

March 2, 2026 – Dinamani Newspaper – Tit bits

1. A joint US-Israeli strike has killed Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei (86).

- (i) Iran has vowed to carry out an unprecedented retaliation to avenge his assassination.
- (ii) Tensions in the Middle East are at an all-time high as the war in the region continues for a second day.
- (iii) The US-Israeli joint forces have carried out a large-scale airstrike on more than 100 sites in Iran, accusing it of enriching uranium needed to make nuclear weapons. The attacks targeted Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps bases, air defense positions, missile and drone launch sites, and military bases.
- (iv) Following Khamenei's death, Ayatollah Arafati (67) has been appointed as interim Supreme Leader. An interim committee has been formed to govern the country until a new Supreme Leader is chosen. It includes Ayatollah Arafati, President Masoud Pezeshkian, and Supreme Leader of the Judiciary Hossein Motahesi.

2. The life of the assassinated Supreme Leader of Iran, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, was full of ups and downs:

- (i) Born in 1939 in Mashhad, Iran, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei studied under Ayatollah Khomeini (Iran's first Supreme Leader) at the Islamic Seminary in the 1960s.
- (ii) Khamenei spent his life in prison and hiding, participating in the struggle against the last Shah of Iran, Mohammad Reza Pahlavi.
- (iii) Khomeini was exiled to Iraq and France, and later returned to Iran. Khomeini led the Islamic Revolution against the Shah of Iran, Mohammad Reza Pahlavi.
- (iv) As a result, Pahlavi's regime was overthrown in 1979. He led the Islamic Republic of Iran and became the country's supreme leader. Khamenei was then appointed to the secret Revolutionary Council.
- (v) He was elected as the third president of Iran in 1981, but lost one of his arms in a bomb attack that same year.
- (vi) Khamenei ruled longer than Khomeini, stabilizing Iran for over 30 years after the war with Iraq in the 1980s. Khamenei led the way in a system of Government by Shia clerics and officials from Government agencies. This weakened Government responsibilities and established himself as the ultimate authority.
- (vii) He used the appointment system to reduce the importance of the elected Government.
- (viii) Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps leads the 'Axis of Resistance', a coalition of armed groups and allied forces operating in West Asia. Under Khamenei's rule, Iran shifted from a conventional war to a policy of supporting armed groups and allied forces.

(ix) The people of Iran, angered by rising inflation and the rising cost of living, began to protest in late December last year. In addition, since the Islamic Revolution in 1979, voices calling for an end to the

tradition of clerical rule in Iran have been growing. This has led to severe political repression against the people in the country. In these circumstances, Khamenei was assassinated in a joint attack by the United States and Israel.

3. The Central Government officials have said that there will be no shortage of petrol and diesel supply in India due to the war between Iran, Israel and the US. Central government officials said in this regard:

- In response to the Israeli-American attack and in retaliation for the assassination of Iran's Supreme Leader Khamenei, Iran closed the Strait of Hormuz, one of the world's most used sea lanes for crude oil exports.
- India imports 88 percent of its crude oil and 60 percent of its natural gas from Gulf countries including Saudi Arabia, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates through this strait.
- Despite the closure of this strait by Iran, there will be no shortage of petrol, diesel and gas in India for the time being. Because India already has 10 days' worth of petrol, diesel and gas reserves. Similarly, the petrol, diesel and gas stored for emergency use can be used for another 5 to 7 days.
- Similarly, it is said that the closure of the Strait of Hormuz by Iran will not last long. If it continues, India will again import crude oil from Russia instead of the Gulf countries. India had already imported a large amount of crude oil from Russia and recently reduced it due to US pressure. However, considering the current problem, India can approach Russia again and purchase more crude oil.
- A ship carrying crude oil from the Gulf countries will reach India in five days. But, if crude oil is imported from Russia, it will take 30 days for that ship to reach India.
- At the same time, India should find an alternative strategy for importing LPG and LNG gas, because India does not have sufficient reserves of them. Officials said that if an alternative solution is not found before they run out, there is a possibility of shortage and price hike.

(i) Price hike-Experts:

- Market experts have pointed out that the price of crude oil has increased to \$73 per barrel in the international market due to the Iran issue and have predicted that this is likely to increase further in the coming days, which will lead to a hike in petrol and diesel prices in the Indian markets.

