

Daily Current Affairs





4
The Hindu



3
**PIB, PRS & Other
newspaper**



3
**The Indian
Express**



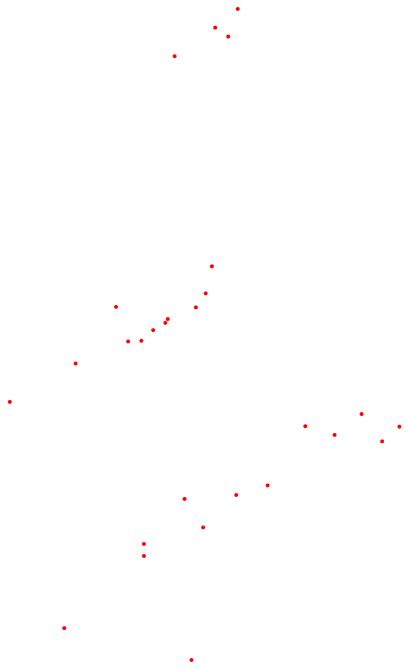
0
Jansatta



1
**Financial
Express**



Download class24



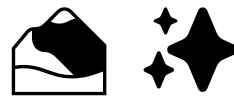
PDF



10 MCQ QUIZ



- “One honest hour today can move the mountain tomorrow.”





The sources said the commission heard the points raised by the CEO of all States at the conference and while it responded to general queries, and held a presentation on the SIR, no concrete decision was announced at the meeting. It was stated that a decision would be communicated to all CEOs after the meeting of the Election Commission members.

A two-day conference was presided over by Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar.

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

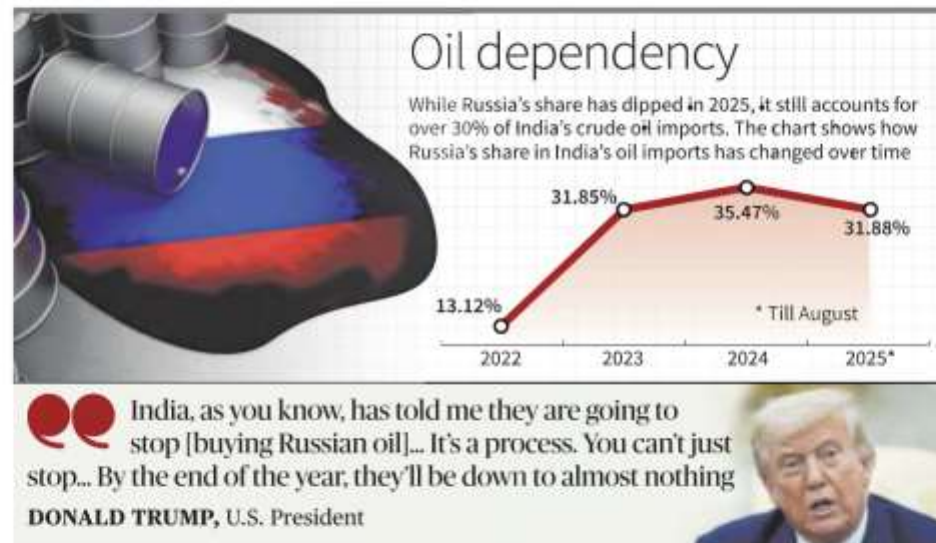
Reuters

WASHINGTON/NEW DELHI

U.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% year-on-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 have been absolutely great," the U.S. President told the reporters at the White House on 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%
------	--------

