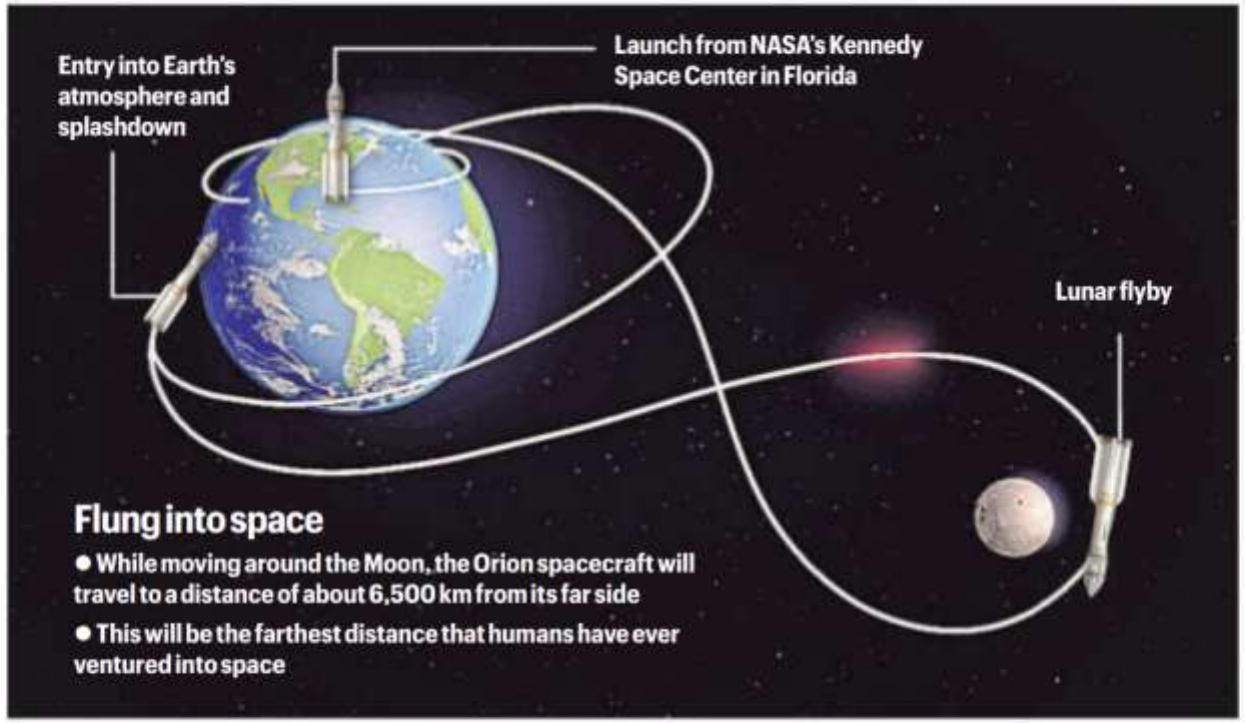
Amitabh Sinha
New Delhi, March 31

NASA's ARTEMIS II mission, carrying four astronauts on a flyby mission to the Moon, is all set to be launched on Wednesday. This will be the first time humans will get to the Moon's neighbourhood after the last Apollo mission in 1972. The Artemis II mission will not land on the Moon but circle it and return to Earth after a 10-day journey. A successor mission, planned for 2028, is scheduled to make a Moon landing with another set of four astronauts.

Longer vs shorter routes

The Artemis II mission will take three to four days to reach the Moon's neighbourhood — roughly the same time the Apollo missions took to land on the lunar surface. Many other recent uncrewed lunar missions, including India's Chandrayaan-3, took much longer, between a few weeks and a few months, to get to the Moon.

Longer routes are more fuel-efficient and economical, while quicker routes require more powerful rockets. The SLS (Space Launch System) rockets being used for the Artemis missions are the most powerful launch vehicles available to NASA right now. The Apollo missions used Saturn V rockets, which are the most powerful rockets ever built.



Both the SLS rocket and the Orion spacecraft being used for this mission are relatively new. The two had debuted on the Artemis I mission in 2022, which was uncrewed but followed roughly the same path to the Moon and back, though it stayed in space for a longer duration, about 25 days, to carry out tests. This is the first time that the SLS rocket and Orion spacecraft are being used to carry astronauts.

