

## • Food Vulnerability Index: India Ranks 43rd In The World

Nomura's updated Food Vulnerability Index (NFVI) for 110 countries estimates a country's exposure to large food price surges, depending on nominal GDP per capita, the share of food in household consumption, and net food imports.

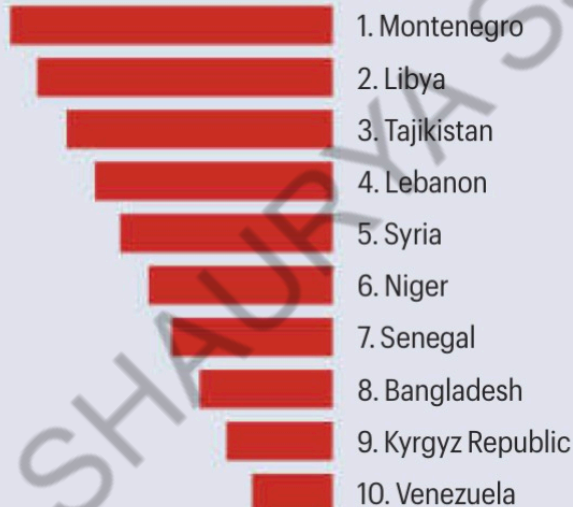


**48 OUT OF THE 50** economies MOST vulnerable to a food price surge are developing economies, with a total population of **4.7bn**



**28 OUT OF THE 50** economies LEAST vulnerable to a food price surge are advanced economies, with a total population of **1.1bn**

### TOP 10 MOST EXPOSED



### TOP 10 LEAST EXPOSED



# India to become major defence exporter in 25-30 years: Rajnath

Express News Service

Mumbai, May 23

DEFENCE MINISTER Rajnath Singh on Saturday said India has the potential to emerge as a major global exporter of defence equipment within the next 25 to 30 years, asserting that countries with strong indigenous defence capabilities “write their own destiny”.

Addressing a gathering at Shirdi in Maharashtra, Singh flagged off the first batch of the ‘Suryastra’ universal rocket launchers from Nibe Ltd’s upcoming facility for induction into the Indian Army. The roll-out marks partial fulfilment of a Rs 293-crore emergency procurement order awarded to the company in January.

“We are witnessing not one or two, but several milestones today,” Singh said, referring to the launch of a modern artillery shell manufacturing facility with an annual capacity of five lakh shells, the foundation stone laying for a missile complex linked to the Universal Rocket Launching System, and the signing of a contract with the US-based BlackSky.

“As we have experienced, the country that manufactures its own weapons is the one that shapes its own destiny,” he said, adding that foreign firms were increasingly seeking partnerships and technology transfer agreements with Indian firms.

Highlighting the transformation in the defence sector, Singh

said the country had earlier depended heavily on imports for military equipment. “Gone are the days when India was known only for manufacturing nuts and bolts. Today, we are moving rapidly towards indigenous production of advanced weapon systems that strengthen the armed forces,” he said.

The minister said private-sector participation has increased to 25-30 per cent in defence manufacturing, and is expected to rise to nearly 50 per cent in the coming years.

“The visit to this (missile) complex has reassured me of India’s capabilities,” he added.

Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, also at the event, said that Maharashtra was poised to become a leading hub for defence manufacturing in the country. “The Defence Minister has approved a defence corridor for Maharashtra. We already have defence hubs in Nashik, Pune, Ahilyanagar and Nagpur,” Fadnavis said.

Earlier in the day, Singh inaugurated Nibe Group’s Rs 3,000-crore defence manufacturing complex in Shirdi. Among others present were CDS General Anil Chauhan, DRDO Chairman Samir V Kamat and Nibe Group CMD Ganesh Nibe. According to the company, the ‘Suryastra’ system — developed using technology from Elbit Systems and in-house research and development — underwent firing trials on May 18 and 19 at the integrated test range.

