

**The Hindu SimpLEfied: Daily Update**

February 7, 2026

# Your essential breakdown of today's top stories.



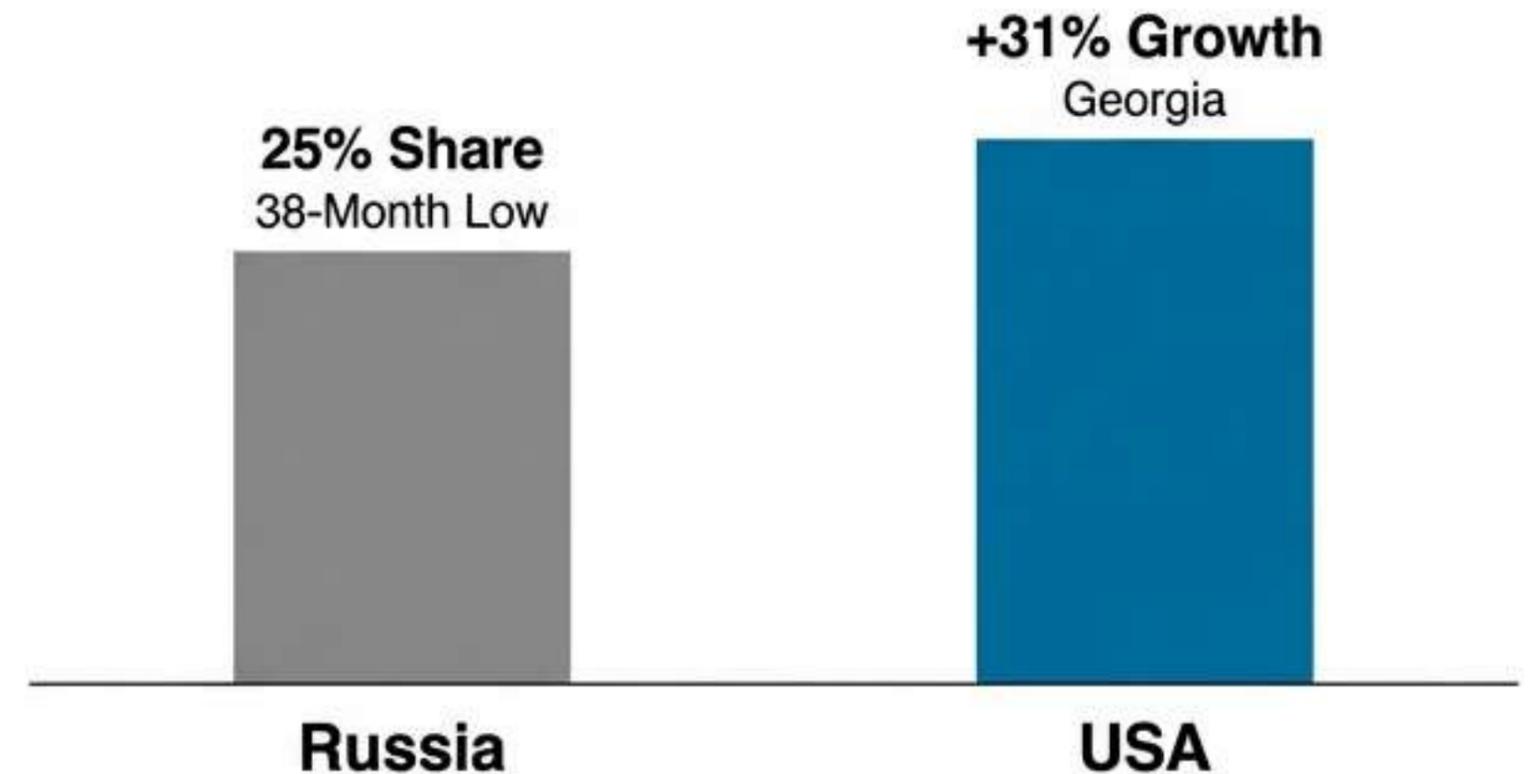
Curated for students. simplified for everyone.

# The Big Switch: Russia vs. USA

India's oil import landscape is changing rapidly.