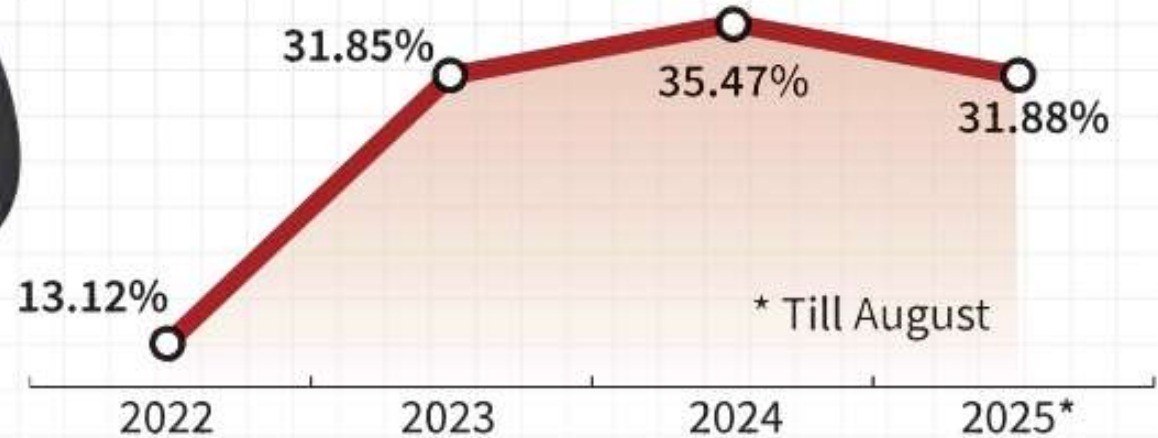
2023	31.85%
------	--------

2024	35.47%
------	--------

2025	31.88% <i>(till Aug 2025)</i>
------	-------------------------------

Oil dependency

While Russia's share has dipped in 2025, it still accounts for over 30% of India's crude oil imports. The chart shows how Russia's share in India's oil imports has changed over time



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





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

Page 50 of 101

More than 100 persons, most of them children, aged between 8 and 12, were hospitalised in Bhopal and Vidisha district in Madhya Pradesh due to injuries sustained after using calcium carbide gas during Deepavali, officials said on Thursday. While 60 are admitted in government hospitals in Bhopal, 50 are in government facilities in Vidisha, including five with eye injuries, they said. "These crude guns, made using a gas lighter, a plastic pipe, and calcium carbide, are in vogue this Deepavali. The calcium carbide in the gun produces acetylene gas when it comes in contact with moisture and ignites on contact with spark," an official said.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Thursday appointed Manish Sharma as the All India Congress Committee (AICC) in-charge of the Indian Youth Congress (IYC), replacing incumbent Kishore Alavarti. Mr. Alavarti, who has been in-charge of the IYC for the past seven years, is also the AICC in-charge for Bihar. A statement from party general secretary

(organisation) K.C. Venugopal thanked Mr. Allavuru for his contributions and said that he has been relieved of his IYC duties immediately. He continues to be the party's Billur in-charge.

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



A digital monitoring system on the ONDLS portal has to be set up for monitoring the supply chain of the high-risk solvents. ©ETTY IMAGES

The Drugs Controller General (India) has directed digital monitoring on the Online National Drugs Licensing System (ONDLIS) for tracking the supply chain of biotech products.

The order, issued earlier this week, comes following serious safety concerns after the death of over 20 children under the age of five years allegedly due to contamination of cough syrups with diethylene glycol (DEG) recently in Madhya Pradesh. DEG is a toxic colourless and odourless liquid with a sweet taste, often used as an industrial solvent.

CINTRA is a single-window digital platform in India for processing drug and cosmetic-related applications for manufacturing

and sales licences, and various certificates.

Dr. Raghunivanshi said that the DCGI head Rajeev Singh Raghunivanshi noted, "It has been decided that a Digital Monitoring System on the ONDLS portal and needs to be established for monitoring the supply chain as well as the quality of the high-risk solvents, including Propylene Chloride."

Dr. Raghunivanshi said

Dr. Raghuvanshi said

India, Bhutan review security cooperation, border management

Keywords: child sexual abuse; disclosure; self-blame; social support

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.

The Ministry said the two countries had reviewed bilateral security cooperation and border management issues, including mobile signal spillover, future road maps for

Discussions covered capacity building for Rhtan's police. The delegations expressed satisfaction at the cordial and constructive discussions and reiterated their resolve to work together for a safe, secure and prosperous border, the M

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

The Indian delegation was led by Rajendra Kumar, Secretary, Department of Border Management, Home Ministry, while the Bhutanese side was headed by Sonam Wangyel, Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

India shares a 699-km border with Bhutan, running along the states of Sikkim, West Bengal, Assam and Arunachal Pradesh. "Reaffirming their strong friendship, India and Bhutan committed to deepening cooperation across traditional and emerging areas... Their enduring partnership, rooted in shared geography, culture, and people-to-people ties, continues to serve as a model for regional cooperation," the Ministry said.

