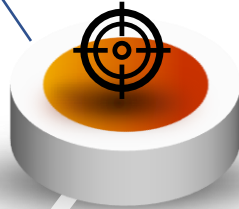


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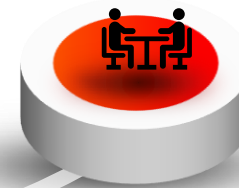


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“I'm the one that's got to die when it's time for me to die, so let me live my life the way I want to.”

— Jimi Hendrix, The Jimi Hendrix Experience - Axis: Bold as Love |

11

Major setback for Trump as U.S. court blocks tariffs

The Court of International Trade says the IEEPA does not confer unbounded authority on the U.S. President

Court gives the White House 10 days to halt tariffs; Trump administration appeals against the ruling

Agence France-Presse
WASHINGTON

A U.S. federal court has blocked most of President Donald Trump's sweeping tariffs, boosting markets on Thursday with a ruling that could derail his trade strategy.

The move marks a significant setback to Mr. Trump as he bids to redraw the U.S. trading relationship with the world by forcing governments to the negotiating table through tough new tariffs.

But the three-judge Court of International Trade ruled on Wednesday that Mr. Trump had overstepped his authority, and barred most of the duties announced since he took office in January. The judges said the cases rested on whether the International Emergency Economic Powers Act of 1977 (IEEPA) delegate such powers to the President "in the form of authority to impose unlimited tariffs on goods from nearly every country in the world".

President's power

"The court does not read IEEPA to confer such unbounded authority and sets aside the challenged tariffs imposed thereunder," the ruling said.

Attorneys for the Trump administration promptly filed an appeal against the ruling, which gave the White House 10 days to complete the bureaucratic process of halting the tariffs.

The White House called the ruling "blatantly wrong," while expressing confidence that the decision would be overturned on appeal.

White House spokesperson Karoline Leavitt told presspersons that the judges "brazenly abused their judicial power to usurp the



Twist in trade

The ruling by the U.S. Court of International trade on Wednesday dealt a blow to **President Donald Trump's central policy** of using tough tariffs to force trading partners to the negotiation table and wring concessions from them

- The decision affects the **blanket tariff orders** issued by Trump since January
- Following a market revolt after the 'Liberation Day' tariff announcement on April 2, Trump had paused most duties for 90 days for negotiations
- Agreements, apart from a deal with Britain, remain elusive for Trump, and analysts say the stay may **dissuade countries from rushing into deals**
- Trump could impose sector-specific levies if the ruling holds in spite of an appeal by the administration

It is not for unelected judges to decide how to properly address a national emergency

The ruling... is blatantly wrong – and we are confident this decision will be overturned on appeal

STATEMENTS FROM THE WHITE HOUSE

India gauging impact of U.S. court verdict

NEW DELHI

The Centre is assessing the potential impact of the U.S. court's ruling that blocked the sweeping tariffs imposed by President Donald Trump, according to government sources. They added that the U.S. team of negotiators for the ongoing India-U.S. Free Trade Agreement discussions would be in India on June 5-6 and the talks were "progressing well". Experts said India must use the opportunity provided by the court decision to reassess strategy in FTA talks. » [PAGE 12](#)

authority of President Trump."

The White House also said that top U.S. officials have been in touch with their counterparts in other countries to discuss Wednesday's ruling.

Mr. Trump had argued that U.S.'s trade deficits and the threat posed by the influx of drugs constituted a "national emergency" that justified widespread tariffs.

The federal trade court was ruling in two separate cases – brought by businesses and a coalition of State governments – arguing that the President had violated Congress's power of the purse.

The judges stated that any interpretation of the IEEPA that "delegates unlimited tariff authority is unconstitutional".

Elon Musk to leave U.S. government role

WASHINGTON

Billionaire Elon Musk on Wednesday announced he was leaving his role in U.S. government shortly after his first major break with Mr. Trump over his signature spending Bill. He said on X: "As my scheduled time as a Special Government Employee comes to an end, I would like to thank President Donald Trump for the opportunity to reduce wasteful spending. The DOGE mission will only strengthen over time as it becomes a way of life throughout the government." » [PAGE 14](#)

pursue these right now.

Mr. Hassett insisted that "hiccups" because of decisions by "activist judges" would not affect negotiations with other trading partners, adding that three deals are close to finalisation.

Beijing – which was hit by 145% tariffs before they were sharply reduced to give space for negotiations – reacted to the court ruling by saying the United States should scrap the levies.

"China urges the United States to heed the rational voices from the international community and domestic stakeholders and fully cancel the wrongful unilateral tariff measures," said Commerce Ministry spokeswoman He Yongqian.

Canadian Prime Minis-

ter Mark Carney said his government welcomed the court decision, but warned that trade ties were still "profoundly and adversely threatened" by the remaining sector-specific levies and further threats.

Mr. Trump unveiled sweeping import duties on nearly all trading partners on April 2, at a baseline 10%, plus steeper levies on dozens of economies, including China and the EU.

'Abuse of power'

The U.S. court's ruling also quashes duties that Mr. Trump imposed on Canada, Mexico and China separately using emergency powers.

But it leaves 25% duties on the auto, steel and aluminium industries intact.

Asian markets rallied on Thursday and United States futures pointed to early gains, but Europe was mixed, with London in the red while Paris and Frankfurt rose.

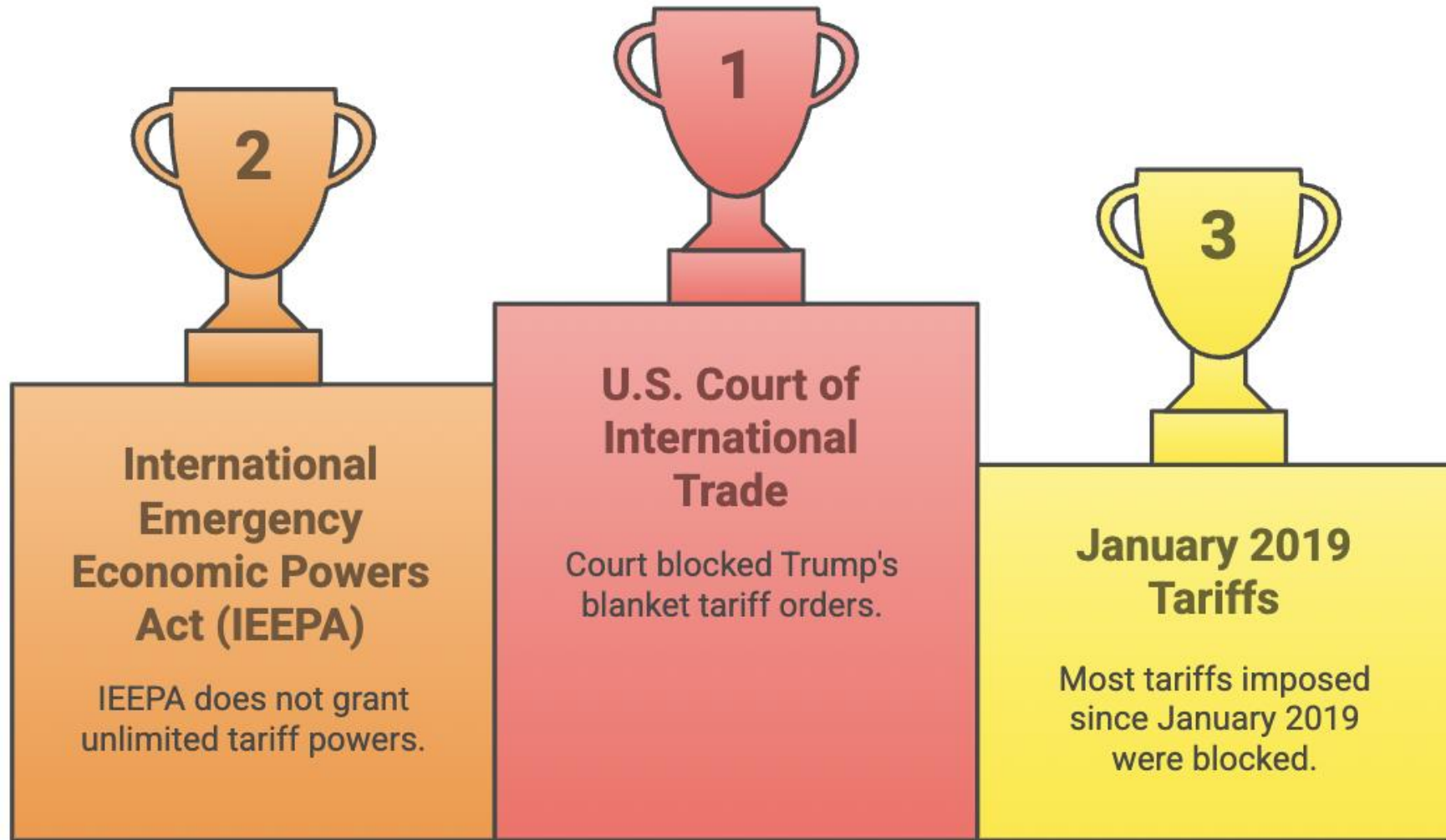
Japan's tariffs envoy Ryosei Akazawa said as he left for a fourth round of talks in Washington that Tokyo – reeling from tariffs on cars – would study the ruling.

