

# The Hindu **SimpLEfied**

Today's Top News Highlights & Notes



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# What We Are Covering Today



## Global Flashpoint:

The Strait of Hormuz Crisis



## Economy Updates:

US Trade Deal & Feb Trade Data



## National Highlights:

Odisha Hospital Fire & Una Case Verdict



## Sports Quick-Hits:

Cricket, Tennis, & F1 Winners

# World Updates: The West Asia Crisis Explained



**The Spark:**  
Direct conflict between US/Israel and Iran (Began Feb 28).

**The Chokepoint:**  
Strait of Hormuz effectively closed.

**The Global Impact:**  
15% of the world's oil is trapped.  
85% of this oil is destined for Asia.

**The Market Shock:**  
Brent crude oil has surged past \$100/barrel.

# Global Updates: Who is Doing What?

## The EU & UN

**Action:** Proposing a **Black Sea Grain** style diplomatic initiative.

**Goal:** Safely open the Strait to prevent global fertilizer and food shortages.

## The US & NATO

**Action:** President Trump demands allies send warships to forcibly open passage.

**Pushback:** European allies (UK, Germany, Italy, France) explicitly refuse to enter a wider war.

## India's Move

**Action:** **Operation Sankalp**

**Execution:** Indian Navy actively escorting Indian-flagged merchant ships out of the Gulf of Oman.

**Key Vessels:** Shivalik (LPG Carrier, reached Mundra Port), Nanda Devi, Jag Laadki.



# Economy Highlights: The India-US Trade Deal

## Step 1: The US Tariff Shakeup

**Fact:** US Supreme Court invalidated old reciprocal tariffs (Feb 20).

**Result:** US imposes a flat 10% tariff on all countries for 150 days.



## Step 2: The Russian Factor

**Context:** US previously removed some tariffs on India to allow the import of Russian oil. India continues to buy due to current geopolitical challenges.



## Step 3: India Hits Pause

**Action:** India will not sign the deal until the US finalizes its global tariff architecture.

**Strategy:** Waiting to ensure competitive rates against other nations (Previous baseline was 18%).

# Quick Stats: India's February Trade Data

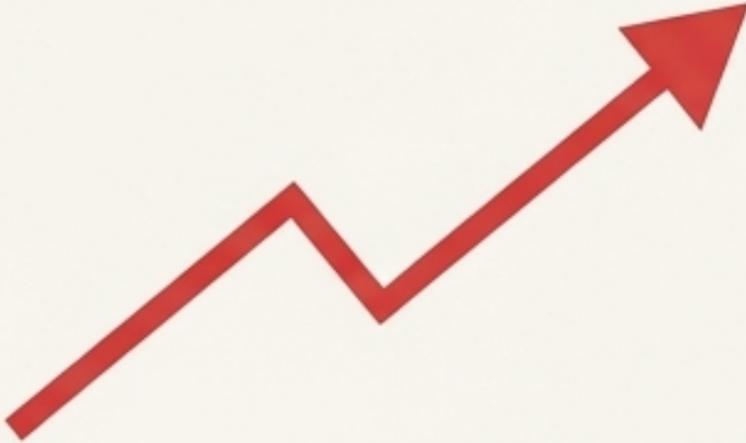
**Merchandise Exports**  
**\$36.6 Billion**



**\$4 Billion**  
**Trade Deficit**

(Up from a \$2.7B  
surplus last year)

**Merchandise Imports**  
**\$63.7 Billion**



Driven by both merchandise and  
services growth.

**Looking Ahead:** March exports expected to drop further due to the West Asia logistics crisis.

# National Highlights: Odisha Hospital Fire



## The Incident:

A fire broke out in the ICU of SCB Medical College Hospital in Cuttack, Odisha, likely due to a short circuit.

## The Impact:

10 patients died; 23 were safely shifted to other wards.

## Government Response:

CM Mohan Charan Majhi announced ₹25 lakh ex-gratia for the victims' families.

## The Investigation:

The State Government has constituted a 6-member Judicial Commission of Inquiry under the 1952 Act.

# National Highlights: 2016 Una Case Verdict



**The Background:** In 2016, four members of a Dalit family were assaulted while skinning a dead cow in **Una** (Gir Somnath district, Gujarat).

**The Verdict:** A Veraval court has officially **convicted 5 persons** in the case.

**The Acquittals:** 35 other accused individuals were acquitted.

**Next Steps:** The court is set to announce the exact sentencing and punishment for the convicts.



# Sports Highlights: The Winners' Podium



## Cricket

**Athlete:** Sanju Samson

**Fact:** Called the T20 World Cup win the biggest moment of his career.



## Tennis (Indian Wells)

**Athletes:** Jannik Sinner & Aryna Sabalenka

**Fact:** Sinner defeated Medvedev; Sabalenka defeated Rybakina to secure the titles.



## Formula 1 (Chinese GP)

**Athlete:** Kimi Antonelli

**Fact:** The 19-year-old converted his pole position into a maiden victory. (Note: Max Verstappen struggled; Lando Norris failed to start).



# Today's Master Cheat Sheet

- **World:** Strait of Hormuz (15% oil trapped) | Operation Sankalp (Indian Navy) | Black Sea Initiative (EU/UN proposal).
- **Economy:** \$4 Billion Feb Trade Deficit | 10% US Reciprocal Tariff.
- **National:** SCB Hospital Fire (Cuttack, Odisha) | 5 Convicted in 2016 [Una Case (Gir Somnath, Gujarat).
- **Sports:** Jannik Sinner & Aryna Sabalenka (Indian Wells) | [Kimi Antonelli (F1 Chinese GP).



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