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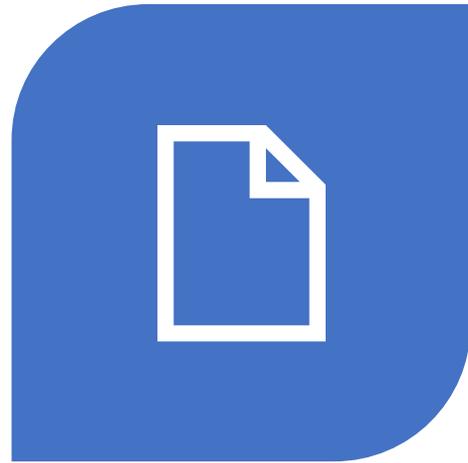


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“The true measure of humanity is not how we treat people in good times, but how we stand beside them in their darkest moments. 🤝 🙏”



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# U.S. sinks Iranian vessel near Sri Lanka

Island nation's Navy responds to distress signal at dawn, rescues 32 sailors and recovers 83 bodies

U.S. submarine used torpedo for 'first time since the WWII' to sink a ship, says Secretary Hegseth

Ship was returning from Visakhapatnam after participating in International Fleet Review 2026

Meera Srinivasan  
COLOMBO

**A** U.S. submarine attacked an Iranian warship on Wednesday, which sank in the Indian Ocean off the coast of Sri Lanka, bringing the West Asian conflict closer to the Indian subcontinent. At least 83 people were killed in the torpedo attack.

U.S. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth confirmed the strike at a press conference in Washington DC. "An American submarine sunk an Iranian warship that thought it was safe in international waters. Instead, it was sunk by a torpedo," Mr. Hegseth said, terming it a "quiet death" and the "first sinking of an enemy ship" by a torpedo since the Second World War. "Like in that war," Mr. Hegseth said, "we are fighting to win".

The Sri Lankan Navy

## U.S. and Israel hammer Iran on fifth day of war

DUBAI

The U.S. and Israel hit Iran's capital and other cities in air strikes on Wednesday, the fifth day of the war with Iran, as the Islamic Republic responded with missile barrages and drone attacks across the region. The Israeli military said air defences were activated to intercept Iranian missiles fired at targets around the country, and explosions were heard around Jerusalem. » PAGE 14

rescued 32 sailors and recovered 83 bodies after a dawn distress call from the Iranian frigate *IRIS Dena*, which sank about 40 nautical miles off Galle on the island's southern coast, Sri Lankan authorities said.

### Distress call

The distress call from the

## Out in the ocean

The Iranian ship that sank off Sri Lanka's coast on Wednesday was returning from the International Fleet Review 2026 held in Visakhapatnam in February

*IRIS Dena*, one of 6 Moudge Class Frigates of Iran, was commissioned in June 2021

*IRIS Dena* had a crew capacity of nearly 180 with around 140 persons believed to be on board

Sri Lanka Navy and Coast Guard receive emergency call at 5.08 a.m.

Sri Lankan Navy rescued 32 sailors and recovered 83 bodies

The U.S. has not sunk enemy ships by torpedo since the Second World War



The warship sank around 40 nautical miles off Galle on Sri Lanka's southern coast

Sunken ship: *IRIS Dena* in the Bay of Bengal on February 18. AFP

frigate came at 5.08 a.m. IST, Sri Lanka's Foreign Minister Vijitha Herath told the nation's Parliament later in the day. Sri Lanka responded swiftly, owing to its obligations under the International Convention on Maritime Search and Rescue, Mr. Herath said.

"By 6 a.m. we dis-

patched a naval vessel and by 7 a.m. the second naval vessel," he told the House. The injured sailors were taken to a state-run hospital in the southern Galle district.

According to Sri Lankan Navy spokesperson Buddhika Sampath, the frigate was not visible when the

rescuers reached the spot. The Navy is yet to probe the cause for the distress call, and is currently "focused on search and rescue operations," he added. "As of now we have recovered 83 bodies," he told *The Hindu* at 9.45 p.m.

Naval sources told *The Hindu* that while the per-

## Indices tumble as markets respond to oil uncertainty

MUMBAI

Indian investors continued selling on Wednesday, triggering the benchmark indices to tumble in the second consecutive session as oil prices surged on closure of Strait of Hormuz. The benchmark Nifty 50 and Sensex 30 closed at 24,480.50 and 79,116.19 points, down 1.5% and 1.4% respectively on Wednesday, responding to the oil shock. » PAGE 12

sonnel capacity of *IRIS Dena* was nearly 180, only around 140 people were believed to have been on board at the time of the incident.

*IRIS Dena* was returning to Iran after participating in the International Fleet Review 2026, a global maritime exercise held in Vi-

sakhapatnam in February. When contacted, Iranian Ambassador to Sri Lanka, Alireza Delkhosh, who was on his way from Colombo to Galle, told *The Hindu*: "We have no information yet on the cause, we are in close contact with Sri Lankan authorities. I am on my way to see the survivors."

### Sri Lanka concerned

Sri Lanka has not commented on the U.S. claim of responsibility for the torpedo attack on the Iranian vessel. Sri Lanka had expressed "deep concern over the rapid escalation of hostilities" in the widening war in West Asia, now in its fifth day, and called on "all concerned parties to exercise maximum restraint and to take immediate and decisive action to de-escalate tensions".

MORE REPORTS ON  
» PAGES 3, 4, 12, 14 & 15

# TURKIYE WARNS IRAN AFTER MISSILE SHOT DOWN

➤ The **death toll in Iran has touched at least 1,045**, an Iranian govt agency said

➤ **Israeli military is planning on at least 'one or two' more weeks of strikes on Iran**, Israeli media said even as Tel Aviv launched a fresh wave of attacks in Lebanon against Hezbollah militia

➤ The **funeral of Ayatollah Ali Khamenei that was due Wednesday has been postponed** 'in anticipation of unprecedented turnout', state TV said

➤ The **Revolutionary Guards said Iranian forces had 'complete control' of the Strait of Hormuz**, a vital route for oil and gas supplies

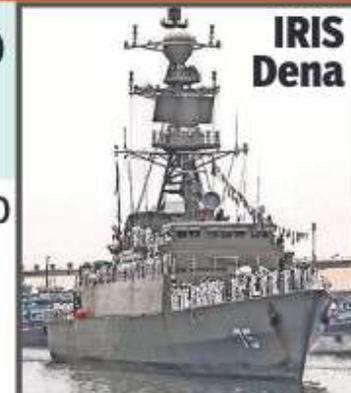
➤ **Turkish foreign minister Hakan Fidan has warned his Iranian counterpart in a phone call that 'any steps that could lead to the**



Smoke rises from the site of an Israeli airstrike that targeted the Al Lailaki neighbourhood in Beirut's suburbs on Wednesday

**spread of conflict should be avoided'** after NATO defence systems **shot down a missile launched from Iran heading toward Türkiye**

➤ **Karnataka govt files cases against those who protested against Khamenei killing; In J&K, CM Omar Abdullah urges peace, Mehbooba Mufti burns effigies of Trump, Netanyahu**



- अमेरिकी पनडुब्बी द्वारा ईरानी युद्धपोत को डुबोना

U.S. submarine sank an Iranian warship near the **southern coast of Sri Lanka (Galle)** in the **Indian Ocean**.

अमेरिकी पनडुब्बी ने श्रीलंका के दक्षिणी तट (गॉल) के पास हिंद महासागर में ईरानी युद्धपोत को टॉरपीडो से डुबो दिया।

- घटना का संदर्भ – पश्चिम एशिया युद्ध का विस्तार

This incident occurred on the **5th day of the Iran–Israel–US conflict**, indicating the widening of the West Asian conflict into the **Indian Ocean region**.

यह घटना ईरान-इज़राइल-अमेरिका संघर्ष के पाँचवें दिन हुई, जिससे पश्चिम एशिया का संघर्ष हिंद महासागर क्षेत्र तक फैलता दिखा।

- हताहत और बचाव कार्य

Sri Lankan Navy rescued **32 sailors** and recovered **83 bodies** after receiving a distress signal at dawn.

श्रीलंकाई नौसेना ने सुबह मिले संकट संकेत के बाद **32 नाविकों को बचाया और 83 शव बरामद किए।**

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## 2. जहाज़ और घटना का विवरण (Details of the Ship & Incident)

- जहाज़ का नाम – IRIS Dena

IRIS Dena was one of the **Moudge-class frigates of Iran**, commissioned in **June 2021**.

IRIS Dena ईरान का **Moudge-class फ्रिगेट युद्धपोत** था, जिसे **जून 2021 में सेवा में शामिल किया गया था।**

- कर्मियों की संख्या

The vessel had a **capacity of around 180 personnel**, but about **140 crew members were believed to be on board** during the incident.

जहाज़ की क्षमता लगभग **180 कर्मियों की थी**, जबकि घटना के समय लगभग **140 लोग सवार थे।**

- घटना का स्थान

The ship sank about **40 nautical miles off the southern coast of Sri Lanka near Galle**.

जहाज़ गॉल के पास श्रीलंका के दक्षिणी तट से लगभग **40 समुद्री मील दूर डूबा।**

The ship was returning to Iran after participating in the **International Fleet Review 2026 in Visakhapatnam (India)**.

यह जहाज़ विशाखापट्टनम (भारत) में आयोजित **International Fleet Review 2026** में भाग लेने के बाद ईरान लौट रहा था।

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### 3. सैन्य महत्व (Military Significance)

- द्वितीय विश्व युद्ध के बाद पहली बार

The U.S. claimed that this was **the first time since World War II that a torpedo was used to sink an enemy warship in combat**.

अमेरिका के अनुसार द्वितीय विश्व युद्ध के बाद पहली बार किसी दुश्मन युद्धपोत को टॉरपीडो से डुबोया गया।

- पनडुब्बी युद्ध (Submarine Warfare)

Submarines are strategic naval assets used for **stealth attacks, nuclear deterrence, and sea-lane control**.

पनडुब्बियां गुप्त हमले, परमाणु प्रतिरोध और समुद्री मार्ग नियंत्रण के लिए महत्वपूर्ण नौसैनिक हथियार हैं।

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### 4. श्रीलंका की भूमिका (Role of Sri Lanka)

- समुद्री खोज एवं बचाव दायित्व

Sri Lanka responded under the **International Convention on Maritime Search and Rescue (1979)**.

श्रीलंका ने अंतरराष्ट्रीय समुद्री खोज एवं बचाव सम्मेलन 1979 के तहत कार्रवाई की।

- राजनयिक स्थिति

Sri Lanka expressed **concern over escalation of the West Asian conflict** but did not confirm U.S. responsibility officially.

श्रीलंका ने पश्चिम एशिया संघर्ष के विस्तार पर चिंता जताई, पर अमेरिका की जिम्मेदारी की आधिकारिक पुष्टि नहीं की।

## 5. आर्थिक प्रभाव (Economic Impact)

- तेल कीमतों में उछाल

Oil prices surged due to fears of escalation near the **Strait of Hormuz**, a key global oil chokepoint.

हॉर्मुज़ जलडमरूमध्य के पास तनाव के कारण तेल कीमतों में उछाल आया।

- भारतीय शेयर बाजार पर प्रभाव

Nifty 50 and Sensex declined due to uncertainty in energy markets.

ऊर्जा बाजार की अनिश्चितता के कारण निफ्टी और सेंसेक्स में गिरावट आई।

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## 6. भौगोलिक और सामरिक महत्व (Geopolitical & Geographic Importance)

- हिंद महासागर का महत्व

Indian Ocean carries nearly **80% of global oil trade by sea**.

