

## Hey Smart Scoopers

Hope your week has been wonderful!

This time, we've lined up five scoops, just for you. We begin with two explainers that unpack the fast-changing situation in Iran and then we turn to wildlife, looking at how India and the world are trying to protect the pangolin, the most trafficked mammal on Earth. And just when you think your brain is full, we end with a puzzle that quietly tests your intelligence radar.

Here are your fresh picks for the week:

Scoop 1: Iran Crisis: Understanding the situation(I)

Scoop 2: Iran Crisis: Understanding the situation(II)

Scoop 3: Pangolin Day 2026: Protecting the most trafficked mammal(I)

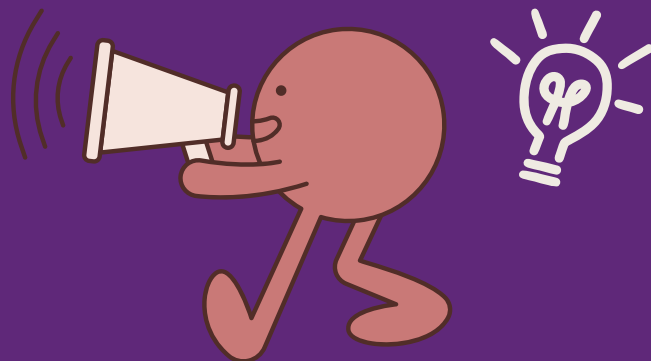
Scoop 4: Pangolin Day 2026: Protecting the most trafficked mammal(II)

Scoop 5: Puzzle For The Week: Pick your pay

Dig in and enjoy!

Happy Reading,  
The SmartScoop Team

Our mascot, Blurt  
will follow us  
along the way.




Blurt /blurt/  
noun:

A loud, round, super-curious character who just can't keep a fact in.

# The Iran Crisis

## UNDERSTANDING THE SITUATION



On 28 February 2026, the United States and Israel launched a large military operation involving airstrikes on several Iranian cities, including Tehran, Isfahan, and Tabriz. The strikes targeted military facilities, missile bases, and senior leadership sites after weeks of rising tensions over Iran's nuclear program and regional security concerns.

If you have been following SmartScoop, you may already know about the growing tensions in Iran that we have been [covering recently](#). However, we will do a **quick recap** for you below.

### About Iran...

Iran is a large country in the Middle East, located between Asia and Europe. It has about 85 million people and is rich in oil and gas. Because of its location and resources, Iran plays an important role in global politics and energy supplies. For the last 40 plus years, it has been ruled by an **Islamic Republic**: a type of government where religious leaders have the final say over the country's laws and decisions. The most powerful person in Iran is called the Supreme Leader, not the President. Think of the Supreme Leader as someone whose authority sits above everyone else's, even elected officials.



For many years, Iran has had tense relationships with several countries, especially the United States and Israel. The US and many other countries have placed sanctions on Iran which means they blocked Iran from trading normally with the world, largely because they worried Iran was secretly building nuclear weapons. Iran always said its nuclear programme was for peaceful energy, not bombs.



### The Big News: The Conflict Escalates

Through February 2026, tensions kept rising. The US sent aircraft carriers and warships to the Middle East. Tensions between Iran and the United States over Iran's nuclear programme began to intensify, and the US began amassing air and naval assets in the region at a level not seen before.

Nuclear talks were attempted but went nowhere. Then, on 28 February 2026, the United States and Israel began coordinated joint attacks on various sites and cities in Iran, starting a war aimed at regime change. The attacks targeted military and government sites, and included the assassination of Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. The operation was called "Operation Epic Fury".



Ayatollah Ali Khamenei

## UNDERSTANDING THE SITUATION

## What Is Happening Right Now?



**Strikes continue:** US and Israel continues to strike on Iran. Iran is also fighting back with ballistic and naval missiles.

**The war is spreading:** Iran has threatened global shipping in the Strait of Hormuz\*, and fighting is spreading across multiple fronts in the Middle East, including Lebanon and Iraq. Iran has launched strikes across nine countries in the region, including Bahrain, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

**Iran's leadership is in chaos:** Following the killing of Supreme Leader Khamenei, his son Mojtaba Khamenei has emerged as a leading contender to take up the country's top post.



*\*The Strait of Hormuz is a narrow, 33-95km maritime chokepoint between Iran and Oman, connecting the Persian Gulf to the Gulf of Oman and the Arabian Sea. It is globally critical because over 20% of the world's total oil and liquefied natural gas (LNG) consumption passes through it daily, making it crucial for energy supply.*

## Why does this matter to the rest of the world?

The conflict isn't just staying inside Iran's borders. It is affecting everyone



**Global Travel:** Many flights were cancelled in major Indian cities like Delhi and Mumbai because it's no longer safe for planes to fly over parts of the Middle East.

**Energy Prices:** Because Iran is near the Strait of Hormuz there are fears that fuel prices (for cars and heating) could go up everywhere.




**India's Position:** India has many citizens living and working in the Gulf region. The Indian government has set up a "control room" to help protect them and has called for both sides to stop fighting and start talking.



Let there be peace: We need calm in this world not conflicts. Every child deserves a safe tomorrow.

## PROTECTING THE MOST TRAFFICKED MAMMAL



World Pangolin Day was observed on 21 February 2026, the third Saturday of February.

The day is celebrated every year to raise awareness about pangolins, unique mammals covered in protective scales. It also encourages people around the world to help protect these animals, which are considered the most trafficked mammals on Earth because they are hunted for their scales and meat.

