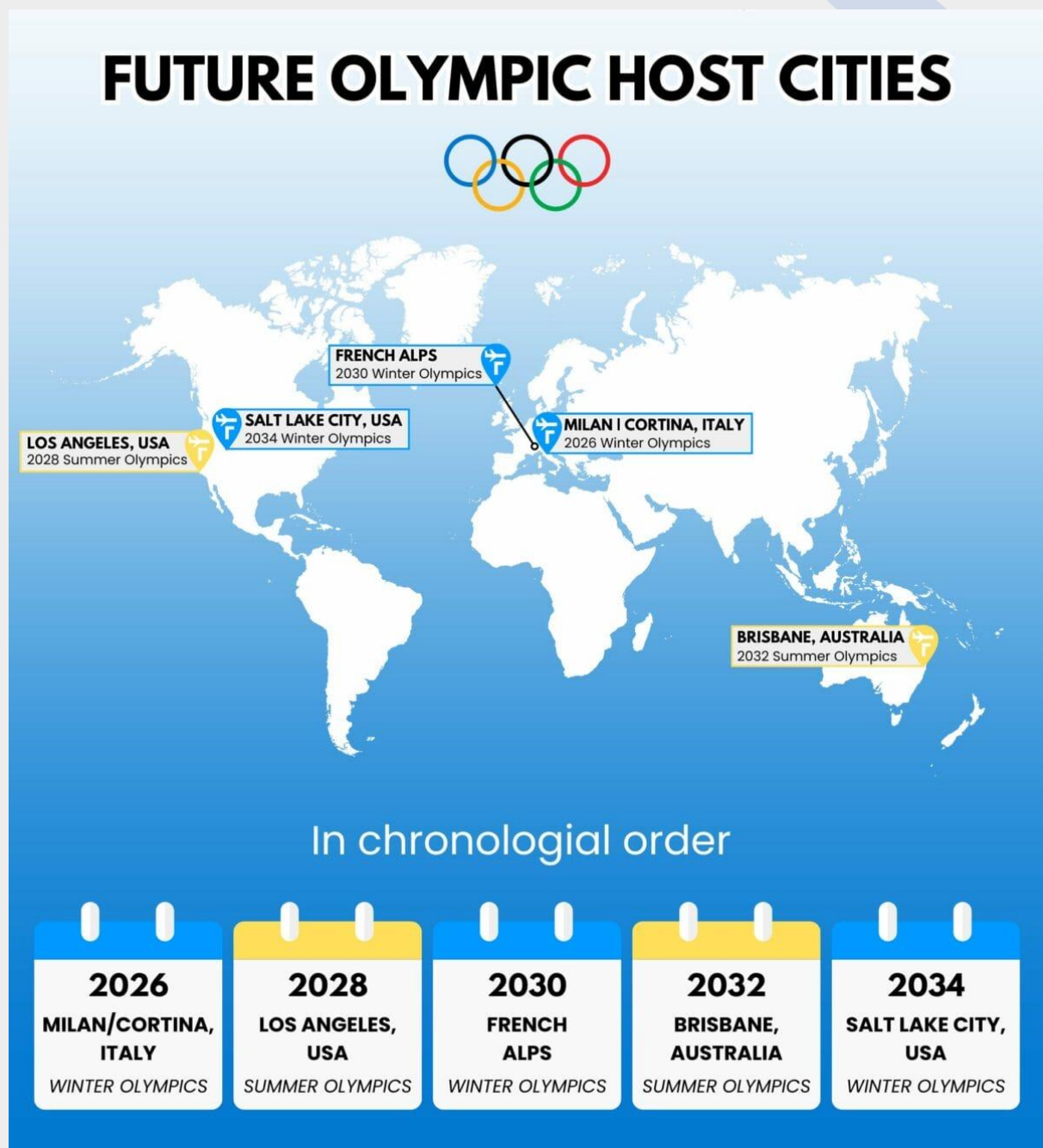


## 1. India's Bid for the 2036 Olympics

### Why in News?

India has expressed interest in hosting the 2036 Olympic Games, submitting a Letter of Intent to the International Olympic Committee (IOC). Officials are promoting the bid by highlighting potential benefits such as economic growth, tourism boost, and greater health awareness.