# Ayushman Bharat scheme to start in Bengal from July 1

**Shrabana Chatterjee**

KOLKATA

West Bengal Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari on Saturday held a meeting with Union Health Minister J. P. Nadda, and announced that the Centre's Ayushman Bharat scheme would be rolled out in the State from July 1.

This is the first time West Bengal will be part of the scheme, launched in 2018, after a long impasse between the previous State government and the Centre over the implementation of Centrally sponsored schemes.

Mr. Nadda and Mr. Adhikari held a virtual meeting over a video call and discussed the State's health infrastructure, immunisation, maternal and child health initiatives, and other important healthcare issues.

"Under the National Health Mission, a total resource envelope of ₹3505.59 crore for FY 2026-27 was conveyed to the State, out of which, the first mother sanction of ₹527.58 crore has been released to the State today [Saturday]," an official statement from the Health Ministry said.

The State Chief Secretary, Chief Adviser to the Chief Minister, Health Secretary, and other State officials also joined the hour-long meeting.

**This is the first time that West Bengal will be a part of the Central scheme that was launched in 2018**

This is the first time Mr. Adhikari and the Union Minister have met after the Bharatiya Janata Party government assumed office in the State.

"In the health sector, the previous government did not cooperate with the Union government. Rather, they opposed it. This resulted in crores of people in Bengal being deprived of all benefits under the Central-State schemes, unlike other States," Mr. Adhikari said at Nabanna (State Secretariat) after the meeting.

## **Cards and meds**

The Chief Minister further added that work on enrollment for Ayushman Bharat cards has already started, and benefits under the scheme would be available from July 1. He also said that the nearly six crore people using the previous Trinamool Congress government's Swastha Saathi health insurance cards would be shifted to the Ayushman Bharat scheme. Medicines for critical and chronic illnesses would be made available at 50%-80% discounts under the Amrit pharmacy scheme.

# Petrol and diesel prices hiked third time in 8 days

Rising crude oil prices and disruptions in energy supplies due to the West Asia conflict continue to push up prices; Kolkata records a steeper hike, while petrol in Delhi nears the ₹100-a-litre mark

**Saptaparno Ghosh**

NEW DELHI

**P**rices of petrol and diesel were raised for the third time in eight days on Saturday, this time by an average of 90 paise per litre across all variants.

The price of compressed natural gas (CNG) in several parts of North India also rose for the third time within the same interval, this time by ₹1 a kg.

Since the first round of hikes on May 15, the prices of diesel and petrol have cumulatively increased by approximately ₹4.8 per litre each in three tranches across the country.

CNG prices have also risen cumulatively by ₹4 a kg in several cities of North India during the same period.

With the latest hike, the

## Fuel on the boil

The price of petrol and diesel in four metros after the latest hike

PETROL	
Delhi	99.51 (+0.87)
Kolkata	110.64 (+0.94)
Mumbai	108.49 (+0.90)
Chennai	105.31 (+0.82)

DIESEL	
Delhi	92.49 (+0.91)
Kolkata	97.02 (+0.95)
Mumbai	95.02 (+0.94)
Chennai	96.98 (+0.87)



An employee points to the revised petrol price at a Bharat Petroleum outlet in Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh on Saturday. G.N.RAO

price of petrol in Delhi rose by 87 paise to ₹99.51 per litre, and that of diesel by 91 paise to ₹92.49 per litre. CNG in the National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi is now priced at ₹81.09 per kg.

The hikes follow increased pressure on oil marketing companies

(OMCs) due to rising crude oil prices, as energy supplies continue to be disrupted because of the conflict in West Asia.

India's crude oil basket averaged \$107.96 per barrel in May until Friday.

Further, the benchmark Brent crude futures (July) settled about 0.69% higher

at \$104.25 for every barrel on Friday.

On Saturday, Kolkata woke up to a comparatively steeper hike compared to other metros.

The price of petrol in Kolkata rose by 94 paise to ₹110.64 per litre, while diesel became 95 paise more expensive at ₹97.02 per litre.

In Mumbai, petrol prices increased by 90 paise to ₹108.49 per litre, while diesel rose by 94 paise to ₹95.02 per litre.

