Daily Current Affairs











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10 MCQ QUIZ



"One honest hour today can move the mountain tomorrow."







PM to attend ASEAN summit virtually NEWS II PAGE 4





The UN matters. as a symbol of possibility It is a work in progress with a vital global role



Smriti, Pratika sizzle as India qualifies SPORT II PAGE 16

INDIA bloc names Tejashwi as its CM



Congress, PDP back NC ahead of J&K RS bypolls

HEINAGAE
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bemoratic Platy on Thursday
extended their support to the
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the Investment of the Investment
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preview 13.P. gains, shall Plat's
felsbeschis Muffi. In Page 8.

Literacy sparked development in Kerala: Murmu

THURLYANANTHAPURAM The power of literacy and knowledge has enabled Rerati to rank among the leading States on several human development indicators President Droupoid Murrou said on Thursday, Ms. Murro rightactied that his

Artist condemns vandalism of her works in Kochi

Adjection French artist Ha man Genamener has condemned the varidation of a set of his works displayed at a set gallery in Kachi, catting it "violence in in art spines?" An artist from ottayam, destroyed six of he WORKE IN MAGE 3

Stay clear of West Bank, Trump warns Israelis

U.S. Possident banald Truma naid traci would lose its crucial backing from the U.S. if it annexes the scoupled West Sank, in a Time maga Interview. Mr. Trump also used that he indiesed based Arabia.

U.S. sanctions Russian oil; Indian refineries poised to cut imports

Rosneft and Lukoll hit with sanctions for funding Kremlin's war machine', pushing global oil prices up 3%; Trump says India will cut down imports to 'almost nothing' by the year-end, Indian firms are 'recalibrating' to align with new govt, guidelines

Oil dependency

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ROMERS WASHINGTON/NEW DELHI

Ukraine, prompting global oil prices to rise by 3% on

ed his claim that India has agreed to "step" buying oil from Russia and would bring its oil purchases down to "almost nothing" by the end of the year, and add he would persuade China to do the same. India and China are the two big-gest buyers of Russian oil.

Indian refiners - includ-ing Reliance, the top In-dian buyer of Russian crude - are pelsed to sharply curtail imports of Bussian off to comply with the new U.S. sanctions, industry sources said on Thursday.

Autumn blooms

The U.S. assections tur-get oil glants Rosnest and Lukoil, which between them account for more than 9% of global oil

DONALD TRUMP, U.S. President

Russian oil producers. "Given (Russian) Presi-dent (Vladimir) Puttivs refusal to end this senseless war. Treamiry is sanction

tricks, as you know, has told me they are going to stop Duying Ruesian offt. It's a process, You carrigon stop. By the end of the year, they'll be down to almost nothing

fier to Join up in and adhere

AUDIT BURST

to these sanctions."
Oil and gas revenue, currently down 30% year-on-year, accounts for a quarter of Russia's budget and is the most important Reminity war machine,
U.S. Trainury Reverteiry
Scott Hossent said in
Autatement.
"We encourage our al"We encourage our al-

intermediaries.

It now plans to reduce or cease imports of Russian oil, thefuding halding II, including halting uses under its deal

Wednesday. Reliance Industries

Jamnagar in Gujarat, has a long-term deal to buy near

ly 800,000 barrels per day

of crude from Bosneft and

also buys Russian oil from

Gang 'plotting'

acts of terror

across Bihar

Shrimansi Kaushik

gunned down

A joint team of Delhi and

Bihar Police gunned down a four-member gang alleg-edly planning to spread

terror in Bihar ahead of polls. They were killed in Delhi's Robini area early

that response to the sunctions. "India, as you know, has told me they are going has told me they are going and they are going to the sun that they are they are they are they are they are the or they are the are they are the they are they are they are the are the they are the they are the they are the they are the the Hashtriya Janata Dal (R(D) leader Tejashwi Vadav was on Thuraday declared the chief minisierial face of the INDIA blue for the Bihar Assembly election.

Amenthly election.
The announcement was made in Patna by the All India Congress Committee senior observer for the election, Ashak Gehlot, in the presence of Mr. Yadar and other leaders of the

alliance.
Displaying unity after the initial hiccups over seat-sharing, the official announcement was made announcement was made during a joint press meet in which Vikassheel Insaan Party (VIP) chief Mukesh Sahani, Bihar Congress in-charge Krishna Allavaru, Juhar Pradesh Congress Committee (MPCC) presi-dent Rajeah Ram and Left

dent Rajeah Ram and Left leaders were present. Mr. Gehlot amounced Mr. Sahani as the deputy chief ministerial face of the

And calains as the deputy of the calains are the ability of the california of the consensus of common the consensus of congress president Malli. Larjus Riago, Loader of Sarba Rabus (Landiu Riago, Loader of Sarba Rabus (Landiu Riago, Loader of Congress president Malli. Sarba Rabus (Landiu Riago, Loader of Sarba Rabus (Landiu Rabus) (La

Mr. Gobiot and.
"Along with this, we are
also declaring a struggling
young comrade Mukesh
Isabani as the cansildate for
the Deputy Chief Minister
position. We will announce the name of one more De-puty Chief Minister name later."

on Thursday.

The gang, which called itself signs & Company, had publicised its earlier killings on social media. The police said they recuvered an austic clip is which the gang leader could be heard conspiring to apread terror in hihar.



Minister from the NDAY Mr. Goblot said.

bloc for showing trust in him saying he would live

uproot the corrupt 'double

Mr. Schlot inled the BP leadership to name its Claif Minister candidate and not to apoore the ques-tion by asying that the elec-tion is being contrated un-der the leadership of Bhar Chief Minister Nitish Kuruar.

