WEST ASIA CRISIS UPDATE

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HORMUZ SHUT, IRAN WARNS IT'LL FIRE ON SHIPS

- US says it is **pulling out non-essential personnel from several of its missions** across West Asia after repeated attacks. **American citizens told to immediately leave the region** even as air travel remains severely disrupted
- **Major Gulf aviation hubs**, including the world's busiest international airport Dubai, remained **closed for a fourth day on Tuesday**
- In its most explicit warning so far, senior official of Iranian Revolutionary Guards says Strait of Hormuz is closed and Iran will fire on any ship trying to pass
- **IAEA says strikes in Iran have damaged the entrance buildings of the country's nuclear site at Natanz.** Says 'no radiological consequence expected and no additional impact detected'
- **Israel says its military has seized areas of southern Lebanon** as part of its escalating conflict with Hezbollah
- Trump says relationship with UK not what it used to be, **British PM Keir Starmer has 'not been helpful'**, after the latter said his govt 'does not believe in regime change from the skies'

Indians stranded in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, flew back to Delhi and were reunited with families Tuesday

- **European, Asian stock markets sink for a 2nd day:** indices in London, Paris and Frankfurt fall 2-3%; stocks in Japan fall over 3%, Taiwan 2%, South Korea's Kospi Index plunges 7.2%. **Dow Jones in US drops 1,200 points**

"We have a virtually unlimited supply of these weapons. Wars can be fought forever... using just these supplies" —**US President Trump**

1. Who is Mojtaba Khamenei, Iran's new supreme leader?

- **Mojtaba Khamenei,** the **son of Iran's Ayatollah Ali Khamenei**, who was **killed in US-Israeli strikes,** has been chosen as his successor.
  - Born on 8 September 1969 in the north-eastern city of Mashhad, **Mojtaba is the second of Ali Khamenei's six children.**
  - He received his **secondary education** at the **religious Alavi School in Tehran.**
  - **At 17, Mojtaba** served in the **military for several short periods during the Iran-Iraq War,** according to Iranian media.
  - In **1999, Mojtaba went to Qom, a holy city** which is considered an important centre of **Shia theology, to continue his religious studies.**
  - It is notable that he **did not wear clerical clothing until this time,** and it is **unclear why he decided to attend a seminary at 30,** as it is more usual to do so in one's younger years.
  - Mojtaba remains a **mid-ranking cleric,** which could pose an obstacle to his **acceptance as the new supreme leader.**

Who is Mojtaba Khamenei?

The second son of the assassinated Ayatollah Ali Khamenei is Iran's new supreme leader

- **Sep 8, 1969:** ***Mojtaba Khamenei*** born in Mashhad into clerical family
- **1987-88:** Joins ***Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC),*** serving during latter part of Iran-Iraq War
- **Late 1990s:** Studies at Qom seminary – Iran's main centre of Shia religious learning
- **Early 2000s:** Begins teaching in Qom, forging strong connections within country's religious and political leadership
- **2004:** Marries ***Zahra Haddad-Adel***, daughter of conservative politician ***Gholam-Ali Haddad-Adel***, strengthening ties with hardline establishment
- **2005:** Widely believed to have helped influence sudden rise of ***Mahmoud Ahmadinejad*** in presidential election
- **2009:** Accused of playing role in suppressing protests by ***Basij*** and other security forces after disputed presidential election
- **2019:** Sanctioned by U.S. Treasury for acting in leadership role on behalf of supreme leader without holding formal office

- **2022:** Protests erupt after death of ***Mahsa Amini*** in police custody, with critics targeting Mojtaba
- **2024:** Speculation about Mojtaba being positioned for future leadership succession increases following death of President ***Ebrahim Raisi*** in helicopter crash
- **Feb 28, 2026: Ali Khamenei killed in U.S.-Israeli strike – Mojtaba emerges as leading contender to succeed him, backed by elements of IRGC and conservative establishment**

2. Could Azerbaijan be dragged into the US-Israeli war on Iran?

- **Azerbaijan became the latest country** to be drawn into the **US-Israeli war on Iran** after four drones, which it said were launched from the **Islamic Republic, struck its exclave of Nakhchivan** damaging infrastructure and injuring two civilians.
- **Officials in Baku** said one of the **drones hit the terminal building of Nakhchivan International Airport,** located about 10km from the Iranian border. Another fell near a school in a nearby village.
- ***"Iran did not carry out strikes against Azerbaijan," Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Kazem Gharibabadi said in comments published by the Iranian news agency Tasnim.***

- ***"We do not strike neighbouring countries. Iran's policy is to target only the military bases of its enemies operating in the region and previously used for attacks on Iran, including bases of the United States and Israel," Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Kazem Gharibabadi said in comments published by the Iranian news agency Tasnim.***
- **Iran** has offered **similar explanations** for attacks it has carried out against targets in **Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates since the conflict began.**
- A **third drone** was **shot down by Azerbaijani forces,** while another struck civilian infrastructure.

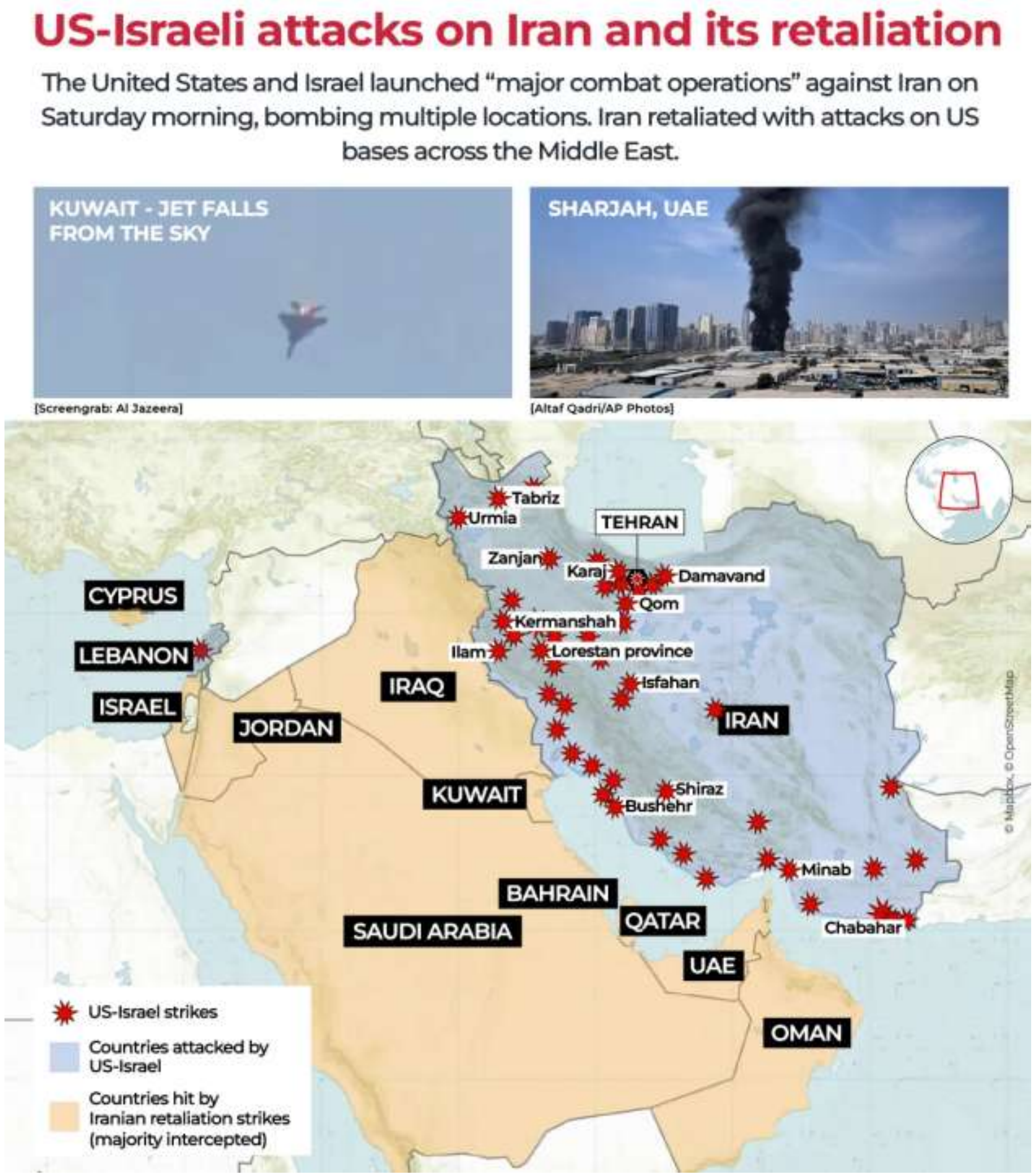
3. What is Azerbaijan's position in the war?