Meanwhile, Gregory W. Meeks, the top Democrat on the House Foreign Affairs Committee, said the ruling confirmed that "these tariffs are an illegal abuse of executive power."

"Trump's declaration of a bogus national emergency to justify his global trade war was an absurd and unlawful use of IEEPA," he said.

The Justice Department has defended Mr. Trump's trade strategy in court, insisting that the judiciary has very limited authority over his actions and sparking criticism that the White House was attempting to usurp the power of the other branches of government.

Top Legal Challenges to Trump's Tariffs



Legal Decision and Appeal Process

1

Three-Judge Bench Decision

A panel of judges makes a ruling.

2

Trump Administration Deadline

The administration is given a deadline to act.

3

Appeal by Trump's Team

The administration decides to challenge the decision.

Balancing Executive Power



IEEPA Interpretation

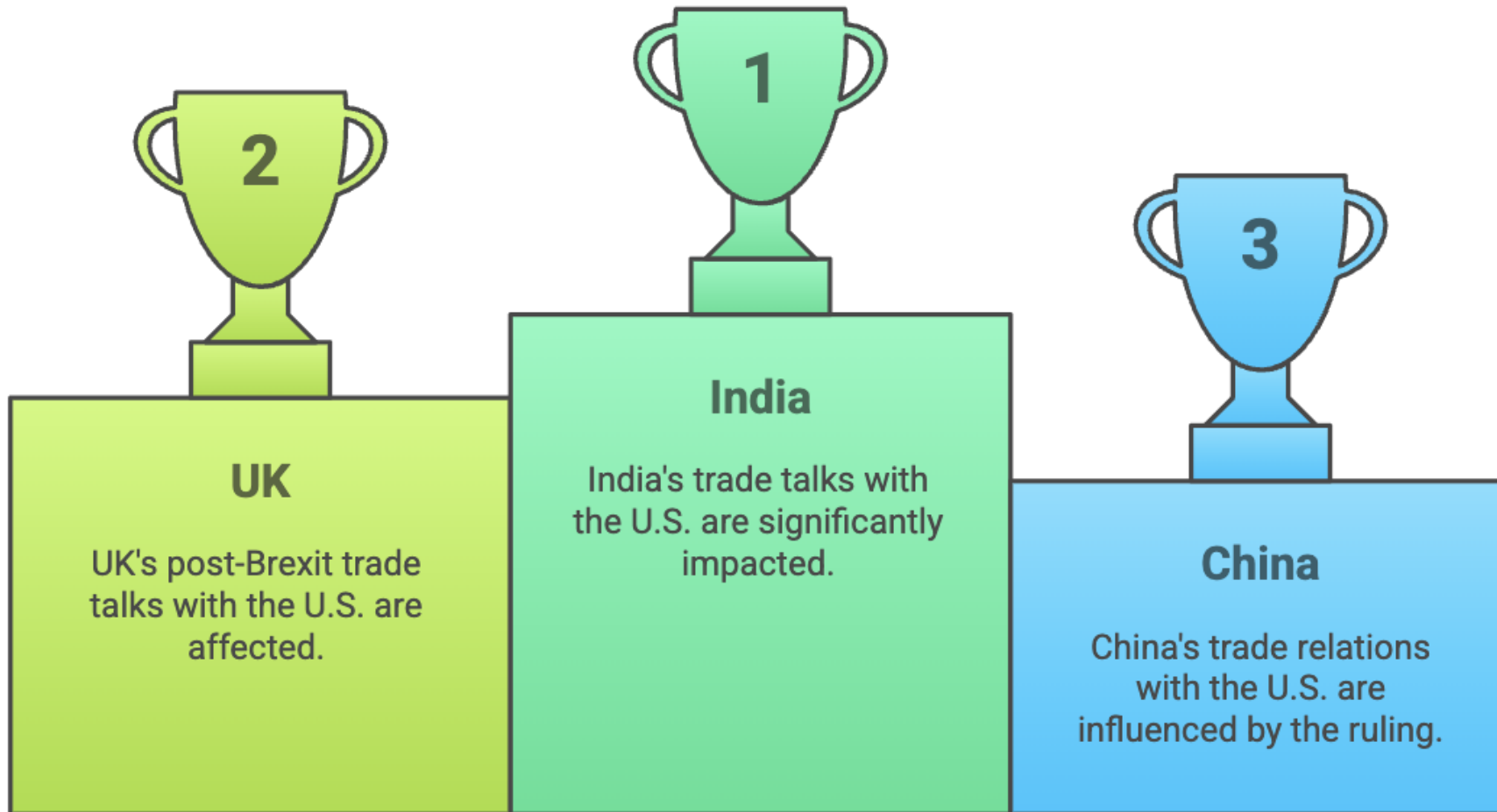
Court interprets IEEPA
narrowly, limiting
presidential power.



Trump's Trade Strategy

Trump's trade strategy
seen as executive
overreach.

Trade Talk Impact



Key Voices on the Court Ruling



Trump

President is using every power to restore American greatness.



Trump's Spokesperson

President is using every power to restore American greatness.



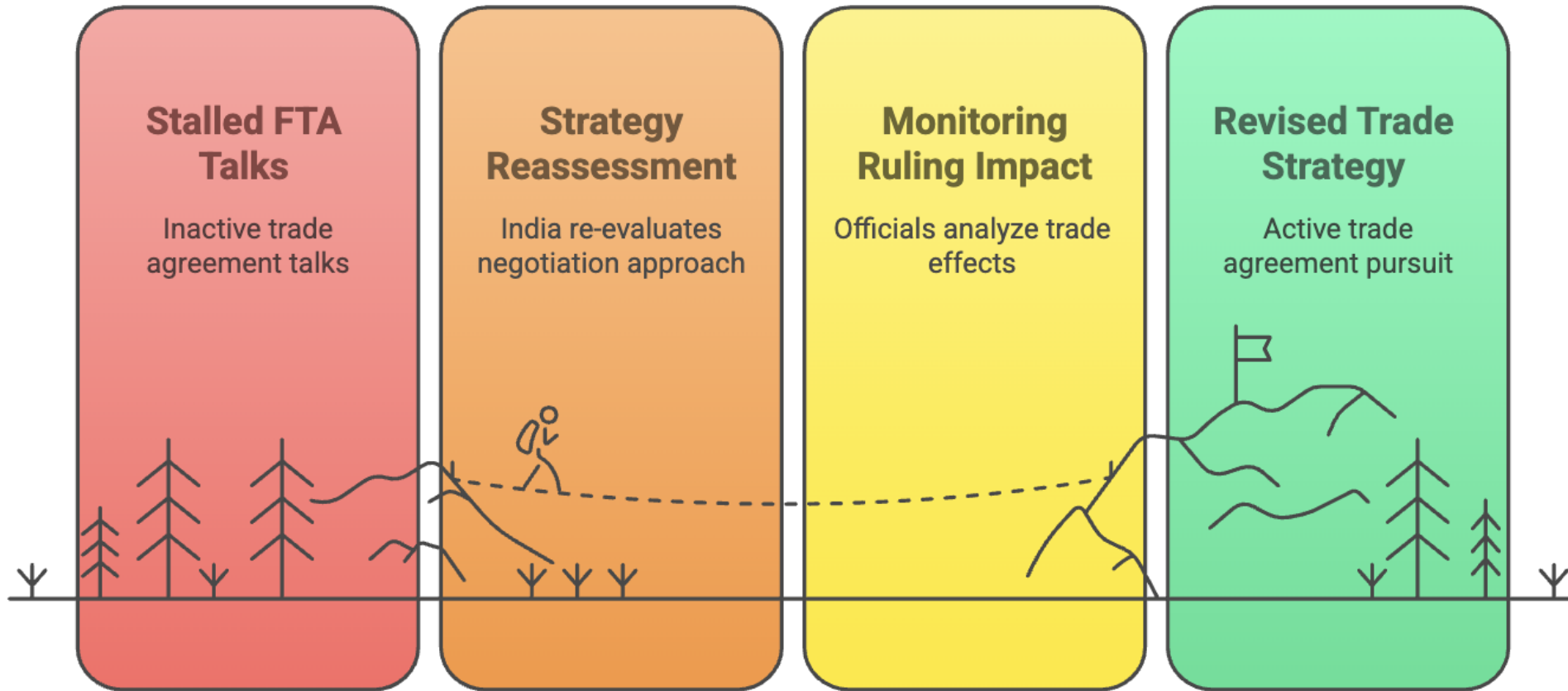
Trump's Spokesperson

President is using every power to restore American greatness.

