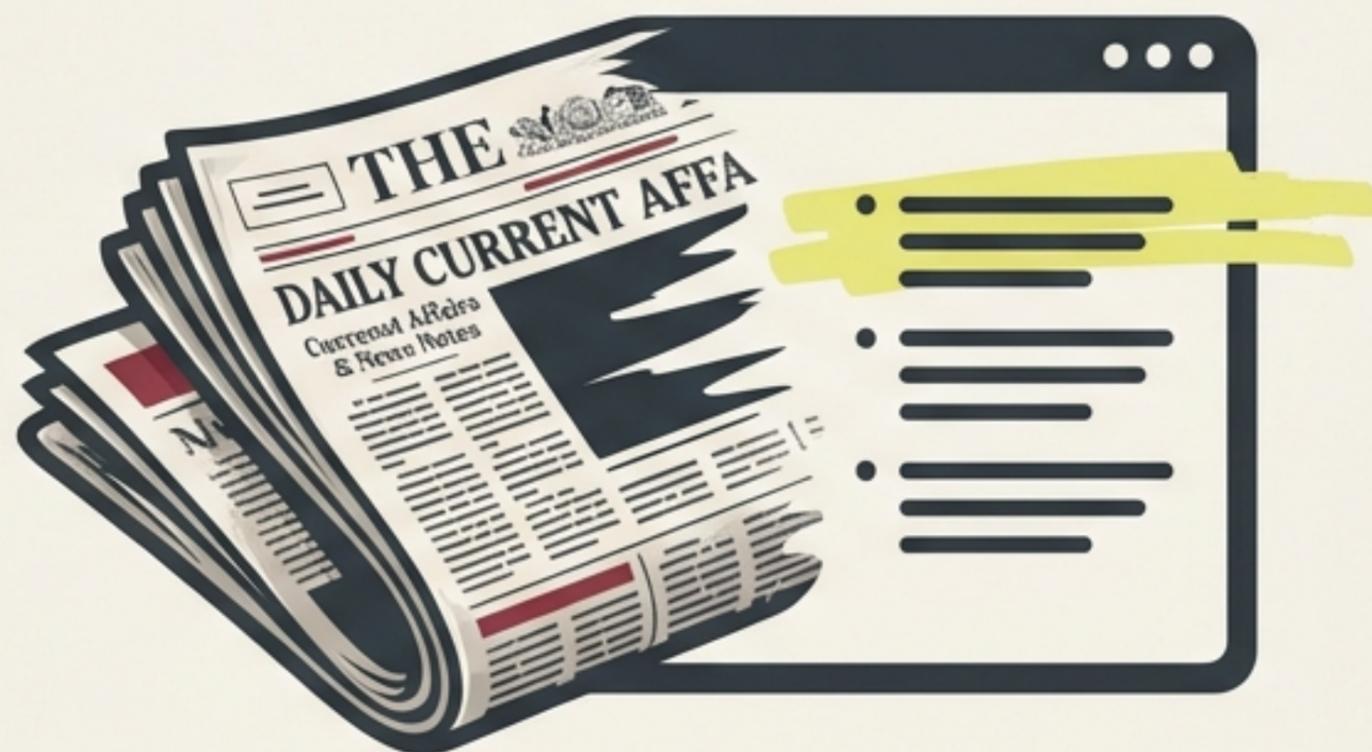


The Hindu Simplified



Daily Current Affairs & News Notes

Stripped of jargon. Built for quick revision.

Top Story: India, US & Russian Oil

- The U.S. granted India a **30-day waiver** to import **Russian oil** to mitigate global price spikes.
- Global supplies are constrained due to Iran's blockade of the **Strait of Hormuz**.
- Brent crude prices have jumped nearly 20% in a week, hitting **\$88 a barrel**.

25 Days

Amount of crude oil, petrol, and diesel India currently has in reserve.



Global Updates: West Asia Crisis

- **India Denies US Assistance**

The Indian Navy dismissed reports that it helped the US sink the Iranian vessel IRIS Dena off the coast of Sri Lanka.

- **Iranian Sailors in India**

Another Iranian vessel, IRIS Lavan, has been docked in Kochi since March 4 due to technical issues, with 183 sailors accommodated at naval facilities.

- **Strike on Iran**

The US is reportedly responsible for a February 28 strike on an elementary school in southern Iran that killed at least 150 people.



Global Updates: Around the World

Nepal Elections

- The Rastriya Swatantra Party (RSP), led by rapper Balen, is heading for a massive landslide, leading in **110 out of 165** constituencies.