हिंद महासागर से विश्व के लगभग 80% समुद्री तेल व्यापार का परिवहन होता है।

- श्रीलंका का सामरिक स्थान

Sri Lanka lies close to major **East-West shipping routes** connecting Asia, Middle East, and Europe.

श्रीलंका एशिया-मध्य पूर्व-यूरोप को जोड़ने वाले प्रमुख समुद्री व्यापार मार्गों के पास स्थित है।

- गॉल बंदरगाह

Galle is located on the **southern tip of Sri Lanka**, historically used as a trading port since the **Portuguese and Dutch colonial period**.

गॉल श्रीलंका के दक्षिणी छोर पर स्थित है और पुर्तगाली-डच काल से ऐतिहासिक व्यापारिक बंदरगाह रहा है।

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India supports a peace process led, owned by Myanmar

Press Trust of India NEW DELHI

India supports a "Myanmar-led and Myanmar-owned" peace process to deliver lasting peace and development for all in the Southeast Asian country...

A military-backed party had won the Myanmar general election in January. Mr. Jaitshankar was speaking virtually at the inauguration of the Sarabothkeram Literary Centre...

He highlighted the importance India attaches to its ties with Myanmar, saying the country has at the confluence of new Delhi's three key foreign policy priorities...

Myanmar is one of India's strategic neighbours and shares a 1,400-km border with a number of northeastern states...

Infiltration bid foiled along LoC in J&K's Rajouri: Army

Press Trust of India RAJOURI/JAMMU

Army troops on Wednesday foiled an infiltration attempt along the Line of Control (LoC) in Rajouri district...

The suspected persons were observed trying to sneak into the area from the Turkandi forward area around 4.5 a.m., prompting the Army to open fire...

They said it was not immediately clear whether any suspect was hit in the firing. A massive search operation has been launched...

In a statement, Mr. Narang is pleased to see this important object returned to India, and we are grateful to the Indian authorities...

Over troops have been repositioned to ensure relentless dominance of the area, supported by integrated ground and aerial surveillance...

Tight security Meanwhile, strict restrictions remained imposed in many areas of Kashmir for the third consecutive day on Wednesday following massive protests across the Valley...

As a precautionary measure, the government has ordered educational institutions till Saturday, while mobile internet speed continues to remain throttled...

The iconic Ghanta Ghar in the city centre of Lal Chowk in Srinagar continued to remain a no-go zone after the authorities sealed areas with barricades erected all around it late Sunday night...

The move to seal the Ghanta Ghar came after it witnessed massive protests on Sunday after Khanam's assassination in the joint air strikes by the U.S. and Israel.

180 flights cancelled amid West Asia crisis; airlines plan special services

Air India Express announced that its services to Muscat will remain operational; Air India says it will deploy additional aircraft to Toronto, Frankfurt and Paris to cater to the high demand...

Press Trust of India MUMBAI/KOLKATA

Around 180 flights from three metro airports - Mumbai, Delhi and Bengaluru, were cancelled on Wednesday owing to airspace restrictions amid the ongoing conflict in West Asia, sources said...

While 93 flights - including 48 departures and 45 arrivals - were cancelled at the Mumbai airport, the Delhi airport saw 52 cancellations - 26 departures and 26 arrivals - on Wednesday...

Valour airlines operating at Bengaluru airport did not operate 34 flights, including 18 arrivals, sources said.

Sources said Mumbai Airport handled eight repatriation flights operated by both domestic and international airlines on Wednesday. While SpiceJet operated two repatriation flights to Mumbai from Paris...

Air India operated a flight to Delhi from Dubai. Gulf carrier Etihad operated three such flights from the city to Mumbai via Gulf Air and Royal Jordanian op-



Safe and sound: Passengers reunite with family members after arriving on a flight via Dubai at Delhi Airport on Wednesday.

erated one each to the financial capital from Amman (Jordan) and Dammam (Saudi Arabia).

The Civil Aviation Ministry on Tuesday had said that 1,328 flights by Indian carriers and 386 flights by foreign carriers had been cancelled till March 31 due to the ongoing situation in West Asia.

Wednesday said it cancelled over 800 flights to West Asia and select international destina-

tions from February 28 to March 3. SpiceJet said it had cancelled 29 flights.

Meanwhile, Air India on Wednesday announced the deployment of additional flights to Toronto, Frankfurt and Paris (Charles de Gaulle) to cater to the high demand amid the crisis.

Air India Express announced that all its services to Muscat will remain operational, besides

mounting additional flights between Muscat and Delhi and Mumbai.

The airline will operate three additional flights between Delhi and Toronto from March 5 on the Mumbai-Delhi-Delhi route with a B777 aircraft with larger capacity.

"We are also operating additional flights from Delhi and Paris (Charles de Gaulle) from March 7-10, Air India said.

The airline also said it plans to commence its scheduled operations to and from Jeddah to Delhi and Mumbai from March 5. It plans to operate an additional service early on March 5 on the Mumbai-Delhi-Delhi route with a B777 aircraft with larger capacity.

MEA establishes control room to assist Indians

Press Trust of India NEW DELHI

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has set up a control room to assist those affected by the escalating crisis in West Asia. A Control Room has been set up in the Ministry of External Affairs in view of the current situation, the MEA said on Wednesday.

The Control Room has been set up in the Ministry of External Affairs in view of the current situation, the MEA said on Wednesday. The Control Room can be contacted from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. at 1800118797 (toll free) +91 11 2301 2113, +91 11 23014158, +91 11 2301 7905, it added.

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U.K. museum returns 16th century bronze statue to Indian government

Press Trust of India CHENNAI

The Ashmolean Museum in Oxford, England, has returned a 16th-century bronze statue of Saint Theobald to the Government of India, following a detailed provenance research and liaison with Indian authorities.

The handover was marked at a ceremony at the High Commission of India in London on Tuesday.

The statue was handed over to the High Commission of India in London, special administrator

and scholars who have helped establish its provenance. The Museum and the University of Oxford are committed to ethical collection practices and

continued research into our collections, their origins and their history.

A High Commission spokesperson thanked the museum for its decision to return the bronze icon to its original place of worship - the Sankararaja Perumal temple in Thanjavur district in Tamil Nadu.

The spokesperson described the move as "not merely the restoration of an object of art, but the reunification of an icon of faith with its intended shrine, a restoration, and enabling cultural continuity".

Acquired in 1967 The Ashmolean acquired the statue in 1967. According to the Sothby's catalogue, the bronze was sold by private collector J.H. Belmont (1866-1961), though no information is

available on how it entered his collection in November 2019, an independent French scholar alerted the museum to research links to the bronze in a 1967 photograph taken at the Sri Sankararaja Perumal temple in Thanjavur.

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Palestinian envoy criticises 'jungle law' in Iran-U.S. war

Press Trust of India NEW DELHI

Palestinian Ambassador to India Abdullah M. Abu Shaweh criticised the growing reliance on military might in international disputes, calling it "jungle law" that benefits only those possessing a superior weaponry.

He said that the release of hostages without a widespread destruction but still opted for protracted military action.

The Iran-U.S. war will affect not only Palestinians but everyone worldwide in the long run. This is the Palestinian issue, of course, all eyes right now are following what is happening between Iran, the U.S. and Israel. Everyone is turning their back, or semi-turning their back, to the

"When anyone talks about the time for negotiation being over, it means they will rely on muscle and weapons. This is utterly against international law," he said.

The ambassador pointed out that Israel had op-

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Days after publication of draft electoral rolls, protests on SIR continue to rock West Bengal

Press Trust of India KOLKATA

Protests over the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) have continued in West Bengal days after the draft electoral rolls were published. On Wednesday, the draft electoral rolls published in South 24 Parganas district

A large number of police and paramilitary CRPF personnel were deployed across the city to prevent gatherings of protesters, the officials said.

The iconic Ghanta Ghar in the city centre of Lal Chowk in Srinagar continued to remain a no-go zone after the authorities sealed areas with barricades erected all around it late Sunday night.

The move to seal the Ghanta Ghar came after it witnessed massive protests on Sunday after Khanam's assassination in the joint air strikes by the U.S. and Israel.

speaking at a public gathering in the city on Tuesday, she said that about 1.2 crore people of West Bengal were on the verge of losing their voting rights.

Accusing the Election Commission of trying to manipulate the upcoming polls, she said that people would give a biting response to it.



Manama Banerjee

speaking at a public gathering in the city on Tuesday, she said that about 1.2 crore people of West Bengal were on the verge of losing their voting rights.

Accusing the Election Commission of trying to manipulate the upcoming polls, she said that people would give a biting response to it.

On Wednesday, Communist Party of India Marxist (CPI(M)) leaders led a protest outside the office of the State's Chief Electoral Officer.

The protest was led by CPI(M) state secretary Md. Salim, who said that the State's executive has failed to meet all recognised political demands being articulated. The upcoming State Assembly election.

All members of the Election Commission of India led by Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Chandra are likely to arrive in poll-bound West Bengal on March 10 to take stock of the situation on the ground before announcing the dates of the Assembly election.

The Commission members will hold meetings with State election officials and law enforcement officials, such as sessions officers and district magistrates, and will also meet with the State's Chief Electoral Officer.

They will focus on logistical arrangements, security deployment and administrative preparedness for the polls.

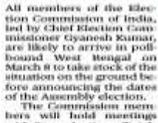
Police officials will identify vulnerable and high-risk constituencies and deploy additional forces to ensure a smooth and transparent election process in the State.

According to sources, the EC is also looking at installing CCTV cameras out-

side polling booths, along with the cameras already present inside the booths, to facilitate immediate action and swift response to situations.

The Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) of West Bengal, along with other State poll officials and law enforcement officials, have already held virtual meetings with officials of the poll body in Delhi, on Monday and Tuesday.

According to sources, the EC is also looking at installing CCTV cameras out-



CRPF personnel interact with a child during a meet on Tuesday as part of enhanced security arrangements in Kolkata on March 6.

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side polling booths, along with the cameras already present inside the booths, to facilitate immediate action and swift response to situations.

Don't fall for Opposition's claims on fuel shortage: BJP

Press Trust of India NEW DELHI

The BJP on Wednesday alleged that some sections in the Opposition are running a "disinformation campaign" to create panic through claims of fuel shortages and price spikes amid a "war like situation" in West Asia, and asked people not to be swayed by it.

The ruling party asserted that the government has ensured that people are protected from supply shocks and runaway fuel inflation, despite "global instability".

"...There is no need to be swayed," BJP IT Department head Anil Malviya said in a post on X.

He said India has built a "resilient, diversified and forward-looking" energy security framework over the past decade. With India importing nearly 95% of its crude oil, energy security is central to macro-economic stability, the BJP leader said.

Recognising risks from wars, sanctions, supply disruptions and price shocks, the government has developed a strategy based on the energy

# U.K. museum returns 16<sup>th</sup> century bronze statue to Indian government

**R. Sivaraman**

CHENNAI

The Ashmolean Museum in Oxford, England, has returned a 16<sup>th</sup> century bronze statue of Saint Thirumangai Alvar to the Government of India, following a detailed provenance research and liaison with Indian authorities.

The handover was marked at a ceremony at the High Commission of India in London on Tuesday. Ashmolean director Xa Sturgis and professor Malli-ca Kumbera Landrus, head of the museum's Department of Eastern Art, were present.

