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Christians celebrate the first Easter, according to calendar maker Dionysius Exiguus

1436

Florence Cathedral (Cattedrale di Santa Maria del Fiore), started in 1296, is consecrated by Pope Eugene IV. Designed by Filippo Brunelleschi with support from Cosimo de' Medici, it features the largest dome in the world at the time.



1807

British Parliament abolishes the slave trade throughout the British Empire; a penalty of £120 per slave is introduced for ship captains

1960

First guided missile launched from a nuclear powered submarine (USS Halibut)



Israeli emergency service personnel gather at the site of an Iranian missile strike in Tel Aviv

Amazon's cloud arm says service disrupted after drone attacks

AFP | Manama, Bahrain

Amazon's cloud arm told AFP yesterday that its service in Bahrain had been disrupted, after drone attacks hit the region.

An Amazon Web Services (AWS) spokesperson said the disruption was ongoing, without specifying the exact location affected or any potential damage done.

"The AWS Bahrain Region has been disrupted as a result of the ongoing conflict," the spokesperson said, adding that the company was helping affected customers migrate to AWS servers elsewhere in the world.

"We are working closely with local authorities and prioritising the safety of our personnel." The country's main telecommunications company sent a message to its customers apologising for a "technical problem" affecting its operations.

Amazon's facilities in San Fernando de Henares, the biggest in Spain



Qatar said the war had caused the "breakdown of the security system in the Gulf region."

Push for talks mounts

China FM tells Iran counterpart 'talks better than fighting'

AFP | Beijing, China

China's top diplomat urged his Iranian counterpart in a phone call Tuesday that "talking is always better" than fighting, after Tehran denied Donald Trump's claim that negotiations were underway.

The US president said on Monday his administration was speaking with an unidentified "top person" among Iran's leadership, as he extended by five days a deadline to hit the country's power plants.

But Tehran's parliamentary speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf insisted "no negoti-

ations" were taking place, accusing Trump of seeking "to manipulate the financial and oil markets".

Beijing remains a key partner of Iran, but has said it "does not go along" with Tehran's strikes on Gulf states hosting US bases and has urged a ceasefire.

According to China's foreign ministry, Wang Yi told Abbas Araghchi he hoped "all parties can seize every opportunity and window for peace and start the peace talks process as quickly as possible".

The Iranian foreign minister said vessels could "safely pass through" the strait, except

those belonging to "countries currently engaging in conflict", the statement added.

He also told Wang that "the Iranian side is committed to achieving a comprehensive end to the conflict, not just a temporary ceasefire", and thanked China for its humanitarian assistance.

The call was held "at the request" of the Iranian side, according to the ministry.

Trump had been due to visit Beijing this month, but postponed the trip to deal with the war's fallout and has urged China and others to help reopen the Strait of Hormuz.

India's economic fundamentals strong, ample coal, petrol available, PM Modi says

Reuters | New Delhi

The fundamentals of the Indian economy are strong and the country has adequate availability of petroleum, fertilisers and coal to weather trade and energy disruptions caused by the U.S.-Israeli war on Iran, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Monday.

The conflict, which began last month, has disrupted sectors from air travel to shipping and gas supplies, including by the near-closure of the Strait of Hormuz, which serves as a conduit for 40% of India's crude oil imports.

India has sufficient petroleum availability, with strategic reserves currently exceeding 5.3 million metric tons, and work underway to create reserves of another 6.5 million metric tons, Modi told parliament's lower house on Monday.

"The inherent strength of India's economic fundamentals has ... provided significant support to the nation during this period," he said.

Adequate arrangements have also been made for fertilisers supply for the summer sowing season that starts in June-July, and for coal to meet the rising demand for electricity as temperatures rise, he added.

India is walking a tightrope in the war, boasting historical cultural ties with Iran, strong, strategic relations with Israel, and close friendships with Arab countries. It has repeatedly called for dialogue and diplomacy to resolve the conflict.



South Asian country - the world's most populous and its fastest growing major economy - still relies on coal for three-fourths of its electricity generation, even as it ramps up renewable energy generation at a record pace.

The Indian economy is estimated to grow by 7.6% in the fiscal year ending March 2026, the National Statistics Office said last month. It is projected to grow between 7% and 7.4% in FY27.

Analysts say a prolonged crisis in the Gulf region could significantly dampen India's growth in FY27 due to surging energy costs and supply chain disruptions.

Modi had emphasised the importance of ensuring shipping lanes remain open and secure despite the war during a conversation with Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian on Saturday.

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Modi says 'useful' talks with Trump on ME war

AFP | New Delhi, India

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi said yesterday that US President Donald Trump had called him to discuss the Middle East war -- and the importance of the Strait of Hormuz.

Modi said it was a "useful exchange of views", adding that India "supports de-escalation and restoration of peace at the earliest", he wrote on social media.

Maritime traffic through the Gulf chokepoint -- which normally carries a fifth of the world's seaborne crude -- has come to a virtual standstill since US-Israeli strikes on Iran last month, triggering a regional

US Ambassador Sergio Gorrero also said on social media that the leaders had discussed the war, "including the importance of keeping the Strait of Hormuz open".

conflict that has rattled global energy supply chains.

"Ensuring that the Strait of

Hormuz remains open, secure and accessible is essential for the whole world," Modi said.

US Ambassador Sergio Gorrero also said on social media that the leaders had discussed the war, "including the importance of keeping the Strait of Hormuz open".

India is the world's second-largest buyer of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), which is used for cooking and predominantly sourced from the Middle East -- and supplies through the Strait of Hormuz have been strangled by the conflict.

Modi has urged states to curb black marketing and avoid panic, stressing that India's energy supplies remain stable.



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Received a call from President Trump and had a useful exchange of views on the situation in West Asia. India supports de-escalation and restoration of peace at the earliest. Ensuring that the Strait of Hormuz remains open, secure and accessible is essential for the whole world. We agreed to stay in touch regarding efforts towards peace and stability.

@narendramodi

02



In its latest State of the Global Climate report, @WMO shows that 2015-2025 were the hottest 11 years on record, with heat stress affecting people of all ages on every continent.

Workers are especially vulnerable: around one-third of the global workforce (1.2 billion people) is exposed to workplace heat risk each year.

Rising temperatures affect health in many ways, increasing fatigue, injuries, dehydration, kidney strain and mental stress. According to @Lancet Countdown data, heat-related deaths have surged by 63% since the 1990s.

As a driver of our warming world, climate change also amplifies public health risks such as vector- and water-borne diseases.

@WHO works closely with @WMO to address the impacts of climate change on health systems—including extreme heat—by strengthening health facility readiness to cope with higher temperatures.

@WHO calls on governments to ensure that heat early warning systems are tailored to the needs of the health sector and that climate information is integrated into health decision-making.

Every heat-related death is preventable.

@DrTedros

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