jims
Sector-5, Rohini, Delhi

MAY 2026

HORIZON

MORE THAN JUST ECONOMICS

THE NEW GLOBAL ECONOMIC ORDER

Power, resources, technology and markets in transition



GREENLAND GAMBIT
Why the US is eyeing the strategic island

PEACE PRIZE OR POLITICAL MOVE?
Trump's Nobel controversy explained

THE MOTHER OF ALL DEALS
Europe's new strategic economics

PRECIOUS METALS SURGE
What's driving gold & silver prices

THE ARAVALI DEMOLITION
A case for environmental economics

SHUTDOWN FALLOUT
How the US government shutdown affects the world economy

INVESTING IN SILICON
India's semiconductor roadmap – Budget 2026

FROM ART TO GDP
The growing power of the Orange Economy

THE COPPER CRAZE
Why the red metal is suddenly in demand

THE DECLINE OF THE DOLLAR?
Gold and silver's new opportunity

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

• GLOBAL GEOPOLITICS • ENERGY TRANSITION • METALS SUPERCYCLE • DIGITAL ECONOMICS

THE WORLD ECONOMIES IN THE FLUX

Principal's *Message*



" More Than Just Economics "

I am delighted to announce another edition of the Horizon Magazine, published by the collaborative efforts of the students and faculty in charge. This magazine, once again, beautifully captures all that makes our college and student body exceptional. It is a testament of our shared commitment to achieve academic excellence. My faith in our students potential is reaffirmed as they continue to endure all trials and tribulations to put out this wonderful piece of work. This magazine is not only a platform for students to showcase their creativity through their unique perspectives but is also a window into the diverse tapestry of talent and experiences within the walls of Jims College. There is always space at top and bottom hence, mediocrity will never do.

As you delve into the pages of this magazine, let it inspire you, Ignite a spark of creativity within you, and even challenge you. I hope you find something new to learn and a new perspective to consider. Moreover, I wish you're all able to witness a snippet of the immense talent that my dear students bring to the table.

Happy Reading!

Dr Praveen Arora
Principal
IPU Affiliated Program

Editor's *Message*



> "To inform, to inspire, to ignite ideas."

To all our dear readers, When you are flipping through these pages that are as unpredictable and diverse as your favourite playlists each piece a unique track meant to inspire, provoke thought, or simply make you smile when you need a break from the daily grind we hope that this macrocosmic experience feels truly captivating. We've designed this magazine with your experience at heart, hoping that each page turn feels like embarking on a mini-adventure, where laughter, intensity, and insight often share the same space. Ten years from now, when we are dispersed in different parts of the world, we hope you can look back at this edition and, for a moment, find yourself slipping into a kaleidoscopic state of mind—one that reflects the myriad moments of college, life, and politics.

Although the magnanimity of a themeless, boundless magazine edition may seem burdensome, the idea behind it is simply freeing and empowering. In a world that often demands labels and neatly packaged topics, we decided to take a revolutionary detour this year. By discarding the usual constraints, we encouraged our writers, artists, and thinkers to dive headfirst into the chaotic beauty of ideas without a predefined blueprint. Think of it as an intellectual free-for-all, where the unexpected is celebrated. Consider this magazine the academic equivalent of a potluck dinner—you never know what peculiar dish you'll encounter, but that is precisely what makes the feast so exciting and unpredictable.

A big shoutout to our entire magazine team across all three branches—editorial, web, design, and social media. Cheers to surviving a hundred drafts, a thousand submissions, and more last-minute "Eureka!" moments than we can count. Your shared passion and persistence have transformed chaos into something truly spectacular, proving through this edition that great art is often born out of a delightful mix of madness and genius.

We would also like to thank everyone who contributed in any way—this magazine would not be the same without you. Thank you for trusting us with your ideas and your time. This has truly been a labour of love: from brainstorming sessions and endless hours of editing to coordination, the forging of new friendships. We are immensely proud to be part of this legacy.

Warm Regards

Dr. Jyotsna

Associate Professor

jims
Sector-5, Rohini, Delhi



About JIMS

LEARN • LEAD • INSPIRE

Jagan Institute of Management Studies (JIMS) carries a rich legacy spanning over three decades in delivering professional education at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels in the fields of Management and Information Technology. With an unwavering commitment to developing competent industry professionals, the Institute is recognized as one of the leading business schools in the country.

Our PGDM programs are approved by the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) and hold accreditation from the National Board of Accreditation (NBA) for their quality academic standards. The programs are also accorded equivalence to the MBA degree by the Association of Indian Universities (AIU). Our GGSIP University affiliated programs are MCA, BBA, BCA and BA (H) (Eco.). The MCA programme is also accredited by the National Board of Accreditation.

The Institute also runs AICTE approved Fellow Program in Management has been accorded equivalence to Ph.D degree by the AIU. Further affirming our commitment to academic excellence, JIMS has been awarded them NAAC A++ grade and secured SAQS accreditation from AMDISA, placing it among the most respected institutions in management education.

JIMS Rohini, Delhi proudly attained Graded Autonomy Category II recognition from AICTE, JIMS Rohini, Delhi also continues to remain in the list of elite B schools of India (Top 100) for 10 years in a row since the inception of ranking in 2016.

Apart from providing gainful and decent placements to its students, JIMS also encourages the spirit of entrepreneurship. The Institute proves to be an ideal place for those wishing to engage in academic pursuits and to seek intellectual fulfillment. The institute also runs AICTE approved Fellow Program in Management 11 which is equivalent to Ph.D degree

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Editorial Epilogue



Time has whisked past us like a fleeting breeze. It feels like just yesterday when we assumed our roles, a mix of apprehension and eager anticipation pulsating through us. Though uncertain of what lay ahead, one thing remained steadfast- our commitment to lead with compassionate hope and foster collaborative action. Amidst multiple challenges that awaited us, these principles remained our guiding stars. Being in the union made us look at campus life from a completely different lens- prompting us to view our surroundings with newfound admiration and understanding. We went from being passive observers to agents of proactive change as we recognized the agency and opportunity at our disposal to effect positive change. With creative ideation, innovation, and collaborative efforts we converted countless mere nothings into significant somethings. All this could not have been possible without the immense support and encouragement we received from our team and the esteemed JIMS fraternity. Their willingness to provide constructive criticism when necessary, coupled with their kindness and understanding, has been invaluable. This unwavering solidarity served as both our anchor and our wind, propelling us forward through trials and triumphs alike. We hope that this spirit of solidarity endures. As we prepare to pass the torch to the next union, we encourage the upcoming batches to embrace this outlook and carry forward the mantle of leadership with integrity and purpose. Lend your voice to the causes that resonate most deeply with you, and uphold the values of unity, respect, and empathy throughout. Stay informed about what's happening on campus, participate in conversations, and take the initiative to start projects and discussions. This space belongs to you-embrace it fully and make your voices heard!

Signing off

Nishant Taneja & Sargun Kaur

Editor-In-Chief 2025-26

What's Inside ...

01 Editorial Board

02 China' s Rare Earth's Monoply

03 The Fed Shutdown

04 Venezuela Bitcoin Mystery

05 The Gold Rush

06 The Hormuz Shutdown

07 The Orinoco Belt

08 Peace Prize or Political Move?



09 The Aravali Demolition

10 Brexit & Beyond

11 JP Morgan Siver Play

12 The Nuclear Theft

13 The Stand off US Venezuela Tension

14 From Art to GDP

15 Trade Wars and Market Volatility

16 Investing in Silicon

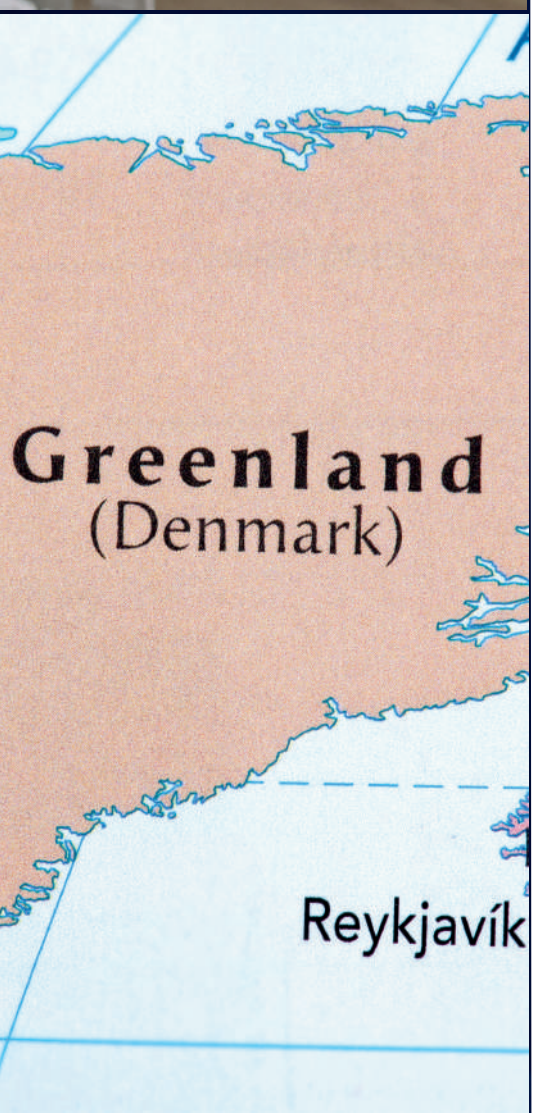












17 Greenland Gambit

18 The Pakistan Play

19 The Decline of Dollar

20 The Mother of All Deals

21 China's Silver Strategy

22 Iran's Rising Unrest

23 Trump's Next Move

24 How US Shutdown Affects the World

25 The Precious Metals Surge

26 Geopolitics Just Got Spicy

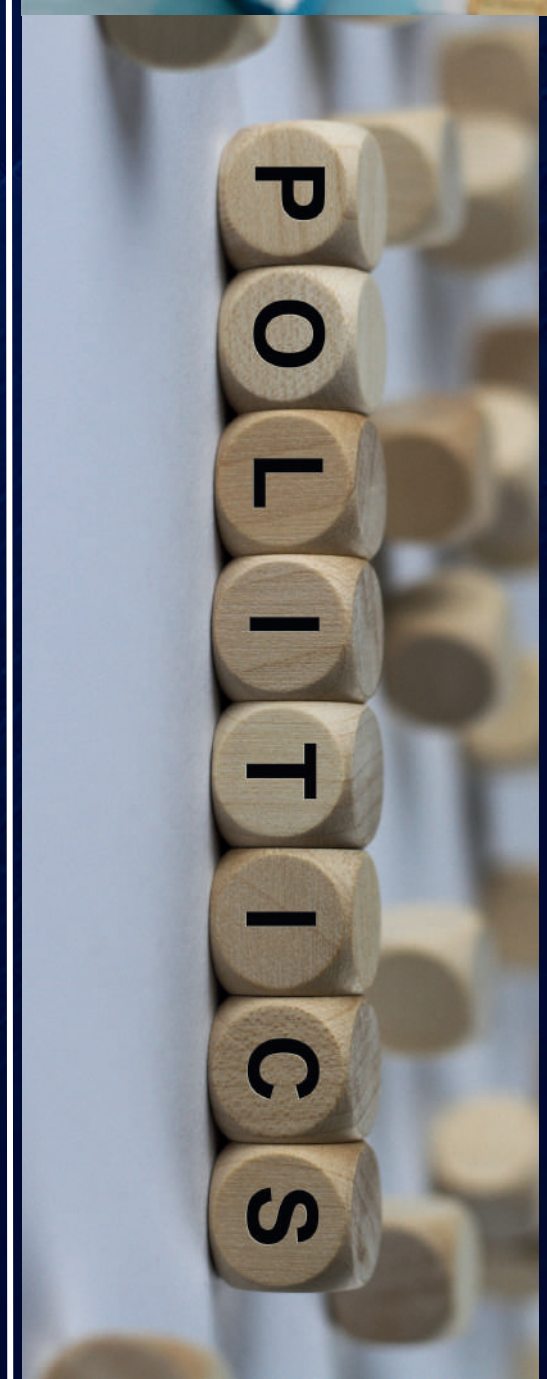
27 The Silver Lining

28 Glimpse Previous Issue

29 A Day at JIMS







Editorial Board

FACULTY INCHARGE



Dr. Jyotsna

Editor-in-Chief



Nishant Taneja

Editor-in-Chief



Sargun Kaur

DESIGNERS



MAHAK AGGARWAL
(HEAD)