In a statement, Mr. Sturgis said: "The Ashmolean is pleased to see this important object returned to India, and we are grateful to the Indian authorities



The statue was handed over to the High Commission of India in London. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

and scholars who have helped establish its provenance. The Museum and the University of Oxford are committed to ethical collection practices and

continued research into our collections, their origins and their history."

A High Commission spokesperson thanked the museum for its decision to return the bronze icon to its original place of worship - the Sundararaja Perumal temple in Thanjavur district in Tamil Nadu. The spokesperson described the move as "not merely the restoration of an object of art, but the reunification of an icon of faith with its intended shrine, restoring memory, and enabling cultural continuity".

## **Acquired in 1967**

The Ashmolean acquired the statue in 1967. According to the Sotheby's catalogue, the bronze was sold by private collector J.R. Belmont (1886-1981), though no information is

available on how it entered his collection. In November 2019, an independent French scholar alerted the museum to research linking the bronze to a 1957 photograph taken at the Shri Sundararaja Perumal Temple. The image was in the archives of the Institut Français de Pondichéry and the École française d'Extrême-Orient. The scholar identified the bronze as one of several objects in collections in Europe and the United States recorded in the archives.

On February 11, 2020, a temple executive officer filed a police report noting that a modern replica had replaced the original bronze. The Indian High Commissioner then made a formal claim for the return of the bronze statue on March 3, 2020.

The Ashmolean Museum, Oxford (U.K.) returned a 16th-century bronze statue of Saint Thirumangai Alvar to the Government of India.

ऑक्सफोर्ड (ब्रिटेन) के Ashmolean Museum ने 16वीं शताब्दी की संत तिरुमंगई आलवार की कांस्य प्रतिमा भारत सरकार को वापस की।

- सांस्कृतिक विरासत की वापसी

The statue will be restored to its original place of worship – Sundararaja Perumal Temple in Thanjavur district, Tamil Nadu.

यह प्रतिमा अपने मूल पूजा स्थल – तमिलनाडु के तंजावुर जिले के सुंदरराजा पेरुमल मंदिर में स्थापित की जाएगी।

- हस्तांतरण समारोह

The handover ceremony took place at the High Commission of India in London.

प्रतिमा का हस्तांतरण लंदन स्थित भारतीय उच्चायोग में आयोजित समारोह में हुआ।

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## 2. प्रतिमा और ऐतिहासिक महत्व (Statue & Historical Importance)

- प्रतिमा – संत तिरुमंगई आलवार

Thirumangai Alvar was one of the 12 Alvars (Vaishnavite poet-saints) of South India devoted to Lord Vishnu.

तिरुमंगई आलवार दक्षिण भारत के 12 आलवार वैष्णव संतों में से एक थे, जो भगवान विष्णु के भक्त थे।

- भक्ति आंदोलन से संबंध

The Alvars played a key role in the Bhakti Movement in South India between 6th–9th centuries.

आलवार संतों ने 6वीं–9वीं शताब्दी के दक्षिण भारतीय भक्ति आंदोलन में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाई।

- धार्मिक साहित्य

Their devotional hymns are compiled in the Divya Prabandham, an important Tamil Vaishnavite text.

### 3. प्रतिमा की खोज और पहचान (Discovery & Identification)

- शोध से पहचान

In 2019, a French scholar linked the bronze statue to a 1957 photograph taken at Sundararaja Perumal Temple.

2019 में एक फ्रांसीसी विद्वान ने इस प्रतिमा को 1957 में मंदिर में ली गई तस्वीर से जोड़ा।

- अभिलेखीय साक्ष्य

The image was found in the archives of:

- Institut Français de Pondichéry
- École française d'Extrême-Orient

यह तस्वीर इन संस्थानों के अभिलेखों में मिली:

- इंस्टीट्यूट फ्रांसे दे पांडिचेरी
- एकोल फ्रांसे द'एक्स्ट्रेम ओरिएंट

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### 4. प्रतिमा का संग्रहालय तक पहुँचना (How It Reached the Museum)

- संग्रहालय द्वारा अधिग्रहण

The Ashmolean Museum acquired the statue in 1967.

Ashmolean संग्रहालय ने यह प्रतिमा 1967 में प्राप्त की।

- नीलामी और निजी संग्रह

According to Sotheby's catalogue, it was sold by private collector J.R. Belmont (1886-1981).

Sotheby's के अनुसार यह प्रतिमा निजी संग्रहकर्ता J.R. Belmont द्वारा बेची गई थी।

## 5. प्रतिमा वापसी की प्रक्रिया (Process of Repatriation)

- 2020 में शिकायत

On 11 February 2020, the temple executive officer filed a police complaint that the **original bronze statue had been replaced by a replica.**

11 फरवरी 2020 को मंदिर अधिकारी ने शिकायत दर्ज कराई कि मूल प्रतिमा को नकली प्रतिमा से बदल दिया गया था।

- भारत की आधिकारिक मांग

India formally requested the return of the statue on **3 March 2020.**

भारत ने 3 मार्च 2020 को प्रतिमा की वापसी के लिए औपचारिक दावा किया।

- संग्रहालय का निर्णय

After provenance research, the museum decided to **return the artifact to India** as part of ethical collection practices.

संग्रहालय ने जांच के बाद नैतिक संग्रह नीति के तहत प्रतिमा लौटाने का निर्णय लिया।

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## 6. सांस्कृतिक और राजनीतिक महत्व (Cultural & Political Significance)

- सांस्कृतिक विरासत की पुनर्प्राप्ति

The return of artifacts strengthens **India's campaign to reclaim stolen heritage objects worldwide.**

इससे भारत के सांस्कृतिक धरोहरों की वापसी अभियान को मजबूती मिलती है।

- कूटनीतिक सहयोग

It highlights **growing cooperation between India and Western museums** on cultural restitution.

यह भारत और पश्चिमी संग्रहालयों के बीच सांस्कृतिक सहयोग को दर्शाता है।

Year	Artifact Returned	Country
2021	Dancing Shiva idol	USA
2022	Chola bronze idols	Australia
2023	Ancient sculptures	USA
2024	Several temple idols	UK & USA

- Consider the following statements:
- Thirumangai Alvar was one of the twelve Alvar saints associated with Vaishnavism.
- The returned bronze statue originally belonged to Sundararaja Perumal Temple in Tamil Nadu.
- The Ashmolean Museum acquired the statue in 1967.
- The statue represents a Buddhist monk from Sri Lanka.
- Which of the statements given above are correct?
  - A. 1 and 2 only
  - B. 1, 2 and 3 only
  - C. 2, 3 and 4 only
  - D. All four

IN BRIEF



Finland's President Stubbs kicks off 4-day visit to India

President Alexander Stubb of Finland began a four-day visit to India on Wednesday to shore up bilateral cooperation across a wide spectrum of areas, including trade, investment and critical technology. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, welcoming Mr. Stubb, said his visit will take India-Finland relations to "new heights". Mr. Stubb will hold talks with Mr. Modi on Thursday, following which the two sides are expected to firm up a number of agreements to boost cooperation. The Finnish president will be the chief guest at the inaugural session of the Kalam Dialogue on Thursday evening. ■

Row erupts after non-tribals barred from Meghalaya polls

A notification barring non-tribal people from contesting the April 10 elections to the Garo, Jaintia Autonomous District Council (GJADC) has sparked controversy in Meghalaya. Grass-roots organisations have demanded the notification, which makes it mandatory for all candidates to possess a Scheduled Tribe, or ST, certificate. Non-tribal leaders have slammed the notification as an unconstitutional move. Former legislator S.S. Ramnarayan questioned the legality of the notification, arguing that the GJADC lacks constitutional status. He also pointed out a condition, Emanuel Haque, an aspiring candidate for the Balakrishna constituency, pointed out that the notification was based on the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution. ■

Solve confusion in delivering items addressed to the dead, Madras High Court tells India Post

Mohamed Ibrahimullah, CHENNAI

The Madras High Court has directed the Union Ministry of Communications and the Director-General of Postal Services (DGPS) to solve the confusion over delivery of items addressed to deceased persons due to an interplay between two provisions of the Post Office Regulations.

First Division Bench of Chief Justice Madhava Mohan Srinivasan and Justice C. Arul Murugan have requested Additional Solicitor-General A.L. Sundaram to send a copy of their order to the DGPS for compliance and further action may be necessary to solve the confusion.

Till then, the postal department must hand over all items addressed to dead persons to their legal heirs, if the latter were found at

the given residence, the Division Bench ordered while disposing of a writ petition to strike down Regulation 51 of the Post Office Regulations, 2024.

Return to sender: Mohan Ramaswami of Chennai Newslanka in Chennai had filed the writ due to an interplay between two provisions of the Post Office Regulations.

Her counsel K. Subramanian brought it to the notice of the court that the DGPS had framed the Post Office Regulations, 2024 in exercise of the powers conferred on the officer under section 13 of the Post Office Act, 2023. The regulations came into force on December 10, 2024.



Over their clarification, some of deceased persons should be handed over to the legal heirs.

Regulation 51 states that items addressed to deceased persons must be treated as if they were unclaimed and disposed of as per Regulation 45(2).

Further, Regulation 46(2) states that unclaimed items must be sent back to the sender or the author. The person concerned may counsel pointed out.

However, the judges wrote "the provision (Regulation 51), in terms, does not appear to be suffering from any arbitrariness, much less manifest arbitrariness, warranting interference of the court". They said a confusion appears to have arisen because of interplay between Regulation 51 and 46(2).

The Division Bench pointed out clearly states that "an undelivered item of which the addressee is dead and there is no person to whom the item could properly be delivered, shall not be retained in the post office to which it is addressed and shall be returned to the sender".

Legal interpretation Laying stress on the words "if there is no person to whom the item could properly be delivered", found in Regulation 46(2), the judges said, a fair and logical interpretation of the regulation should only mean that the item should be returned to the sender only if they could not be handed over to legal representatives.

"The Chief Justice added, "The Regulation does not expressly provide as to the category of persons to whom the item can properly be delivered. There appears to be a gap and this is causing inconvenience to persons like the writ petitioners".

The Bench directed the Ministry and the DGPS to either amend the 2024 Regulations to define the category of persons to whom the items could be delivered or fill in the gap by clarifying the position properly. Till then, all postal items must be handed over to legal heirs found at the residence of the deceased, the court ordered.

Over their clarification, some of deceased persons should be handed over to the legal heirs.

Solve this puzzle online and access more puzzles at https://thehindu.com/crosswords

CROSSWORD 14733



- 1. One seen at racetrack painting popular horse during ceremony (6,5)
2. What person might do in cold weather to show their satisfaction (2,4,3)
3. Inevitable sign of English riprap enthrall by joint and cocaine on vacation (9)
4. Obstructive problem in part of small animals, nearly solved in postpartum (5)
5. Crowd heavily entertained by genius playing type of risk (7)
6. Crack cocaine, extremely repulsive had habit (7)
7. Dominates in store, mostly a little topical (8)
8. Disease once having long after (8)
9. Australian pet caught that night were (6)
10. Being mislead, seems back finally (6)
11. Misleads essentially in uncertainty, staying only too close of a suit (6)
12. Incomprehension of mass as the tip, extremely clumsy (14)
13. A peach vegetable, mostly of goat diet (4)
14. Come to Cairo, obviously inferior and very (8)
15. Overweight guide, terribly exhausted (8)
16. Trump is beginning to argue at once, making him about internal matter (2,3,3,4)
17. Singles evening, having party in retreat? Goodness! (9)
18. Renaming reason of stout and weak by god (10)
19. Old boy in screen, tending more insolent (6)
20. Crew in disappointment shrugging NCR notes (6)
21. They question folk grumbling wife and queen (10)
22. Decided to acquire manufacturer's latest unnamed serial vehicle (6)

SUDOKU

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

Difficulty ratings: 1-7
Sudoku to practice your skills
Sudoku to practice your skills

Among women aged 15 to 49, 13.4% have high BMI and 4.2% have Type 2 diabetes. Children aged six to 10 consumed sugary drinks, averaging up to 80 calories a day. The study also found that over one in five (20.7%) children worldwide are living with obesity and are overweight. This was an increase from 18% in 2016. The researchers predict that by 2040, a total of 827 million children will be living with obesity or be overweight.

