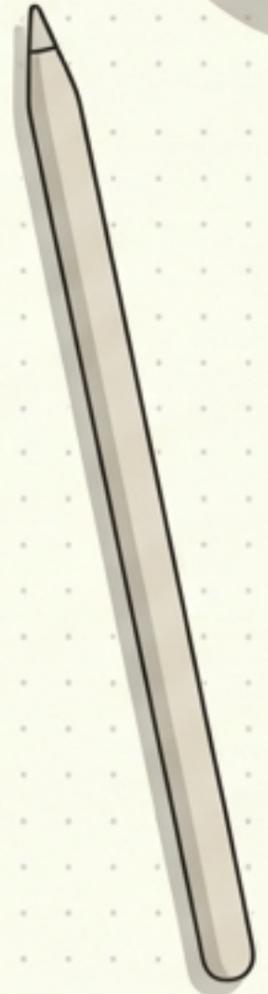


The Hindu SimplEfied

Daily News Highlights, Updates, &
Smart Notes | March 13

*Exam Focus:
West Asia Crisis,
SC Rulings,
Inflation*



Today's Top Updates



West Asia Tensions escalate; Iran threatens to close the Strait of Hormuz.



Government addresses LPG supply panic; CPI Inflation hits 3.2%.



Supreme Court issues new ruling on OBC Creamy Layer criteria.



U.S. Trade Probe, AI Deepfakes busted, and Champions League football.

Global Update: The West Asia Spark

Event:

Assassination of former Iranian leader (Feb 28) by US/Israeli forces.



Reaction: New Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei demands war reparations.



Action: Iran vows to keep the Strait of Hormuz closed and targets cargo vessels.

Geography Focus: The Strait of Hormuz is a critical maritime chokepoint. Roughly 20% to 34% of the world's oil passes through here!

How is India Responding?

The Action

India co-sponsors a UN Security Council resolution.

The resolution condemns Iran's interference with international shipping in the Gulf.

The Reasoning

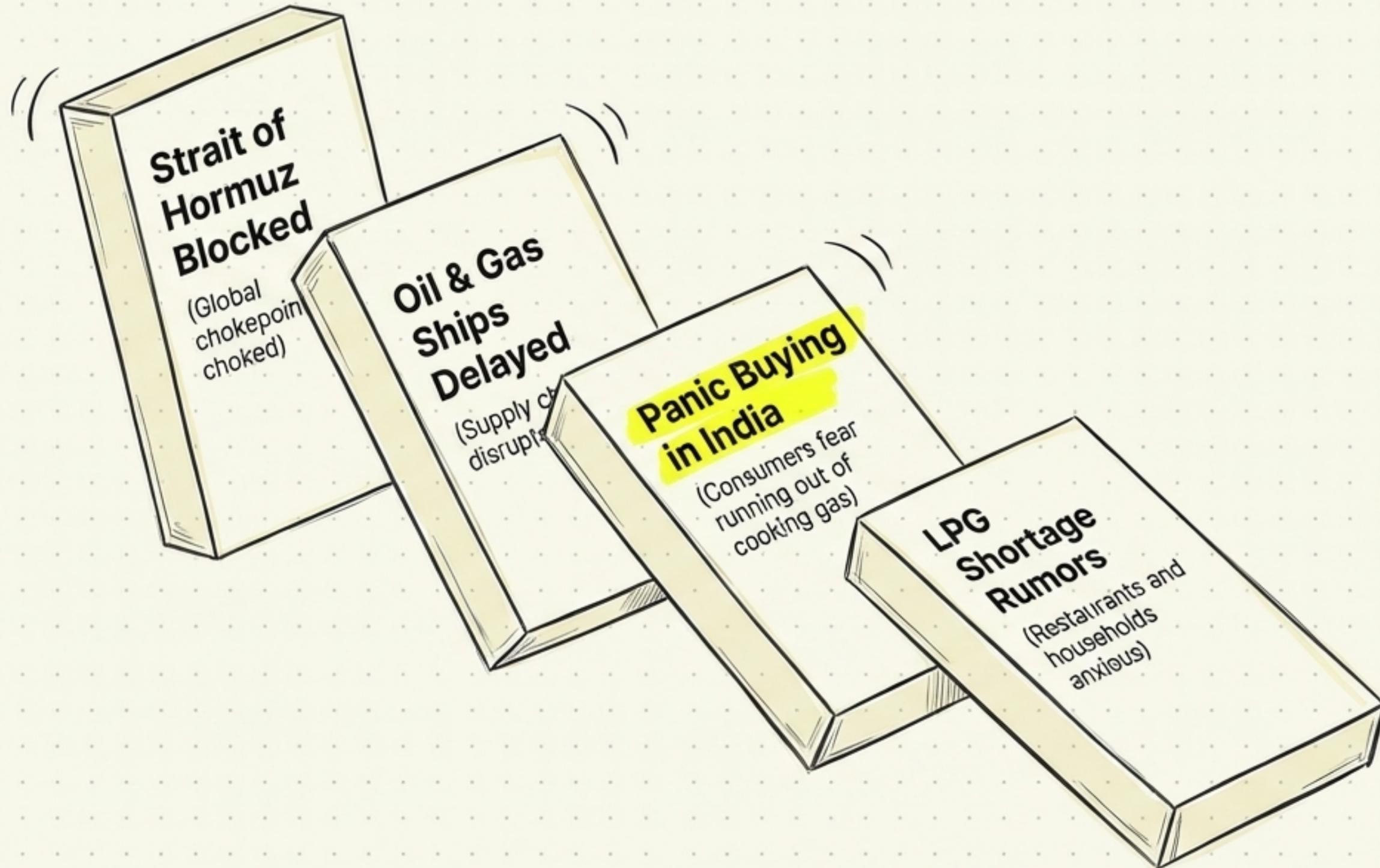
10 Million Indians living and working in the Gulf region.