4. The Indian Rice Exporters Federation has advised its members to avoid new 'Cost, Insurance and Freight' (CIF) commitments to Iran and Gulf countries. The exporters' association has issued this notice in the wake of the ongoing tensions between Iran, Israel and the US.

(i) CIF is a shipping agreement that ensures a seller covers the costs, insurance, and freight of a buyer's order when cargo is transported via a waterway.

(ii) In a press release issued by the Indian Rice Exporters Federation (IREF), 'The tense situation in Iran and the UAE may have an immediate impact on the supply and prices of fuel for ships carrying goods by sea.

(iii) This may lead to huge losses if exporters are forced to supply containers and goods at the already fixed prices. Therefore, members should avoid making new CIF commitments to Iran and Gulf countries.

(iv) The Federation is monitoring the status of the cargoes already exported and stored at the port. It was informed that some further instructions will be issued in the coming days, considering the situation.

(v) 50 percent rice export:

- 50 percent of India's total rice exports go to African and West Asian countries. India exported 3.9 million tonnes of rice to West Asia and 7.16 million tonnes to Africa during April–December 2025. India exports 50 percent of its basmati rice to five countries: Saudi Arabia, Iran, Iraq, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen.

(vi) Major impact on trade:

- With Iran announcing the closure of the Strait of Hormuz, Indian trade is likely to be severely affected, the Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) said.
- GTRI founder Ajay Srivastava said: The closure of the Strait of Hormuz has affected shipping through it. This has created a situation where crude oil refiners have to handle cargoes through the Red Sea.
- There is a risk that other countries will import more crude oil from Russia, the US, West Africa and South America to make up for the shortage of crude oil, which will lead to a rise in its price.
- This will affect not only India but the entire world, he said, because one-fifth of the world's crude oil and liquefied natural gas are distributed through the Strait of Hormuz to major Asian economies such as China, Japan and South Korea.

5. Police Reform: Becoming a Mirage – a critical analysis of the current state of the Indian police system and the stagnation of necessary reforms.

(i) Current Crisis in Police Conduct

- Recent headlines involving police misconduct, including the dismissal of two officers for sexual assault, the suspension of three officers for drug peddling, and a kidnapping case involving a police vehicle.
- India has one of the highest rates of custodial deaths globally, with an average of seven deaths occurring daily across the country.
- According to the Global Torture Index 2025 published by the World Organization Against Torture, India is listed among countries with high levels of torture and inhumane treatment within the police and prison departments.

(ii) Colonial Legal Foundations

- The current police system is still fundamentally based on the Indian Police Act of 1861, which was enacted by the British following the 1857 Sepoy Mutiny.
- The British designed the police to suppress dissent and protect colonial trade interests rather than safeguard the rights of citizens.
- Although policing became a "State List" subject under the 1950 Constitution, the colonial law was never replaced by a democratic framework; it was merely adopted with minor state-level amendments.

(iii) Political Interference and Structural Flaws

- Instead of serving the public, the police continue to function as a tool for the ruling State Government to fulfill political agendas.

- In many states, key police appointments and transfers depend on the political favor of those in power.
- Political pressure often dictates criminal investigations, leading to the arrest of opposition members for political reasons while shielding government supporters.

(iv) History of Failed Reform Efforts

- National Police Commission (1977): This commission recommended repealing the 1861 Act and making the police independent of political pressure, while also suggesting "independent complaint authorities" to investigate police excesses.
- Soli Sorabjee Committee (2005): The Union Home Ministry formed this expert group to draft a new model police law, which was submitted in October 2006; however, state governments showed very little interest in adopting it.
- Supreme Court Verdict (Prakash Singh Case, 2006): The Supreme Court issued landmark guidelines, including:
 - Establishing a State Security Commission to limit Government interference.
 - Transparent selection and fixed tenure for the Director General of Police (DGP).
 - Setting up Police Establishment Boards for transfers and promotions.
 - Creating Independent Complaint Authorities for the public.

(v) The "Mirage" of Reform

- Implementation Failure: No state has fully implemented the Supreme Court's 2006 directives, particularly regarding the transparent appointment of the DGP.
- While developed nations have service-oriented police forces, the Indian police remain stuck in a colonial mindset.
- Political Alignment: As long as police officers continue to identify themselves with political parties during their service, true reform will remain an unreachable mirage.