



● POLITY

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## Gaza truce approved by Israel Security Cabinet

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS



**CONTEXT:** Israel's security Cabinet recommended approving a ceasefire deal after Prime Minister Netanyahu confirmed an agreement to pause the 15-month war with Hamas in Gaza and secure the release of hostages held by militants.

Mediators from Qatar and the U.S. announced a ceasefire agreement, but its implementation was delayed as Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu cited last-minute issues he attributed to Hamas. Despite Hamas affirming its commitment to the deal, tensions persisted. The agreement is awaiting approval from Israel's full Cabinet of Ministers, which is expected to endorse it. However, resistance from Netanyahu's far-right

coalition partners could jeopardize the stability of his government. The ceasefire could begin as early as Sunday.

### Oct. 7 attack

The conflict began with Hamas's October 7, 2023, attack on Israel, which killed 1,200 people and took 250 hostages. Israel's retaliatory offensive has resulted in over 46,000 Palestinian deaths, with women and children comprising more than half of the casualties. The war has destabilized West Asia and triggered global protests.

Ahead of the anticipated ceasefire, Israeli strikes killed 72 people in Gaza. Under the ceasefire deal, 33 hostages in Gaza are to be released over six weeks in exchange for hundreds of Palestinians imprisoned by Israel. Israeli forces will withdraw from several areas, allowing displaced Palestinians to return home, and humanitarian aid will increase. A second phase, involving the release of remaining hostages, including soldiers, will be negotiated later. Prime Minister Netanyahu has initiated preparations for receiving returning hostages.

### Call for full withdrawal

Hamas has stated it will not release the remaining captives without a permanent ceasefire and a complete Israeli withdrawal. In contrast, Israel has pledged to continue its military operations until Hamas is dismantled and to maintain indefinite security control over the territory.

## Govt. plans to make India hub for mobility sector: PM

POLITY &amp; GOVERNANCE



**CONTEXT:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi, at the Bharat Mobility Global Expo 2025 inauguration, urged the automobile industry to "make in India, make for the world," highlighting Asia and India as the future of global mobility.

The Prime Minister highlighted government initiatives to position India as a leader in the mobility sector. Key investments include ₹11 lakh crore for infrastructure, the PM Gati Shakti programme for multi-modal connectivity, and the National Logistics Policy to reduce logistics costs. Efforts to advance electric mobility and reduce fossil fuel dependency include the National Electric Mobility Mission, the Green Hydrogen Mission, and ₹18,000 crore in production-linked

incentives for advanced battery storage. Focus areas include EVs, hydrogen fuel, biofuels, and solar power development. Expo highlights

Maruti Suzuki unveiled its first battery electric vehicle, the E Vitara, at a five-day expo. Production will begin in Gujarat in a few months, with sales expected by late 2025. The SUV, offering a 500 km range for the 61 kWh battery variant, will also be exported to over 100 countries, including Japan and Europe, positioning India as a global EV manufacturing hub. The company plans to establish robust support infrastructure, including smart home chargers, fast-charging stations in the top 100 cities, and 1,500 EV-enabled service workshops across 1,000 cities. Maruti aims to become India's largest EV manufacturer by 2025, with an initial production capacity of one lakh units annually.

Hyundai launched its first mass-market electric SUV in India, the Hyundai Creta Electric, starting at ₹17.99 lakh, with two battery options offering ranges of 473 km and 390 km. Tata Motors, while not unveiling new passenger EVs, showcased new commercial vehicles, including the Prima H.28, an H2 ICE truck with a 550 km range under the hydrogen pilot program, the Ultra E9 truck, and the Intercity EV 2.0 bus for long-distance travel.

## Threats in Gulf of Aden and Red Sea could increase, says Defence Minister

### INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS



**CONTEXT:** Defence Minister Rajnath Singh emphasized the Indian Navy's efforts to enhance its presence and ensure the safety of sea routes citing the rise in threats in the Gulf of Aden, Red Sea, and waters near East African countries.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh emphasized India's economic prosperity is tied to maritime security, highlighting the need to safeguard territorial waters, ensure navigation freedom, and secure vital sea routes. He noted the Indian Navy's increased presence in the Indian Ocean Region amid reduced activity by other major naval powers and warned of rising threats in regions like the Gulf of Aden and the Red Sea. Singh praised naval civilians as "soldiers without uniforms" for their crucial

behind-the-scenes role in strengthening military operations. Navy Chief Admiral Dinesh K. Tripathi acknowledged their vital contributions in technical, administrative, and logistical support. The event, marking 2024 as the 'Year of Naval Civilians,' included a photo and painting exhibition showcasing their talents and workplace contributions.