The path

The Artemis II Mission will make two rounds of the Earth before embarking on its journey towards the Moon. Once there, it will go around the Moon before starting the return journey to Earth. While moving around the Moon, the Orion spacecraft will travel to a distance of about 6,500 km from the far side of the Moon. This will be the farthest that humans have ever ventured into space.

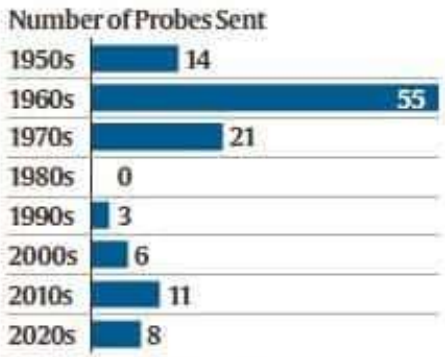
The Apollo missions that landed on the Moon reached an altitude of just about 110 km from the far side of the lunar surface, while moving around it.

Artemis II is sort of a test-ride mission, meant to test and validate all systems before astronauts finally make the landing on the Moon in 2028.

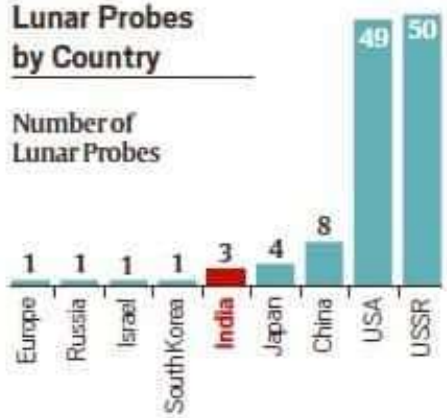
The mission's launch was aborted earlier. As of Monday, NASA said there was an 80% chance that the weather would be favourable for a smooth launch on April 1.