But what do past Olympics tell us about these promises?



## Study Examines Real Impact of Hosting Olympics

A recent study published in Social Science & Medicine used data from 19,000+ residents in London and Paris to assess the health, happiness, and economic impact of hosting the Olympics. The research spanned three years — before, during, and after the 2012 London Olympics — using Paris (a non-host city) as a comparison.

### 1. Short-Lived Happiness Boost

- During the Games, 65% of Londoners described it as “a summer like no other.”
- 69% believed it would inspire more adults to play sports; 81% of children agreed.
- Economists found a genuine rise in happiness and well-being.

But:

This happiness faded quickly. Within weeks of the closing ceremony, well-being returned to pre-Games levels. There were no lasting improvements in mental health or life satisfaction.

### 2. Temporary Increase in Physical Activity

One major goal of hosting the Olympics is to encourage healthier lifestyles. London’s bid claimed it would inspire widespread physical activity.

- The study found no major increase in average physical activity.
- However, among previously inactive individuals, there was an 18% increase — a short-term improvement lasting about 100 days.
- No significant changes were observed in:
  - Already active individuals
  - Smoking or alcohol habits

### 3. Questionable Economic and Health Returns

Hosting the Olympics comes with massive costs:

- Beijing 2008: \$52 billion
- Paris 2024: ~\$9.5 billion
- Athens 2004: Went over budget and contributed to Greece’s financial crisis

London 2012:

- Healthcare savings estimated at £4.2 million
- But £40 million was spent on promoting physical activity
- Result: Net loss of over £35 million

The study concluded the Games didn’t provide value for money in terms of public health.

### Conclusion: A Mixed Legacy

While hosting the Olympics can bring short-term joy and international prestige, the long-term health and economic benefits are limited or unsustainable, according to research.

As India prepares its bid, it may need to weigh the costs against realistic outcomes—and ensure any promised legacy is carefully planned and monitored.