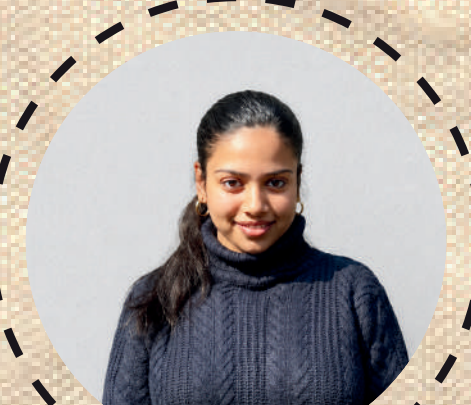
ANGEL AGGARWAL



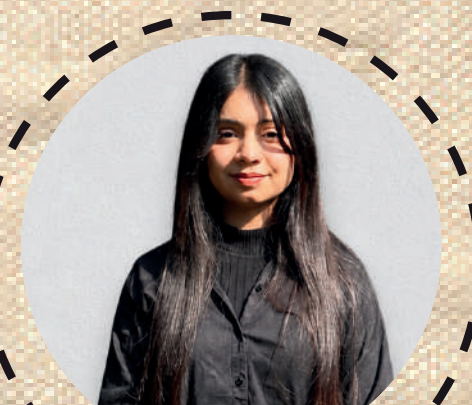
ANSH SHARMA



SHREYA GUJRAL

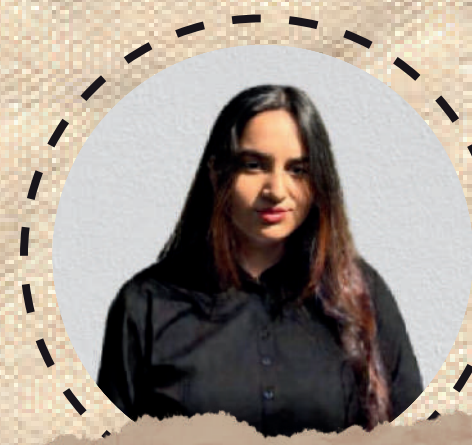


IANA MENON



ANUSHKA
BHANDULA

DIGITAL ENGAGEMENT



NAVYA SRIVASTAVA
(HEAD)



DESHNA AHUJA



RISHIT CHUGH



ISHIKA SHARMA

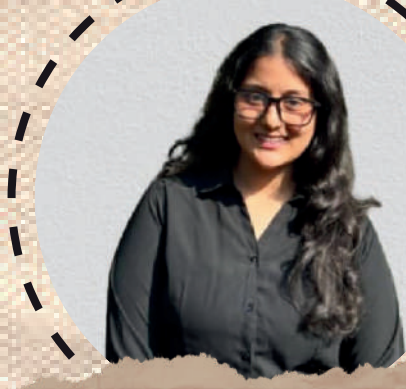
EDITORS



KHUSHI MAKHIJA (HEAD)



AASTHA SINGH



ANGEL DUTT



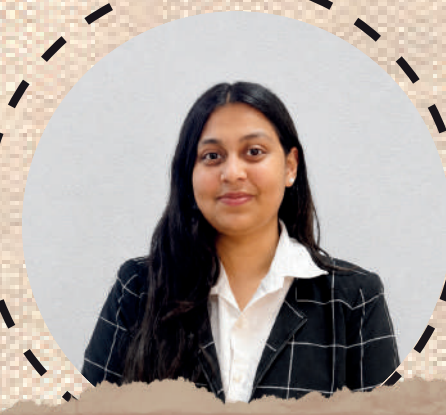
TEJAS MADAN



NEHAL BALOONI



PRIYANSHA ARORA



NIKITA KAPOOR



SARANSH BHARDWAJ

China’s Rare Earth’s Monopoly: The New Global Power Weapon



In the modern era, global power is no longer defined only by military strength, oil reserves, or nuclear capabilities. In recent years, control of rare earth minerals has emerged as a new form of power. Though less known to the public, but they play a vital role in today’s technology-driven world. From smartphones and electric vehicles to missiles and wind turbines, rare earth elements are used in almost everything that drives the modern economy. By establishing strong control over this sector, China has turned rare earths into an important instrument of geopolitical influence.



Rare earth elements consist of seventeen minerals that are essential for manufacturing high-tech products. Although not truly rare, they are difficult to extract and refine. The real difficulty lies in extracting and refining them, as the process requires advanced technology, large investments, and causes environmental damage. China understood their strategic importance much earlier than other countries. Since the 1980s, China has invested heavily in mining and refining technology. Today, China dominates the global rare earth industry. Countries such as the United States, Japan, and members of the European Union depend heavily on Chinese exports for manufacturing advanced technologies. If China restricts exports, industries around the world can face

serious disruptions. A clear example was seen in 2010 when China reportedly limited rare earth exports to Japan during a diplomatic conflict. The incident showed how economic resources can become political weapons. Demand for rare earth minerals has grown rapidly due to clean energy and modern technology. Electric vehicles require rare earth magnets for efficient motors, while solar panels and wind turbines also depend on these materials. In addition, military equipment including fighter aircraft, submarines, and missile systems requires rare earth components. Therefore, China's dominance in this field is not merely an economic matter but also a serious strategic concern for many nations.

As geopolitical competition intensifies, countries around the world are trying to reduce their dependence on China. The United States and its allies are trying to reduce reliance on China. New mining projects are being developed in countries like Australia, Canada, and the United States. Countries are also investing in recycling and alternatives. However, building a complete supply chain outside China will take years because China already possesses advanced refining technology and large-scale infrastructure. Any conflict, sanctions, or export restrictions could affect industries worldwide. This has encouraged nations to rethink economic globalization and focus more on strategic self-reliance. Rare earth minerals have therefore become central to a new form of international competition based on technology, resources, and industrial control rather than traditional warfare.

In conclusion, China's monopoly over rare earth minerals has transformed these resources into a powerful geopolitical tool. By controlling materials that are essential for future technologies and industries, China has gained significant strategic power. As the world continues moving toward digital technology and renewable energy, the competition for rare earth resources is expected to grow even stronger. In today's world, strategic minerals can shape global power as much as oil or military strength. Therefore, the statement, "In the 21st century, the battle for power may not be fought over oil alone, but over the minerals that fuel technology," perfectly reflects the changing nature of global power.



Anshika Jain
BA ECO (H)
2nd Year

The Fed Shutdown



President Donald Trump’s bitter showdown with Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell has escalated into one of the most serious clashes between the White House and the U.S. central bank in modern history. What initially began as a disagreement over interest-rate policy has now turned into a wider political and institutional battle, raising concerns about the independence of the Federal Reserve and shaking confidence in global financial markets. Trump has always thought that lower interest rates are necessary for faster economic growth, and this is what started the fight. Trump's criticism of Powell grew stronger when he returned to office in 2025. He said that the Fed's relatively high interest rates were slowing down investment, making it harder to create jobs, and hurting his larger economic agenda. Trump said over and over that Powell was moving too slowly and that the Fed chair was "playing politics" instead of helping the economy grow. Powell, on the other hand, has defended his approach by saying that the Federal Reserve's main job is to keep inflation low while keeping as many people as possible employed. Powell thinks that lowering interest rates too quickly could lead to higher inflation and make the economy less stable in the long run.



The fight grew over time to include more than just money policy. Trump's attacks turned to the expensive renovation project that the Federal Reserve is working on at its Washington headquarters. He called the renovation "wasteful" and "corrupt," saying it showed that the Fed was not handling public money well. When investigations into the spending began, the issue quickly became more than just a political issue. The Justice Department is said to have issued subpoenas related to the renovation project, which is very rare, and they may have even
suggested that Powell could face criminal charges because of his testimony. A lot of analysts thought this was an unprecedented way to put pressure on Powell, which made them think that the investigation might be less about holding him accountable and more about making it harder for him to fight against interest rate cuts.





The stakes in terms of law and institutions are high. Powell has openly said that these actions threaten the Fed's independence and that the real goal is to control monetary policy for political reasons. He has also said that he would fight any attempt to remove him, pointing to legal protections that keep the Fed chair from being fired without cause. Economists and lawyers say
that continued political pressure could hurt the Fed's credibility, make it more expensive to borrow money in the long term, and make people less confident in the central bank's ability to keep inflation under control. The effects go far beyond Washington. Financial markets have been on edge because people are worried that a politicized Federal Reserve will lead to higher inflation, less stability, and less trust in U.S. institutions. The fight has become a major political issue: Trump's supporters praise his attacks on what they call the "deep state" Fed, while critics say that weakening the independence of the central bank sets a bad example. In the end, the fight between Trump and Powell has turned into a high-stakes battle over who controls the country's money: the president
or an independent Federal Reserve.





Shreya Gujral
BA ECO (H)
2nd year

Venezuela’s Bitcoin Mystery

Venezuela’s Bitcoin story is a tale of desperate grassroots adoption against hyperinflation, paired with massive state-level accumulation to evade US sanctions, which have walled off the country’s access to financial markets for years. Meanwhile, reports suggest the Maduro regime quietly built a $60B, 600,000+ BTC "shadow reserve," partially backed by gold swaps, oil sales, and seized equipment, making it a major, secret global Bitcoin holder.

The main issue, according to sceptics, is that because digital currencies aren't tied to any central bank or government authority, they offer a level of anonymity that can be easily exploited for illegal activities. This is particularly worrying for a place like Venezuela. It’s a country that already struggles as a major hub for drug trafficking and consistently lands near the bottom of Transparency International’s corruption rankings—in fact, only ten countries in the entire world are considered more corrupt.

THE GOLD-TO-CRYPTO PIPELINE

In September 2019, the U.S. Treasury aimed David Nicolas Rubio Gonzalez, officially blacklisting him through the Office of Foreign Assets Control. This wasn't a random move; just two months prior, the Justice Department had indicted his father, Álvaro Pulido, for a massive $350 million money-laundering scheme involving fraudulent Venezuelan government contracts.

However, David’s role wasn’t just behind a desk. He served as a high-level courier for a network that physically smuggled gold across borders, moving it from the Dominican Republic through Venezuela to international hubs in Turkey and Dubai.

The gold was sourced from Venezuela’s Arco Minero region and purchased by the state-run firm Minerven, which had direct ties to the Maduro administration. Shipments were moved using a mix of private jets and commercial Turkish Airlines flights.

Once abroad, the gold was refined in Turkey or integrated into UAE markets. By April 2020,This systematic operation converted gold profits into Bitcoin via OTC brokers in Turkey and the UAE to bypass banking oversight.

To hide the trail, the crypto was scrambled through "mixers" and secured in offline "cold wallets," keeping the stolen wealth entirely beyond government reach.



Summary of Venezuela’s Sanction-Evasion Pipeline

1. State Extraction: Minerven monopolizes Arco Minero gold to fund the regime’s political interests.
2. Shadow Logistics: Over 73 tons were trafficked to Turkey and Iran via private flights, evading international customs.
3. Barter Diplomacy: Gold-for-gasoline swaps with Iran allowed the regime to bypass dollar-based trade systems.
4. Crypto Laundering: Profits were converted to Bitcoin via UAE and Turkish brokers to erase the physical paper trail.
5. Total Concealment: Mixers and cold wallets moved billions into an untraceable digital economy beyond regulatory reach.



CONCLUSION

With Maduro behind bars and facing a drug trafficking trial in Manhattan, the conversation has shifted. It’s no longer about whether his government will hold onto power, but whether the billions stolen from the Venezuelan people can ever be clawed back. The real fear is that this fortune will simply dissolve into the blockchain, becoming a ghost in the machine that only those with the private keys can ever touch.

The classic methods of dodging sanctions—rusty tankers, shadowy banks, and shell companies—haven't gone away, but they’ve been upgraded. The modern toolkit is far more high-tech and harder to track. It relies on stablecoins, discreet brokers, and private digital wallets, all backed by backroom deals with foreign governments that couldn't care less about helping U.S. investigators.



Sayyam Mehta
BA ECO (H)
3rd year

The Gold Rush : Why Nations Are Stockpiling

This era is characterized by uncertainty in the economy, geopolitics, and finance, and gold has been experiencing a resurgence. The precious metal, once considered outdated and irrelevant, is gradually becoming a cornerstone of economic strategies around the world. Countries have started acquiring vast amounts of gold, leading to a new form of "gold rush," where individuals are replaced by nations.

Another reason for this pattern is the quest for economic security. Gold has always been considered a safe haven that retains its value irrespective of inflation, currency depreciation, and economic crises. Contrary to paper money, which can be issued in large quantities, gold has limited availability and is therefore not susceptible to manipulation. In addition, with the current rate of inflation and threats of an impending recession, many nations are using gold to maintain economic stability.

A vital consideration in the move towards gold is the increasing suspicion surrounding major world currencies, including the US dollar. The latter has served as the world's leading reserve currency for many years. However, with the emergence of various geopolitical issues and economic sanctions, several states have expressed concern about relying on the US dollar. By expanding their gold reserves, they can decrease their dependency on external financial pressures. This is especially true for emerging nations seeking financial sovereignty.





Rising geopolitical tensions around the world have also contributed to the trend of gold investment. Geopolitical disputes, trade conflicts, and shifting alliances have made the global climate highly volatile. Under such conditions, gold emerges as an asset free from association with any particular nation or government.

Moreover, central banks are contributing significantly to rising gold demand. They have become net buyers of gold instead of sellers. China, India, and Russia are among the countries that have shown keen interest in building their gold reserves. This shift in strategy indicates their aim to develop stronger financial systems that can withstand crises in the international economy.

The emergence of new digital currencies is another key reason behind the growing relevance of gold. Cryptocurrencies offer innovative possibilities but remain highly volatile and are not universally accepted. In contrast, gold has been valued for centuries and maintains a stable reputation.