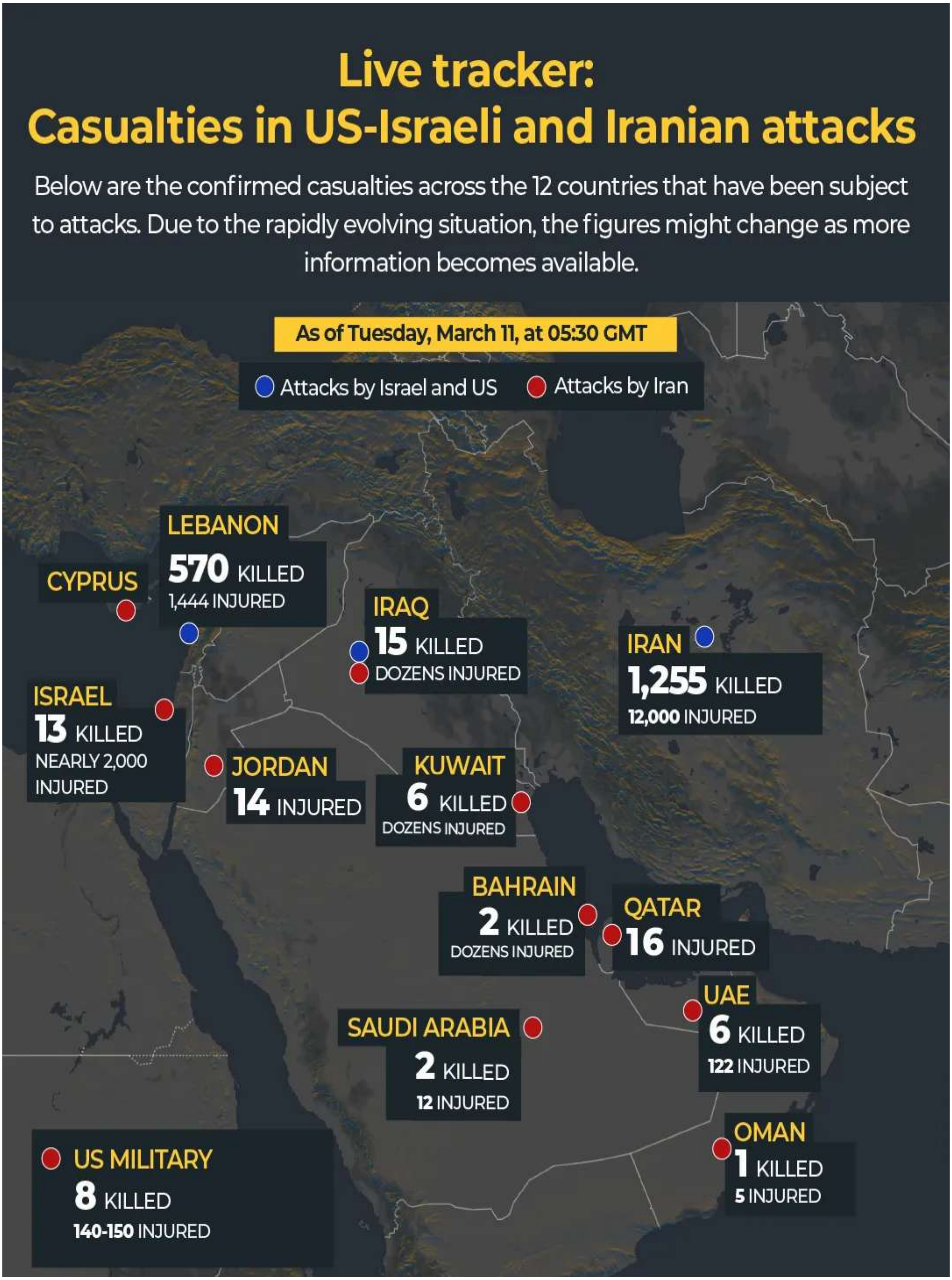
- According to **Farid Shafiyev**, the chairman of the **Baku-based Center of Analysis of International Relations**, **Azerbaijan has tried to remain neutral in the conflict.**
- **President Ilham Aliyev** visited **Iran's embassy in Baku on 4 March** to offer condolences following the **US-Israeli assassination of Iran's Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei and the killing of civilians.**
- "But the recent attack shows that **Iran would like to escalate," Shafiyev told MEE.**
- The Iranians, he said, have **"implied that Nakhchivan was also used by the Israelis and Americans, which is a completely false assumption".**
- Following the incident, **Azerbaijan** closed its **southern airspace for 12 hours** and shut its border crossings with Iran to cargo trucks, including transit shipments.

4. How the ongoing US–Iran escalation pushing West Asia towards a regional war?

- US forces have **struck more than 5,000 targets in Iran** since Saturday, the **US Central Command (CENTCOM)**, which oversees **US forces in the region, said on March 10.**

- **Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC)** says it has launched attacks on at **least 27 bases in the Middle East where US troops** are deployed as well as **Israeli military facilities in Tel Aviv and other parts of Israel.**
- So far, Iran has launched strikes across nine countries in the region: **Bahrain, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates**.
- An Iranian drone also struck a runway at a **UK military base** in **Cyprus.**