Understanding trade strategy based on openness to trade



India-US Trade Strategy Shift



Elon Musk's Post-Government Focus



Reducing Wasteful Spending

Focuses on eliminating unnecessary expenditures.



Strengthening Civil Tech Missions

Enhances technology for public service initiatives.



No Longer Serving in Advisory Roles

Ends formal advisory role under Trump administration.

'OPEC must squeeze that O.S. shale to win oil price war'



Leaning uncertainty: Frackers need all price of between \$61 and \$70 a barrel to expand production. REUTERS

Ron Housso
LONDON

Oil drillers in the U.S. shale heartland are slowing down operations, aware that OPEC's high-stakes price war is starting to pay off, but Saudi Arabia will need to exert a lot more pain to make a lasting impact on market share. U.S. oil producers upended the global market in the early 2010s, as the innovative "fracking" drilling technique allowed them to tap vast onshore shale formations. Consequently, the United States, long the world's top oil consumer, became its leading producer as of 2018. It now pumps about 13.5 million barrels a day, about 12% of world supplies. The rising tide of U.S. oil has long irked the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries, which has seen its market share steadily erode over the past two decades. Saudi Arabia, OPEC's de facto leader, in 2016 sought to curb surging U.S. output by flooding the market with cheap oil. This effort bankrupted a number of shale producers, but it only temporarily paused the country's ascent as companies adapted to lower prices and the industry consolidated.

Price war redux Riyadh and its allies, a group known as OPEC+, are now giving it another go. They surprised the market earlier this year by announcing that they would rapidly unwind 2.2 million bpd of production cuts introduced in 2024. The group is expected to announce further increases in production later this week.

Benchmark U.S. oil prices have dropped by nearly a quarter since January to around \$61 a barrel in response to OPEC+'s strategy as well as concerns over U.S. President Donald Trump's trade wars. At these prices, many shale wells are not profitable, as frackers require an oil price of between \$61 and \$70 a barrel to expand production, according to a survey conducted by the Dallas Federal Reserve Bank.

And sure enough, nimble frackers have already responded by parking back drilling activities to conserve cash. The number of U.S. onshore oil drilling rigs dropped by eight to 465 last week, the lowest since November 2021, according to energy services firm Baker Hughes.

Crucially, drillers in the Permian Basin in West Texas and eastern New Mexico, which accounts for nearly half of U.S. production, cut three rigs, bringing the total down to 279, also the lowest since November 2021. Crude production from new Permian wells, a measure of productivity, slightly improved in April, but that was largely offset by declines in other basins.

And multiple indicators suggest activity is set to decelerate further. Importantly, Frac Spread Count, which measures the number of crews actively performing hydraulic fracturing, has seen a 28% annual drop to 186, according to energy consultancy Primary Vision, an indication production could fall sharply in coming months.

(The opinions expressed here are those of the author, a columnist for Reuters)

More firms turning to private credit amid volatility caused by tariff row

Syndicated loan market slowed due to volatility over tariffs; private credit players offer flexible loan terms vs banks. Lakeview Farms chose private credit for loan; large Wall Street lenders have also set aside billions of dollars for direct lending and have been participating in some of the deals

NEWS ANALYSIS

Reuters
NEW YORK

Tariff uncertainty and market volatility have sent some companies looking for a flexible, more certain route to funding from private credit firms, resulting in the spurning of traditional lenders in some of the cases.

A number of companies have selected loans from private credit providers over traditional forms of credit since the beginning of April when back-and-forth policy over tariffs created market choppiness.

Analysts and bankers forecast that private credit, a \$2 trillion industry that has grown from \$500 billion a decade ago, benefited from the volatility.

"When you have volatility, it becomes relatively harder for the banks to place new deals in the syndicated loan market," said Mike Koester, a former Goldman Sachs executive who co-founded \$3 investment Partners, a private credit investing firm.

Need based "And that is when private credit takes more share because it already has the capital and it can lend directly where it is required."

Recent examples have been Lakeview Farms,



Set on them: Direct lenders are sometimes seen as a more viable financing option than banks. APF

which sought to fund its \$200 million buyout of yogurt-maker Noosa in April. Lakeview chose to obtain a loan from \$500 million private credit firm Silver Point Capital because it offered more flexible financing than traditional lenders like banks via the syndicated loan process, two sources told Reuters.

Citigroup was initially leading the loan talks, one of the sources said. CitI declined to comment. Lakeview did not respond to a Reuters query for comment. In another transaction, Blackstone and Apollo Global Management jointly led the private credit financing of about \$4 billion for Thoma Bra-vo's acquisition of Boeing's Jeppesen navigation unit

alongside other investors, two sources said.

"At the moment, private credit is very competitive," said Ted Swimmer, head of capital markets and advisory at Citizens Financial, which sometimes competes with private credit companies. It also lends to them and works with them on deals. "We were structuring a couple of syndicated

loans but we could not price those loans competitively given the market volatility and lost the deals to private credit bids."

Syndicated loans drop

The total number of syndicated loans in the U.S. slid by 15% between January and May 21 versus same period last year, according to Dealogic, as bankers said volatility in markets slowed public markets.

Direct lending transactions - which directly compete with the syndicated loan market and usually involve a handful of private credit funds - have fallen at a slower pace of 10% in the first quarter from the same period a year earlier, Pitch-Book's Leveraged Commodity & Data shows.

There has been an increase in direct lending credit deals in April and May, two sources at private credit firms and a banker said.

Flexible terms Private credit may be more expensive than traditional lending, but it offers more flexible terms for structuring a transaction, industry players say.

This can include flexible loan terms, repayment schedules, covenants, and collateral requirements, unlike more standardised underwriting models for banks.

The Lakeview deal, announced on April 8, came at a time when credit spreads for borrowers had widened sharply as financial markets tumbled in the aftermath of President Donald Trump's sweeping tariff announcements.

Volatility is often not the friend of the public financing markets. Brad Marshall, global head of private credit strategies at Blackstone Credit & Insurance, told Reuters.

"In many cases, it is very much a friend of the private markets because it is more reliable as you're taking a longer-term view."

Industry growth

The growth in private credit funds has driven up regulations put in place after the 2007-09 financial crisis made it more expensive for

output helped offset a 7% year-over-year decline in output from wind farms so far this month, and helped push total supplies from renewable energy sources to a new record.

On fossil fuel side of the output ledger natural gas underwent a further year-over-year contraction, with gas-fired output at just under 4.3 million MWh for the May 1-27 window and the smallest for that period in at least three years. Coal-fired power output showed a modest 2% expansion in May from the same period a year ago, but as all-fossil fuel power output is on track for a 9% fall in May 2025.

The sustained high price of natural gas - which is the largest single power source within the U.S. electric system - has been a

supportive factor behind the recent clean streak. So far in 2025, benchmark U.S. Henry Hub natural gas futures have averaged \$3.70 per million British thermal units (MMBtu). That average price is 77% above where Henry Hub values averaged over the same period of 2024, and means power generators were motivated to cut back on gas use whenever possible.

With solar and battery storage capacity still expanding within U.S. networks, clean power's share of the generation mix should stay close to 50% and could re-emerge as the primary power source once demand for cooling systems dips in the fall.

(The opinions expressed here are those of the author, a Reuters columnist)

OPINION

Gravin Magazine

LITTLETON, COLORADO

The U.S. power system is on track to produce more electricity from clean power than fossil fuels for the third straight month in May, establishing a record-long stretch for clean power generation in the country.

Clean power sources provided majority of U.S. electricity in April, but that was largely offset by declines in other basins.