Prices of petrol in Chennai rose by 82 paise to ₹105.31 per litre, while diesel became 87 paise costlier at ₹96.98 per litre.

The hike also extended to premium and high-octane variants of diesel and petrol across metros.

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# Big, poor States to get higher funds under govt.'s new rural jobs scheme

The new law, VB-G RAM G, replacing the 20-year-old MGNREGA, is set to come into effect from July 1; draft rules open for feedback till June 21; part of allocation from second year of Act's implementation to be based on 'performance criteria'

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

**L**arger, poorer States are set to get higher funding under the Centre's new rural jobs scheme, with draft rules for the Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (VB-G RAM G) proposing to use the 16th Finance Commission's horizontal devolution formula to determine Central allocations. From next year, an unknown percentage of funding will also be allocated on the basis of how well States have implemented the scheme.

These are among the proposals laid out in a gamut of draft rules notified over the last two days for the VB-G RAM G law, which is set to come into effect from July 1, replacing the 20-year-old Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Em-

## The new guarantee

The draft rules spell out the 'objective parameters' for the new law, which is set to come into effect from July 1

Allocation to States will now be determined by fixed "normative" criteria, a shift away from MGNREGA's demand-based approach

Unlike MGNREGA's 100% Centre-funded wage system, VB-G RAM G introduces shared wage responsibility between the Centre and the States

State funding will be based on the 16th Finance Commission indicators

A National Level Steering Committee and Central Gramin Rozgar Guarantee Council will guide allocations, monitoring, and implementation



### Employment Guarantee Act.

Apart from the allocation formula, the rules address provisions for grievance redressal mechanisms, institutional and administrative frameworks, and transitional provisions to govern the switchover from the UPA-era MGNREGA Act.

One of the key features

of the VB-G RAM G legislation passed by Parliament was that it shifts away from MGNREGA's demand-based approach, which was meant to stretch the scheme's budget to match demand on the ground.

Further, while the Centre footed 100% of the wage bill under MGNRE-

GA, the VB-G RAM G has divided this expenditure between Centre and States at 60:40 ratio for most States.

Objections and suggestions to the draft rules from stakeholders, experts, and the general public are open till June 21.

### 'Objective parameters'

Spelling out the "objective parameters" for normative allocation to States under the new law, the Centre said that each fiscal year's allocation would be based on the "objective parameters used for horizontal devolution among States as recommended by the 16th Finance Commission".

This devolution formula is based on different metrics, including the 2011 Census population, demographic performance, forests, area, per capita Gross State Domestic Product Distance, and contribution

to Gross Domestic Product. The maximum weightage is given to the GSDP Distance (42.5%), which measures how far a State's per capita GSDP falls short of the wealthiest States, effectively prioritising poorer States. The next highest weightage is given to population (17.5%), while all other metrics carry a 10% weightage each.

However, the draft rules added that a part of the normative allocation from the second year of the Act's implementation will be based on "performance criteria".

This includes the "time-ly payment of wages", "compliance with social audit requirements", "percentage of completion of works", and "any other performance-related indicators" that the Centre chooses to notify.

# Delhi plays a key role in Indo-Pacific policy of the U.S., says Rubio



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio during a meeting, in New Delhi, on Saturday. PTI

## **The Hindu Bureau**

NEW DELHI

India plays an important role in the U.S. Indo-Pacific policy, U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio, who met and invited Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Washington later this year, said on Saturday.

Mr. Rubio, who began his four-day trip to India on Saturday morning, will hold bilateral talks with External Affairs Minister S.

Jaishankar on Sunday and attend the Quad Foreign Ministers' Meeting (FMM) along with Ministers from Australia and Japan on Tuesday. One of his missions in India was to "renew" the Quad engagement, Mr. Rubio said, crediting Mr. Modi and U.S. President Donald Trump as drivers of the India-U.S. engagement.

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# 'Delhi plays a key role in U.S. Indo-Pacific policy'

The two leaders are expected to meet in June when they travel to Evian in France for the G-7 summit, where India is one of the countries invited to an outreach summit.