Which countries, where, and when

Lunar Probes by Decade

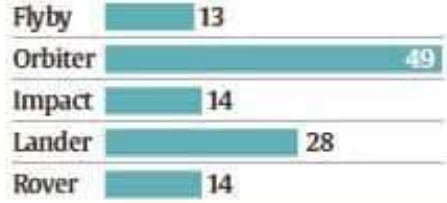


Lunar Probes by Country



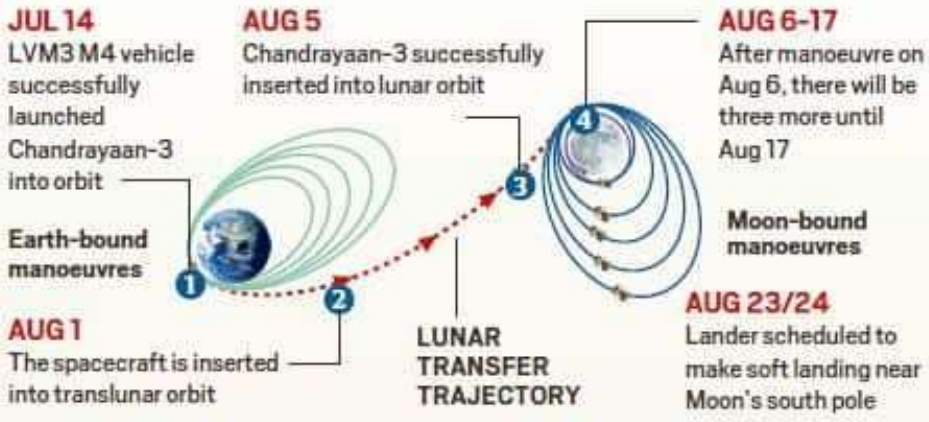
Lunar Probes Success Ratio

Lunar Probes by Type



Source for all data: NASA Space Science Data Coordinated Archive

The Journey of Chandrayaan-3



The Moon from Chandrayaan-3 *ISRO*

MOON FIRSTS

- First attempt to fly to Moon **Pioneer 0, 1958** | Failed
- First to provide Moon data **Luna 1, 1959**
- First spacecraft to reach lunar surface | **Luna 2, 1959** | Crash landed on Moon
- First spacecraft to take pictures of Moon | **Luna 3, 1959**
- First soft-landing attempt on Moon | **Luna 5, 1965** | Failed
- First to get into Moon orbit, go around moon | **Luna 10, 1966**
- First to soft land | **Luna 9, 1966**
- First to send pictures from Moon's surface | **Luna 9, 1966**
- First spacecraft to carry human beings to Moon orbit | **Apollo 8, 1968**
- First humans on Moon **Apollo 11, 1969**
- First lunar mission by Japan | **Hiten, 1990** | Moon probes resume
- First European Moon mission | **SMART-1, 2003**
- First Chinese Moon mission | **Chang'e 1, 2007**
- First Indian Moon mission | **Chandrayaan-1, 2008** | Confirms presence of water
- First soft landing on far side of Moon | **Chang'e 4, 2019**

Basis	Artemis I	Artemis II
Mission Type	Uncrewed mission	Crewed mission
मिशन का प्रकार	मानवरहित मिशन	मानवयुक्त मिशन
Main Objective	To test SLS rocket, Orion spacecraft, and deep-space systems without astronauts	To test the same systems with astronauts onboard before future Moon landing missions
मुख्य उद्देश्य	SLS रॉकेट, Orion अंतरिक्षयान और गहरे अंतरिक्ष की प्रणालियों का बिना अंतरिक्ष यात्रियों के परीक्षण करना	भविष्य के चंद्र लैंडिंग मिशनों से पहले उन्हीं प्रणालियों का अंतरिक्ष यात्रियों के साथ परीक्षण करना
Astronauts Onboard	No astronauts	4 astronauts
अंतरिक्ष यात्री	कोई अंतरिक्ष यात्री नहीं	4 अंतरिक्ष यात्री
Moon Landing	No landing	No landing
चंद्र अवतरण	कोई लैंडिंग नहीं	कोई लैंडिंग नहीं
Path	Went around the Moon and returned to Earth	Will fly around the Moon and return to Earth
पथ	चंद्रमा के चारों ओर जाकर पृथ्वी पर वापस आया	चंद्रमा के चारों ओर जाकर पृथ्वी पर वापस आएगा
Purpose in Artemis Programme	First overall test mission	First human test mission
आर्टेमिस कार्यक्रम में भूमिका	पहला समग्र परीक्षण मिशन	पहला मानव परीक्षण मिशन

Rocket Used	SLS (Space Launch System)	SLS (Space Launch System)
प्रयुक्त रॉकेट	SLS (स्पेस लॉन्च सिस्टम)	SLS (स्पेस लॉन्च सिस्टम)
Spacecraft Used	Orion spacecraft	Orion spacecraft
प्रयुक्त अंतरिक्षयान	Orion अंतरिक्षयान	Orion अंतरिक्षयान
Launch Nature	Tested launch, deep-space travel, re-entry, and splashdown without crew risk	Will test launch, life-support, crew safety, navigation, and re-entry with crew
प्रक्षेपण की प्रकृति	बिना दल के प्रक्षेपण, गहरे अंतरिक्ष यात्रा, पुनःप्रवेश और स्प्लैशडाउन का परीक्षण	दल के साथ प्रक्षेपण, जीवन-समर्थन, दल-सुरक्षा, नेविगेशन और पुनःप्रवेश का परीक्षण
Duration	Longer mission, about 25 days	Shorter mission, about 10 days
अवधि	लंबा मिशन, लगभग 25 दिन	छोटा मिशन, लगभग 10 दिन
Importance	Proved that the system could travel to lunar distance and return safely	Will prove that humans can safely travel in Orion around the Moon and return
महत्त्व	इसने सिद्ध किया कि प्रणाली चंद्र दूरी तक जाकर सुरक्षित लौट सकती है	यह सिद्ध करेगा कि मनुष्य Orion में चंद्रमा तक जाकर सुरक्षित लौट सकते हैं
Historical Significance	First Artemis mission	First crewed lunar mission of Artemis programme
ऐतिहासिक महत्त्व	पहला आर्टेमिस मिशन	आर्टेमिस कार्यक्रम का पहला मानवयुक्त चंद्र मिशन
Next Step After Mission	Led to preparation for crewed testing	Will pave the way for future lunar landing missions like Artemis III
अगला चरण	इसने मानवयुक्त परीक्षण की तैयारी का मार्ग प्रशस्त किया	यह Artemis III जैसे भविष्य के चंद्र लैंडिंग मिशनों का मार्ग प्रशस्त करेगा