And multiple indicators suggest activity is set to decelerate further. Importantly, Frac Spread Count, which measures the number of crews actively performing hydraulic fracturing, has seen a 28% annual drop to 186, according to energy consultancy Primary Vision, an indication production could fall sharply in coming months.

(The opinions expressed here are those of the author, a columnist for Reuters)

for 50.8% of electricity in April, Ember data shows.

Big year-over-year increases in output from solar farms (+33%) and hydropower (+24%) helped lift total clean electricity output by 8% in April from the same month a year ago.

Upper hand Gas-fired electricity generation in April was 6% lower than in the same month in 2024, further helping to stack generation trends in favour of clean power. So far in May, data from EIA indicate clean energy output will do the same, while coal-fired power is expected to have the upper hand.

From May 1 through May 27, U.S. data show solar power output is up by 27% from the same date in 2024, to a record 8,83,000 megawatt hours (MWh). That increase in solar

new milestone in U.S. energy transition efforts, and highlights a growing adeptness within generation networks at maximising clean energy output when conditions are right.

After generating 50.5% of U.S. utility-supplied electricity in March, clean energy sources accounted

output so far this month look set to keep that trend going in May.

Greater demand for air-conditioning systems over the summer may force utilities to elevate fossil fuel-based output from June, but the current year-to-date stretch of clean power dominance marks a

breathing easy: Clean energy sources accounted for 50.8% of electricity in April, according to Ember data. REUTERS



Price wars: A copper and cobalt mine run by Sicomin is seen in Kolwezi, DR Congo. REUTERS

whether cobalt can maintain its position as critical new energy input.

Finding floor

The DRG government's imposition of a four-month export ban in February is a positive sign that the

world's largest cobalt producer has woken up to the fact it is producing too much.

Cobalt has a history of boom-and-bust pricing as super-strong rallies such as those in 2018 and 2022 generated an artisanal sup-

ply response.

Not this time

Congo's informal sector saw output drop a hit to historic low last year, both in absolute and relative terms, according to analysts at Benchmark Mineral

Intelligence (BMI).

Rather, it was China's CMOC Group which caused the supply shock, more than doubling production to 1.14,000 tonnes, according to BMI.

The output surge continues unabated. The company reported first-quarter output of 30,414 tonnes, up 27% from the same period last year.

That material is stuck for now as the government decides what it will do when the export ban expires in June, but the decision "will inevitably imply a strict limitation of export," according to Patrick

Luabeya, head of the government's strategic metals authority.

Congo's apparent readiness to address its overproduction has dispelled some of the cobalt blues, boosting the price to \$16 per pound from a 10-year low of \$10. The market is now on tenterhooks as it awaits Kinshasa's next move, but if the world's largest producer is prepared to limit exports or production, the market may have found a price floor, an elusive concept for a metal that is largely produced as a by-product of either copper or nickel.

Battery wars

Cobalt demand grew by a robust 14% year-on-year in 2024, driven by the metal's usage in electric vehicle

(EV) batteries, according to BMI's annual market report commissioned by The Cobalt Institute.

The bull case for the metal rests on EV battery demand continuing to expand to the point that cobalt usage starts outpacing production some time around the turn of the decade. BMI expects market surpluses to shrink going forwards, even without any production curbs.

In the DRG, with a structural supply deficit emerging from at least the early 2030s. However, cobalt's share of the EV battery market is in flux as Chinese EV producers pivot to battery chemistries that don't use any cobalt at all.

(The opinions expressed here are those of the author, a Reuters columnist)

OPINION

Andy Home

LONDON

Prices of cobalt have fallen so far over the last couple of years that even Congo's artisanal miners have given up on the battery metal.

They have been swept aside by a wave of the battery metal from the Democratic Republic of Congo's formal sector and a secondary flood of metal from Indonesia.

The market was oversupplied for the first time in a decade in 2024 even though global demand exceeded 2,00,000 metric tonnes for the first time.

Metal investor Cobalt Holdings is betting that the worst is over. The compa-

ny is aiming at raising \$230 million from an initial public offering in London the majority of which it will use to buy 6,000 tonnes of physical cobalt from Glencore.

CEO Jake Greenberg believes the purchase from Glencore, the world's largest producer of physical cobalt, will be "at or near a low point in the cycle", according to the company's registration filing.

Mr. Greenberg helped launch Yellow Cake, which offers investors a physical uranium play, and Cobalt Holdings is a similar vehicle for the long-term bull thesis hinges both on whether the Congo, and to a lesser extent, Indonesia, can restrain supply and on

whether cobalt can maintain its position as critical new energy input.

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‘Cobalt Holdings’ \$230 mn IPO gamble banks on production cuts’

OPINION

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It’s likely to be a bumpy ride and the longer-term bull thesis hinges both on whether the Congo, and to a lesser extent, Indonesia, can restrain supply and on



Price wars: A copper and cobalt mine run by Sicominex is seen in Kolwezi, DRC. REUTERS

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That material is stuck for now as the government decides what it will do when the export ban expires in June. But any decision “will inevitably imply a strict limitation of exports in whole or in part until market balance is reached with regard to the supply and demand of cobalt”, according to Patrick

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(The opinions expressed here are those of the author, a Reuters columnist)

JERUSALEM

Israel announces creation of 22 settlements in occupied West Bank



Israel announced on Thursday the creation of 22 new settlements in the occupied West Bank, including legalizing outposts and resettling evacuated areas, aiming to strengthen control and prevent a Palestinian state. The move faces international condemnation as illegal and a major obstacle to peace. *AP*

COLOMBO

Former Sri Lanka Ministers get up to 25 years in jail for corruption



A Sri Lankan court sentenced on Thursday two former Ministers — Mahindananda Aluthgamage and Anil Fernando — to 20 and 25 years in prison, respectively, for misappropriating \$3 million rupees (\$1,77,000) in state funds. The pair were also fined \$2,000 for using government funds to donate board games during 2015 election. *AP*

WASHINGTON

Two human traffickers sentenced over freezing deaths of Indians



Two human traffickers — Harshkumar Ramanlal Patel and Steve Anthony Shand (in the photo) — were sentenced for their roles in a smuggling operation that resulted in the 2022 deaths of four Indian nationals, including a three-year-old and an 11-year-old. The four people froze to death while crossing the U.S.-Canada border. *AP*

TAIPEI

China launches Tianwen-2 to collect asteroid samples by 2027



China launched early Thursday the Tianwen-2 spacecraft to collect samples from near-Earth asteroid 2016HO3 and explore main-belt comet 311P. The mission aims to return asteroid samples by 2027, offering insights into the solar system's formation and "expanding human knowledge of cosmos." *AP*

U.S. will begin revoking the visas of Chinese students, says Marco Rubio

In the 2023-24 school year, more than 270,000 international students were from China, making up roughly a quarter of all foreign students in the U.S.; earlier, House Republicans pressed Duke University to cut its ties with a Chinese university

Associated Press
WASHINGTON

Secretary of State Marco Rubio said on Wednesday the U.S. will begin revoking the visas of some Chinese students, including those studying in "critical fields." China is the second-largest country of origin for international students in the U.S., behind only India. In the 2023-24 school year, more than 270,000 international students were from China, making up roughly a quarter of all foreign students in the U.S. Under President Trump's leadership, the U.S. State Department will



Cutting ties: The U.S. will target Chinese students with connections to the Chinese Communist Party, says Rubio. *AP*

work with the Department of Homeland Security to aggressively revoke visas for Chinese students, including those with connections to the Chinese Com-

munist Party or studying in critical fields," Mr. Rubio wrote. The action comes at a time of intensifying scrutiny of the ties between U.S.

higher education and China. House Republicans this month pressed Duke University to cut its ties with a Chinese university, saying it allowed Chinese students to gain access to federally funded research at Duke. Last year, House Republicans issued a report warning that hundreds of millions of dollars in defense funding was going to research partnerships linked to the Chinese government, providing "back-door access to the very foreign adversary nation whose aggression their capabilities are necessary to protect against." Homeland Secretary

Kristi Noem accused Harvard last week of "coordinating with the Chinese Communist Party," citing research collaborations with Chinese scholars. The announcement came a day after Mr. Rubio halted the scheduling of new visa interviews for international students as the department prepares guidelines for increased vetting of their activity on social media. Together, the announcements from the State Department added to uncertainty for America's international students, who have faced intensifying scrutiny from President Donald Trump's administration.