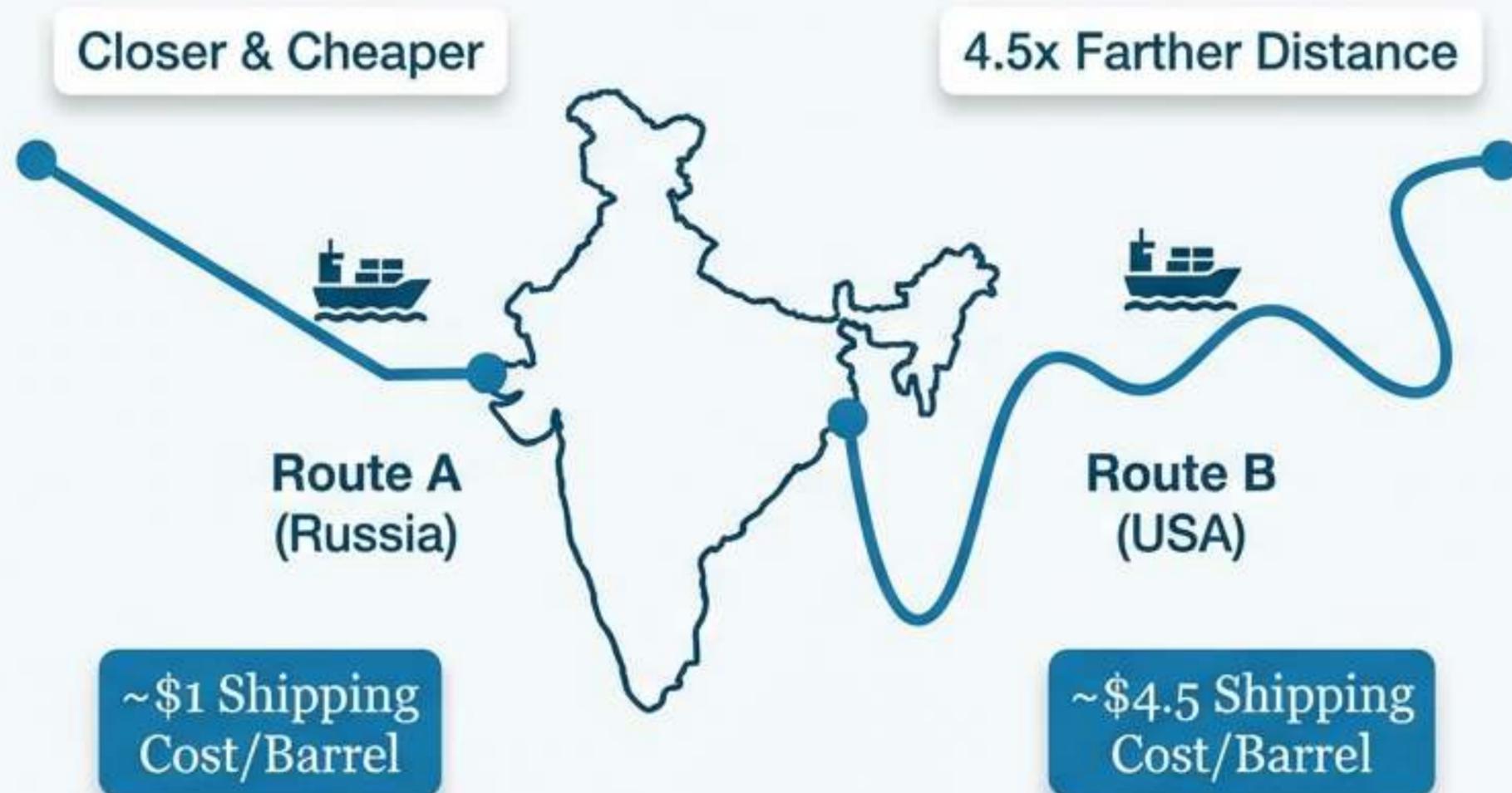
## December 2025 Oil Imports



**The Scoop:** Imports from Russia have dropped drastically, while US oil imports have surged by nearly 31% year-on-year. Georgia

# Why the Oil Switch is Tricky

Political pressure vs. Economic reality.