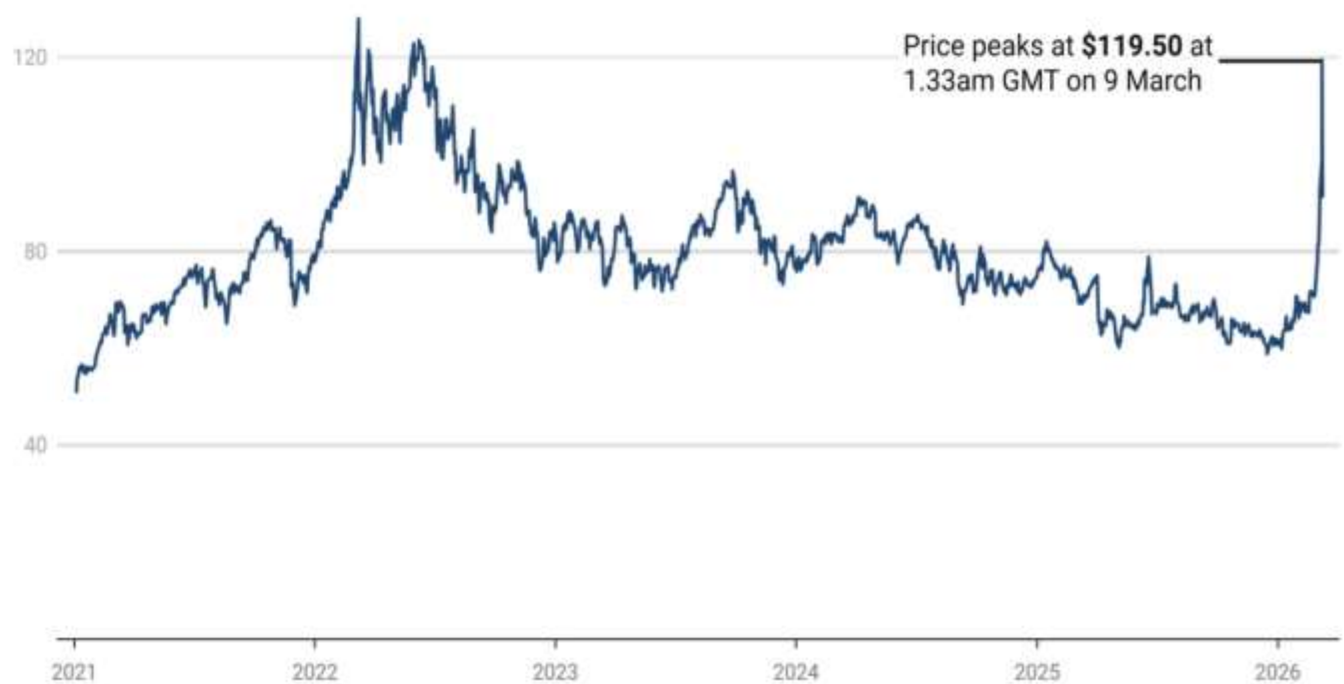



Live tracker:
Casualties in US-Israeli and Iranian attacks
Below are the confirmed casualties across the 12 countries that have been subject to attacks. Due to the rapidly evolving situation, the figures might change as more information becomes available.
As of Tuesday, March 11, at 05:30 GMT
Attacks by Israel and US
Attacks by Iran
LEBANON
570 KILLED
1,444 INJURED
CYPRUS
IRAQ
15 KILLED
DOZENS INJURED
IRAN
1,255 KILLED
12,000 INJURED
ISRAEL
13 KILLED
NEARLY 2,000 INJURED
JORDAN
14 INJURED
KUWAIT
6 KILLED
DOZENS INJURED
BAHRAIN
2 KILLED
DOZENS INJURED
QATAR
16 INJURED
UAE
6 KILLED
122 INJURED
SAUDI ARABIA
2 KILLED
12 INJURED
OMAN
1 KILLED
5 INJURED
US MILITARY
8 KILLED
140-150 INJURED

5. How has the Iran war impacted oil and gas prices?

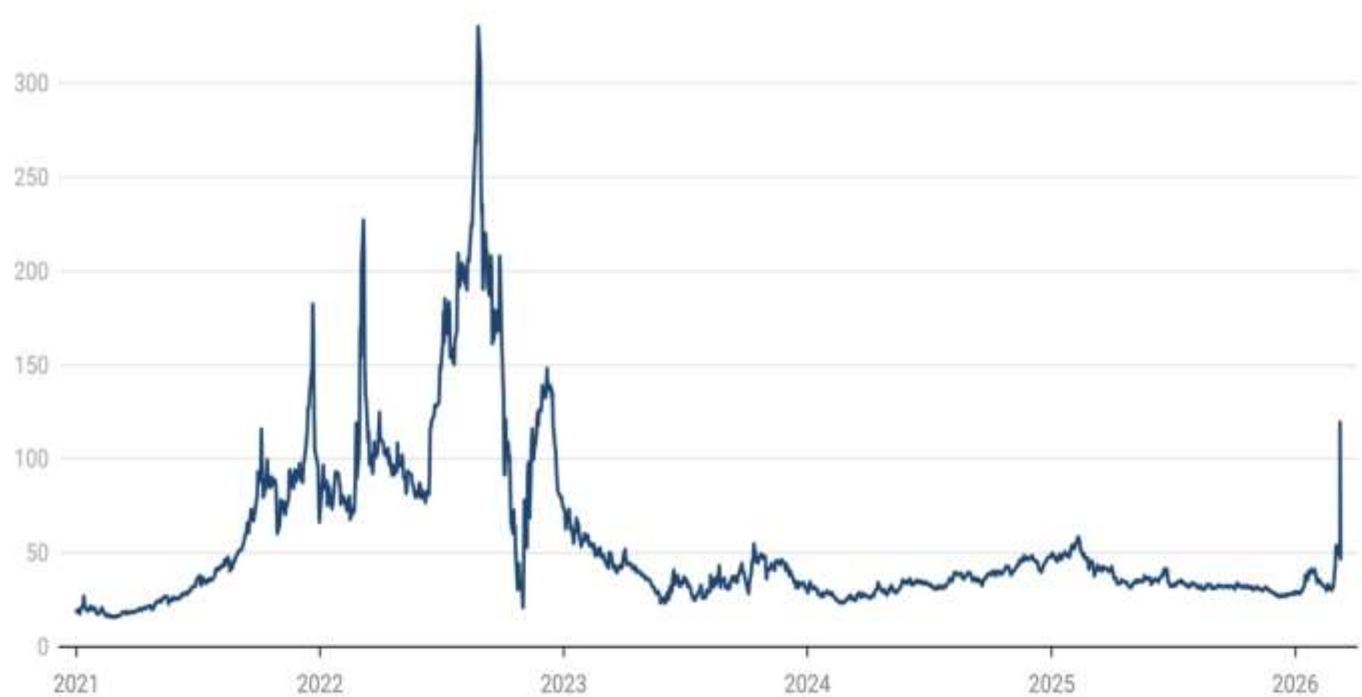
Global oil prices have soared to the highest levels since the 2022 energy crisis

Brent oil prices, $ per barrel



Gas prices in Europe have risen by more than 45% since the end of February

European gas prices, € per megawatt-hour



Impact of wars on oil prices

Year	Event	Price at start	Peak price	Price at end	Impact on global supply (%)
1973-74	Yom Kippur war & Arab oil embargo	3	12	11	7-9%
1978-80	Iranian Revolution	14	39	36	6-8%
1980-81	Iran-Iraq war	32	40	28*	5-6%
2002-03	Iraq war	25	35	23**	2-3%
1990-91	Gulf war	17	41	21	6-8%
2011	Libyan civil war	95	125	110	1.6-2%
2022	Russia's invasion of Ukraine	75	130	NA	2-3%

*Approx prices in $/ barrel; *1986 collapse; **May 2003; Source: Equirus research*

6. Which parts of the world have been most affected by the crisis?

Areas	About
Asia	• **Asia's biggest economies** are **"highly dependent"** on **oil and gas imports** that transit through the **Strait of Hormuz,** reported the Financial Times, adding that they are now "racing to secure new sources". • About **80% of all oil volumes through the strait go to Asia,** according to the **International Energy Agency (IEA).** • East Asian nations, such as **South Korea and Thailand, "have been hit especially hard"** and have already announced measures such as capping petrol prices, according to BBC News.

- It said **Vietnam plans to temporarily remove taxes on fuel imports** and the **Philippines has announced plan**s for a **four-day working week** for most public offices.
- Reuters noted that **Bangladesh "relies on imports for 95% of its energy needs"** and has announced the **early closure of all universities as part of emergency measures** to conserve energy.
- The **newswire says the country also halted operations** at nearly all its state-run fertiliser factories, redirecting gas to power plants.
- Myanmar, meanwhile, has announced a **"sweeping fuel rationing system for private vehicles",** said another Reuters article.
- **On 9 March**, **China** announced its **"biggest retail fuel price cap increase in four years" f**or retail petrol and diesel, said Reuters.
- **China is the main buyer of Iranian oil** and has **funded gas facilities in Qatar,** meaning **"billions of dollars are at risk from a widening war",** according to the New York Times.
- **India** could be the **"most vulnerable"** to the **war's energy supply shock**, according to the Hindustan Times.