Khushi Makhija
BA ECO (H)
2nd Year

The Hormuz Shutdown: Iran's Strategy

Iran's move to restrict the Strait of Hormuz isn't random—it feels more like a calculated step. This route is extremely important because a huge portion of the world's oil passes through it, so even a small disruption can affect global prices almost immediately.

By slowing down or controlling ships, Iran has reduced how much oil is moving smoothly through the market. When supply gets tighter like this, prices naturally go up, which is exactly what we're seeing right now. Because of this, oil prices have increased, which indirectly benefits Iran since it can now sell its oil at higher prices. So even during conflict, it is finding ways to gain economically.

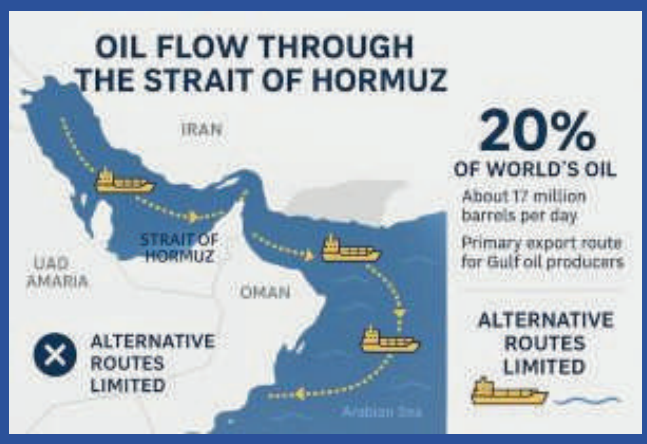
At the same time, this step is also political. It is being seen as a response to the actions of the U.S. and Israel. Instead of direct confrontation, Iran is using its geographical advantage to create pressure on multiple countries that depend on this route.

The enforcement is mainly handled by the IRGC, but what stands out is that the rules aren't the same for every country. Iran isn't completely blocking the strait—instead, it's controlling who gets through. Ships linked to countries it considers "friendly" are more likely to pass, while others face restrictions or delays. In a way, access has become something that depends on political relations rather than a basic right.

The New Arab







Another important point is the idea of charging ships for passing through. Instead of allowing free movement, Iran has started treating the route almost like a controlled corridor. Some ships reportedly have to get approval, share full details, and in certain cases even pay large fees to move safely through the strait. There are reports that some ships are paying very high fees for safe passage. Iran is even planning to make this official, which could give it a steady source of income in the future.



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Nishant Taneja
BA ECO (H)
3rd Year

Venezuela Crown Jewel : The Orinoco Belt

Beneath the sweeping plains of eastern Venezuela lies one of the most remarkable energy deposits on the planet the Orinoco Oil Belt. Running for hundreds of kilometres along the banks of the Orinoco River and covering an area of roughly 55,000 square kilometres, this region holds an extraordinary concentration of extra-heavy crude oil. Long regarded as the centrepiece of Venezuela's national wealth, the Orinoco Belt has played a defining role in shaping the country's economic fortunes, political direction, and standing in the global energy order.

Venezuela holds the distinction of possessing the largest proven oil reserves of any nation on Earth, with figures recognised by the Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) exceeding 300 billion barrels. A substantial share of these reserves originates from the Orinoco Belt. Scientific assessments conducted by the United States Geological Survey have placed the total volume of oil present within the formation at well above one trillion barrels, though the proportion that can be technically and economically recovered using current methods remains far smaller.

The belt is divided into four principal development zonesBoyacá, Junín, Ayacucho, and Carabobo .each characterised by dense, viscous crude that behaves very differently from the lighter petroleum varieties found in major Middle Eastern producers. Because of its heavy consistency, Orinoco crude cannot simply flow through a pipeline in its natural state. Producers must either dilute it with lighter hydrocarbons or refine it into a synthetic form before it can be transported and processed efficiently.

Throughout the twentieth century, oil transformed Venezuela from a relatively modest agricultural economy into a major petroleum exporter. The country was among the founding members of OPEC when the organisation was established in 1960, and petroleum exports became the dominant source of government income. After the state took control of the industry through nationalisation in 1976, the national oil company PDVSA became the primary vehicle for managing these resources. For several decades, revenues from oil funded public infrastructure, schools, hospitals, and broad social programmes.

Yet immense underground wealth did not translate automatically into lasting national prosperity. A combination of political instability, widespread corruption, poor economic governance, and international sanctions gradually eroded the oil sector's capacity. Output that once approached 3.5 million barrels per day in the late 1990s fell sharply in subsequent years, dropping below one million barrels per day in recent times. Inadequate maintenance, underinvestment, and the departure of foreign partners compounded the damage to production infrastructure.

Despite this prolonged decline, the Orinoco Belt retains enormous strategic significance. Growing global energy consumption, combined with advances in extraction and upgrading technologies, may once again draw international investment back to the region. Analysts suggest that with improved governance, modernised facilities, and renewed foreign partnerships, Venezuela holds the potential to rebuild its petroleum output and reassert its position in world energy markets.

The Orinoco Belt is therefore far more than a geological curiosity or a balance-sheet asset. It embodies both the promise and the peril that come with an economy built on a single natural resource. How Venezuela chooses to govern and develop this inheritance may well determine the trajectory of the nation for generations to come.





Riya Goyal
BA ECO (H)
3rd Year

Peace Prize or Political Move?
Trump Noble Controversy

"In recent years, the nomination of Donald Trump for the Nobel Peace Prize has sparked a debate over whether it reflects genuine peace efforts or is influenced by political motives." This statement highlights that there are two sides in the debate: supporters and critics. This debate arose between supporters and the critics due Donald Trump's actions and policies during his tenure.

According to the supporters, Donald Trump took numerous steps and implemented various policies in the economy, which had a strong positive impact on the overall growth and development of the nation, They believe that his efforts contributed to stability and progress in society, which are mainly important aspects of maintaining stability peace. Supporters also emphasize his role in maintaining global bonds ,relationships between countries through agreements and negotiations, which promote global peace and international stability. one of the most prominent examples is when Donald Trump took an initiative to

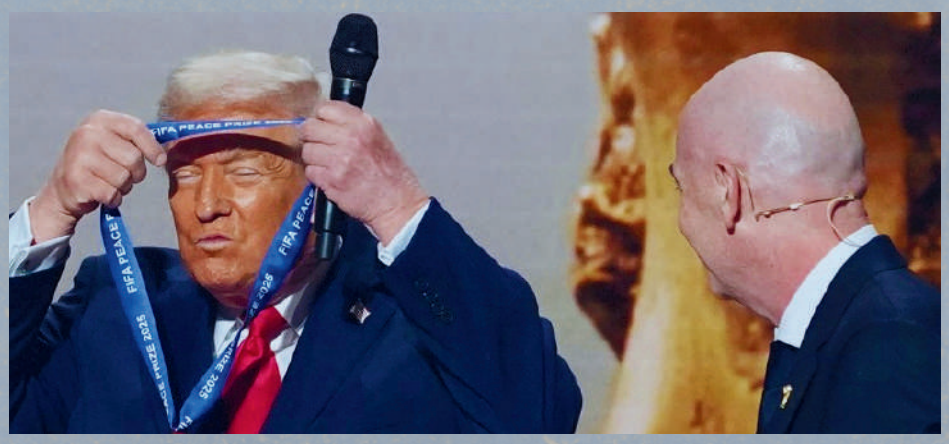


communicate directly with "North Korea's leader, Kim Jong-un" in order to reduce nuclear tensions and improve relations between the two countries.

On the other hand, critics presented many different perspectives, they believed that Donald Trump focused on political interests rather than genuine peace efforts. They also pointed out that sometimes his leadership skills created disparities and divisions in society , which according to them undermined the positive impact of his diplomatic efforts. Critics also argue that many of his international agreements and negotiations were short- term in nature, and lacked lasting impact. They believed that his interactions with North Korea, aimed at promoting peace and stability between the two countries were politically motivated moves that didn't guarantee long-term peace. Thus ,critics see his efforts as driven more by politics than by enduring peace.

Conclusion

The nomination of Donald Trump for Nobel Peace Prize sparked intense debate among supporters and critics . Supporters highlight the Donald Trump's contribution to society through his domestic policies , which promote peace, stability ,economic growth and social cooperation, viewing his efforts as steps that fostered a more peaceful and orderly environment both nationally and internationally.





While critics argue that many of his actions and politics were politically motivated which were short-term and whose long-term effectiveness is questioned .They believed that sometimes his politics also created disparities and divisions among groups and also highlights that his international engagement were highly publicized.

In conclusion, the controversy reflects how closely peace and political strategy are intertwined, leaving opinions divided on what truly constitutes meaningful contributions.





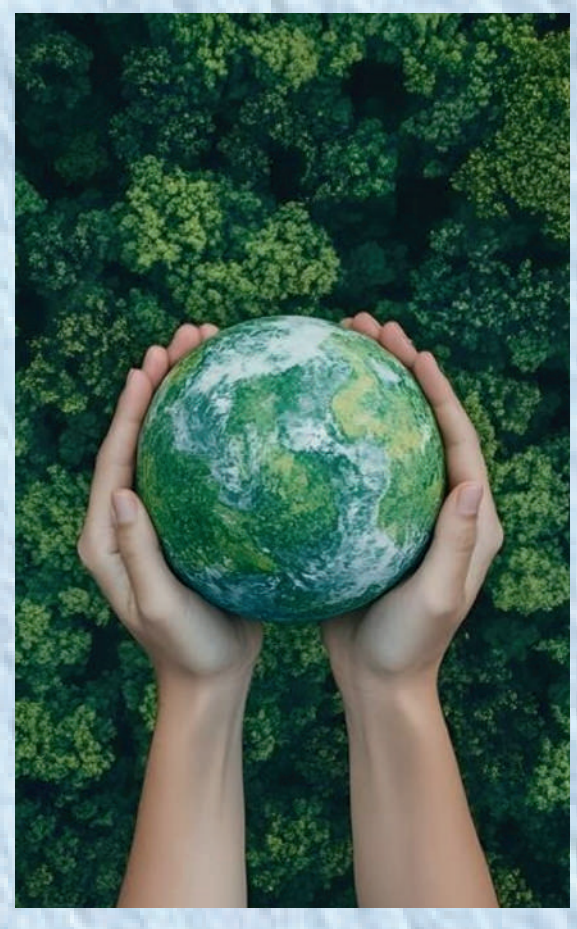


Mahak Aggarwal
BA ECO (H)
2nd Year

The Aravali Demolition: A Case of Environmental Economics

What does it really mean to have development when nature is pushed to the sidelines? This question becomes especially relevant in the context of the rampant destruction in the Aravalli Hills.”The ongoing wearing down of some of the oldest geological structures that run through Haryana, Rajasthan, Gujarat, and Delhi, caused by unchecked mining and urban expansion, shows a deeper imbalance between development and sustainability.

These hills are presently experiencing environmental degradation because of the physical as well as legal damage that they have been subjected to.Earlier on November 20, the top court adopted the “100-metre above local relief” criterion i.e. only hills taller than 100 metres will count, it is feared by experts that many areas in the ecologically important Aravalis will lose protection and hence may become vulnerable to extreme weather conditions and droughts, even in places like Delhi.

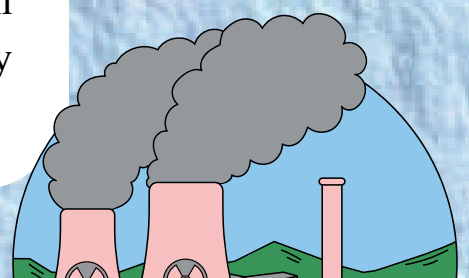




The degradation of the mountain ranges is a problem that arises in the context of diverging interests on short-term gains as compared to sustainable ecology. The Aravallis, as natural defense barriers against deserts as well as replenishers of ground water, are more abundant as public goods as a result of being exploited through mining and encroachment. While they are mineral reservoirs, they are also known as the “green lungs.” Actions like the 100-meter rule may overshadow their importance.

Considering these issues, some regulatory and restorative steps have been put forward.

Firstly, a Management Plan for Sustainable Mining (MPSM) needs to be made by the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE). This will include demarcation of no-mining zones, evaluation of ecological carrying capacity, and restoration of mined land. Meanwhile, until the development of MPSM, no mining leases can be granted, and ongoing operations have to conform to the sustainable mining norms. Moreover, geo-mapping and geo-tagging of the entire range has been assigned to the Forest Survey of India. In addition to this, an ambitious project known as Aravalli Green Wall has been started for restoring 26 million hectares of degraded land by 2030.



In conclusion, the degradation of the Aravalli hills represents a larger issue related to the mismatch between economic development and environmental sustainability. Despite the benefits that might arise from mining and urbanization activities, the detrimental impacts on the environment and society, including the shortage of fresh water and greater susceptibility to climatic fluctuations, make up for the gains The disregard of the actual value of the region results in ineffective policies and negative consequences. While some recent initiatives aimed at creating sustainable mining programs and restoring the environment . Thus, the problem to be solved includes rethinking the concept of development and introducing environmental conservation among its priorities, which would enable the future needs of the population to be met without compromising economic interests.



