



TATHASTU
Institute Of Civil Services

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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Mains Manthan

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Prelims Saarthi

- Places in News

India warns against “double standards” over Russian oil

Why in News?

- US imposing tariffs on countries importing oil from Russia

Syllabus

- GS Paper 2 – International Relations

India warns against ‘double standards’ over Russian oil

Centre responds to U.S. Bill seeking to impose duties on countries buying Russian oil, and threat from NATO chief; Petroleum Minister says the sanctions will be ‘dealt with’ when they are passed

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

India on Thursday cautioned against “double standards”, even as U.S. lawmakers consider a Bill that would impose 500% duties on India and other countries buying Russian oil.

The comments by the External Affairs Ministry come after indications that U.S. President Donald Trump is backing the Russian Sanctions Act, 2025, introduced by Republican Senator Lindsey Graham. Mr. Trump had even threatened secondary tariffs of 100% on countries that continue trade on sanctioned Russian products.

On Wednesday, NATO Secretary-General Mark Rutte, who met with Mr. Trump and members of

Strong stand

The ‘Sanctioning Russia Act of 2025’, expected to be introduced in U.S. Congress in August, mandates 500% duties on goods and services from countries buying Russian oil

What the NATO chief said

- India, China, and Brazil should tell Vladimir Putin to be serious about peace talks with Ukraine

- Continuing to do business with Russia will ‘slam back’ on these countries

- The secondary sanctions by U.S. will hit these countries ‘very hard’

the U.S. Congress, also issued a threat, in particular to China, India, and Brazil, who are among the top buyers of Russian crude oil, oil products, and coal. “Beijing and Delhi” should push Russian President Vladimir Putin towards



Centre's response

- Securing energy needs is an ‘overriding priority’ for the government

- India is guided by what markets offer and global circumstances

- Maintain caution against double standards on the matter

ending the war in Ukraine, or face tariffs, the chief of the military alliance said.

Responding to questions on the issue, the External Affairs Ministry said it was following the developments closely. “Securing the energy needs of our

people is understandably an overriding priority for us. In this endeavour, we are guided by what is there on offer in the markets, as also by the prevailing global circumstances,” spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said. “We would particularly caution against any double standards on the matter,” he added.

‘Diverse sources’

At an industry event in Delhi on Thursday, Union Petroleum Minister Hardeep Puri said India would “deal” with sanctions when they are passed, pointing out that India has diversified its supply sources, buying oil from about 40 countries now, as opposed to 27 in the past.

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Key Takeaways from the Article

Increasing reliance on imported crude oil

India's crude oil import dependency has reached 88.2% in April-February FY25.

This marks a steady increase over the years from 83.8% in FY19.

Crude oil imports rose to 219.9 mt in the same period.

Future projections

Petroleum product consumption is expected to rise to 252.93 mt, marking another record high.

Factors driving Higher Oil Imports

Growing energy demand due to population growth and economic expansion.

Increase in vehicle sales leading to higher fuel consumption.

Rising petrochemical consumption for industrial growth.

Expanding the aviation sector with greater jet fuel needs.





Economic and Strategic Implications

Vulnerability to global oil price fluctuations impacting fiscal stability.

Trade deficit pressure as oil imports form a major portion of total imports.

Foreign exchange reserve depletion is affecting currency stability.

Inflationary pressures, as fuel prices influence overall price levels.

Government Initiatives to Reduce Import Dependency

Policy reforms: Oilfield (Regulatory and Development) Amendment Bill to attract investment in the oil & gas sector and boost domestic exploration and production.

Promotion of alternative fuels: Encouraging biofuels blending with conventional fuels. Incentives for electric mobility adoption to reduce petrol and diesel demand.

Refinery expansion plans: India's current refining capacity is 257 mt per annum, expected to grow further.





Prelims PYQs (2020)

Ques. The term ‘West Texas Intermediate’, sometimes found in news, refers to a grade of

- (a) Crude oil
- (b) Bullion
- (c) Rare earth elements
- (d) Uranium

Prelims PYQs (2011)

Ques. Recently, “oil zapper” was in the news. What is it ?

- (a) It is an eco-friendly technology for the remediation of oily sludge and oil spills
- (b) It is the latest technology developed for undersea oil exploration
- (c) It is a genetically engineered high biofuel yielding maize variety
- (d) It is the latest technology to control the accidentally caused flames from oil wells.

Akash Prime successfully tested in Ladakh by Army

Why in News?

- Air Defence System - Akash Prime

Syllabus

- GS Paper 3 – Internal Security

Akash Prime successfully tested in Ladakh by Army

Saurabh Trivedi
NEW DELHI

To further strengthen the air defence system, the Army has carried out successful trials of the indigenously developed air defence system “Akash Prime” in Ladakh.