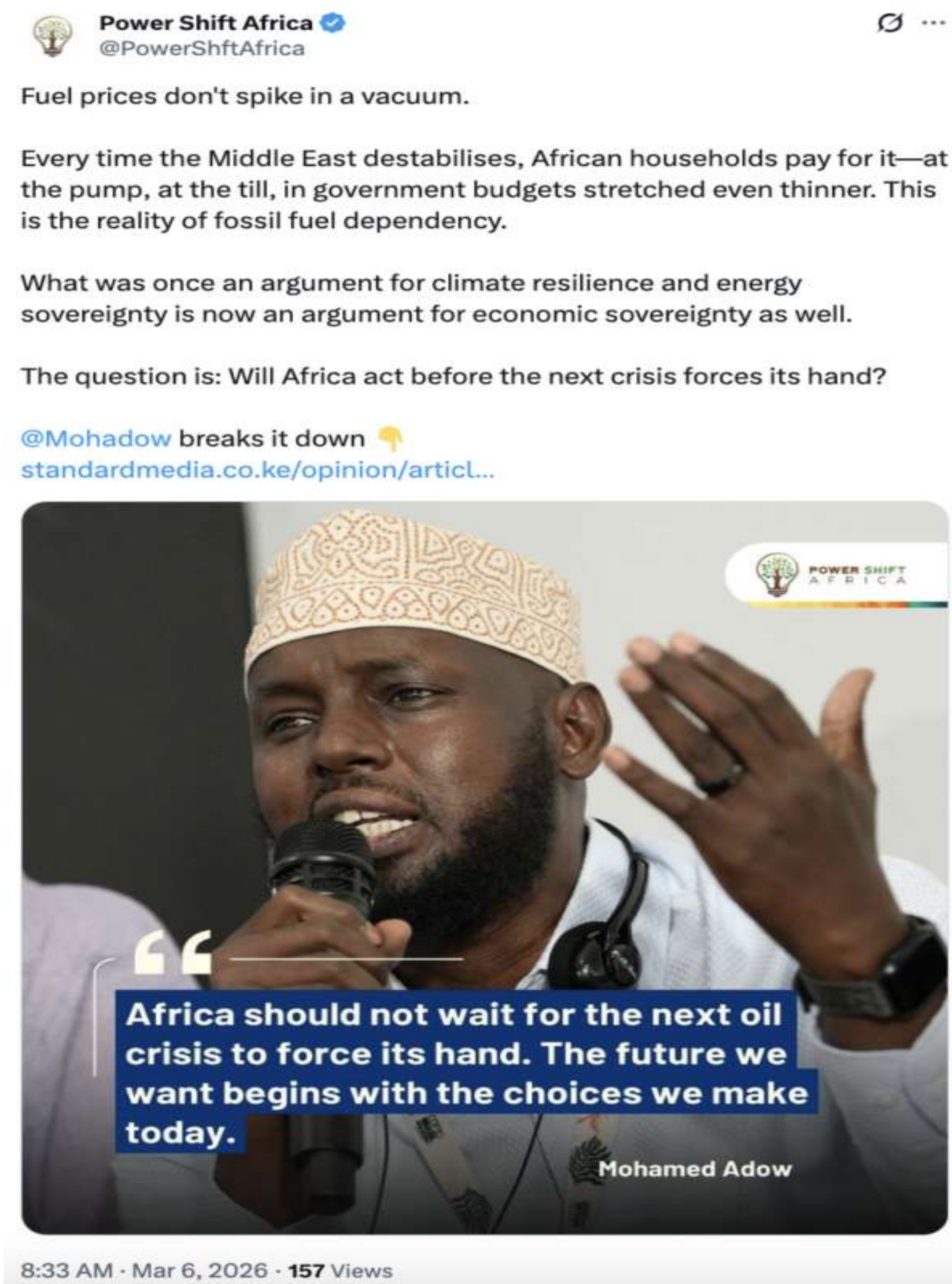
	• On 3 March, **India's petroleum and natural gas** minister **Hardeep Singh Puri** was quoted by the **Economic Times** saying that **"India has sufficient reserves of crude oil and petroleum products to manage short-term disruptions"**. • Three days later, the **Hindustan Times** reported that the US announced a **"temporary 30-day waiver to Indian refineries"** to continue to purchase **Russian oil "already stranded at sea"**. • However, the **Financial Times** reported that analysts said that the crude oil freed up by this is a **"drop in the ocean"**, equivalent to only four days' of **Indian demand.** • India has invoked emergency measures to **redirect supplies of liquefied petroleum gas "away from industrial users to households"**, reported **Bloomberg.** • **Cooking gas supply** and **fertiliser plants** have been given top priority, said the **Times of India.**
Middle East	• Beyond the **impact on energy, air and drone strikes** in the **Middle East have damaged key infrastructure**, including **water desalination plants.** • The **region is dependent on desalination plants** for much of its **drinking water.** • The **Associated Press reported that, "in Kuwait, about 90%** of **drinking water comes from desalination**, along with roughly **86% in Oman and about 70% in Saudi Arabia".** • It adds that **"hundreds of desalination plants sit along the Persian Gulf coast**, **putting individual systems that supply water to millions** [of people] within **range of Iranian missile or drone strikes".** • The **Financial Times** noted that **climate change is exacerbating water security concerns in the Gulf, where temperatures can exceed 50C** in summer and there are **"no permanent rivers".**

- It adds that climate change is **"driving erratic rainfall patterns and contributing to low water storage" in the region.**
- The **Middle East** is also one of the **world's largest producers of fertilisers**.
- Around 35% of the world's exports of urea – a nitrogen fertiliser that "underpins around half of global food production" – passes through the Strait of Hormuz, according to the Financial Times.

- As a result, the newspaper said that **"granular urea prices in the Middle East** have risen by about **$130 to around $575-650 a tonne".**
- The **spike in the price of gas** – a key element in **fertiliser production – is also affecting fertiliser prices.**

Europe	• The **disruption to global oil and gas** supplies is driving up energy prices across Europe. • "The **EU imports more than 90%** of its **oil** and around **80% of its gas**, making **European countries** highly exposed to fluctuations in global **oil and gas prices," according to Reuters.** • **Europe's gas market** is particularly vulnerable at the moment, because it is **emerging from winter with storage tanks depleted.** ***"Oil and LNG are global markets: any blockage of the Strait of Hormuz could trigger immediate price spikes that would hit Europe regardless of its limited physical imports."*** • **Petrol prices** are also **surging.** • **UK average diesel costs** have hit a **16-month high and the French government** is asking a watchdog to check that **petrol stations are not unfairly raising prices to profit from a rush for fuel.** • Euronews reported EU leaders are **"considering reviewing taxes, electricity network charges and carbon costs tied to energy prices as a quick fix for struggling industries".** • **EU economy and finance ministers** gathered in **Brussels to discuss** how to respond to surging energy prices. • According to **Euronews**, **ministers have discussed the possibility** of releasing oil reserves, but say that it is **"not yet the right time".**
Africa	• In **Africa, oil-producing Nigeria, Angola and Ghana** are well-positioned to benefit from surging global prices, although the gains may not be evenly distributed. • However, importing countries, such as **South Africa, Kenya and the Democratic Republic of Congo, are at risk.** • Every **"$20 a barrel jump in Brent" could cause "a knock"** of about **1% and 3% on South Africa and DRC's GDP**, respectively, according to **Bloomberg analysis.**

- **Trade bottlenecks and the lack of refinery capacity** in these countries could also lead to fuel shortages, it said.
- While **oil exporters could see windfall gains, "most African households will have to grapple with higher costs of living" since "most food and goods"** are **transported by road across the continent**, noted the Associated Press.