- NASA has begun the countdown for Artemis II, which will send four astronauts around the Moon and back. NASA +2
- नासा ने आर्टेमिस II के लिए काउंटडाउन शुरू कर दिया है, जो चार अंतरिक्ष यात्रियों को चंद्रमा के चारों ओर ले जाकर वापस लाएगा। NASA +2
- This will be NASA's first crewed mission to the Moon's vicinity since the Apollo era. NASA +1
- यह अपोलो युग के बाद चंद्रमा के पड़ोस तक नासा का पहला मानवयुक्त मिशन होगा। NASA +1
- Artemis II is the first mission with crew aboard both the SLS rocket and Orion spacecraft. NASA +2
- आर्टेमिस II, SLS रॉकेट और ओरायन अंतरिक्षयान दोनों पर मानव दल के साथ पहला मिशन है। NASA +2
- The mission is important because it is a test flight before future human landing missions under the Artemis programme. NASA +2
- यह मिशन महत्वपूर्ण है क्योंकि यह आर्टेमिस कार्यक्रम के अंतर्गत भविष्य की मानव चंद्र लैंडिंग से पहले एक परीक्षण उड़ान है। NASA +2

MAJOR LUNAR MISSIONS

- **USA :** Ranger Programme ; Surveyor Programme ; **Apollo Programme** ; Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter (LRO); **Artemis Programme**
- **USSR :** Luna Programme (e.g., Luna 1, 2, 9, 16)
- **Russia : Luna 25**
- **China :** Chang'e Programme (Chang'e 1, 3, 4, 5, 6)
- **India : Chandrayaan Programme** (Chandrayaan-1, 2, 3)
- **Japan :** SELENE (Kaguya); SLIM

MAJOR MARS MISSIONS

- **USA :** Mariner 4 ; Viking 1 & 2 ; Mars Pathfinder (Sojourner Rover) ; Spirit & Opportunity ; **Curiosity** ; **Perseverance** (Ingenuity Helicopter)
- **USSR :** Mars 2 & 3
- **Europe :** Mars Express ; ExoMars Programme
- **India : Mars Orbiter Mission** (Mangalyaan)
- **China : Tianwen-1 (Zhurong Rover)**
- **UAE : Hope Probe**

MAJOR SOLAR MISSIONS

- **USA : Parker Solar Probe** ; Solar Dynamics Observatory (SDO)
- **USA-Europe (Joint) :** Solar Orbiter ; SOHO
- **Japan :** Hinode
- **India : Aditya-L1**

VENUS MISSIONS

- **USA : Magellan**
- **Europe :** Venus Express
- **Japan :** Akatsuki
- **India : Shukrayaan-1 (Planned)**

MERCURY MISSIONS

- **USA :** MESSENGER
- **Europe-Japan (Joint) :** BepiColombo

JUPITER MISSIONS

- **USA :** Galileo ; Juno
- **Europe :** JUICE

SATURN MISSIONS

- **USA–Europe (Joint) :** Cassini –Huygens

URANUS & NEPTUNE MISSIONS

- **USA :** Voyager 2

DWARF PLANET & KUIPER BELT MISSIONS

- **USA :** New Horizons

ASTEROID & COMET MISSIONS

- **Japan :** Hayabusa and Hayabusa-2
- **USA :** OSIRIS-REx (OSIRIS-APEX extension)

MAJOR HUMAN SPACEFLIGHT PROGRAMMES

- **USSR : Vostok Programme**
- **USSR/Russia :** Soyuz Programme
- **USA :** Mercury Programme ; Gemini Programme ; **Apollo Programme ; Space Shuttle Programme ; Artemis Programme**
- **China : Shenzhou Programme**
- **India : Gaganyaan Programme** (Planned)

THE YEAR THAT WAS

No. of IPOs ● Amount raised (₹ crore)

