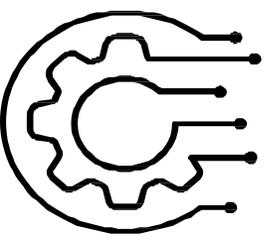




# Commodity of the Month

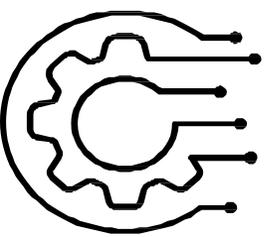
Global Perspective | Strategic Outlook

March 2026 Edition

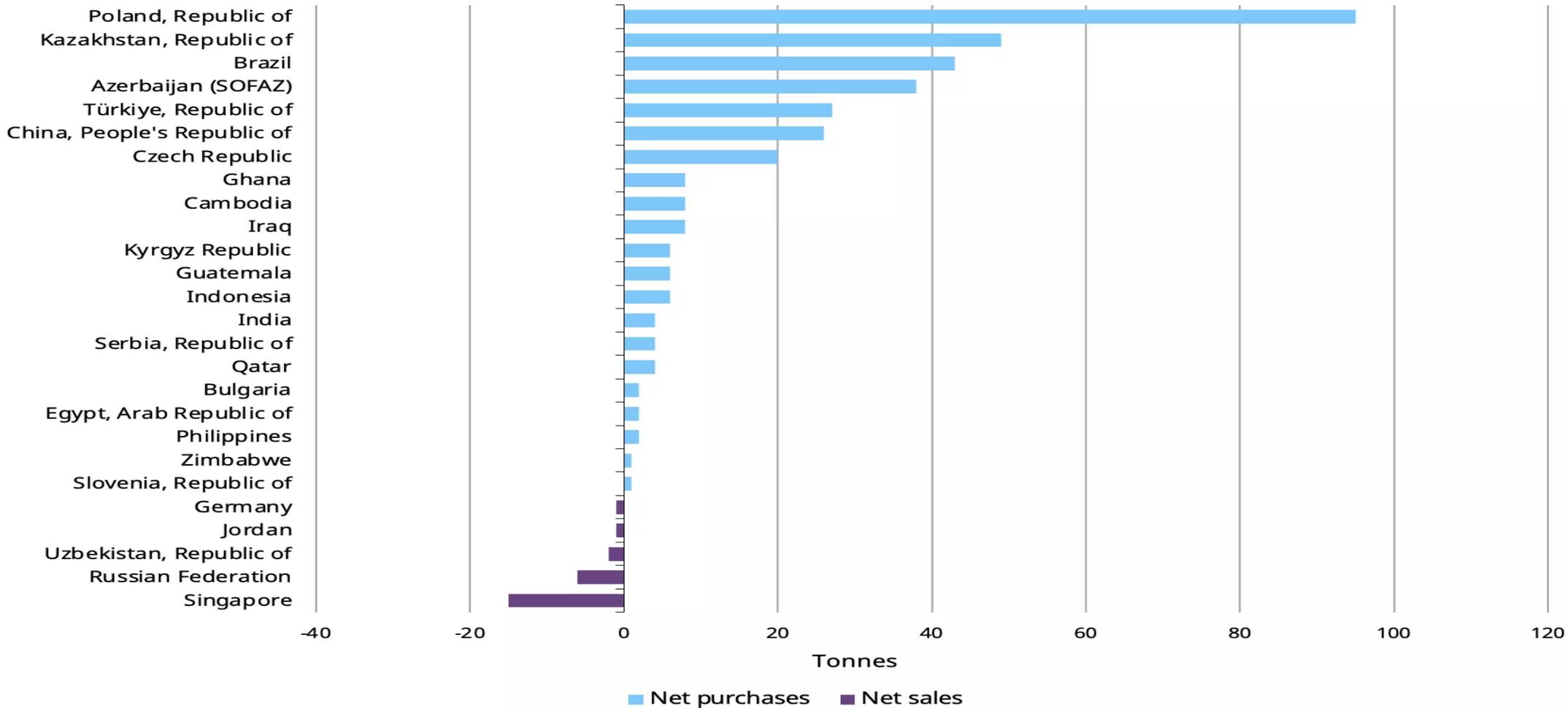


# Macroeconomic Indicators

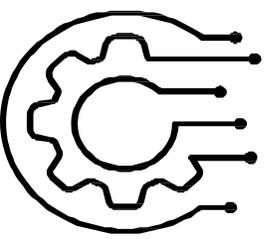
| Economic Indicator                    | Release Date              | Actual      | Forecast | Previous           |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------|----------|--------------------|
| U.S. Consumer Price Index (CPI) YoY   | Feb 13, 2026              | 2.4%        | 2.5%     | 2.7%               |
| USA core PCE price index y/y          | Jan 31, 2026              | 3.0%        | 2.9%     | 2.8%               |
| USA FED FUND RATE                     | Jan 29, 2026 (FOMC)       | 3.50–3.75%  | Hold     | 3.50–3.75%         |
| USA PAYROLL DATA m/m                  | Feb 11, 2026              | +130K       | ~+70K    | +48K               |
| U.S. ADP Nonfarm Employment Change    | Feb 4, 2026               | +22K        | +48K     | +37K               |
| U.S. Gross Domestic Product (GDP) QoQ | Feb 20, 2026 (Advance)    | +1.4%       | ~2.0%    | +4.4% (Q3)         |
| US UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS weekly         | Feb 27, 2026              | 212,000     | 225,000  | 208,000            |
| US MANUFACTURING PMI m/m              | Mar 2, 2026               | 52.4        | 52.6     | 52.6               |
| IMF GLOBAL GROWTH FORECAST            | Jan 19, 2026 (WEO Update) | 3.3% (2026) | —        | 3.1% (Oct'25 est.) |
| China Manufacturing PMI               | Mar 1, 2026               | 49.1*       | 49.1     | 49.3               |



# Central Bank Net Purchases And Sales



- Data to 30 November 2025, where available.
- Source: IMF, respective central banks, World Gold Council



# FUNDAMENTAL OVERVIEW



## 01 Russia – Ukraine: Peace Talks & Ongoing War [BULLISH FOR GOLD]

### ❖ **US-Brokered Talks End Without Breakthrough – Territorial Impasse Remains** (FEB 18–19, 2026 – GENEVA TALKS )

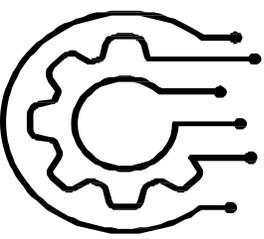
