



19-01-2026  
Total pilgrims: 79,098  
Tonsures: 24,083  
Hundi Kanakalu: 4,16 CR  
Waiting Compartments: 20

Approx. Darsan Time for Sarvadarshanam  
(with out SSD Tokens)... 8 H



## NATION | NEWS

**SIR is 'Software Intensive Rigging', alleges TMC**



## WORLD | NEWS

**DONALD TRUMP SAYS HE WILL '100%' CARRY OUT GREENLAND TARIFFS THREAT, AS EU VOWS TO PROTECT ITS INTERESTS**

## IN BRIEFS

Delhi govt okays Rs 1,471 Cr 6-lane MB Road project

**New Delhi (TSIT):** Delhi government's Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) has approved a major infrastructure project for South Delhi. At an estimated cost of Rs 1,471.14 crore, a six-lane integrated elevated road, along with two underpasses, will be constructed on M.B. Road from Saket G-Block to PUL Prahladpur. The project is targeted for completion by December 2027. The meeting of the EFC was held at the Delhi Secretariat on Tuesday chaired by Delhi CM Rekha Gupta. With a total length of nearly five kilometres, the project will be developed in two phases. The first elevated stretch will run from Saket G-Block to Sangam Vihar, measuring 2.42 kilometres. The second stretch will extend from Maa Anandmayee Marg to PUL Prahladpur, with a length of approximately 2.48 kilometres. The project will be executed by the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC). It will be developed along the DMRC corridor alignment to ensure optimal coordination between road and metro infrastructure. The integrated structure will feature a double-decker system, with the metro operating on the upper deck and a six-lane elevated road corridor below.

**ED files chargesheet against NCL official in corruption, money laundering case**

**New Delhi (TSIT):** The Enforcement Directorate (ED), Bhopal Zonal Office, stated on Tuesday that it has filed a chargesheet against Shailendra Pasari before a special PMLA court in Jabalpur. A notice for a pre-cognizance hearing has been issued against the accused. The ED initiated its investigation based on two FIRs registered by the CBI's Anti-Corruption Branch in Jabalpur. The first FIR was registered under various sections of the Prevention of Corruption Act. In this case, Shailendra Pasari, then Senior Manager (Civil) at Northern Coalfields Limited's Jayant Project in Singrauli, was caught red-handed while demanding and accepting a bribe of Rs 10,000 for clearing pending escalation bills. Subsequently, during searches conducted by the CBI at his premises, unaccounted cash amounting to Rs 72,97,200 was recovered from Pasari's residence, bank lockers, and office. The second FIR was registered under sections of the Prevention of Corruption Act for possessing disproportionate assets. The CBI alleged that Pasari and his family members were in possession of assets worth Rs 1.30 crore (124.12% disproportionate to his known sources of income) during the check period from January 1, 2014, to September 8, 2018.

## Unilever to Explore Setting Up Global Capability Centre in Hyderabad



**Davos (TSIT):** Global consumer goods major Unilever has expressed interest in exploring the establishment of a Global Capability Centre (GCC) in Hyderabad, following a meeting with the Telangana Rising delegation led by Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy at the World Economic Forum (WEF) 2026 in Davos on Tuesday.

The Telangana delegation met Willem Uijen, Chief Supply Chain & Operations Officer of Unilever, during which discussions focused on Hyderabad's rapid emergence as a global hub for GCCs. Highlighting the city's strong ecosystem, world-class talent pool, and investor-friendly governance, the Chief Minister outlined Telangana's vision for attracting global corporations.

Mr. Uijen stated that Unilever would be happy to explore the possibility of setting up a GCC in Hyderabad, acknowledging the city's growing reputation as a preferred destination for global opera-

tions. Industries & Commerce Minister D. Sridhar Babu said Hyderabad already hosts GCCs of leading FMCG companies such as McDonald's, Heineken, and Costco, underscoring the State's credibility in the sector. "Unilever is a prized partner of Telangana. The State is known for policy continuity and a fast-paced approval and licensing process for businesses," he said. The delegation, which included Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy, also invited Unilever to explore FMCG manufacturing opportunities in Telangana's industrial parks.

Discussions further covered aligning Unilever's commitments on climate action, water positivity, and plastic reduction with Telangana's initiatives in renewable energy, water stewardship, and the circular economy, reinforcing the State's focus on sustainable and responsible industrial growth.

## EU on cusp of historic trade deal with India: Ursula von der Leyen

**DAVOS: (Jan 20) (GNS):** The European Union is on the cusp of signing a historic trade agreement with India that is being called 'the mother of all deals'. European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen announced on Tuesday, asserting it will create a market for 2 billion people or about one-fourth of the global GDP. In a special address here at the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting, she said the deal would crucially provide a first-mover advantage for Europe with one of the world's fastest-growing and most dynamic continents.

"Right after Davos, I will travel to India. There is still work to do. But we are on the cusp of a historic trade agreement. Some call it the mother of all deals," she said.



"Europe wants to do business with the growth centres of today and the economic powerhouses of this century. From Latin America to the Indo-Pacific and far beyond, Europe will always choose the world. And the world is ready to choose Europe," she said. President of the European Council, Antonio Costa and von der Leyen will be in India from January 25 to 27 to grace the Republic Day celebrations as chief guests and hold summit talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

## Nitin Nabin takes over as BJP's 12th president; PM Modi says 'You are my boss'

**NEW DELHI (TSIT):** Nitin Nabin on Tuesday took over as the BJP's 12th national president, succeeding J P Nadda and beginning a new chapter for the party as it seeks to tighten its grip on the country's politics and further expand its influence in uncharted territories with a generational shift in the organisation.



Addressing a gathering at the BJP headquarters here on the occasion, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said when it comes to party matters, he is a worker and 'honourable Nitin Nabin ji' is his boss.

After a formal announcement of Nabin's name as the new BJP chief, Prime Minister Modi and other senior leaders took him to his new office at the party headquarters, where he officially assumed the charge of the party's national president.

## UAE agrees to partner with Telangana for 'Future City' development

**Hyderabad, Jan 20 (TSIT):** The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has agreed to partner with Telangana for the development of Bharat Future City as a top global city, the Telangana government said.



UAE Minister of Economy and Tourism Abdulla bin Touq Al Marri met Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy-led Telangana Rising delegation, at the World Economic Forum in Davos on Tuesday. Touq Al Marri said his national government would be happy to join hands with Telangana. He suggested that the two governments establish a joint task force of officials from both sides for the speedy implementa-

tion of this project, according to a release from the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) here. The delegation discussed potential areas of cooperation in the state's large infra-

structure projects, especially the Bharat Future City.

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy outlined the Telangana Rising 2047 vision and the future-defining

roadmap to transform the state into a \$3 trillion economy by 2047.

He threw light on the massive scope for development in the Bharat Future City project - India's first Net-Zero Greenfield Smart City. Spread over 30,000 acres, the city is envisioned as a multi-sectoral, sustainable urban-industrial hub with dedicated spaces for AI, education, health, industries, residential and entertainment zones. The Chief Minister explained that global companies like Marubeni and Semcorp are already on board with the project. He said recently that an MoU was signed with Reliance Group's Vantara to establish a new zoo in Future City.

## Telangana aims to increase its GDP contribution to 10 pc

**Hyderabad (TSIT) :** Telangana has set the goal of raising its contribution to India's GDP to 10 per cent, supported by a clear roadmap to build a USD 3 trillion economy, industry minister D. Sridhar Babu said on Tuesday. He invited global industry leaders to partner in Telangana Rising, a long-term vision built on policy stability, ease of doing business, and innovation-led growth. At the inauguration of the India Pavilion at the World Economic Forum annual meeting in Davos, Minister Sridhar Babu invited the industry leaders to invest in the state.

He told them that Telangana today offers a conducive, predictable ecosystem where global companies can scale, invest and participate meaningfully in the state's development journey.

He said that life sciences, electronics, semiconductors,



IT, aerospace, renewable energy and green technologies are the priority sectors. The minister stated that with Rs 2.5 lakh crore in investments mobilised over the past two years, the emphasis remains on sustaining growth, creating employment and strengthening Telangana's global standing.

He told the investors that Telangana has become a role model for other states in ease of doing business. Sridhar Babu

said that his government's resolve is not to wait for the future, but to build it. He stated that they have set a target of increasing Telangana's share in the country's GDP to 10 per cent by 2047 and are taking visionary and planned steps accordingly.

He stated that a comprehensive roadmap has been prepared with the participation of experts, industrialists, and the public to propel Telangana's economy to \$3 trillion by 2047.

He added that this vision document gives utmost priority to key sectors that will boost the state's economy. He elaborated on the favourable conditions, opportunities, and the existing ecosystem in Telangana for investments in sectors such as pharmaceuticals, life sciences, biotechnology, healthcare innovation, electronics, semiconductors, hardware manufacturing,

IT, ITES, aerospace, defence, textiles, apparel manufacturing, food processing, agro-based industries, renewable energy, and green technologies.

He affirmed that they are sincerely working to bring new industries to the state and create employment opportunities for the youth. He mentioned that his government has attracted investments worth approximately Rs 2.5 lakh crore in the last two years at the Davos forum. He added that this year too, with the same spirit, they will explain the policies designed to boost industrial development and strive to encourage leading companies to invest in Telangana. The minister announced that the Life Sciences Policy 2.0 and the Telangana AI Innovation Hub (TAIIH) will be formally launched at the Davos forum to further enhance the global recognition of the "Telangana brand."

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## No better investment destination than Andhra Pradesh: CM Chandrababu



**Amaravati, Jan 20 (TSIT) :** Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu said on Tuesday that there is no better investment destination than Andhra Pradesh. He invited industrialists to visit Andhra Pradesh and personally observe the policies implemented by the state government and the favourable conditions for investments. He urged them to make investment decisions only after witnessing the speed of doing business policies.

The Chief Minister, who is attending the World Economic Forum annual meeting in Davos, was addressing the CII session on "India at the Centre: The Geography of Growth - The Andhra Pradesh Advantage".

The Chief Minister posted on X that he told the industry leaders that Andhra Pradesh isn't just an investment destination but a strategic advantage.

He showcased Andhra Pradesh's strengths across various sectors. "With nearly a quarter of India's FDI, our speed of doing business makes AP a premier investment hub. I invited the global industry to

partner with us for long-term growth," he wrote.

According to an official release, the Chief Minister said that India will become a global power by 2047, and Andhra Pradesh will be at the forefront of this transformation.

