

THE CURRENT SCENARIO

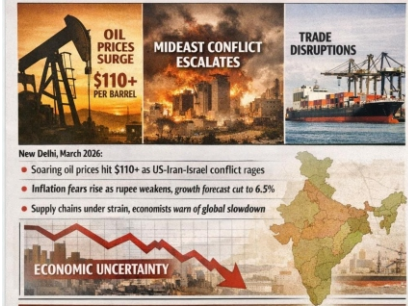
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INDIA'S ECONOMY AT A CROSSROADS: WAR SHOCKS TEST GROWTH STORY Rising Oil, Global Conflict & Trade Risks Put Pressure on India's Economic Momentum

OPINION: By Awees Siddiqui CEO Spoton Global Group, Business Analyst "India Must Turn Crisis into Strategic Opportunity" India is not just facing an economic challenge—it is facing a strategic test. For decades, we depended heavily on imported oil while celebrating high GDP growth. This crisis exposes a harsh reality: growth without energy security is fragile. But every crisis brings an opportunity. This is the moment for India to: Accelerate renewable energy independence Diversify global trade partnerships Strengthen domestic manufacturing and supply chains If India acts decisively, this war could become a turning point—transforming us from a vulnerable economy into a self-reliant global power. The question is: Will India react, or will India lead?



Despite these risks, India's strong domestic demand, expanding middle class, and policy resilience remain key buffers. The coming months will determine whether India can sustain its growth trajectory—or face a slowdown under global pressure.

For India, the impact is immediate and structural. The country imports nearly 90% of its crude oil, making it highly vulnerable to price shocks. Rising fuel costs are expected to push inflation upward, weaken the rupee, and increase the fiscal burden. Business Standard Economists have already begun cutting India's growth forecasts for 2026, with estimates now hovering around 6.5%, down from earlier projections. Beyond fuel, the crisis is affecting fertilizer supply, trade routes, and industrial production, raising concerns about food inflation and supply chain disruptions. Globally, analysts warn that if the conflict continues, it could trigger a full-scale economic slowdown or even recession, echoing the oil shocks of the 1970s.

India's economy, which recently enjoyed a "goldilocks phase" of strong growth and low inflation, is now facing serious headwinds as the ongoing US-Israel-Iran conflict disrupts global markets. The war has triggered the worst energy crisis in decades, with oil prices crossing \$110 per barrel and threatening to rise even further due to disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz—a route responsible for nearly 20% of global oil supply.

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महानगर अध्यक्ष : राष्ट्रवादी काँग्रेस पार्टी (शरद पवार गट)

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फय्याज खान
(पूर्व नगरसेवक, राष्ट्रवादी नेता)

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Wishing you joy and countless blessings!

Dr Zishan Husain
Director : Afza Multi speciality Hospital Akola
Congress Leader
(CORPORATOR & OPPOSITION LEADER (MC) AKOLA)

'It all happened in a minute': An 'illegal' contract, a Rs 7,000 risk and 3 dead men in Raipur



"It all happened within a minute," said 32-year-old Sevak Kumar, who saw his younger brother Prashant (26) go into a dark manhole of a septic tank to save the two others who had gone in before him. They were part of a group of around 10 men who had agreed to clean the septic tank inside the Ramkrishna Care Hospital in Chhattisgarh's capital city of Raipur for a fee of Rs 7,000 last Tuesday. However, none of the three came out of the manhole alive. The deceased, Prashant Kumar, Govind Sendre (35) and Anmol Machkhand (32), were contractual sweepers with the municipality. On the day of the incident, brothers Prashant, Satyam (30) and Sevak were part of a group of around 10 men who took up the job of cleaning the septic tank, which police said was nearly 20 feet deep, 15 feet in length and 10 feet wide. It was filled with three feet of semi-solid waste.