"Secretary Rubio briefed PM Modi on the sustained progress in bilateral cooperation across a wide range of sectors, including defence, strategic technologies, trade and investment, energy security, connectivity, education and people-to-people ties," a statement by the Press Information Bureau said.

U.S. State Department spokesperson Tommy Pigott added that Mr. Rubio, U.S.'s top diplomat, had extended an invitation on behalf of Mr. Trump to the Prime Minister to visit the White House and had discussed the conflict with Iran.

"The Secretary emphasised that the U.S. will not let Iran hold the global energy market hostage and affirmed that U.S. energy products have the potential to diversify India's energy supply," he said.

## Quad Foreign Ministers' Meeting

The PIB statement said Mr. Modi had stated India's "consistent support for peace efforts" and "reiterated the call for peaceful resolution of the conflicts through dialogue and diplomacy".

This is the third time the Quad Foreign Ministers will meet since Mr. Trump returned to power, as they met in January and July 2025.

However, they have not so far been able to schedule a date for the Quad Summit, due to be held in India for the past two years, partly due to the strain in ties between both countries over American tariffs, sanctions, and visa restrictions, as well as Washington's claims of having mediated the India-Pakistan ceasefire in 2025, which New Delhi has denied.

The Quad FMM in India was important "as a tangible sign of what an important role India plays for the United States and [its] posture and approach to the Indo-Pacific", Mr. Rubio said, speaking at an event at the U.S. Embassy's premises to inaugurate a new 'Support Annexe Building'.

The Support Annexe building will contain several consular and visa section offices, Mr. Rubio said, announcing that the U.S. would shortly begin a priority visa service for Indians.

# Rubio visits Missionaries of Charity; Opposition raises FCRA amendment

Trinamool Congress MP calls it 'sheer hypocrisy' for the Centre to showcase the Missionaries of Charity to an international visitor, while proposing a Bill barring Christian bodies from receiving foreign aid and enabling seizure of Church assets

**Shiv Sahay Singh**  
KOLKATA

U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio began his maiden four-day visit to India on Saturday by visiting Mother House, the headquarters of Saint Teresa's Missionaries of Charity, in central Kolkata.

After about an hour at Mother House, where he was welcomed by the sisters of the Missionaries of Charity, Mr. Rubio visited Nirmala Sishu Bhawan, an orphanage run by the same group.

His visit assumes significance particularly in the wake of concerns that a proposed Bill to amend the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA) would restrict the ability of Christian organisations in India, including the Missionaries of Charity, to receive foreign funds and would make them vulnerable to the seizure of their assets.

Days before the visit, U.S. Congressman Chris Smith had urged the Secretary of State to push the Indian government to withdraw these amendments, referring to the temporary suspension of the Missionaries of Charity's FCRA licence in 2022 as an illustration of the risk.

"Under these amendments, all of the order's assets could have been seized outright and perma-



**Tributes to Mother:** U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio and his wife, Jeanette D. Rubio, pay homage to Mother Teresa at Missionaries of Charity in Kolkata on Saturday. U.S. envoy Sergio Gor is seen. ANI

nently lost, though the licence was eventually restored," Mr. Smith wrote in an Op-Ed in the *Washington Examiner*.

## Ambitious agenda

Mr. Rubio landed around 6.50 a.m. and he was welcomed by U.S. Ambassador Sergio Gor at the airport.

"Honored to welcome my friend @SecRubio to India! We have an ambitious agenda ahead, including the Quad Foreign Ministers Meeting, focused on advancing @POTUS' vision for an even stronger U.S.-India partnership. Looking forward to great conversations and making real progress together!" Ambassador Gor posted on

social media. Later in the day, the U.S. Secretary of State was set to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Delhi.

Mr. Rubio's visit triggered a war of words between the BJP and the Trinamool Congress over the FCRA status of the Missionaries of Charity and the impact of the proposed Bill.