A senior official confirmed that the Army Air Defence Corps conducted the trials in collaboration with senior scientists from the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), which developed the missile system.

The two-day trial was conducted at an altitude of over 15,000 feet in eastern Ladakh. The Akash Prime scored two direct hits on fast-moving aerial targets in the rarefied high-altitude atmosphere.



On top: The Army carried out successful trials of the indigenously developed air defence system in Ladakh. X/DRDO

The latest version of the Akash system would form the third and fourth regiments of the Akash air defence systems in the Indian Army. The Akash air defence system is a medium-range, surface-to-air missile platform.

Prithvi-II and Agni-I
The Ministry of Defence on Thursday confirmed that

short-range ballistic missiles – Prithvi-II and Agni-I – were successfully test-fired from the Integrated Test Range in Chandipur, Odisha.

The launches validated all operational and technical parameters. These tests were conducted under the aegis of the Strategic Forces Command, added the Ministry.





Key Takeaways from the Article

Indigenous Development

The **Akash Prime** is the latest version of the **Akash surface-to-air missile** system developed by **DRDO**. This missile is medium-range and designed for **air defence**.

Missile Tests: Prithvi-II and Agni-I:

Prithvi-II: A short-range ballistic missile with a range of approximately **350 km**, which is designed for **quick strikes and strategic deterrence**.

Agni-I: A medium-range ballistic missile (range of about **700 km**), part of India's **strategic nuclear deterrent**.

Prelims PYQs (2011)

Ques. With reference to Agni-IV Missile, which of the following statements is/are correct? (2014)

1. It is a surface-to-surface missile.
2. It is fuelled by liquid propellant only.
3. It can deliver one-tonne nuclear warheads about 7500 km away.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3

Glitches in POSHAN app hindering beneficiaries registration in Haryana

Why in News?

- POSHAN App

Syllabus

- GS Paper 2 – Governance & Social Justice

Glitches in Poshan app hindering beneficiaries' registration in Haryana

Ashna Butani
ROHTAK

After completing her pre-school duty, Usha Rani, a 47-year-old anganwadi worker, walked through the winding alleys of Marodhi Jattan village in Rohtak, Haryana, to meet her assigned beneficiaries - seven pregnant women and three lactating mothers - and get them registered on the Poshan Tracker app for availing dietary benefits.

The facial recognition of her beneficiaries on the app, made mandatory by the Centre since July 1, has been pending. Ms. Rani tried numerous times to get them registered, but an 'error' message popped up every time. The anganwadi worker apologised to the beneficiaries for the inconvenience and told them



An anganwadi worker trying to register a beneficiary on the Centre's Poshan Tracker app in Rohtak, Haryana. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

she would try to get them registered soon so that they can avail themselves of the take-home ration and other benefits.

The Union Ministry of Women and Child Development has directed anganwadi workers to complete the authentication of beneficiaries, which in-

cludes facial recognition and Aadhaar e-KYC on the Poshan Tracker app. The initiative is for monitoring the implementation of Poshan Abhiyaan, a health scheme to improve the nutrition parameters in children and women.

The Ministry has also ordered registration of all be-

neficiary children through their guardians' or parents' Aadhaar cards on the app.

Under the scheme, anganwadi workers and helpers are tasked to provide supplementary nutrition for infants, lactating and pregnant mothers, pre-school education, health check-ups and immunisation for children up to six years.

Ms. Rani said getting the beneficiaries registered on the app is not as easy as it seems. She mentioned that in some cases, the app fails to register the women beneficiary's face.

Moreover, there are a few cases of the beneficiary's name being misspelled on their Aadhaar card, which the app does not accept.

Another anganwadi worker, Sushila, 44, who does not know how to operate a smartphone and relies on her daughter, Monika, 22, for help, said that poor Internet connectivity at some places and technical glitches in the app at times are other hurdles.

"In one case, we tried for more than 30 minutes to get the facial recognition of the beneficiary done. We attempted multiple angles and locations, but in vain," said Ms. Sushila.

A pregnant woman in the village, who did not wish to be named, said, "My husband has lost his mobile phone, and my Aadhaar card was linked to his number, as I do not have a phone. To register on the Poshan app, my husband's number must be active. I have stopped receiving the dietary supple-

ments as I am not registered on the app."

Digital divide
While the Ministry has maintained that integrating technology into its programmes ensures that benefits reach the last mile swiftly and transparently, the beneficiaries argue that digitisation has only increased their problems. According to the 'Comprehensive Modular Survey: Telecom, 2025' by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, 74.2% of women in rural Haryana have access to a mobile phone, against 94% men.

Ms. Rani said she wants to keep up with digitisation, but anganwadi workers have not received any specific training for this purpose.