Australia	• While **Australia is a key gas and coal exporter**, its dependence on petrol and diesel imports could **leave it vulnerable, especially its agricultural and mining sectors.** • The **Australian Financial Review** reported that **Australia's biggest gas producers – Santos and Woodside Energy** – are **"cashing in on the conflict…with deals struck at more than double recent market rates".**
Latin America	• **Major Latin American economies** are **"cautiously watching"** the war's impact on energy prices on their **economies, reported El País.** • The newspaper cited experts saying that for **Venezuela** – whose **"modest but strategic share"** of oil production is now under **"direct scrutiny from the White House"** – the crisis might result in additional revenues, to the tune of **"around $2.4bn".** • It also quoted **Mexico's president, Claudia Sheinbaum**, reassuring citizens that **"compensation mechanisms [are] in place to prevent price increases from impacting" them.** • While **Brazil's state-owned Petrobras "could benefit"** from the crisis, said Reuters, the conflict **"may spark grain contract cancellations and fertiliser shortages".** • Finally, a comment in Colombia One argued that the country's **"energy importance" could translate into "fiscal breathing room"** and that oil gains could **"financ[e] renewable energy without undermining fiscal stability".**
North America	• The **US's role as an exporter of oil and gas provides it** with a level of energy independence, but **"does not mean that it is immune to commodity price shocks",** according to consultancy **Wood Mackenzie.** ▪ As such, while it is **unlikely to experience the supply constraints other regions are facing, prices of petrol, oil and electricity could be hit.**

	▪ For example, by **6 March, the price of petrol in the US had jumped to US$3.251 a gallon**, up 36 cents or 13% from the previous month, according to figures from the Automobile Association of America. ▪ Speaking during a briefing at the **White House on 10 March**, press secretary **Karoline Leavitt argued the war would ultimately cut prices.** ▪ She said: ▪ *"Rest assured, to the American people, the recent increase in oil and gas prices is temporary, and this operation will result in lower gas prices in the long term."* ▪ **Canada similarly** will be cushioned from the **full impact of the rising oil** prices due to its role as an **exporter.** ▪ New analysis of **15 major economies** from **Oxford Economics, covered by the Financial Times**, suggests that the country will be the **least impacted by the leap in energy costs.** ▪ However, as an editorial in the **Toronto Star** noted: **"Canada benefits from being an energy exporter, eg, with a stronger loonie, but Canadian consumers remain exposed to global price volatility."**

7. What are possible scenarios of Iran-Israel-US Tensions for India?

- The **Iran-Israel-US confrontation** remains fluid. Whether the crisis escalates**, stabilises or moves toward diplomacy** will determine its **impact on global energy markets.**

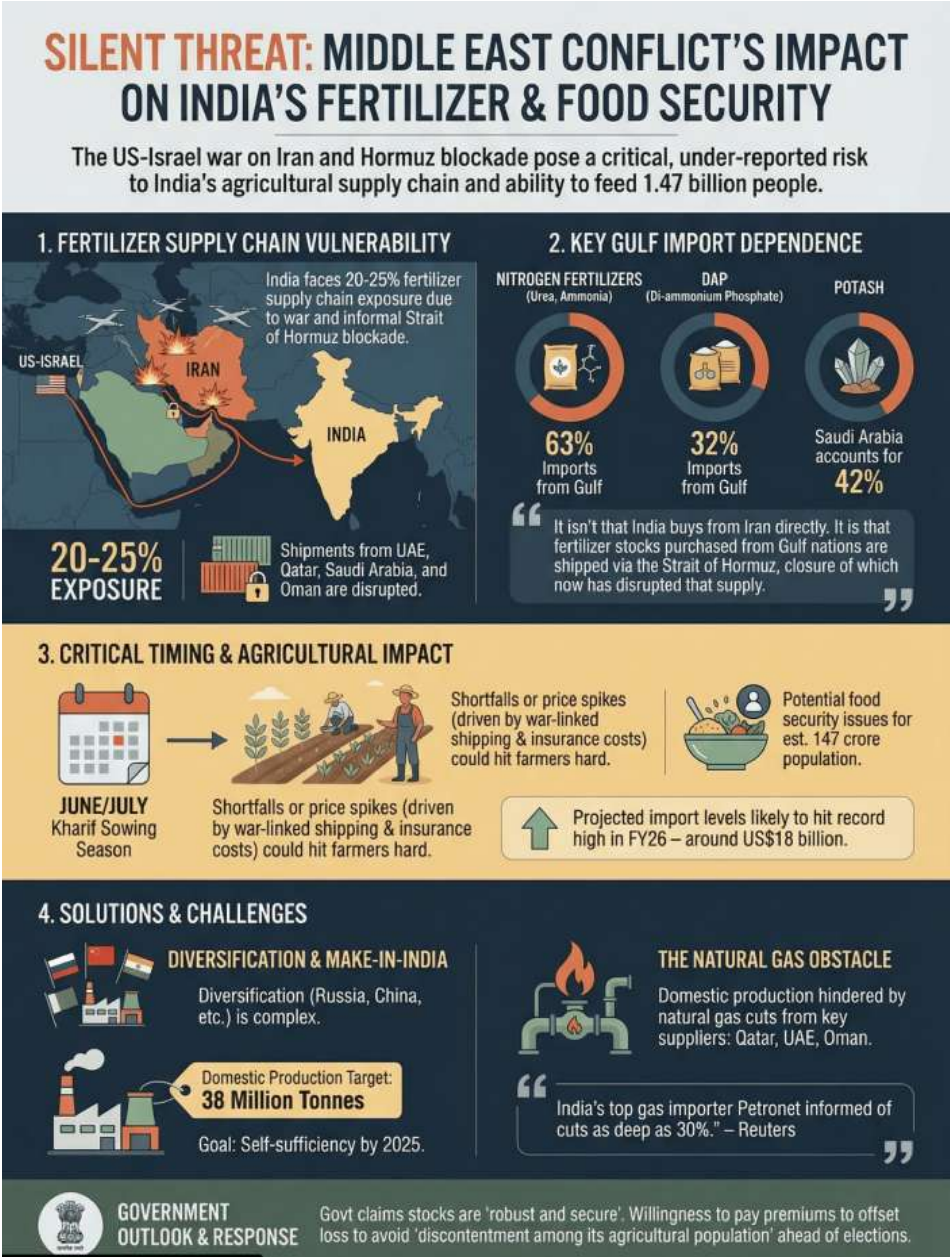
Scenarios	What is means for India
Scenario 1: Escalation Into A Wider War • The **worst-case scenario would involve a full-scale military escalation** between **Iran, Israel** and possibly the United States.	• Higher **crude oil prices could push up inflation** and widen **India's trade deficit.**

• Such a **conflict could expand across the Gulf**, threatening energy infrastructure and disrupting **global oil supplies.** Oil prices have already surged during the crisis, with analysts warning they could rise significantly if fighting intensifies.	• The country imports about **88 per cent of its oil needs, making** it highly vulnerable to global price shocks. A **prolonged conflict** could also slow **India's economic growth** by raising energy and transportation costs.
Scenario 2: Containment And Limited Conflict • Another possibility is that the **conflict remains limited, with sporadic strikes** or proxy confrontations but no all-out war. • This scenario would keep markets **volatile but prevent a major supply shock.** • Governments and global **institutions would likely push for diplomatic pressure** to prevent escalation.	• Oil prices may remain **elevated but manageable.** • Further, financial markets could **experience short-term volatility**, and trade with **Gulf countries** could continue with minor disruptions. • India has historically tried to maintain **balanced relations** with all sides in the region, including **Israel, Iran and the Gulf states**, giving it **diplomatic room to manoeuvre.**
Scenario 3: Shipping Disruption In The Strait Of Hormuz • Perhaps the most **immediate concern is disruption** to maritime trade through the **Strait of Hormuz**, one of the world's most important **energy chokepoints.** • **Around 20% of global oil** supply moves through this corridor, and recent **hostilities have already** reduced tanker traffic in the region.	• The development has already started to show its impact on the **Indian market**. The delay in **oil and LNG imports** due to reduced **tanker traffic** has led to **higher shipping** and insurance costs along with supply shortages affecting industries. • Some sectors in India are already **feeling pressure from rising energy costs linked to the crisis.**