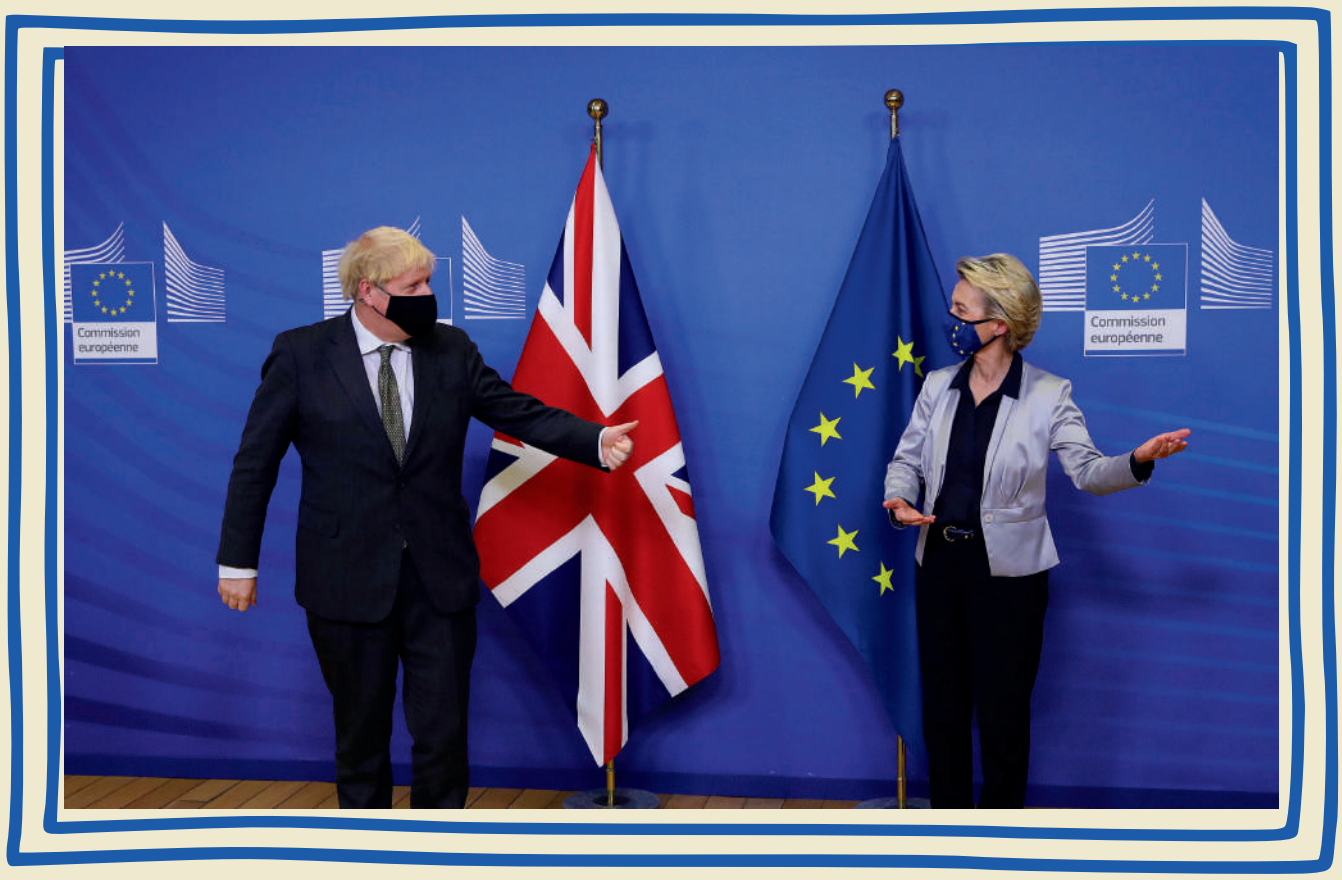
Paavani Baluja
BA ECO (H)
1st Year

Brexit and Beyond: EU's Trade Strategy

The departure of the United Kingdom from the European Union was a watershed moment, forcing Brussels to fundamentally re-evaluate its position on the global stage. For decades, the UK acted as a powerful internal advocate for free trade, deregulation, and expansive market access. Its exit did more than just complicate shipping routes across the English Channel – it altered the political balance inside the EU itself. In the years following Brexit, accelerated by a volatile geopolitical landscape, the European Union has transitioned from a traditionally open trading bloc into a more assertive, security-conscious economic power.

From Open Trade to Strategic Autonomy

In the post-Brexit era, the guiding philosophy of EU trade has shifted toward 'strategic autonomy.'



While the Union remains committed to multilateralism and global cooperation, it increasingly recognizes the dangers of over-reliance on single suppliers for critical goods. The vulnerabilities exposed by recent global supply chain disruptions and energy crises have validated this pivot. Today, European trade policy is no longer just about cutting tariffs. Instead, it is being used deliberately to shield local industries, secure supply chains for raw materials, and guard against economic coercion.

The New Defensive Arsenal

To hold its ground globally, the EU has built up a collection of new trade tools that mark a major shift away from passive market integration. A prime example of this is the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism



(CBAM), which levies a price on carbon-intensive imports. While framed as a climate initiative, CBAM effectively prevents 'carbon leakage' and protects European manufacturers bound by strict domestic regulations from being undercut by cheaper, high-emission foreign rivals. Similarly, the EU's Anti-Coercion Instrument now allows Brussels to retaliate with targeted trade restrictions if foreign powers attempt to apply economic pressure to individual member states.

Diversification and Values-Driven Partnerships

Beyond defending its internal market, the EU is actively rewiring its external relationships. The strategy focuses on 'friend-shoring'—forging deeper alliances with nations that share European values regarding labor rights, environmental sustainability, and the rule of law. Modern EU trade agreements, such as those negotiated or updated with Chile, New Zealand, and Kenya, reflect this evolution. Trade deals are no longer strictly commercial agreements; they are geopolitical tools embedded with enforceable sustainability commitments, designed to secure critical minerals needed for the green and digital transitions away from autocratic regimes.

A Balanced but Assertive Future

Ultimately, Brexit served as a catalyst for an EU trade policy that is visibly growing more mature, realistic, and unified. By blending its historic commitment to open, rules-based commerce with a robust, defensive framework, the EU is attempting a delicate balancing act. As the global economy splits into competing spheres of influence, Brussels is making it clear that it will no longer compromise its own economic security for the sake of completely unrestricted global trade.



Purvi Gupta
BA ECO (H)
1st year

JP Morgan’s Silver Play: A Strategic Move in a Distorted Market



Positioning commodities strategically is becoming an integral part of organizational actions within the global financial sector, and the changing position of JPMorgan Chase in relation to silver trading is a great example of this phenomenon. While at first glance one might view the move as merely a change in their portfolio, in fact, it demonstrates how they respond to economic shifts.

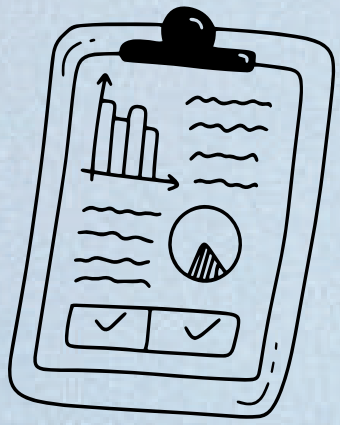
Conventionally, major financial organizations have always approached silver trading using derivatives such as futures, with COMEX as the main venue for this kind of trade. In essence, the portfolios held by these organizations usually included a considerable share of short positions that helped them gain profits in case of stable or falling prices.Such economic shifts have certain effects, especially when related to pricing issues. On the one hand,decreased price pressure;and physical accumulation limits market availability and thus can lead to higher volatility.

The reason why this strategy has been formulated is based on two important characteristics that differentiate silver from gold. Firstly, silver is not just money but also an industrial metal; hence, its demand stems not only from financial purposes but also from other sectors such as electronics and solar panel manufacturing. Moreover, since global economies are shifting toward renewable sources of energy, the demand for silver will only grow and will become less volatile and more structural.

At the same time, the economic environment itself makes investment in tangible assets much more attractive. Global debts continue rising alongside with inflation and political risks, prompting investors to diversify away from traditional financial tools.







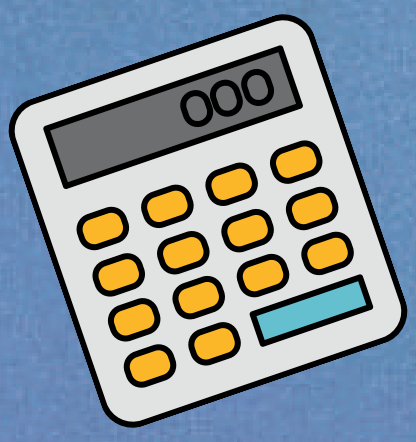
Thus, JPMorgan's strategy seems to be quite prospective as it bridges finances and technologies.

There are a number of critical issues related to this strategy. The market concentration becomes an important factor when one financial institute influences derivative positions and the physical flow at the same time. This situation could misinterpret prices, add volatility to the market, and compromise its competition and transparency.

The increased involvement of small investors becomes another critical issue as their behavior is dictated not only by fundamental but also by sentimental factors. Such market behavior will make the silver market more complicated where fundamentals, speculative moves, and institutions work together.

In addition, the previous regulatory scrutiny of JPMorgan in the precious metals markets has resulted in demands for tighter regulation of the company's activities. Such demands are definitely justified; however, one should bear in mind that the approaches of institutions usually follow the tendencies in economy rather than manipulate the situation on purpose.

This changing approach of JPMorgan concerning the use of silver demonstrates the larger changes in finance globally. The company's efforts demonstrate the transition from paper assets to real assets, and from tactical approaches to strategic ones. The times of instability require such a policy of institutions. In such conditions, silver is becoming an indispensable commodity.





Ishika Sharma
BA ECO (H)
2nd Year

Uranium and Tariff: A Nuclear Threat

In the modern connected world there is more interdependence of energy sources and geopolitics than ever before. In particular, the role played by uranium, which is a key energy source for nuclear energy production, cannot be underestimated as it plays a crucial role in the balance of economic and geopolitical stability. The moment when there are trade restrictions involved changes everything.

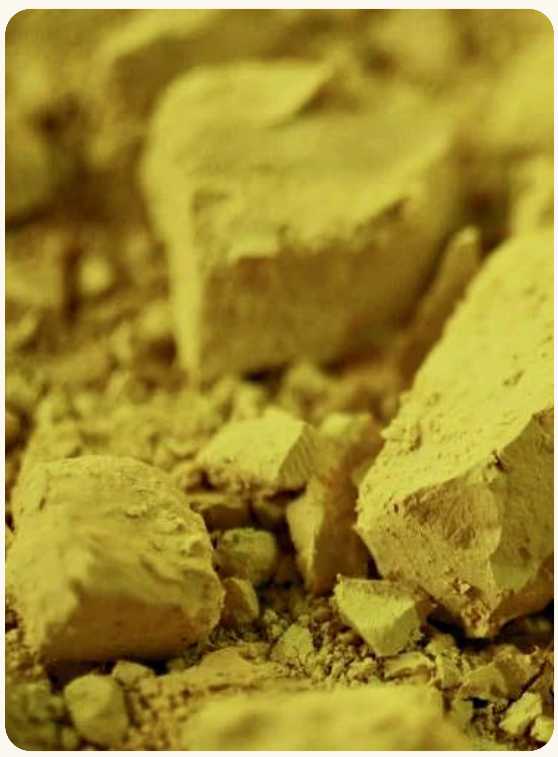


Unlike most other commodities uranium serves as an essential fuel in nuclear reactors to produce power for millions of households. Uranium can also be enriched for usage in nuclear weapons, which makes its transportation highly sensitive in nature. Furthermore, there is little stability in the uranium market because of the high geopolitical influences, and a majority of the supply comes from only three nations including Kazakhstan, Canada, and Australia. Imposing taxes on the imported goods through tariffs is one of the ways through which governments can influence the trade balance within the economy. In recent times these tariffs have emerged as the key disruptors in the uranium market. While the government of different states applies such tariffs to either safeguard local industries from international competition or to counter geopolitical threats it may cause certain issues when applied within the nuclear industry. In the case of the nuclear industry, tariff policies can cause uncertainties among the utility companies leading to the delay in procurement and disruption in the supply chain process.

The problem becomes even more severe when tariffs come into contact with geopolitics. After wars like that between Russia and Ukraine, most western countries have tried to reduce their dependence on uranium supplies from Russia. Bans, limits, and even tariffs on imported nuclear fuels have been imposed. Though all this is done for national security purposes these moves tend to disrupt the unity of the global market. Based on recent research uranium trade could serve as a geopolitical strategy, just like oil and gas trade, whereby the suppliers use economic power against those countries dependent on imports.



Tariffs may escalate the cost of the production chain from the mining to the fuel fabrication stage. As nuclear energy plants involve years of planning and huge investments any problems in the supply chain can have grave consequences. Recent expert analyses have shown that tariffs and other restrictions are making procurement of essential minerals difficult. All this may delay the development of the nuclear industry at a time when it is deemed to be the key to fighting climate change.