- ❑ Three rounds of US-Ukraine-Russia talks held in the UAE and Switzerland yielded no ceasefire agreement. Talks broke down primarily on the territorial question – Russia demands full legal recognition of the Donbas (Donetsk & Luhansk), which Ukraine categorically refuses. US envoy Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner mediated but acknowledged 'difficult' progress. Only limited military de-escalation language was agreed.

### ❖ **Russia Fires 420 Drones & 39 Missiles on Ukraine; Signals Walk-Away From Talks** (FEB 24–28, 2026 – 4TH ANNIVERSARY OF INVASION)

- ❑ On the 4th anniversary of the invasion (Feb 24), Russia launched one of its largest single-day aerial attacks – 420 drones and 39 missiles hitting energy infrastructure and civilian targets across 8 regions. Bloomberg reported Russia would likely exit negotiations if Kyiv refuses territorial concessions. Trump's 'energy strike pause' agreement with Putin lasted only days before Russia resumed large-scale attacks.

### ❖ **35-Nation 'Coalition of the Willing' Pledges Post-War Security for Ukraine** (JAN–FEB 2026 – COALITION BUILDING)

- ❑ France and the UK led a 35-nation commitment to establish military hubs in Ukraine after any ceasefire. The US agreed to act as a security 'backstop' via a drone/satellite monitoring mechanism. Ukraine's Zelenskyy stated '90% of a potential peace deal has been agreed' but the territorial gap remains unbridgeable in the near term. No ceasefire is imminent.



# FUNDAMENTAL OVERVIEW



## 02 US–Israel–Iran: Historic Military Strikes — The Defining Event [EXTREME BULLISH — GOLD +\$200]

### ❖ US & Israel Launch Coordinated Strikes on Iran — Supreme Leader Khamenei Killed (FEB 28, 2026 — THE DEFINING EVENT OF 2026)

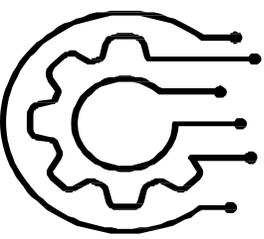
❑ In what analysts call the most dramatic geopolitical event since 9/11, the US (Operation Epic Fury) and Israel (Operation Roaring Lion) launched coordinated military strikes on Iran on February 28, 2026, killing Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei. Targets included key officials, IRGC commanders, nuclear facilities (Natanz, Fordow), and regime leadership. Trump had spent weeks building up the largest US military presence in the Middle East since the 2003 Iraq War. He had presented Iran three core demands: end uranium enrichment, limit ballistic missiles, and halt proxy funding of Hamas, Hezbollah, and Houthis.