## Reality Check

- **Political Pressure:** US President Trump wants India to buy American oil for lower tariffs.
- **The Price Gap:** In Dec 2025, US oil cost ~\$506/tonne, while Russian oil was ~\$469/tonne.
- **Verdict:** Diversifying is good, but American oil is currently the expensive option.

# Money Update: The Pause Button



**The News:** RBI holds Repo Rate at **5.25%**.

**What is Repo Rate?** The cost for banks to borrow money.

**Impact on You:** Loan EMIs (**interest rates**) won't go down yet, but they won't go up either.

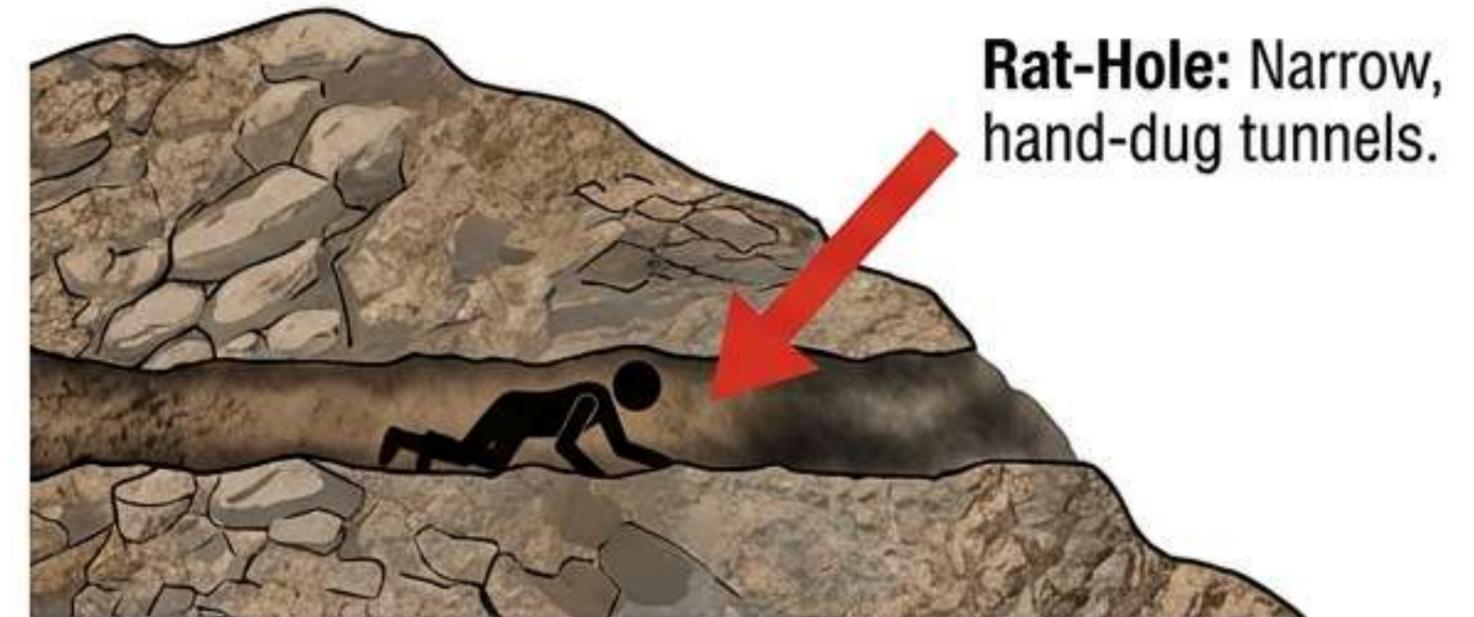
**Outlook:** Economy is **stable**. Inflation expected to stay low (**2.1%**).

# Crisis in the Mines: Meghalaya

Tragedy strikes an illegal 'rat-hole' mine.



## Rat-Hole Mining



**The Event:** Explosion in East Jaintia Hills claimed **25 lives**.

**The Danger:** No pillars, no safety gear, prone to collapse.

**The Context:** Banned since 2014, but persists due to lack of other local jobs.

# Political Pulse: Protests & New Bills

## Parliament Friction



Opposition protests the India-US trade deal, labeling it a 'Trap Deal' signed under pressure.