Surprisingly some politicians believe that introducing tariffs could actually boost national nuclear industries due to the increase in local production. However such an attempt is bound to fail for various reasons. The uranium supply chain involves many countries, and none of them could achieve self-sufficiency for each stage of production without serious drawbacks and losses.

To conclude, the connection between uranium and tariffs goes beyond trade as it becomes a nuclear threat of another type. Supply chain disruptions increased rivalry between states, and economic instability all create the conditions in which uranium could become not only a commercial but also a nuclear threat. It is crucial for states to maintain balanced relations in order not to turn economic problems into the ones of nuclear security.



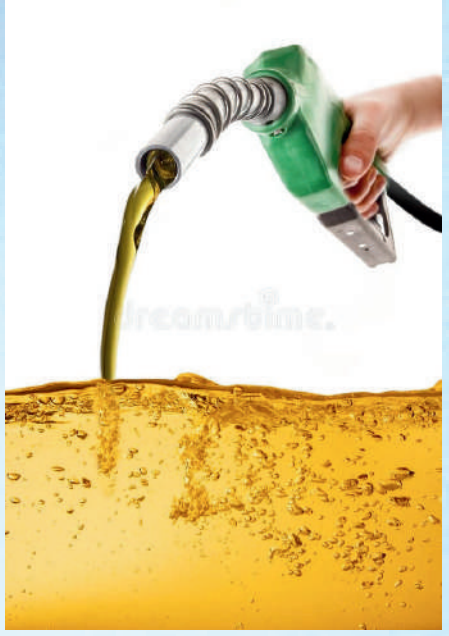
Mahika Kapoor
BA ECO (H)
3rd year

The Standoff: Understanding the US-Venezuela Tensions

The constant tensions between the United States and Venezuela are rooted not only political rivalry but also in economic interests. The situation reached a critical point under the leadership of Donald Trump and Nicolas Maduro. This intricate relationship has developed over the decades and has been shaped by ideological clashes, Venezuela's reliance on oil reserves and repeated accusations of authoritarianism
resulting in the US military intervention known asOperation Absolute Resolve.



The crisis traces back to the leadership of President Hugo Chávez who came to power 1998 and leveraged Venezuela's vast oil reserves to fund social welfare programs while centralizing the state control over the economy. Although his policies initially helped reduce poverty and created a fragile "petro-state" which is highly reliant on oil revenues. When global oil prices declined in 2014 forcing Venezuela to enter a critical economic crisis marked by hyperinflation marked by shortages of basic goods and widespread emigration.



Later, Nicolás Maduro inherited this unstable system in 2013 while unifying power through contested elections and suppression of opposition voices making the United States to recognize Juan Guaidó as interim president in 2019.







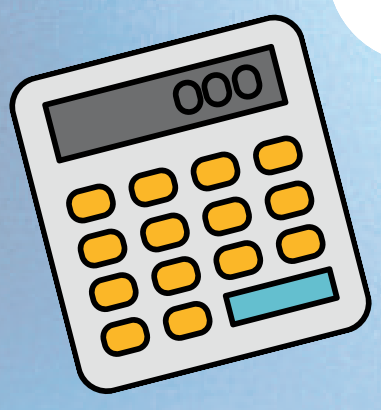
Washington accused Maduro's administration of functioning as a "narco-state" and alleging collusion with criminal organizations such as the Cartel de los Soles, FARC, ELN, and Tren de Aragua to traffic cocaine into the United States. These accusations provided the rationale for comprehensive sanctions against Venezuela especially targeting the state-owned oil company PDVSA.

Maduro consistently denied these claims, describing US measures as an "economic war" aimed at seizing Venezuela's natural resources. The US Department of State declared, "These actions are much needed to uphold international law and combat illicit narcotics trafficking," while the Venezuelan Foreign Ministry asserted, "Our sovereignty will not be violated by foreign powers under the pretext of law enforcement."

The situation escalated on January 3, 2026 as US forces launched Operation Absolute Resolve when electronic warfare was employed and targeted airstrikes were carried out to neutralize Venezuela's air defense systems before capturing Maduro and his wife, Cilia Flores. The pair were transported to New York to face federal charges of narcoterrorism, drug trafficking, and weapons possession. President Trump stated, "This operation is essential to restore democracy and protect US national security," emphasizing that American forces did not intend permanent occupation. Inversely, acting President Delcy Rodríguez condemned the intervention as "a violation of international law and Venezuelan sovereignty," reiterating that "Venezuela will never submit to foreign control."

After Maduro's removal Rodríguez took over asthe interim presidency reopened diplomatic relations with the United States to help in partial economic recovery predominantly in the oil sector. Human rights groups are concerned about political detentions and limited reform reflecting the fragility of Venezuela's political transition.

In abstract, this shows how the intersection of energy resources, sovereignty, and internationallaw can cause the US-Venezuela standoff. While Operation Absolute Resolve changed the situation Venezuela's future depends on whether the interimgovernment can create democracy and economic recovery.





Nehal Balooni
BA ECO (H)
2nd Year

From Art to GDP: The Power of the Orange Economy

When we think about economic growth, our minds usually go to factories, infrastructure, or technology. Rarely do we consider art, music, fashion, or content creation as serious contributors to GDP. But the reality today is very different. The orange economy built on creativity and ideas is quietly becoming a powerful economic force. This sector includes industries like film, design, digital media, advertising, and content creation. What makes it unique is that it doesn't rely on physical resources as much as it depends on originality. And in a world driven by attention, originality has real value. A single



idea can reach millions and generate income at scale. Platforms like Instagram and YouTube have played a major role in this shift. They've turned everyday creators into entrepreneurs. Today, a designer, influencer, or filmmaker can build a brand, earn revenue, and even create jobs all from their creativity. What once felt like a hobby is now a legitimate career path.



For India, this presents a huge opportunity

With a young population and increasing digital access, more people are entering creative fields than ever before. However, there's still a gap between potential and reality. Creative careers are often not taken seriously, and many creators struggle with inconsistent income, lack of recognition, and weak protection for their work. That's where support systems become important. Strong policies, better monetisation opportunities, and respect for intellectual property can help turn creativity into sustainable economic output. Without this structure, talent exists, but it doesn't fully translate into growth.

The impact of the orange economy also goes beyond direct income. A successful film can boost tourism, a fashion trend can drive exports, and a viral campaign can bring global attention to a country. Creativity shapes not just markets, but perception, and perception has economic value.





In simple terms, the orange economy is about turning ideas into impact. It proves that growth is not just about producing more, but about creating something meaningful. As the world becomes more digital and competitive, countries that invest in creativity will not only grow economically but also stand out globally.

The future of GDP isn't just industrial, it's creative.



Anushka Bhandula
BA ECO (H)
2nd Year

Trade Wars and Market Volatility: The Stock Market Reaction



Trade wars occur when countries impose tariffs, quotas, or other restrictions on each other's goods as a response to trade policies. These conflicts can significantly affect global markets, especially the stock market. Investors closely watch international trade relations because disruptions in trade can influence company profits, economic growth, and overall investor confidence.

One of the most significant modern examples is the United States–China Trade War. In this conflict, the United States imposed tariffs on billions of dollars' worth of Chinese imports to reduce its trade deficit and protect domestic industries. China responded by placing tariffs on American goods. This exchange of trade restrictions created uncertainty in the global economy and caused fluctuations in stock markets worldwide.

Stock markets react strongly to trade wars mainly because many companies rely on international trade for raw materials, manufacturing, and sales. When tariffs are imposed, the cost of importing goods increases. As a result, companies face higher production costs and lower profit margins. Investors often respond to this by selling shares of companies that are likely to be affected, which causes stock prices to fall.

Market volatility during trade wars is also driven by uncertainty. Investors prefer stable economic environments where future profits can be predicted. However, trade disputes create uncertainty regarding future trade policies, costs, and international relationships. Even news or rumors about possible tariffs can lead to sudden rises or falls in stock prices. This makes stock markets more volatile during periods of trade conflict.







Another important factor influencing the stock market during trade wars is investor sentiment. When trade tensions rise, investors often move their money from risky investments such as stocks into safer assets like government bonds or gold. This shift is known as a “flight to safety.” When many investors sell stocks at the same time, stock markets experience sharp declines and increased volatility.

Trade wars also affect different types of companies in different ways. Multinational corporations that depend heavily on global supply chains are more vulnerable to tariffs and trade barriers. Their stock prices may fall significantly during trade conflicts. On the other hand, some domestic industries may benefit if tariffs protect them from foreign competition, which can sometimes lead to a rise in their stock prices.

However, the long-term effects of trade wars on stock markets can vary. In some cases, markets recover once countries reach trade agreements or reduce tariffs. Investor confidence often improves when trade tensions ease and policies become clearer. Governments and central banks may also take steps to stabilize the economy, such as lowering interest rates or providing economic stimulus.

In conclusion, trade wars have a strong impact on stock market behavior by increasing uncertainty, disrupting global supply chains, and affecting company profits. While markets may experience short-term volatility during trade disputes, the long-term effects depend on how quickly countries resolve their conflicts and adapt to changing economic conditions. Understanding the relationship between trade policies and stock market reactions is essential for investors and policymakers in today’s interconnected global economy.





Ansh Sharma
BA ECO (H)
3rd Year

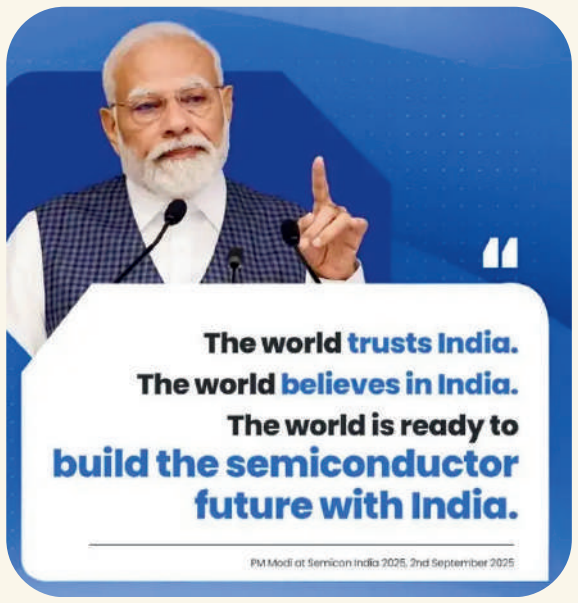
Investing in Silicon: India's Semiconductor Roadmap Through Budget 2026

What does it cost a nation of 1.4 billion to not make the one thing the world runs on?

The answer lies not in a single digit, but underneath the surface of the Indian economy- in silicon. Under the Union Budget 2026 presented by the Hon'ble Finance Minister of India, Nirmala Sitharaman, India has made it unmistakably clear it won't bear the cost of this geopolitical vulnerability.

The current semiconductor market in India is estimated at 50 billion dollars and projected to reach 100 billion dollars by the end of this decade. Yet, domestic manufacturing contributes less than 2–3 billion dollars. The gap lies in fabrication that requires heavy investments, an ultra-clean environment, and cutting-edge technology. Moreover, semiconductor manufacturing equipment (SME) is dominated by the USA (companies like ASML), which restricts the export of advanced chip technology. The budget 2026 is essentially a policy response to the problems of economies of scale.

The centerpiece of this year's budget was the launch of ISM 2.0. Under ISM 1.0, which laid the foundation of building a domestic electronics ecosystem, fabrication, display fabs, and ATMP facilities, a fiscal push of 40,000 cr was allocated to ISM 2.0. A long-term commitment which now runs into 1.25lakh crore+, it receives an annual budgetary provision of 1000 crore, focusing on R&D and ecosystem building. In the context of the global China plus 1 strategy, India has strategically positioned itself through active diversification of supply chains.



ISM 2.0 expands the scope of India's semiconductor strategy by deliberately shifting from assembly to indigenous intellectual property creation, mature node

manufacturing, and producing specialised semiconductors for defence, space, and telecom chips. The road to chip sovereignty is paved by the procurement of semiconductor materials via the launch of the national critical minerals mission. The 1500 cr scheme is allocated for mineral recycling, along with the announcement of a rare earth corridor connecting coastal states such as Odisha and Andhra Pradesh. Inauguration of micron semiconductor facility in Sanand, Gujarat features the country's largest clean room space. It will convert advanced DRAM and NAND semiconductors from Micron's global manufacturing network into finished memory and storage products. These are real indicators of progress embedded into ISM 2.0's ambition. With our greatest possession of highly skilled engineers, top physicists, and a commendable labour force, strengthening this talent is the mission's vision.

The budget, however, is not a blank cheque. Unlike the USA, Japan, or China, India remains fiscally constrained but targeted and incremental rather than immediate and large-scale. A supply chain resilience would mean that when the next pandemic shuts down a Taiwanese port, India can still power its ventilators. India is forcing itself into this supply chain, which, to investors, is a signal of perfect timing and political will.

As our prime minister shri Narendra Modi, calls it, this 'techade' is not merely a decade of technological adoption, but of technological creation. Beyond campaign slogans, this word must be inscribed in silicon, meaning only one thing- make in India, make for the world.