Scenario 4: Ceasefire And Nuclear Deal	
• The most **optimistic scenario would involve diplomatic mediation** leading to a ceasefire. Ending Iran's **nuclear programme has been US President** Donald Trump's stated objective behind **Operation Epic Fury.** • Three rounds of talks have so far **not yielded** any **positive results and US** negotiators have accused **Tehran** of not being serious about a deal. Trump has said **talks are "possible", but he has expressed** disappointment over appointment of **Mojtaba Khamenei as the next Supreme Leader of Iran.**	• **Oil prices could stabilise** or fall • **Trade and shipping** routes would normalise • **Economic uncertainty** would ease • **Energy markets often react quickly** to signs of peace, meaning even tentative diplomatic **progress could calm markets.**

8. How Iran's Hormuz chokehold raises fertiliser red flag for India?

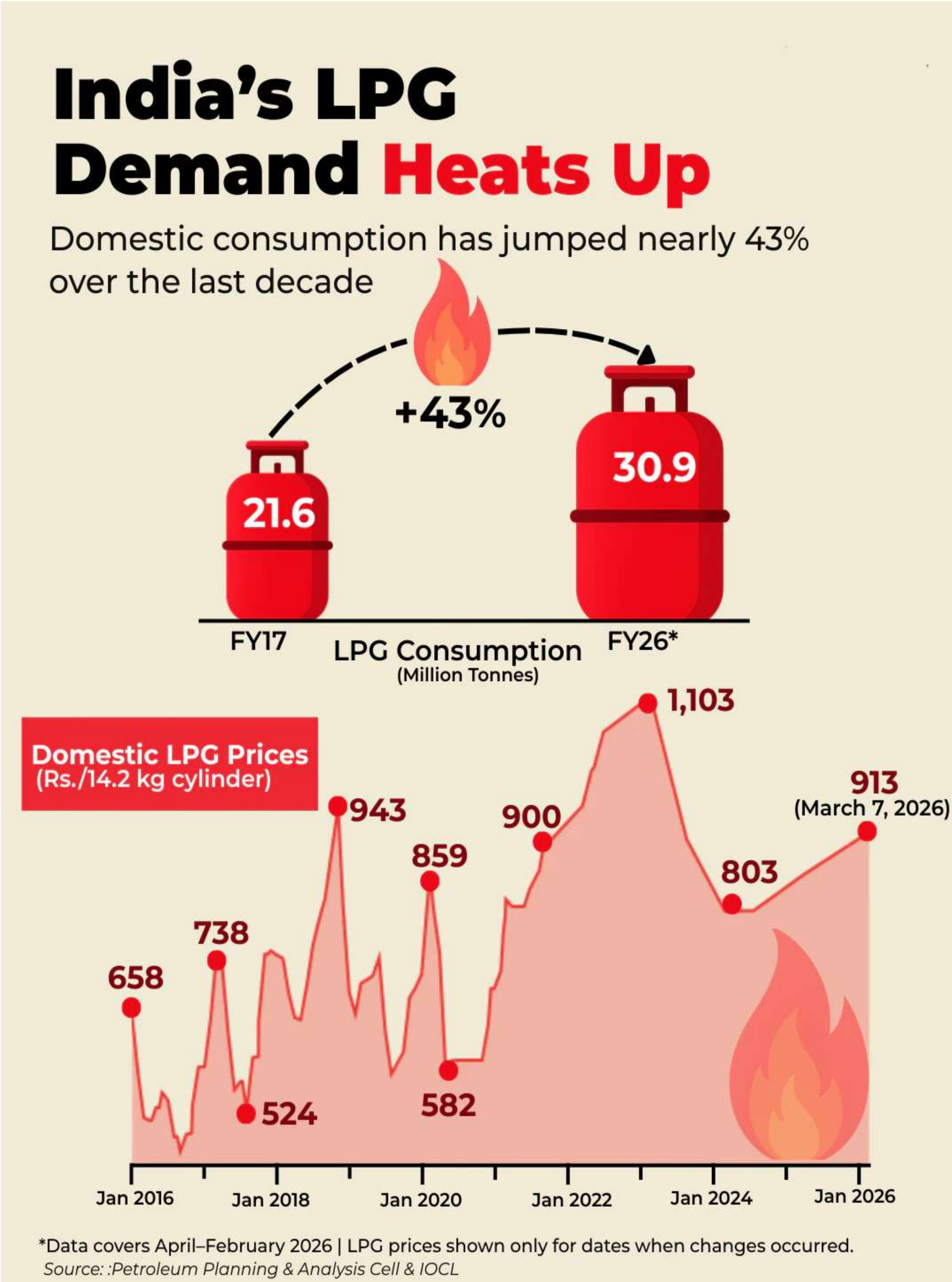
- The data suggests India faces a **20-25 per cent exposure to fertiliser supply chain disruptions due to the war and informal blockade on the Hormuz.**
- The **12-day (and counting) US-Israel war on Iran reframed battlefield tactics** – courtesy a **drone-led asymmetric assault by Tehran** that has challenged traditional intercept equations.
- But **short- and long-term impacts on fertiliser supply chains** are increasingly critical – and which has flown under the radar so far – particularly since **Middle East and Ukraine** conflict zones reveal similar vulnerabilities to India's ability to feed an **est. 147 crore population.**
  - It also impacts **jobs and livelihoods in an economy heavily reliant on agriculture**.
- The data suggests India faces a **20 – 25 per cent** exposure to fertiliser supply chain disruptions due to the **war and informal blockade on the Hormuz.**
- This is because, like oil, shipments from the **Gulf** – from the **UAE, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and Oman – are shipped via the strait.**