U.S. judge keeps Harvard foreign student ban on hold

Associated Press
BOSTON

A federal judge on Thursday extended an order blocking the Trump administration's attempt to bar Harvard University from enrolling foreign students. U.S. District Judge Allison Burroughs granted Harvard's request for a preliminary injunction, blocking the government's action until the case is decided. It had already been paused since last week, when Judge Burroughs issued a temporary restraining order. Harvard sued the Department of Homeland Security on Friday after Secretary Kristi Noem revoked its ability to host foreign students at its campus in Cambridge, Massachusetts.



Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

On Thursday, the Trump administration announced a new effort to revoke Harvard's certification to enroll foreign students. In a letter sent by the acting Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) director, Todd Lyons, the government gave Harvard 30 days to respond to the alleged grounds for withdrawal, which include accusations that Harvard coordinated with foreign

entities and failed to respond sufficiently to anti-Semitism on campus. The dispute over international enrollment at Harvard is the latest escalation in a battle between the White House and the nation's oldest and wealthiest college. In April, Department of Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem sent a letter to the school, demanding a range of records related to foreign students, including discipline records and anything related to "dangerous or violent activity." In its lawsuit, Harvard argued that the government failed to follow administrative procedures and regulations that dictate how schools may be removed from eligibility to host international students.

+ Israeli attacks kill 44 in Gaza Strip, says civil defence agency

Agence France-Presse
GAZA CITY

Gaza's civil defence agency said Israeli attacks killed 44 people on Thursday, including 23 in a strike on a home in the centre of the Palestinian territory. "Forty-four people have been killed in Israeli raids on the Gaza Strip," civil defence official Mohammad al-Mughayyir said. "Twenty-three people were killed, others injured and several (are) missing following an Israeli strike on the Qreiniawi family's home east of Al-Bureij refugee camp in central Gaza." Mr. Mughayyir also reported "two people killed and several injured by Is-

raeli forces' gunfire this morning near the American aid centre in the Morag axis, southern Gaza Strip." When asked about the strike in Al-Bureij and the gunfire near the aid centre, the Israeli military said it was looking into them. The centre, run by a U.S.-backed organisation, is part of a new plan for distributing aid in Gaza that Israel says is meant to keep supplies out of the hands of Hamas, but which has drawn criticism from the United Nations and the European Union. In a statement, the military said it had struck "dozens of terror targets throughout the Gaza Strip" over the past day.

Climbing season



Members of an expedition to the Mount Everest stand by their tents at the Everest Base Camp in Nepal. As per records, 466 foreign climbers from 57 countries were given permits to climb Everest by the end of May, along with an equal number of Nepalese mountain guides. *AP*

Cholera outbreak in Sudan capital claims 70 lives in two days

Agence France-Presse
PORT SUDAN

A cholera outbreak in Sudan's war-ravaged capital has claimed 70 lives in two days, health officials said Thursday, as Khartoum faces a mounting health emergency after more than two years of brutal conflict. The Health Ministry for Khartoum state said it recorded 542 new infections and 25 deaths on Wednesday, following 1,177 cases and 45 deaths on Tuesday. Authorities say 89% of patients in isolation centres are recovering, but warn that deteriorating environmental conditions are driving a surge in cases.

Cholera is endemic to Sudan, but outbreaks have become worse since the war broke out

The infections come weeks after drone strikes blamed on the paramilitary RSF knocked out the water and electricity supply across the capital. Cholera is endemic to Sudan, but outbreaks have become worse and more frequent since the war broke out. Since August 2024, health authorities have recorded more than 65,000 cases and over 7,000 deaths across 12 of Sudan's 18 states.

Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o, famed Kenyan novelist and dissident, dies aged 87

Associated Press
NEW YORK

Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o, the revered Kenyan man of letters and voice of dissent who in dozens of fiction and non-fiction books traced his country's history from British imperialism to home-ruled tyranny and challenged not only the stories told but the language used to tell them, died on Wednesday at 87. Derek Warker, publisher for Ngũgĩ's U.S. publisher The New Press, confirmed the death. Ngũgĩ's son Ndutu wa Ngũgĩ said he died in Bedford, Georgia. Further details were not immediately available, though Ngũgĩ was receiv-



Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o

ing kidney dialysis treatments. Whether through novels such as *The Wizard of the Crow* and *Petals of Blood*, memoirs such as *Birth of a Dream Weaver* or the landmark critique *Decolonizing the Mind*, Ngũgĩ embodied the very heights of the artist's calling — as a truth

teller and explorer of myth, as a breaker of rules and steward of culture. He was a perennial candidate for the Nobel literature prize and a long-term artist in exile, imprisoned for a year in the 1970s and harassed for decades after. "Resistance is the best way of keeping alive," he told the *Guardian* in 2018. "It can take even the smallest form of saying no to injustice." He was admired worldwide, by authors ranging from John Updike to Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, and by former President Barack Obama, who once praised Ngũgĩ's ability to tell "a compelling story of how the transformative

events of history weigh on individual lives and relationships." He had helped shatter the Western monopoly on African stories and reveal how those on the continent saw themselves. Ngũgĩ was shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize in 2009, was a finalist for a National Book Critics Circle prize in 2012 and, four years later, was the winner of the Pak Kyong-ni Literature Award. Tributes came from across the world, including contemporaries like the continent's first Nobel literature laureate, Wole Soyinka, who described Ngũgĩ's influence on African literature as "unquestionably very massive."

Musk to exit U.S. govt. role after rare break with President Trump

Agence France-Presse
WASHINGTON

Billionaire Elon Musk on Wednesday announced he was leaving his role in U.S. government, intended to reduce federal spending, shortly after his first major break with President Donald Trump over his signature spending bill. "As my scheduled time as a Special Government Employee comes to an end, I would like to thank President Donald Trump for the opportunity to reduce wasteful spending," he wrote on X. "The DOGE mission will only strengthen the federal budget as it becomes a way of life throughout the govern-

ment," he added. The tech tycoon had said Mr. Trump's Bill would increase the deficit and undermine the work of Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE), which has fired tens of thousands of people. Mr. Musk — who was a constant presence at Mr. Trump's side before pulling back to focus on his Space X and Tesla businesses — also complained that DOGE had become a "whipping boy" for dissatisfaction with the administration. "I was disappointed to see the massive spending bill, frankly, and I was concerned that the federal budget deficit, not just decreases it, and un-



Elon Musk

dermines the work that the DOGE team is doing," Mr. Musk said in an interview with CBS News, an excerpt of which aired on Tuesday. Mr. Trump's "One Big Beautiful Bill Act" — which passed the U.S. House last week and now moves to the Senate — offers sprawling tax relief and spending

cuts and is the centerpiece of his domestic agenda. But critics warn it will decimate health care and balloon the national deficit by as much as \$4 trillion over a decade. The White House sought to play down any differences over U.S. government spending, without directly naming Mr. Musk. "The Big Beautiful Bill is NOT an annual Budget Bill," Trump's Deputy Chief of Staff Stephen Miller said on X, after the tech titan's comments aired. All DOGE cuts would have to be carried out through a separate Bill targeting the federal budget, according to U.S. Senate rules, Mr. Miller added.

TAIPEI

China launches Tianwen-2 to collect asteroid samples by 2027



REUTERS

China launched early Thursday the Tianwen-2 spacecraft to collect samples from near-Earth asteroid 2016HO3 and explore main-belt comet 311P. The mission aims to return asteroid samples by 2027, offering insights into the solar system's formation and "expanding human knowledge of cosmos". AP

Turkiye set to fine flyers who get up before plane stops

Passengers on flights to Türkiye who unbuckle their seat belts, enter an aisle or open overhead compartments before their plane has stopped taxiing are eligible for fines under new regulations issued by the country's civil aviation authority.