## New Bill: Right to Disconnect



- Proposed by MP A.A. Rahim.
- The Goal: Employees can ignore work calls/emails after office hours.
- Why: To protect mental health and personal time.

# Health Check: Beware of 'Dr. Google'

The rise of Cyberchondria.

## The Stat:

75% of misleading medical videos are made by non-professionals.



## The Trap:

Algorithms prioritize engagement (views) over medical accuracy.

## The Advice:

Trust real doctors, not the 'Related Videos' tab.

# What is a 'Deep Tech' Startup?

Government officially defines the future of innovation.



**Innovation:** Based on scientific or engineering breakthroughs.



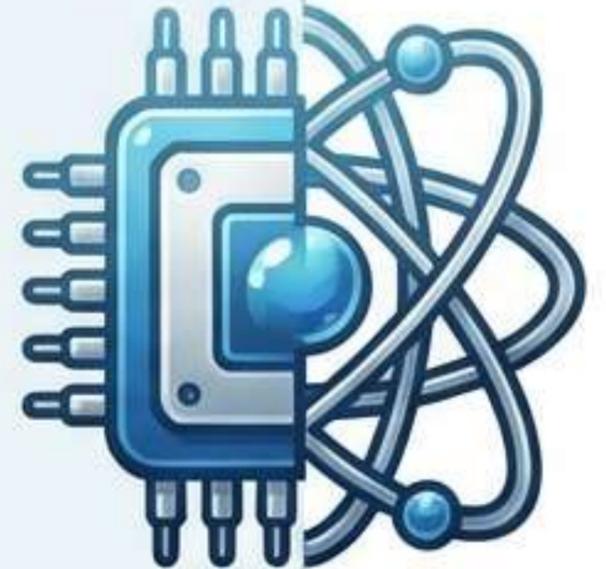
**R&D Heavy:** Significant spending on Research & Development.



**Problem Solver:** Solves complex, hard-to-fix challenges.

## Why it Matters

- These startups are key to the 'Viksit Bharat' (Developed India) mission.
- They will now receive special funding and focus.



# Exam Talk: 'Comfort is Not Essential'

Key takeaways from PM Modi's interaction with students.

“

Education and skills are inseparable twins. You need degrees AND ability.