Bengal police nab suspect after desecration of idol causes tension in Kakdwip

© 2006 The Authors
Journal compilation © 2006 Blackwell Publishing Ltd

The West Bengal Police have arrested one person in connection with the desecration of an idol at the Suryanagar gram panchayat in South 24 Parganas of the state, the news agency said.

against the desecration and its transport in a prison van.

Superintendent of Police, Sunderbans, Koteswara Rao said on Thursday that Narayan Halder, a villager, was arrested. "We brought him to the police station for questioning. He admitted to desecrating the idol while drunk," Mr.

On Wednesday evening tensions flared in the Kakdwip region over the desecration of the idol of God

© 2004 Blackwell Publishing Ltd *Journal of Internal Medicine* 255: 103–110

Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) Chairman V. Narayanan on Thursday said that about 90% of the development work on the Gaganyaan mission had been completed.

"The Gaganyaan mission is going on very well. A lot of technological development has to take place. Number one, the rocket has to be human-rated, the life support systems, the crew escape system and in course, human-centric products. I can say India that approximately 90% of the development work has been completed," Mr. Narayanan told presspersons in Bengaluru. He added that the crewed mission to launch the Indian astronaut into space is scheduled to take place in 2027 and prior to that, ISRO would undertake three uncrewed missions.

"Three uncrewed missions have to be accomplished, the first uncrewed mission with the humanoid Vyoimitra is expected to take flight by the end of this year. We want to accomplish the crewed mission by 2027," he said.



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

On the NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) satellite launched on July 30, 2025, Mr. Narayanan said that the satellite was healthy and it would be declared operational in another 10-15 days.

lute to observe the earth with a dual-frequency Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) - NASA's L-band and ERO's S-band - both using NASA's 12-metre unfurlable mesh reflector antenna, integrated with ERO's modified ERE satellite bus.

Two cases have been registered so far, one for road blockade and another for vandalism.

ness Kali at Ulla Chandannagar Naikarpan village. Protests erupted immediately after the idol was found broken, with people blocking the National Highway. Shortly after, the police force allegedly placed the idol inside a prison van, leading to a row.

"The police forces were trying to persuade them constantly to lift the blockade because ambulances were stuck. The idol also had to be taken into safe custody for the protection of its sanctity. Then we acted swiftly and placed the idol safely in our police van... We also did not want

the stone throwing to further affect the idol," Mr. Ban said on Thursday.

In total, two cases have been registered – one for road blockade and another for vandalism. No arrests have yet been made in the road blockade case, but the probe is on. We are also examining the presence of CCTV footage from the area," the West Bengal Police said on social media on Thursday.

Shortly after the incident, the BJP's West Bengal unit had taken to social media protesting against the desecration and the shuffling of the idol. The information and technology chief of the BJP, Amit Malviya, accused district police officers of "fleeting the scene with hundreds of policemen, taking away the idol of Man Kali in a prison van."

SUDOKU

			5			1		
	1					7		
6		7			2			9
		1	4					
4								7
5						8	2	
			3			5		1
1		2	9					3
		6			5			

DIFFICULTY RATINGS ★★★★★

Solution for previous puzzle

6	7	2	1	5	4	3	8	9
3	9	8	4	6	2	7	5	1
1	5	4	9	3	7	6	2	8
2	6	3	5	8	9	1	4	7
8	1	9	2	7	6	5	3	4
4	2	7	3	1	8	9	6	5
9	3	6	8	2	5	4	7	1
7	8	5	6	4	1	3	9	2
5	4	1	7	9	3	8	2	6

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

6	7	2	1	5	4	3	8	9
3	9	8	4	6	2	7	5	1
1	5	4	9	3	7	6	2	8
2	6	3	5	8	9	1	4	7
8	1	9	2	7	6	5	3	4
4	2	7	3	1	8	9	6	5
9	3	6	8	2	5	4	7	1
7	8	5	6	4	1	3	9	2
5	4	1	7	9	3	8	2	6

[illegible]

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

The 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 (HMTVs) 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-the-clock electronic intelligence on enemy emitters. The induction of HMTVs 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 peacekeeping, humanitarian 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.