Commercial airlines operating flights in Türkiye are required to revise their standard in-flight announcements telling passengers to remain seated with seat belts fastened until the aircraft has reached a gate or other final stopping point. The announcements will also have to remind passengers to let people sitting in the rows ahead of them exit first. Media reports have said rule-breakers could be fined up to \$70. AP

Urban Flooding in India

URBAN FLOODING

MEANING

- ⦿ Flooding of land/property in a built environment, particularly in cities
- ⦿ Caused not just by higher precipitation but also **unplanned urbanisation**

CAUSES OF EXACERBATION

- ⦿ **Encroachments** on drainage channels (lakes, wetlands, riverbeds)
- ⦿ **Climate change** (increased frequency of short duration heavy rainfall)
- ⦿ Uninformed **release of water from dams** (e.g. Chennai Floods 2015)
- ⦿ **Mining** activities (depletes natural riverbed and water retention capacity)
- ⦿ Urban heat island effect
- ⦿ **Storm surges** affecting coastal cities/ towns

IMPACTS

- ⦿ Loss of life and property
- ⦿ Spread of diseases
- ⦿ Disruptions in supply of power & water and communication
- ⦿ Ecological impacts

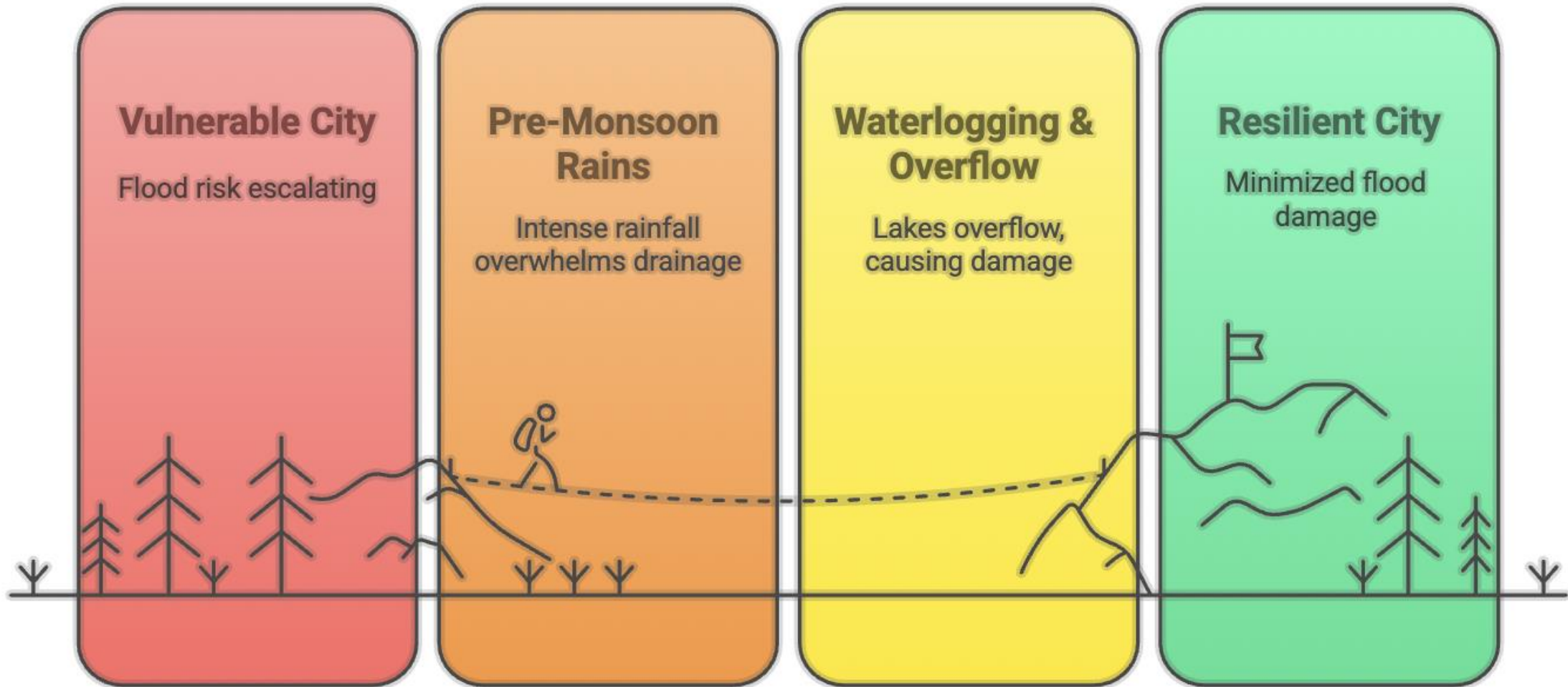
SUGGESTIONS TO MITIGATE

- ⦿ Creating a unified **flood control implementing agency**
- ⦿ **Blue-Green Infra** for urban and climatic challenges
 - Blue - Water bodies such as rivers and tanks
 - Green - Trees, Parks, and Gardens
- ⦿ Mapping of Flood Vulnerability
- ⦿ Construction of **flood walls, raised platforms** along basins

Some of the Most Notable Urban Floods in India



Mitigating Bengaluru's Urban Flooding



Major Flood Events in India

Chennai floods

2015

Mumbai floods

2020

Delhi Floods

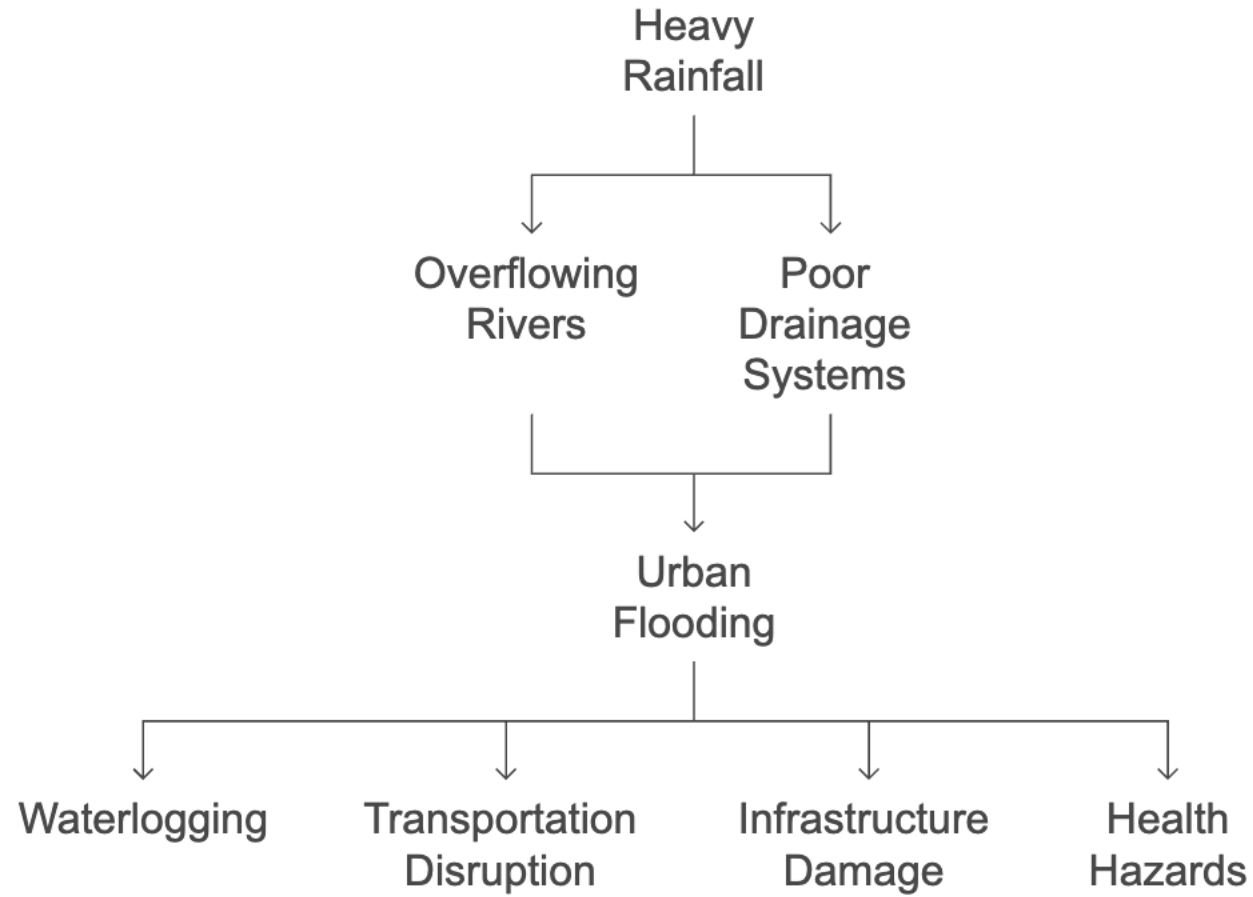
2023

Bengaluru floods

2024



Urban Flooding Process and Impacts



Cities that flood during monsoons (the past 3 years)



Since 1900, Delhi has experienced six major floods in the years 1924, 1947, 1976, 1978, 1988 and 1995. Thereafter Delhi has flooded in the years 2013, 2018, 2019, 2021, and 2022.

Dharamshala
(1958, 2022)

Delhi



After the 1974 floods, Patna saw disastrous floods in 2019, following which, the city flooded in 2021 again.