## 'Sheer hypocrisy'

Trinamool Congress MP Sagarika Ghose said that Mr. Rubio's visit to Mother House was a salute to the Catholic group's "exemplary globally renowned humanitarian service", even as she decried the "sheer hypocrisy" of the Narendra Modi govern-

ment at the Centre.

"An anti-Christian government which through new proposed FCRA Bill had barred Missionaries of Charity from receiving foreign aid and is enabling seizure of Church assets, thus destroying the ability of Christian institutions to do the humanitarian, massive educational and healthcare providing service they are known for, yet now showcasing our revered Mother Teresa's organisation for the international visitor," she said in a post on X.

BJP leader Amit Malviya dismissed Ms. Ghose's claims about the group's FCRA status as "blatant falsehood", though he did

not respond to her allegations about the proposed FCRA amendments and their impact.

## 'Distortion of facts'

"This is a deliberate and malicious attempt to spread disinformation, malign the Government of India, and mislead people through a complete distortion of facts," Mr. Malviya said.

He insisted that the Missionaries of Charity is registered under the Act and continues to hold an active FCRA registration.

"The validity of the FCRA registration is till 31-12-2026. No application concerning its FCRA status is pending as on date," he said.

"He [Secretary Rubio] wanted blessings at the Mother's Tomb. So, we prayed together and that's about it, nothing else happened. It was just a family get-together," a representative of Missionaries of Charity told presspersons.

## Historic visit

The last time the city hosted a U.S. Secretary of State was in May 2012 when Hillary Clinton had visited Kolkata and met the then-Chief Minister, Mamata Banerjee.

Mr. Rubio visited Victoria Memorial in Kolkata, with security stepped up at both locations for the high-profile visit.

# Green Card seekers must apply from home countries: U.S. govt.

The policy reverses a long-standing practice that allowed many non-immigrants to complete green card processing while remaining in the United States; USCIS frames the change as a return to 'the original intent of the law' and closing a 'loophole'

**Associated Press**  
WASHINGTON

Foreigners in the U.S. who want a green card will need to leave and apply in their home country, the Trump administration announced on Friday, in a surprise change to a longstanding policy that sowed confusion and concern among aid groups, immigration lawyers and immigrants.

For over half a century, foreign nationals with legal status have been able to apply for and complete the entire process for permanent residence in the United States – including individuals married to U.S. citizens, holders of work



The Trump govt. says non-immigrants should not use a temporary visit as the first step toward permanent residence. ISTOCKPHOTO

and student visas, and refugees and political asylum seekers, among others.

The announcement from U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services said foreigners who are in the U.S. temporarily and who

want to apply to become lawful permanent residents, or green card holders, have to return home and apply there, except in "extraordinary circumstances". USCIS officers would decide whether ap-

plicants meet those.

"Non-immigrants, like students, temporary workers, or people on tourist visas, come to the U.S. for a short time and for a specific purpose. Our system is designed for them to leave when their visit is over. Their visit should not function as the first step in the Green Card process," the agency said in a statement.

"The goal of this policy is very explicit. Senior officials in this administration have said over and over that they want fewer people to get permanent residency because permanent residency is a path to citizenship and they want to block that path for as many people as possible," said

Doug Rand, a former senior adviser at USCIS during the Biden administration.

USCIS did not say when the change would come into effect, whether individuals would be required to remain in another country throughout the entire process, or whether the policy impacts foreigners whose green card applications are already under way.

The changes come on top of steps the administration has already taken to restrict and limit entry for people from dozens of countries.

USCIS described the change as a return to "the original intent of the law" and closing a "loophole".

ETS PEZESHKIAN AND ARAGHCHI; TEHRAN CLAIMS ITS ARMED FORCES HAVE REBUILT CAPABILITIES

# US, Iran claim progress in talks; Trump will speak to Gulf leaders

## An MoU is being fine-tuned: Pak security official

Reuters  
Washington, Dubai, May 23

IRAN, THE US and mediator Pakistan all said on Saturday that progress had been made in talks on ending almost three months of war. Iran said it was focused on finalising a memorandum of understanding after its top officials met Asim Munir, the army chief of Pakistan.

