



OPEC+ Extends Deep Oil Output Cuts

Source: [TT](#)

[OPEC+](#) decided to extend **significant oil output cuts** through 2025, surpassing market expectations to **support prices** amid sluggish demand, **high interest rates**, and **increasing US production**.

- According to its official website, the [Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries \(OPEC\)](#), established at the **1960 Baghdad Conference**, is a permanent intergovernmental **organisation with 12 member countries**.
 - Its headquarters is in the **Austrian capital Vienna**.
 - OPEC member states produce about **40% of the world's oil**, and their exports comprise around **60% of the global petroleum trade**.
 - Before OPEC was formed, the international oil market was dominated by the "**seven sisters**" group of multinational energy companies.
- In 2016, OPEC and 10 other oil-producing countries, **including Russia** formed [OPEC+](#) in response to plummeting oil prices due to increased U.S. shale oil output.

Read more: [OPEC](#), [OPEC+](#)

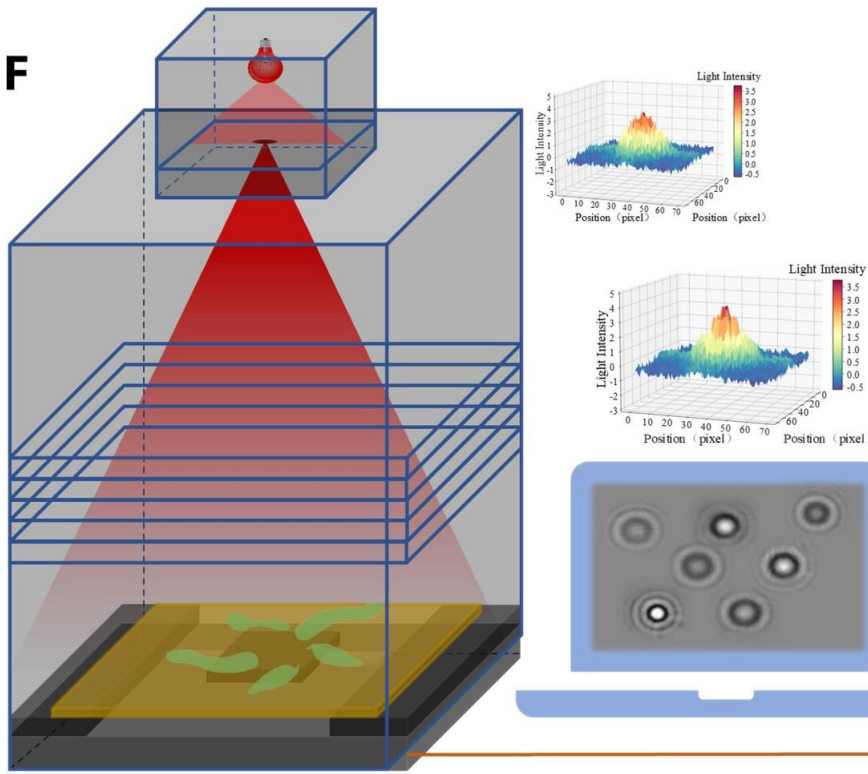
Diffraction-Based Tool to Detect Virus

Source: [TH](#)

Researchers have **developed a method** to identify infected cells by observing **how they distort light**.

- They tracked these distortions over time to mimic a **progressing infection** and compared them to healthy cells, identifying a **unique 'fingerprint' for virus-infected cells**.
- Researchers infected pig testicle cells with **the pseudorabies virus**, shone light through them, and **observed distinct diffraction patterns** based on **contrast and texture**.
 - **Diffraction** refers to **light waves spreading out** after passing through narrow openings or around objects, **creating patterns of light and dark stripes**.
- The light-based technique **detects infections in about two hours**, costing a **tenth of** the required for **traditional 40-hour chemical reagent methods**, and avoids reagent-related delays and supply chain issues.
- The **low cost and ease of use of the light-based detection method** make it ideal for the early identification of viral infections in **livestock and pets**, aiding in breeding, preventing economic losses during outbreaks, and **supporting the World Health Organization's (WHO) rapid response recommendations**, especially in **resource-limited countries**.
- Earlier, scientists have developed a highly accurate [holographic imaging method using laser beams to detect viruses](#) and antibodies within 30 minutes, utilizing **xSight, an instrument by Spheryx**.