	No. of IPOs	Amount raised (₹ crore)
FY22	53	1,11,547
FY23	37	52,116
FY24	76	61,922
FY25	78	1,62,387
FY26	112	1,78,970

Source: Prime Database

Top Nifty losers in fiscal 2026

Share price (₹)	Mar 28 2025	Mar 30 2026	% fall
Trent	5,311.05	3,294.65	-37.97
TCS	3,604.45	2,359.05	-34.55
ITC	409.80	287.70	-29.80
Wipro	262.10	187.55	-28.44
Tata Motors PVs	408.05	296.25	-27.40

Top Nifty gainers in fiscal 2026

Share price (₹)	Mar 28 2025	Mar 30 2026	% gain
Bharat Electronics	301.20	400.60	33.00
Shriram Finance	655.85	872.10	32.97
Hindalco Inds	682.35	884.55	29.63
Titan Company	3,063.80	3,952.10	28.99
SBI	771.60	979.80	26.98

Source: Capitaline

TAX TO BANKING, CHANGES THAT KICK IN TODAY

TAXATION

➤ New Income Tax Act, 2025 comes into effect, govt promises easier rules and a more friendly dept

New Tax Forms With New Names

➤ **Form 130** (Replaces Form 16) issued by your employer for salary income

➤ **Form 131** (Replaces Form 16A) is the certificate for TDS on non-salary income, such as bank interest, rent, or professional fees

➤ **Form 168** (Replaces Form 26AS) is the consolidated annual statement of all tax-related credits linked to your permanent account number

➤ **Meal card tax** exemption increased to ₹200 per meal against ₹50 earlier

➤ **Buybacks** to get less taxing for **shareholders.** Promoters to pay higher tax

➤ TCS on **overseas travel** packages, remittance for **education, medical** treatment cut to 2%

BANKING

➤ Push towards cardless cash withdrawals prompts banks to tighten ATM, cash usage rules

➤ RBI's new rules for digital payments with mandatory two-factor authentication for all transactions: which can include PIN, password, biometrics or tokens

STOCK MARKET

➤ **Securities transaction tax (STT) on Futures rises from 0.02% to 0.05%,** and the levy on Options goes up from 0.1% to 0.15%

➤ Simplified expense structure for MFs to enforce transparency by splitting Total Expense Ratio into a core Base Expense Ratio and actual-cost charges for taxes & regulatory charges

➤ Brokerage caps reduced by Sebi

TRAVEL

➤ FASTag annual pass fee hiked to ₹3,075, up from ₹3,000; NH toll to rise 3-5%. Besides, toll plazas will turn cashless

CCTV CAMERAS

➤ Ban on the sale of non-certified CCTV cameras connected to internet from Chinese manufacturers from April 1

Compiled by Saksham Mehta

TIMES BUSINESS

War widens global, Indian FY26 returns gap

Despite steady domestic economic momentum, Indian equities underperformed global peers in FY26, while precious metals and select international indices delivered significantly stronger returns for investors

THE TIMES OF INDIA, JAIPUR | WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1, 2026

FY26 returns split global markets

Updated as per 08.40PM IST March 31, 2026
Source: BSE, NSE, ETIG and Yahoo Finance

