

Madagascar

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Madagascar Latest News

An elite military unit that backed youth-led anti-government street protests recently said it had taken power in Madagascar after the national assembly voted to impeach President Andry Rajoelina.

About Madagascar

- It is an **island country of Africa**.
- It is located around 400 km off the coast of East Africa in the **Indian Ocean**, with the **nearest mainland African country being Mozambique**.
- It is **separated from the African coast by the Mozambique Channel**.
- It is the **second-largest island country** in the world. It covers an area of 592,800 sq.km.
- The **island country of Mauritius and Réunion (territory of France)**, lie to the **east** of Madagascar.
- **To the northwest** are the **French territory of Mayotte** and the **island country of Comoros**.
- The **Tsaratanana Massif region** at the northern end of the island is home to Madagascar's **highest point, Maromokotro**, at 2,876 m.

- **History:**
 - **France invaded the island in 1883.** France officially declared Madagascar a French colony in 1896.
 - **After World War II, in 1947,** locals fought for their independence from France in what became known as the **Malagasy Uprising.**
 - **In 1960, Madagascar finally became an independent nation.**
- **Capital: Antananarivo**
- **Languages: Malagasy, French**
- **Government:** It is a **semi-presidential republic.** The public elects a president, who in turn appoints a prime minister to put together a cabinet to advise the president.
- **Economy:**
 - **Eighty percent** of Madagascar's economy is fueled by **agricultural industries, including forestry and fishing.**
 - Among the island's most frequently sold agricultural products are **coffee, vanilla, and sugarcane.**
- **Biodiversity:**
 - Lush rainforests, dry deserts, and grassy plains cover the island, with coral reefs and mangrove forests stretching along its coastlines.
 - **Almost 90 percent of the plants and animals living on Madagascar aren't found anywhere else** in the world.
 - That's **because strong ocean currents have isolated the island** from the African continent, so the species living there haven't traveled beyond the island's borders.

Source: NDTV

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/madagascar/>

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