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DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS
For UPSC/BPSC

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'States have unlimited right to tax mineral rich hands'

A nine judge constitution bench headed by Chief Justice of India (CJI) DY Chandrachud pronounced a 8:1 verdict on states power to tax on mining, and queries.

8:1 verdict holds that parliament through mines and minerals act cannot restrict states from legislating the taxation on the mining lands, queries. Any dilution will impact their ability to raise revenue. Verdict came on about 86 petitions filed by different state govt, mining firms and Public sector undertakings.

"Any dilution in the taxing power of the states will necessarily impact their ability to raise revenue, which in turn will impede their ability to deliver welfare schemes, and services to people."

The verdict noted how minerals rich states such as Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Odisha have per capita income below national average.

Centre was imposing restrictions under mines and minerals (Development and Regulation), Act 1957.

CJI said that state legislatures derive their power to tax mines and queries under Article 246 read with entry 49 of state list (tax on land and buildings).

Centre had argued that entry 50 of the state list gives power to the centre to impose restrictions on state taxing mines and minerals.

CJI clarified that entries 50 and 49 "deal with different subject matters and operate in different fields."

Jaishankar pushes for urgency in resolving standoff at LAC

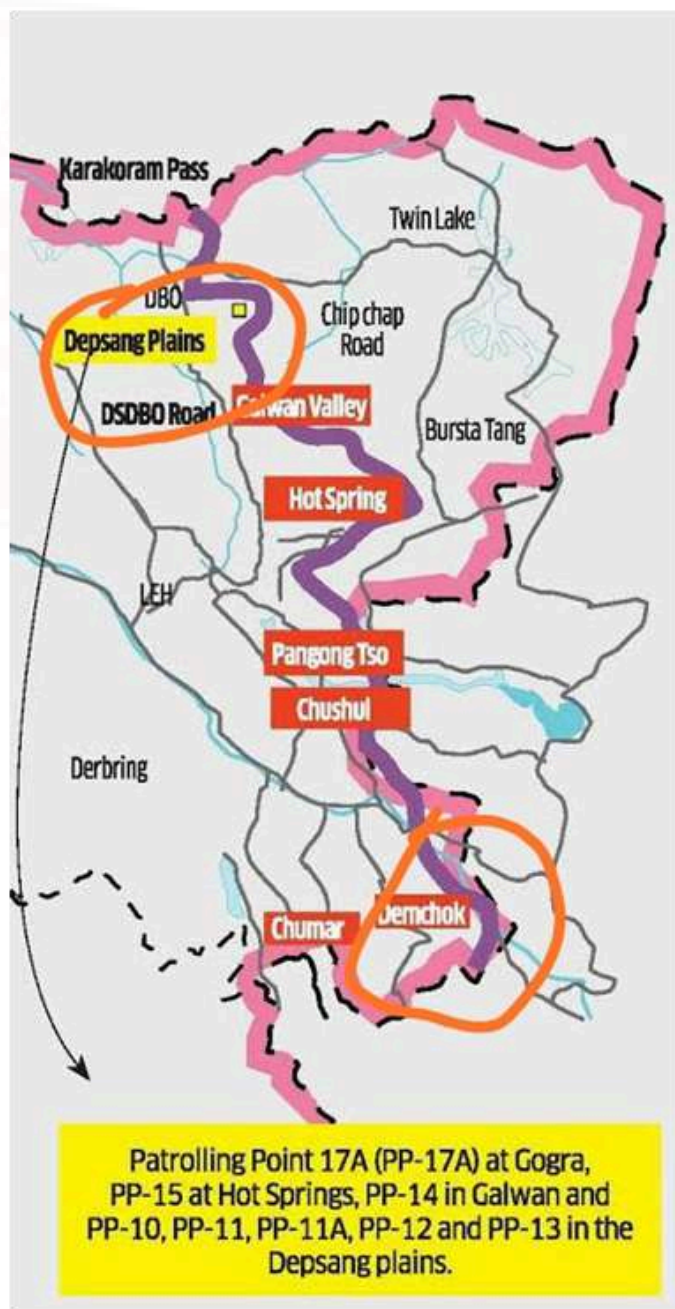
For the second time this month EAM S. Jaishankar held a bilateral meeting with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi.

EAM is currently in Vientiane, Laos for ASEAN related meetings, from there he will head to Tokyo for the QUAD summit.

In the meeting Mr Jaishankar stresses the significance of India and China as key economies of the world. Both ministers call for stronger guidance to officials to complete disengagement.

Last time the two leaders had met in Astana on the sidelines of the SCO meeting earlier this month.

Depasang and Demchok are the two regions where the two sides are still not disengaged.



India rejects US criticism of Modi's Russia visit

India reacted sharply to a statement by US congressmen over PM Modi's visit to Russia .