Pan-India SIR to cover more

than 10 States in first phase

Kumar Ji in the NDA, He has not even been declared the face of the Chief Ministhe face of the Chief Minister.

The Truth is that the
HIP will not make Nitish
Komar i the Chief Minister.

Komar i the Chief Minister.

The Chief Minister.

The quee
Galacters will select the
Chief Minister. The quee
Chief Minister. The quee
Cave of the Chief Minister
has been declared, as why
is such a stement being
made this time? Mr. Vadaw
sobed.

'New example'
Mr. Sahani, who is also known as 'son of Mallah', expressed his happiness In a post on X, he said: "Thanks to all allies of the Mahagatbandhan for ex Backward Classes (EBC) for the Deputy Chief Minister position. This decision will set a new example for so-

set a new example for so-cial justice and equal re-presentation in fithar," Ever since the INDIA bloc was formed, repeated questions, were being

Aland voter fraud: SIT identifies six suspects who prepared duplicate Form 7 applications

The Hindu Bureau

The Special Investigation Team (UT) probing the vo-ter fraud in Aland in Karnatake has now uncerthed a contre-like firm in Kalabu

centre-like firm in Kalaba-ragi was allegedly past tho to make each of the 5,994 forgast form 7 application from 7 application for the pects, of whom five have been questioned and their statements recorded. The SFF had subsed their residences and recovered which the larged Form 7s

were made. However, the SIT is still tight-lipped about who paid the firm for this oper-ation, even as it has raided premises linked to former MP MLA Subhash Gottedar connection with the

Mr. Guttedar won the 2018 polls with a slender margin of 697 votes against the Congress's B.R. Patil, the Congress's B.R. Patil, and in 2023, the fereum bent Mr. Gulledar fost to Mr. Patil by 10,449 votes. While Mr. Cautedar has de-nied any involvement in voter fraud, the SIT has not specified his role or given specimal his role or given reasons why premises



linked to him and his sons were raided recently. Mr. Patil had raised the alarm over lorged Form 7a in Pebriary 2023, follow-ing which ground verifica-

case is now being probed The BIT was formed after The Hindu on Septem

her 7, 2028, reported that the probe had gone cold with the Election Commis-sion not cooperating. Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabba Balud Gandthe Lak Saddis Halind Gands hi had also flagged the is-see at a press conference in Delhi.

It achieved a break-through in the first week of October identifying the Call course-like firm in Galdring where the lorged Porn 7s were made.

two-day conference of Chief Electoral Officers Reespacina Chakrabarty REW DELIG (CEO) that concluded here on Thursday

Schedule soon wide roll out of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls at a press The full commission will now discuss the matter and take a call on the eche-

desctoral rolls at a press conference in the next few days. The first phase of the process will be implement-and one Union Territory, including electron-bound Assain, Tamil Saab, Fulti-therigal.

The EC took stock of the preparedness of all States and Union Territories for the properties of the pro-ting of the proand take a call on the sche-hole, which would be an-nounced soon, sources old The Hundin expected to be rolled out in two phases, beginning with As-sam, Tamil Nacht, Pudu-cherry, Kestala, and West scherry, Kestala, and West clections are due in 2026. Those Stanes where local body pells are scheduled to be held and are illedy to

ter will be tackled in later

phases.
The sources said the points raised by the CEOs of all States at the conference and while it respond-

SIB, no concrete decisions were armounced at the meeting. It was stated that a decision would be communicated to all CROSs after the meeting of the Recutan Communication members.

The two-day conference was presided over by Chief Election. Commissioner Gyanusia Eurar.

U.S. sanctions Russian oil; Indian refineries poised to cut imports

Rosneft and Lukoil hit with sanctions for 'funding Kremlin's war machine', pushing global oil prices up 3%; Trump says India will cut down imports to 'almost nothing' by the year-end; Indian firms are 'recalibrating' to align with new govt. guidelines

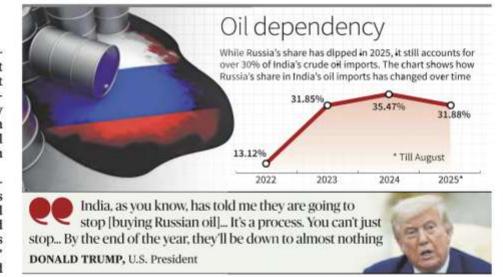
Reuters

WASHINGTON/NEW DELHI

S. President Donald Trump hit Russia's two biggest oil companies with sanctions in his latest policy shift on Moscow's war in Ukraine, prompting global oil prices to rise by 3% on Thursday.

Mr. Trump also reiterated his claim that India has agreed to "stop" buying oil from Russia and would bring its oil purchases down to "almost nothing" by the end of the year, and said he would persuade China to do the same. India and China are the two biggest buyers of Russian oil.

Indian refiners – including Reliance, the top Indian buyer of Russian crude – are poised to sharply curtail imports of Russian oil to comply with the new U.S. sanctions, industry sources said on Thursday.



The U.S. sanctions target oil giants Rosneft and Lukoil, which between them account for more than 5% of global oil output.

'Funding war'

The U.S. Treasury has given companies until November 21 to wind down their transactions with the Russian oil producers.

"Given [Russian] President [Vladimir] Putin's refusal to end this senseless war, Treasury is sanctioning Russia's two largest oil companies that fund the Kremlin's war machine," U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said in a statement.

"We encourage our al-

lies to join us in and adhere to these sanctions."

Oil and gas revenue, currently down 21% yearon-year, accounts for a quarter of Russia's budget and is the most important source of funding for its war in Ukraine, now in its fourth year.