President Donald Trump said on Saturday that negotiators for the US and Iran were "getting a lot closer" to finalising an agreement to end the war, according to an interview with CBS News.

He said a final agreement would prevent Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon and would ensure that Iran's enriched uranium would be "satisfactorily handled," according to CBS. "I will only sign a deal where we get everything we want," Trump was quoted as saying.

The Pakistani army said the negotiations had resulted in "encouraging" progress towards a final understanding.

"An MoU is being fine-

tuned," said a Pakistani security official who was briefed on Munir's visit.

Sources have told Reuters the proposed framework would unfold in three stages: formally ending the war, resolving the crisis in the Strait of Hormuz and launching a 30-day window for negotiations on a broader agreement, which can be extended.

President Trump said he would discuss the latest Iran draft agreement with advisers and might make a decision on Sunday on whether to resume attacks on Iran, Axios reported, citing an interview with Trump.

"Either we reach a good deal or I'll blow them to a thousand hells," Axios quoted him as saying. Trump, whose ratings have been hit by the war's impact on energy prices for US consumers, said on Friday he would not attend his son's wedding this weekend, citing Iran among the reasons he planned to stay in Washington.

An Arab official told Reuters Trump would hold a phone call on Saturday with leaders from Saudi Arabia, Qatar, the UAE, Egypt, Turkey and Pakistan.

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio repeated Trump's demands: "Iran can never have a nuclear weapon. The straits need to be open without tolls. They need to turn over their en-



Iran Parliament Speaker Mohammad Ghalibaf (right) with Pakistan army chief Asim Munir in Tehran on Saturday. AP

riched uranium."

Iran denies it is pursuing nuclear weapons and says it has a right to enrich uranium for civilian purposes. It has demanded supervision of the strait, an end to the US blockade on its ports and the lifting of sanctions on Iranian oil sales.

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmail Baghaei said, "The trend this week has been towards a reduction in disputes, but there are still issues

that need to be discussed through mediators. We will have to wait and see where the situation ends in the next three or four days."

Pakistan's army chief Munir left Tehran on Saturday after talks with Iran's top negotiator Mohammad Baqher Ghalibaf and Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi.

Baghaei said the issue of the US blockade on Iran's shipping was important, but that its prior-

ity was ending the threat of new US attacks and the ongoing conflict in Lebanon, where Iran-allied Hezbollah militants are fighting Israeli troops who have moved into the south.

Ghalibaf said Iran would pursue its "legitimate rights," both on the battlefield and through diplomacy, but added that it could not trust "a party that has no honesty at all," an allegation Iran has made times before.

He said Iran's armed forces had rebuilt their capabilities during the ceasefire and that, if the US "foolishly restarts the war," the consequences would be "more forceful and bitter" than at the start of the conflict.

The Financial Times reported on Saturday that mediators are nearing an agreement to extend the US ceasefire with Iran by 60 days and set a framework for talks on Tehran's nuclear programme. The deal would include a gradual reopening of the Strait of Hormuz, discussions on diluting or transferring Iran's stockpile of enriched uranium, and steps by Washington to ease its blockade of Iranian ports and sanctions relief, the report added.

The talks reportedly centred on a 14-point document proposed by Iran, which it considers the main framework for the discussions.

# Iran, U.S. say close to talks breakthrough as Pak. Army chief Munir lands in Tehran

**Agence France-Presse**

TEHRAN

Senior U.S. and Iranian officials said on Saturday they could be close to a breakthrough in talks to strike a draft deal, while remaining cautious about the chances of ending the war in the West Asia.

U.S. President Donald Trump told CBS in a phone interview on Saturday that the two sides were “getting a lot closer” to a deal, but also warned that if they do not reach an agreement “we’re going to have a situation where no country



**Diplomatic efforts:** Iran’s Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi with Pakistan’s army chief Asim Munir, in Tehran, late on Friday. AFP

will ever be hit as hard as they’re about to be hit”.

Iran said gaps remain between the parties, and the dispute over its nuclear

programme would not be part of the initial talks, but that it was finalising a 14-point framework for a deal.