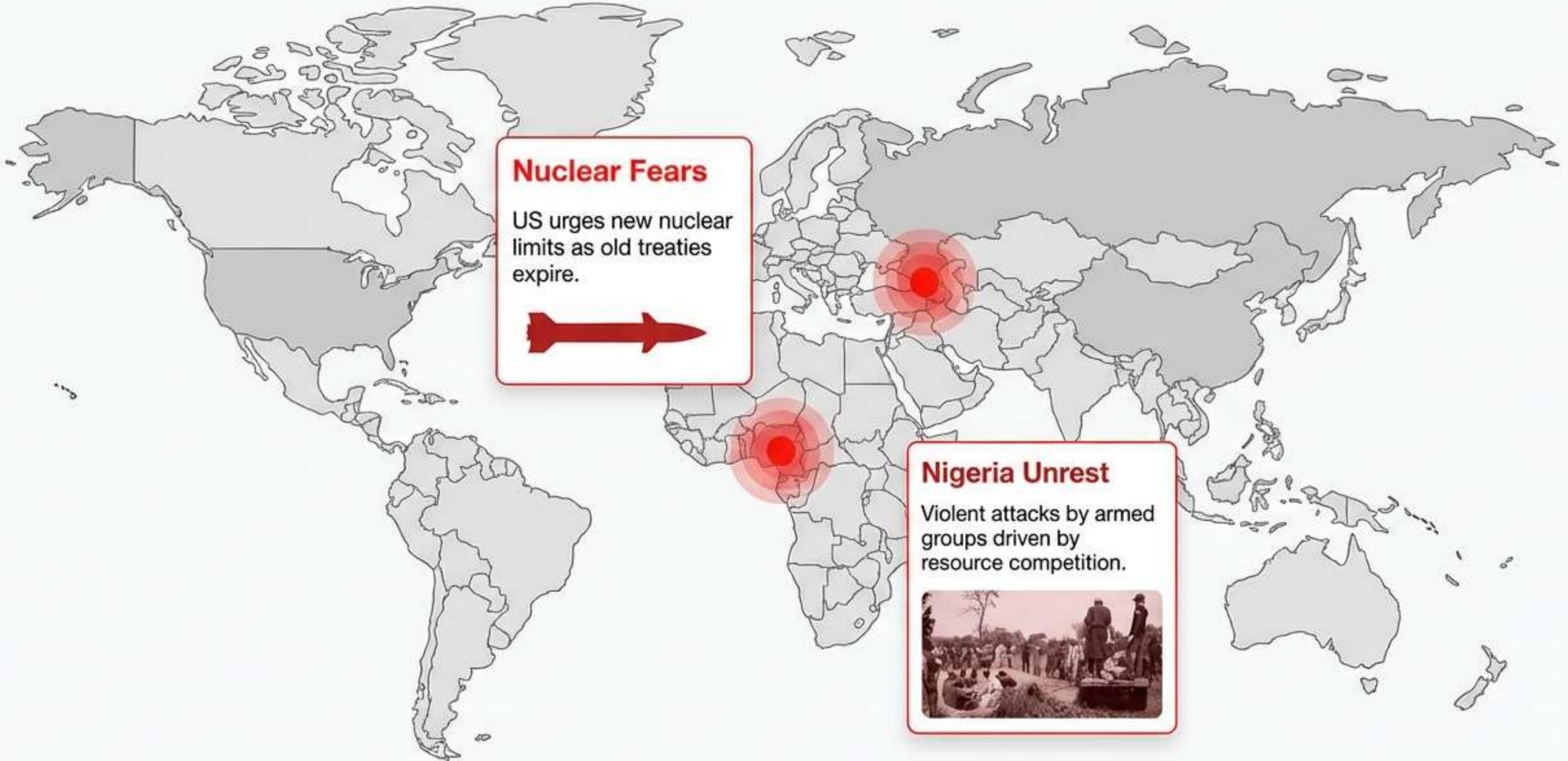
“

Comfort is not essential for success. Don't look for the easy way out.

“

Love gaming? Don't just play—build them. Turn passion into a career.