He said that Andhra Pradesh has attracted 25 per cent of the foreign investments that have come into the country. The session discussed the vast investment opportunities in green energy, technology, fuel, digital infrastructure, logistics, and manufacturing sectors. CM Chandrababu Naidu explained the state government's policies and investment opportunities in various sectors. He informed the industrialists about green ammonia, Google investments, and the Andhra Pradesh brand image. He said that they are focusing on aspects such as Space City, ports, airports, and highway connectivity. The Chief Minister said that the coalition government in Andhra Pradesh is providing all-round support to investors, and that drones will be used in the agriculture and medical sectors.

## Order for SIR of electoral rolls legislative in nature, lays down guiding principles: EC to SC

Dwivedi referred to legal schemes which govern the preparation and revision of electoral rolls and regulate the conduct of elections.



"Our SIR order is legislative in character. It lays down a complete set of principles and documents prescribed. It is a general order applicable to the whole country, except the Assam case," the senior lawyer said. The petitions, including the lead one filed by NGO Association for Democratic Reforms, raise significant constitutional questions concerning the scope of the poll panel's

powers, the determination of citizenship for electoral purposes, and the fundamental right to vote.

Dwivedi referred to legal schemes which govern the preparation and revision of electoral rolls and regulate the conduct of elections.

Referring to Section 62 of the Representation of Peoples Act, he submitted that voter registration is subject to specific statutory conditions. Dwivedi said Articles 324 to 326 of the Constitution, read with Section 19 of the 1950 Act, impose a constitutional obligation on the EC to ensure that only citizens are enrolled as voters.

## TN 2026 POLLS: Stalin takes charge of alliance dynamics

In a veiled reference to recent remarks from sections of the Congress, Stalin said that even allies could sometimes create confusion.



**CHENNAI (TSIT):** Assuring party cadres and functionaries not to worry about alliance dynamics and seat-sharing arrangements, MK Stalin, president of the DMK, on Tuesday said he would personally handle all alliance-related matters.

Chairing a meeting of district secretaries at Anna Arivalayam, the party headquarters here, the Chief Minister said unity among party functionaries and cadres was crucial. "Functionaries and cadres should work together. If there is any lack of coordination, I will take strict action. The party is bigger than any individual," he said.

He urged party members to remain focused on organisational work. Meanwhile, resolutions passed at the meeting said the DMK would hold a State-level conference at Tiruchy on March 8.

# SIR is 'Software Intensive Rigging', alleges TMC

**The press meet came a day after the Supreme Court directed the EC to display the names of the voters on the "logical discrepancies" list at gram panchayat bhavans and block offices.**

NEW DELHI: The Trinamool Congress (TMC) said on Tuesday that the SIR exercise in West Bengal is "Software Intensive Rigging", as the ruling party in the state stressed the need for more "transparency" in the ongoing process for electoral-roll revision. Addressing a press conference here, TMC's leader in the Rajya Sabha Derek O'Brien, deputy leader Sagarika Ghose and MP Saket Gokhale demanded that the Election Commission (EC) release the transcripts of the discussions held at recent meetings between a party delegation and the full bench of the poll panel. The press meet came a day after the Supreme Court directed the EC to display the names of the voters on the "logical discrepancies" list at gram panchayat bhavans and block offices.

"What does SIR actually stand for? Software Intensive Rigging.... The EC is one of the great institutions of our country, which has kept democracy vibrant for so many decades, but what has been happening now is a dismantling of this great institution," O'Brien said at the press conference. "All we seek from the All India Trinamool Congress is transparency.... Our chairperson has said it. Our national general secretary has said it. We are for SIR, but we are for a transparent SIR, a planned SIR.... A humane SIR," he said.

O'Brien said during their meetings with the EC on November 28 and December 31 last year, the TMC leaders made several "constructive



suggestions" for making the SIR process smoother. He challenged the poll panel to come out with the transcripts of the meetings. "Release the transcripts.... It has been 50 days. So do not push our patience. Because if you do not release those transcripts, we will release those transcripts," the TMC MP said. Targeting Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar, he pointed out that prior to his appointment to the EC, he retired as the secretary of the Ministry of Cooperation under Home Minister Amit Shah, who is also the minister of cooperation.

O'Brien asserted that it is not

"Trinamool versus somebody else", but "the people of Bengal versus those who are trying to make the electoral process burdensome on the electors". Ghose pointed out that the apex court has directed the poll panel to work with transparency and said, "The Election Commission should not work with political interests." It is the constitutional duty of the EC to protect the right of the citizen to vote, she added.

Ghose said the list of discrepancies and the hearings have led people to go through harrowing times, running from pillar to post to protect their right to vote. "We are saying

that the EC should not change the Special Intensive Revision to software-intensive rigging. And as the Supreme Court has instructed, the EC should work with transparency," she said. Referring to letters written by West Bengal Chief Minister and TMC supremo Mamata Banerjee to the CEC, O'Brien said, "What did the postscript say?... It said we know that you will not reply to these letters. Who is writing these letters? A three-time chief minister of a state who is about to become a four-time chief minister."

One of Banerjee's letters to the CEC on the SIR issue contained a handwritten note, saying she did not expect a reply from Kumar. "When we say transparency, this is not just a clever term which we have used in the morning. Software intensive rigging. No. What software is the EC using? Why is it being revised constantly? We asked who makes this software? Come, tell us," O'Brien said. The Supreme Court said on Monday that the SIR process in West Bengal should be transparent and not cause inconvenience to people, and directed the EC to display the names of those on the "logical discrepancies" list at gram panchayat bhavans and block offices, where documents and objections will also be submitted. Logical discrepancies in progeny linking with the 2002 voter list include instances, such as a mismatch in the parent's name and the age difference between a voter and his parent being less than 15 years or more than 50 years.

New Delhi (TSIT) : The Indian Navy will present a powerful blend of tradition, self-reliance and future readiness during the upcoming Republic Day Parade (RDP) 2026, with its marching contingent, tableau and band reflecting the Service's vision of being a 'Combat Ready, Cohesive and Aatmanirbhar Force, safeguarding the seas for a Viksit and Samridha Bharat', Contingent Commander Lt Karan Nagyal said on Tuesday.

Briefing the media ahead of the Navy's Republic Day Parade press preview, Lt Nagyal said the RDP remains a grand spectacle of national unity, showcasing India's cultural diversity, military prowess and technological advancements, with all participating elements demonstrating an unwavering commitment to national service.

The Indian Navy's marching contingent this year will comprise 144 young personnel who will march shoulder to shoulder along the historic Kartavya Path, symbolising the Navy as a progressive and strong maritime force capable of defending India's maritime interests.

Representing a 'mini-India', the contingent includes sailors from different States and union Territories, with an average



age of 25 years. Carefully selected from across all branches of the Navy, the personnel have undergone over two months of specialised training to withstand the rigours of the parade. The contingent will be led by Lt Karan Nagyal, with Lt Pawan Kumar Gandhi, Lt Priti Kumar and Lt Varun Dreveriya serving as Platoon Commanders.

The Indian Navy's tableau for 2026 will vividly depict the theme of a 'Strong Navy for a Strong Nation', highlighting the Service's multi-dimensional capabilities and its resolve to safeguard maritime interests anytime, anywhere and anyhow. The tableau traces India's rich maritime heritage to its modern, indigenous combat strength. It features a stitched ship dating back to the 5th century CE, now named INSV Kaundinya, Maratha Navy 'Gurab' class ships, and

frontline indigenous assets including aircraft carrier INS Vikrant, P-17A Nilgiri-class stealth frigates INS Himgiri and INS Udayagiri, a Kalvari-class submarine and the GSAT-7R (Project Rohini) communication satellite. The tableau will also showcase the circumnavigation route followed by the crew of INS Tarini during the Navika Sagar Parikrama-II expedition. The tableau has been conceived and designed by Cdr Zubair Siddiqui and Lt Lekshmi K Ravi of the Navy's Warship Design Bureau.

Adding a special dimension, young girl cadets from the Sea Cadet Corps (SCC), a non-governmental organisation imparting basic nautical and combat skills to youth in Mumbai, will march alongside the tableau, marking their return to the Republic Day Parade after several decades.

## SC Questions CBI on Necessity of Further Probe in YS Viveka Murder Case



**Kharge pays tribute to Frontier Gandhi on death anniversary**

New Delhi, Jan 20 (UNI) Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Tuesday paid tribute to Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan, popularly known as the Frontier Gandhi on his death anniversary.

In a post on X, the Congress chief described Badshah Khan as a "beacon of peace" and noted that his life and work continue to inspire millions across India and South Asia. Khan, a towering figure of India's freedom struggle, was remembered as a lifelong champion for peace and nonviolence. Kharge recalled his immense contributions to India's Independence and his unwavering commitment to human dignity and harmony. The Congress chief highlighted that Ghaffar Khan, a recipient of the Bharat Ratna, endured repeated imprisonment for his principles during the freedom struggle.

He also underscored the Pashtun leader's long association with the Indian National Congress, noting that he served for several years on the Congress Working Committee and was elected to the Constituent Assembly.

## Top Indian CEOs to join Donald Trump at WEF Davos meet



New Delhi, Jan 20 : Some prominent Indian CEOs from India are likely to join a select group of 146 global corporate leaders for a meeting with US President Donald Trump at the World Economic Forum (WEF) meeting in Davos on Wednesday.

India's tech and industrial leaders, including Tata Sons Chairman N. Chandrasekaran, Wipro CEO Srinivas Palli, Bharti Enterprises Founder Sunil Bharti Mittal and Infosys CEO Salil Parekh, are set to attend the high-level session during the WEF, according to a report in NDTV Profit.

The meeting occurs amid the US-India trade deal negotiations which are expected to lift market sentiments.

Recent developments have indicated that relations between the two countries about the trade deal negotiations have softened, and an announcement could be just around the corner.

Trump is among the marquee attendees of the World Economic Forum in Davos this year, alongside the likes of

JP Morgan CEO Jamie Dimon, Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky.

Meanwhile, Union Minister of New and Renewable Energy, Pralhad Joshi, had made a strong pitch for global investors towards opportunities in India's clean and green energy sector at the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos. The minister highlighted India's proven ability to scale solar, wind, green hydrogen and energy storage in a focused discussion with Charles Emond, President and CEO, and COO Sarah Bouchard of Canada-based La Caisse, on strengthening long-term climate and clean energy investments in India.

## SC directs Delhi HC to decide in 4 months plea of MLA Raja Bhaiya's wife alleging domestic violence

**A bench of Justices B V Nagarathna and Ujjal Bhuyan refused to entertain Bhanvi Singh's plea after noting that the matter is pending before the high court.**



NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court directed the Delhi High Court on Monday to decide within four months a plea filed by the wife of Uttar Pradesh MLA Raghuraj Pratap Singh alias Raja Bhaiya against her husband under the Domestic Violence Act. A bench of Justices B V Nagarathna and Ujjal Bhuyan refused to entertain Bhanvi Singh's plea after noting that the matter is pending before the high court.