Karnataka BJP leader's 15-year-old son dies in Hubballi after 'action brake' reel stunt with Audi Q7 goes wrong



The 15-year-old son of a Karnataka BJP leader died in an accident in Hubballi on Thursday while shooting a social media reel. The shoot involved an Audi Q7 and an Ola electric two-wheeler approaching each other at high speed, and swerving at the final moment. The police identified the teenager as Nameesh Sangalad, the son of Veerabhadrapa Sangalad, a politician in the Hubballi-Dharwad region. Nameesh was riding the 2022 model electric bike registered in the name of Vinayak Miskin of Hubballi when the reel was being shot by a group of teenagers. The 2013 model Audi Q7—originally registered in Noida in Uttar Pradesh—was allegedly being driven by another teenager, a minor.

How Dhurandhar 2 uses real-life events—from demonetisation to encounters—to build Hamza's world



Amid the ongoing debate around the importance of strong writing in cinema, Aditya Dhar crafts a compelling narrative in Dhurandhar 2: The Revenge by blending real-life events with fiction, all anchored around the character of Hamza. He uses recent Indian events as the backbone of his storytelling, blurring the lines between fact and fiction. Right at the outset, the filmmaker sets the tone with a detailed disclaimer: "The film is not a documentary and should not be construed as an accurate

depiction of historical facts or events. Certain characters, institutions, dialogues, and events have been fictionalised and dramatised for cinematic purposes. Any resemblance or similarity to actual persons, organisations, events, or locations is purely coincidental." Yet, beneath this formal distancing lies a clever narrative device. Dhar, who has often maintained that his films are merely "inspired" by real events, draws heavily from contemporary history—reimagining incidents like the Atiq Ahmed encounter, the 2016 demonetisation, and the reported deaths of terrorists such as Azam Cheema, Sajid Mir, Abdul Bhuttovi, Altaf and Javed Khanani. What he fictionalises, however, is the connective thread—tying these disparate events to Hamza's journey in a tightly woven, chronological arc. Recreating the Atiq Ahmed Encounter (April 15, 2023) One of the film's most striking sequences mirrors the real-life killing of gangster-turned-politician Atiq Ahmed. On April 15, 2023, Ahmed was shot dead at point-blank range while being escorted by police for a medical check-up in Prayagraj, in full view of the media. Aditya Dhar recreates this moment with chilling precision—the media interaction, the sudden gunshot, and the chaos that follows. However, the film takes creative liberties by reimagining this character's background. While the real Atiq Ahmed was accused of crimes like extortion, kidnapping, and murder, Dhar links his on-screen counterpart to Pakistan's ISI, portraying him as a conduit between domestic crime networks and cross-border intelligence operations. His connection to Major Iqbal (played by Arjun Rampal) becomes a crucial fictional pivot, suggesting deeper geopolitical implications.

Baijayant Panda interview: 'People of Assam have had enough of impunity of law-breakers ... CM Sarma is very blunt about language he uses'



As the Assam Assembly election campaign begins, BJP national vice-president and MP Baijayant Jay Panda, the party's election in-charge for the state, speaks to The Indian Express about the BJP's "historic landslide and landmark victory", the criticism levelled at Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, and the party's relationship with allies. Excerpts: * Many believe that the BJP's victory in Assam is a foregone conclusion. Do you have apprehensions about complacency? The BJP does not take any election lightly. That is why I, like many other senior leaders, have been working in Assam for a few months. The mood, feedback, response of the people, as well as the surveys indicate a tremendous pro-incumbency. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's focus (on the region) is legendary. He has made 77 visits to the state as against his predecessor Manmohan Singh, who was an MP from the state but visited Assam only 10 times. One can see the transformation that has taken place. Also, I do not think there is any complacency. The BJP is a well-oiled machine and not a party that turns up during elections unlike other parties. We are aiming for a historic, landslide landmark victory.