## 'Social media firms largely compliant with rulings'

### POLITY & GOVERNANCE

**CONTEXT:** Social media companies are working smoothly with the Grievance Appellate Committees (GACs) that hear appeals against content complaints and takedowns, offering little resistance to GAC rulings.

The Grievance Appellate Committees (GACs), established under the Information Technology Rules, 2021, handle appeals from Indian users against social media companies with over 500,000 active users. The committees can decide whether content should be removed or reinstated. Meta, Google, and X have largely complied with GAC orders, with Meta reporting full compliance with 271 orders between June and December 2024. Google also complied with all but one appeal, citing legal constraints. X has not disclosed its compliance statistics. Since October 2023, the GACs have processed 2,454 appeals, disposing of 2,347.

Ashutosh Shukla, a retired IPS officer and member of the second Grievance Appellate Committee (GAC), noted that social media companies generally comply with GAC orders. Union Secretary for Electronics and Information Technology, S. Krishnan, praised the GACs for working smoothly to address user complaints. The number of appeals has been rising, keeping committee members busy. Common complaints include impersonation and hacking. The GAC has the authority to

overturn account suspensions, but Shukla stated that this power is rarely used, as suspensions are usually justified. Users must first file complaints with social media companies before approaching the GAC.

## At least 126 Indians joined Russian forces; 12 killed, 16 feared missing, says MEA

### INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

**CONTEXT:** The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) confirmed awareness of at least 126 Indians who joined the Russian Army to fight in the Ukraine war, indicating that their numbers continue to grow despite efforts to prevent their recruitment.

Of the 126 Indian men reported to the Indian Embassy in Moscow, 96 have returned to India. Twelve have been killed in the conflict, including one from Kerala, and one is receiving treatment for injuries in Moscow. Sixteen are still "missing" and cannot be traced, with Russian authorities categorizing them as such. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) is working with Russian officials to locate the missing individuals and ensure the repatriation of those still in the region. The MEA is also coordinating the return of the remains of Binil Babu, a 32-year-old from Kerala who died from drone attack injuries, and the repatriation of his cousin, Jain Kurian, who is recovering in a hospital.

The government's acknowledgment of 12 Indian deaths suggests there may have been additional casualties in recent months, despite ongoing diplomatic efforts, including two meetings between Prime Minister Modi and Russian President Putin, to address the issue. In August, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar reported that out of 91 Indians recruited, eight had been killed, and India was working to secure the return of 69 others. By December, the MEA updated that 19 Indians remained in the Russian armed forces.

#### In touch with families

The news that 16 Indians are classified as "missing" by Russian forces is causing concern among their families in states like Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Kerala, and Jammu and Kashmir. Many of the recruits, who had been promised high salaries and Russian citizenship, claimed they were lured into joining the Russian military and are now unable to leave. The Indian government has been in contact with the families and compiled the data based on individuals who reached out to the MEA or the Embassy in Moscow. It remains unclear how many others may be in the conflict zone without seeking repatriation. The figure of 126 likely represents the total number of recruits, a story first reported by The Hindu in February 2024.

## Research questions 'iron deficiency' as key cause of anaemia in India

### SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

**CONTEXT:** A recent study suggests that iron deficiency may no longer be the primary cause of anaemia in India, with factors like Vitamin B12 deficiency and air pollution also contributing. The study also highlights that the method of blood collection for anaemia testing in public health programs can significantly impact the accuracy of anaemia estimates.

Anaemia is often linked to iron deficiency, leading to public health initiatives like iron supplementation. However, the latest National Family Health Survey (NFHS) data from 2019-2021 shows anaemia has worsened despite such interventions. A study funded by the Department of Biotechnology found that 34.9 % of 4,500 people tested were anaemic, with only 9 % having iron-deficiency anaemia. The majority, 22 %, had anaemia from "unknown" causes, which could be due to deficiencies in other nutrients, hemoglobinopathies, undetected blood loss, poor hygiene, or factors like air pollution. A study involving scientists and doctors from institutions like St. John's Medical College, Bengaluru, and others found that anaemia prevalence in women aged 15-49 dropped to 41.1 %, compared to 60.8 % in the NFHS-5. For adolescent girls (15-19 years), the prevalence dropped to 44.3 % from 62.6 %. The lower anaemia rates in this study compared to the NFHS could be attributed to differences in blood collection methods, as the NFHS used capillary blood (from a pinprick), while the study used venous blood draws.