12. "On that day, the petitioner is at liberty to press for early disposal of this case. It is needless to observe that the same shall be con-

sidered having regard to the facts of the case as alleged by the petitioner's wife," the bench said. The apex court clarified that it was giving a

timeframe of four months as the high court has stayed the summons issued to the Kunda MLA by the trial court. Raja Bhaiya has been booked for alleged domestic violence following a complaint from his wife. An FIR in this regard has been registered at Delhi's Safdarjung Enclave police station. In her complaint, Bhanvi Singh has accused the politician of years of physical and mental abuse, according to police. Police have also informed that the couple has been living separately for years.

## Sabarimala gold theft: ED raids all accused in multi-state crackdown

Kochi, Jan 20: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has launched extensive search operations at the residences and offices of all accused in the high-profile Sabarimala gold theft case, marking a major escalation in the investigation into the alleged misappropriation of temple gold. The searches were conducted simultaneously at 21 locations spread across Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka as part of an investigation under the Prevention

of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). Officials confirmed that the raids targeted the personal premises and business establishments of key accused, including former Devaswom Board office-bearers and individuals linked to the handling and movement of temple gold.

According to sources, the ED action aims to trace the financial trail, recover documents and identify assets allegedly generated through the illegal diversion and laundering of gold removed from sacred

structures and ornaments associated with the Sabarimala temple. The agency is examining whether the proceeds of the crime were routed through benami transactions, shell entities or undisclosed investments. Searches were carried out in multiple cities, including Thiruvananthapuram, Kochi, Chennai, Bellari and other locations, with officials seizing digital records, financial documents and material evidence relevant to the money-laundering angle of the case.

## AI guides to smart parking: Tech-driven traffic plan to steer Republic Day crowd to Kartavya Path

NEW DELHI: From AI-generated informational videos to car-calling systems, Delhi Traffic Police has rolled out a slew of technology-driven measures to ensure smooth traffic flow and a hassle-free commute for people heading to Kartavya Path for the Republic Day parade and the Beating Retreat ceremony. In a first, the traffic police has prepared detailed animated videos with the help of Artificial Intelligence (AI), depicting the arrival, alighting, departure and parking plans for invitees. Officials said the videos are aimed at familiarising visitors with the movement and parking arrangements well in advance.

The videos are available on the Ministry of Defence website and can also be accessed through the QR code-based parking system issued to invitees. They explain in detail how

arrival, alighting and parking will be managed on the day of the event, a senior police officer told PTI.

The parking management system covers 22 designated parking lots and has been designed to accommodate around 8,000 vehicles. Every year, nearly 77,000 passes are issued to spectators for the Republic Day parade, of which about 8,000 are earmarked for those arriving by private vehicles, the police said.

Another first this year is the introduction of shuttle services for security personnel deployed for Republic Day arrangements. Shuttles will operate from four locations—Khan Market, Amritsar Sher-Gil Marg, Patel Chowk Metro Station and HC Mathur Lane—to ferry personnel to their respective destinations. The shuttles will run at a frequency of 10 minutes, he said.



To assist commuters in reaching their designated park-

ing areas on Republic Day, invited guests and ticket hold-

ers can use Google Maps or Mappi for real-time naviga-

tion support. A senior police officer said the platforms will provide details of appropriate routes to Kartavya Path and the exact location of allotted parking spots. On Mappi, a dedicated Republic Day tab has been created, while Google Maps will display specially marked parking locations along with entry and exit routes to help visitors reach their destinations without confusion, he said. Apart from digital assistance, the traffic police has significantly expanded on-ground support by setting up 12 help desks at key locations—up from just two in previous years. Personnel deployed at these help desks will guide commuters on parking facilities, pedestrian movement routes and security arrangements, the officer said.

The help desks will be located at Moti Lal Nehru Place roundabout, Sunehri Masjid

roundabout, Man Singh roundabout, Jaswant Singh roundabout, GPO roundabout, Windsor Place roundabout, Mandi House roundabout, Q-point, Teen Murti roundabout, Crossing Janpath/Dr Rajendra Prasad Road, Gate number 14 of Jawahar Lal Nehru Stadium and Palika Parking, they added.

Car-calling systems have also been introduced this year to avoid crowding after the conclusion of the programme and to ensure smooth dispersal of invitees. Under the system, invitees can inform an officer stationed at the exit gate, following which announcements mentioning the car number or the driver's name will be made. The traffic police has advised people to follow official advisories, use public transport as far as possible and rely on digital navigation tools for a smoother commute to Kartavya Path.

## Nutritious meal employees hold state-wide protest pressing demands

CHENNAI: The nutritive meal employees attached to TNNMEA on Tuesday commenced their four day protests across the state pressing for various demands including revised pension, filling up of vacancies among others.

As the talks held with the government failed on January 19, the association decided to hold protest in all the districts of the State from Tuesday till January 23, 2026. A Jessy, secretary, the Tamil Nadu Nutritious Meal Employees Association (TNNMEA) told reporters.

"We have been hoping that our demands will be fulfilled. We met the department officials on Monday and since the talks have failed, we are forced to stage protest till January 23 in all the district capitals," she added. Expressing her disappointment with the DMK Government for not fulfilling the associations'



long-pending demands, she said over 71,000 workers are taking part in the protests across Tamil Nadu.

"Tamil Nadu has over 1 lakh nutritive meal centres and 71,000 workers are engaged in it. This Association has been functioning for the last 45 years and we have been poorly

paid. Our pension is Rs 2,000 only. During the 2021 elections, the DMK promised that it will fulfil our demands. But in the last 4.5 years it did not," she alleged.

"Since our demands are not met, we are forced to protest. If government is ready to talk with us, we

are ready to reconsider our decision," she said.

As part of intensifying their protest, the association has also planned to stage an agitation in front of the District Collectorate on January 24 and 25, across Tamil Nadu.

Meanwhile, the PMK faction led by Dr Anbumani Ramadoss, in a statement said that due to the protests initiated by the nutritive meal workers, "the students depending on these centres will face a situation where they cannot get food".

The Nutritive meal workers serve as the backbone of the government administration. They are the ones who act as a bridge between the government and the people, the statement urged. "Without further delay, the government should hold talks with the nutritive meal workers and fulfil their demands," it further said.

## ED shares fresh inputs linking Nehru to Rs 366-cr MAWS scam

CHENNAI: The Enforcement Directorate has shared fresh inputs regarding an alleged Rs 366 crore worth money laundering and corruption ring in the transfer and appointments of officials and engineers in the Tamil Nadu Department of Municipal Administration, Urban and Water Supply (MAWS), officials said on Tuesday.

The federal probe agency's Chennai zonal office has sent a letter in this context to state chief secretary and the directorate of vigilance and anti-corruption (DVAC) seeking registration of a police FIR against minister K N Nehru and some others linked to him.

The ED had also written

two separate letters to the state government authorities in October and December last year claiming "wide spread" corruption in the MAWS tenders and recruitments and linked Nehru to these charges. The said PMLA provision empowers ED to share information and evidence regarding an offence with the police or a designated law enforcement agency.

In its latest communication, the ED informed the TN government that it has recovered photos, WhatsApp chats and documents which show "many" instances of bribes being collected for the transfer and posting of government officers and engineers in MAWS. It claimed that

alleged bribe amounts ranging from Rs 7 lakh to Rs 1 crore, depending on a case-by-case basis, were being transacted in the case of about 340 MAWS officials.

The agency alleged the data shared by it in the relevant communication was of a "limited" period and that this claimed bribery ring was wider.

The agency said the bribe funds of Rs 365.87 crore were utilised in real estate, investments in other properties, including foreign assets, gold bullion and for luxury expenditure, including liquor. The ED, in 2025, had shared two such communications with the TN government authorities, claiming irregularities and

CHENNAI: The maiden session of the year of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly (TNLA), which began here on Tuesday, would be held till January 24. TNLA Speaker M Appavu made an announcement to this effect among media persons in his chamber after the day's proceedings of the House began on a stormy note with Governor R N Ravi not reading the government's address in protest of the non-rendering of the national anthem at the beginning of the address. Talking to media persons after chairing the meeting of the Business Advisory Committee, Speaker Appavu said that on Wednesday the House making obituary references for deceased former legislators and adopting condolence resolutions for deceased MLA K. Ponnusamy and former leader of the Loksabha Shivraj Patel.

A bench of Chief Justice Manindra Mohan Shrivastava and Justice G Arun Murugan heard the appeal, after the Supreme Court had on January 15 asked the Madras HC to decide on the plea on January 20, and reserved its order. The apex court had refused to entertain the plea filed by the producer of 'Jana Nayagan', challenging an interim order of the Madras High Court that stayed a single-judge direction to grant censor board clearance to grant censor board clear-

ance to the movie. On January 9, the division bench of the Madras High Court stayed a single judge's order directing the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) to immediately grant a censor certificate to 'Jana Nayagan', leaving the fate of actor-turned-politician Vijay's film, which has drawn

attention for its political overtones, in limbo. Vijay recently launched his political party, Tamilaga Vettir Kazhagam (TVK), 'Jana Nayagan', which is widely publicised as Vijay's final film before his full-fledged entry into politics, was slated for a Pongal release on January 9.

## Green Energy Revolution: Breakthrough in Hydrogen Fuel Cells



it onto the mesh electrode, but these catalyst recipes don't always play out the same way in different lab environments with different tools – making it difficult to translate the work into real-world applications. "Wet chemical processes are not particularly resilient with respect to laboratory conditions," said Tom Jaramillo, director of SUNCAT, which made the collaboration possible.

To get around that issue, the SLAC team instead used a vacuum chamber for more controlled depositions of their new catalyst onto electrodes. "This high-vacuum tool is a very 'what you see is what you get' type of method," said Jaramillo. "As long as your system is calibrated well, in principle, people can reproduce it readily."

### Collaborative Efforts and Practical Application

To ensure that others could reproduce their approach and apply it directly to full-scale fuel cells, the team worked with experts at Technion, who showed that the method worked in a practical fuel cell.

This project was not set up to do the fuel cell testing here, so we were really fortunate that the lead

Stanford graduate student on the project, José Zamora Zeledón, formed a connection with Dario Dekel and his PhD student John Douglan at Technion. They were set up to test the actual fuel cells, so it was a really nice combination of resources to put together," said Burke Stevens.