### ❖ Gold Surges Past \$5,300 — Largest Single-Day Gain in Modern History (FEB 28 – MAR 3, 2026 — GOLD MARKET SHOCK )

❑ Spot gold jumped from approximately \$5,100 to over \$5,300 in a single session on Feb 28 — one of the largest single-day gains in gold market history. By March 2, spot gold traded at \$5,384 with an intraday high of \$5,418. Indian gold prices surged Rs.3,160 per 10g in one day to Rs.1.64 lakh. J.P. Morgan and Bank of America reiterated targets of \$6,000+, with JPM forecasting \$6,300/oz by year-end 2026. TD Securities noted the conflict gives gold speculators who had trimmed positions 'an opportunity to re-engage.'

### ❖ Iran Retaliates; Hezbollah Fires; Strait of Hormuz Under Threat (MAR 1–3, 2026 — ESCALATION CONTINUES)

❑ Iran launched retaliatory strikes on US assets in the UAE region. Hezbollah fired missiles at Israel on March 2 despite a prior ceasefire. The US Navy destroyed multiple Iranian naval vessels, limiting Iran's ability to blockade the Strait of Hormuz — through which approximately 20% of global petroleum flows. Iran's Foreign Ministry acknowledged 'loss of control over several military units.' Oil prices surged sharply, raising global inflation expectations and further boosting gold demand.

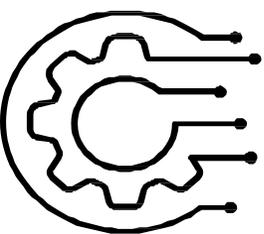


# FUNDAMENTAL OVERVIEW



## 03 Trade War: US–China–India – Tariff Chaos & Partial Truce [MIXED – UNCERTAINTY PERSISTS]

- ❖ **SCOTUS Strikes Down IEEPA Tariffs 6-3 – Trump Immediately Imposes 15% Global Tariff** (FEB 20, 2026 – SUPREME COURT RULING)
  - ❑ The US Supreme Court ruled 6-3 that the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA) does not authorize tariffs, invalidating Trump's primary tariff vehicle. Within hours, Trump signed a new order under Section 122 of the 1974 Trade Act, initially at 10% then raised to 15% – the maximum allowed under that statute. Section 122 tariffs can only last 150 days without Congressional extension. The Tax Foundation estimates these tariffs amount to an average \$1,500 annual tax increase per US household in 2026.
- ❖ **Trump-Modi Announce Trade Deal: US Tariff on India Cut to 18% from 25%** (FEB 2, 2026 – US-INDIA DEAL)
  - ❑ Trump and Modi announced a bilateral trade deal reducing US tariffs on Indian goods to 18% – below Vietnam (20%) and far below China (30-35%). The deal requires India to commit to \$500 billion in US product purchases and reduce dependency on Russian oil. India's gems and jewellery, textiles, and pharmaceutical sectors are the key beneficiaries. A stronger rupee and improved manufacturing sentiment in India is positive for physical gold demand, as India is the world's second-largest gold consumer.
- ❖ **US-China Trade Tensions Continue – April Trump-Xi Summit on the Horizon** (FEB–MAR 2026 – US-CHINA STATUS)
  - ❑ Chinese goods still face effective tariffs of 30-35% (Section 301) plus any applicable new Section 122 rate. A USTR investigation into China's Phase One compliance is active. Beijing has issued warnings regarding the US-India alignment, framing it as a containment strategy. An April 2026 Trump-Xi summit is widely speculated as the next major pivot point – a trade breakthrough would reduce uncertainty premium in gold.



# FUNDAMENTAL OVERVIEW



## 04 Federal Reserve Rate Outlook — On Hold, But Dovish Pressure Building [MILDLY BULLISH]

### ❖ Fed Holds at 3.50–3.75%; Two Dissenters Wanted Immediate Cut (JAN 28–29, 2026 — FOMC MEETING)

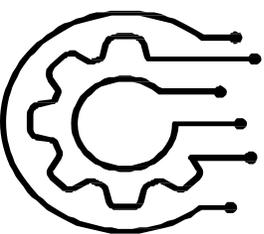
- ❑ The FOMC voted 10-2 to hold rates at 3.50-3.75% — its third consecutive hold. Governors Stephen Miran and Christopher Waller dissented, preferring a 25bp cut. Chair Powell stated it was 'hard to look at the data and say that policy is significantly restrictive right now.' The Fed has cut a total of 175 basis points since September 2024. The next FOMC meeting is March 17-18, 2026 — market consensus assigns very low probability to a March cut.