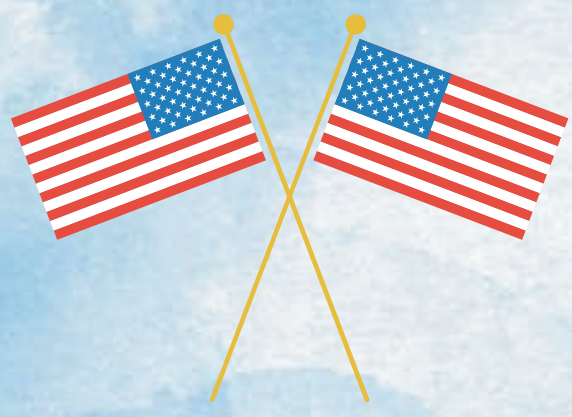


Aims to balance fiscal discipline with structural reforms, targeting a lower fiscal deficit of 4.3% of GDP.



Aastha Singh
BA ECO (H)
2nd year

Greenland Gambit: Why US Eyeing The Island





A frozen island half the size of the US has rekindled a transatlantic wildfire in the shadow of melting ice caps. First proposed in 2019 and now intensified with threats of tariffs and military alternatives, President Donald Trump's renewed campaign to buy Greenland is more than just a desire for real estate; it is a planned attempt to control the destiny of the Arctic. This strategy, which is taking place in the midst of great-power rivalries, has the potential to change resource battles and global security.

The harsh terrain of Greenland is what makes it so appealing. Pituffik Space Base, a U.S. station under a 1951 defenseagreement with Denmark that monitors missiles, satellites, and Russian submarines sneaking through warmer waters, is located across the North Atlantic. Control here means power over trade routes essential for half of the world's oil and gas as the Arctic sea ice recedes, revealing new shipping passages like the Northwest Passage. In order to strengthen what he refers to as America's "Golden Dome" missile shield, Trump's team plans to revitalize three additional bases.

However, the zeal cannot be explained by national security alone. "We need Greenland... China and [Russia are] all over the place," Trump maintains, emphasizing concerns that enemies will fill the hole. Greenland's defense is currently bound by NATO membership, but ownership would provide uncontested basing rights free from Danish vetoes.

Rare earth elements, such as lithium, dysprosium, and neodymium, are found beneath the tundra and are necessary for electric cars, wind turbines, and F-35 aircraft. Although Greenland has deposits of 25 of the EU's 30 essential minerals, mining is slow because of difficult transportation and environmental obstacles. With 90% of the world's refining, China has invested in the Kvanefjeld project through Shenghe Resources, hoping to use Greenland as a hub for the Polar Silk Road. In the midst of his "America First" transition, Trump's strategy is to free them from Beijing's hold and secure American supply chains.



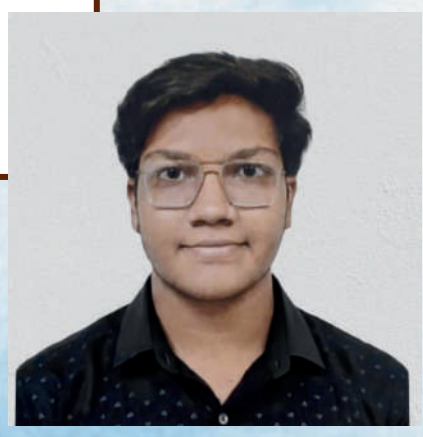


Greenlanders and Denmarkers reject the advances. Lars Løkke Rasmussen, the foreign minister, stated that purchase was "out of the question," citing international conventions and sovereignty. Trump's repeated demands were the only outcome of a White House meeting in January 2026.

During negotiations with Mark Rutte of NATO in Davos, Trump recently reduced his threats and proposed a "framework deal" for U.S. economic priority over Chinese bids, so this isn't an outright conquest. Coercive diplomacy, according to critics, involves using temporarily suspended tariffs to restrict competitors while obtaining mining concessions. Self-rule for Greenland's 57,000 Inuit-majority inhabitants has been in jeopardy since 2009; aspirations for independence battle with calls for investment.

There are many difficulties. Even American finances are strained by a $700 billion buyout, and coercive actions run the possibility of NATO disintegration. Environmentally, extraction puts delicate ecosystems in danger, which fuels local outrage.

Greenland represents the zero-sum stakes in the Arctic as negotiations simmer in April 2026, with Pentagon talks for more access. Bases and minerals might result from Trump's strategy, but relationships and international standards would suffer greatly. Possession creates the advantage in tomorrow's superpower match in this frigid arena, tipping the scales in favor of either Western disintegration or American domination.



Ashish Sarkar
BA ECO (H)
3rd Year



The Pakistan Play: Trump's Strategic Move

The relationship shared by the United States and Pakistan has traditionally been influenced by military, political, and economic interests. Under the leadership of Donald Trump, this relationship entered a new phase marked by policy changes and shifting regional goals. His strategy combined negotiation, cooperation, and pressure to advance U.S interests in the region.

During the early phase of his administration, Donald Trump took a hardline position against Pakistan. He criticized the country for allegedly supporting terrorist safe havens while continuing to benefit from American financial and military aid. In response, his administrations suspended major security aid packages in 2018. Trump believed that Pakistan's efforts against terrorism were insufficient, particularly in connection with the Afghan conflict. As a result, diplomatic relations became more complicated and tensions between both nations increased significantly.

In spite of repeated criticism from Donald Trump, Pakistan remained strategically important for United States. The ongoing war in Afghanistan was one of the biggest reasons behind this importance. After years of military involvement, the United States wanted to reduce its role in the conflict and bring American soldiers back home. Pakistan's influence over the Taliban and its geographical position made it a key player in the peace process. Therefore, despite criticism and political disagreements, the Trump administration maintained diplomatic engagement with Pakistan.

This situation clearly reflected the strategic mindset of Donald Trump. On one hand, he adopted pressure tactics such as reducing financial aid and making strong public accusations against Pakistan to encourage stricter anti-terrorism measures. On the other hand, he also understood that completely isolating Pakistan could negatively affect the interest of the United States in South Asia. Therefore, his administration balanced criticism with diplomacy and cooperation. Eventually, Pakistan played an important role in facilitating negotiations between the United States and Taliban, which later contributed to the peace agreement signed in 2020.



Another major reason behind Donald Trump's policy towards Pakistan was the increasing influence of China in South Asia. Pakistan and China have maintained strong economic and military relations for many years, particularly through the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), which forms an important part of China's Belt and Road Initiative. The United States viewed China's growing involvement in Pakistan as a threat to its regional dominance. As a result, the Trump administration wanted to ensure that Pakistan did not move entirely into China's sphere of influence. This made continued diplomatic relations with Pakistan strategically important for the United States.



Moreover, Trump's foreign policy decisions reflected the reality that international relations are generally driven by national interests instead of emotions and political ideology. Despite frequently criticizing Pakistan, Donald Trump understood that Pakistan played an important role in maintaining regional balance and stability.

Demonstrated how strong nations often depend on a combination of economic pressure, diplomatic relations, and strategic partnerships to fulfill their political and security goals.

To sum up, "The Pakistan Play: Trump's Strategic Move" explains how international politics are driven by strategic interests and regional priorities. The relationship between United States and Pakistan during Trump's presidency was neither fully positive nor completely negative. Instead, it was influenced by America's concerns regarding terrorism, Afghanistan, and China's expanding power in South Asia. Trump's strategy reflected the reality that global powers often make decisions based on practical and geopolitical interests. Pakistan's regional importance made it an unavoidable strategic partner for United States.



Kashish Kapoor
BA ECO (H)
2nd Year

The Decline of Dollar : Gold and Silver Opportunities



The US dollar has been a world currency for a long time. Now people are talking about how its value is going down. This is because other countries are thinking about not using the US dollar much. This is happening because of the way the world's right now with a lot of conflicts. The US dollar will not lose its value quickly. It is going to happen. One big reason the dollar is not as strong is that many countries are being sanctioned. For example when Russia invaded Ukraine the United States and its partners put a lot of restrictions on Russia. This meant Russia could not use the US dollar in countries. So Russia had to find ways to do things like using its own currency and gold. Other countries saw what happened to Russia. Started thinking about what they would do if they were in a similar situation.

There is also the fact that some countries, like China and India are getting stronger. They are promoting their currencies when they trade with other countries.. When it comes to oil people are not just using the US dollar to buy it. This is why people are talking about something called "de-dollarization". It is becoming clear that the US dollar is not the currency that matters. Because of this gold and silver are becoming investments again. Usually when there are problems the value of gold goes up. If a currency is weak or there is inflation people like to invest in gold because it's worth something no matter what. On the hand silver is also a good investment. It is not a precious metal but also a metal used in a lot of industries like electronics and renewable energy. Even though the price of silver can change it often goes up and down with the price of gold. Given what's happening in the world with many conflicts like the war between Russia and Ukraine it is clear that the economy is not stable. There is inflation, a lot of debt and currencies are not stable. This makes investors want to protect their money. The value of gold and silver can. It is not always possible to predict what will happen.. In the long term these metals can provide stability and protect against inflation and currencies losing their value. To sum up the US dollar is not going to disappear but it is losing its importance. As this happens gold and silver are becoming more popular. They can provide stability in times. So, for people who want to invest in gold and silver it is very important to know what is happening right now.





Swayam Nauriyal
BA ECO (H)
3rd Year

The Mother of all Deals: EU's Strategic Move



Before the establishment of the European Union, Europe was a continent deeply divided into independent nation-states, each pursuing its own political, economic, and strategic interests. There was no unified system of governance, and relations between countries were often marked by rivalry, distrust, and conflict. Europe was dominated by nationalism, where countries prioritized their own interests above all else. This intense competition led to repeated conflicts, culminating in devastating wars such as World War I and World War II, making Europe one of the most unstable regions in the world during the first half of the 20th century.

Economically, Europe was highly fragmented, with each country maintaining its own currency system, trade policies, and tariffs that restricted the free flow of goods and services. This absence of a common market prevented Europe from fully utilizing its collective economic potential. Due to internal weaknesses, European countries became dependent on external powers, particularly the United States. Over time, leaders realized that continued division would only lead to further conflict and economic weakness. This realization led to the formation of the European Union, officially established on November 1, 1993, in Maastricht, Netherlands.

The European Union was initially built as a project of peace and cooperation after World War II, and over time, it evolved into a union of 27 member states. Despite having a deeply integrated single market and common currency, a limitation remained: each country controlled its own fiscal policy. There was no collective borrowing, which made it difficult for the EU to respond effectively to large-scale economic crises.

This structural weakness became visible during the 2008 Global Financial Crisis, especially due to imbalances between stronger economies like Germany and weaker ones like Greece and Italy. A principle emerged that each country would be responsible for its own debt, with no mutual sharing of liabilities. However, this made crisis responses more rigid. The real turning point came with the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, which affected European economies unevenly. Countries like Italy and Spain faced severe economic contraction and rising fiscal pressure, highlighting the need for a collective response.

Recognizing this, EU leaders proposed a jointly funded recovery plan known as Next Generation EU. It aimed to create a large-scale recovery fund financed through bonds issued in the name of the EU and distributed among member states. The proposal led to intense debates, reflecting differing national interests, but eventually resulted in an agreement.

In July 2020, EU leaders met in Brussels to finalize the deal after four days of negotiations. The final agreement established a €750 billion recovery package, consisting of €390 billion in grants and €360 billion in loans. Combined with the EU's long-term budget, it created a total framework of around €1.8 trillion. This agreement was historic as it marked a breakthrough in collective fiscal action and came to be known as the "Mother of All Deals."

The recovery fund works in stages: the EU raises money through bonds, member states submit recovery plans, and the European Commission approves them. Implementation began in 2021, with funds used for infrastructure, digitalization, renewable energy, and reforms. Countries like Italy and Spain benefited the most. By 2026, most funds have been allocated, helping stabilize economies and strengthen unity.



Tejas Madan
BA ECO (H)
1st Year

China’s Silver Strategy : A Global Play



The silver market is just like other markets, like gold and other precious metals. This market deals with silver, an important element used in automobiles, electronic items like mobile phone batteries and laptops, and other devices. Silver is mostly used in the industry sector and less in jewelry because of its abundance and affordability.

In today’s world, countries like Mexico, China, and Peru, which are the world's largest producers of silver, dominate the market.

Mexico produces around 202.2 million ounces (2025-26)
China produces around 109.3 million ounces (2025-26)
Peru produces around 107.1 million ounces (2025-26)

Any decision made by these countries can disrupt the global supply chain of silver.

Recently, China has introduced its trade policy on January 1st, 2026, which specifies restrictions on the export of silver, tungsten, and other rare earths as per the Ministry of Commerce of the People’s Republic of China (MOFCOM)

According to MOFCOM, they have implemented this policy because of

1. Resource Protection – Silver is vital for clean energy and the defense industries. By restricting exports, it prioritizes domestic production.
2. Supply Chain Leverage - since China is the second largest producer of silver, it has an advantage to use it as a geopolitical tool.
3. National Security proposes that silver is used among civilians and defense, so tightening the supply of silver prevents uncontrolled outflow that could strengthen rival defense industries.
4. Environmental and Resource Management - mining rare earth and silver leads to high pollution. By restricting exports, China can slow extraction rates and use sustainable methods.