Together, the two teams found that by substituting cheaper silver for some of the PGMs used in previous catalysts, they could achieve an equally effective fuel cell with a much lower price tag – and now that they have a proven method of developing catalysts, they can start testing more ambitious ideas.

"We could try going entirely PGM-free," said Jaramillo. Dekel, a chemical engineering professor and director of the Grand Technion Energy Program at Technion, was equally excited by the partnership's potential. "This has great benefits for the research of fuel cells in the academy as well as for practical catalyst development in the fuel cell industry," he said. Looking forward, Jaramillo said, research like this will decide whether fuel cells can fulfill their potential.

## TN asks Centre to scrap VB-G RAM G, restore MGNREGA to reduce financial burden

The discontinuation of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) has not only hindered development in rural areas but also increased the financial strain on the state government, it said.

CHENNAI: The Tamil Nadu government on Tuesday urged the Centre to withdraw the recently passed VB-G RAM G act and restore UPA-era rural employment scheme, MGNREGA, thereby easing the state's financial burden.

The discontinuation of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) has not only hindered development in rural areas but also increased the financial strain on the state government, it said.

"Due to the Viksit Bharat Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeekika Mission (Gramin) VB-G RAM G, the financial burden on Tamil Nadu will further increase by approximately Rs 5,000 crore per annum," Tamil Nadu Assembly Speaker M Appavu said while reading out Governor's address to the Assembly. The governor had walked out of the state Assembly without delivering his customary address during the maiden session of the year, citing "inaccura-



cies" in the text prepared by the DMK government.

Reading the Tamil version of the governor's address, Appavu said the new scheme VB-G RAM G undermined the fundamental objective of the MGNREGA, a programme designed to ensure wage employment for crores of poor and underprivileged people in rural areas, particularly women and Adi Dravidar communities.

He noted that through MGNREGS, which provides social security to the rural poor, numerous projects such as infrastructure development, natural resource

drawn and the Central government should restore and allocate additional financial resources to MGNREGA.

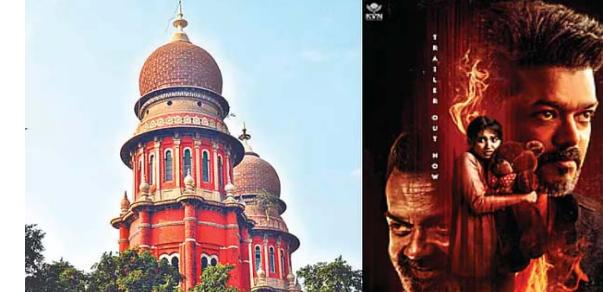
On language policy, the state government reaffirmed that the Tamil Nadu State Education Policy continues to follow the two-language formula of Tamil and English, a policy maintained since 1968.

"We have been safeguarding the two-language education policy formulated by former Chief Minister C N Annadurai as dearly as our own eyes. When it comes to protecting the Tamil language, which is inseparable from our life and emotions, there can be no room for compromise," he said. The government added that under no circumstances will it, under the leadership of Chief Minister M K Stalin, accept any alteration to this policy. On other matters, the government said the CM's efforts helped Tamil Nadu achieve robust economic growth of 11.19 per cent during the last financial year, the highest in the past 14 years.

## Madras HC reserves order on actor Vijay's Jana Nayagan censor certification

CHENNAI: The Madras High Court on Tuesday reserved its order on the censor board's appeal against a single-judge direction to grant U/A certificate to Vijay-starrer 'Jana Nayagan'.

A bench of Chief Justice Manindra Mohan Shrivastava and Justice G Arun Murugan heard the appeal, after the Supreme Court had on January 15 asked the Madras HC to decide on the plea on January 20, and reserved its order. The apex court had refused to entertain the plea filed by the producer of 'Jana Nayagan', challenging an interim order of the Madras High Court that stayed a single-judge direction to grant censor board clear-



ance to the movie. On January 9, the division bench of the Madras High Court stayed a single judge's order directing the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) to immediately grant a censor certificate to 'Jana Nayagan', leaving the fate of actor-turned-politician Vijay's film, which has drawn

### WOMAN KILLED, OVER 10 INJURED AS HELIUM GAS CYLINDER EXPLODES AT RIVER FESTIVAL NEAR KALLAKURICHI

CHENNAI: A 50-year-old woman was killed and more than 10 others were seriously injured after a helium gas cylinder exploded during a river festival on the banks of the Thenpennai River near Manalurpet, close to Tirukoilur in Kallakurichi district, on Monday evening. The incident occurred around 7 pm when one of the two helium gas cylinders used by a balloon vendor suddenly exploded with a loud blast, triggering panic among the devotees gathered at the venue, said a Daily Thanthi report. People ran in all directions following the explosion, and the area resembled a battlefield, eyewitnesses said.

### EASTERN RAILWAY

e-Tender Notice No. : ELD-300-WC-31-2025-26, dated 15.01.2026. e-Tender is invited by the Sri Divisional Electrical Engineer/TRD, Sealadah, Eastern Railway, Control Building, 1st Floor, DRM office, Kaiser Street, Sealadah, Kolkata-700014, for the following work : Tender No. : ELD-300-WC-31-2025-26. Name of Work : 25KV PSI and allied electrical works in connection with "Sealadah Division Replacement of overaged Capacitor Bank at Titagarh/FP and Sonarpur/FP and associated PSI works". Tender value : ₹ 2,53,76,822/- Earnest Money : ₹ 2,76,900/- Cost of Tender Document : Nil. Completion Period : 12 (Twelve) months from the date of issue of Letter of Acceptance. Date of closing : 17.02.2026 at 15.00 hrs. Details of tender notice and corrigendum issued from time to time are available at website www.tenders.gov.in (SDAH-359/2025-26) Tender Notice is also available at websites : www.er.indianrailways.gov.in

Follow us at : [@EasternRailway](https://www.facebook.com) [@easternrailwayheadquarter](https://www.twitter.com)

ASSET RECOVERY MANAGEMENT(ARM) II BRANCH 2nd Floor, Circle Office, Spencer Towers, No. 36, M G Road, Bengaluru-560001. Email: cb6298@canarabank.com

### SALE NOTICE

AUCTION SALE NOTICE OF MOVABLES ASSETS (HYPOTHECATED VEHICLE) UNDER HYPOTHECATION AGREEMENT

Notice is hereby given to the effect that the movable items (Hypothecated Vehicles) described herein, taken possession under hypothecation agreement, will be sold by holding public auction.

1. Name and Address of the Secured Creditor : Canara Bank, Asset Recovery Management Branch II, 2nd Floor, Circle Office, Spencer Towers, No.86, M G Road, Bengaluru-560001.

2. Name and Address of the Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) : 1) M/s. Sri Pravira Hospitality and Services Pvt Ltd., No. 1817, Fortune Srinivasam, S201, 12th Main Road, 31st Cross, 2nd Stage, Banashankari, Bengaluru-560070.

2) Mr. Ramprakash Patwardhan (Director cum Guarantor), No. 428, 9th Main, Alavahalli, BDA Layout, Bengaluru-560085. 3) Mr. Ramprakash Patwardhan (Director cum Guarantor), C/o. Sathyamurthy Patwardhan, No. 618, 24th Cross, 20th Main, Poomparapura Layout, Subramanyapura, Bengaluru-560061. 4) Mrs. Lakshmi Sridhar (Director cum Guarantor), W/o. Mr. Sridhar Somashankar, No. 994/4, 4th Cross, Ashoknagar, Banashankari 1st Stage, Main Road, 31st Cross, 2nd Stage, Banashankari, Bengaluru-560070.

3. Total liabilities : Rs. 5,39,62,857.59/- (Rupees Five Crore Thirty Nine Lakh Sixty Two Thousand Eight Hundred Fifty Seven and Fifty Nine Paisa only) as on 18.01.2026 plus further interest and charges thereon.

4. (a) Mode of Auction : E-Auction

(b) Details of Auction service provider : M/s PSB Alliance Pvt Ltd (BAANKNET), Corporate Office : - Unit 1, 3rd Floor, VIOS Commercial Tower, Near Wadala Truck Terminal, Wadala East, Mumbai, Maharashtra - 400037. Helpdesk Number : 8291202200, 9892219848, 8160205011, Email : support.baanknet@psbaliance.com, Website : <https://baanknet.com>

(c) Date & Time of Auction : 11.02.2026 Time 1.00 PM to 3.00 PM, (d) Place of Auction : ARM II Branch, Bangalore.

5. Reserve Price & EMD Amount :

S. No	Vehicle Model	Registration Month & Year	Registration No.	Yard Address	Reserve price	EMD Amount
1.	Ashok Leyland GP4825 tanker Goods carriage -HMV	JAN-2024	TS-07-UP-1167	H.No. 1-7218/24, Near Sri Rama Rice Mill, Kotha Cheruvu Road, New Gunj, Mahabubnagar-509001. Telangana State.	Rs. 40,00,000/-	Rs. 4,00,000/-
2.	Ashok Leyland GP4825 tanker Goods carriage -HMV	JAN-2024	TS-07-UP-1152	Old GNT Road, Beside Sri Devi Rice Mill, Thummar, Naidupeta-524126, Andhra Pradesh.	Rs. 40,00,000/-	Rs. 4,00,000/-
3.	Ashok Leyland GP4825 tanker Goods carriage -HMV	JAN-2024	TS-07-UP-1356	Old GNT Road, Beside Sri Devi Rice Mill, Thummar, Naidupeta-524126, Andhra Pradesh.	Rs. 40,00,000/-	Rs. 4,00,000/-
4.	Ashok Leyland GP4825 tanker Goods carriage -HMV	JAN-2024	TS-07-UP-1125	Old GNT Road, Beside Sri Devi Rice Mill, Thummar, Naidupeta-524126, Andhra Pradesh.	Rs. 40,00,000/-	Rs. 4,00,000/-
5.	Ashok Leyland GP4825 tanker Goods carriage -HMV	JAN-2024	TS-07-UP-1149	Mettu Steet, Madira Vedu, Thuvarkadu, Chennai-77.	Rs. 40,00,000/-	Rs. 4,00,000/-
						Rs. 2,00,00,000/-
						Rs. 20,00,000/-

6. Last Date of Submission of EMD Amount with M/s. PSB Alliance Pvt. Ltd. (BAANKNET) is 10.02.2026.

7. Other terms and conditions : a) The Movables Items (Hypothecated Vehicle) will not be sold below the Reserve Price. b) Auction bidding shall be only through "Online Electronic Bidding" through the website of website M/s. PSB Alliance Pvt. Ltd. (BAANKNET). Bidders are advised to go through the website for detailed terms before taking part in the e-auction sale proceedings. c) The property/ Hypothecated Vehicle can be inspected on 04.02.2026. d) Auction would commence in favour of the successful bidder. Sale shall be confirmed in favour of the successful bidder, subject to confirmation of the same by the secured creditor. e) Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) of 10% of the Reserve Price is to be deposited in E-Wallet

# EDITORIAL

## THE RISE, EXILE, AND FADING FOOTPRINTS OF KASHMIRI PANDITS

The Kashmiri Pandits are Saraswat Brahmins, one of the oldest ethnic groups of the Indian subcontinent. Their history can arguably be traced back to the first human settlements in the Valley over 4,000 years ago, rooted in a land they believed was reclaimed from a vast lake by the sage Kashyapa. For centuries, Kashmir was the "sharda peeth," or the seat of learning. The Pandits developed Kashmir Shaivism, a sophisticated school of philosophy that views the universe as a manifestation of pure consciousness.