Mr. Trump expressed confidence regarding In-

dia's response to the sanctions. "India, as you know, has told me they are going to stop [buying Russian oil]... It's a process. You can't just stop ... By the end of the year, they'll be down to almost nothing, almost 40% of the oil. India, they've been great. Spoke to Prime Minister [Narendra] Modi yesterday. They been absolutely great," the U.S. President told the reporters at the House White Wednesday.

Reliance Industries, which operates the world's biggest refining complex at Jamnagar in Gujarat, has a long-term deal to buy nearly 500,000 barrels per day of crude from Rosneft and also buys Russian oil from intermediaries.

It now plans to reduce or cease imports of Russian oil, including halting purchases under its deal with Rosneft, people familiar with the matter said.

- The **U.S. government** under **President Donald Trump** has announced **fresh sanctions** on **Russia's two largest oil companies Rosneft** and **Lukoil** for "funding the Kremlin's war machine" in Ukraine.
- The sanctions triggered a 3% rise in global oil prices.
- India, a major buyer of Russian crude, is now recalibrating imports to comply with the sanctions.

•

Aspect	Details
Sanctioned Firms	Rosneft & Lukoil (together = >5% of global oil output)
Sanction Duration	U.S. Treasury gave firms until Nov 21, 2025 , to wind down transactions
U.S. Goal	To cut funding to Russia's military campaign in Ukraine
India's Stand	Indian refiners — including Reliance Industries — to reduce or cease Russian oil imports by end of 2025
China's Position	Also urged by the U.S. to cut oil imports from Russia
Impact on Prices	Global crude oil prices rose ~3% post-announcement

For India

- Short-term **supply adjustment** for refineries dependent on Russian Urals crude.
- Reliance, IOC, BPCL, HPCL likely to pivot to Gulf or U.S. crude suppliers.
- Possible foreign policy balancing act maintaining ties with U.S. while avoiding diplomatic fallout with Russia.

For Global Markets

- Oil prices could remain **volatile** due to limited supply diversification.
- **Europe** may face higher refining costs as alternatives remain expensive.
- Strengthens U.S. strategy to isolate Russian energy exports globally.

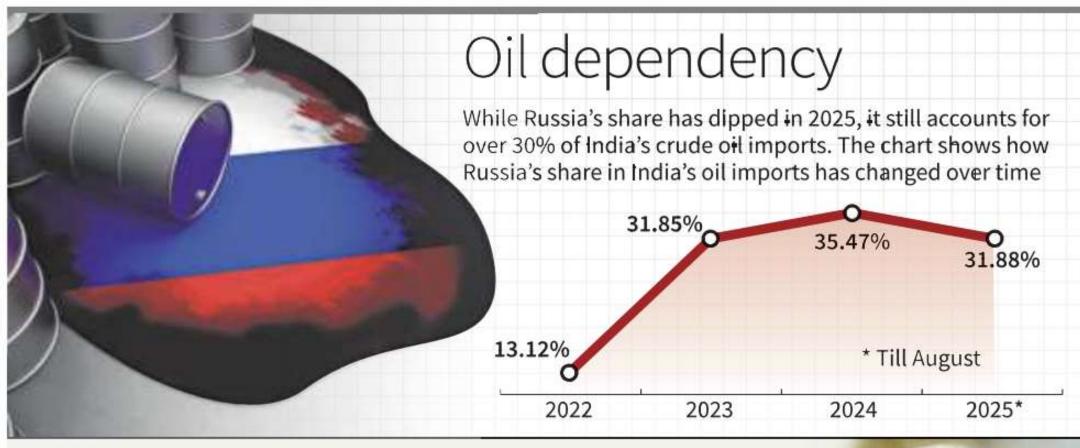
Year Share of Russian Oil in India's Crude Imports

2022 13.12%

2023 31.85%

2024 35.47%

2025 31.88% (till Aug 2025)



India, as you know, has told me they are going to stop [buying Russian oil]... It's a process. You can't just stop... By the end of the year, they'll be down to almost nothing DONALD TRUMP, U.S. President

■ 「№ 要要要收回 班の数?



Over 100 hospitalised after use of carbide guns in Bhopal

More than 100 persons, most of them children agad between it and 4t, were hospitalised in Shoppal and Vidiba thirtie in Maddiny Pradesh Shoppal and Vidiba thirtie in Maddiny Pradesh Carlisde june during Deepawal, officials said on Lardon and Market Shoppal and Carlisde june during Deepawal, officials said on Hursday. While 60 are admitted in government hospitals in Bhopal, 50 are recuperating in facilities in Vidibaha, including five with experience in purious they said. "These crude gure, made the said of the said o carbide, are in vogue this Deepavali. The calcium carbide in the gun produces acetylene gas when it meets water and explodes upon contact with a spark/ an official said.

AICC appoints new in-charge for Indian Youth Congress

Congress president Mailliturjun Kharge on Thursday appointed Maniah Sharma as the All India Congress Committee (AICC) tricharge of the Indian Youth Congress (IVC), replacing manufalent Kishina Allavaria, M. Allavari, who has been in charge of the IVC for the past seven years, is also the AICC in charge for Bihar. A statement from party general secretary (organisation) K.C. vemagopal thanked Mr Allavuru for his contributions and said that he has been relieved of his IVC duties immediately. He continues to be the party's Bihar in-charge.

Tri-services to get systems, 90% of Gaganyaan platforms for ₹79,000 cr.