Relevance: GS Prelims; Miscellaneous

Source: The Hindu

## 2. Operation Sindoor: All about Pakistan Air Force assets that India hit

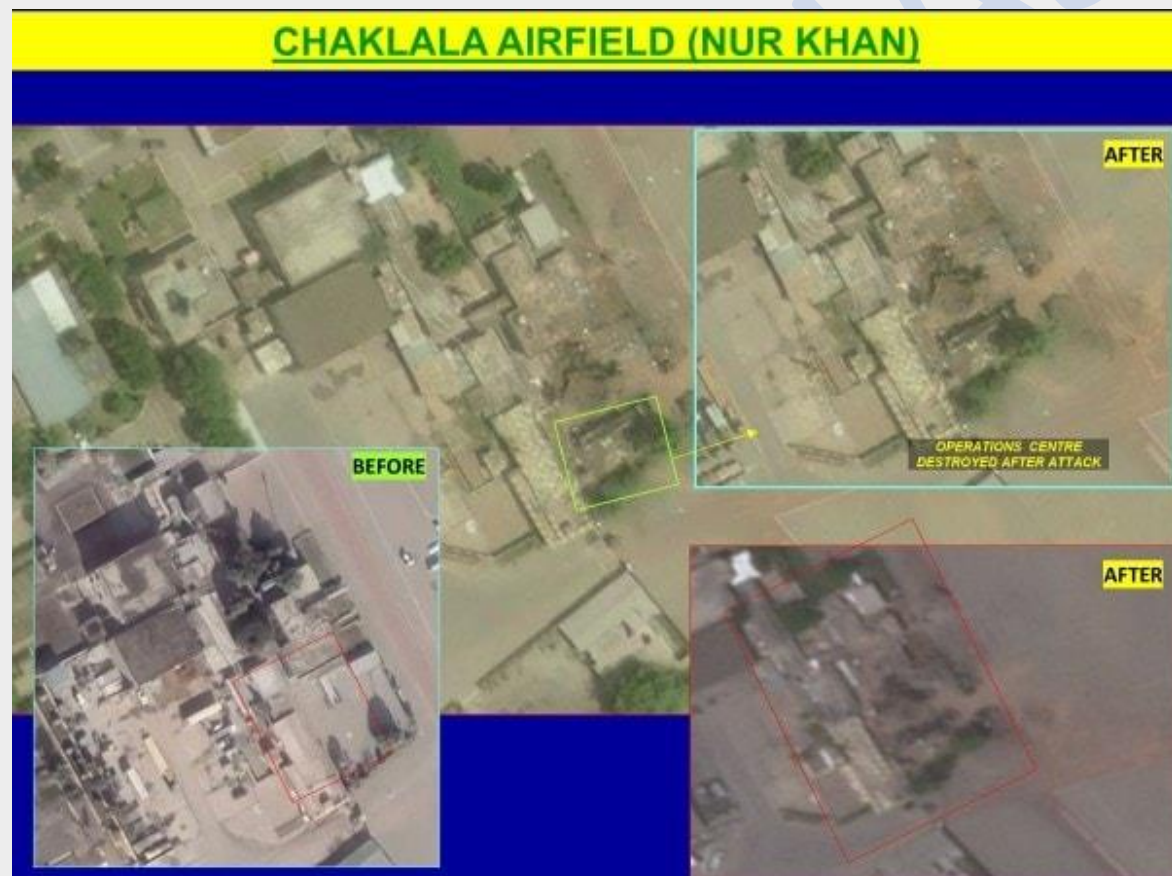
### Introduction

Indian missiles and drones inflicted heavy damage on at least eight Pakistan Air Force bases and several radar & air defence units in a withering aerial attack last week. While Pakistani air defences were knocked out, the enemy's own aerial attacks were unable to breach Indian air defences.

### PAF Base Nur Khan, Rawalpindi

- Close to Pak Army HQ, n-command

Home to the Pakistan Air Force's (PAF's) Air Mobility Command and the PAF College Chaklala, this is one of Pakistan's most vital air bases, which plays a key role in logistics, VIP transport, strategic operations, and aviator training.



*Chaklala Airfield (Nur Khan)*

The base houses PAF transport aircraft such as Lockheed C-130 Hercules, Ilyushin Il-78 refuellers, and trainers such as Karakoram-8. With the Pakistan Army's General Headquarters and the Strategic Plans Division — the operational arm of the country's nuclear command — in the vicinity, the base lies at the heart of the Pakistani military establishment.

PAF Base Chaklala was renamed PAF Base Nur Khan in 2012, in honour of Air Marshal Nur Khan, the base's first Pakistani commander in 1947 who went on to lead the Pakistan Air Force from 1965 to 1969.

### **PAF Base Murid, Chakwal**

- Home base for Pakistan's drone fleet

The Murid base is the home base of Pakistan's growing fleet of combat drones, and one of the PAF's most important forward operational flying bases today.

Its more than eight hangars house unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) such as the indigenously developed GIDS Shahpar and NESCOM Burraq, the Chinese Chengdu Wing Loong II, and the Turkish Bayraktar TB2.

### **PAF Base Sukkur, Sukkur**

- Doubles as a civilian airport, important for northern Sindh

This is another forward operational base of the PAF which doubles as the Begum Nusrat Bhutto International Airport Sukkur, the second major civilian airport operational in Sindh after Karachi's Jinnah International Airport.



Originally built as a military aerodrome during World War II, the Sukkur base operates under PAF's Southern Air Command.

### **PAF Base Rahim Yar Khan, Rahim Yar Khan**

- Runway knocked out by Indian strike, base shut for repairs





The Rahim Yar Khan base is a forward operational base of the PAF's Central Command. Its sole runway is also used by the Sheikh Zayed International Airport, named after Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, the first President of the UAE, who funded the construction of the airport's terminal. Day-to-day operations at the airport are handled by the Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority (PCAA).

After India's strike at the air base, which has left a massive crater on its runway, all flight operations have been suspended for a week.

#### **PAF Base Mushaf, Sargodha**

- Most strategic PAF base, home to best fighters, pilots

Considered to be the most vital strategic asset of the PAF, the Sargodha base is home to Pakistan's best fighter aircraft and pilots, as well as the headquarters of the Central Air Command, the Combat Commanders' School, and the Airpower Centre of Excellence.