Unfortunately, this highly educated and scholarly community was persecuted in history at least eight times between 1320 and 1990.

1) 1320: It was Zuljui, also known as Zul Qadir Khan, a Turco-Mongol invader who attacked in 1320 AD and wreaked devastation when he commanded the force that conquered Kashmir.

2) 1389-1413: Sultan Sikandar, or Sikandar Butshikan, who was also known as the 'iconoclast,' destroyed massive temples like Martand and gave Hindus in the area the choice to convert, flee, or die.

3) 1413-1420: Ali Shah, the son of Sikandar, continued his father's policies with even more brutality, deploying guards to prevent Pandits from escaping so they could be forcibly converted.

4) 1500s: Under Kaji Chak and Musa Raina, who were influenced by Shia missionary Mir Shams-ud-Din Iraqi, thousands were forcibly converted. Those who resisted were massacred on the holy day of Ashura, according to K.L. Bhan. 5) Late 1600s: Mughal ruler Aurangzeb's governor, Iftikhar Khan, used extreme force to convert the community. This led the Pandits to seek help from the Sikh Guru Tegh Bahadur, who was eventually killed while protecting them.

6) 1720s: During a period of Mughal decline, local fanatical leaders including the cleric Mullah Abdul Nabi imposed "jizya" or tax and banned Pandits from wearing turbans, shoes, or even riding horses.

7) 1753-1819: Afghan Rule is widely considered the darkest era. Afghan governors would tie Pandits in pairs in grass sacks and drown them in Dal Lake. It was said that "a Pandit's life was not worth the price of a hen."

8) 1989-1990: Modern militancy, the rise of Pakistan-sponsored insurgency and radical Islamism led to targeted killings and mosque announcements. This forced most of the community into exile. The Kashmiri Pandits' 'best times' are often associated with the reign of Lalitaditya Muktagupta in the 8th century and later, the peaceful rule of Zain-ul-Abidin in the 15th century. The latter invited Pandits back after a period of persecution, earning him the title Budshah, the great king. During these eras, the community thrived as administrators, scholars, and spiritual leaders. Life moved on after the accession of Jammu and Kashmir to India in 1948. The two communities, Pandits and Muslims, lived in harmony although Kashmiri Pandits were always viewed with a bit of suspicion because of their religious identification with the majority community of mainland India. Pandits were, however, acknowledged as good teachers and professionals (many were doctors and bureaucrats). Interestingly in spite of being Hindus they were very good teachers of the Persian language and were also recognised as good interpreters of the Quran. The most painful chapter in their modern history began in January 1990. As Islamic militancy surged in the Valley, fuelled by external support and internal radicalisation, the minority community was targeted with a campaign of terror. Slogans like "Raliv, galiv ya tchaliv (convert, die, or leave)" reverberated from loudspeakers of the mosques.

## When the educated stand and the illiterate sit: The insult of education in democracy

- Dr. Satyavani Saurabh

Any civilized society is defined by its education system and the respect it receives. Education is not merely a collection of degrees, but rather a culture of conscience, discipline, constitutional understanding, and public responsibility. The question is whether a democracy like India truly respects this education, or whether educated people in the corridors of power are merely destined to stand in a posture of obedience. In India, millions of young people reach the civil services after years of rigorous preparation, failure, and struggle. They enter the IAS, IPS, or other services after a thorough study of the Constitution, administration, economics, sociology, and policymaking. Even after selection, they face lengthy training, field postings, and constant accountability. On the other hand, these same officers are often seen standing with folded hands before public representatives whose educational background and administrative understanding are extremely limited. This is the scene where the truth of the system speaks, not satire—the illiterate are sitting, the educated are standing. The journey to becoming a civil servant is a year-long endeavor. The exam tests not just facts, but also thinking, analytical skills, ethics, and the ability to make decisions under pressure. Even after joining the service, every file, every order, and every signature must stand the test of future scrutiny. In contrast, there is no minimum educational

qualification required for entry into politics, nor is formal training in policy or administration mandatory. Public support is the soul of democracy, but when that very support becomes a veneer to conceal a lack of competence within the entire system, then the problems begin. Democracy means rule by the people, but democracy has never been a celebration of ignorance. Successful democracies value both political leadership and professional administration. There, the decision-making stage is dominated by facts and logic, not emotions. Our situation is developing into one where debates are more noisy and less scholarly. The heat of accusations and counter-accusations is high, and the light of data and facts is low. In such an environment, the bureaucracy, which represents knowledge and process, is reduced to a mere machine that obeys orders. This mentality gives rise to the scenario—the kurta is sitting, the uniform is standing. In the vision of independent India, khadi and khaki were considered complementary. Khadi symbolized public opinion, politics, and policymaking, while khaki symbolized law, order, and impartial implementation. A respectful relationship between the two was supposed to lay the foundation for good governance. Today, the situation is such that khadi often appears to impose its views through numerical strength and positional power, while khaki, fearing transfer, retaliation, or false accusations, refrains from offering policymaking advice. Officers have com-

to believe that "what the higher-ups want" is more important than "what is right." This mindset not only weakens administrative ethics but also calls into question the rule of law. This environment directly impacts the image of education in society. When young people repeatedly witness the scene where those who studied for years, passed competitive exams, and underwent training are left standing at the end; while those who climbed the political ladder without any preparation are left sitting and making the final decisions, disappointment naturally arises. The message is clear: education does not bring power, knowledge does not make decisions, and hard work does not ensure respect. Gradually, education becomes a mere means to obtain employment, not a means to guide society. Ironically, when policies fail, plans fail to materialize, or corruption is exposed, officers are often the first to be targeted. The reality is that most major decisions are made at the political level, and officers are the implementers of those policies. Yet, the entire responsibility for failure is placed on them. This is a double injustice—limited participation in decision-making, but complete accountability. The result is that honest and forthright officers are discouraged, and "silence and doing what is told" becomes the safe option. Whenever the question is raised about whether a minimum level of education and administrative understanding should be required for policymaking and minis-

# How China Got Trapped In Its Own 'Export Miracle'

Last week, China reported the world's largest ever trade surplus for 2025, a year when Donald Trump's tariffs on more than 90 countries gave a jolt to the global economic order. The Chinese trade surplus reached a massive \$1.19 trillion, despite Beijing reducing exports to the US by 20%. It simply sold much more to the rest of the world, including India. The staggering \$1.9 trillion trade surplus of China is just under half the size of India's GDP and close to the size of Saudi Arabia's, a G-20 member. Last year, China was the largest trading partner of Brazil in America's backyard, of Central Asia in Russia's backyard and the Gulf countries, where the US used to dominate. The US has already lost Africa to Beijing; if Trump continues with his disastrous tariff policies, even other regions could become China's number one trading partner, replacing the US. China has not had a global trade deficit since 1993. It has come a long way from being one of the world's poorest countries in 1978, when its leader Deng Xiaoping introduced economic reforms, to becoming the world's second largest economy and a superpower. But in the process, China has also transformed the global economy, making everyone else dependent on it, based on a model that has created problems even for its own people. But can this model survive?

The Making Of China's Economic Model Beijing's exports-based economic model has roots in Deng's reforms, which paved the way for the country to become the world's manufacturing hub. Large plants and factories were set up across the country to produce cheaper products for the rest of the world. Gradually, millions of Western manufacturing jobs were outsourced to factories in China. These state-subsidised plants forced many factories in other countries to close down because they could not compete with Chinese products. As early as 1994, silk farmers in India were complaining that the dumping of cheap Chinese synthetic silk in the country was driving them out of business. Beijing has often been accused of dumping its products in other countries. Such accusations have resurfaced after the publication of the lat-



est record surplus figures. But China has continued to expand its production capacity, diversifying into many new fields. The current Chinese leader, Xi Jinping, has taken the country's economic model to a new level. After becoming the head of the Communist Party in 2013, he focused on high-quality development by investing in strategic emerging industries to become a dominant force that could not only challenge China's rivals but also control them. Self-Reliance Or World Domination? At the core of China's economic strategy is making itself self-reliant, according to the Chinese leaders. Xi's 10-year programme, known as Made in China, launched in 2015 to reduce dependence on the West, has achieved most goals. Beijing's unprecedented investment in green technologies has made it the undisputed world leader in renewables, electric vehicles and many other fields. Over the weekend, China's state media reported that the country consumed 10.4 trillion kilowatt-hours of power in 2025, according to the National Energy Administration. This is more than double the use in the United States and exceeds the combined power consumption in India, Russia, Japan

and the European Union. This suggests industrial plants and AI data centres in China are working harder than anywhere else. Xi has also prepared China for a trade war with the United States and ordered his officials to work on choke points for its economy, which he successfully employed last year in response to Trump's tariffs. As early as 2019, Xi described rare earths and other critical minerals as an "important strategic resource." Beijing now has almost total control over the global supply of those minerals. India may be a leading supplier of pharmaceuticals, but China is the world's dominant producer of the ingredients needed to make antibiotics and other pharmaceuticals. The same is the case in the solar power industry. Global Domination But Domestic Repression China's economic growth helped its government to lift tens of millions of people out of poverty and make many others in the country rich, especially in the early years of reform. But its model of increasing growth by selling cheaply to the world has had its implications. For years, Chinese families subsidised the country's rise through foregone returns while the rest of the world splurged on dis-

counted Chinese goods. While the rest of the world is fighting inflation, China is facing an acute problem of deflation, where prices continue to drop, discouraging customers from buying in the fear that goods would be even cheaper later. This is caused by overcapacity in factories and weak domestic demand. A persistent decline in consumption signals deeper economic trouble. Last year, Chinese authorities promised new child-care subsidies, increased wages and better paid leaves to revive a slowing economy. But that has failed to have any meaningful impact. The collapse of the property market in recent years has also made Chinese consumers more risk-averse, leading them to cut back on spending. Domestic consumption drives more than 80% of growth in the US and UK, and about 70% in India. China's share has typically ranged between 50% to 55% over the past decade. So Xi has a hard task to encourage his countrymen to spend more. Falling Birth Rate China is facing another problem that is threatening its economic model. A shrinking population of youngsters and an ever-growing number of elderly people. On Monday, the authorities announced that the birth rate has now fallen to the lowest level since 1949, when Mao Zedong came to power after leading the communist revolution. Last year, only 7.92 million new babies were born, a decline of 17% over 2024. This means China will have fewer people to work in its factories to sustain its export-based economy. On top of that, young families now have to care for their elderly parents. The Social Security System in China is poor in comparison to other industrialised economies. The Chinese government has offered many incentives to encourage youngsters to have children and taxed contraceptives but young Chinese are not keen to produce babies. Currency Manipulation Western countries have often alleged that China's rise has been aided by the manipulation of the global system, using its state-owned or subsidised firms to buy depressed assets in other countries, and, above all, keeping its currency renminbi artificially low - which makes its products cheap.

