

Place in News - Madagascar

Context: Madagascar is currently experiencing a military coup and widespread protests led by Gen Z, following the president's retreat into hiding amid escalating unrest due to corruption and governance issues.

An elite military faction, known as CAPSAT, has taken control as the president's efforts to dissolve parliament have exacerbated the ongoing constitutional and political crisis.





About Madagascar:

- Madagascar is a sovereign island nation situated off the southeastern coast of Africa, recognized for its exceptional biodiversity and rich cultural heritage.
- **Capital:** The capital city is Antananarivo.
- **Border:** Despite being an island, Madagascar is located approximately 400 km east of Mozambique, separated by the Mozambique Channel, thus forming part of the southwestern Indian Ocean region.

History:

- **Colonial Past:** Madagascar was under French colonial rule until 1960, when it gained independence, marking the beginning of its republican governance.
- **Political Instability:** The period following independence has been characterized by recurrent political turmoil, military coups, and struggles for power.
- **2009 Power Seizure:** In 2009, Andry Rajoelina, who was then the mayor of Antananarivo, took control through a coup, which drew international condemnation.

Geological and Physical Features:

- **Three Major Zones:** Madagascar is divided into three parallel regions—the central high plateau, eastern coastal plains, and western low plateaus.



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- **Mountain Ranges:** Notable volcanic massifs include Ankaratra (8,671 ft) and Andringitra (8,720 ft), which serve as crucial watersheds.
- **River Systems:** Significant rivers such as the Mangoky, Onilahy, and Tsiribihina flow through fertile plains, facilitating agriculture and habitation.
- **Unique Ecosystems:** The island's geographical isolation has resulted in unique biodiversity, hosting endemic species that are not found anywhere else on the planet, earning it the designation of "the eighth continent."