For the Indian Air Force, the AoN was accorded for

the collaborative long-range 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 (HMTVs) 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



TIMES BUSINESS

THE TIMES OF INDIA, JAIPUR | FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2025

The Difference Between Gold And Bitcoin



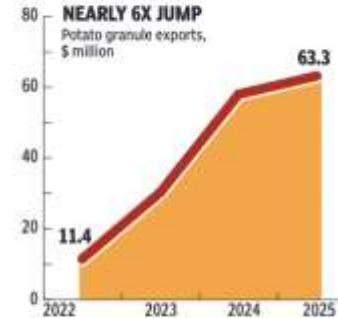
- During this year's two biggest flare-ups over rare earths, in April and earlier this month, gold has held steady or even rallied, while Bitcoin has tumbled.

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

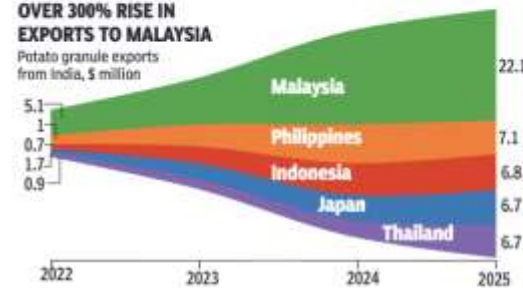
The jump in exports is being driven by strong demand, lower costs, reliable year-round supplies, and proximity to Asean countries, allowing India to step into a supply gap caused by Europe's high energy costs and poor harvests and China's focus on domestic consumption. Potato granules is India's fastest-growing 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, \$ million



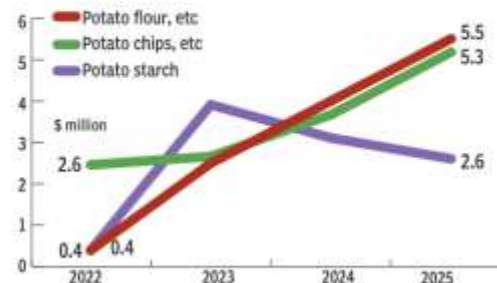
SE Asia Leading Jump In Demand

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** ($\approx$ ₹530 crore).
 - The trend reflects India's **rising agri-processing capacity** and its **integration into global snack & fast-food supply chains**.
-

2 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)
 - ✓ **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%

5 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.

6 Why India Is Winning

Factor	Explanation
🌱 Low-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
🏭 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 twin-tube 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."