The acquisitions are designed to enhance lethality, mobility and intelligence gathering capabilities across the services; Defence Acquisition Council, chaired by Rajnath, approves the proposals

the Defence Acquisi-tion Council (DAC).
Minister Rapard Ringh, on Thursday approved a se-ries of capital acquisition proposals worth around strengthening the opera-tional capabilities of the Army, Navy and Air Force. The Defence Ministry during a meeting at South

during a meeting at South Block would cover a wide spectrum of platforms and systems designed to es-hance lethality, mobility, and intelligence-gathering capabilities across the

capabilities across the services. For the Army, the DAC accorded Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) for the procurement of the Neg-minstle system (tracked) Mk-II (NAMES), ground-based mobile ELINT Sys-tem (CIMINS), and high-mobility vehicles (HMVs) with material handling with material handling

The NAMIS (Tracked) will belster the Army's ability to destroy enemy ar-mouned vehicles, bunkers,



Defence Research and Development Organisation, mi-

tions, while the GRMES will provide round-the-clock electronic intelli-

clock electronic intelli-gence on sunny emittera. The induction of HMVs is expected to significantly expected to significantly challenging terruitra. For the Navy, the AoN was granted for the acqui-sition of Landing platform sides of Landing platform surface guins, advanced light weight introduced ALAVTA, electro-optical intracts. systems, and smart ammu-nition for 76 mm super ra-

ing, humanitarian assistance, and disaster re-lef (HADIO missions. The indigenmusty developed ALWT by the DIEDC's Naval Science and Technological Laboratory is capable of engaging conventional, mu-clear, and midget

The LPDs will augment the Navy's amphibious warfare capabilities and enable it to undertake joint

chable if to undertake joint operations with the Army and Air Force. They will alse enhance india's capacity to conduct peacekeeping, humanitarian assistance, and disaster re-

For the Indian Air Force, the AoN was accorded for

the collaborative long-range target saturation/ destruction system (CLRTS/DS) and other reclief 5/195 and other re-lated systems. The CLRTS/ DS features autonomous take-off and landing, ravi-gation, target detection and payload delivery capa-bilities, aimed at augment-ing the IAF's long-range

ectation orgagement ca-Pacity: The approvals reflect the government's continu-ing emphasis on moderni-sation, self-reliance and indigenisation under the 'Astronomirbhar Bharat' in-itiative, officials said.

development work done: ISRO chief

The Hindu Bureau

man V. Naruyanan on Thursday said that about 90% of the development

mission had been completed.

"The Gaganyaan mis-sion is going on very well. A lot of technological devi-logment has to take place. Number one, the rocket has to be human-rused, the life support system, de-terminent process. course. Immen-centric products. I can say inday that approximately 90% of that approximately 90% of the development work has been completed," Mr. Na-cayanan told presspersons in Bengaluru. He added that the crewed mission to launch the indian astro-nasts into space would take place in 2027 and prior to that, ISRO would undertake three secrewest missions.

mission with the huma-noid Vyomitra is expected to take flight by the end of

Bengal police nab suspect

after desecration of idol



envisages demonstration of human spaceflight capa-bility by launching a crew of three members to an orbit of 400 km for a three day mission and bringing them back safely to Earth by landing in Indian sea waters.

waters.
On the NASA-1816D Synthetic Aperture Rudar (Ni-JAR) satellite launched on July 30, 2025, Mr. Nacaya-nus said that the satellite was healthy and it would be declared operational in another 10-18 days.

NISAR is the first satel NISAR is the first satel-lite to observe the earth with a dual-frequency Syn-thetic Aperture Radar (SAR) – NARA's L-band and ISRO's 8-band - both using NASA's 12-metre unfurlable mesh reflector antenna, in

DCGI brings in stricter norms for tracking supply chain of high-risk solvents

Bindu Shajan Perappadan

The Drugs Controller Gen The Drugs Controller Gen-eral (India) has directed digital mentioring on the Online National Brugs Li-censing System (ONDLS)

serious safety concerns-ter the death of over children under the age of five years allegedly due to contumination of cough sy rups with diethylene glycol (DEG) recently in Madhya Pradesh, DEG is a tonic or ourless and odourless it

ONIXA is a single-win-dow digital platform in in-dia for processing drug-and commette-related appli-cations for manufacturing



in his letter, DCGI head fajery Singh Raghovanshi noted, "It has been decid-ed that a Digital Menitoring System on the ONDLE por-tal needs to be established for monitoring the supply chain as well as the quality of the high-risk solvents, including Propylene Glycol."

Dr. Raghuvanahi said ONDLS

A digital monitoring system on the ONDL5 portal has to be set up for monitoring the supply chain of the high-risk solvents, oc TY MAGES and sales licences, and va-rious certificates. that so per the latest order, all the manufacturers of pharms grade solvents should obtain manufactur-ing licence through the ONDLS portal. The letter

could partal. The setter noted that is case the ma-nufacturer already beld the manufacturing licence, he must register on the ONINLS portal and submit the data through Old Li-cence Management under contral.

The Hindu Bureau

India and Bhutan reviewed border management and security in a meeting held at Thimphu from October 16-17, a statement by the Union Home Ministry said

on Thursday.

The Ministry said the two countries had reviewed bilateral security cooperation and border management lesues, in-cluding mobile signal spillover, future road map for imagrated check posts, maintenance of boundary

pillars, and cross-border movement. Discussions covered ca-pacity building for Rhuan's police. The delegations expressed satisfaction at the cordial

nistry said. This was the 14th India-Bhutan Border Management and Security meeting. The last meeting was held in 2019.

The Indian delegation The Indian dolegation was led by Rajderdera formar, Secretary, Department of Border Management of Border Managewhile the Bhitainnes side was headed by Sonam Wangsel, Secretary, Ministry of Home Affair.