In fact, China is the largest consumer of silver in the world, which gives it a
Win-win situation

IMPACT OF CHINA'S POLICY IN THE WORLD

As China implements this policy, it will have a global impact

1 China introduced licensing on the export of silver, leading to a reduced supply of silver

2 This leads to a smaller global supply of silver

3 prices of silver will increase since the supply is less, and import-dependent countries like the EU, INDIA, and Japan will increase their demand for silver

4. After some period of time, prices will be adjusted, the new global supply chain will be introduced, and as a result, prices will fall

POLICY IMPACT ON INDIA

India is heavily dependent on China for rare earth and silver, as a result.

1. Supply chain disruption - India imports silver from China for solar panels, electronics, tungsten for defense alloys, and rare earth for EV batteries. This leads to a rise in input costs.

2. Price volatility -global prices will spike as a result, and India's renewable sector will face higher input costs.

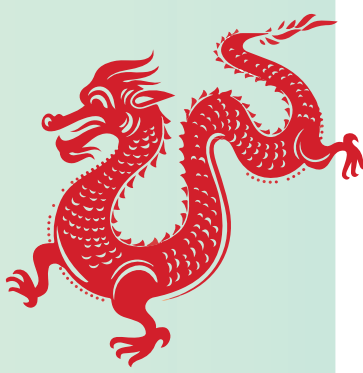
3. Strategic vulnerability – Defense and aerospace rely on tungsten and rare earths.

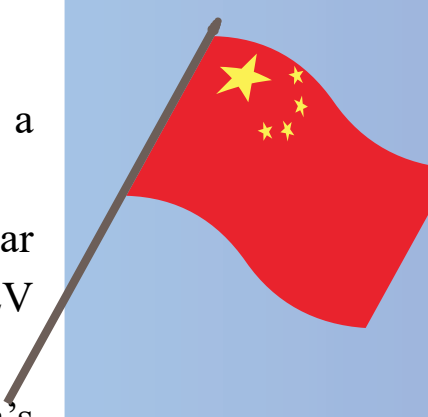
HOW INDIA CAN TACKLE THIS PROBLEM

1. Diversify imports – India can strengthen its trade with alternative suppliers like Australia for rare earth, Bolivia for silver, and an African nation for tungsten.

2. Domestic Exploration – Accelerate exploration of rare earth and tungsten in regions of Andhra Pradesh and silver deposits in Rajasthan

3. Strategic stockpiling – build a reserve of critical metals similar to crude oil.





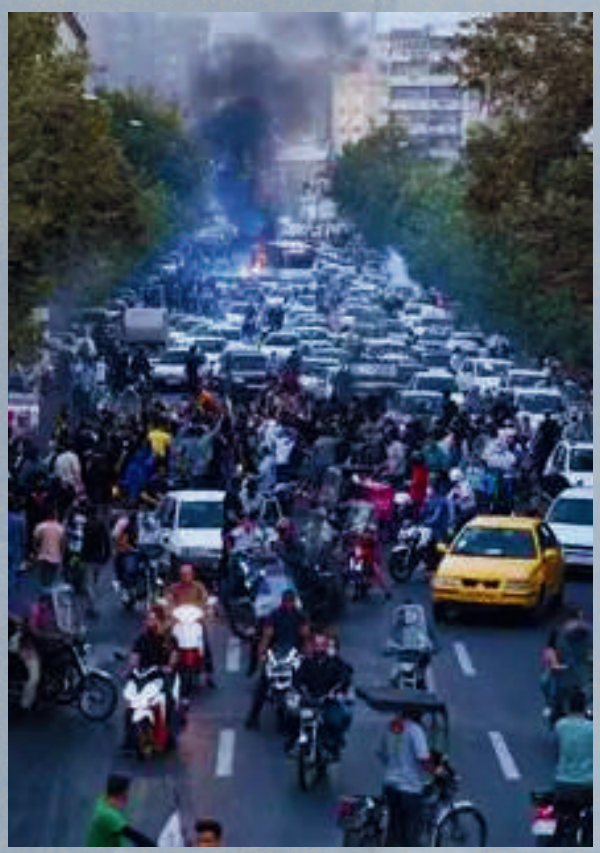




Kavish Chaturvedi
BA ECO (H)
3rd Year

Iran's Rising Unrest: Protest and Regional Implications

When people started protesting in Iran on December 28 ,2025, it was not just the streets of Tehran that were affected. It showed the system in place was not as strong as it seemed. The protests started because of problems, but quickly became a way for people all over the country to express unhappiness. This showed problems within the Iranian government and was a concern for other countries. The protests began when the Grand Bazaar in Tehran was closed, and merchants were upset because the rial dropped. In 2025, the Iranian Rial lost half its value, and prices were rising fast, over 40 percent. This made it hard for people to buy things. They lost trust in the government. Protests happening in all 31 provinces so quickly showed people were unhappy about more than just the economy.



Students, workers, and people from various areas joined, and soon it was a big movement. Universities became places for people to resist, and sayings changed from economic problems to directly challenging people in charge of the country. Protests were associated with the slogan "Woman, Life, Freedom," which showed everyone was fed up. People, poor people, men, women, all different groups of people. This is not a wave of protests; it is a sign there are big problems with the system. The government reacted quickly and strongly.

Khamenei called protesters "rioters," a signal to stop them. On January 8, the government shut down the internet, which made it hard for people to talk to each other and know what was happening. Security forces, including the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, used bullets and arrested many. Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch said the government used force. Live ammunition, many arrests, and more.

Although visible protests were stopped by mid-January, the reasons why

people were protesting—problems, lack of freedom, and unfairness—are still not solved. This means it is likely there will be unrest. Problems in Iran can affect other countries. Iran is in an important place, near the Strait of Hormuz, a critical route for oil. If there is instability in Iran, it can affect the energy market. Other countries in the region are being careful. Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates say they want stability and are working closely with the United States. Israel is watching what is happening closely. Additionally, problems within Iran may affect how the country acts in the region because economic problems may limit its ability to be involved in things outside its borders.





Using force to control people may make things seem okay for now. It can make things worse in the long run. Possible outcomes are instability, problems with oil supplies, and tensions between countries. The main point is that protests show a contradiction between what the government wants and what people expect. While the government may control people for now, the fact that people are unhappy means instability will continue to be a part of what happens in Iran.



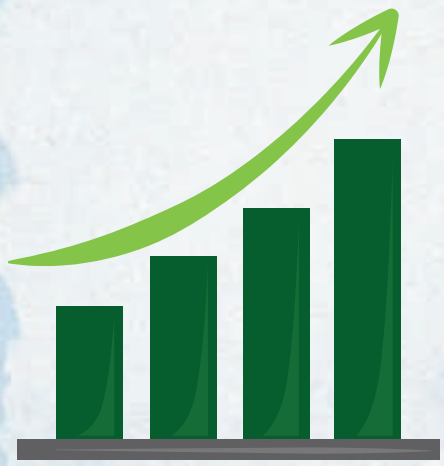
Vaibhav Saraswat
BA ECO (H)
1st Year

Trump’s Next Moves: Which Countries Are in the Crosshairs?



After the January operation that landed Venezuela’s president in a New York court on drug trafficking charges, one question took over DC and dinner tables alike: who’s next?
The answer isn’t just one country. It’s a short list, and every name on it has people on edge.

1. Greenland:
This one threw Europe. Trump says the US needs Greenland for defense and won’t rule out force. In February he threatened tariffs on Denmark, Sweden, France, Germany and others until the US is “allowed to buy Greenland”. Why? The Arctic. Minerals, shipping lanes, and the Golden Dome missile defense system Trump wants positioned over the island to counter China and Russia.



2. Cuba:
Trump has accused Cuba’s leadership of drug trafficking and said “we are going to do something about this country”. For him, it’s 90 miles off Florida and tied to the same hemispheric security argument he used for Venezuela.

3. Mexico:
The fight is about cartels. Trump claims cartels run Mexico and offered US military help to President Claudia Sheinbaum, who refused. He’s since warned the US “must take action” if the issue isn’t solved. The 2026 National Defense Strategy now frames border security as homeland defense.

4. Colombia:
After President Gustavo Petro condemned the Venezuela operation, Trump shot back. He accused Petro of drug ties and, when asked about military action, said “it sounded good to him”. Colombia has since moved troops to its border with Venezuela.







5. Iran:
Days after Venezuela, Trump warned of military intervention over Iran's protest crackdown, saying the US was "locked and loaded". This week he paused a strike after Gulf allies intervened, but warned the military is ready for a "full, large scale assault" if no deal is reached.

So is this real or rhetoric?
Prof. Benjamin Radd at UCLA says it best: "If he senses a political opportunity, domestic support, congressional cover, international apathy or lack of consensus, he will act on his words". If he senses opposition, it stays bluster. With this White House, it'stalk until it isn't.

The common thread:
Oil and control. Trump said US companies would "go in, spend billions" to fix Venezuela's oil after Maduro. Iran holds massive reserves. Mexico, Colombia, Cuba sit on 7+ billion barrels combined. Greenland means Arctic dominance.

The 2026 National Defense Strategy formalized it with a "Trump Corollary to the Monroe Doctrine": the US will act in the Western Hemisphere to protect Americans. Allies elsewhere are now told to "take primary responsibility for their own defense".

For families in Bogota, for Danish citizens watching Greenland, for Americans paying $4.52 at the pump — this isn't theory. The crosshairs are drawn. The question is who moves first.









Vanshika Sharma
BA ECO (H)
1st Year

How the US Shutdown Affects the World

On February 14, 2026, the Department of Homeland Security — the main agency responsible for protecting the United States from threats within its borders — ran out of funding and partially shut down. The agency manages airport security, border checks, safety at sea, disaster relief, and inspection of goods entering the country. The rest of the government continued normally. By early April, this had become the longest partial shutdown in American history, lasting more than seven weeks. It followed a brief January shutdown and months of debates in Congress over immigration rules and border protection.

The most noticeable problem appeared at airports. Officers who screen passengers and luggage continued working because the job is essential. Yet many went weeks without regular pay. Hundreds resigned due to financial strain and exhaustion. With fewer staff, security lines stretched to two,



three, or even four hours during busy times. Spring break travel worsened the chaos as families rushed to fly. Concerns also grew ahead of the 2026 FIFA World Cup, which the United States will co-host. Millions of international fans are expected, and long delays could spoil the experience while hurting hotels, restaurants, and shops that rely on visitors.

The trouble quickly spread beyond America’s borders. Travelers from India, Europe, Asia, and Latin America faced longer waits, added stress, and slower passport and visa processing. Some families canceled or postponed trips.

Trade and shipping slowed as well. Fewer officers at ports left ships waiting longer. Manufacturers in Japan and Germany, and farmers in Brazil sending food, dealt with delays that disrupted supply chains and raised costs.



Each week of the shutdown reduced US economic growth by about 0.15 percent, subtly affecting global figures. Investors grew cautious, stock markets fluctuated due to missing reports, and many shifted money to safer investments.

Allies worried about weaker border protection amid ongoing international tensions. The repeated shutdowns made the United States appear less reliable and slowed diplomatic work and aid to other nations. This extended shutdown sent a clear message: when leaders in a major power disagree for too long, the uncertainty reaches people far beyond its borders.

Congress is in recess and returns around April 13. Leaders from both parties are negotiating a deal to pay workers and restore operations. President Trump has ordered quick steps to pay airport security officers. Many hope for a swift end before peak summer travel and World Cup preparations intensify.

In the end, a disagreement in Washington created real difficulties for ordinary people traveling, working, and trading around the globe. It showed how connected today's world is — one country's delay can quietly affect millions elsewhere.



Aryan Chawla
BA ECO (H)
1st year

The Precious Metals Surge: What's Driving Up Prices

From financial markets to household investments, precious metals are re-emerging as a key focus in the global economy. In the past few years, precious metals such as gold, silver, and platinum have experienced a sharp increase in prices, which has drawn the attention of investors, economists and consumers alike. The main reasons behind this uncertainty are when there are conflicts between countries, people feel unsure about where to invest their money.

For example, during the Iran conflict, many investors invested their money into gold and silver because the level of uncertainty increased in the market therefore precious metals are widely perceived as safe investment options.

Another reason for increase in prices is the rise in oil prices. Due to supply disruptions near the Strait of Hormuz, oil prices have risen above $100 per barrel. When oil prices increased, the cost of many other things like production and electricity cost, transportation cost and food prices also increased which leads to inflation. Now, due to inflation, people prefer to invest in gold and silver to safeguard their money. This increases their demand and pushes the prices even higher.

Apart from oil prices and inflation, another important reason for rise in gold and silver prices is the weakness pf currencies like the US dollar. When the value of dollar falls, gold becomes cheaper for other countries to buy, which increases its demand and supply.

Additionally, central banks also buy gold and silver. Many countries are increasing their gold reserves to make their economy stable therefore the demand from governments also pushes prices upward.



RECENT TRENDS AND PRICE DATA

Recent data from 2026 also shows how strongly gold and silver prices have increased. In global markets, gold prices

have crossed around $5000 per ounce, while silver prices are trading near $80 per ounce. In India, gold prices have touched around ₹1.5 lakh per 10 grams, and silver has gone above ₹2.4 lakh per kilogram in recent months.