Aircraft such as the American F-16 Fighting Falcon, Chinese Chengdu J-7, French Mirage 5, and the JF-17 Thunder, the mainstay of PAF's fighter fleet developed jointly with China, are stationed at the base.

The Sargodha base was a prime target of Indian air attacks during the 1965 war, during which India destroyed 10 Pakistani aircraft at the base. After this, the PAF reserved much of its fighter fleet to protect Sargodha rather than sending them to the front.

The base was renamed in 2003 in honour of Air Chief Marshal Mushaf Ali Mir who had died in an aircraft crash earlier that year.

#### **PAF Base Shahbaz, Jacobabad**

- Crucial NATO base during War on Terror, important for Pak's F-16s

## JACOBABAD AIRFIELD



Heavily used by NATO forces during Operation Enduring Freedom, the official moniker of the US-led Global War on Terrorism, the Jacobabad base is home to some of PAF's most advanced aircraft and equipment.

These include the latest JF-17 Block II, multiple variants of the F-16 Fighting Falcon, and the Italian Leonardo AW139 helicopters of the 88 Search and Rescue Squadron.

According to local media reports, the base also houses private contractors who work on the American F-16s.

### **PAF Base Rafiqui, Shorkot**

- Base for JF-17 and Mirage 5 fighters

Located 337 km to the south of Islamabad, this base is a vital asset of PAF's Northern Air Command. It is home to squadrons of JF-17, Mirage 5, and the French utility helicopter Alouette III.

The base is named in honour of Sq Ldr Sarfaraz Ahmed Rafiqui, one of Pakistan's most decorated fighter pilots, famous for his exploits during the war of 1965.

### **PAF Base Bholari, Jamshoro**

- Newest Pak's air base, where Pak & China held major aerial exercise in 2020

Inaugurated as recently as December 2017, this is one of Pakistan's most modern main operational bases. It is home to squadrons of both the JF-17 Thunder and F-16 Fighting Falcon, as well as Saab 2000 AEWACs (airborne early warning and control aircraft) aircraft fitted with the Erieye radar system.

In 2020, the base hosted Exercise Shaheen IX, a major joint Pakistani-Chinese aerial exercise.

Radar sites and air defence units

- Pasrur, Sialkot district, Punjab
- Sialkot, Punjab
- Chunian, Kasur district, Punjab
- Lahore, Punjab
- Malir Cantt, Karachi, Sindh

India also struck at least three radar sites in Pakistan's Punjab province, close to the border with the Indian state of Punjab and the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, as well as two air defence units — one in Lahore and the other in Malir Cantonment, Karachi.

These were all likely a part of Pakistan's larger air defence system.

Relevance: GS Prelims & Mains Paper II; International Relations

Source: Indian Express

### 3. Why US & China have agreed to temporarily slash tariffs

#### Why in News?

After two days of high-level negotiations in Geneva, Switzerland, the United States and China announced a 90-day pause in their trade war, suspending the high tariffs and non-tariff barriers that the two countries had put in place recently.

#### What were the tariffs until now?

Since February 1, US President Donald Trump has imposed tariffs on China for a variety of reasons. The first lot of tariffs was for the sale of fentanyl, an opioid that is responsible for thousands of deaths due to overdose in the US. On April 2, which Trump designated as "Liberation Day", Washington imposed an additional 34% tariffs on China.

China responded with its own counter-tariffs, unlike most other countries. By April 10, the tariffs had reached a prohibitive level. The US had imposed 145% tariffs on China, and China had responded with 125% tariffs on US imports. At this 145% rate, the price of an \$100-worth imported Chinese good in the US would rise to an eye-watering \$245.

In addition to tariffs, China also imposed some non-tariff barriers on the US, such as export restrictions on rare earth minerals, and restrictions/investigations against multiple US companies.

#### What is the situation now?



After the truce, the base tariff rates have fallen to 10% for both countries. However, the US continues to levy a 20% tariff on account of fentanyl smuggling.

So effectively, consumers in the US now face a tariff of 30% on imports from China, and consumers in China face a tariff of 10% for imports from the US.