Border with Bhitain, running along the States of Silekim, Went Bengal, Assam "Beading and the States of Silekim, Went Bengal, Assam "Beadfurning their strong and secretary and the States of Silekim, Went Bengal, Assam "Beadfurning their strong and secretary and

"Reaffirming their strong friendship, India and Bhutan committed to deepen-ing cooperation across tra-ditional and emerging registered so far, one for road blockade and another for vandalism

causes tension in Kakdwip

dess Kali at Uttar Chandanmagar Naskarpans village. Protests erupted immediately after the idol was found broken, with pe-opic blocking the National Harbases, shortly after the tlighway. Shortly after, the police force allegedly placed the idol treads a pri-son van, leading to a row.

"The police forces were trying to permade them constantly to lift the block-

Two cases have been the stone throwing to + registered so far, one for road blockade the stone throwing to + farther affect the idol, Mr. Han said on Thursday.

In total, two cases have road blockade and another for vandation. No arrests have yet been made in the road blockade same, but the probe is on. We are also examining the presence of CCPV footage from the area," the West Bergai Pol-ice said on social media on Thursday eventus.

media protesting against the descration and the shifting of the idol. The in formation and technology chief of the BJP, Amit Malvi

India, Bhutan review security cooperation, border management

The Hindu Bureau

The West Bengal Police have arrested one person in connection with the de-secration of an idol at the Suryanagar geam pan-chayat in South 24 Parga-nas of the State. The arrest follows a protest by the lo-cal people and the BIP against the desocration and its trumsport to a pri-

son van. Superintendent of Pol-ice, Sunderbans, Koteswa ra Rao said on Thursday that Narayan Halder, a vil-lager, was accessed. "We lager, was acreated. "We brought him to the police station for questioning... He admitted to desecrating the idol while drunk," Mr.

the idol while drunk," Mr. Rao said.
On Wednesday evening, tensions flared in the Kaled-wip region over the dese-cration of the idol of God-



Three types of people Thannes pails for Krishnan Swamp, said in a discourse that people can be divided into three types. Theirts, Albeits, and Theists-cum-Albeits. Theists believe in the obstence of God, rebrith, and similar ideas. They think God helps in believe in God and think swents happen only by natures. They focus on reality, may believe people should stay as they are, and aim for the welfare of society. The last group telleves in God flut and in the Sastras, Veslantas, or other codes. They think the mind alone is enough for one's

of God eas is the from sorrows. Workfly desires are im-permanent. Yet, our lives are filled with desires, which are the root cause of sorrows. Only the blessings of God are permanent. If people develop the thought that God exists, their worries and sorrows will leasen. The roul, also called life air or attain, is permanent. It dwells in our physical body, which is periabelle, not us the self with a body passes through childhood, youth, and old age, it passes into the property of the periabelle of the periabe their worries and sorrows will lessen. The sout, also calles

THEROS SWORD + 14621

8 Conformely as soon as controls last long (9)

5H

Venwed first person declared dead (4) 10 Rank highly appalling, a boy regnets test (3,5,5,2) 3.2 Avoid flagging spunge to wrap fine ring containing diamends (4-5)

Sauce placed over gold dish (5). Heraldic bearing League adopts ends in uprising (7). Extent of length say a cart may be wheeled (7). Private free quarters fixed (h) 21 Foult taste of plums softly penetrating wine and beer 24 A new take, worried about the Internet maybe (4,4,7)

- 25 Combination of parties pass bill originally cent back (4) 36 Sentry for one English queen filling strint, that lady's
- Darling finally tiring of see about to quibble (8) Forward unit, section returning military status report (6) Advanced operating room at hospital (6 Sty Wellington circles it from behind (6)
- Not satisfactory to five above meses? (5.3) Uncover out red meat (6) University in New York, one very liberal perhaps (3,5,4) Boring without a spring clearance (6)
- 15 Boring without a spring clearance (8) 16 Not so much taking a rupee, good element of expansive generosity (8)

 18 State accepts suggestion of pardon for informer (8) Pest following chaps happily skipping line (6)
- 20 Pest following chaps happily anipping line so: 22 Jupiter's planet comewhat overshadowed by Mars in open-endedness (6)
 23 Churches have these reforms broadcast (6)

Tri-services to get systems, platforms for ₹79,000 cr.

The acquisitions are designed to enhance lethality, mobility and intelligence-gathering capabilities across the services; Defence Acquisition Council, chaired by Rajnath, approves the proposals

Saurabh Trivedi

NEW DELHI

he Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, on Thursday approved a series of capital acquisition proposals worth around ₹79,000 crore aimed at strengthening the operational capabilities of the Army, Navy and Air Force.

The Defence Ministry said the approvals granted during a meeting at South Block would cover a wide spectrum of platforms and systems designed to enhance lethality, mobility, and intelligence-gathering capabilities across the Services.

For the Army, the DAC accorded Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) for the procurement of the Nag missile system (tracked) Mk-II (NAMIS), ground-based mobile ELINT System (GBMES), and high-mobility vehicles (HMVs) with material handling cranes.

The NAMIS (Tracked) will bolster the Army's ability to destroy enemy armoured vehicles, bunkers,



The Anti Tank Guided Missile Nag Mk II being successfully tested from a light tank developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation. PTI

and other fortified positions, while the GBMES will provide round-theclock electronic intelligence on enemy emitters. The induction of HMVs is expected to significantly enhance logistic support in challenging terrains.

For the Navy, the AoN was granted for the acquisition of landing platform docks (LPDs), 30 mm naval surface guns, advanced light weight torpedoes (ALWTs), electro-optical infrared search-and-track systems, and smart ammunition for 76 mm super rapid gun mounts.