### ❖ Trump Nominates Kevin Warsh as Next Fed Chair — Takes Over May 2026 (JAN 30, 2026 — MAJOR STRUCTURAL CHANGE)

- ❑ Trump nominated Kevin Warsh to replace Jerome Powell when his term expires in May 2026. Warsh, a former Fed governor and ex-Morgan Stanley banker, is known for favouring lower rates and potentially streamlining forward guidance (removing the 'dot plot'). Analysts at iShares expect 1-2 rate cuts in H2 2026 once Warsh is confirmed. Moody's Mark Zandi forecasts 3 cuts by mid-2026 driven by labour market softening. Goldman Sachs expects cuts in March and June; JPM sees on-hold through H1 2026.

### ❖ CPI 2.4% YoY, Core PCE 3.0% — Stagflation Risk Emerging (JAN–FEB 2026 — KEY INFLATION DATA)

- ❑ US CPI YoY fell to 2.4% in February (below 2.5% forecast) — a mild positive. However, Core PCE remains at 3.0% YoY, well above the 2% target. PPI rose 0.5% MoM in January — the highest since July 2023. With Iran war oil shock risks now active, inflation expectations may re-anchor upward, constraining near-term rate cuts. US GDP advance estimate came in at just +1.4% annualised for Q4 2025 — creating a stagflationary backdrop that is historically gold's most favourable environment.



# FUNDAMENTAL OVERVIEW



## 05 IMF Global Growth Forecast 2026 — Resilient but Fragile [NEUTRAL — DOWNSIDE RISKS RISING]

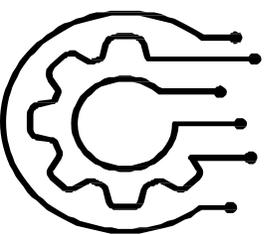
### ❖ IMF Forecasts 3.3% Global Growth for 2026 — Slight Upward Revision (JAN 19, 2026 — IMF WEO UPDATE)

❑ The IMF's January 2026 World Economic Outlook Update forecasts global real GDP growth of 3.3% for 2026 (up 0.2 percentage points from October 2025's 3.1% estimate) and 3.2% for 2027. Key drivers include AI and technology investment cycles, fiscal stimulus programs, and still-accommodative financial conditions. The US is forecast to grow 2.4% in 2026, boosted by tax cuts and recovery from the prior government shutdown. The IMF explicitly flagged escalating geopolitical tensions as a key downside risk — which has now materialised with the Iran war.

### ❖ Iran War Clouds Growth Outlook — Oil Shock Could Shave 0.5–1% from Global GDP (FEB–MAR 2026 — POST-IRAN REASSESSMENT)

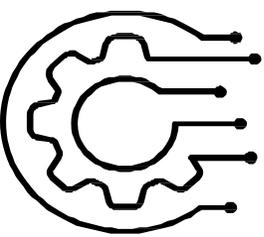
❑ The IMF forecast was published before the February 28 US-Israel-Iran strikes. Economists now warn that sustained oil supply disruptions through the Strait of Hormuz could downgrade global GDP by 0.5-1.0 percentage points. China's growth is independently projected to slow to 4.4% due to property market weakness and demographic headwinds. India remains the bright spot at 6.5% growth — boosted by the US-India trade deal and robust tech investment.

| Economy          | 2026 GDP Forecast | vs Oct '25          | Gold Relevance                                     |
|------------------|-------------------|---------------------|--|
| World            | 3.3%              | +0.2pp              | Below 3.7% historical avg — moderate risk          |
| United States    | 2.4%              | +0.3pp              | Fiscal support; Iran inflation risk elevated       |
| China            | 4.4%              | Structural slowdown | PBoC central bank gold buying likely to continue   |
| India            | 6.5%              | Stable              | US-India deal supports rupee; gold demand positive |
| Euro Area        | 1.3%              | Unchanged           | Weak growth; defense spending only medium-term     |
| Emerging Markets | >4.0%             | Steady              | Central bank gold buying trend continues           |