China has also suspended the non-tariff barriers it installed after April 2.

## THE TRADE WAR BETWEEN US & CHINA

**FEB 1:** Trump imposes 10% tariffs on China, 25% on Mexico and Canada, citing fentanyl crisis

**FEB 4:** As tariffs on China take effect, Beijing puts 15% tariffs on US coal, LNG; 10% on crude

**MAR 4:** Another 10% US tariffs; total now 20%. China responds with up to 15% on key US farm products

**APR 2:** On "Liberation Day" Trump announces 34% on all Chinese goods from April 9

**APR 4:** China announces its own 34% effective April 10, as well as controls on rare earths exports

**APR 7:** Trump threatens additional 50% tariffs if China doesn't back down

**APR 9-10:** The US levies 84% additional tariffs, bringing the total to 104%. China retaliates with 84% tariffs, effective April 10. Trump then raises it to 125%, totalling 145%.

**APR 11:** China raises tariffs to 125%, effective Apr 12, and declares no further hikes

**APR 13:** Trump exempts smartphones, computers and other electronics, subjecting them only to a 20% tariff

**MAY 6:** Talks in Geneva announced

### Why were tariffs placed in the first place?

Explaining the rationale behind the tariffs, the US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer yet again pointed to the \$1.2 trillion trade deficit on goods that the US had with the rest of the world. This essentially means that US consumers import goods worth \$1.2 trillion more than what the consumers in the rest of the world import from the US.

The Trump administration sees a trade deficit negatively, saying it is proof of the fact that the rest of the world is "ripping off" the US. That is because, as Greer argues, while the US opens its markets to the rest of the world, other countries protect their companies, and subsidise them to take over the US market.

Greer said the trade deficit had ballooned more than 40% since the end of President Trump's first term in 2020. He also underscored that merely talking and requesting other countries to open their markets had not helped over the decades, and that imposing high tariffs was the most logical way forward.

### Why has there been a truce?

Tariffs are not the solution to trade imbalances. Put simply, they are counterproductive, and hurt the domestic economy's consumers while protecting its producers. But since the hurt on consumers is spread over a large number of individuals and the benefit of protection is concentrated over a small number of producers, it can appear that tariffs help.

Unsurprisingly, the US economy started wilting under the price pressure of tariffs because all imports started getting costlier. There was a genuine risk that if this truce had not been announced, the shelves in retailers such as Walmart would have soon become empty.

The US economy contracted in the first quarter of 2025, before the full effects of the highest tariffs would have even been registered. After the April 2 announcement, the consensus view among economists was that the US was set to face recession — that is, two consecutive quarters when the overall GDP declines in absolute terms. Worse, with tariffs raising the price level, the odds of the US facing a stagflation — economic stagnation coupled with high inflation — were becoming higher.

### **So, which country won the tariff war?**

There are no winners in a tariff war. However, currently, it appears that China has managed to get the better of the US.

For instance, even though China's exports to the US fell by 21% in April, its overall exports grew by 8%. According to an Axis Bank analysis, China's trade surplus grew by \$96 billion in April. In the quarter where the US contracted, China's GDP exceeded expectations by growing by 5.4%.

Also, at 10% baseline tariffs, China now faces the same rate that the United States' traditional allies, such as the United Kingdom and Australia, face. These are the rare countries which had a trade deficit with the US, and still got charged with a 10% tariff rate.

The 20% tariffs on fentanyl are likely to go away, given the fact that both Greer and US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent spoke positively about China's engagement on the issue.

### **What's next?**

The immediate reaction from all market parameters is positive, but that should be seen as a huge sigh of relief. Investors can see that the worst possible outcome — a trade embargo between the world's two largest economies — is behind them.

Stock markets have risen, and so has the US dollar and the price of oil — all pointing to better economic prospects — while prices of assets (gold and government bonds) that are considered safe havens have fallen.

However, the fact is that this is not a "deal". It is just a truce to start talks. As there is no clarity on who called first for talks in Geneva, the actual negotiations could be quite thorny and tense.

Relevance: GS Prelims & Mains Paper II; Bilateral Relations

Source: Indian Express

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