The prices are rising due to combination of global factors that are affecting the economy. One main reason is increase in geopolitical tensions, which creates uncertainty and investors prefer safe options like gold and silver. At the same time, inflation reduces the value of money, so people invest in these metals to protect their wealth. Additionally, rise in oil prices and supply disruptions increased cost in the economy, which indirectly supports the demand for gold and silver. All these factors together are pushing the prices higher.

Times of India. (n.d.). About Gold, Silver rate today live updates





CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the steady rise in gold and silver shows how global events influence financial markets. Factors such as geopolitical tensions, inflation and increase in oil prices creates uncertainty, which encourages investors to move towards safer assets like gold and silver. This shift in demand plays a key role in driving their prices upward. However, these prices are not fixed and can change depending on economic conditions. Overall, gold and silver remain trusted investments, especially in uncertain times.



Ishita Jain
BA ECO (H)
2nd Year

Geopolitcs Just got Spicy : Pakistan Outsmarts Trump’s Playbook



As per the early 2026 reports, while rest of the world was busy picking sides & global giants traded threats, Pakistan quietly initiated a significant strategic pivot termed as "tactical romance".

The Genesis:

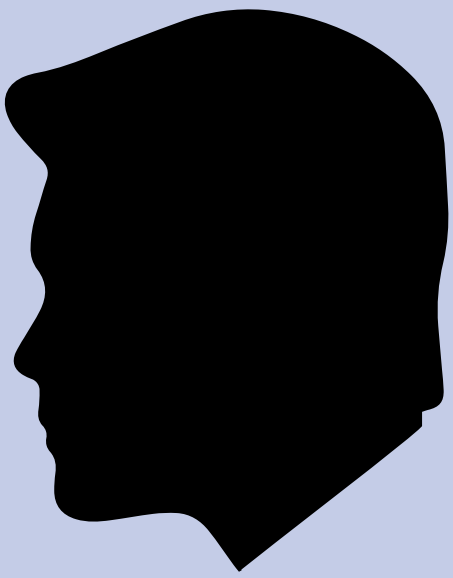
As the long-standing tensions between Iran & USA escalated when US President Donald Trump took a hard stance towards Iran - targeting its oil exports & basically cutting off its main source of money -weaken the economy & also by combining economic pressure & military threats.

As Iran was expanding its influence in countries like Iraq, Syria & Yemen, USA believed Iran could develop nuclear weapons which could shift the balance in Middle East nations. Not only this, but US always wanted to control water ways like Strait of Hormuz, which is quite an important region as most of the world's oil support passes through it.



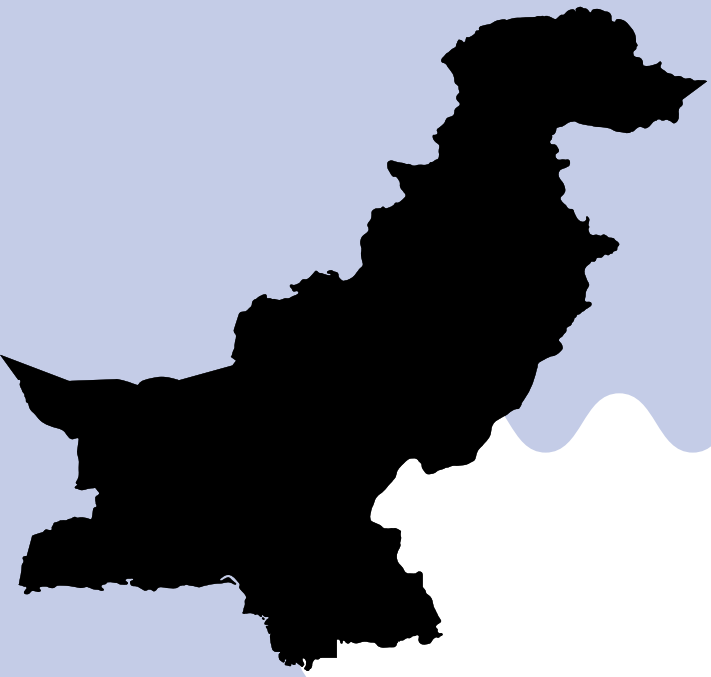
Iran knew by disrupting & limiting the access of Strait of Hormuz would send shock waves throughout the world. From here the situation quickly moved toward

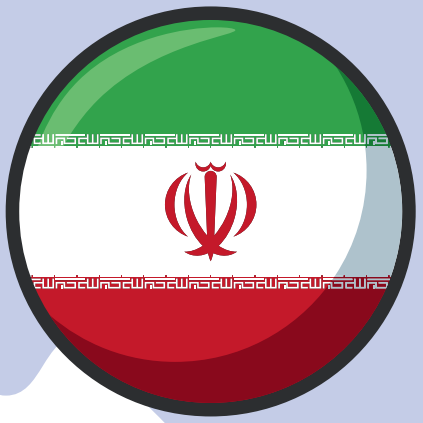
fears of a broader conflict. Trump's approach towards Iran was quite straight & all about - isolating its global support by pushing its allies to turn down trade & cooperation with it, issuing sanctions & clear-cut warnings that ultimately lead Iran down to the negotiating table.



"We'll squeeze you economically and pressure you militarily until you agree to our terms." - Donald

Trump





The Checkmate move of Pakistan : Iran, under heavy sanctions, wasn't willing to give in easily-it would lose credibility. The U.S., after issuing strong warnings, couldn't back down either-it would look weak. Both countries were technically stuck, now a midst of all this Pakistan emerges as Strategic-Problem solver. Pakistan has always been one of the favorite pets of Donald Trump by already nominating Trump for Nobel Peace Prize, recognizing his role in de-escalating a May 2025 border conflict with India, emerged as a key mediator in the 2026 Iran US conflict, with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Field Marshal Asim Munir working directly with Trump proposed a temporary pause - ceasefire. This was a win for US President as the pressure applied by him worked as for Iran this was just a pause not submission. It opened discreet lines between Iran officials & US representatives without attracting any major public pressure influencing negotiations.





This balancing act of Pakistan not only prevented a wider war but also strengthened its ties with USA making Pakistan an interim flavor of the month. Next Pakistan also leveraged its regional credibility to persuade Iran to reconsider actions that could disrupt the Strait of Hormuz.

Finally, Pakistan offered to host or facilitate future negotiations, giving both sides a neutral ground for dialogue. Pakistan didn't mediate the crisis-it monetized it & anyway wolf in sheep's clothes remains a wolf for eternity.





Tithi Gupta
BA ECO (H)
2nd Year

The Silver Lining: Samsung and BMW's Battery Innovation

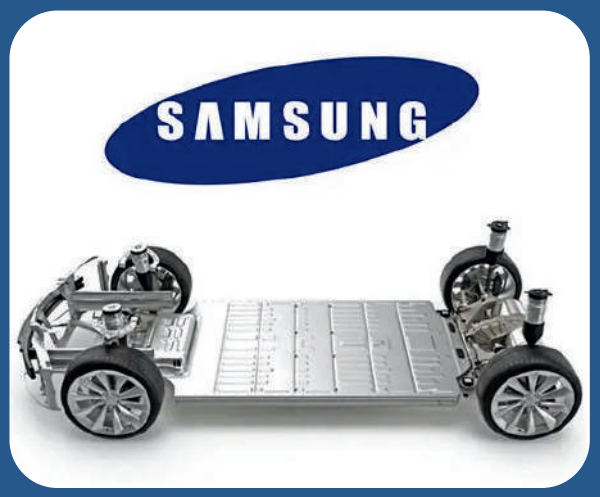
Samsung SDI announced that it has signed an agreement with BMW Group, Germany's premium manufacturer and US-based battery technology company Solid Power to collaborate on an All-Solid-State-Battery (ASSB) validation project. The main aim of this project is to develop and validate the next-generation battery technology for the automotive sector. The partnership builds on an existing technology transfer agreement between BMW Group and Solid Power in place since 2022.

Under this trilateral agreement, Samsung SDI will supply ASSB cells, featuring both energy density and enhanced safety, by utilizing the sulphide-based solid electrolyte developed by Solid Power. BMW will develop modules and battery packs using these ASSB cells. Upon receiving the materials, Samsung SDI intends to integrate the electrolyte into separators and catholytes to produce battery cells. These cells will further undergo evaluation based on performance parameters and requirements agreed upon between Samsung SDI and BMW and integrate them into BMW's next-generation evaluation vehicles.

This arrangement could be a significant step for the automotive sector. The collaboration carries significance as the three specialized companies have established a practical collaboration system and a well-defined model for global value chains for ASSB cells, which aims to pave the way for their commercialization by which aims to pave the way for their commercialization by bringing together their expertise in cells manufacturing and material development. Additionally, the expansion of the long-standing relationship between Samsung and BMW into this advanced technology space is likely to attract wider industry attention.

The project offers significant advantages over current lithium-ion technology in safety, energy density and performance as it promises of higher energy density combined with increased safety compared to today's technologies by replacing liquid electrolytes with solid materials. By replacing the liquid electrolytes, these batteries aim to reduce charging times, with potential projections indicating an 80% charge in as little as 10 minutes and increased stability for future electric vehicles (EVs).

As noted by Stella Joo-Young Go, Executive Vice-President of the ASSB Commercialization Team at Samsung SDI, the technological competitiveness in batteries would also ultimately lead to innovation in electric vehicles. This means that the battery technology acts as the ultimate driver of electric vehicle innovation, as improvements in energy storage directly enhance performance, cost efficiency and user adoption.



Furthermore, ASSB technology promises superior energy density, which translates to a longer driving range for EVs. The cells are expected to allow vehicles to travel farther without the drawback of added weight from the battery system. Also, by eliminating the flammable liquid electrolyte found in conventional batteries, solid-state batteries are much safer, reducing the risk of fire or explosion. Lastly, the solid-state chemistry offers improved thermal stability and longer life cycles compared to current battery technologies.



CONCLUSION:

This collaboration seeks to bridge the gap between laboratory research and large-scale production. It represents more than a technological partnership. It signals a structural shift in the electric vehicle ecosystem where battery innovation becomes the central diver of competitive advantage. If the promises are confirmed, this innovation can transform the automotive industry by offering safer, more efficient, and higher-performing electric vehicles.



Diksha Jain
BA ECO (H)
2nd Year

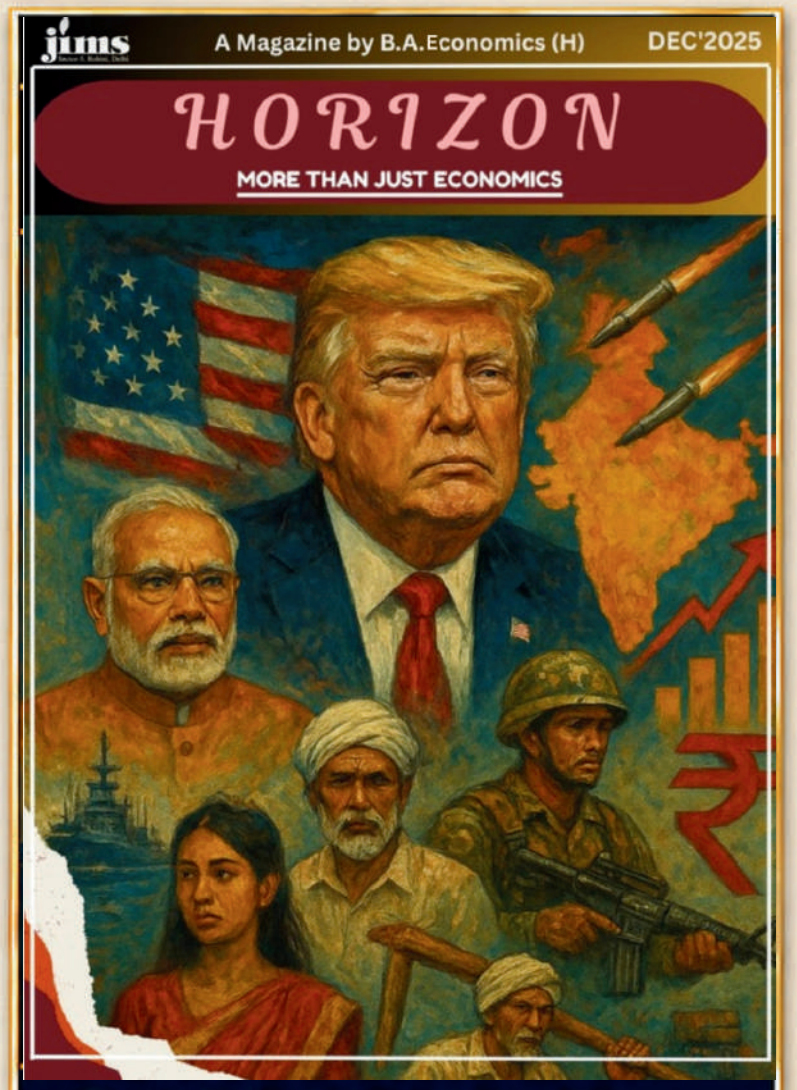
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