

March 3, 2026

The Hindu **Simplefied**

Daily News Notes & Top Highlights



Escalating conflict in West Asia expands to multiple fronts

What Happened

- ⚠ U.S. and Israel launch aerial strikes on Iranian targets; Iran and allied groups fire missiles at Israel and Arab states.
- ⚠ At least 555 people killed in U.S.-Israeli strikes according to the Iranian Red Crescent.
- ⚠ Three American warplanes mistakenly downed by Kuwaiti friendly fire.
- ⚠ U.S. President Donald Trump warns a big wave of attacks is yet to come and does not rule out ground troops.



How the West Asia war impacts Indian citizens



Aviation Disruptions

87 international flights cancelled at Delhi airport. IndiGo operating **10** special relief flights from Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.



Seafarer Safety

One Indian national killed after an explosive-laden boat struck the oil tanker **MKD Vyom** near the coast of Oman.



Diplomatic Action

PM Modi held urgent talks with the **King of Bahrain, the Saudi Crown Prince**, and the **King of Jordan** to push for regional peace.

Global conflict drives up oil prices and shifts India's strategy

< 20%

Russia's share in India's oil imports dropped below 20% for the first time since May 2022.

\$80/barrel

Global oil prices spiked by over 8% due to the war in West Asia.



Key Shift

As Russian imports fall, India is sourcing more from Saudi Arabia (up to 17.5% share) and the UAE (10.4%).



India and Canada strike a major strategic energy agreement

The Big Deal

- Signed a 10-year, **\$1.9 Billion** uranium supply deal for Indian nuclear power reactors.
- Canada officially joins the India-led **International Solar Alliance**.
- Trade talks aim to double bilateral trade by 2030.

The Lingering Challenge

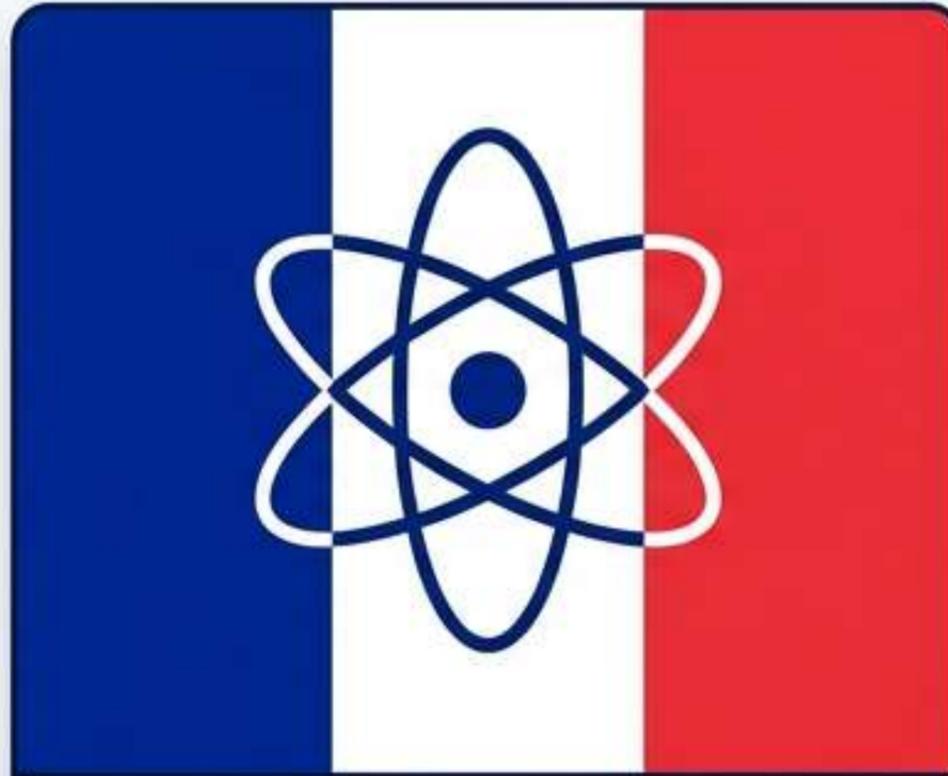
- Diplomatic friction remains over the killing of **Hardeep Singh Nijjar**, with Canadian agencies still alleging **Indian involvement**.

Quick global notes from around the world



Myanmar

Military government grants amnesty to over 10,000 prisoners ahead of the new parliamentary session.



France

President Macron announces the country will increase its nuclear warheads (currently below 300) for the first time since 1992.



South Sudan

Rising violence leaves 169 people dead following an insurgent raid on a remote village.

Crucial updates on national healthcare policies



Safer Blood Transfusions

The Supreme Court is reviewing whether to make Nucleic Acid Testing (NAT) compulsory for blood banks to better detect genetic material for diseases like HIV.



Medical College Crackdown

The National Medical Commission (NMC) warns that colleges using fake patients during assessments will face **immediate rejection** for new courses or additional seats.

Tracking India's latest economic indicators

4.8%

IIP Growth

Industrial activity slowed to a three-month low in January due to a broad-based manufacturing slowdown.

1.3%

CAD Rises

The Current Account Deficit rose to \$13.2 billion due to a higher trade deficit and declining exports to the U.S.

8.25%

EPFO Rate

Good news for workers as the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation retains its interest rate for 2025-26.

State-level emergencies and public safety incidents

Maharashtra

A massive oleum gas leak at a Palghar chemical unit forced the evacuation of **2,600 people**, including **1,600** school students.

Andhra Pradesh

The death toll in the Vetlapalem fireworks manufacturing unit blast has risen to **22**. Two owners have been arrested.

Tamil Nadu

Three spectators were tragically gored to death and **95 injured** during the manjuvirattu (bull chase) event in Sivaganga.



Sports Highlights

Action from the world of cricket



Hero Moment

97 Not Out

Sanju Samson scored a crucial knock against the West Indies in the T20 World Cup.

“I did some soul-searching. I kept believing in myself... I listened to my own self.” — Sanju Samson



Upcoming Series

BCCI announces Afghanistan will tour India for a one-off Test in Chandigarh (June 6) followed by three ODIs.

3 Key Takeaways for your exams



1. Global Conflict

The West Asia war has spiked global oil prices over **\$80/barrel** and forced India to adjust its oil imports.



2. Bilateral Ties

India and Canada signed a 10-year, \$1.9 Billion uranium deal despite ongoing diplomatic friction.



3. National Health

The Supreme Court is evaluating mandatory NAT tests for blood banks to ensure safer transfusions.