US-Israel-Iran War News Live Updates:
With crude supply on edge, PM Modi to chair meeting to review energy situation



Bahrain's defence forces said they have intercepted and destroyed 145 missiles and 246 drones since the beginning of the ongoing conflict, as air defence systems continue to respond to repeated attacks. In a statement, the military said it was countering "successive waves" of strikes, which it attributed to Iran, adding that the interceptions have taken place amid a continuing escalation. Authorities urged residents to remain cautious, avoid damaged areas and suspicious objects, and not film military operations or impact sites. The statement further said that the use of "ballistic missiles and drones to target civilian infrastructure and private property constitutes a flagrant violation of international humanitarian law".

How Denmark planned to counter a US attempt to invade Greenland



A major geopolitical tension emerged in early 2026 over Greenland, an Arctic territory under the control of Denmark, after renewed interest and aggressive rhetoric from Donald Trump about acquiring the island.

Viewing this as a serious threat to its sovereignty, Denmark quietly prepared for a possible military confrontation with the United States. Danish authorities reportedly developed contingency plans that included deploying troops and explosives to strategically important airfields such as Nuuk and Kangerlussuaq, with the intention of destroying runways if necessary to prevent U.S. aircraft from landing. Medical supplies, including blood reserves, were also sent to Greenland, indicating preparation for potential casualties. Alongside national efforts, Denmark coordinated with European allies like France and Germany to strengthen its defensive posture under a broader deterrence strategy. The crisis raised serious concerns within NATO, as it involved tensions between member states, an unprecedented scenario. However, through diplomatic negotiations and international pressure, the situation gradually de-escalated, with the United States stepping back from any direct military action. Despite this, Greenland remains a highly strategic region due to its natural resources and Arctic location, ensuring that global attention and geopolitical competition over the island continue.

Denmark Prepares Defense Plan Over Greenland Tensions



This week saw rising geopolitical tension over Greenland as Denmark reportedly prepared secret defense strategies in case of a forced move by the United States. The situation escalated after renewed statements linked to Donald Trump regarding control over Greenland. Denmark allegedly planned to destroy key runways to prevent foreign military landings, while also sending medical supplies and increasing troop presence. European allies extended support, and concerns grew within NATO. The issue highlights Greenland's importance due to its Arctic position and natural resources.

Global Markets Show Mixed Trends Amid Uncertainty



Financial markets across the world showed mixed performance this week as investors reacted to geopolitical tensions and inflation concerns. Major indices in United States and China fluctuated due to policy signals and trade expectations. Experts noted cautious investor sentiment, with gold prices rising slightly as a safe-haven asset. Oil prices also remained volatile due to supply concerns and global demand shifts.

Tech Companies Push Forward in AI Race



The artificial intelligence race intensified this week with leading companies like Google and Microsoft announcing new advancements. AI tools are becoming more powerful and integrated into daily life, including search engines, productivity apps, and education platforms. However, concerns about data privacy and job displacement continue to grow, prompting discussions about regulation.

Education Sector Embraces Digital Transformation



The education sector across the world is undergoing a massive digital transformation, reshaping how students learn and how teachers deliver knowledge. Countries like India and the United States are leading this change by integrating technology into classrooms and online platforms. Governments and private institutions are investing heavily in digital infrastructure to ensure that education becomes more accessible, flexible, and efficient. The rise of e-learning platforms and mobile applications has made it possible for students to learn anytime and anywhere, breaking the traditional boundaries of classrooms. In recent years, especially after global disruptions like the pandemic, schools and colleges have shifted towards hybrid and fully online models. Platforms such as Google Classroom and Zoom have become essential tools for virtual learning. These platforms allow teachers to conduct live classes, share assignments, and track student progress in real time. As a result, digital education has become more interactive and engaging compared to traditional methods.

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Dr Sudhir Dhone
Secretary and spokesperson, Maharashtra Pradesh Congress committee.

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प्रवीण भोटकर सर
संचालक : पारस पैरामेडिकल कॉलेज




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May this blessed day bring peace, joy, and endless blessings to you and your loved ones. Eid Mubarak!

सेय्यद नासिर
(अध्यक्ष : युवा जन लोकशाही संगठन)



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