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# India's real growth rate and the forecast

## INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

**CONTEXT:** The First Advance Estimates (FAE) for 2024-25 show a real GDP growth of 6.4 % and a nominal GDP growth of 9.7 %. These figures are lower than the Reserve Bank of India's revised growth estimates of 6.6 % for real GDP and 10.5 % for nominal GDP, as stated in the December 2024 monetary policy and the 2024-25 Union Budget presented in July 2024.

The annual growth rate of 6.4 % in 2024-25 reflects an improvement, with 6 % growth in the first half and 6.7 % in the second, indicating better performance compared to Q2 growth of 5.4%. The drop in annual GDP growth from 8.2 % in 2023-24 to 6.4 % in 2024-25 is sharper than the decline in Gross Value Added (GVA), which fell from 7.2 % to 6.4 %. The manufacturing sector experienced the most significant decline in GVA growth, dropping from 9.9 % to 5.3 %.

### Growth prospects for 2025-26

The Gross Fixed Capital Formation rate has stabilized around 33.4% between 2021-22 and 2024-25 and is expected to remain at this level in 2025-26. With an Incremental Capital Output Ratio (ICOR) of 5.1, a 6.5 % real GDP growth for 2025-26 seems realistic. Despite global uncertainty, including potential impacts from Donald Trump's presidency, India will likely rely on domestic demand for growth.

The Government of India must maintain its investment expenditure, as the slower growth in 2024-25 is partly due to a negative investment growth rate of (-) 12.3 % so far. With nominal GDP growth projected at 9.7 %, lower than the budgeted 10.5 %, the budgeted Gross Tax Revenue (GTR) of ₹ 38.4 lakh crore may not be fully achieved if the budgeted buoyancy of 1.03 holds. However, GTR growth of 10.7% in the first eight months suggests a potential realised buoyancy of 1.1, minimizing the tax revenue shortfall. This would allow the government to meet its capital expenditure target of ₹ 11.1 lakh crore without significant fiscal strain.

### Reason for the dip

As of the first eight months of 2024-25, the Government of India's capital expenditure has reached ₹5.14 lakh crore, or 46.2% of the budget target. While spending may accelerate in the remaining months, it is likely to fall short of the target, contributing to slower real GDP growth. For 2025-26, the government must aim for at least 20% growth in capital expenditure based on revised estimates for 2024-25. Sustained and well-designed government capital expenditures can positively impact private investment, promoting overall economic growth.

### Medium- to long-term growth prospects

India's potential real GDP growth rate over the next five years is estimated at 6.5 %, aligning with the IMF's projection for 2025-26 to 2029-30. With an implicit price deflator (IPD) inflation of 4 %, nominal GDP growth could range between 10.5 % and 11 %. In favourable global conditions, real GDP growth might reach 7 %. Sustaining 6.5 % growth and 10.5 %-11 % nominal growth, along with a 2.5 % annual exchange rate depreciation, could enable India to achieve developed country status within 25 years. However, maintaining this growth rate will be challenging due to an increasing base, requiring higher growth in the early years.

The 6.4 % growth estimated for 2024-25 is consistent with India's potential growth rate and should not be seen as disappointing. Conversely, the 8.2 % growth in 2023-24 was an outlier. Current growth reflects the realistic potential of the Indian economy.



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# Inflation matrix

## ECONOMICS & DEVELOPMENT

In December, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation eased to a four-month low, driven mainly by a reduction in food prices. Food inflation moderated from over 9 % in November to 8.4 %, though inflation in vegetables remained high at 26.6 %. Despite this, overall inflation remained at 5.7 %, with food prices up over 9.5 % year-on-year. While some food prices, like vegetables, are expected to cool, others, including edible oils, eggs, meat, and fruits, saw rising inflation. Additionally, wholesale price inflation has increased, indicating that higher costs may be passed on to consumers for both food and manufactured goods.