The LPDs will augment the Navy's amphibious warfare capabilities and enable it to undertake joint operations with the Army and Air Force. They will also enhance India's capacity to conduct peacekeephumanitarian assistance, and disaster relief (HADR) missions. The indigenously developed ALWT by the DRDO's Naval Science and Technological Laboratory is capable of engaging conventional, nuclear, and midget submarines.

submarines. d
For the Indian Air Force, 'A'
the AoN was accorded for it

the collaborative longrange target saturation/ destruction system (CLRTS/DS) and other related systems. The CLRTS/ DS features autonomous take-off and landing, navigation, target detection and payload delivery capabilities, aimed at augmenting the IAF's long-range precision engagement capacity.

The approvals reflect the government's continuing emphasis on modernisation, self-reliance and indigenisation under the 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' initiative, officials said.

- The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, has approved capital acquisition proposals worth ₹79,000 crore.
- These approvals aim to strengthen operational capabilities of the Army, Navy, and Air Force, focusing on:
 - Lethality
 - Mobility
 - Intelligence-gathering
 - Joint-service operations

Service	Major Systems / Platforms Approved	Purpose / Benefit
Indian Army	 Nag Missile System (NAMIS) – tracked version of Nag Mk-II Anti-Tank Guided Missile - Ground-based Mobile ELINT System (GBMES) - High Mobility Vehicles (HMVs) with material- handling systems 	 Enhanced ability to destroy enemy tanks & fortifications - 24x7 electronic intelligence (ELINT) on enemy activity - Logistic support in challenging terrains
Indian Navy	 Landing Platform Docks (LPDs) - 30 mm Naval Surface Guns - Advanced Light Weight Torpedoes (ALWTs) - Electro-Optical Infrared (EO/IR) Search-and-Track Systems - Smart Ammunition 	- Strengthen amphibious warfare & joint ops with Army/Air Force - Support HADR (Humanitarian Assistance & Disaster Relief) - ALWTs (by DRDO Naval Science & Tech Lab) capable of engaging conventional, nuclear, & midget submarines
Indian Air Force	 Collaborative Long-Range Target Saturation/Destruction System (CLRTS/DS) - Related systems with autonomous navigation payload delivery 	- Boost long-range strike capability - Improve target detection, navigation, and precision attack for multi-domain operations

◆ NAMIS (Nag Mk-II)

- Tracked anti-tank guided missile system developed by DRDO.
- Designed for high accuracy against armored vehicles and fortifications.
- Uses fire-and-forget technology and advanced seekers.

◆ GBMES (Ground-Based Mobile ELINT System)

- Detects and analyses enemy electronic emissions.
- Enables real-time electronic warfare (EW) intelligence for situational awareness.

LPDs (Landing Platform Docks)

- Large naval ships capable of launching amphibious assault, peacekeeping, and HADR missions.
- Allows transport of troops, tanks, helicopters, and landing crafts.

CLRTS/DS (Air Force)

- Autonomous system for simultaneous strike on multiple targets.
- Integrates AI-enabled navigation, targeting, and delivery systems.

Gold Can Deal With Trade War Flare-Ups, Bitcoin Can't

 While Bitcoin is regarded as some form of digital gold, a hedge against monetary debasement, its behaviour during times of trade stress is totally different

Source: Bloomberg





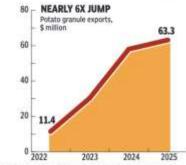
 During this year's two biggest flare-ups over rare earths, in April and earlier this month, gold has held steady or even rallied, while Bitcoin has tumbled

Mash Hit: Processed Potato Exports Up 450% In 4 Yrs

India's processed food exports have a surprise winner, with improved infra and stable production driving the surge, says Global Trade Research Institute

Potato Granules Are The King

The jump in exports is being driven by strong demand, lower costs, reliable year-round supplies, and proximity to Asean countries, allowing India to step into a supply gap caused by Europe's high energy costs and poor harvests and China's focus on domestic consumption. Potato granules is India's fastest-growing processed food export category. GTRI said Gujarat and UP have become "processing powerhouses"



"Gujarat's Mehsana and Banaskantha districts now host modern dehydration plants supported by contract farming and cold storage networks, while new facilities are coming up in Agra and Farrukhabad." the report said

OVER 300% RISE IN EXPORTS TO MALAYSIA Potato granule exports from india, 5 million 5.1 0.7 Philippines 7.1 1.7 0.9 Indonesia 6.8 2022 2023 2024 2025

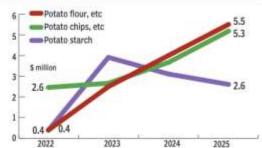
SE Asia Leading Jump In Demand

The star performers contributing to the surge are dehydrated potato granules and pellets. Processed to have a long shelf life, they are used by snack and fast food joints to make items like instant mashed potatoes

The top 5 countries — all in Southeast and East Asia — account for nearly 80% of India's total exports of dehydrated potato granules and pellets. In the first five months of FY2026, these exports reached \$30.2 million, showing continued strong momentum

Chips Are Up, Too

Products such as potato flour, starch, chips, and ready-to-eat potatoes, too, have seen demand shoot up with potato flour and powder used in snacks, soups, etc. showing the biggest jump



The report said short shipping routes via ports such as Mundra, Kandla, and Chennai have further strengthened India's price competitiveness

- India's processed food exports have recorded an exceptional surge, led by potato-based products
 primarily dehydrated potato granules and pellets.
- Exports have grown 450% between 2021–2025, reaching \$63.3 million (≈ ₹530 crore).
- The trend reflects India's rising agri-processing capacity and its integration into global snack & fast-food supply chains.

Key Growth Drivers

- Improved **processing infrastructure** in Gujarat & Uttar Pradesh
- Stable potato production and year-round availability
- Competitive export pricing & logistics (Mundra, Kandla, Chennai ports)
- W High energy costs in Europe → supply gap filled by India
- China's domestic focus → reduced export competition
- ✓ ASEAN market proximity → shorter shipping routes, quicker delivery

Potato Granule Exports

Year	Value (\$ million)	% Growth
2022	11.4	=
2023	~27	+137%
2024	~58	+115%
2025	63.3	+450% (vs 2022)

 Gujarat (Mehsana, Banaskantha) & Uttar Pradesh (Agra, Farrukhabad) — now act as India's "processing powerhouses."

