



Indian economy faces challenge due to the ongoing war, inflation and oil crisis



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Tough year for India as Iran war leads to supply issues, causing energy crisis.

Indian economy is facing multiple challenges and the ongoing war between Iran and US-Israel has made it even more tough.

The government has tried to manage the crisis so far but the situation is complex and the mounting pain has to be ultimately passed on to the citizens.

Due to disruption in supplies owing to the closure of the Strait of Hormuz, India that relies heavily on the route for its gas and crude imports, is facing a host of issues.

Till a few months ago, India was posting growth in GDP. But the war led to oil shock and India's huge dependence on the foreign countries, particularly, Gulf region and this route for its energy needs,

affected the nation and it has brought a fresh challenge for the policy makers in the country.

The rupee has hit another low and the foreign investors have pulled up a huge sum from the Indian equities in the recent months.

A huge amount on crude and petroleum products, nearly 22% of its total imports. As the oil and gas prices go up, the import bill too has exploded.

This tremendous rise in cost of energy, has created a major issue. Neither getting Iranian barrels, nor Russian, is a major pain. If the Strait of Hormuz remains close for more time, the crisis would worsen and the petrol prices will be increased again.

The seriousness of the issue can be understood by the figures, as majority of India's households use LPG for cooking the food.

The entire hotel industry is also dependent on it. The imports are necessary and most of it, comes through the Strait of Hormuz.

After people quit wood or kerosene and started using the LPG, it becomes difficult for them to go back to the old alternatives.

The call to citizens to stop buying gold and avoid foreign travels, suggest how much the government is worried due to the ongoing situation.

The growth story is now dented. Kitchens are stressed and the rupee is under pressure. Geopolitical room

for manoeuvre is narrow. Till sometime ago, India claimed that it was the fourth biggest economy.

Perhaps, it was a razor thin margin, a slight difference between India and Japan. However, right now the country is at the sixth spot.

The economy is growing but there are structural weaknesses in this growth story and they have become more visible due to the ongoing war.

Unemployment is growing and the figures don't tell the real picture, as the labour survey terms anyone working temporarily for even a short time, as employed. This is not the exact or true scenario. Jobs are less and households are stressed.

Reign of Terror: Right-wing groups take law in hands, conduct parallel policing, subvert authority of the state



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In Bhopal, a right-wing group attacked a Muslim youth and assaulted him on the streets.

The right-wing groups have been involved in moral policing, vigilantism and open violence for a long time in India.

But a spurt in such acts and a sense of fearlessness is now being witnessed, as incidents are being reported on a regular basis.

The recent case happened in Bhopal. An interfaith couple was dragged out of a hotel room, the girl was allowed to go and the youth was assaulted. His face was smeared with cow dung and

he was publicly beaten on the streets of the city. The goons who made him strip, also chanted slogans.

They made objectionable remarks and targeted the other community. The policemen took the youth along but didn't take action against the suspected Bajrang Dal radicals, initially.

As video of this incident went viral on social media, a large number of Muslims came out on the streets.

They demanded stern action against the right-wing goons.

Later, the Shahar Qazi and the Muslim leaders approached the Commissioner of Police. The case was registered.

However, the fact that the goons were emboldened and the police didn't arrest them, shows how Bajrang Dal and other right-wing groups are allowed to act as vigilante groups.

This is extra-constitutional act and the long rope given to these groups, has created a sense of injustice and unfair treatment among minorities.

On right wing groups' claims, the police often register cases and

and takes action, promptly. But in such cases that involve public humiliation, attack and violence, action is taken after protests and demands.

Still, the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) is not invoked against the Bajrang Dal or other right-wing militant groups.

These groups continue to act and assault anyone. But action is seldom taken under the National Security Act (NSA). Softness towards these groups despite their growing activities raises serious question.

The world needs free media.

Corporate funded media is not free.

Education sector is gasping for breath, now the urgent need is to fix the broken system

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Uttar Pradesh, India's most populous state, shows a systemic decline with female literacy.

In mid-2025, the Basic Education Department started merging over 10,000 schools due to low enrollment, closing or consolidating those with fewer than 50 students.

The UDISE+ data reveals a drop in government schools from 11,07,118 in 2014-15 to 10,17,660 in 2023-24, about 90,000 fewer over ten years, while private schools grew by over 42,000.

Critics, including teachers' unions, opposition parties, and child rights activists, see this as neglect, not optimization. For rural marginalized communities, neighbourhood schools are often the only option, but longer travel hampers attendance, especially for girls. The Allahabad High Court upheld government's stance despite protests. Similar consolidations in Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand and Odisha indicate a national policy.

Recent revisions to national textbooks across multiple subjects and grade levels have omitted or reframed significant historical, social, and constitutional content. Critics, including prominent historians and legal observers, argue that these changes prioritise selective narratives over scholarly rigour. A 2024 judicial intervention called for greater transparency in curriculum review process. If foundational documents

episodes disappear from classrooms without pedagogical justification, the long-term effects on students' critical thinking, civic understanding of issues and engagement with their own history warrant serious, non-partisan scrutiny.

The Burden of Private Education

The increasing popularity of private schools, now constituting 29% of enrollments among 6-14-year-olds, is partly due to families moving away from declining public schools. However, this shift comes with a significantly higher and less transparent cost. The MoSPI CMS-E 2024-25 survey shows that a private unaided school in urban India typically costs eight times as much as a government institution. Mid-tier private schools in Tier-1 cities charge between Rs 1.3 and Rs 2.8 lakh annually, while high-end international schools can ask for Rs 3 to Rs 7.5 lakh. Additionally, initial admission fees in metro areas can reach up to Rs 2 lakh.