The Hindu Bureau

India ranks second globally in childhood obesity: study

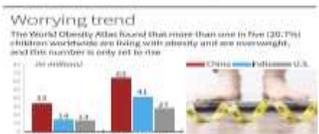


Table with 2 columns: Category, China, India. Rows: Children with obesity, Children with overweight.

Call for action There is an emphasis on governments to act immediately. Johanna Robinson, chair-elect of the World Obesity Federation, said, "This increase in childhood obesity worldwide shows we have failed to take sufficient action that affects one in five children. Governments urgently need to step up provisions and management options for children living with overweight and obesity, and ensure that they receive the care they need."

high BMI is projected to rise substantially by 2040. The report also highlighted several preventable risk factors across different age groups in the country. It noted that 74% of children aged 11 to 17 failed to meet recommended physical activity levels, while only 35.3% of school-age children (primary and secondary) received adequate meals. Nearly 32.6% of infants aged one to five months experience sub-optimal breastfeeding.

Omar's meeting with civil society focuses on peace in Kashmir

The Hindu Bureau

J&K Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Wednesday chaired a meeting of legislators, religious leaders, and civil society groups to coordinate efforts in maintaining peace in Kashmir.

Mr. Abdullah had interacted with religious leaders and members of civil society in Srinagar in light of recent developments in West Asia, an official spokesperson said. "The participants laid the necessary emphasis on the importance of maintaining peace and harmony in J&K while respecting the sentiments of the people and ensuring that expressions

Study flags poor website-blocking practices in India

Acron India

A largely unprecedented probe into the website blocking practices of multiple Indian Internet service providers (ISPs) has revealed inconsistencies in the way they block content across the country, and uncovered potentially clumsy practices that have led to large swaths of the web being blocked.

"A total of 43,000 unique open domains were confirmed blocked via DNS filtering — a sixfold increase over the previous largest study which documented 6,787 blocked domains," researcher Karan Saini wrote in the report, "Poisoned wells: examining the scale of DNS censorship in India", released on Monday. Over 23 crore domain names were tested. The report was supported by the Washington, DC-based Open Technology Fund's Information Control Research Program, hosted at Georgia Institute of Technology.

Of the over 43,000 individual URLs blocked across different networks, very few were universally blocked. For instance, Mr. Saini found that only 40% of websites flagged for malware and infectious-related content were blocked

Study says Internet providers have little control when it comes to web blocking

by all the sampled providers. ACT Filtration, MTNL, Airtel, BSNL, Connect Broadband and YOU Broadband. Other categories have even less blocking implemented by all the sampled providers, such as blocked films and TV sites (4.84%), pornography sites (3.83%) and gambling sites (3.48%).

Blocking strategies "A significant portion of web censorship in India relies on DNS filtering," Mr. Saini writes. Domain Name System (DNS) filtering is subject to straightforward circumvention, while other methods, like server name inspection, have been more effective.

"The legal framework for censorship does not mandate any specific traffic filtering mechanisms," he writes. " ISPs are free to choose and implement traffic filtering mechanisms according to their own technical abilities and operational needs. A direct consequence has been that users perceive and experience website blocking inconsistently."

Former MP and veteran journalist H.K. Dua dead

The Hindu Bureau

H.K. Dua, former editor of three leading national dailies and Rajya Sabha member, passed away on Wednesday after a brief period of illness. He was 86.

The veteran journalist breathed his last at a private hospital where he had been undergoing treatment for the past three weeks. The cremation will take place at the Lahti Road crematorium on Thursday.

Apart from the distinction of serving as the editor of The Hindustan Times (1987-94), and Editor-in-Chief of The Indian Express (1994-96) and The Tribune (2003-05), he also worked as the media adviser to two former Prime Ministers, Atal Bihari Vajpayee and H.D. Deve Gowda.

FAITH Controlling the mind key

Can a person enamoured by a shadow ever hope to catch it, when its very nature is illusory? Worldly pleasures are like shadows — appearing attractive, yet lacking substance. By turning after them, one can never attain lasting peace or true happiness, for they are impermanent and fleeting. Therefore, we must not allow our minds to be driven by unchecked influences from the physical senses; instead, we must anchor them in restraint, clarity, and discernment. Lord Krishna says in the Bhagavad Gita that when the mind follows the wandering senses and indulges in their objects, a person's understanding is swept away — just as a ship on the ocean is carried off by its course by a strong wind.

In a discourse, Thanneerpalli Sri Krishnan Swami emphasized that one should not allow the mind to run after worldly objects, but instead turn it inward towards self-realisation. Echoing his teaching, Krishna declares in the Gita that we should engage in actions that constantly remind us of Him. Such actions are not arbitrary; they are those enjoyed by the Sages and Sages. By performing purified duties with remembrance of the Lord, the mind is purified, disciplined, and gradually led away from illusion toward true knowledge of the Self. If we engage in actions that are ultra-vires the Sages and Sages, we pay to God, it is doubtful whether such worship will truly please Him. Prayers cannot compensate for conduct that contradicts scriptural injunctions. True devotion lies along one's actions with what is ordained by the Sages and Sages; only then does prayer become sincere, meaningful, and acceptable to God.

# India ranks second globally in childhood obesity: study

China, India and the U.S. each have over 10 million children with obesity; the World Obesity Atlas' report highlights risk factors such as poor physical activity levels and sub-optimal breastfeeding

**The Hindu Bureau**

CHENNAI

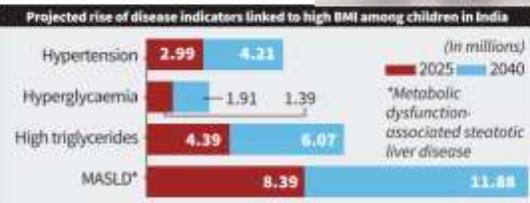
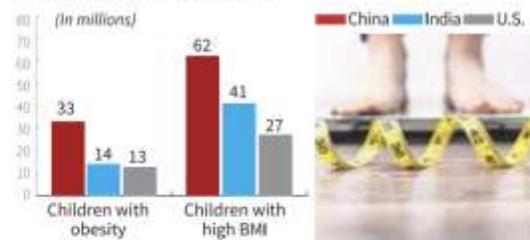
Nearly 15 million children aged five to nine and more than 26 million children aged 10 to 19 in India were overweight or obese in 2025, according to the World Obesity Atlas, 2026 released on World Obesity Day, which falls on March 4.

The World Obesity Federation, a global organisation focused on obesity, warned that the world was set to miss the 2025 global target to halve the rise in childhood obesity. Though the deadline is now being extended to 2030, most countries remain off track, and India is no exception, it said.

Over 200 million school-age children aged five to 19 who are overweight and living with obesity are concentrated in just 10 countries across the world. By the end of 2025, eight countries were projected to have over 10 million children with high Body Mass Index (BMI). China, India and the United States each had over 10 million children living with obesity. India stood second only to China in the num-

## Worrying trend

The World Obesity Atlas found that more than one in five (20.7%) children worldwide are living with obesity and are overweight, and this number is only set to rise



ber of children with high BMI (41 million high BMI; 14 million obesity). China led the two categories with 62 million children with high BMI and 33 million with only obesity. The U.S. had 27 million children with high BMI and 13 million with obesity.

This rise in childhood obesity is expected to have serious health consequences. The Atlas pointed out that in India, the number of children with disease indicators linked to

high BMI is projected to rise substantially by 2040.

The report also highlighted several preventable risk factors across different age groups in the country. It noted that 74% of adolescents aged 11 to 17 failed to meet recommended physical activity levels, while only 35.5% of school-age children (primary and secondary) receive school meals. Nearly 32.6% of infants aged one to five months experience sub-optimal breastfeeding.

Among women aged 15 to 49, 13.4% have high BMI and 4.2% live with Type 2 diabetes. Children aged six to 10 consumed sugary drinks, averaging up to 50 ml per day. The Atlas found that over one in five (20.7%) children worldwide are living with obesity and are overweight. This was an increase from 14.6% in 2010. The Federation predicts that by 2040, a total of 507 million children will be living with obesity or be overweight.

## Call for action

There is an emphasis on governments to act immediately. Johanna Ralston, chief executive of the World Obesity Federation, said, "The increase in childhood obesity worldwide shows we have failed to take seriously a disease that affects one in five children. Governments urgently need to step up prevention and management efforts for children living with overweight and obesity, and ensure that they receive the care they need."

It has called for strong action to reverse current trends, including taxes on sugar-sweetened beverages and restrictions on marketing to children.

- भारत में बचपन के मोटापे की गंभीर स्थिति

According to the **World Obesity Atlas 2026**, India ranks **second globally** in childhood obesity.

**World Obesity Atlas 2026** के अनुसार बचपन के मोटापे में भारत विश्व में दूसरे स्थान पर है।

- चीन पहले स्थान पर

China ranks first while India ranks second and the United States third in the number of obese children.

चीन पहले स्थान पर, भारत दूसरे और अमेरिका तीसरे स्थान पर है।

- रिपोर्ट का प्रकाशन

The report was released on **World Obesity Day (4 March)** by the **World Obesity Federation**.

यह रिपोर्ट **World Obesity Day (4 मार्च)** पर **World Obesity Federation** द्वारा जारी की गई।

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## 2. भारत में स्थिति (India's Situation)

- 5–9 वर्ष आयु वर्ग

Nearly **15 million children** aged 5–9 years in India were overweight or obese in **2025**.

भारत में 5–9 वर्ष आयु वर्ग के लगभग **1.5 करोड़ बच्चे** 2025 में अधिक वजन या मोटापे से ग्रस्त थे।

- 10–19 वर्ष आयु वर्ग

More than **26 million children** aged 10–19 years were overweight or obese.

**10–19 वर्ष आयु वर्ग के 2.6 करोड़ से अधिक बच्चे** मोटापे या अधिक वजन से प्रभावित हैं।

- High BMI वाले बच्चे

India had around **41 million children with high BMI** and **14 million with obesity**.

भारत में लगभग **4.1 करोड़ बच्चों का BMI अधिक** और **1.4 करोड़ मोटापे से ग्रस्त** हैं।

### 3. वैश्विक स्थिति (Global Situation)

- दुनिया में मोटापा

More than **one in five children (20.7%) globally are overweight or obese.**

विश्व में हर पाँच में से एक बच्चा (20.7%) मोटापा या अधिक वजन से ग्रस्त है।

- 2010 से वृद्धि

In **2010 the figure was 14.6%**, which has increased significantly.