US under secretary of state for South and Central Asia Donald Lu , replying to a question in US Congress, had said that Washington was “ disappointed “ about “ symbolism and timing “ of PM Modi's visit .

Replying to a question over this ,Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Randhir Jaisawal said ,” In a multipolar world all countries have freedom of choice . It is essential for everybody to be mindful of and appreciate such realities “ .

On the question of appointment of external cooperation officers by the Kerala government . Mr Jaiswal cautioned that the state government should not intrude into the matter that is beyond their constitutional jurisdiction .

The Kerala government had on July 15 appointed a “ secretary in charge of matters concerning external cooperation “ .

External Affairs is a Union subject and responsibility comes to centre

Two halls of Rashtrapati Bhawan gets name reflecting Republican ethos

President Draupadi Murmu has renamed two important halls in Rashtrapati Bhawan , with Durbar hall now set to be called as “Gantantra Mandap “ . Ashok hall will be called “Ashok Mandap” .

Durbar hall is the venue of key ceremonies and celebrations such as the presentation of National awards .

Ashok hall was originally a ball room; it is currently used to present credentials by heads of states of foreign. countries . It is a formal place for the introduction of the visiting delegation and Indian delegation before the state banquet.



Darbar hall and Ashok hall

2 arrested for ‘ supporting ‘ terrorist in Kathua attack

Jammu and Kashmir police on Thursday claimed to have a breakthrough in Kathua terrorist attack .

Two residents who allegedly provided support to the terrorist of the Kathua attack have been arrested . Five soldiers had died in a terrorist ambush on July 8

Six dead as rain batters Maharashtra ; train,flight , services in mumbai hit



World : _____

In US Netanyahu calls for global alliance against Iran

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu addressed a joint session of the US Congress on Wednesday .He targeted Iran over all its vows in West Asia . He accused Iran of floating proxies such as Hamas , Houthis , Hezbollah . He said the protesters outside the Capitol hill building (US Congress premise) who were protesting against Israel were “ Iran’s useful idiots “ .

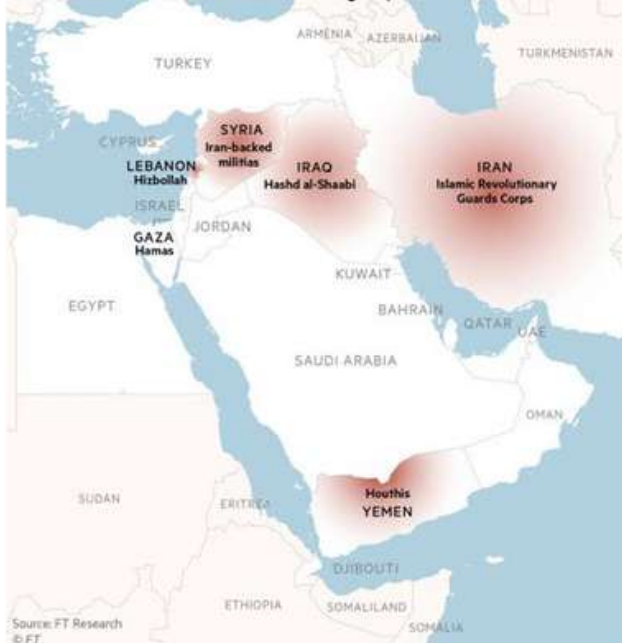
Mr Netanyahu called for a global alliance against Iran .“ America and Iran today can forge a security alliance in West Asia to counter the growing Iranian threat “

“ All countries who are in peace with Israel and all those who will make peace with Israel , should be invited to join this Alliance “ .

“ Our enemies are your enemies ,Our fight is your fight . And our victory will be your victory . “ Mr Netanyahu said, getting a standing ovation from the house .

This came as heavy protest was going on throughout America ,against Israeli operations in Gaza .

The network of Iranian-backed militant groups in the Middle East



It's time to pass torch to 'younger voices' , says Biden

Myanmar Junta , rebel group claim control of regional military headquarters

Myanmar’s Military Junta and an ethnic minority group in both claimed that they were in control of Lashio in Shan State .Lashio is the regional military headquarters in northern Shan State . The town has a population of about 1.5 lakh people .

Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MSDNAA) claimed to have “ fully captured the headquarters of North Eastern command of Lashio ” , the group said in its media report .

Junta spokesperson however said that the report was “ not true “ . Insurgents have infiltrated the outskirts of Lashio so have been following and clearing them . “





US warns of cyber op to steal state secrets

Britain, US and South Korea have warned countries against an espionage campaign by North Korea that would further its nuclear ambitions.

Law enforcement agencies said that a group called Andriel "has been compromising organisations around the world to steal sensitive and classified technical information and intellectual property data."

Andriel is a North Korean sponsored company

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Death toll from Ethiopia landslip hits 257 could reach 500, says UN

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