Balrampur
(2013, 2019, 2021, 2022)

Patna



This picture of Guwahati was clicked in 2016. The other years when the city was flooded were 1954, 1962, 1966, 1972, 1974, 1978, 1983, 1986, 1988, 1996, 1998 and 2000, 2002, 2004, 2012, 2016, 2018, 2020, 2021 and 2022. 2022 was considered to be the worst flood in the last decade.

Guwahati

Jodhpur
(2006, 2016, 2020, 2022)

Ahmedabad
(2005, 2017, 2022)

Bhopal
(2006, 2016, 2021, 2022)

Jamshedpur
(2017, 2021, 2022)

Kolkata
(2007, 2017, 2019, 2021, 2022)

Surat
(1978, 1979, 1998, 2006, 2013, 2022)

Mumbai



Mumbai has flooded on several occasions but the most disastrous floods happened in the years 2005, 2017, and 2022



Kushabhadra river overflows in Bhubaneswar. The city flooded in the years 2008, 2014, 2016, 2018, 2019, and 2021



This picture was taken in Hyderabad in the year 2011. The other years when the city flooded were 1994, 2000, 2009, 2016 and 2020

Hyderabad



After several decades, Bengaluru flooded in 2022, and it is already flooding in 2023

Bengaluru

Chennai



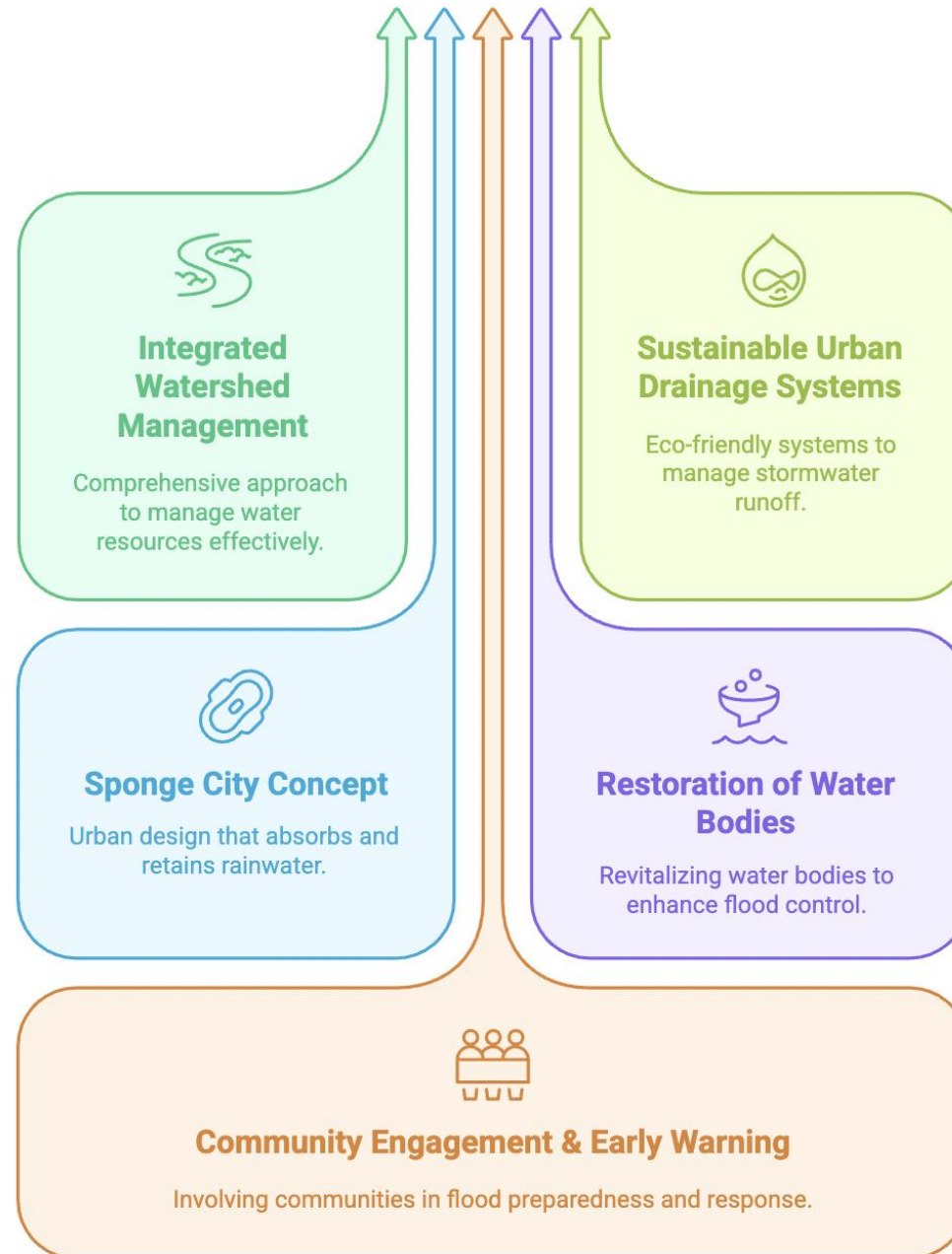
This image is from the year 2015. The other years in which Chennai flooded were - 1943, 1978, 1985, 2002, 2005, and 2021

Kochi

Kochi experienced it's worst flood in the year 2018, after the disastrous flood of 1924. The other years when the city was flooded were 2010, 2018, 2019, and 2022



Building Flood-Resilient Cities



What are Key International Conventions/Protocols Aimed at Limiting Global Warming?

Conventions/Protocols	Objective
Kyoto Protocol (1997)	It aimed to reduce the emission of gases that contribute to global warming.
Paris Agreement (2015)	Limit global temperature rise to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels, and pursue efforts to limit the increase to 1.5°C.
Glasgow Climate Pact (COP26) (2021)	Secure global net-zero emissions by mid-century and keep warming within 1.5°C within reach.
Sharm El-Sheikh Plan (COP27) (2022)	Focus on implementation and climate justice; established the Loss and Damage Fund, emphasized adaptation, and reinforced the 1.5°C goal.
Global Stocktake (COP28) (2023)	Reaffirmed the 1.5°C target; governments agreed to raise their 2025 climate commitments to align with this goal, covering all sectors and greenhouse gases.

INTERPOL Silver Notice

Tracking Economic Fugitives

Fugitives Abroad

Assets difficult to trace



**INTERPOL
Silver Notice**



Fugitives Tracked

Assets located and
recovered

Locate and identify
assets

Collaboration across
national borders

INTERPOL Silver Notice Implementation

1

Launch of Silver Notice

The initiative is introduced in 2025.

2

Pilot Phase Begins

The program is tested in 51 countries.

3

Request for Notices

Each country can request up to nine notices.

4

Pilot Phase Ends

The testing period concludes in November 2025.

About

- Official Name – International Criminal Police Organization (ICPO - INTERPOL)
- Establishment year – 1923
- Member states – 195
 - India has been a member since 1956.
- Headquarters – Lyon, France
An inter-governmental organization

Objective

- **Collects and disseminates information from various police forces** to facilitate criminal investigation across the globe.
 - Doesn't have law enforcement powers such as arrest.

Composition

- **President** (head of Interpol) – **elected for 4 years**
- **Secretary General** (performs day-to-day activities) – **for 5 years**
- **Specialized Secretariat** – deals with specific issues like **cybercrime, terrorism, human & drug trafficking, financial & environmental crime, etc.**
- **General Assembly** - supreme governing body (meets once a year). India hosted INTERPOL General Assembly in 2022.