**2010 में यह 14.6% था**, जो अब काफी बढ़ गया है।

- 2040 का अनुमान

By **2040, about 507 million children worldwide may be overweight or obese.**

**2040 तक लगभग 507 मिलियन बच्चे मोटापे से प्रभावित हो सकते हैं।**

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### 4. शीर्ष देश (Countries with highest number of obese children)

Country	Children with Obesity (million)	Children with High BMI (million)
China	33	62
India	14	41
United States	13	27

## 5. स्वास्थ्य प्रभाव (Health Impact)

Childhood obesity increases risk of several diseases.

- **Hypertension (उच्च रक्तचाप)**

2025 – 2.99 million children

2040 – 4.21 million projected

- **Hyperglycaemia (उच्च रक्त शर्करा)**

2025 – 1.91 million

2040 – 1.39 million

- **High triglycerides (उच्च ट्राइग्लिसराइड)**

2025 – 4.39 million

2040 – 6.07 million

- **MASLD (Metabolic dysfunction-associated steatotic liver disease)**

2025 – 8.39 million

2040 – 11.88 million

## 6. प्रमुख कारण (Major Causes)

- कम शारीरिक गतिविधि

74% adolescents aged 11–17 fail to meet recommended physical activity levels.

11–17 वर्ष के 74% किशोर पर्याप्त शारीरिक गतिविधि नहीं करते।

- अस्वास्थ्यकर आहार

Children aged 6–10 consume sugary drinks, averaging 50 ml per day.

6–10 वर्ष के बच्चे शर्करा युक्त पेय पदार्थ नियमित रूप से लेते हैं।

- स्तनपान की कमी

Nearly 32.6% infants (1–5 months) experience suboptimal breastfeeding.

लगभग 32.6% शिशुओं को पर्याप्त स्तनपान नहीं मिलता।

- स्कूल भोजन कवरेज

Only 35.5% school children receive school meals.

केवल 35.5% बच्चों को स्कूल में भोजन मिलता है।

## 7. भारत में महिलाओं की स्वास्थ्य स्थिति (Women Health Indicators)

- Women aged 15–49 years

13.4% have high BMI.

- Type-2 diabetes prevalence

Around 4.2% women suffer from Type-2 diabetes.

यह संकेत देता है कि मोटापा आने वाली पीढ़ियों के स्वास्थ्य को भी प्रभावित कर सकता है।

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## 8. सरकारों के लिए सुझाव (Policy Recommendations)

World Obesity Federation suggested:

- Sugar-sweetened beverage tax

मीठे पेय पदार्थों पर कर

- Children advertising restrictions

बच्चों को लक्षित जंक फूड विज्ञापनों पर प्रतिबंध

- Physical activity promotion

स्कूलों में खेल और शारीरिक गतिविधि बढ़ाना

- Preventive health programs

बचपन में स्वास्थ्य जागरूकता कार्यक्रम

- **World Obesity Federation**

Headquarters – London

- **BMI (Body Mass Index)**

Formula: **Weight (kg) / Height<sup>2</sup> (m<sup>2</sup>)**

- **World Obesity Day**

4 March

- **India's health programs related to obesity**

<b>Program</b>	<b>Objective</b>
Fit India Movement	Promote physical fitness
POSHAN Abhiyaan	Improve nutrition
Eat Right India	Promote healthy diet
School Health Programme	Health screening in schools

- Consider the following statements:
- According to the World Obesity Atlas 2026, India ranks second globally in childhood obesity.
- China has the highest number of children with obesity.
- World Obesity Day is observed on 4 March.
- BMI is calculated by dividing height by weight.
- Which of the statements given above are correct?
  - A. 1 and 2 only
  - B. 1, 2 and 3 only
  - C. 2, 3 and 4 only
  - D. All four



## ROARING SUCCESS

# Allen records the fastest century in T20 World Cup history



K.R. DEEPAK



New Zealand's Finn Allen recorded the fastest century in T20 World Cup history, reaching the milestone off just 33 balls in the semifinal against South Africa. He rewrote the record of West Indies' Chris Gayle, who had hit a 47-ball ton against England in 2016. Allen's unbeaten 100 is also the highest score in a T20 WC knockout fixture.

■ Son Nishant Set To Join State Govt ■ Dy CM Choudhary, Jr Union Home Min Rai Among Frontrunners For Top Post

# Nitish heads for RS, paves way for BJP CM in Bihar

## To File Nomination In Patna Today In Shah's Presence

Kumar Rakesh, Madan Kumar & Manoj Chaurasia | TNN

**New Delhi/Patna:** Less than four months after Nitish Kumar, along with PM Modi, led NDA to a landslide win in the Bihar assembly elections in Nov and took oath as chief minister for a record 10th time, 'sushashan babu', who turned 75 recently, is set to move to the Rajya Sabha – paving the way for BJP to have its own CM in the state for the first time, and extending its jurisdictional imprint across almost all of

north and central India. His son Nishant is set to enter politics by joining govt; while speculation abounds that he might be named deputy CM, there is as yet little clarity on his position or portfolio.

People in the know said Nitish will file his nomination for RS in Patna Thursday in the presence of key NDA members, including Union home minister Amit Shah. Four other NDA nominees, including BJP president Nitin Nabin and Union minister Ram Nath Thakur, and Rash-

### END OF AN ERA? FROM 10-TIME CM TO UPPER HOUSE

- > Led BJP-JDU alliance to win over 80% of seats in the assembly elections last Nov
- > Socialist icon Ram Manohar Lohia's disciple, he took part in JP movement, was among young politicians jailed during emergency
- > Elected as MLA in 1985, also the last time. Ever since, he has been either an MLC or MP
- > Won LS polls from Barh in 1989, remained its MP for 15 years. Served as railway minister in Vajpayee govt in 1999
- > Became CM first time in 2000. Went on to serve as CM nine more times, in alliance with NDA or RJD-Congress
- > Turned 75 on Sunday. There are signs his son will join Bihar govt to enthuse JD(U) ranks

PM Modi with Nitish Kumar when he took oath as CM for 10th time last Nov



triya Lok Samata Party leader Upendr Kushwaha will also

be filing their nominations. BJP has played second

hands with him for the first ti-

me in 1996. It chose to allow him to claim the top post despite having more MLAs than JD(U) in 2020 and 2025 in view of his seniority.

Amid concerns over his health, it was always a question of when and not if Nitish would step down, and while the transition has come earlier than generally expected, the timing was considered within NDA as appropriate as it will give the new team time to settle in. Nishant's entry is aimed at enthusing JD(U)'s rank-and-file amid these uncertain times, and at retaining its base among critical sections of backwards and Dalits.

► Related report P 16

# '3-fold jump in breast cancer cases in 33yrs'

## Study Estimates Huge Increase In Cases By 2050

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Mumbai:** The incidence of breast cancer in India increased by more than double between 1990 and 2023, according to an 204-country study that estimates another huge increase in cases by 2050 if “six modifiable risk factors” are not tackled.

The Global Burden of Disease Study Breast Cancer Collaborators, published in ‘The Lancet Oncology’, said the incidence rate in India climbed from 13 per 1 lakh women in 1990 to 29.4 per 1 lakh in 2023. In the same period, the age-standardised mortality rate increased from 8.9 to 15.5, marking a 74% rise in breast cancer deaths in India.

Globally, breast cancer



**ALARMING:** Globally, breast cancer continues to be the leading cause of cancer-related illness and premature death among women

continues to be the leading cause of cancer-related illness and premature death among women worldwide. In 2023, there were an estimated 23 lakh new breast cancer cases and 7.6 lakh deaths. By 2050, cases could rise by a third to 3.5 million despite advances and treatment, said the Lancet study.

Globally, three times as many new breast cancer ca-

ses were diagnosed in women aged 55 or older in 2023 (161 vs 50 new cases per 1 lakh women) compared to women aged 20-54. However, rates of new cases have risen in women aged 20-54 (up 29%) since 1990, with rates in older women not changing substantially. These differences reflect changing age patterns as well as changes in risk factors, which vary between pre- and

post-menopausal women.

“In middle-income countries such as India, the total economic burden of breast cancer was estimated at \$8-13 billion in 2021 and is projected to rise to \$14.0 billion by 2030 as incidence continues to increase,” it added.

The study also said that “over a quarter of healthy years lost to breast cancer are due to six modifiable risk factors, including high red meat intake, tobacco, high blood sugar, and high BMI—offering important opportunities for prevention.”

“The projected rise in breast cancer burden to 2050 is not fate — it’s a forecast, and, therefore, preventable. This analysis is a policy blueprint. With organized screening, timely diagnostics, and universal access to evidence-based treatment, we can bend the curve. The science is ready. The time to act is now,” said Dr (Prof) Jyoti Bajpai, lead

medical & precision oncologist from Apollo Hospital, Navi Mumbai.

Tata Memorial Centre director Dr Sudeep Gupta pointed out that with increased levels of development, there is often a concomitant rise in the incidence of some cancer, in India it is breast cancer. “There is a change in reproduction pattern, increase in tobacco and alcohol use, among other reasons that have been seen across the globe,” said Dr Gupta.

The study’s authors said that progress towards ensuring all women have an equal chance to survive breast cancer can only be achieved through a combination of aggressive prevention strategies, ensuring well-functioning health systems capable of early diagnosis and comprehensive treatment, and making cancer services both accessible and affordable to all.

- **भारत में स्तन कैंसर मामलों में तेज वृद्धि**

A global study reports that **breast cancer cases in India have increased nearly three-fold in the last 33 years (1990–2023).**

एक वैश्विक अध्ययन के अनुसार भारत में पिछले 33 वर्षों (1990–2023) में स्तन कैंसर के मामलों में लगभग तीन गुना वृद्धि हुई है।

- **अध्ययन का स्रोत**

The research was conducted by **Global Burden of Disease (GBD) Breast Cancer Collaborators** and published in **The Lancet Oncology**.

यह अध्ययन **Global Burden of Disease (GBD) Breast Cancer Collaborators** द्वारा किया गया और **The Lancet Oncology** में प्रकाशित हुआ।

- **भविष्य का अनुमान**

The study estimates that **breast cancer cases may increase significantly by 2050** if risk factors are not controlled.

यदि जोखिम कारकों को नियंत्रित नहीं किया गया तो **2050 तक मामलों में और बड़ी वृद्धि हो सकती है।**

- **(Breast Cancer Situation in India)**

- • **1990 में स्थिति**

Incidence rate was **13 cases per lakh women** in 1990.  
1990 में प्रति लाख महिलाओं में 13 मामले थे।

- • **2023 में स्थिति**

Incidence increased to **29.4 cases per lakh women** in 2023.  
2023 में यह बढ़कर 29.4 प्रति लाख महिलाओं तक पहुँच गया।

- • **मृत्यु दर में वृद्धि**

Age-standardised mortality rate increased from **8.9 to 15.5 per lakh**, indicating a **74% increase in deaths**.

आयु-मानकीकृत मृत्यु दर 8.9 से बढ़कर 15.5 प्रति लाख हो गई, यानी 74% वृद्धि।

- (Global Situation)

- • महिलाओं में प्रमुख कैंसर

Breast cancer is the **leading cause of cancer-related illness and premature death among women worldwide.**

स्तन कैंसर विश्वभर में महिलाओं में कैंसर से जुड़ी बीमारी और समयपूर्व मृत्यु का प्रमुख कारण है।

- • 2023 के आंकड़े

Estimated **23 lakh new cases** globally.

Estimated **7.6 lakh deaths** globally.