## Dear America, Keep Your Republic and Let All Others Keep Theirs

It is not easy to play poker with Washington these days. It holds a trump card never seen in the deck before. It is now an ace, a king, a jack, and a joker with very dark intent. For example, just when we were being schooled to believe that Russia and China could be gunning for Greenland, it turns out that is the trump card gunning for Europe and NATO. The terrible child, having snatched the bauble of world opinion - which he otherwise despises - from Maria Machado, with a forthrightly stated "I am the one who deserves the peace prize", is again to the fore. "I want Greenland, give me Greenland," says he. "And if you don't I will then tariff more and yet more; you are allies only if I be your lead bad boy. If not, Europe and NATO can go as many leagues below the Mediterranean as they might, so long as I have my Greenland." Gosh, if only the good old Dr. Sigmund Freud were still with us, what illuminations he might have shared with us little people. What of the lilliputians who live on that land? The joker in the poker would say, "In poker, the winner takes all, be they chips or homo sapiens." So come forth, speak to them the truth that only muscle matters; the rest is moral blackmail visited by the weak on the puissant. Thus spake Zarathustra, have you forgotten? No sir, we haven't.



And we remember what inferno them teachings of Nietzsche brought the western hemisphere which Trump has vowed to protect with blood and guts; so why not turn East? You have a combined GDP equivalent to the US. So think how you might put the joker back in the pack by simply teaming up with Russia and China who, after all, have never coveted any of your belongings, not even Greenland; and who, in fact, saved you from your own predators eight decades ago. So rise and shine. Bring down the poker. Save Greenland. Show the way down to the Greenback, where it may begin to be reborn with a human face. Build a new world with sturdy, self-confident, peace-loving BRICS. Prepare a new American ground to plant a Bernie Sanders here, a

Zohran Mamdani there. Forestall the bad boy of the day from extracting Mette Frederiksen, who governs Greenland, as he did the incautious Nicolas Maduro. And, dear Americans, look to Minneapolis. Allow yourselves to take in the full meaning of the contention there, before the moment comes when, like a century and a half before, a call goes up for secession from the Union. Save the federation, save democracy and save the ideals which led mankind out from the dark ages. Recall Benjamin Franklin's prophetic caution: "A republic, if you can keep it." Keep your republic and help all others keep what they have chosen for themselves. Badri Raina taught at Delhi University.

# Tata Motors Launches 17 Next-Generation Trucks, sets New Standards for Safety, Profitability & Progress

New Delhi, 20 January 2026:

In a landmark move set to transform the Indian trucking landscape, Tata Motors, India's largest commercial vehicle manufacturer and mobility solutions provider, today launched its next-generation portfolio of 17 trucks, spanning 7 to 55 tonnes, setting new benchmarks in safety, profits and progress. This comprehensive launch introduces the all-new Azura series, the cutting-edge Tata Trucks.ev range, and significant upgrades to the established Prima, Signa, and Ultra platforms. Engineered to conform to stringent global safety standards (ECE R29 03), these trucks maximise earning potential, reduce total cost of ownership and enhance vehicle uptime to deliver greater success to transporters. Launching the new trucks, Mr. Girish Wagh, MD & CEO, Tata Motors Ltd., said, "India's trucking landscape is undergoing a rapid transformation, driven by progressive national policies, modern infrastructure, and the rising demand for safer, cleaner, and more efficient logistics. Tata Motors has always



led the way in setting benchmarks that shape the industry's future. With the introduction of our next-generation portfolio—including the all-new Azura series, two advanced high-efficiency powertrains, India's widest range of zero-emission electric trucks and tippers on our new I-MOEV architecture, significant upgrades to European standard cabins and industry-leading safety features, increased payload and fuel efficiency, all seamlessly integrated with Fleet Edge digital services, we are advancing this legacy. Guided by 'Better Always'

philosophy, our relentless drive for innovation, deep commitment to localisation, and unwavering focus on customer success embody the vision of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat', enhancing India's self-reliance and aspiration to lead in sustainable mobility." Introducing Azura - Excellence Reimagined for the ILMCV segment. Highlights of Azura: New 3.6-litre diesel engine with best-in-class performance and efficiency. Available in 7 to 19-tonne configurations.

Contemporary styling with bold grille, stylish panels, and signature Trust bar. All-new walkthrough Cabin with enhanced interiors – Comfortable and safe with D+2 seating configuration, reclining seats, enhanced utility space, ergonomically designed for fatigue-free driving. Tata Motors showcased the all-new Azura range. Purpose-built to deliver superior performance, comfort and uptime in the intermediate and light commercial vehicle segment. Engineered to drive productivity, safety and comfort, Azura combines aesthetics with purpose for a fatigue-free driving experience. Powered by a

new 3.6-litre diesel engine delivering best-in-class performance and efficiency, Azura sets a new benchmark for reliability and uptime. The Azura range will be offered in 7 to 19-tonne configurations, perfectly suited for a diverse array of applications—from e-commerce and FMCG distribution to white goods delivery, construction material transport, agricultural and industrial goods movement, as well as intercity, medium-haul, and regional logistics. Bringing World-Class Safety to Indian Roads Tata Motors has set a new benchmark for road safety by comprehensively upgrading its entire truck portfolio—including the Signa, Prima, Ultra, and all-new Azura range—to meet the stringent ECE R29 03 global crash safety standard (Euro crash norms). These trucks feature cabins engineered for full frontal, rollover, and side-impact protection, and are equipped with up to 23 India-specific advanced active safety technologies such as adaptive cruise control, lane departure warning, and collision mitigation systems.

## Yulu Marks National Road Safety Month with Rider Awareness Rallies in Bengaluru and Delhi

Bengaluru, January 20, 2026: Reinforcing its commitment to safer roads and responsible riding, India's largest shared EV mobility tech company Yulu, organised rider awareness initiatives in Bengaluru and Delhi as part of the National Road Safety Month campaign spearheaded by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH). Aligned with this year's theme, "Sadak Suraksha, Jeevan Raksha" (Road Safety Saves Lives), Yulu conducted a two-wheeler EV rally in Bengaluru and participated in a government-led road safety rally in Delhi to promote traffic discipline and health awareness among riders. The company kicked off its campaign in Bengaluru with a 5-kilometre anti-drug and road safety awareness rally, joined by 30 police officials. The rally was flagged off by Inspector R. Veeresh of the Vivek Nagar Police Station and covered key junctions across Vivek Nagar, Koramangala and surrounding areas. The offi-



cials engaged with fellow road users and local residents, highlighting the importance of personal well-being and responsible riding. In Delhi, Yulu participated in a two-wheeler rally organised by MoRTH and Delhi Traffic Police at Connaught Place. The rally was flagged off by Additional Commissioner of Police (Traffic), DK Gupta. It saw participation from around 200 riders—including Yulu users and delivery partners—who interacted with commuters to reinforce the importance of road safety awareness.

Over the last eight years, Yulu has promoted road safety through multiple platforms and formats including in-app and WhatsApp-based safety notifications, training videos and on-ground workshops conducted in partnership with local police departments. "Enabling people to navigate cities safely and securely is a vital part of Yulu's mission. Therefore, we work closely with all relevant stakeholders—from delivery brands to gig workers and transport officials—to sensitise communities to the importance of responsible and safe riding," says Mr. R.K. Misra, Co-founder and President - Ecosystem Partnerships, Yulu. One example of this can be seen in Yulu's largest market, Bengaluru, where the company has deployed trained safety Marshals at major junctions to guide riders and ensure compliance with traffic rules, at the request of the Bengaluru Traffic Police. These, and numerous other initiatives, underscore Yulu's ongoing efforts to foster safer and healthier urban communities.

## Celebrate Republic Day 2026 with Exclusive ASUS Laptop Offers

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REPUBLIC DAY SPECIAL  
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Game like a Pro  
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Upgrade with ASUS Accessories  
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Hyderabad, January 2026: ASUS, a Taiwanese tech giant, is celebrating the spirit of India's Republic Day with exciting offers across its wide range of laptops. As part of the Republic Day Sale, consumers can upgrade their digital experience with cutting-edge ASUS laptops, ranging from high-performance gaming machines to sleek and lightweight productivity devices. The offers span across ASUS' popular product line-ups, including

ROG, TUF, Vivobook, and Zenbook series. During this limited-period festive sale, customers can enjoy savings of up to 19% on select ASUS laptops, making it an ideal time to invest in advanced technology and best-in-class performance. These special Republic Day offers will be available till 26th January 2026 at leading electronics retail chains, including Reliance Digital, Croma, and Vijay Sales, ensuring easy access for customers across the country. Customers can

## Bandhan Mutual Fund Offers Two ETF Fund of Funds for Simple and Efficient Access to Precious Metals

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Introducing Bandhan Gold ETF FOF  
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Bandhan Mutual Fund investments are subject to market risks, read all scheme related documents carefully.

Hyderabad, January 2026:

Bandhan Mutual Fund has announced the launch of the Bandhan Gold ETF FOF and Bandhan Silver ETF FOF, two open-ended schemes designed to provide investors with an easy, transparent, and cost-efficient way to participate in gold and silver. The New Fund Offers (NFOs) open on Monday, 12 January 2026, and close on Tuesday, 20 January 2026.