Indonesia Tech Ban

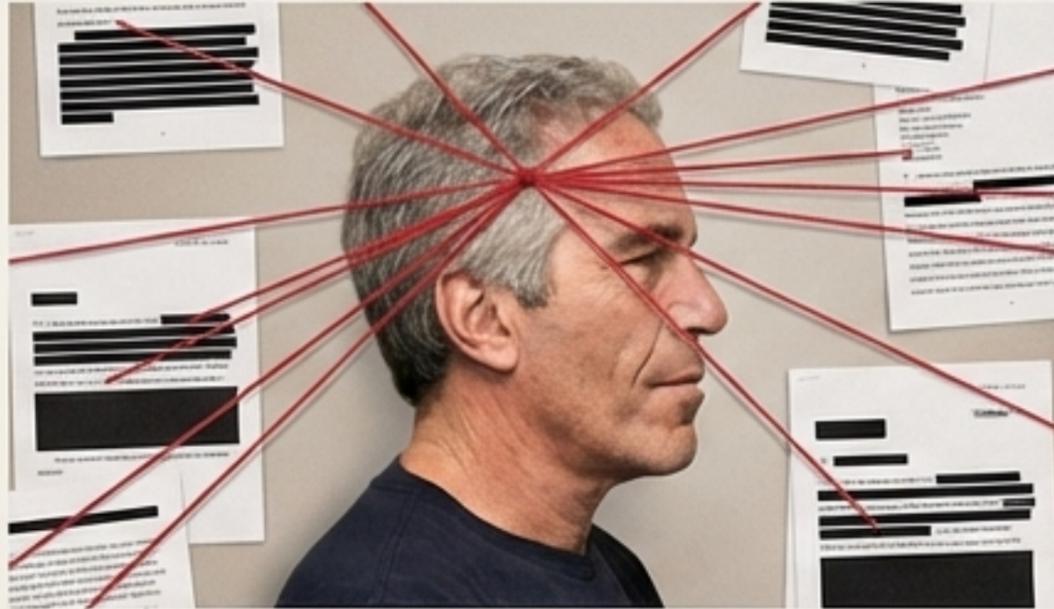
- The government will restrict social media access for children under 16 starting **March 28** to combat cyberbullying and online fraud.



UK Visa Policy

- Britain announced a ban on education visas for citizens of Myanmar, Afghanistan, Sudan, and Cameroon due to surging asylum applications.

Global Updates: US News



Epstein Files Unsealed

- The US Justice Department released new FBI documents containing claims of sexual assault against former President Donald Trump.



AI Lab Banned

- The Pentagon slapped a formal supply-chain risk designation on the AI lab Anthropic, barring government contractors from using its tech for the US military.

National Highlights: Politics & Security



Bihar Leadership Change

- Chief Minister Nitish Kumar (JD-U) is way for trally its beginners.
- Chief Minister Nitish Kumar (JD-U) is stepping aside.
- A BJP nominee is expected to succeed him.
- The NDA swept the 2025 Assembly elections with 202 seats (BJP: 89, JD-U: 85).

Targeting Maoism

- Home Minister Amit Shah reiterated the government's commitment to make India free from Naxalism and left-wing extremism by March 31, 2026.

National Highlights: UPSC Results

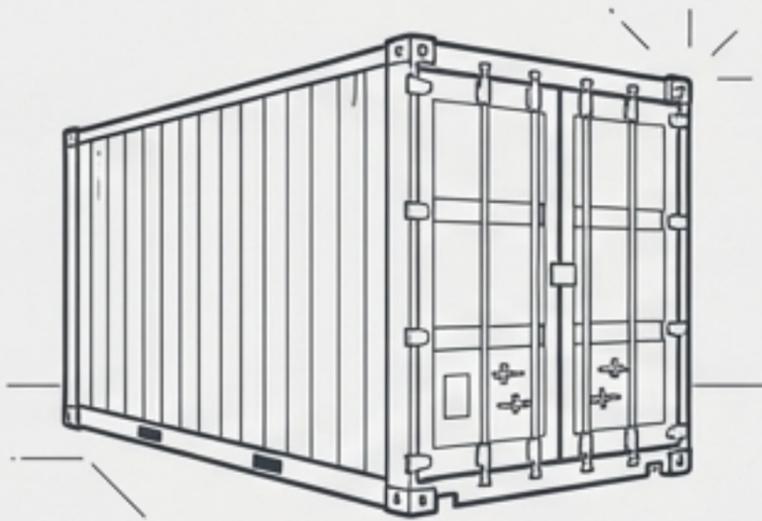
958

Candidates recommended for IAS, IFS, IPS, and Central Services against 1,087 vacancies.

Rank 1	Rank 2	Rank 3	Demographics
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Anuj Agnihotri (AIIMS Jodhpur graduate)• Optional: <u>Medical Science</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rajeshwari Suve (Anna University graduate)• Optional: <u>Sociology</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Akansh Dhull (Delhi University graduate)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>659</u> men and <u>299</u> women qualified

Economy & Business Updates

Export Protection



The Commerce Ministry promised to use policy tools to support domestic exporters facing massive freight rate hikes and shipping delays due to the West Asia crisis.

Fertilizer Stocks



The Centre assured farmers of adequate fertilizer for the upcoming Kharif season, building a massive reserve of 177.31 Lakh Metric Tonnes (LMT) despite a dip in natural gas supplies.

State Updates: Key Budgets

Maharashtra

- The 2026-27 State budget announced a crop loan waiver of up to ₹2 lakh for farmers.
- Introduced the Global Competence Centre Policy to generate 4 lakh jobs.

Karnataka

- The 2026-27 State budget focuses heavily on Artificial Intelligence (AI) and skill development.
- Aims to address socio-economic inequalities with long-term infrastructure investments.

State Updates: Andhra Pradesh Tragedy



- A massive firecracker factory explosion in Kakinada claimed 28 lives, including eight women.

Systemic Safety Lapses

- Preliminary investigations revealed the owners **stored explosive materials** far beyond permitted limits.

Over-hiring

- The factory engaged **31 workers** to meet festival demands, which was nearly four times the number allowed under their license.



Quick Notes to Remember

<h2>Air Quality</h2>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Last winter, 204 out of 238 Indian cities failed to meet the national PM2.5 standard of $40 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$.
<h2>Health & Nutrition</h2>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stunting among children dropped to 31% in Kalyana Karnataka, an improvement heavily credited to local egg distribution programs. 
<h2>Aviation</h2>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Kerala's CM flagged predatory airfares due to the West Asia conflict, noting flights from Dubai to Kochi have spiked to over $\text{₹}61,000$.



You're All Caught Up!

Your daily dose of current affairs is complete. Keep revising, stay consistent, and see you tomorrow for the next update.