2023 में **23 लाख नए मामले** और **7.6 लाख मौतें** दर्ज की गईं।

- • 2050 का अनुमान

Global cases could reach **3.5 million annually by 2050.**

2050 तक मामलों की संख्या **35 लाख प्रति वर्ष** तक पहुंच सकती है।

- (Age-wise Trends)

- • 55 वर्ष से अधिक महिलाओं में

In 2023, incidence was **161 cases per lakh women.**

2023 में 55 वर्ष से अधिक महिलाओं में 161 प्रति लाख मामले पाए गए।

- • 20–54 वर्ष आयु वर्ग

New cases in this group have increased by **29% since 1990.**

20–54 वर्ष आयु वर्ग में 1990 से 29% वृद्धि दर्ज की गई।

- • उम्र संरचना का प्रभाव

Changes in **age patterns and lifestyle factors** contribute to rising cases.

आयु संरचना और जीवनशैली में बदलाव वृद्धि के प्रमुख कारण हैं।

- **(Major Risk Factors)**
- Study identified **six modifiable risk factors** responsible for many breast cancer cases.
- • **High BMI (अधिक मोटापा)**
- **High blood sugar (उच्च रक्त शर्करा)**
- **Tobacco consumption (तंबाकू सेवन)**
- **Alcohol consumption (शराब सेवन)**
- **Diet rich in red meat (लाल मांस का अधिक सेवन)**
- **Low physical activity (कम शारीरिक गतिविधि)**
- ये सभी रोकथाम योग्य (preventable) जोखिम कारक हैं।

## 6. आर्थिक प्रभाव (Economic Impact)

- भारत में आर्थिक बोझ

Estimated **\$8–13 billion economic burden in 2021** due to breast cancer.

भारत में 2021 में 8–13 अरब डॉलर का आर्थिक बोझ।

- 2030 तक अनुमान

Projected to reach **\$14 billion by 2030**.

2030 तक यह 14 अरब डॉलर तक पहुँच सकता है।

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## 7. रोकथाम और समाधान (Prevention & Solutions)

Experts recommend:

- **Early screening programs**

महिलाओं के लिए नियमित स्तन कैंसर स्क्रीनिंग।

- **Early diagnosis and treatment**

समय पर निदान और उपचार।

- **Lifestyle improvements**

व्यायाम, स्वस्थ आहार, तंबाकू-शराब से दूरी।

- **Universal healthcare access**

सभी महिलाओं के लिए सुलभ और किफायती कैंसर उपचार।

## 8. भारत की प्रमुख कैंसर संस्थाएँ (Important Cancer Institutions in India)

Institution	Location	Importance
Tata Memorial Centre	Mumbai	India's premier cancer treatment institute
AllMS Cancer Centre	New Delhi	Major government oncology centre
National Cancer Institute	Jhajjar (Haryana)	Advanced cancer research facility
Kidwai Cancer Institute	Bengaluru	Leading regional cancer hospital

## 9. अतिरिक्त परीक्षा तथ्य (Extra Exam Facts)

- **World Cancer Day** – 4 February
- **Pink Ribbon** – International symbol of breast cancer awareness
- **National Programme for Prevention and Control of Cancer, Diabetes, Cardiovascular Diseases and Stroke (NPCDCS)** – India's major program for non-communicable diseases.

Consider the following statements:

1. Breast cancer is the leading cause of cancer-related illness and premature death among women globally.
2. In India, the incidence of breast cancer increased from about 13 per lakh women in 1990 to about 29 per lakh in 2023.
3. Tobacco use, high BMI and alcohol consumption are identified as modifiable risk factors.
4. The Pink Ribbon campaign is associated with lung cancer awareness.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

## IISc launches 'Moonshot' project on brain co-processors

**Bengaluru:** The Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Wednesday said it has launched a "Moonshot" project to develop brain co-processors that combine neuro-morphic hardware with AI algorithms to enhance or restore brain function. The initiative is funded by the Pratiksha Trust, founded by Kris Gopalakrishnan and his wife Sudha.

An MoU formalising the partnership was signed at IISc in the presence of Gopalakrishnan, Prof G Rangarajan, director of IISc, and Prof B Gurumorthy, chief executive, Foundation for Science, Innovation and Development (FSID).

**The initiative is funded by the Pratiksha Trust, founded by Kris Gopalakrishnan and his wife Sudha**

"The project aims to develop both implantable and non-invasive brain co-processors capable of decoding neural activity from brain recordings, processing these signals using AI algorithms, and re-encoding them into the brain through neural stimulation or neurofeedback," IISc said.

The devices are expected to support cognitive rehabilitation, particularly for stroke survivors who have lost functions such as goal-directed reach and grasp.

Gopalakrishnan said: "India is emerging as a global leader in neuroscience by uniting foundational research with clinical applications through international partnerships. The Brain Co-Processors Moonshot Project accelerates the development of innovative medical technologies."

- IISc का 'Moonshot Project' लॉन्च

The Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru launched a "Moonshot Project" to develop brain co-processors that combine neuromorphic hardware with AI algorithms.

बेंगलुरु स्थित Indian Institute of Science (IISc) ने ब्रेन को-प्रोसेसर विकसित करने के लिए "Moonshot Project" शुरू किया, जिसमें न्यूरोमॉर्फिक हार्डवेयर और कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता (AI) एल्गोरिदम को मिलाया जाएगा।

- परियोजना का उद्देश्य

The project aims to enhance or restore brain function using advanced neural interfaces.

इस परियोजना का उद्देश्य मानव मस्तिष्क की कार्यक्षमता को बढ़ाना या पुनर्स्थापित करना है।

- वित्तपोषण (Funding)

The initiative is funded by the Pratiksha Trust, founded by Kris Gopalakrishnan (Infosys co-founder) and his wife Sudha Gopalakrishnan.

यह पहल Pratiksha Trust द्वारा वित्तपोषित है, जिसकी स्थापना Kris Gopalakrishnan और उनकी पत्नी Sudha Gopalakrishnan ने की।

---

## 2. परियोजना की तकनीक (Technology Behind the Project)

- Brain Co-processors

Brain co-processors are devices that interact directly with neural signals in the brain.

ब्रेन को-प्रोसेसर ऐसे उपकरण हैं जो मस्तिष्क के न्यूरल संकेतों के साथ सीधे संवाद करते हैं।

- Neuromorphic Computing

Neuromorphic hardware mimics the structure and functioning of the human brain's neural networks.

न्यूरोमॉर्फिक हार्डवेयर मानव मस्तिष्क के न्यूरल नेटवर्क की संरचना और कार्यप्रणाली की नकल करता है।

- **Artificial Intelligence Integration**

AI algorithms will **decode neural signals, process them, and re-encode signals for stimulation or neurofeedback.**

AI एल्गोरिद्म मस्तिष्क संकेतों को डिकोड करके उन्हें प्रोसेस करेंगे और पुनः मस्तिष्क को संकेत भेजेंगे ।

---

### **3. परियोजना के प्रमुख उद्देश्य (Key Objectives)**

- **Implantable Brain Co-processors**

Devices that can be implanted in the brain to assist neural functions.

ऐसे उपकरण जो मस्तिष्क में प्रत्यारोपित किए जा सकें ।

- **Non-invasive Brain Interfaces**

External devices capable of **reading neural activity without surgery.**

ऐसे उपकरण जो बिना सर्जरी के मस्तिष्क गतिविधि पढ़ सकें ।

- **Neural Signal Processing**

Decoding brain signals and converting them into **meaningful commands or feedback.**

मस्तिष्क संकेतों को पढ़कर उपयोगी निर्देशों में बदलना ।

## 4. संभावित उपयोग (Potential Applications)

- **Stroke Rehabilitation**

Helping stroke survivors **recover lost motor functions like hand movement or grasping.**  
स्ट्रोक से प्रभावित लोगों को हाथों की गति या पकड़ जैसी क्षमताएँ वापस पाने में मदद।

- **Neurodegenerative Diseases**

May assist patients with **Parkinson's disease, Alzheimer's disease, or paralysis.**  
यह तकनीक पार्किंसन, अल्जाइमर या लकवा जैसी बीमारियों में मदद कर सकती है।

- **Cognitive Enhancement**

Enhancing learning, memory, and brain performance.  
सीखने, स्मृति और मानसिक क्षमता को बढ़ाना।

---

## 5. भारत के लिए महत्व (Importance for India)

- **Neuroscience Leadership**

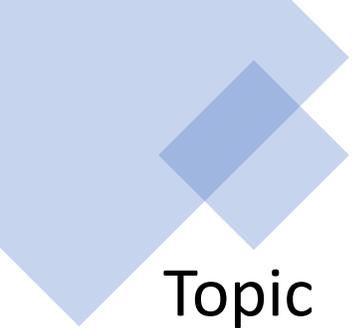
India aims to become a **global leader in neuroscience and brain-machine interface technology.**  
भारत न्यूरोसाइंस और ब्रेन-मशीन इंटरफेस तकनीक में वैश्विक नेतृत्व हासिल करना चाहता है।

- **Medical Technology Innovation**

The project accelerates **development of innovative medical technologies.**  
यह परियोजना नई चिकित्सा तकनीकों के विकास को तेज करेगी।

- **International Collaboration**

The initiative encourages **global partnerships between researchers and clinical institutions.**  
यह पहल अंतरराष्ट्रीय शोध सहयोग को बढ़ावा देगी।



Topic

IISc Bengaluru

Founder of IISc

Field

Brain-Machine Interface pioneers



Fact

Established in 1909

Jamsetji Tata with support from the Government of India and the Maharaja of Mysore

Advanced research in science, engineering and neuroscience

Neuralink, DARPA research programs



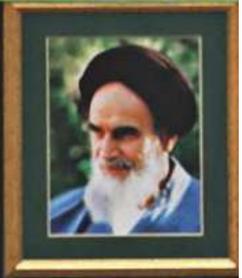


# Iran state of economy

## A Supreme Guardian Towering Above All

The Islamic Revolution of 1979 installed Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini at the head of the new republic. As the first Supreme Leader, he introduced the doctrine of 'Velayat-e Faqih', or 'Guardianship of the Jurist', which mandated that a qualified Islamic jurist (faqih) would wield ultimate authority over govt, and religious and social affairs.