Investments in the Bandhan Gold ETF FOF and Bandhan Silver ETF FOF can be made through licensed mutual fund distributors, investment advisors, online platforms, or directly at <https://bandhanmutual.com/cam>. Bandhan Gold ETF FOF and Bandhan Silver ETF FOF combine the

assurance and transparency of ETFs with the simplicity of mutual fund investing. Investors can now participate in the resilience of gold and the structural industrial demand for silver through a liquid, transparent format. These offerings are designed to make precious metal investing easier, smarter, and more accessible for a much wider audience." Bandhan Gold ETF FOF and Bandhan Silver ETF FOF are suitable for investors seeking to enhance portfolio resilience, diversify across assets, and participate in the evolving global demand for precious metals through a simple and efficient investment route.

## THE PREMIA ACADEMY HONOURED WITH SUSTAINABILITY SUPERSTAR AWARD AT GOSHARPENER SUSTAINABILITY SUPERSTAR '25 CONCLAVE

**HYDERABAD: 20th January, 2026:** The Premia Academy, a leading international school in Hyderabad, today has been recognized for its exceptional Sustainability Superstar Awarded at Gosharpenne Sustainability Superstar '25 Conclave and recognises institutions creating meaningful impact through sustainability-driven practices. The recognition reflects The Premia Academy's belief that education should not only prepare students for careers, but also for life—by nurturing values of responsibility, empathy, and environmental consciousness.

At the conclave, the Academy also shared its experiences and insights on shaping education that is future-ready, sustainable, and rooted in purpose. The Gosharpenne Sustainability Superstar '25 Conclave brought together changemakers



from across sectors to discuss how organisations can create long-term value while staying socially and environmentally responsible. The Premia Academy stood out for seamlessly weaving sustainability into its

curriculum, campus culture, and everyday learning experiences. Speaking on the occasion, Ms. Sinduri Reddy, Founder & Managing Director of The Premia Academy, said: "This national recognition is a powerful affirmation of our core mission and its truly belongs to our students, teachers, and the entire Premia community. Sustainability for us is not a checklist—it's a way of thinking, learning, and growing together. We want our students to understand their role in building a better, more responsible future." "We believe the classrooms of today shape the world of tomorrow. By encouraging curiosity, critical thinking, and conscious choices, we aim to raise young individuals who don't just succeed professionally, but also contribute positively to society." Adding to this, Ms. Trupti Rao, Principal of The Premia Academy, added: "The Sustainability Superstar Award reinforces The Premia Academy's ongoing efforts to redefine education—one that empowers learners to lead with purpose, act responsibly, and make a meaningful difference in the world around them."

## BHARAT STEEL TO SHAPE GLOBAL DIALOGUE ON THE FUTURE OF STEEL



New Delhi, 13 Jan, 2026: As India prepares to host Bharat Steel 2026, a global platform to reshape future of steel, the nation is signalling its intent to showcase the next era of global steelmaking forged by R&D, digitalization, innovation, and access to high skilled engineering and technology human resources. The two-day summit in New Delhi will bring together policymakers, technology pioneers and industry leaders to confront the defining challenges of the decade: building resilient supply chains and accelerating the transition to low-emission steel production. Steel has played a pivotal role in modern economies, akin to a skeleton", emphasised Shri Narendra Modi, the Prime Minister of India, remarking that whether it is skyscrapers, shipping, highways, high-speed rail, smart cities, or industrial corridors, steel is the strength behind every success story. "India is striving to achieve the goal of becoming a \$5 trillion economy, with the steel sector playing a significant role in this mission", he added during India Steel 2025, expressing pride in India being the world's second-largest steel producer. The Prime Minister's vision forms the corner-

stone of this year's Bharat Steel summit, which seeks to reimagine a global blueprint for the steel sector at a time marked by economic uncertainty, fragmented trade flows, rising protectionist tariffs, and the urgent imperative of achieving net-zero goals. India's leadership is rooted in both scale as it is already among the largest steel producers and ambition, with a national target of 300 MT of steel production capacity by 2030 and 500 MT by 2047. India's steel demand continues to grow across infrastructure, housing, railways, defence and energy. But achieving 500 MT requires more than added capacity; it demands

secure raw materials, predictable regulations and innovation-led modernisation. Strengthened domestic beneficiation, reduced coking-coal dependence, improved logistics and efficient approvals form the backbone of this supply-side push. The Government's Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for specialty steel is reshaping the sector, shifting India from commodity-grade output toward high-value precision engineered steels essential for aerospace, automotive, defence and advanced infrastructure. 'Green' steel lies at the heart of India's competitiveness. The Ministry of Steel's 2024 Green-Steel Roadmap outlines the transi-

tion to clean energy integration, green hydrogen pilots, CCUS deployment, expanded scrap utilisation and emerging routes like direct electrolysis. Digitalisation; covering IoT monitoring, robotics, automation and predictive maintenance; will be a core Summit theme. AI-based optimisation promises efficiency gains, lower waste and improved quality. This technology thrust will be reinforced by expanded R&D, deeper partnerships, clearer tech-transfer pathways and pilot-scale trials for emerging processes. As global trade moves toward carbon-accounting norms, India aims to position itself as a major exporter of low-emission, high-grade steel. The National Steel Strategy prioritises joint ventures in hydrogen-based DRI, CCUS and electrolysis technologies, supported by targeted investment incentives. The Bharat Steel Summit thus marks a pivotal moment; one in which India seeks to chart a global roadmap for a steel sector that is secure, competitive, climate-aligned and future-ready. Such direction will ensure that steel remains not only the backbone of India's infrastructure, but also the spine of sustainable progress and global industrial leadership.

# Chagos sovereignty no longer up for debate, says Mauritius, after Trump criticises UK deal

Mauritius' attorney general has responded to Donald Trump's criticism of the Chagos deal, stressing that it still expects the agreement to go ahead. In the written statement, Gavin Glover says it is "important to remember" that the deal was "negotiated, concluded and signed exclusively between the United Kingdom and the Republic of Mauritius". "The sovereignty of the Republic of Mauritius over the Chagos Archipelago is already unambiguously recognised by international law and should no longer be subject to debate," it says. "We expect the treaty to be implemented as soon as possible, in accordance with the commitments made." The government's opponents argue that giving up the Chagos Islands represents an act of national self-harm and a boost to the United Kingdom's rivals, especially China. The arguments include an element of



post-imperial hand-wringing but also the fear that the base at Diego Garcia, vital to both the UK and United States, will soon be more vulnerable. The base's remote location makes it extremely difficult to monitor, except from space. But if Mauritius decides to open up the waters of the Chagos archipelago to commercial fishing, this could change. "Beijing uses its fishing fleet as the eyes and ears of

its military," Jack Watling of the Royal United Services Institute wrote in November 2024. "There is a significant risk that such vessels will soon ply the waters around the base." If such concerns were shared by in Washington, there was little sign of it last summer when US Secretary of State Marco Rubio spoke in glowing terms of what he called "this monumental achievement". In February

last year, Donald Trump said he had "a feeling that it's going to work out well". It's not clear why he seems to have changed his mind so dramatically. Donald Trump's post on his Truth Social platform earlier positioned the Chagos Islands deal as a matter of national security for America, referring to Diego Garcia as "the site of a vital US Military Base". The US launched a huge construction project

on the island in the 1970s and spent 10 years turning it into a fully operational military airbase. The site, and operations there, are highly secretive. Here are some of the operations it has been involved in before: During former US President George W Bush's so-called War on Terror, following the 9/11 (11 September) attacks, US stealth bombers would stop off at Diego Garcia as they returned from bombing runs of al-Qaeda targets in Afghanistan. It was later a key base for US and UK operations during the Iraq War. Troops and bombing aircraft were stationed there, as well as the giant US Navy hospital ship USNS Comfort. More recently, in May 2025, satellite imagery from Earth data analytics company Planet Labs showed that the Pentagon had deployed bombers to the island. This came after the US ramped-

up its bombing campaign against the Houthi rebel group in Yemen and amid tensions with Iran. Downing Street has said the US still supports the deal to hand sovereignty of the Chagos Islands to Mauritius, despite President Trump calling it "an act of great stupidity". The prime minister's official spokesperson says: "Our position hasn't changed on Diego Garcia or on the treaty that's been signed." "The US supports the deal and the president explicitly recognised its strength last year," they say. "All our Five Eyes allies support it too and they all understand the national security capabilities that the base provides." When the UK took control of the Chagos Islands - Diego Garcia is the southernmost - from former British colony Mauritius, it sought to rapidly evict its population of more than 1,000 people to make way for the military base.

## France makes first interception targeting small boat crossings to UK



French officials have obtained by the BBC made their first interception on the water as part of a new policy aimed at stopping small boats carrying illegal migrants to the UK. A so-called "taxi-boat" was boarded by French officers on Saturday on the Aa canal in Gravelines, which is on the Channel coast above Calais. It follows a change of tactics agreed in November following growing pressure from the UK government to step up interventions. A photograph of the aftermath of the operation

## Palestinian children's football pitch faces Israeli demolition ultimatum



A Palestinian children's football club in the occupied West Bank faces imminent demolition despite an international campaign to save it. Its supporters say it provides a rare sporting opportunity for young Palestinian players. But Israel insists it's been built without the necessary permits. In this deeply divided land so much is contested; from the identities and faiths of the people who live here, to every inch of the ground they stand on. Recently, that has come to include one small patch of artificial turf laid down under the shadow of the giant concrete wall that isolates Israel from much of the occupied West Bank. In the context of the 7 October attacks, the two-year war in Gaza and the fragility of the current ceasefire, there are without doubt far more pressing issues. But this is a story freighted with symbolism and one which has drawn outsized international attention because of its

connection to that other world religion - football. On the day we visit, a group of Palestinian children are lining up to take penalty shots in the winter sunshine. The construction of the pitch began here on the edge of Bethlehem in 2020, and today it provides a place to practise for more than 200 young players from the nearby Aida refugee camp. The cramped and crowded streets contain the homes of the descendants of Palestinian families who were forced or who fled from their homes during the 1948 Arab-Israeli war. On 3 November last year, as the children made their short walk from the camp for that day's training, they found a notice pinned to the gate of the football field declaring it to be illegal. The notice was followed soon by a demolition order. "We don't have anywhere else to play," 10-year-old Naya told me, wearing a Brazil shirt with the name of the footballing legend Neymar emblazoned on the back.