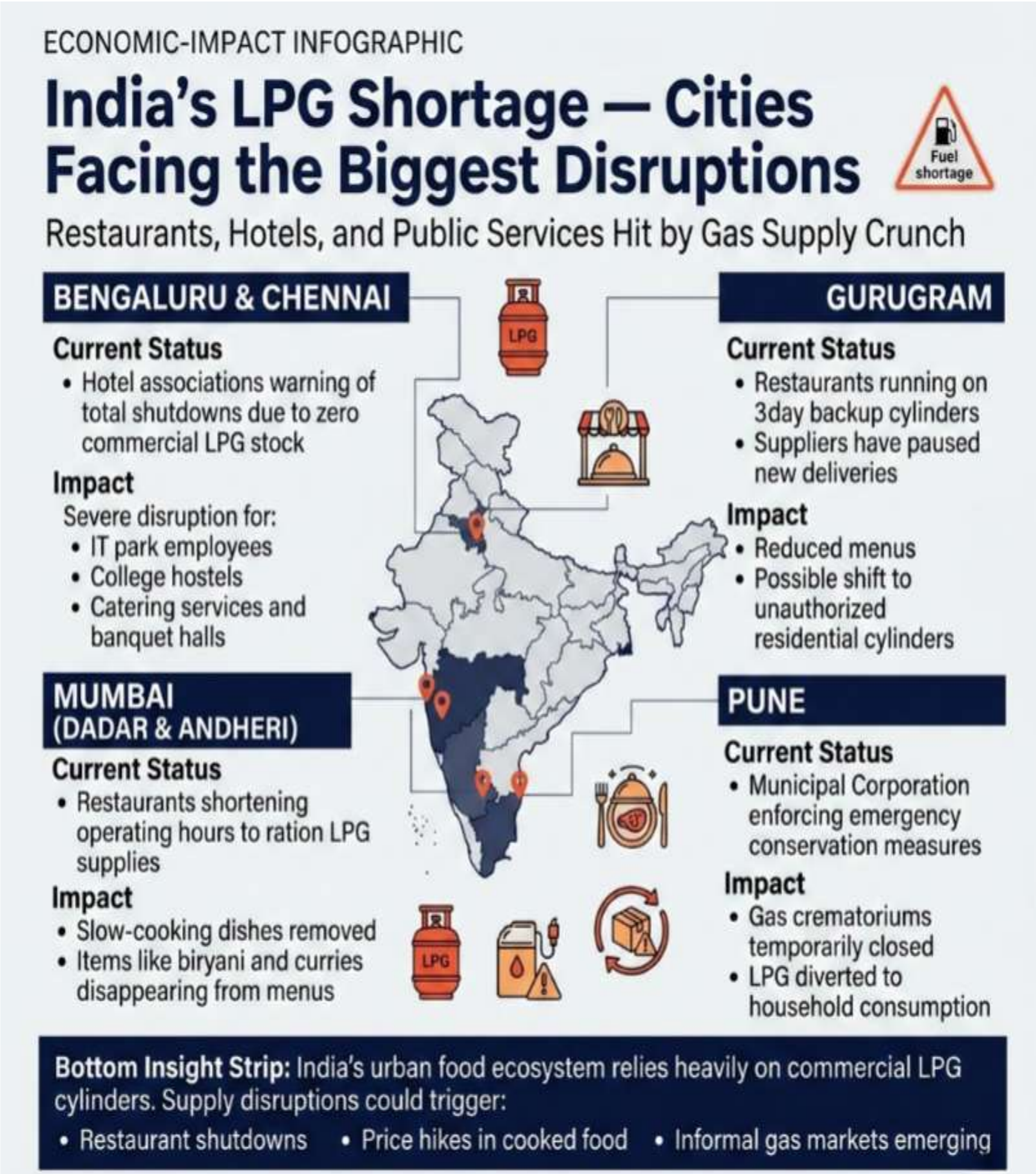

SILENT THREAT: MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT'S IMPACT ON INDIA'S FERTILIZER & FOOD SECURITY
The US-Israel war on Iran and Hormuz blockade pose a critical, under-reported risk to India's agricultural supply chain and ability to feed 1.47 billion people.
1. FERTILIZER SUPPLY CHAIN VULNERABILITY
India faces 20-25% fertilizer supply chain exposure due to war and informal Strait of Hormuz blockade.
US-ISRAEL
IRAN
INDIA
20-25% EXPOSURE
Shipments from UAE, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and Oman are disrupted.
2. KEY GULF IMPORT DEPENDENCE
NITROGEN FERTILIZERS (Urea, Ammonia)
DAP (Di-ammonium Phosphate)
POTASH
63% Imports from Gulf
32% Imports from Gulf
Saudi Arabia accounts for 42%
"It isn't that India buys from Iran directly. It is that fertilizer stocks purchased from Gulf nations are shipped via the Strait of Hormuz, closure of which now has disrupted that supply."
3. CRITICAL TIMING & AGRICULTURAL IMPACT
JUNE/JULY Kharif Sowing Season
Shortfalls or price spikes (driven by war-linked shipping & insurance costs) could hit farmers hard.
Potential food security issues for est. 147 crore population.
Shortfalls or price spikes (driven by war-linked shipping & insurance costs) could hit farmers hard.
Projected import levels likely to hit record high in FY26 – around US$18 billion.
4. SOLUTIONS & CHALLENGES
DIVERSIFICATION & MAKE-IN-INDIA
Diversification (Russia, China, etc.) is complex.
Domestic Production Target: 38 Million Tonnes
Goal: Self-sufficiency by 2025.
THE NATURAL GAS OBSTACLE
Domestic production hindered by natural gas cuts from key suppliers: Qatar, UAE, Oman.
"India's top gas importer Petronet informed of cuts as deep as 30%." – Reuters
GOVERNMENT OUTLOOK & RESPONSE
Govt claims stocks are 'robust and secure'. Willingness to pay premiums to offset loss to avoid 'discontentment among its agricultural population' ahead of elections.

9. Highlight the India's LGP crisis?

- Due to the **war between US-Israel and Iran,** there is a **shortage of LPG across the country.**

- Due to **restrictions on commercial gas cylinder supply** in many states including **Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan, hotels and restaurants** are unable to prepare food.


India's LPG Demand Heats Up
Domestic consumption has jumped nearly 43% over the last decade
+43%
21.6
30.9
FY17
LPG Consumption
(Million Tonnes)
FY26*
Domestic LPG Prices
(Rs./14.2 kg cylinder)
658
738
524
943
859
582
900
1,103
803
913
(March 7, 2026)
Jan 2016
Jan 2018
Jan 2020
Jan 2022
Jan 2024
Jan 2026
*Data covers April–February 2026 | LPG prices shown only for dates when changes occurred.
Source: :Petroleum Planning & Analysis Cell & IOCL


ECONOMIC-IMPACT INFOGRAPHIC
India's LPG Shortage — Cities Facing the Biggest Disruptions
Fuel shortage
Restaurants, Hotels, and Public Services Hit by Gas Supply Crunch
BENGALURU & CHENNAI
Current Status
• Hotel associations warning of total shutdowns due to zero commercial LPG stock
Impact
Severe disruption for:
• IT park employees
• College hostels
• Catering services and banquet halls
LPG
GURUGRAM
Current Status
• Restaurants running on 3day backup cylinders
• Suppliers have paused new deliveries
Impact
• Reduced menus
• Possible shift to unauthorized residential cylinders
MUMBAI (DADAR & ANDHERI)
Current Status
• Restaurants shortening operating hours to ration LPG supplies
Impact
• Slow-cooking dishes removed
• Items like biryani and curries disappearing from menus
PUNE
Current Status
• Municipal Corporation enforcing emergency conservation measures
Impact
• Gas crematoriums temporarily closed
• LPG diverted to household consumption
LPG
Bottom Insight Strip: India's urban food ecosystem relies heavily on commercial LPG cylinders. Supply disruptions could trigger:
• Restaurant shutdowns
• Price hikes in cooked food
• Informal gas markets emerging


LPG Shortage in India — What the Common Man Will Face
How the Gas Crisis Will Hit Daily Life
1 Dining Out Will Become Expensive
What Happens:
Restaurants forced to buy LPG from black-market suppliers or switch to costly electric cooking.
Consumer Impact:
• Higher restaurant prices
• Food delivery costs rising
• Smaller menus in eateries
2 Food Access Crisis for Students & Migrant Workers
What Happens:
Millions of urban residents rely on budget eateries, darshinis, and mess services.
Consumer Impact:
• Shutdown of small food outlets
• Daily meals harder to access
• Major impact on students, IT workers, and migrants
3 Strict Household Gas Rationing
LPG
What Happens:
Government prioritizing LPG for household cooking.
New Rule:
25-day mandatory gap between cylinder bookings
Consumer Impact:
• No early refills allowed
• Families must carefully ration cooking gas
The LPG shortage may trigger:
• Food inflation in cities
• Informal black-market fuel trade
• Disruptions in India's urban food ecosystem

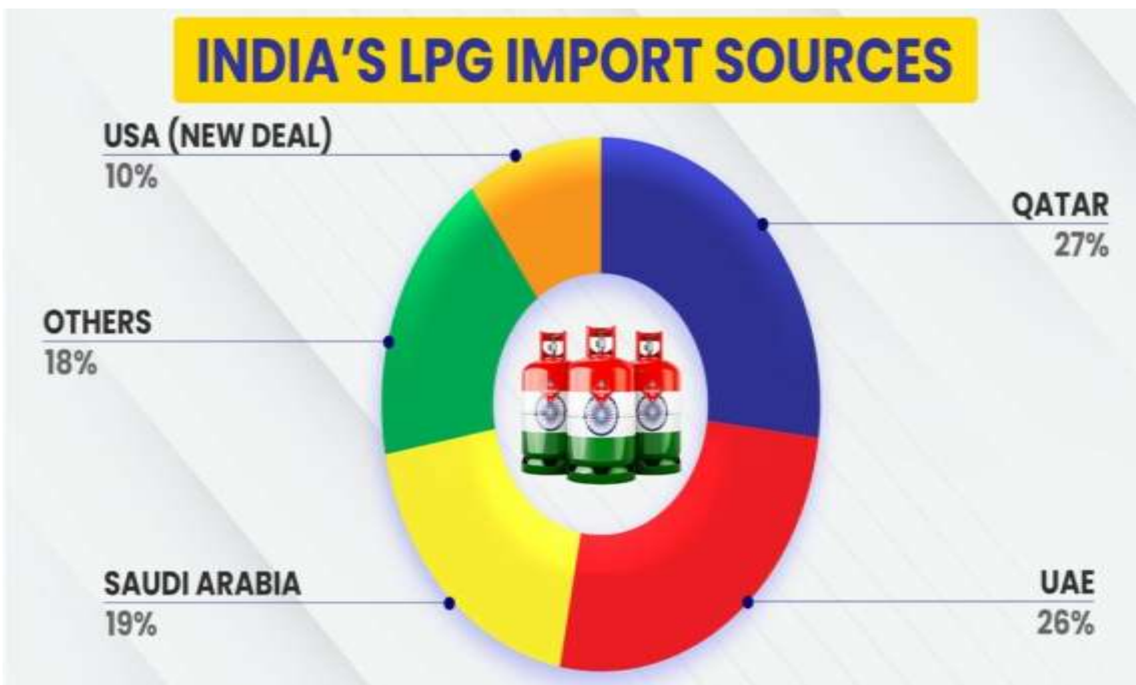
10. What are key reasons for LPG crisis in India?