Key Takeaways from the Article

About POSHAN Abhiyan

It is a flagship initiative of the Ministry of Women and Child Development, launched on 8th March 2018 in Jhunjhunu, Rajasthan.

The program aims to address the nutrition needs of adolescent girls, pregnant women, lactating mothers, and children (0-6 years) through a targeted and convergent approach.

Objectives of POSHAN Abhiyaan

It aims to reduce stunting, under-nutrition, anaemia (among young children, women and adolescent girls) and reduce low birth weight by 2%, 2%, 3% and 2% per annum respectively.

Strategic Pillars: It operates through four strategic pillars:

Quality Services: Strengthens health services via ICDS, NHM, PMMVY, focusing on a child's first 1,000 days.

Cross-Sectoral Convergence: Integrates ministries like Water & Sanitation for holistic nutrition.

The National Council on India's Nutritional Challenges, led by NITI Aayog, guides policy and reviews nutrition convergence quarterly.

Strategic Pillars: It operates through four strategic pillars:

Technology: Uses the Poshan Tracker for real-time data and monitoring and ICDS-Common Application Software to strengthen delivery of Anganwadi Services.

Jan Andolan: Promotes community-led nutrition awareness and behavioral change.

Mission Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0

It is also known as Mission Poshan 2.0, that fosters health, wellness, and immunity and infrastructure upgrades for Anganwadi Centre (AWCs) e.g., dedicated buildings, functional toilets, with drinking water access.





Prelims PYQs (2017)

Q. Which of the following are the objectives of 'National Nutrition Mission'? (2017)

1. To create awareness relating to malnutrition among pregnant women and lactating mothers.
2. To reduce the incidence of anaemia among young children, adolescent girls and women.
3. To promote the consumption of millets, coarse cereals and unpolished rice.
4. To promote the consumption of poultry eggs.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 and 2 only (b) 1, 2 and 3 only
(c) 1, 2 and 4 only (d) 3 and 4 only

Q. Which of the following is/are the indicator/indicators used by IFPRI to compute the Global Hunger Index Report? (2016)

1. Undernourishment
2. Child stunting
3. Child mortality

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1, 2 and 3 (d) 1 and 3 only

PGNRB asks city gas firms to supply piped gas to all households

Why in News?

- PGNRB

Syllabus

- GS Paper 2 – Governance & Social Justice

PNGRB asks city gas firms to supply piped gas to all households at uniform rate

N. Ravi Kumar
HYDERABAD

The Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) directed city gas distribution (CGD) entities to supply piped natural gas at a uniform rate to all domestic household consumers, irrespective of daily consumption levels.

The oil regulator said this while taking note of a telescopic pricing structure for the gas supply to domestic consumers that certain CGD entities were implementing in which the per standard cubic metre (SCM) price of the commodity escalated as consumption crossed a predefined threshold.



The directive comes in context of a telescopic pricing by CGDs.

"Such pricing practices may inadvertently facilitate unauthorised use of subsidised APM (administered pricing mechanism) gas by commercial consumers who may be misclassified as domestic consumers. Additionally, genuine domestic consum-

ers with higher consumption levels may be unfairly subjected to elevated charges, despite natural gas being supplied to CGD entities at a uniform APM rate," PGNRB said.

Thorough review

It advised CGD firms to undertake a 'thorough review of consumption patterns and investigate anomalous cases where domestic consumers exhibit significantly higher usage relative to industry average and take corrective measures.

It also cited government norms where natural gas is allocated at concessional rates to boost its adoption by households and the transport sector.





Prelims PYQs (2019)

Q. Consider the following statements: (2019)

1. Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) is the first regulatory body set up by the Government of India.
 2. One of the tasks of PNGRB is to ensure competitive markets for gas.
 3. Appeals against the decisions of PNGRB go before the Appellate Tribunals for Electricity.
- Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only (b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3

Prelims PYQs (2025)

50. Consider the following activities :

- I. Production of crude oil ✓
- II. Refining, storage and distribution of petroleum ✓
- III. Marketing and sale of petroleum products ✓
- IV. Production of natural gas ✓

How many of the above activities are regulated by the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board in our country?

- (a) Only one (b) Only two
(c) Only three (d) All the four

Places in News

- Capital of Yemen - Sanaa

India in touch with 'friendly governments' in nurse case

Kallol Bhattacharjee
NEW DELHI

The Indian government is in contact with "local authorities" in Sana'a, the capital of Yemen, as well with some "friendly governments" in the region to push for the release of Nimisha Priya, an Indian nurse who is on death row in Yemen, the External Affairs Ministry said on Thursday.

Apart from the rebel Houthi administration that controls the Yemeni capital, India has been in touch with officials in Saudi Arabia, Iran, and other neighbouring countries who can influence the Houthis, officials said.

The remarks came a day after official sources confirmed that the scheduled July 16 execution of Ms. Priya had been "postponed".

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