# World Watch: Global Tensions



**Nuclear Fears**  
US urges new nuclear limits as old treaties expire.

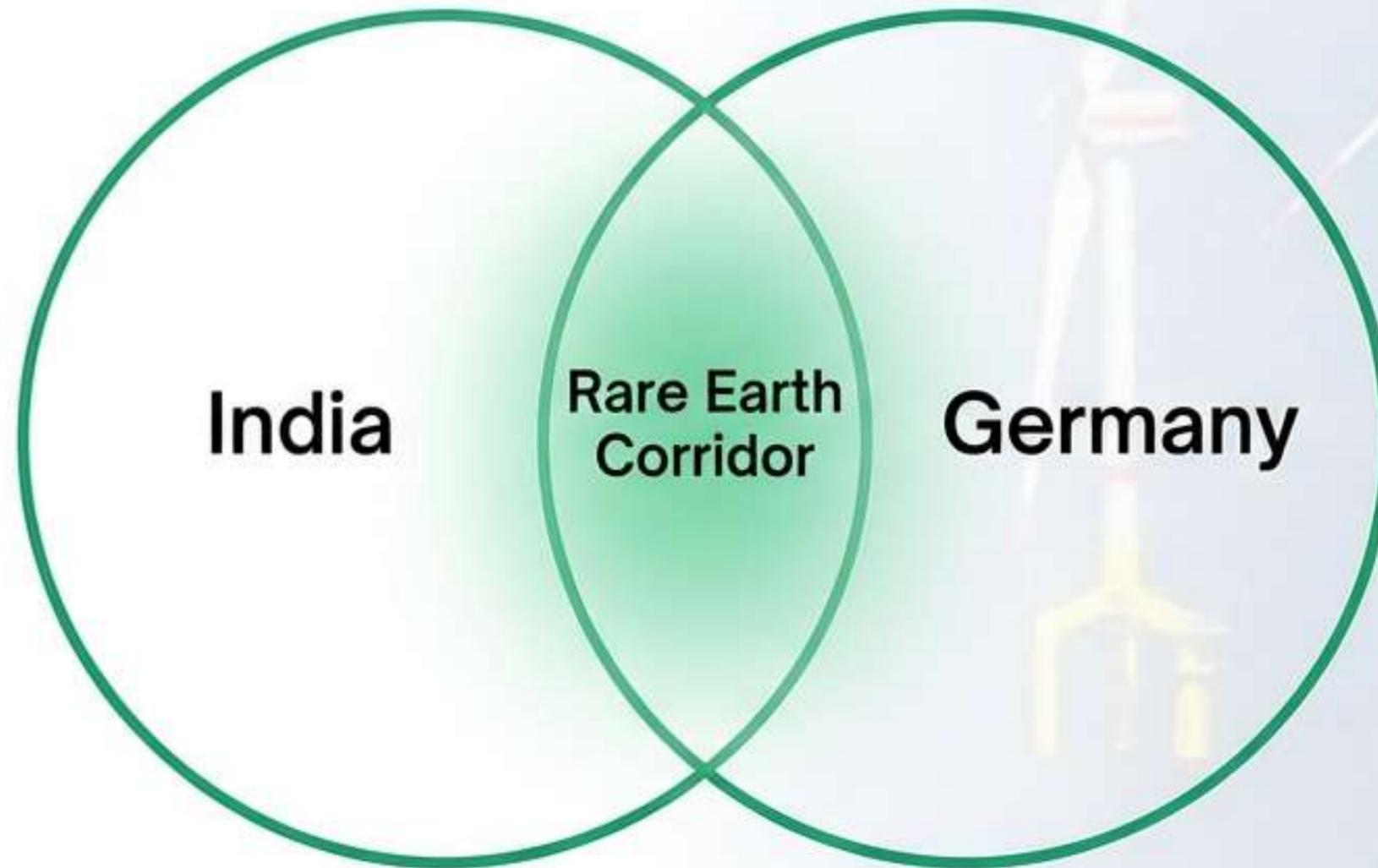


**Nigeria Unrest**  
Violent attacks by armed groups driven by resource competition.



# Future Tech: India x Germany

Partnering for a green supply chain.



- Breaking reliance on China for critical minerals.
- Essential for: EVs, Wind Turbines, and Smartphones.
- Focus: Mining, processing, and green technology.

# Champions! India Wins U-19 World Cup



**The Result:** India beats England by 100 runs.

**Star Player:** Suryavanshi scores a massive 175 runs.

**The Nickname:** The 'Teen Titans' have arrived.

# Sports Radar: Road to 2026

Looking ahead to the T20 World Cup.



## The Host

India & Sri Lanka will co-host the 2026 T20 World Cup.

## The Underdogs

US Pacer Saurabh Netravalkar says T20's unpredictability gives smaller teams a chance.

## The Strategy

Indian Hockey is using 2026 as a transition year to test new talent for the 2028 Olympics.

# News in a Nutshell

## Tata Steel Profits Surge

Net profit hits ₹2,689 crore.



## New 'Maharaja Lounge'

Air India opens luxe lounge at Delhi T3 on Feb 16.



## Reproductive Rights

Supreme Court allows minor to end 30-week pregnancy.



## Hampi Rape Case Verdict

Three convicted, delivering long-awaited justice.

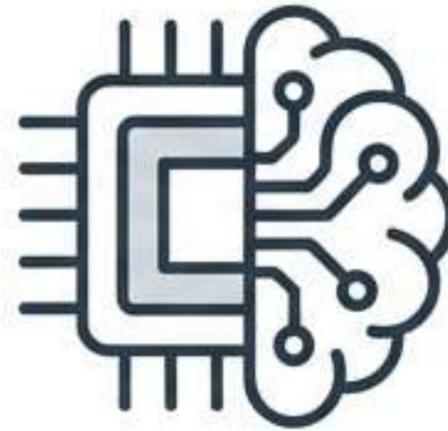


# The Big Picture

Today's theme is TRANSITION.



**“Economic Shift”**  
(Russia to USA oil)



**“Future Define”**  
(Deep Tech & Skills)



**“Next Gen”**  
(U-19 Wins)

**“Comfort is not essential for success.  
Effort is key.” — PM Modi to Students**

See you tomorrow for another SimPLified update.