# 22.05.2026 NEWS

## INDIA: WHAT IT GAINED AND LOST

- The tension that began in the West Asian region after the attacks carried out by the United States and Israel on Iran on February 28 has still not completely subsided.
- Iran retaliated by attacking American military bases located in Gulf countries. In addition, Iran's closure of the Strait of Hormuz has resulted in fuel shortages in several countries, including India. The effects of this conflict are being felt across different parts of the world. In this context, an interview was conducted with India's former National Security Advisor, M. K. Narayanan.

» What kind of relationship does India have with West Asian countries?

- India has always been an influential and important country in West Asia. In the past, India's top leaders maintained continuous contact with various leaders of these nations, which helped strengthen India's influence.
- Even during periods when most West Asian countries were ruled by traditional monarchies, democratic India remained a model for them.
- It should be noted that India's democratic traditions were never viewed as a threat by West Asian monarchies. Instead, they served as a source of inspiration and hope for the people of the region. However, although India has become economically stronger in recent years, I believe there have been changes in the way it maintains friendly relations with West Asian nations compared to earlier times.

» The West Asian war has also affected the daily lives of Indians. What are your thoughts on this?

- Regarding the ongoing conflict, there is no clear understanding of India's exact position.
- During previous wars in West Asia, India strongly and clearly expressed its stand. But in today's situation, India is trying to remain neutral. I believe this has affected India's old reputation as a country that boldly voiced its position without fear.
- Since India has grown into a stronger economy, it is now acting with greater concern about the economic cost and impact of war. It is evident that India is giving priority to protecting its economic growth from disruption.
- India is attempting to contain the effects of the conflict. Nevertheless, it cannot be denied that the everyday lives of Indian citizens have been affected. Rising fuel prices, impacts on employment, and economic pressures have already become visible.

» The war is continuing without coming to an end. What are the major reasons?

- The United States–Israel alliance and certain Western countries assumed that if a war against Iran began, the country could be defeated within a very short period. But that was a serious miscalculation.

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- Iran's ancient civilizational background and the mindset associated with Shia ideology play a major role in this war. Iran strongly upholds a mentality that is willing to endure pressure and suffering rather than surrender to an enemy nation. The United States and Israel failed to understand this.
- More than misunderstanding it, they have shown reluctance to accept it. Because of this, the war has been pushed into a situation with no clear end in sight. If this continues, it could become one of the greatest tragedies of modern times.
- How should India handle issues such as economic impact, war-related diplomacy, and the safety of Indians living abroad?
- India must immediately pay attention to all three issues. I do not think India has gained any major benefits so far by refusing to side with either camp.
- It is doubtful whether India will return to its earlier foreign-policy stance. However, care must be taken to ensure that the current position does not further complicate the existing situation. Sometimes, taking no action at all may itself be the best course of action.

» What role do you think Artificial Intelligence (AI) plays in modern wars dominated by technology?

- This question cannot be answered briefly. It is an important topic that deserves a separate and detailed discussion. In short, artificial intelligence has become a tool capable of bringing major changes in any war.
- AI technology is now penetrating fields such as surveillance, target identification, communication systems, and war strategy. It has already created a massive impact on battlefields.
- Its influence could be even greater than the impact created by tanks and fighter aircraft during the World War II. Artificial intelligence has the power to fundamentally transform modern warfare itself.

## "COCKROACH PARTY"

- While hearing a recent case related to fake certificates, Chief Justice Surya Kant remarked:
- "Some unemployed youths who are unfit for any profession have started attacking everyone on social media like cockroaches and parasites."
- Later, Justice Surya Kant clarified that he was referring only to people possessing fake certificates and not to all youngsters as a whole.
- In this context, an Indian student named Abhijit Deepke, who studies at Boston University, launched an Instagram page on the 16th called "Cockroach Janata Party."
- Accounts with the same name were also created on social media platforms such as X and Facebook.
- According to Abhijit, to join the Cockroach Party, a person must : be unemployed, be lazy, be addicted to the internet, and know how to express anger effectively online.
- He also announced five promises, including one that MPs and MLAs elected from a political party who switch sides after elections should be banned from contesting elections for the next 20 years.
- The Instagram page of the Cockroach Party reportedly gained 15 million followers. The number of followers on X, Facebook, and other social media platforms has also been increasing rapidly.
- Meanwhile, the party's X account was blocked in India yesterday. Within a few hours, a new X account titled "Cockroach Is Back" was launched with the slogan : "Cockroaches never die."
- At the same time, inspired by the Cockroach Party, another online political group called the "National Parasite Front" has reportedly been launched by Gen Z youth.


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