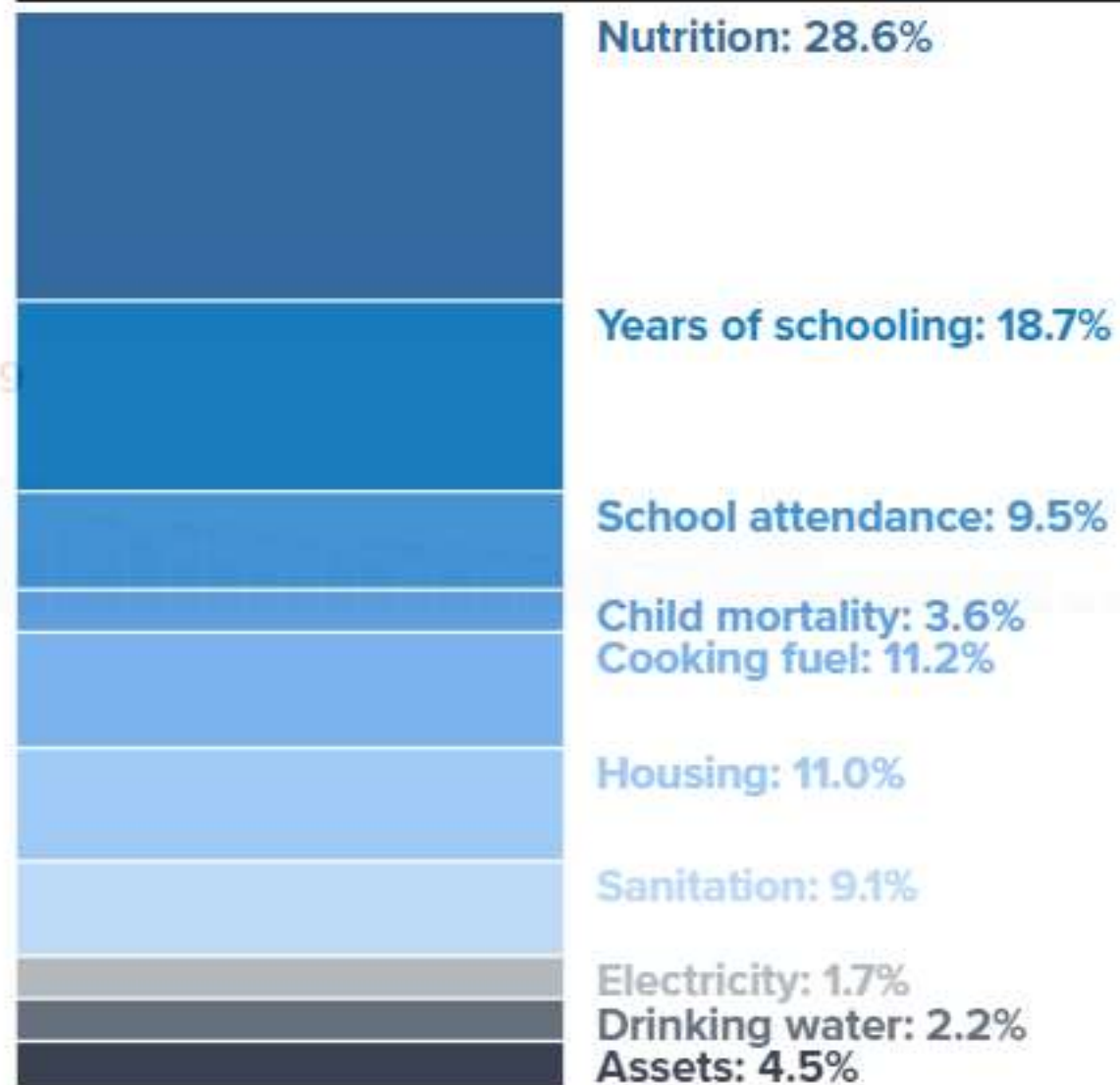
For the first time, it overlays climate hazard data with multidimensional poverty to assess poor people's exposure to climate shocks, focusing on high heat, drought, floods, and air pollution

- 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**.
-

India

MPI value

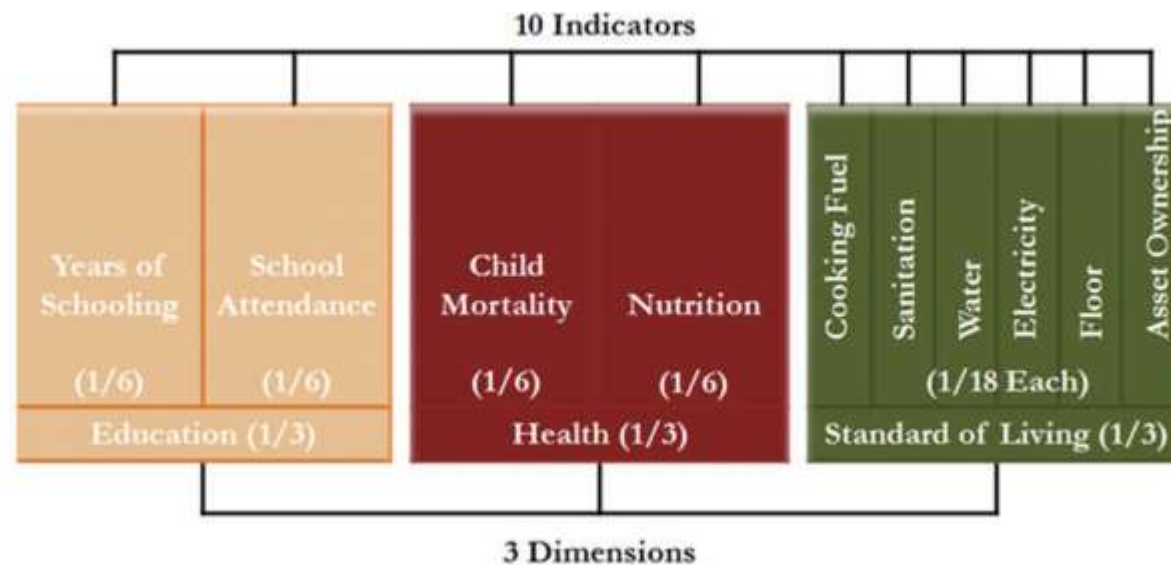
0.069



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**.

