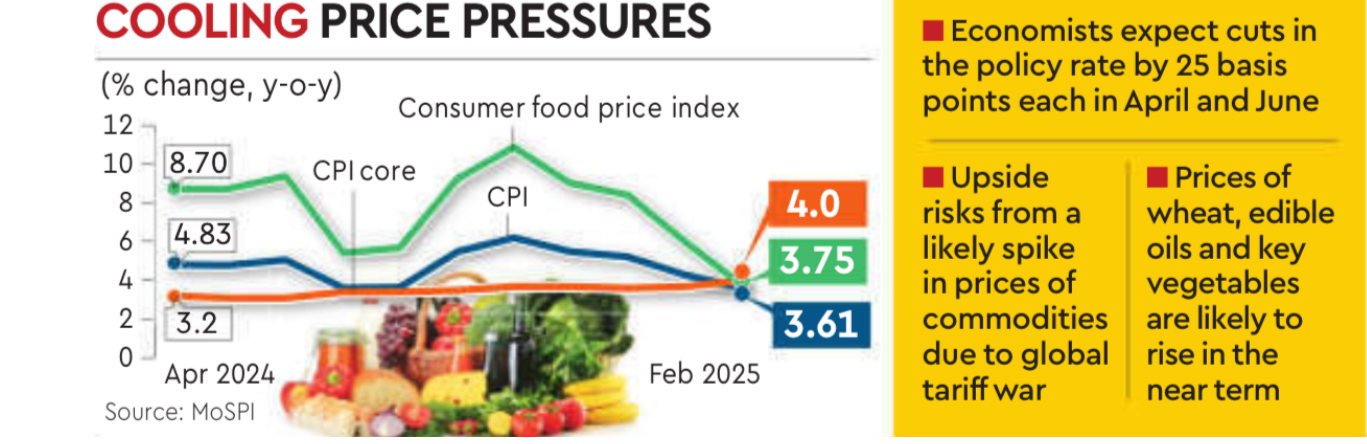


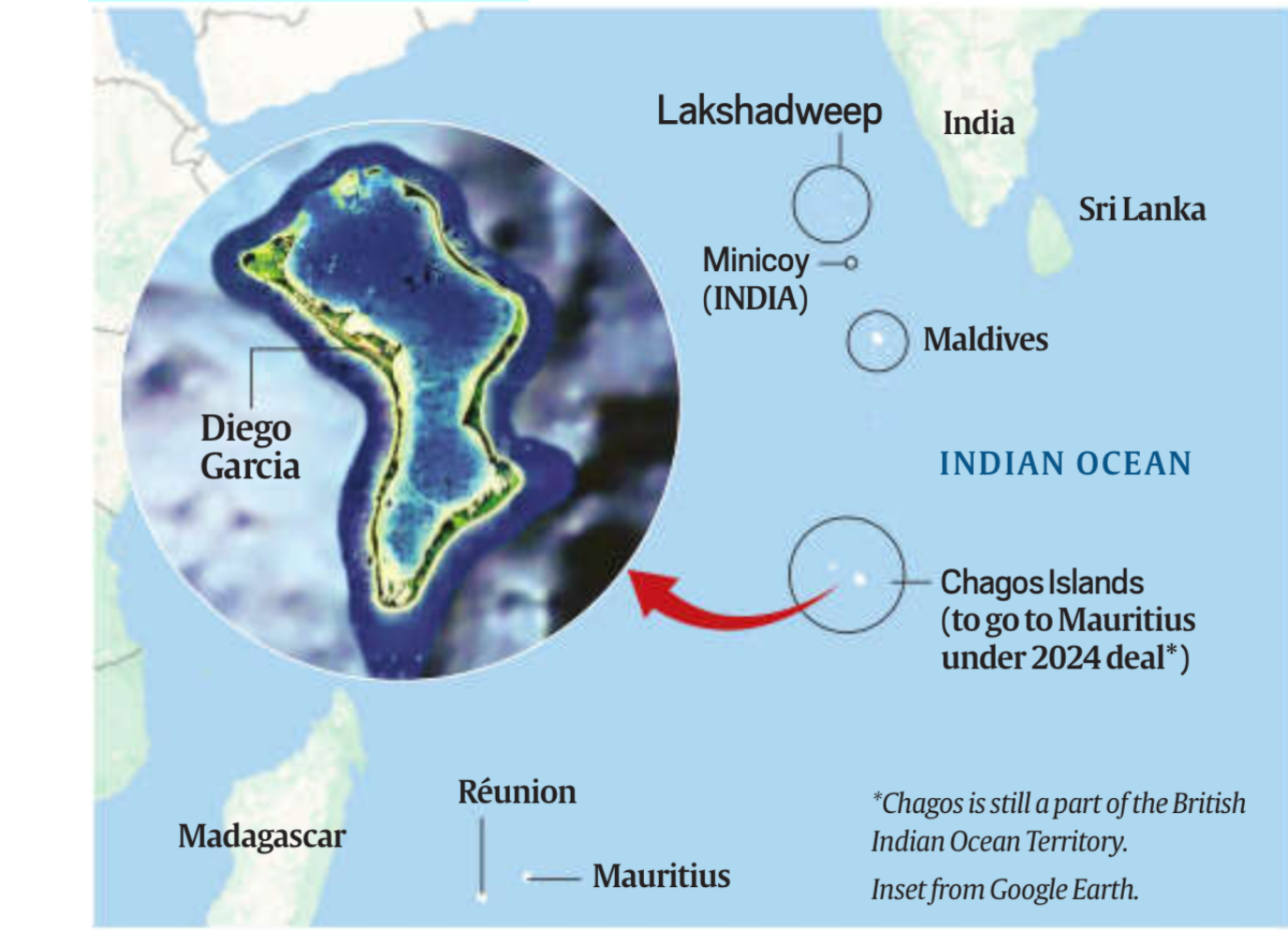
Page 1: Retail Inflation at 7-month Low

- **Inflation Rate:** 3.6% in February 2025 (down from 4.26% in January 2025).
- **Reason:** Decline in food prices (vegetables, pulses, eggs).
- **Impact:** Inflation below RBI's 4% target increases the likelihood of a repo rate cut.
- **Urban & Rural Inflation:** Urban inflation at 3.3%, rural at 3%.
- **State-wise:** Highest in Kerala (7.3%), lowest in Telangana (1.3%).



Page 2: PM Modi’s Visit to Mauritius

- **Key Agenda:** Free, open, secure Indian Ocean.
- **Mauritius’ Sovereignty:** India supports Mauritius over Chagos archipelago.
- **Defence & Maritime Cooperation:** Strengthening security, trade agreements.
- **Local Currency Trade:** Agreement for settlement of trade in local currencies.
- **Recognition:** Modi conferred the highest honour of Mauritius – Grand Commander of the Order of the Star and Key.



Page 4: Mizoram and Myanmar Refugee Crisis

- **Issue:** Influx of Myanmar refugees causing security and demographic concerns.
- **Activist’s Appeal:** Request to Union Home Minister for border control.
- **Impact:** Strain on local resources and national security risks.

Page 5: Thalangara Topi - A Heritage in Decline

- **What is it?** Traditional Muslim prayer cap with 200-year-old legacy.
- **Status:** Sole artisan Abdul Raheem ceases production.
- **Challenges:** Lack of institutional support, decline in demand.
- **Cultural Impact:** Loss of traditional craftsmanship, fading heritage.



Page 6: GDP Data Revisions

- **Revised Growth Rates:** 2022-23: 7.6%, 2023-24: 9.2%, 2024-25: 6.5%.
- **Sectoral Growth:** Agriculture robust, manufacturing lags.
- **Investment & Consumption:** Key drivers, but demand expected to fall.
- **Medium-Term Projections:** Real GDP growth projected at 6.5%.

Page 6: Sustainability and HDI Rankings

- **Criticism of HDI:** Ignores environmental impact.
- **Alternative Index (PHDI):** Adjusts for planetary pressures.
- **Example Countries:** Costa Rica and Sri Lanka balance development with sustainability.
- **India’s Stand:** Must seek alternative development pathways beyond Western consumption models.