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Volcanism on Venus

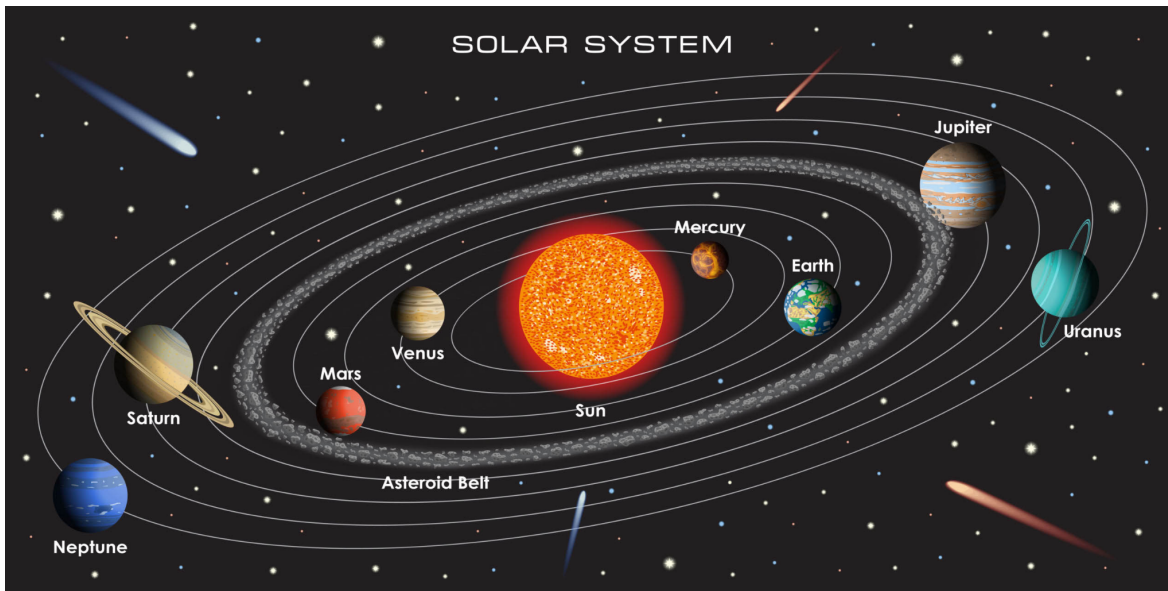
[Source: TH](#)

Recent scientific analysis has revealed that **Venus** is more volcanically active than previously known.

- Active volcanic flows have been detected at 2 sites named the **Eistla Regio region**, which includes the **Sif Mons volcano**, and the **expansive volcanic plain of Niobe Planitia**. Earlier its erupting was detected in the 1990s.
- Also, a volcanic vent on **Maat Mons** in a region called **Atla Regio**, near the equator has expanded and changed shape.
 - These along with additional evidence such as **atmospheric sulfur dioxide variations**, **surface thermal emissions data**, confirm volcanic activity on the planet.

Venus:

- Venus is **often called Earth's twin** is slightly smaller than Earth.
- It is **the second planet from the Sun** and the sixth largest planet.
- It is the **hottest planet** in our solar system.
- Venus **spins from east to west, which is backward compared to most planets**, and it has a **day longer than its year**.



Read More: [Venus' Tectonic History](#), [Venus Mission 2024](#) [Active Volcanoes on Venus](#)

Nelson Mandela Award for Health Promotion

[Source: TH](#)

Recently, the **National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS)**, Bengaluru, has been conferred the prestigious **Nelson Mandela Award for Health Promotion** by the [World Health Organization \(WHO\)](#) for the year 2024.

- It showcases the country's commitment to **addressing mental health challenges** and ensuring accessible **mental health services for all**.
- India has made significant progress in mental health with the establishment of a tele-mental health helpline ([Tele MANAS](#)) and **Mental Health Units** in almost all districts through the [National Health Mission](#).

NIMHANS:

- It is a **multi-disciplinary institute** focused on both **mental health** and **neuroscience** through **clinical care, education** (undergraduate, postgraduate, PhD programs), and **research**.
- Established in **1974**
- Declared Deemed University in 1994.
- It governed by the act of **Parliament titled NIMHANS Act, 2012**.
- Declared **Institute of National Importance** in 2012.

WHO Nelson Mandela Award for Health Promotion:

- **Established: 2019**, upon the initiative of African Region Health Ministers.
- **Awarded to:** Individuals, institutions, or NGOs that make significant contributions to health promotion.

Read more: [Nelson Mandela - The Harbinger Of Equality In South Africa](#), [Nelson Mandela's Influence on the United Nations and International Diplomacy](#)

Kanyakumari's Vivekananda Rock

[Source: IE](#)

Why in News?