The government and industry are pushing for the RBI to cut interest rates to boost consumption and address weakening growth, despite volatile food inflation. However, industry leaders acknowledge that excluding food prices from the growth-inflation balancing act will not be enough. Even if food's weight in the CPI is reduced, food price trends still impact household spending and inflation expectations. While inflation may average 4.5 % in the coming months, the RBI is focused on achieving its 4 % target before cutting rates. The Budget and fiscal policy may influence the timing of rate cuts. However, recent currency depreciation and rising global oil prices complicate the decision, requiring a cautious approach.

# The multiple layers of the Gaza ceasefire

## INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

**CONTEXT:** Israel and Hamas announced a ceasefire agreement on January 15, 2025, just before the inauguration of U.S. President-elect Donald Trump. The deal, mediated by Qatar, is set to take effect on January 19, 2025, and focuses on the exchange of Israeli hostages and Palestinian prisoners.

### The deck and the cards

Following the announcement of the ceasefire agreement, Palestinians in Gaza celebrated after enduring significant destruction due to Israel's military response to the October 7, 2023 attack. Hamas expressed that it acted with responsibility to protect the people of Gaza and end the violence. Meanwhile, both former President Trump and President Biden were reportedly involved in securing the deal, each seeking to claim credit for it—Trump as a demonstration of renewed American strength, and Biden as an effort to salvage his legacy.

Despite initial perceptions that Trump would allow Netanyahu to continue military operations in Gaza, the Israeli leadership agreed to the deal with Hamas, possibly as a message of partnership to Trump. Netanyahu's decision to court Trump, even after being invited to address Congress in 2024, is seen as prioritizing personal relations over policy. By agreeing to the deal, Netanyahu secures a political settlement with Hamas, which contrasts with his longstanding stance of only accepting a complete victory over the group. This move may come at significant political costs for Netanyahu.

### On Hamas and Israel

Hamas and Hezbollah have lost significant capabilities due to Israeli operations, but Hamas has also replenished its militant ranks. Despite the ceasefire, there has been no political restructuring that could integrate Hamas into a broader Palestinian political framework. Hamas remains steadfast in its ideology against Israel's security, and both sides oppose the two-state solution. If Hamas resumes attacks, Netanyahu could leverage the situation to gain support from Trump, who has previously vowed severe consequences if Israeli hostages are not released.

### Gaza and its rebuilding

The critical outcome of the ceasefire deal should be humanitarian aid to Gaza, addressing severe food and medical shortages. However, rebuilding Gaza may be premature without a restructured Palestinian political system. Arab powers have an opportunity to influence the revitalization of the Palestinian Authority. The international community must support the deal's sustainability, as it impacts regional prosperity, geo-economic projects like the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor, and diplomatic efforts like the Abraham Accords and potential Saudi-Israeli normalization. Regional powers will ultimately shape the future outcomes of the situation.

## 'To fix economy, boost consumption'

### ECONOMICS & DEVELOPMENT

**CONTEXT:** Reserve Bank of India (RBI) noted private capex is yet to show any visible signs of pick-up while government capex has slipped diminishing revival of the animal spirits amid India's tripping economic growth is to boost consumption.

RBI officials, including former Deputy Governor Michael D. Patra, highlighted investment and manufacturing as key challenges to growth, suggesting that stimulating consumer demand and investment could spur economic revival. Despite a 5.22 % inflation rate in December, food inflation remains high, with some products seeing double-digit price increases. The report warned about the impact of high food inflation on disposable incomes, especially in urban areas, and emphasized the importance of monitoring second-order effects. It also noted the growth of e-commerce and quick commerce as a positive for consumption, while cautioning that global economic uncertainty and uneven disinflation may limit monetary policy flexibility.

## TechM kicks off Chennai AI-savvy production hub

### SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

**CONTEXT:** Tech Mahindra has inaugurated an advanced manufacturing experience centre at its Sholinganallur campus in Chennai. The centre was opened by Anand Mahindra, Chairman of Mahindra Group, and Mohit Joshi, CEO and MD of Tech Mahindra.

#### Drive AI innovations

Tech Mahindra has launched a new facility designed to help manufacturer's prototype and scale AI-driven solutions to address challenges like high costs, inefficiencies, and supply chain disruptions. The centre will allow businesses to test and validate solutions in a low-risk environment, accelerating development cycles and improving operations. It will also support smart and sustainable manufacturing by showcasing next-gen technologies. The centre features six hubs focusing on automotive, aerospace, industrial, process, construction, metals, mining, and smart factory services.