Major Export Destinations (FY2025)

Country	Exports (\$ million)	Growth Since 2022
Malaysia	22.1	+330%
Philippines	7.1	+300%
Indonesia	6.8	+300%
Japan	6.7	+280%
■ Thailand	6.7	+270%

Processed Potato Product Categories (FY2025)

Category	FY2022 (\$ mn)	FY2025 (\$ mn)	Key Use
Potato Flour & Powder	0.4	5.5	Soups, snacks, bakery mixes
Potato Chips & Extruded Snacks	0.4	5.3	Ready-to-eat items
Potato Starch	2.6	2.6	Industrial, food thickening

■ Potato flour & chips are now India's fastest-growing processed snack exports.

Why India Is Winning

Factor	Explanation	
Now-cost raw material	High-yield potato belts in Gujarat, UP, Punjab	
Cold chain expansion	Contract farming + cold storage network	
Export advantage	Proximity to ASEAN via short routes	
Mark Processing innovation	Modern dehydration & extrusion units	
Policy support	PMFME, PLI (Food Processing), Agri Export Policy	



Bajrang Setu: India's First 132-Metre Cable Glass Bridge Set to Open in Rishikesh Soon

India is preparing to inaugurate its first-ever 132-metre cable glass bridge, Bajrang Setu, in Rishikesh.

Estimated to cost around ₹70 crore, the bridge is poised to become an architectural and spiritual landmark, seamlessly merging modern design with divine symbolism. Once open, it will be the first cable suspension bridge with glass flooring in India and only the second of its kind in Asia.

Google's Willow Chip Achieves First-Ever Verifiable Quantum Advantage

In a landmark achievement for quantum technology, Google Quantum AI has announced that its Willow chip has achieved the world's first verifiable quantum advantage.

Using an algorithm named "Quantum Echoes," the chip performed a computation 13,000 times faster than the most advanced classical algorithm running on one of the world's fastest supercomputers

Kerala: First Underwater Tunnel to link Vypin and Fort Kochi

Kerala is set to construct its first underwater tunnel connecting Vypin and Fort Kochi, a major milestone in the state's coastal highway development.

The project, expected to revolutionise travel across Kochi's busy shipping channel, will reduce the existing 16 km road journey to just 3 km beneath the Arabian Sea.

- Project Overview and Key Specifications
- Estimated to cost ₹2,672 crore, the twintube tunnel will feature a 2.75 km stretch including 1.75 km of bored tunnels and 1 km of cut-and-cover sections. Each tube will measure 12.5 metres in outer diameter and 11.25 metres in inner width, running 35 metres below sea level.
- Designed to meet international safety norms, the structure will include emergency stops every 250 metres, escape routes every 500 metres, and a high-capacity ventilation system.

Indian-Origin Historian Sunil Amrith Wins British Academy Book Prize for "The Burning Earth

Indian-origin historian Sunil Amrith has been awarded the 2025 British Academy Book Prize for his acclaimed work The Burning Earth: An Environmental History of the Last 500 Years

. The £25,000 honour recognises outstanding non-fiction writing in the humanities and social sciences, celebrating books that deepen global understanding through exceptional research.

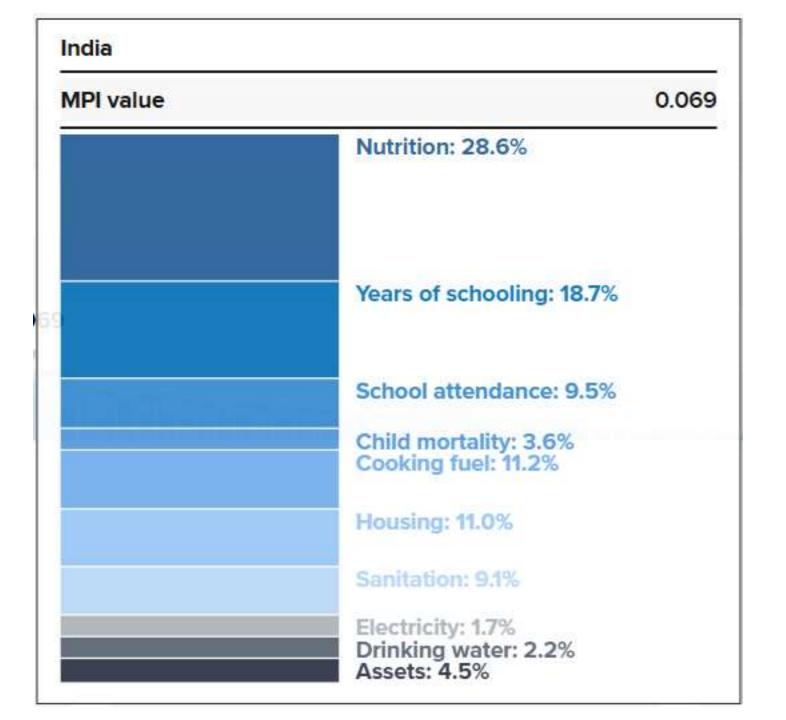
Global Multidimensional Poverty Index 2025

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI), has published its 2025 Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) under the title "Overlapping Hardships: Poverty and Climate Hazards."