**Ali Khamenei** (at a meeting in Tehran in this file photo) succeeded Khomeini as Supreme Leader in 1989. In the next 37 years, he presided over an order that looked like this:



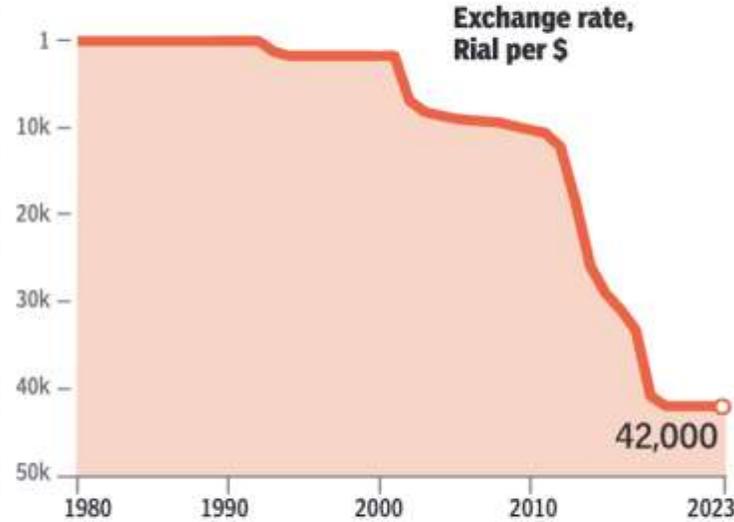
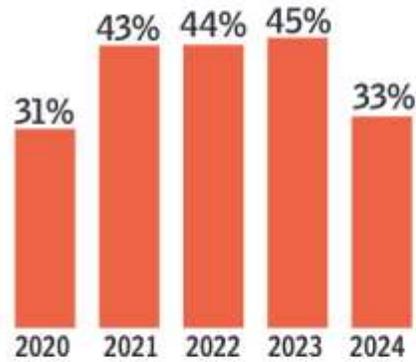
## But Economy Has Suffered

Sanctions and trade embargoes led by US have meant that Iran trades with few countries and has been cut off from acquiring modern tech from abroad to grow its economy, the struggles underlined by key indicators

GDP per capita  
(current), 2024

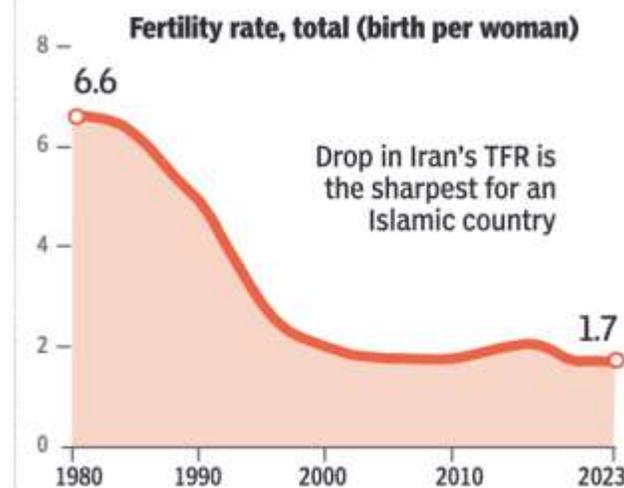
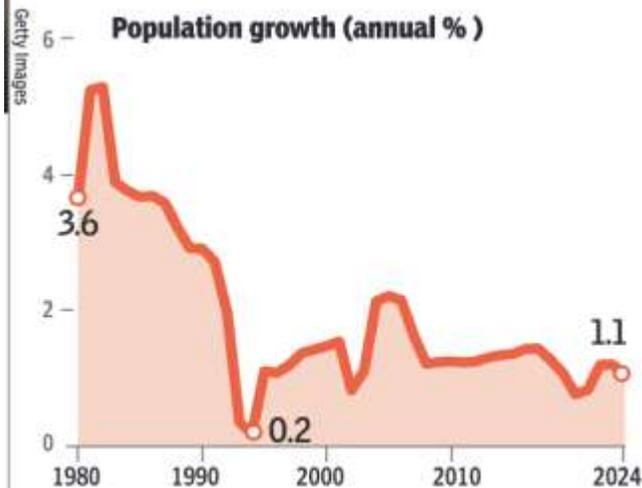
\$5,190

Inflation rate



## 9 Crore People, Rate Of Population Growth Declining

Total fertility rate, or TFR, indicates the number of children born per woman. For Iran, it has fallen below 2.1, or the level needed to maintain it at current levels



## He's Also Commander-In-Chief Of '3 Armies'

Iran has fought only one major war since 1979 — with Iraq, between 1980 and 1988. However, its regional ambitions, and hostility with US, means it operates a complex military structure, entirely under the Supreme Leader's control

**Islamic Republic of Iran Army, or Artesh:** The conventional military comprising army, navy, and air force

Strength

**350,000**

**Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps:** Born during the revolution of 1979, mainly as a counterweight to the regular army. It also includes naval and air wings

**190,000**

**Basij Resistance Force:** A paramilitary volunteer force, it has an internal security role and has been used to quell protests against the regime

**40,000** approx

Tanks  
**2,600+**



Military Aircraft  
**188**

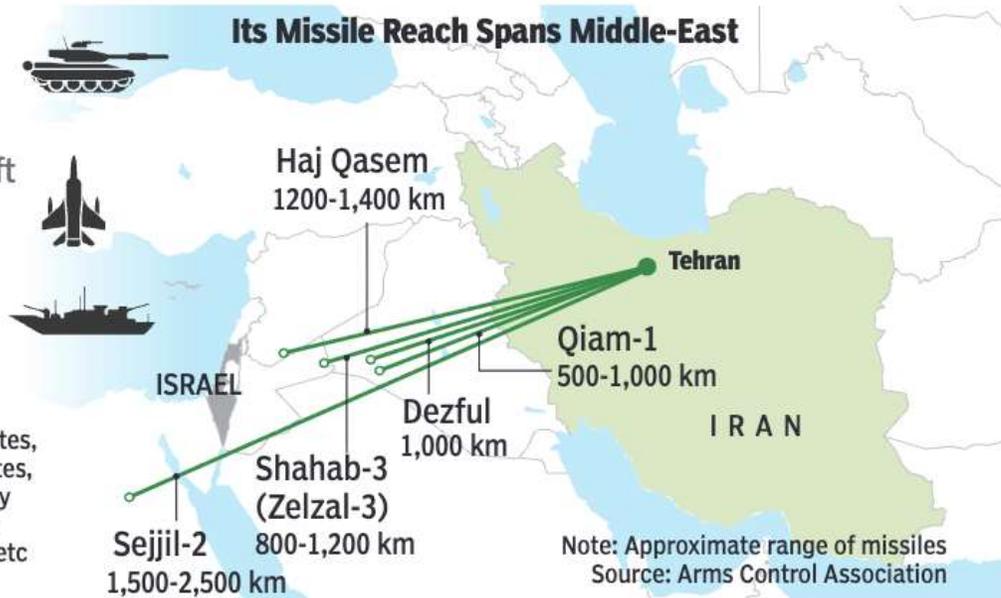


Naval Vessels  
**109**



Note: Includes frigates, submarines, corvettes, patrol boats for navy and fighter aircraft, attack helicopters, etc for air force

### Its Missile Reach Spans Middle-East



## Which Help Quell Dissent, Maintain Grip

The regime has faced a series of protests, increasingly crushed with violent force — leaving a heavy death toll — by the leadership. Here's a look at the recent ones:

### 1999: Student Protests

Triggered by a govt-ordered shutdown of a reformist newspaper. Peaceful protests were broken by security personnel

### 2009: Green Movement

The election that brought Mahmoud Ahmadinejad to office was alleged to have been rigged and led to massive protests, once again ended by a harsh crackdown

### 2019: 'Bloody November'

A result of jump in fuel prices. It soon saw calls for overthrow of Ali Khamenei and was brutally crushed

### 2022: 'Woman, Life, Freedom'

The death of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini in police custody after she was arrested allegedly for not wearing a hijab triggered protests with

the slogan "Woman, Life, Freedom". Met with overwhelming force, the widespread protests fizzled out

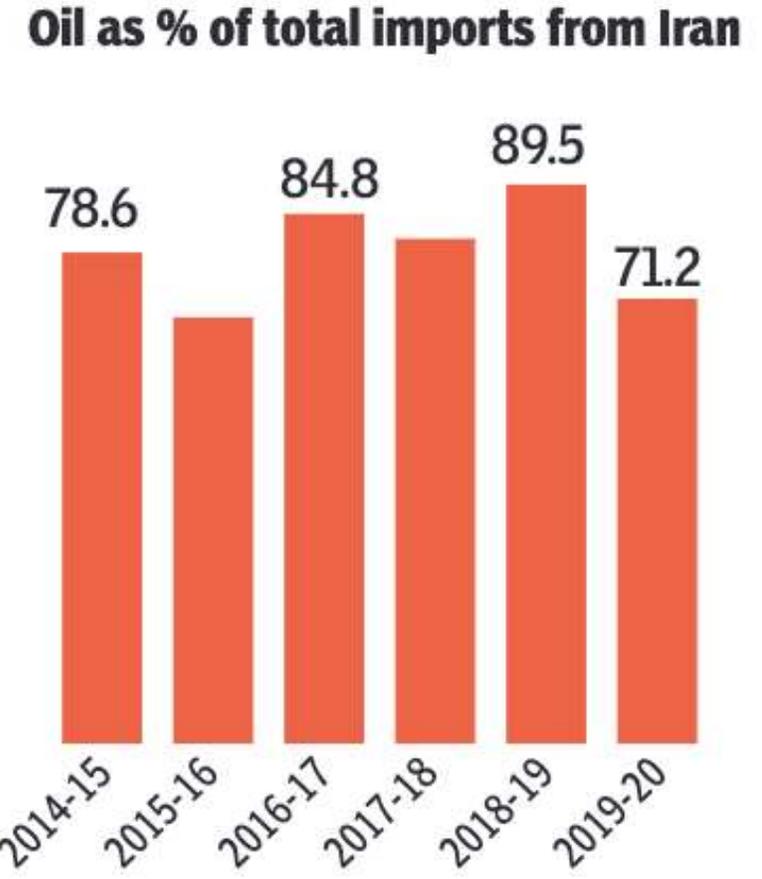
### 2025-26: Cost Of Living Protests

On Dec 28, shops in Tehran were shuttered in protest over a collapsing economy and high inflation. The protests spread across the country and were countered with heavy force



# Oil Defined Trade With India, But That's Gone

Before India went off its oil in 2019, oil accounted for over 70% of total imports from Iran by value



Source: Media reports, Council on Foreign Relations, Strauss Centre, World Bank

## West Asia Strife: Markets Plummet, Re Dives, Shipments In Distress

# Rupee feels heat amid conflict, breaches 92/\$ for the first time

## Gold up 1.2%, analysts see further rise

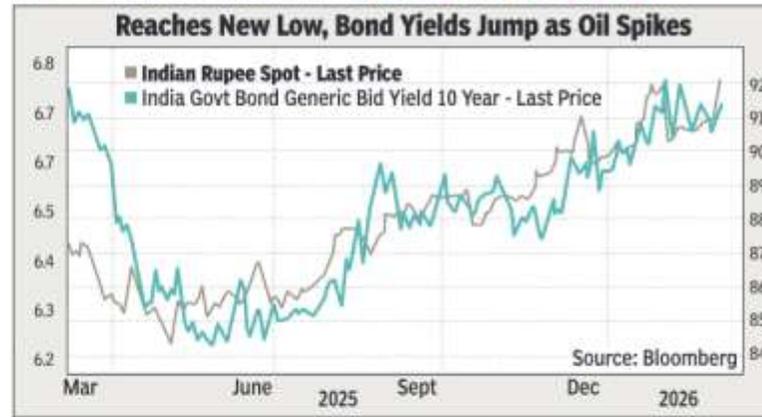
TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Mumbai:** The rupee dropped to a new low of 92.30 in the foreign exchange market as the conflict in the West Asia risks damaging the economy on multiple fronts. The domestic unit breached the 92 level for the first time at the opening and hit a record low before recovering on suspected RBI intervention to close at 92.15.

The rupee has depreciated 2.5% so far in 2026. It has weakened from 89.85 at the end of 2025 to 92.15 currently. The sharpest annual depreciation in the last decade occurred in 2022, when the rupee fell 10.15% following pressure on trade in the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The currency had fallen 5.22% in the first six months of the Ukraine war, from 75.65 to 79.82.

Economists said that the current conflict in the West Asia could have a much bigger

### RUPEE HAS FALLEN 2.5% IN 2026



impact than the Russia-Ukraine war, which pushed up energy costs worldwide. Besides pushing up oil and gas prices, the conflict has choked a large chunk of India's exports to the West Asia. More than a third of India's worker remittances come from the West Asia region. While the rupee's depreciation has lagged behind the Korean won, it is more or less aligned with the broader re-

gional decline.