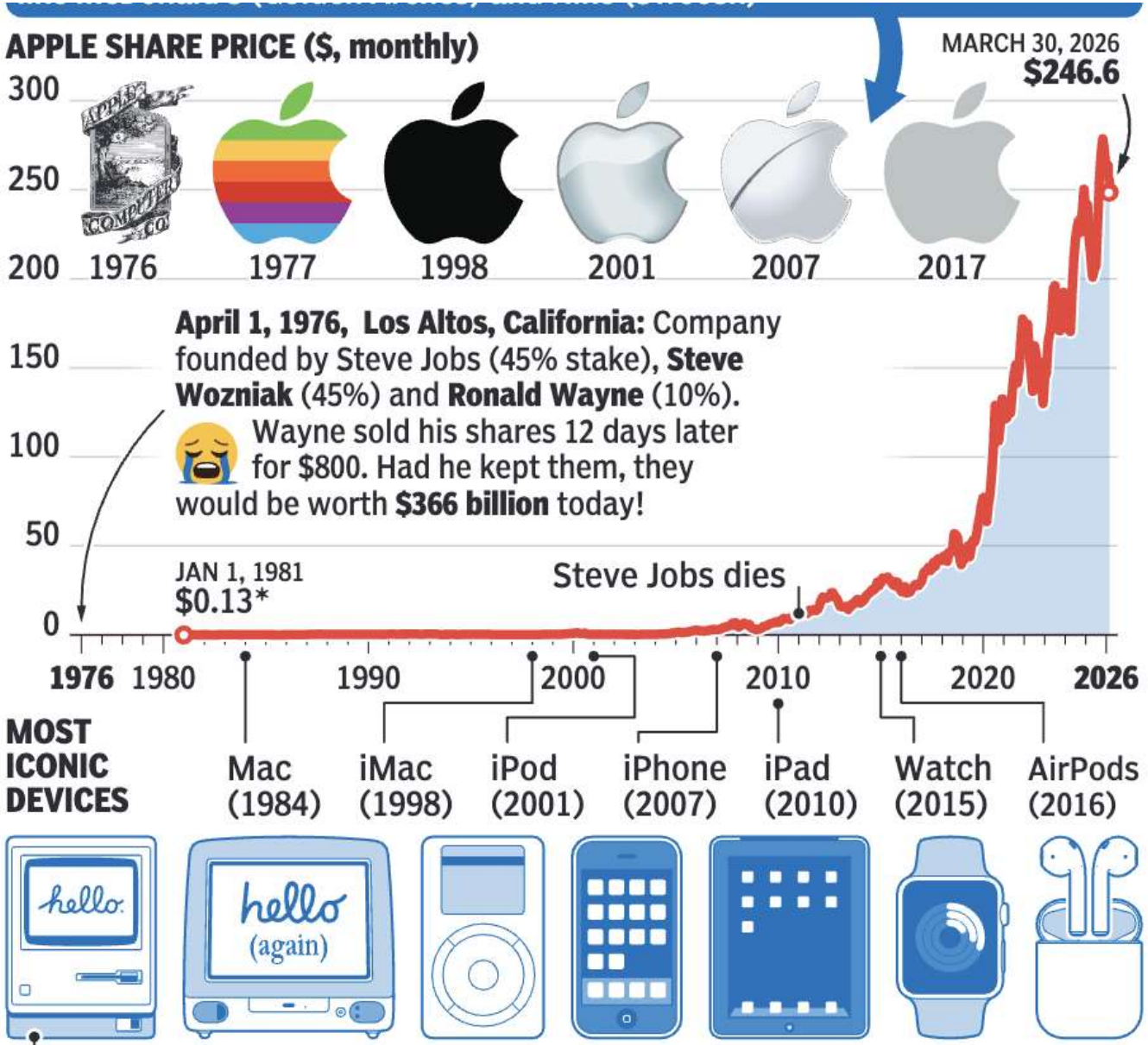
Apple's 50th anniversary

Apple, today one of the richest companies in the world having narrowly avoided bankruptcy in 1997, has been at the cutting edge of technology for half a century

Apple founder **Steve Jobs** (left), current CEO **Tim Cook** (right), and scene from famous **"1984" Super Bowl** ad, directed by **Ridley Scott**

EVOLUTION OF AN ICON

Contrary to popular belief, there is no profound meaning to Apple name. Steve Jobs just liked apples, which is also why computers are called Macintosh (now simply Mac) – named after a type of Apple. Today, its logo is one of the most globally recognised, on par with major brands like McDonald's (Golden Arches) and Nike (Swoosh)



*Dec 12, 1980: Initial Public Offering (IPO) of $22 per share, but as stock has split five times since then, today's adjusted IPO is $0.1. Sources: MacRumors, Investing.com, Kaggle, Bold Business, Tailor Brands, Coinnews Media Pictures: Creative Commons, Getty Images

Word of the day

Petulant:

easily irritated or annoyed

Synonyms: cranky, fractious, nettlesome

Usage: *The actor's petulant response drew sharp criticism online.*

Pronunciation: https://newsth.live/tfwk6l

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ˈpɛtjʊlənt/

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