# Key Risks to Watch

| Risk Factor   | Direction         | Impact if Triggered   |
|---|-------------------|---|
| Iran War Escalation<br>(Strait of Hormuz Blockade)              | ↑ <b>Upside</b>   | 20% of global oil supply disrupted; oil >\$120/bbl; inflation surge → gold tests \$6,000–\$6,300      |
| Iran Conflict Containment<br>(Quick Ceasefire / Resolution)     | ↓ <b>Downside</b> | Risk premium rapidly unwinds; gold corrects \$200–\$300/oz back toward \$5,100–\$5,200                |
| Fed Inflation Shock<br>(Oil-Driven CPI >3.5%)                   | ↑ <b>Mixed/Up</b> | Stagflation scenario: Fed pauses cuts; real yields fall; gold supported at \$5,400–\$5,800            |
| Russia-Ukraine Sudden<br>Peace Deal                             | ↓ <b>Downside</b> | Safe-haven unwind; geopolitical risk premium compresses \$100–\$150/oz; gold falls to \$5,200–\$5,300 |
| US-China April Trade Truce<br>(Trump-Xi Summit Breakthrough)    | ↓ <b>Downside</b> | Uncertainty premium compresses; USD strengthens; gold faces headwind of \$100–\$200/oz                |
| USD Surge<br>(DXY >110, BoJ Hikes Faster)                       | ↓ <b>Downside</b> | Strong dollar caps gold appreciation; limits upside to \$5,200–\$5,400 range near term                |
| Central Bank Buying Pause<br>(EM Reserve Diversification Slows) | ↓ <b>Downside</b> | Structural demand floor weakens; gold tests \$5,100–\$5,200 support without CB bid                    |

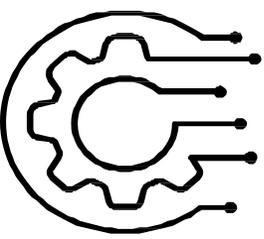


# GOLD

| MCX GOLD |               |          |
|----------|---------------|----------|
| MONTHS   | OPEN INTEREST | VOLUME   |
| November | 2.36 k        | 212.5 k  |
| December | 15.72 k       | 258.13 k |
| January  | 3.21 k        | 251.84 k |
| February | 8.32 k        | 158.25 k |

| COMEX GOLD |               |        |
|------------|---------------|--------|
| MONTHS     | OPEN INTEREST | VOLUME |
| November   | 315.21 k      | 4.45 m |
| December   | 327.67 k      | 4.48 m |
| January    | 299.86 k      | 5.83 m |
| February   | 276.74 m      | 3.11 m |



# GOLD TECHNICALS

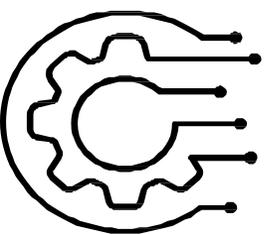


## ❖ Technical Overview

- ❑ On the weekly timeframe, COMEX Gold continues to trade within a well-defined primary uptrend, forming a consistent pattern of higher highs and higher lows. Price is comfortably positioned above the 20, 50, 100, and 200-week moving averages — all of which remain positively sloped — confirming broad-based medium-to-long-term strength. The RSI (14-week) is gradually cooling from overbought territory but remains above the 70 zone, suggesting healthy consolidation within a structural bull market rather than any meaningful reversal signal. The weekly MACD continues to hold a positive crossover with the histogram maintaining readings above zero, keeping bullish momentum firmly intact.
- ❑ From a broader perspective, MCX Gold has recovered strongly following a period of profit-booking and has carved out a well-formed bullish triangle continuation pattern on the daily chart — a classic volatility compression setup that typically precedes the next directional move. On the weekly chart, prices have delivered a decisive breakout following two weeks of tight consolidation, confirming renewed buying conviction. The monthly candle has closed above the prior month's high with strong buying momentum, providing longer-timeframe confirmation that the structural uptrend is intact and accelerating into the months ahead.
- ❑ MCX Gold has key support placed at ₹1,50,000 and resistance at ₹1,80,000. Pullbacks toward the support zone are likely to attract fresh institutional and positional buying interest. A sustained weekly close above the ₹1,80,000 resistance level would open the door to a fresh leg higher and reinforce the broader bullish case.

## ❖ Gold Buy Recommendation (MCX – Positional Call)

- ❑ Overall trend is positive, but a short-term correction toward **₹1,50,000** is anticipated and presents a strategic buying opportunity if prices sustain above this level. **₹1,47,000** may act as a crucial stop-loss on a closing basis. We are expecting an upside target of **₹1,80,000** over the coming weeks.



# DISCLAIMAR



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