- India is facing an **LPG (Liquefied Petroleum Gas) crisis mainly because of global geopolitical tensions** and supply disruptions, especially in West Asia.

The key reasons are:

<table>
<tr><th>Reasons</th><th>Description</th></tr>
<tr><td>Near closure of Strait of Hormuz</td><td>

The biggest challenge for India is the closure of the Strait of Hormuz.
This is approximately 167 km long waterway that connects the Persian Gulf to the Arabian Sea.
Due to the Iran war, this route is no longer safe.
Given the risks, no oil tankers are passing through there.
20% of the world's total petroleum passes through here. Countries like Saudi Arabia, Iraq and Kuwait also depend on this for their exports.



India imports 50% of its crude oil needs and 54% LNG through this route.
Iran itself exports through this route.

</td></tr>
<tr><td>Drone attack halts LNG productio</td><td>

Last week, the US-Israel conducted strikes on Iran. In response, Iran targeted American facilities in countries like UAE, Qatar, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

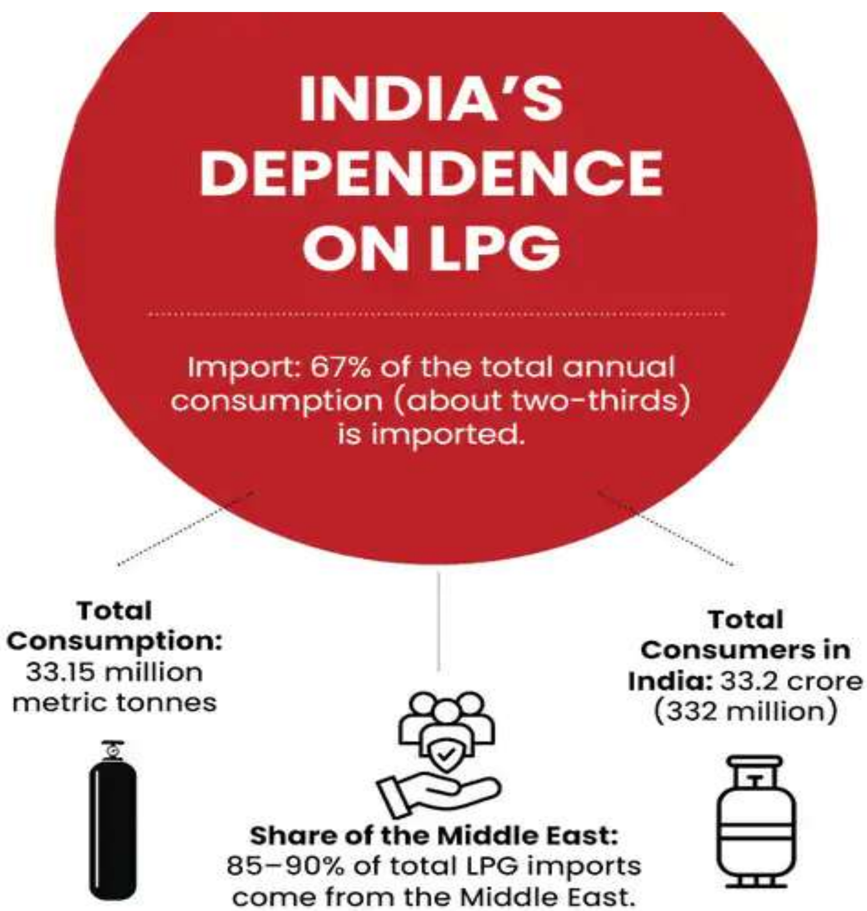
</td></tr>
</table>

n at plant	• After **Iran's drone attacks, Qatar, India's largest gas supplier**, has stopped production **at its LNG plant**. • This has **reduced gas supply to India**. **India imports 40% of its LNG needs** (about 27 million tons annually) from Qatar alone. 
Shipping and Logistics Problems	• Because of the ongoing war situation: ▪ **Tanker movement** through the **Persian Gulf has slowed**. ▪ **Insurance and freight costs for ships have increased.** ▪ Some **cargo shipments are delayed or diverted.** • This has reduced LPG availability in Indian ports.

Domestic LPG Cylinder Prices in Major Cities

City	New Price	Old Price	Increase
Delhi	₹913.00	₹853.00	₹60.00
kolkata	₹939.00	₹879.00	₹60.00
Mumbai	₹912.50	₹852.50	₹60.00
Chennai	₹928.50	₹868.50	₹60.00
Bhopal	₹918.50	₹858.50	₹60.00
Jaipur	₹916.50	₹856.50	₹60.00
Patna	₹1011.00	₹951.00	₹60.00
Raipur	₹984.00	₹824.00	₹60.00

11. Mention initiatives taken by India for managing LPG crisis?



Government Measures	Description
High-level committee formed	• In view of the crisis, the **Ministry of Petroleum has formed a high-level committee of executive directors from three oil companies,** which will review the supply. • It includes **Executive Directors from IOC, HPCL and BPCL.**
Essential Commodities Act implemented	• To control gas supply, the central government has implemented the **'Essential Commodities Act 1955' across the country.** • The **Essential Commodities Act of 1955** is a law that **empowers the government to regulate the supply and prices of essential commodities**, such as grains, pulses, edible oils, medicines, or fuel. Simply put, it's an **"anti-hoarding law."**
LPG booking after 25 days	• Rules for **domestic cylinder booking have been changed.** • Consumers can book another **cylinder only after 25 days of delivery of the first cylinder.**
OTP and Biometric Mandatory	• To prevent gas hoarding, **delivery agents are strictly using OTP or biometric verification.**
Order to Increase LPG Production	• Government had ordered all **oil refineries to increase LPG production.** • Sources say **production has now increased by 10%.**

- After the implementation of the Commodity Act, gas will be divided into 4 categories.

Category 1 (Full Supply)	• This includes your **home's cooking gas (PNG) and your vehicle's CNG.** • These will continue to **receive the same amount of gas as before.**
Category 2 (fertilizer factories)	• Approximately **70% of the gas** will be allocated to **fertilizer factories.** • They must prove that the **gas was used for fertilizer production.**
Category 3 (Large Industries)	• Tea factories and other large industries connected to the **national grid will get about 80% of the gas they require.**
Category 4 (Small Businesses and Hotels)	• **Small factories, hotels, and restaurants connected** to the city gas network will also be provided with **approximately 80% of their past consumption.**

12. Highlight Iran's three condition for ending war with US and Israel?

- **Tehran** has **outlined the three conditions for ending Iran's ongoing conflict** with the **United States and Israel.**
- Laying out the terms, **Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian** said any resolution must **recognise Iran's legitimate rights and guarantee** that the country will not face future attacks.


Iran's President
Lists Three Conditions to End War with U.S. and Israel
1- Recognition of Iran's legitimate rights
2- Payment of reparations
3- Firm international guarantees against future aggression
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