Pakistan’s army chief Asim Munir arrived in Tehran on Friday to bolster mediation and Mr. Trump abruptly changed his plans to skip his son’s wedding to stay in Washington due to “circumstances pertaining to government”, fuelling speculation that the situation had entered a sensitive stage.

Gen. Munir landed in Tehran on Friday where he met with Mr. Araghchi late into the night to discuss “the latest diplomatic efforts and initiatives aimed at preventing further escalation”.

● US TECH GIANT STILL SEES SIGNIFICANT LONG-TERM DEMAND IN THE MARKET AMID ONGOING US-CHINA TECHNOLOGY TENSIONS

# Nvidia says its forecast for \$200 bn CPU market includes China

Reuters

Taipei, May 23

NVIDIA CEO Jensen Huang said on Saturday that his forecast of a \$200 billion market for CPUs includes China, signaling Nvidia still sees significant long-term demand in the market amid ongoing US-China technology tensions.

Central processing units have taken centre stage as companies and businesses gravitate towards agentic AI-systems that perform autonomous functions — broadening demand beyond graphics processing units, or GPUs, that are used to train large models.

Huang on Wednesday

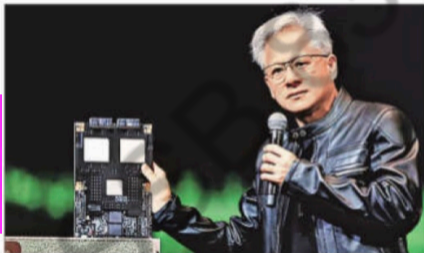
aimed to assure investors that the world's most valuable company can keep up its blockbuster growth with the help of a broad base of customers and that new products will help it beat the \$1 trillion in sales it has forecast for its flagship AI chips.

During an earnings call on Wednesday, Huang said Nvidia's new 'Vera' central processors give it access to a new \$200 billion market.

Speaking to reporters upon arrival in Taipei on Saturday and asked if that forecast included China, he said, "I would think so."

## H200 CHIPS

Nvidia has received licenses



Nvidia has not received approval from Chinese officials who are fostering China's own chip suppliers. REUTERS

from the US government to sell its H200 chips but has not received approval from Chinese officials who are fostering

China's own chip suppliers.

US President Donald Trump's talks with Chinese President Xi Jinping in Beijing

this month produced no immediate breakthrough for Nvidia to sell H200 chips. Huang was also there as part of the US delegation.

Reuters reported last week that the US has cleared around 10 Chinese firms to buy Nvidia's second-most powerful AI chip, the H200, but not a single delivery has been made so far.

"H200 has been licensed to ship to China. It would be terrific to be able to serve that market. The Chinese market is very important. It's very large, of course," Huang said, speaking at Taipei's downtown Songshan airport.

Huang is in Taipei ahead of next month's Computex trade

show. AMD said on Thursday it would invest more than \$10 billion in Taiwan's AI sector to deepen strategic partnerships and expand its capacity to build and assemble advanced AI chips. Asked whether Nvidia had also invested in Taiwan's supply chain or planned to do so, Huang said, "We haven't announced anything in the past, but we've invested in and supported our partners here far more than that."

Huang said he would also meet with TSMC while in Taiwan, the world's largest contract chipmaker which makes many of the advanced semiconductors powering the trend towards AI.

## UNITED NATIONS

### Nuclear nonproliferation talks in UN conclude without agreement



AP

▲ A four-week UN conference reviewing the treaty to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons ended on Friday without agreement as the U.S. and Iran sparred over Iran's nuclear programme. Vietnam's UN Ambassador Do Hung Viet announced there was no consensus among the 191 parties to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. AP

## LAHORE

### 13 militants, mostly from banned outfit TTP, arrested in Pakistan



AFP

▲ A major terror attack has been foiled by police in Pakistan's Punjab province and 13 militants, mostly belonging to the banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), have been arrested, a spokesperson for the Counter Terrorism Department said. Explosive materials, eight detonators and four IED bombs were recovered. PTI