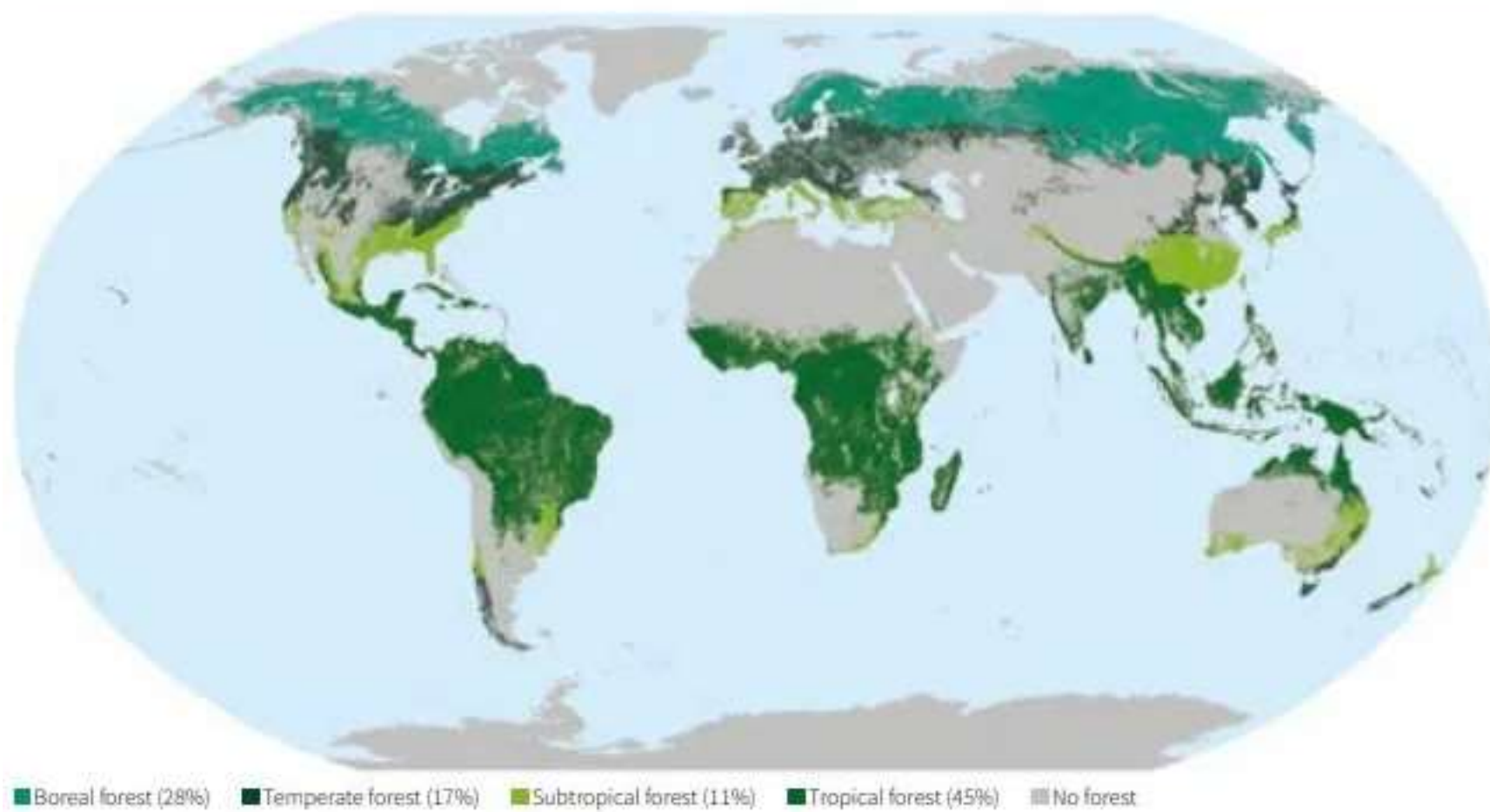
-

- **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.

Global distribution of forests, by climatic domain, 2025



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/



Thank you 😊