## NBM 2.0 aims to expand fiber to 2.7 lakh villages by 2030

### POLITY & GOVERNANCE

**CONTEXT:** The Department of Telecommunications on Friday launched the vision document for the National Broadband Mission (NBM) 2.0, a follow-up to the previous NBM released in December 2019.

Jyotiraditya Scindia, Union Minister for Communications highlighted that the growth of broadband subscriptions is key to launching NBM 2.0. The new mission aims to expand fiber connectivity to 2.7 lakh villages by 2030, improve internet speeds, and enhance telecom infrastructure. It also targets connecting 90 % of key institutions like schools and health centers via fiber, and increasing rural broadband subscriptions from 45 % to 60 %.

## CBIC has to reassess Baggage Rules' gold limits: Delhi HC

### POLITY & GOVERNANCE

**CONTEXT:** The Delhi High Court urged the CBIC to review the gold value limits under the Baggage Rules for travellers returning to India, stating that the current limits do not align with the prevailing market value of gold.

A Delhi High Court Bench observed that small quantities of jewellery are often seized by Customs when passengers use the green channel meant for non-dutiable goods. The court highlighted the need to review the Baggage Rules, noting that the current value cap of ₹ 1,00,000 for 40 grams of gold under Rule 5 is outdated given the current market rates.

#### Imposes fine

The High Court heard a petition by Qamar Jahan, whose gold jewellery was confiscated by Customs upon her return from Dubai. She was fined ₹75,000 and penalized ₹1,10,000 under the Customs Act. After her appeal was dismissed by the Commissioner of Customs, she approached the High Court.

During the hearing, the court sought clarification on rules regarding jewellery confiscation from travellers. Customs officials explained that under the Baggage Rules, 2016, jewellery is not considered "personal effects." Duty-free allowances

permit men to carry up to 20 grams of jewellery worth ₹50,000, and women up to 40 grams worth ₹1,00,000, provided they have resided abroad for over a year. Gold exceeding these limits, including bullion, is classified as a prohibited article unless declared by the traveller as per Rule 5 of the Baggage Rules.

The court discussed the Customs department's handling of jewellery declarations under the Baggage Rules, noting a lack of clarity for travellers regarding declaration requirements. While travellers declaring excess jewellery must give an undertaking and may avoid paying duty if they intend to take it back, the court observed this information is not adequately communicated to travellers.

Customs officials highlighted frequent cases of gold smuggling by travellers, but the court emphasized the need to distinguish between smugglers and genuine travellers, including OCI cardholders and PIOs attending social events in India with jewellery exceeding permissible limits. It called for a review of the Baggage Rules by the CBIC and urged the Government of India to take policy measures to prevent harassment of legitimate travellers while effectively curbing gold smuggling.

## Foreign flows into India bonds to fall short on rupee slump, U.S. yield tide

### ECONOMICS & DEVELOPMENT

**CONTEXT:** Foreign inflows into Indian government bonds, expected over the next two-and-a-half months, are likely to fall short due to the rupee hitting lifetime lows and U.S. treasury yields reaching multi-month highs.

Market estimates had projected inflows of \$ 6 - 8 billion into emerging market debt by the end of March, coinciding with the bonds' weightage increase in JPMorgan's index. However, due to pressure on the rupee, rising U.S. yields, and the Federal Reserve's hawkish stance, Morgan Stanley expects the inflows to be lower. Since November, inflows under the Fully Accessible Route (FAR) have slowed significantly, with only ₹ 2,700 crore (\$323 million) received, compared to ₹ 42,000 crore in the previous three months. U.S. yields have risen, driven by expectations that Donald Trump's policies will increase inflation, making rate cuts less likely.

## China's population declines for third consecutive year, straining economy

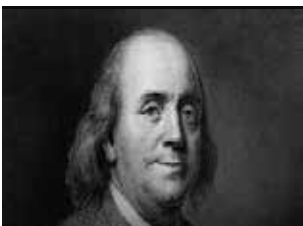
### INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

**CONTEXT:** China's population declined for the third consecutive year, highlighting ongoing demographic challenges, including an aging population and a shortage of working-age individuals.

China's population stood at 1.408 billion at the end of 2024, a decline of 1.39 million from the previous year. China, along with Japan, South Korea, and other East Asian countries, is experiencing a declining birth rate due to rising living costs, leading young people to delay or avoid marriage and childbirth in favour of higher education and careers. While life expectancy is increasing, it isn't enough to offset the decline in births.