50% India's crude oil imported from the region.

90% India's LPG imported from the region.

Key Takeaway: India's priority is the safety of civilians and securing vital energy routes.

The Ripple Effect: Why global news matters here



Economy Highlight: The Truth About LPG Supplies

✘	Myth: India is running out of cooking gas due to the West Asia war.
✔	Fact: There is NO supply shortage . The issue is caused by hoarding and panic-buying.

Government Action

Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) are now allocating 20% of the average monthly commercial LPG requirement to prevent black marketing.



Smart Fact: India is secure because it now sources crude from 40 different countries (up from 27)!

Economy Update: Retail Inflation (CPI) Hits 3.2%



3.2%
(10-month high)



**Personal Care & Miscellaneous
(19.6%)**

Driven heavily by rising gold and silver prices.



**Food & Beverages
(3.35%)**



**Core Inflation
(3.4%)**

*Remains unchanged.
(Core inflation excludes volatile items like food and energy).*

Court Updates: SC Rules on OBC Creamy Layer

POLITY

Topic: Determining OBC Creamy Layer Status for reservations.

The Old Assumption (Before) ❌

Confusion over whether status is based only on how much parents earn.

The New SC Ruling (Now) ✅

Status cannot be decided solely on the basis of parental income. It is status-based.

Impact

Widens the quota pool to include children of public sector officials previously excluded.

Legal Watch:

The SC is also examining what counts as 'personal data' under the new digital privacy law to see if it blocks the Right to Information (RTI).

Tech & Security Highlights

Fighting Deepfakes



The PIB Fact-Check unit busted 50+ deepfakes of Indian leaders in the past month.

Detail: Many fake videos were traced back to Pakistani propaganda social media handles spreading misinformation.

Regulating AI



Karnataka forms a special committee for the responsible adoption of AI in public services.

Detail: Chaired by Infosys co-founder Kris Gopalakrishnan to establish safe and ethical frameworks.

State Updates: Northeast Tensions



Manipur

Update: Ongoing ethnic tensions.

Detail: 21 Naga individuals were freed by captors, but the bodies of two missing Kuki men were recovered in Kamjong district.

Meghalaya

Update: Electoral violence.

Detail: Clashes erupted over District Council elections. The High Court struck down a rule that made Scheduled Tribe (ST) certificates compulsory for nominations, allowing non-tribals to contest.

Global Economy: U.S. Probes Indian Trade



The News: The U.S. Trade Representative has announced investigations against 16 economies, including India, under **Section 301** of the Trade Act of 1974.

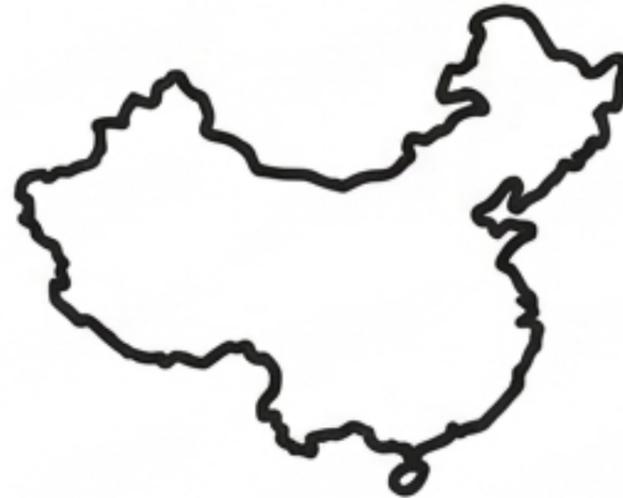
What is Section 301?

It allows the U.S. to investigate if a foreign country's trade policies are "unreasonable or discriminatory" and restrict American commerce. It can lead to new tariffs.

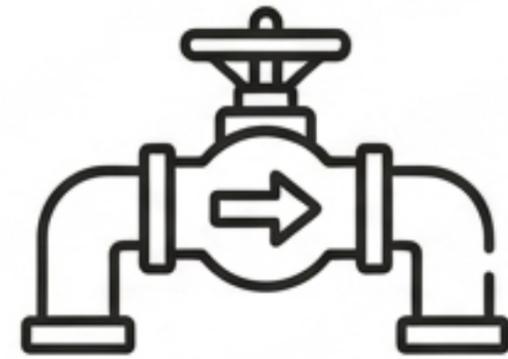
Quick Bites: Sports & World News



Sports: Real Madrid beats Manchester City 3-0 in the Champions League, powered by a **Federico Valverde hat-trick.**



World: China passes a new law promoting a 'shared' national identity among its 55 ethnic minority groups for **ethnic unity and progress.**



Conflict: Russia blames Ukraine for **reckless drone strikes** targeting a major gas pipeline compressor station that supplies energy to Turkiye.

Today's Smart Notes Summary

Geopolitics

Strait of Hormuz blocked by Iran; India sponsors UN resolution to protect shipping and energy.

Economy

LPG panic buying addressed (no actual shortage); CPI inflation hits 10-month high of 3.2%.

Polity

Supreme Court rules OBC creamy layer status cannot be based solely on parental income.

Tech/Security

PIB busts 50+ propaganda deepfakes; Karnataka forms AI governance panel.

You're all caught up for today! Review these notes before your next mock test. 😊