"Given that the rupee was already relatively weak on a REER basis, a disproportionate depreciation versus peer currencies appears unlikely. Much of the current weakness reflects markets pricing in a high probability of further geopolitical escalation; therefore, if tensions fail to intensify, crude prices could ease and the rupee could regain

strength," said Abhishek Bisen, head of fixed income, Kotak Mahindra AMC.

During the term of current RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra (14 months so far, from December 12, 2024, to the present), the Indian rupee has depreciated by 7.94% against the US dollar, from 84.83 to 92.15 on Wednesday. In comparison, during the six-year term of former RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das (December 12, 2018, to December 11, 2024), the Indian rupee depreciated by 15.07% against the US dollar.

"The currency had earlier shown some stability following the Union Budget and the recent US-India trade deal, but the renewed spike in crude prices has reversed part of those gains. If geopolitical tensions persist and oil prices remain elevated, pressure on the rupee could continue in the near term," said Jateen Trivedi of LKP Securities.

Gold prices rose on Wednesday as the escalating conflict in West Asia attracted safe-haven bids, while a pause in the US dollar's rally also lent support. Spot gold was up 1.2% to \$5,146.8 per ounce, after falling more than 4% on Tuesday.

US gold futures for April delivery added 0.7% to \$5,158.2. "The dollar has seen a pullback, which is providing some support. Overall, the macro-fundamental factors remain broadly supportive of gold. Certainly, as long as the war with Iran is ongoing, that's going to remain supportive as well," said Peter Grant, VP and senior metals strategist at Zaner Metals.

"There is risk that volatility continues. But I remain bullish and think we will see new all-time highs." Gold, a non-yielding asset that is considered a hedge against uncertainty and inflation, tends to be preferred during periods of low interest rates. REUTERS

- **(Major Reasons for Rupee Depreciation)**

- • **पश्चिम एशिया में युद्ध (West Asia Conflict)**

Rising geopolitical tensions have increased global uncertainty and reduced investor confidence.

भू-राजनीतिक तनाव बढ़ने से वैश्विक अनिश्चितता और निवेशकों की चिंता बढ़ी।

- • **कच्चे तेल की कीमतों में वृद्धि (Oil Price Spike)**

India imports **around 85% of its crude oil**, so higher oil prices weaken the rupee.

भारत लगभग 85% कच्चा तेल आयात करता है, इसलिए तेल कीमत बढ़ने से रुपया कमजोर होता है।

- • **डॉलर की मजबूती (Strong US Dollar)**

Global investors move funds into the US dollar during uncertainty.

अनिश्चितता के समय निवेशक अमेरिकी डॉलर में निवेश बढ़ाते हैं।

- • **विदेशी निवेश में गिरावट (Capital Outflows)**

Foreign investors sell Indian assets and move money to safer markets.

विदेशी निवेशक भारतीय बाजार से पैसा निकालकर सुरक्षित बाजारों में ले जाते हैं।

-



- **(Impact on Indian Economy)**
- **1. आयात महंगे (Costlier Imports)**
  - Oil, electronics, machinery become expensive.
  - तेल, इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स और मशीनरी आयात महंगे हो जाते हैं।
- **2. मुद्रास्फीति में वृद्धि (Inflation)**
  - Higher oil prices increase transportation and production costs.
  - तेल महंगा होने से **परिवहन और उत्पादन लागत बढ़ती है।**
- **3. व्यापार घाटा (Trade Deficit)**
  - Weak rupee increases **import bill.**
  - कमजोर रुपया **आयात बिल बढ़ाता है।**
- **4. निर्यात को लाभ (Export Advantage)**
  - Exports become cheaper globally.
  - निर्यात सस्ता होने से **निर्यातकों को लाभ मिल सकता है।**

Year	Event	Rupee Impact
2013	Taper Tantrum	Rupee crossed ₹68/\$
2020	COVID-19 crisis	Rupee crossed ₹76/\$
2022	Russia-Ukraine war	Rupee crossed ₹80/\$
2026	West Asia conflict	Rupee crossed ₹92/\$

## 5. RBI और मौद्रिक नीति (Role of RBI)

- **Foreign Exchange Intervention**

RBI sells dollars from forex reserves to stabilize the rupee.

RBI विदेशी मुद्रा भंडार से डॉलर बेचकर रुपये को स्थिर करता है।

- **Interest Rate Policy**

Higher interest rates attract foreign investment.

उच्च ब्याज दरें विदेशी निवेश को आकर्षित करती हैं।

- **Forex Reserves**

India maintains one of the world's largest forex reserves to manage volatility.

---

## 6. सोने की कीमतों में वृद्धि (Gold Price Increase)

- **Gold as Safe Haven Asset**

Gold prices rose **1.2% due to geopolitical tensions.**

भू-राजनीतिक तनाव के कारण सोने की कीमतों में 1.2% वृद्धि हुई।

- **Current Price**

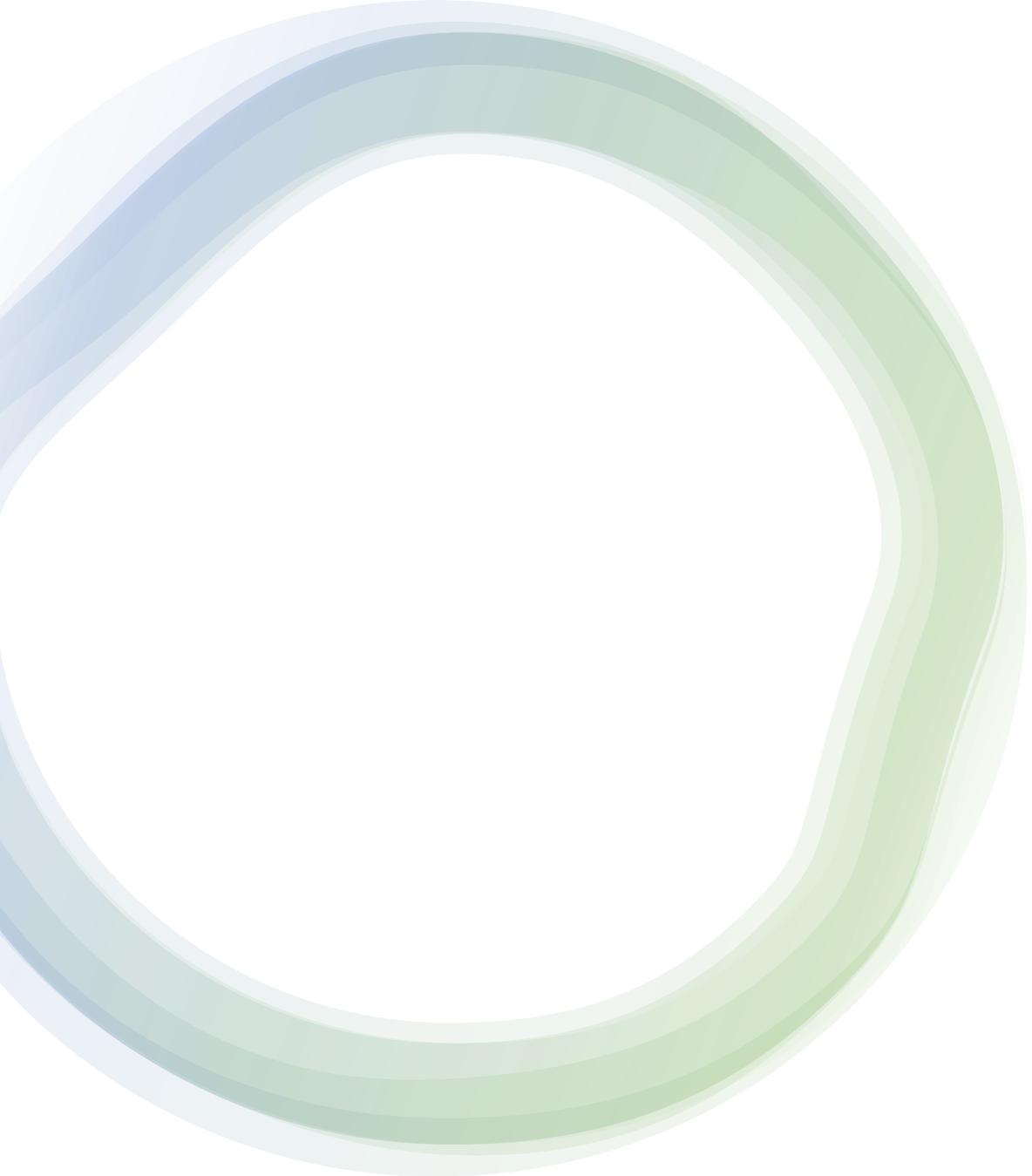
Gold reached around **\$5,146 per ounce in the global market.**

अंतरराष्ट्रीय बाजार में सोना लगभग **\$5,146 प्रति औंस** तक पहुंच गया।

- **Reason**

Investors buy gold during crises to protect wealth from inflation and currency risk.

संकट के समय निवेशक मुद्रास्फीति और मुद्रा जोखिम से बचने के लिए सोना खरीदते हैं।



- **(Importance of West Asia for India)**

- • **ऊर्जा सुरक्षा (Energy Security)**

About **60–65%** of India's oil imports come from West Asia.

भारत के **60–65%** तेल आयात पश्चिम एशिया से आते हैं।

- • **प्रवासी भारतीय (Indian Diaspora)**

More than **8 million** Indians live in West Asia.

पश्चिम एशिया में **80 लाख** से अधिक भारतीय प्रवासी रहते हैं।

- • **रेमिटेंस (Remittances)**

More than **one-third** of India's remittances come from the **Gulf region**.

भारत को मिलने वाली **एक तिहाई** से अधिक रेमिटेंस खाड़ी देशों से आती है।

Topic

Fact

REER

Real Effective Exchange Rate measures competitiveness of a currency

Forex Reserve

India among top 5 countries globally

Oil Benchmark

Brent Crude used for global oil pricing

Safe Haven Assets

Gold, US Dollar, Swiss Franc

- Consider the following statements:
- The Indian rupee crossed ₹92 per US dollar amid geopolitical tensions in West Asia.
- Rising crude oil prices can weaken the Indian rupee because India imports most of its oil.
- Gold prices usually rise during global economic uncertainty.
- India exports more than 80% of its crude oil consumption.
- Which of the statements given above are correct?
  - A. 1 and 2 only
  - B. 1, 2 and 3 only
  - C. 2, 3 and 4 only
  - D. All four

---

# Word of the day

## **Pithy:**

concise and full of meaning

---

**Synonyms:** short, crisp, to the point

---

**Usage:** *The article ends with a pithy comment.*

---

**Pronunciation:** [newsth.live/pithypro](http://newsth.live/pithypro)

---

**International Phonetic Alphabet:** /pɪθi/

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**4. Reports & Indices (India's Rank)**

**5. International Affairs (India + Major Summits)**

**6. Science & Tech**

**7. Environment & Ecology**

**8. Polity & Constitution Updates**

**9. Awards & Honours**

**10. Sports**

**11. Banking & Financial Market**

**12. Defence**

**13. Appointments & Resignations**

**14. Books & Authors**

**15. Important Days & Themes**

**16. Government Committees**

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**19. Sports + Govt Sports Schemes**

**20. Miscellaneous Must-Do**

- All video lectures will be delivered in bilingual format (Hindi + English) to ensure clarity and comfort for every learner.



Thank you 😊