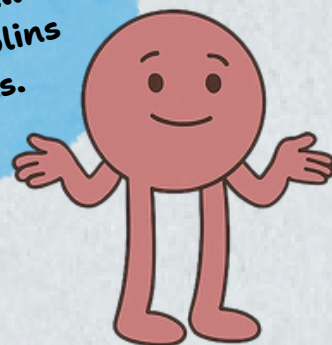


**Pangolins play an important role in nature. They eat thousands of ants and termites, helping to control insect populations. However, illegal wildlife trade, habitat loss, and hunting have caused their numbers to fall sharply in many parts of Asia and Africa. Because of this, many pangolin species are now critically endangered.**



Pangolins are shy, nocturnal animals that curl into a ball when threatened. Their scales, made of keratin (the same material as human fingernails), are wrongly believed to have medicinal value, which has led to heavy illegal trade.

Events like World Pangolin Day help scientists, governments, and communities work together to protect these unusual creatures. Awareness campaigns, stricter laws, and conservation centres are all important steps to ensure pangolins survive for future generations.

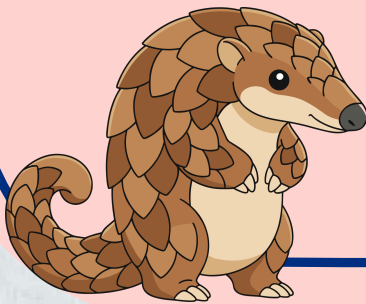


## PROTECTING THE MOST TRAFFICKED MAMMAL

In India, several conservation efforts and awareness activities were conducted around February 2026 to help protect pangolins.

**New Pangolin Conservation Centre Announced**

A major step was taken in Jhargram, West Bengal, where the government announced the creation of India's second pangolin breeding and conservation centre at Jangalmohal Zoological Park. This centre will help scientists study pangolins and support breeding efforts to protect these endangered animals. Currently, the only other such centre in India is at Nandankanan in Odisha.

**Community Action to Protect Pangolins**

In Nagaland, the Sangtam Naga community passed a resolution banning the hunting of pangolins in their region. This decision shows how local communities can play an important role in wildlife conservation by protecting animals in their natural habitats.

COME ON, SNAP OUT OF YOUR  
ARMOUR BALL! IT'S  
WORLD PANGOLIN DAY!

WE'RE STILL THE  
WORLD'S MOST TRAFFICKED  
MAMMALS, SO GIVE ME  
ONE GOOD  
REASON.



## PICK YOUR PAY

## PICK YOUR PAY

Suppose you take a new job and the boss offers you a choice between:

- (A) \$4,000 for your first year of work, and a raise of \$800 for each year thereafter;
- (B) \$2,000 for your first six months of work, and a raise of \$200 every six months thereafter along with \$2,000.

Which offer would you take and why?

## SOLUTION

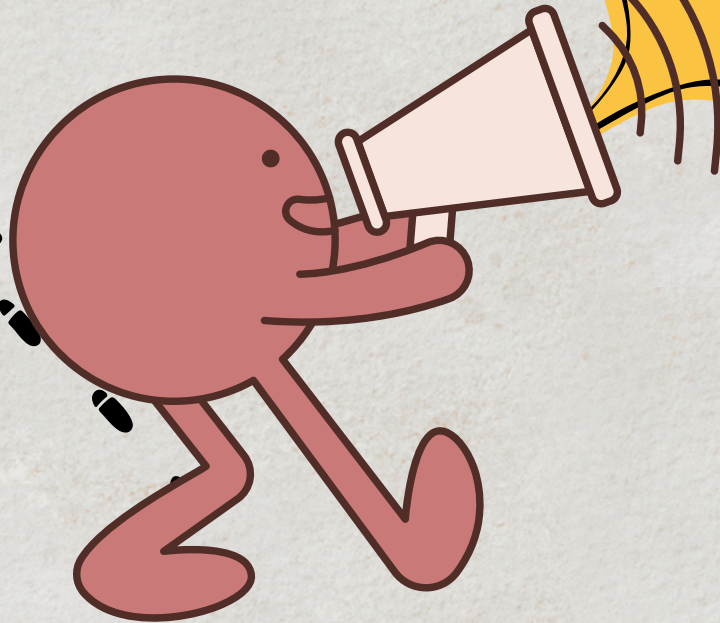
Surprisingly, the second offer is much better than the first one. If you accept it, you will earn exactly \$200 more each year than you would on the other basis of payment! The following chart shows your total earnings, on the basis of both offers, for each of the first six years.

Years	Offer A	Offer B
1	\$4,000	\$4,200
2	\$4,800	\$5,000
3	\$5,600	\$5,800
4	\$6,400	\$6,600
5	\$7,200	\$7,400
6	\$8,000	\$8,200

Blurt's

Interesting fact for the week

Pangolins have no teeth, they use their tongue to trap ants and insects. They also swallow pebbles and sand which helps them to digest their food by crushing and grinding.



That's it for this week! Until next time, keep your brain gears turning!

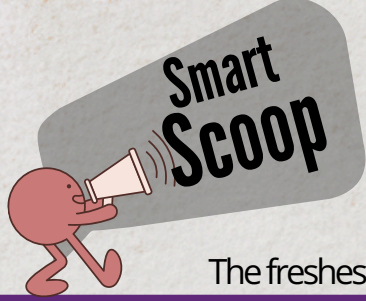


Got some feedback or want to share something with us?

Write to us here:

[smartscoopteam@gmail.com](mailto:smartscoopteam@gmail.com)

We'd love to hear from you! Mostly Blurt tbh..



The freshest finds for clever minds!!!

## SOURCES

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