INTERPOL NOTICES



RED NOTICE
WANTED PERSONS



YELLOW NOTICE
MISSING PERSONS



BLUE NOTICE
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION



BLACK NOTICE
UNIDENTIFIED BODIES



GREEN NOTICE
WARNINGS AND INTELLIGENCE



ORANGE NOTICE
IMMINENT THREAT



PURPLE NOTICE
MODUS OPERANDI



SILVER NOTICE (Pilot Phase)
IDENTIFICATION AND TRACING OF CRIMINAL ASSETS



INTERPOL-UN SECURITY COUNCIL SPECIAL NOTICE
ENTITIES AND INDIVIDUALS SUBJECT TO UNSC SANCTIONS

INTERPOL National Central Bureau (NCB)

- The NCB is the designated contact point for Interpol.
- India's Interpol NCB – **Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)**

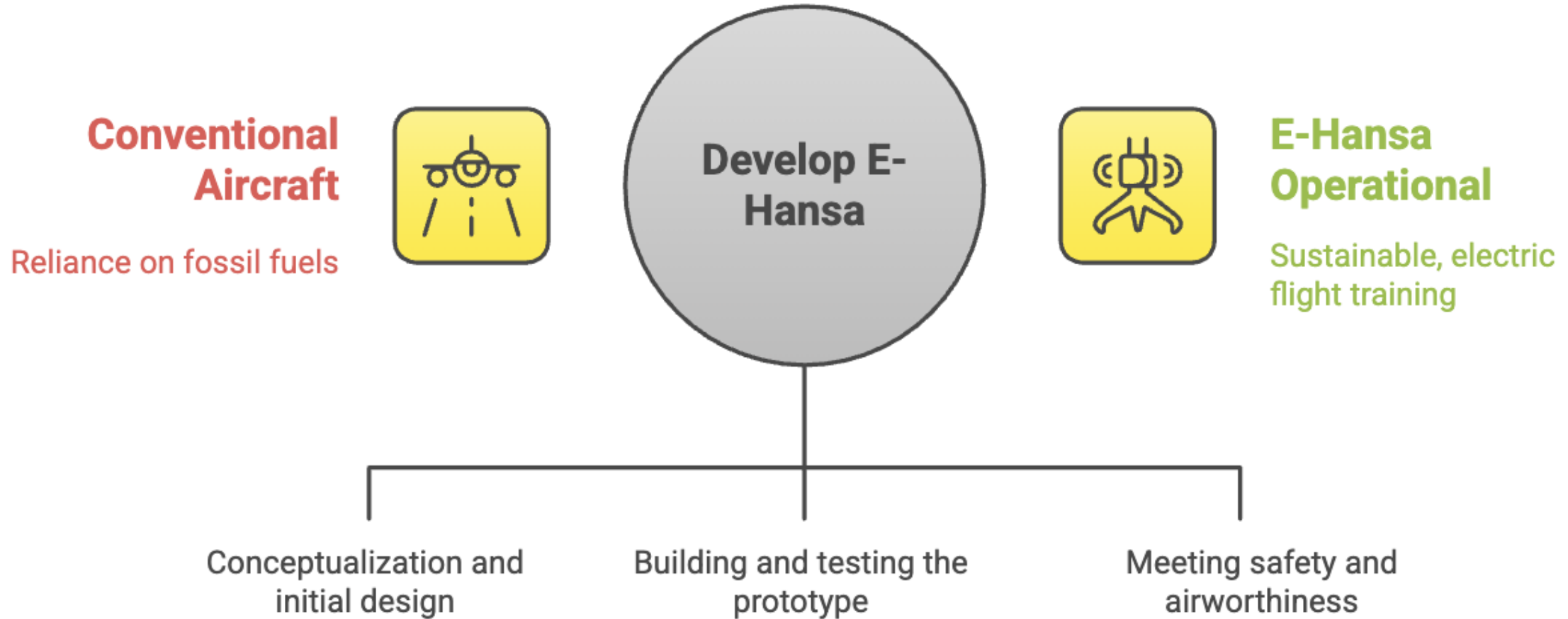
Know Your DIGIPIN and 'Know Your PIN
Code' Web Portals

- **The DIGIPIN (Digital Postal Index Number):** It is an open-source, interoperable, geo-coded, grid-based **digital address system** developed by the Department of Posts in collaboration with IIT Hyderabad and NRSC, ISRO.
 - It offers **Address-as-a-Service (AaaS)** — an array of services associated with address data management to support **secure and efficient interactions** between users, government entities, and private sector organisations.
- **The ‘Know Your DIGIPIN’ portal enables users to:** Retrieve their DIGIPIN based on precise geolocation.
 - Input latitude and longitude coordinates to fetch corresponding DIGIPINs and vice versa.
 - This initiative simplifies location mapping, enhances logistics and emergency response, and ensures last-mile delivery, especially in rural and underserved areas.
 - It is now available to all Ministries, State Governments, institutions for integration into their workflows, and users for their own use.

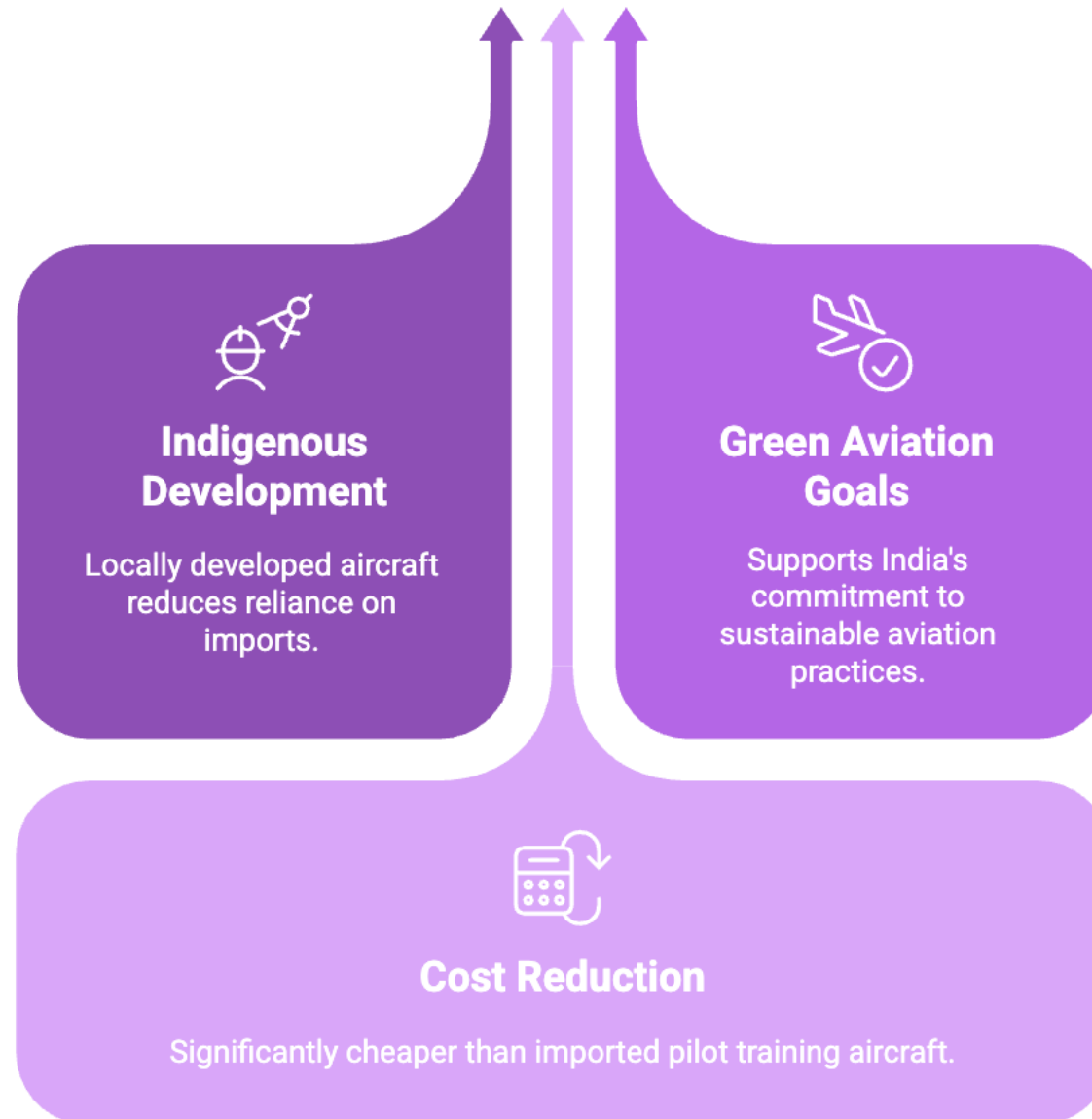
Source: [PIB](#)

Electric Hansa (E-Hansa)

Developing Electric Trainer Aircraft



Pathways to Sustainable Aviation



Word of the day

Bastion:

a group that defends a principle; a stronghold into which people could go for shelter during a battle; projecting part of a rampart or other fortification

Synonym: citadel

Usage: *This college was once the bastion of the privileged few.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/bastionpro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /'bæsti.ən/

UPPSC RO/ARO

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A blurred background image showing a group of people in a meeting or conference, with several hands raised in the air, suggesting applause or agreement. The image is soft-focused, with a warm, slightly hazy light. In the foreground, a person's hand is visible on the right, wearing a black watch, and another hand is visible on the left, both reaching towards the center. The overall mood is positive and collaborative.

Thank you
guys.