For the first time, it overlays climate hazard data with multidimensional poverty to assess poor people's exposure to climate shocks, focusing on high heat, drought, floods, and air pollution

- What are Key Findings of the Global MPI Report 2025?
- Global Poverty Statistics: Of 6.3 billion people across 109 countries, 1.1 billion (18.3%) live in acute multidimensional poverty, mostly young, rural, and in low human development countries.
- Multi-dimensional Poverty in India: Poverty fell from 55.1% (2005–2006) to 16.4% (2019–2021). Large areas of India face a severe mix of poverty, high heat, flooding, and air pollution.

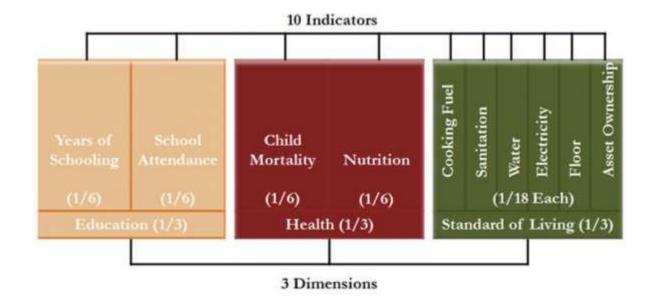
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What is the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI)?

- About: The MPI is a sophisticated tool that extends beyond income to capture the multiple, overlapping deprivations faced by poor people.
 - Its main purpose is to complement income-based poverty measures (such as the USD 3.00/day rate) by providing a comprehensive view of non-monetary deprivations, enabling more effective and targeted policy interventions.
- Weighting System: The indicators are not all weighted equally, but the dimensions are balanced. Health,
 Education, and Standard of Living each receive 1/3 of the total weight.
 - Each health and education indicator is weighted 1/6 (because there are 2 indicators per dimension).
 - Each standard of living indicator is weighted 1/18 (because there are 6 indicators per dimension).

- Computation: The index is built on three core dimensions of poverty: Health, Education, and Standard of Living. These are broken down into 10 specific indicators:
 - Health (2 indicators): Nutrition (any person under 70 years of age is undernourished), Child Mortality (death of any child in the household in the past 5 years).
 - Education (2 indicators): Years of Schooling (no household member has completed 6 years of formal education), School Attendance (any child is not enrolled in school up to class 8).
 - Standard of Living (6 indicators): Cooking Fuel, Sanitation, Drinking Water, Electricity, Housing, Assets.



India Moves up to 9th Position Globally in Forest Area

- India has moved up to the **9th position** in terms of total forest area globally, as per the Global Forest Resources Assessment (GFRA) 2025, released by the **Food and Agriculture Organization** (**FAO**) in Bali.
 - The GFRA is published every five years.

Key Findings

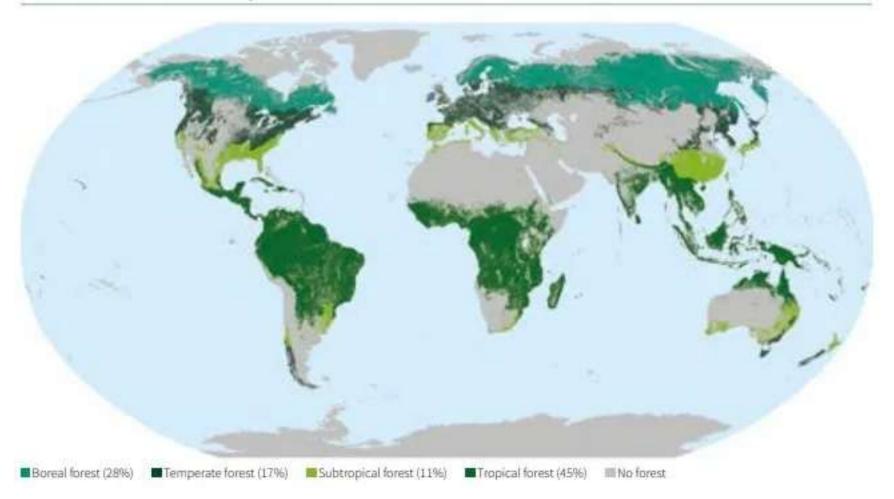
• Globally, forests cover **4.14 billion hectares**, accounting for about **32**% of total land area, translating to **0.5 hectares of forest per person**.

lacktriangle

- Russia has the largest forest cover followed by Brazil, Canada, the USA, China, Congo, Australia, Indonesia, India and Peru.
- The report highlights that global deforestation has slowed in the past decade.
 - However the world continues to lose 10.9 million hectares of forest every year (2015–2025), a rate still considered alarmingly high.

India's Forest Cover Status:

- India's forest cover stands at **72.7 million hectares**, representing about **2%** of global forest area.
- India has maintained its **third position** worldwide after **China and Russia** In terms of **annual forest gain.**
- India and Indonesia together represent over 70% of global agroforestry areas, indicating strong integration of trees in farmlands.



Government Initiatives toward forest conservation

- The 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' campaign has been instrumental in encouraging citizens to plant trees and enhance environmental
 consciousness.
- National Mission for a Green India (GIM): A mission under the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) that aims to increase
 forest cover and improve existing forest quality to combat climate change.
- Compensatory Afforestation Fund Act (2016): An act that ensures funds for afforestation and related activities by requiring users of forest land for non-forest purposes to pay compensatory levies.
- Eco-Sensitive Zones (ESZs): Areas designated around Protected Areas (National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries) to act as a buffer and
 minimize the negative impact of certain human activities on fragile ecosystems.
- Joint Forest Management (JFM): A program that fosters partnerships between state forest departments and local communities to protect, and regenerate forest resources.

Word of the day

Sycophant:

a person who tries to please someone to gain a personal advantage

Synonyms: adulator, fawner

Usage: He is a sycophant who always praises the boss.

Pronunciation: newsth.live/sycophantpro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /sɪkəfənt/

