



### Three areas

Under the Oslo Accords, signed in the 1990s by the Israelis and Palestinians, the West Bank is divided into three areas.

Area A is run by the Palestinian Authority, B is under mixed Israeli and Palestinian jurisdiction, and C -- comprising 60 percent of the territory -- is totally under Israeli control.

The Israeli settlements and the Jordan Valley -- a swath of farmland accounting for nearly 30 percent of the West Bank, and home to some 10,000 settlers -- are mostly in area C.

They were at the centre of an annexation project that was officially put off in 2020 by Israel under international pressure, though far-right members of the current government have revived calls to extend Israeli sovereignty to the West Bank.

### Population and settlements

Situated between Israel and Jordan, the West Bank covers 5,655 square kilometres (2,183 square miles).

Not counting Israeli-annexed east Jerusalem, nearly three million Palestinians live there, along with around 500,000 Israelis residing in settlements that are considered illegal under international law.

The anti-settlement NGO Peace Now counted 147 settlements registered by the Israeli authorities in the West Bank as of the end of 2024.

There are another 224 outposts that were set up without official authorisation. These outposts are regularly evacuated and dismantled by the Israeli security services, though they are also often legalised retroactively.

A record 60 outposts were set up in the West Bank in 2024, almost twice as many as in 2023, according to Peace Now, which links the trend to the far-right presence in Israel's coalition government.

By comparison, between 1996 and early 2023, fewer than seven outposts were set up on average each year.

### Economic difficulties

The effects of the Gaza war have taken an economic toll on the West Bank, according to a joint report from the European Union, the United Nations and the World Bank in February.

Since October 7, 2023, Israel has limited Palestinians' access to its jobs market. Only around 27,000 Palestinians are now employed in Israel or in West Bank settlements, compared to 177,000 before the war, according to the report.

# India proposes law to sack ministers facing criminal charges

## Indian Home Minister Amit Shah introduced the bill

AFP | New Delhi, India

India's government introduced a bill yesterday to remove top politicians if they are arrested and detained for 30 days, which opponents called a "chilling" bid to crush

constitutional safeguards.

Indian Home Minister Amit Shah, who introduced the bill, said the government wanted the "value of ethics to increase".

The bill



would force politicians out of a ministerial post if they were detained for a month and accused of an offence that carries a jail term of five years or more.

India's Association of Democrat-

ic Reforms, an organisation working on electoral reform, calculated that almost half of the 543 elected national lawmakers had criminal cases against them.

Of those 215 cases, 170 faced serious charges -- including rape, murder, attempt to murder, and kidnapping.

"We cannot be so shameless that we face accusations and still remain in a constitutional position," Shah told parliament.

## New Delhi test-fires ballistic missile ahead of US tariff hike

New Delhi, India

India yesterday test-fired an intermediate-range ballistic missile capable of carrying multiple nuclear warheads, a government statement said, in an apparent show of strength ahead of a threatened US tariff increase.

The Agni-5 missile was successfully launched in India's east-

ern Odisha state, with authorities saying it "validated all operational and technical parameters."

The test-fire came a week before US tariffs are set to double from 25 percent to 50 percent, unless India meets

President Donald Trump's demand that it stop buying

Russian oil.

India last tested the Agni-5 missile in March 2024.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said this month that, in the face of US tariffs, India was seeking self-reliance with energy independence and the development of its own defence systems.

Agni, meaning "fire" in Sanskrit, is the name given to a series of rockets India developed as part of a guided missile development project launched in 1983.

The Agni-5 employs technology that enables it to carry several nuclear warheads, so they can split up and hit different targets.



### Thirst



This aerial view shows a traditional boat stranded in a dried-up marsh in the drought-stricken Chibayish marshes in Iraq's southern Dhi Qar province



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01



The climate crisis is not just an environmental emergency. It is a human rights catastrophe. We must confront and correct the deep injustices it has laid bare, by insisting on legal accountability, and demanding climate justice.

@antonioguterres

02



We have seen reporting which claims President @vonderleyen left the room temporarily during meetings with @POTUS and @ZelenskyyUA in DC on Monday. These reports are completely false. The President participated in all meetings, at all times, with the other European leaders.

@vonderleyen

03



Congratulations to the people of Assam! The establishment of an IIM in the state will enhance education infrastructure and draw students as well as researchers from all over India.

@narendramodi

04



The @IntlCrimCourt continues to disregard national sovereignty and facilitate lawfare through efforts to investigate, arrest, detain, and prosecute American and Israeli nationals. In response, I am sanctioning four additional ICC officials.

@SecRubio

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