#### Lopsided sex ratio

China faces significant demographic challenges, including a low birth-rate, a skewed sex ratio with millions more boys than girls, and an aging population. The country's population declined in 2023 for the first time in decades, and India surpassed China as the world's most populous nation. These issues, compounded by limited immigration and a declining workforce, are placing increasing strain on China's economy and social stability.



*"If you invest more in your education, then you are likely to get more interest in it."*

*—Benjamin Franklin*

## Russia, Iran sign treaty to deepen ties in the face of Western curbs

### INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS



**CONTEXT:** Russian President Vladimir Putin and his Iranian counterpart, Masoud Pezeshkian, signed a broad cooperation pact on Friday as their countries deepened their partnership in the face of stinging Western sanctions.

Russian and Iranian officials signed a comprehensive strategic partnership treaty covering trade, military cooperation, science, education, and culture. Putin hailed the deal as a breakthrough for regional stability and economic development. Both countries aim to overcome technical obstacles to projects like Russian natural gas shipments to Iran and building transport corridors to Iranian ports. Despite challenges, the treaty is expected to boost cooperation. The signing occurred ahead of Trump's inauguration, although Kremlin officials downplayed any connection. Iranian officials emphasized the treaty's

importance for future cooperation.

The Iranian President emphasized that regional countries should resolve their own issues without external interference, specifically criticizing the U.S. presence in the region. He suggested that foreign involvement only causes chaos and instability. Russia and Iran's ties have strengthened since 2022, following Russia's invasion of Ukraine, with accusations that Iran provided drones to Russia, which both nations have denied. Iran joined the BRICS bloc in 2023, and its relations with Russia, once troubled, have grown closer since the Soviet Union's collapse, with Russia becoming a key trade partner for Iran amid international sanctions.

Russia has been a key partner for Iran, building its first nuclear plant in 2013 and currently constructing two more reactors. Russia was involved in the 2015 nuclear deal with Iran and supported Iran after the U.S. withdrew from the agreement. The two countries also collaborated to support Bashar al-Assad's regime in Syria, although Assad was recently overthrown. Iran increasingly relies on Russia amid economic challenges and setbacks in West Asia, with concerns that former President Trump's return to the White House could worsen Iran's situation through his "maximum pressure" policy.

## South Korea's impeached President faces arrest as investigations continue

### INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS



**CONTEXT:** Law enforcement authorities were seeking to formally arrest impeached South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol on Friday, as he spent his third day at a detention center after his lawyers' last-minute attempt to secure his release was unsuccessful.

Mr. Yoon, a conservative President, faces potential rebellion charges over his December 3 declaration of martial law, triggering the nation's worst political crisis since the 1980s. Apprehended during a large-scale law enforcement operation, he could face extended custody pending criminal charges and a Constitutional Court ruling on his dismissal or reinstatement.

After over 10 hours of questioning by the Corruption



Investigation Office for High-Ranking Officials, during which he remained silent, Mr. Yoon boycotted further questioning, calling the investigation illegal. His lawyers unsuccessfully petitioned the Seoul Central District Court to release him, extending his detention by nearly 11 hours. The anti-corruption agency is expected to request an arrest warrant from the Western District Court before the 48-hour detention limit expires.

### Another hearing

The court may hold a hearing on Saturday regarding the formal arrest of impeached South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol, who has been in detention for three days. If arrested, his detention could be extended for up to 20 days while investigators prepare the case for indictment. Yoon faces rebellion charges, which could lead to life imprisonment or the death penalty. His lawyers argue there is no need for detention, as he poses no flight risk, but investigators note his refusal to appear for questioning.

Yoon denies accusations that his martial law decree was an attempt at rebellion, claiming it was a temporary measure to warn the opposition. However, military commanders have testified that Yoon attempted to seize the legislature, which was thwarted by civilians and staff. Prosecutors allege Yoon ordered the military and police to arrest lawmakers trying to enter the Assembly and even considered using force to stop them, aligning with testimony from military commanders who resisted carrying out those orders.



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*Corporate office:*

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Sector 4, Rama Krishna Puram,  
New Delhi, Delhi-110022

*Regional office*

**Vedhik IAS Academy**  
202, Raheja Chambers, 12,  
Museum Road. Bangalore -  
560001. Karnataka, India.

*GCC Office:*

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Bobsco Trading & Contracting Co. W. L . L  
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Road: 2701, Adliya, Kingdom of Bahrain  
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