A Schoolnet survey found that parents spend 20-30% of household income on education, covering tuition, transport, books, exam fees, and optional charges. A Bengaluru parent told media that activities like painting, pottery, and swimming, once included in fees, are now charged separately, excluding children if parents decline to pay. An income of ₹20-25 lakh is now the threshold for accessing private schools. Fee regulation is inconsistent: Delhi capped annual hikes at



Schools need better infrastructure and facilities. Focus is needed on the sector.

15% in 2025, while Tamil Nadu's judicial model faces legal challenges. Urban families spend Rs 2,791 less annually on girls' education than boys.

The 2009 RTE Act made education a legal right in India, requiring private schools to reserve 25% of seats for EWS children, with the government reimbursing costs. However, flaws in design and execution have led to unpaid reimbursements totaling ₹15,000 crore since 2014, with compliance remaining inconsistent even after the 2023 Delhi High Court ruling. Many private schools face financial instability, especially smaller, non-profit ones, due to legal exemptions such as the 2014 Supreme Court ruling

that excluded minority institutions from the quota. Wealthy parents sometimes obtain fake EWS certificates, displacing genuinely disadvantaged children. Despite laws deeming school education not-for-profit, cash donations and fees dominate urban India, creating a dual fee system that burdens families and benefits the connected. India faces multiple interconnected challenges in education. These include a chronically underfunded public system, an RTE Act weakened by non-reimbursement and legal exemptions, a private sector thriving in an unregulated grey economy apart from exclusion of marginalised.



Remembering Chaudhary Tayyab Husain, the leader of Mewat, who was elected to Assemblies in three states

By Shams Ur Rehman Alavi

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Chaudhary Tayyab Husain is known for his leadership of the Meo community and for representing the region in Assemblies as well as parliament.

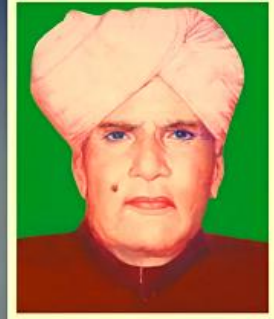
A prominent politician, he not only voiced aspirations of the people of the region and raised the demands of Meo community, but also took up the leadership role and led from the front, setting up schools, health facilities as well his role in the Meo College.

His father, Chaudhary Yasin Khan, was born in a farming family in Rehna village but with his hard work and determination, reached St Stephen's College and Aligarh Muslim University. Then, he went on to practice law in Lahore before independence.

As leader of Meos, he became their voice. The Brayne Meo school was set up. His drive to set up 'School every two miles' was an important step. He was a member of Unionist Party and legislator in undivided Punjab's Assembly for a long period, and was a unanimous leader of the Meos.

After independence, when there was violence and fear, he had brought Gandhi to Mewat and the latter gave a call to Meos to stay. Yasin Khan had joined Congress and was elected as MLA in Punjab in early 1950s.

Carrying the legacy of his illustrious father, Chaudhary Yasin Khan, the son--Tayyab Husain made his foray in politics in post-independent India. First, he was elected as MLA in Punjab Assembly. It was greater Punjab then and this also included Haryana. Later on, he was elected to the



Chaudhary Tayyab Husain. Inset: His father Chaudhary Yaseen Khan

Rajasthan and Haryana Assemblies. In fact, he was minister in all the three states, a unique record. Meos live in the region that is spread across Rajasthan, Punjab, Haryana and up to the Delhi's border-viz. Gurgaon.

Apart from being member of three State Assemblies, a unique feat, he was also elected to Parliament twice. He remained with Congress, though for a while, he was associated with Vishal Haryana Party. He had a long political career.

Tayyab Husain was barely 26 when he was made a deputy minister for health and PWD in Pratap Singh Kairon's government in Punjab. He became Chairman of Punjab Waqf Board in 1965. In 1966, he became member of Haryana Assembly, as the state was carved out of Punjab.

In 1970, his father passed away. After Yasin Khan's death, Tayyab Husain was

bestowed the title of Chaudhry of 36 *biradiris* and the *pugri*, this honour came to him.

A worthy successor to his father, he continued to guide the community in social, educational and political fields.

In 1971, he was elected to Lok Sabha from Gurgaon seat on Congress ticket. Then, in 1980, he was again elected to Lok Sabha from Faridabad.

Besides, he represented the Tavdu seat later. In 1993, he was once again elected from another state--Rajasthan.

In Rajasthan too, he was made a minister and had portfolio of Agriculture, Health and Rural Development.

Yasin Meo College is located in Nuh, Mewat. It was due to his efforts that became a major institution. He was born in 1936 and passed away in 2008. After Tayyab Husain, his next generation has taken

over and carries the legacy.

The Brayne Meo school was initially named after FL Brayne, the then Deputy Commissioner of Gurgaon. Mewat is a region that has been divided in different regions and the Meo Muslim community is spread over the towns and villages in the area that is part of Haryana and Rajasthan.

The Meo population is geographically concentrated in Mewat region but after independence, a large part was initially in Punjab and remaining part was in Rajasthan.

Subsequently, Haryana was carved out and Meo population was divided in different states. In 2005, Mewat district was created in Haryana. Meos are also settled in Alwar, Bharatpur, Dausa districts of Rajasthan as well as in other parts of Haryana and UP.