Page 6: Ukraine-Russia Ceasefire

- **Agreement:** 30-day interim ceasefire, extendable.
- **Mediation:** US, Ukraine, and Russia in talks.
- **Challenges:** Trust deficit, continued Russian airstrikes.
- **Strategic Shift:** Ukraine drops NATO membership demand for security guarantees.

BALL NOW IN MOSCOW'S COURT

After more than eight hours of negotiations with Ukrainian officials in Jeddah on Tuesday, US secretary of state Marco Rubio said the US would take the jointly signed offer to Russia, and that the 'ball is in Moscow's court'. A look at what they agreed on:

CEASEFIRE

Ukraine expresses readiness to 'enact an immediate, interim 30-day ceasefire', which can be extended by mutual agreement of the parties

SECURITY AID

US lifts pause on intelligence sharing, resumes security aid to Ukraine

MINERALS

The two countries agree to conclude as soon as possible a deal for Ukraine's mineral resources. It was thrown into limbo after the Trump-Zelensky spat in the White House on Feb 28

WHAT'S NOT THERE?

SECURITY GUARANTEES
The phrase was absent from the joint statement. It's a key demand of Zelensky's that the US would provide it with a commitment to protect it if Russia were to renege on any ceasefire or peace deal

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?
The agreement is subject to acceptance and concurrent implementation by Russia. **Trump's special envoy Steve Witkoff plans to visit Moscow this week to meet Putin.** Trump himself said that he might speak with Putin in the coming days

Page 8: Government and Online Gaming

- **Issue:** 28% GST imposed, equating gaming with gambling.
- **Economic Impact:** India’s gaming sector valued at ₹33,000 crore in 2023, projected to double by 2028.
- **Regulatory Challenges:** Need for a clear framework to distinguish skill-based gaming.

Page 12: India’s Small Modular Nuclear Reactors (SMNR)

- **Project:** Bharat Small Modular Reactor (BSMR) – Concept design completed.
- **Capacity:** 200 MW.
- **Timeline:** Construction to take 60-72 months after approval.
- **Funding:** ₹20,000 crore allocated; first setup by 2033.
- **Future Goal:** 100 GW nuclear power by 2047.

Page 12: Indian Railways & Mission Amrit Sarovar

- **Mission Launch:** April 2022, aimed at constructing/rejuvenating 75 ponds in each district to address water scarcity.
- **Progress:** Over 68,000 ponds completed as of September 2023.
- **Indian Railways’ Role:** Actively involved in digging/rejuvenating ponds near railway land to support local water needs.
- **Objectives:**
 - **Water Conservation:** Mitigate water shortages.
 - **Community Benefits:** Recharging groundwater, supporting agriculture.
 - **Sustainability:** Long-term approach to water resource management.

Science: Global Coordination on Climate Predictions

- **Key Concern:** Political changes (e.g., U.S. administration actions) might undermine climate research bodies (e.g., NOAA).
- **Need for Coordination:**
 - **Scientific Consensus:** Global cooperation in data sharing and climate modeling.
 - **Policy Stability:** Insulate climate predictions from political disruptions.
- **Climate Models:** Require consistent funding, international data exchange, and standardized protocols.
- **Implication for India/World:** Robust multilateral frameworks essential to maintain the accuracy of climate forecasts and inform policy decisions.

Science: The Promise of Mycelium Bricks Against Climate Change

- **What Are Mycelium Bricks?** Building materials made from fungal mycelium and agricultural waste.
- **Advantages:**
 - **Low Carbon Footprint:** Biodegradable, uses minimal energy in production.
 - **Insulation & Strength:** Good thermal insulation and structural strength.
 - **Sustainability:** Replaces resource-intensive materials like cement and steel.
- **Applications:**
 - **Construction Industry:** Walls, insulation, and interior fittings.
 - **Waste Management:** Utilizes agricultural byproducts, reducing landfill burden.
- **Challenges:**
 - **Scalability & Regulation:** Commercial viability, standard building codes.
 - **Durability & Public Awareness:** Long-term performance testing and broader acceptance needed.