Recently, the Prime Minister announced his plan to visit and meditate at the **Vivekananda Rock Memorial** in Kanyakumari, Tamil Nadu marking the culmination of the Lok Sabha election campaign.

What are the Key Facts Related to Vivekananda Rock Memorial?

- **Swami Vivekananda's Spiritual Experience:**
 - In **1892**, Swami Vivekananda was said to have **swum to the rock from the shores of [Kanyakumari](#)** for meditation. He spent three days and nights there, **resulting in his enlightenment.**
 - Swami Vivekananda's letter to Swami Ramkrishnananda in 1894 suggests that his **core philosophy crystallised** after meditation at the **Dhyan Mandapam** on the rock.
- **Location:**
 - The **memorial stands on one of the two rocks located about 500 meters off the mainland of Vavathurai**, Tamil Nadu.
 - The Vivekananda rock is a **small rocky islet**, surrounded by the Laccadive Sea where the Bay of Bengal, the Indian Ocean and the Arabian Sea form a confluence presenting a picturesque view.
 - The **memorial consists of two main structures, viz Vivekananda Mandapam and Shripada Mandapam.**
- **Significance as a Memorial:**
 - The memorial was constructed to honour [Swami Vivekananda](#), a prominent Indian spiritual leader.
 - It was formally inaugurated in **1970 by the then-President of India, V V Giri.**



What are the Key Facts About the Swami Vivekananda?

- **Birth and Early Life:**
 - Swami Vivekananda, originally born as **Narendranath Datta** on 12th January 1863, hailed from a **conventional Bengali family** in Calcutta.
 - His excessive appetite for knowledge led him to explore various subjects, including

philosophy, literature, **Indian scriptures, as well as western philosophies.**

▪ **Towards Spiritualism:**

- He became the **chief disciple** of the 19th-century mystic [Ramakrishna Paramhansa](#) in **1881**.
- Initially sceptical of Ramakrishna's teachings, Vivekananda eventually embraced his guru's philosophy, leading to his initiation into **monastic life**.
- In 1893, upon the request of **Maharaja Ajit Singh** of the Khetri State, he took the name '**Vivekananda**.'

▪ **Associated Organisations:**

- The **Ramakrishna movement** (initiated by Vivekananda) had two goals:
 - To train monks dedicated to a life of **renunciation and practical spirituality** to spread Vedanta teachings and
 - To guide lay disciples to carry on **preaching, philanthropic and charitable works**.
- He established the [Ramakrishna Mission](#) in 1897 to fulfil the second objective of the Ramakrishna movement whereas **Paramhansa himself fulfilled the first objective through Ramkrishna Math**.

▪ **His Contributions:**

- He introduced the world to the Indian philosophies of [Vedanta and Yoga](#).
 - He preached '**neo-Vedanta**', an interpretation of Hinduism through a Western lens, and **believed in combining spirituality with material progress**.
- His powerful speech at the 1893 [World Parliament of Religion](#) in Chicago captivated the audience and placed Hinduism on the global stage.
- His teachings also offered different **paths to spiritual liberation** (moksha) through his writings, outlining the four yogas: **Raja-yoga** (yoga of the mind), **Karma-yoga** (yoga of action), **Jnana-yoga** (yoga of knowledge), and **Bhakti-yoga** (yoga of devotion).
- His famous quote, "**Service of man is the service of God**", is still relevant today.
- [Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose](#) had called Vivekananda the "**Maker of modern India**."
- [National Youth Day](#) is celebrated every year to observe the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda.

UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Questions (PYQs)

Prelims

Q. Annie Besant was: (2013)

1. Responsible for starting the Home Rule Movement
2. The founder of the Theosophical Society
3. Once the President of the Indian National Congress

Select the correct statement/statements using the codes given below.

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans (c)

Q. Consider the following statements:

1. Shah Abdul Aziz and Syed Ahmed Khan popularized the ideas of the Wahhabi Movement in India.
2. Wahabi Movement was a revivalist movement which tried to purify Islam by eliminating all the un-Islamic practices.

3. Wahabi's played an important role in the revolt of 1857 in spreading anti-British feelings.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 3 only

(b) 2 and 3 only

(c) 2 only

(d) 1 and 2 only

Ans (b)

Mains

Q. Several foreigners made India their homeland and participated in various movements. Analyse their role in the Indian struggle for freedom. **(2013)**

PDF Reference URL: <https://www.drishtias.com/current-affairs-news-analysis-editorials/news-analysis/04-06-2024/print>