Surfer injured in fourth shark attack in Australian state in 48 hours



## US officials probing Minnesota ICE protest that disrupted church service

The US justice department has said it is investigating protesters who disrupted a Sunday service at a Minnesota church because they believed a pastor there worked for Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). Video showed protesters inside the church chanting "ICE out" and "Justice for Renee Good", the woman killed by an ICE agent in Minneapolis earlier this month. Justice department officials, who accuse the protesters of "desecrating a house of worship", say they will investigate them for civil rights violations. President Donald Trump has called them "agitators and insur-



rectionists". Anti-ICE protests continue in the state against Trump's immigration crackdown. Over the weekend, ICE officers arrested a naturalised US citizen at his St Paul home, after breaking down his front door. Videos showed officers escorting Chong Ly

Thao, clad only in shorts with a plaid blanket over his shoulders, out of his house with his hands behind his back. Images of the 56-year-old walking to a car in his snow-covered neighbourhood with an ICE agent at each elbow quickly spread across social media.

## DONALD TRUMP SAYS HE WILL '100%' CARRY OUT GREENLAND TARIFFS THREAT, AS EU VOWS TO PROTECT ITS INTERESTS



Netherlands and Finland - all of whom are members of the defence alliance Nato which was founded in 1949. Asked if he would follow through on the tariff threat, Trump told NBC News: "I will, 100%." When the outlet asked whether he would use force to seize the territory, the president replied "no comment". Trump added: "Europe ought to focus on

handful of troops to Greenland last week in a move seen as symbolic. However, Trump followed that deployment with an announcement to impose tariffs on the eight Nato allies. Danish foreign minister Lars Løkke Rasmussen said that Europe had to show President Trump tariff threats were "not the way forward". "We have red lines that can't be crossed," he told Sky News. "You can't threaten your way to ownership of Greenland. I have no intention of escalating this situation." Germany's Chancellor Friedrich Merz said that the tariffs did not benefit anyone, and he hoped to meet with the US president during his trip to Davos for the World Economic Forum. He said:

"We do not want this escalation. We do not want a trade dispute with the United States of America." He also added that the Trump administration would not have been surprised by Nato's so-called reconnaissance mission over the weekend, as it had been announced and agreed upon beforehand. "It was never a military action," the German chancellor said. The European Union is to hold an emergency summit in Brussels for its leaders on Thursday where they will discuss how to respond to Trump's latest threat to take over Greenland.

Kaja Kallas, the EU's foreign policy chief, said the bloc has "no interest to pick a fight, but we will hold our ground".

## Nigerian homicide police investigate death of singer Destiny Boy at 22



Police in Nigeria have made one arrest as they investigate the death at 22 of popular singer Destiny Boy, whose real name was Afeez Adesina. Ogun state police's homicide section is dealing with the case, it said in a brief statement. News of Destiny Boy's death emerged on Sunday, sparking shock and speculation on social media. It is not clear exactly what happened but his family reportedly said he had been suffering from a long-term illness. The body has since been buried in line with Muslim rites. Destiny Boy was seen as a promising young Afrofuturist artist, known for blending traditional Yoruba Fuji sounds with modern Afrobeats. He came to national prominence after his 2019 version of popstar Davido's hit song If Went viral on social media. He later recorded his own renditions of other popular songs as well as original tracks. Following the young man's death, videos shared widely on social media showed what appeared to be his body being transported to a mortuary, triggering

rumours about what may have led to his death. Family members have said the singer had been living with a long-term illness, which they said caused him to have seizures. In an online video, his mother, Saida, stated that the family had sought both medical and traditional treatment for the condition. She said the illness "had almost run him mad", adding that relatives had to physically restrain him during seizures to prevent him from running out.

Nigerians online have been sending condolence messages, with some questioning the circumstances of his death. On X, artist Ruger appeared to be complaining that there had been "no autopsy" and "we just have to accept that he's dead".

May God RIP Destiny Boy". The artist began his career as a backup dancer for Fuji musician Pasuma at T2 Boys Studios in Agege, a suburb of Lagos, before gaining wider attention in 2019. His death comes about a year after the birth of his first child with his partner, Iremide, in November 2024.



## Sports minister Dr Mansukh Mandaviya congratulates Ladakh for showing capability to host Khelo India Winter Games

Leh (Ladakh), January 20:

The curtains went up on the sixth edition of the Khelo India Winter Games at the Nawang Dorjan Stobdan (NDS) Stadium here on Tuesday. The Ladakh phase of the winter Games, that will host ice sports like skating and hockey, will conclude on January 26. This is the third time that the Union Territory of Ladakh is hosting KIWG. The snow leg of KIWG will be held in Gulmarg, Jammu & Kashmir later this year. At a colourful opening ceremony, punctuated by traditional music and dance and an exhibition ice hockey match between Army XI and UT Ladakh, Khelo India Winter Games 2026 were declared open by the Hon'ble Lt Governor of Ladakh, Shri Kavinder Gupta. The first leg of Khelo India Winter Games 2026 will be organised by the Youth Services and Sports department of the Union Territory of Ladakh under the supervision of the Sports Authority of India. The technical expertise for the con-



duct of the Games will be provided by the national sports promotional bodies/federations managing ice sports. In a message to Ladakh, Dr Mansukh Mandaviya, the Hon'ble Minister for Youth Affairs & Affairs, said: "I congratulate the Union Territory of Ladakh for successfully hosting the Khelo India Winter Games once again and for demonstrating, with confidence and capability, that India's winter sports

future is being built from the Himalayas outward. Under the visionary leadership of the Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Ladakh has emerged as a symbol of what focused policy, infrastructure development, and local commitment can achieve. The manner in which these Games have been organised sends a clear national signal that winter sports are now an integral part of India's competitive sporting framework

and will be pursued with seriousness, scale, and long-term intent." Dr Mandaviya added, "The Khelo India Winter Games 2026 have been deliberately designed as a two-leg competition, with ice sports in Leh followed by snow events in February at Gulmarg in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, to build depth, continuity, and high-quality competitive exposure for athletes. This structure allows

athletes to test themselves across varied terrains and conditions, closely aligned with international winter sport standards. Such sustained domestic competition is essential if India is to move beyond sporadic participation and steadily build credibility, consistency, and competitiveness in winter Olympic disciplines over the coming years." In his speech, Shri Gupta expressed how Ladakh has benefitted from Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision on promotion of sports in India. "Under the visionary leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, India's sporting culture has received a renewed impetus. Through the Khelo India initiative, youth empowerment, physical fitness, and sporting excellence have been elevated as national priorities." Shri Gupta added: "Hosting the Khelo India Winter Games continuously for the past three years is a matter of great pride for Ladakh.

## Sanjay Manjrekar Jumps To Gautam Gambhir's Defence With Stunning Claim: 'No Cricket Fan Remembers'



matters are the World Cups and not even the Champions Trophy," Manjrekar said in a video on his official Instagram account. "If you try and remember the last three Champions Trophy winners, you'll struggle to remember those. But the

50-over World Cup, you'll remember each winner from the time the World Cup started. So, yes, if you want to have your setbacks and poor performances, get it out of the system now, in time for the next World Cup," he added. "These bilateral series are sched-

uled, but they're mostly warm up games and one shouldn't read too much into them. In fact, the importance of these bilateral series has become such that, two weeks later, no cricket fan also remembers the result of what happened in that bilateral ODI series," he explained. "It's all about the World Cups and form coming into the World Cup is really not a big indicator of who's going to win the World Cup," he further stated. India take on New Zealand in five T20s, starting Wednesday, January 21. These five matches will be Suryakumar Yadav-led India's final games before they begin the defence of their T20 World Cup title on home soil.

## "Mr Expert Of Cricket Has Suggestions": Virat Kohli's Brother Rips Into Sanjay Manjrekar



Virat Kohli's brother, Vikas Kohli, launched another scathing attack on former India cricketer and reputed commentator Sanjay Manjrekar. This follows after Manjrekar had lamented that Virat Kohli retired from Test cricket to instead play ODIs. Manjrekar had described ODIs as the "easiest format", and expressed his disappointment at Kohli's decision to play only the 50-over format. However, after Kohli smashed yet another century on Sunday - this time in a losing cause against New Zealand - his brother took to social media to hit back at Manjrekar's earlier comments. "I wonder if Mr Expert of Cricket has some suggestions for the easiest form of cricket. You need to be there to do that. Anyways, as I said, easier said than done," Vikas Kohli posted on his official Threads account, subtly referring to Manjrekar's statements. This is not Vikas Kohli's first criticism of

## Brooklyn Beckham's Feud With Father David, Mother Victoria Goes Public: Timeline Of Events



Months, or rather years, of speculations of growing rifts within the Beckham family were finally made official as Brooklyn, the eldest son of David and Victoria, made some serious allegations against his parents in a 6-page statement. Brooklyn asserted that there's no scope of reconciliation with his family, as distance from them has freed him from the "overwhelming anxiety" he grew up with. The 26-year-old also cited "endless" attempts by his parents to undermine his marriage to Nicola Peltz Beckham. He even accused them of spreading lies to the media, which is why he could no longer remain quiet. Here's a timeline of events: Wedding Drama In 2022 - Nicola married

Brooklyn in a lavish Palm Beach ceremony. She wore Valentino Haute Couture instead of a Victoria Beckham design. Nicola later claimed Victoria's dress couldn't make it in time. However, sources alleged Victoria backed out at the "eleventh hour." Reports emerged that Victoria "hijacked" the couple's first dance. Instead of Brooklyn dancing with Nicola, family friend Marc Anthony reportedly called Victoria to the stage to dance with her son to the couple's chosen song, leaving Nicola in tears. Brooklyn later alleged that the night before the wedding, family members told him Nicola was "not blood"

and therefore "not family." 2023 - 2024: Just Another Family - The entire family appeared united at the London premiere of David's Netflix documentary in October 2023. - Victoria and Nicola were seen smiling together at the premiere of Nicola's film, Lola, appearing to quash feud rumours in February 2024. Brooklyn and Nicola spent Christmas with the Beckhams, with Victoria posting "together for the holidays makes me so happy", in December 2024. 2025: The Relationship Collapse - Brooklyn and Nicola were notably absent from David Beckham's 50th birthday celebrations. Brooklyn later claimed he travelled to London, but David refused to see him privately unless Nicola was

## Rohtak Royals Kick Off Training Camp In Rohtak Under Head Coach Surender Nada



Ardroit Sports LLP-owned Rohtak Royals, the franchise representing the city of Rohtak in the inaugural Kabaddi Champions League (KCL), have begun their training camp in Rohtak under the guidance of newly appointed Head Coach Surender Nada, marking the formal start of the team's preparations for the upcoming season. The Kabaddi Champions League Trophy Tour, which was recently launched, is travelling across the state and will reach Rohtak on January 21. For Surender Nada, the camp marks the beginning of a new chapter after a decorated playing career spanning over 15 years. A gold medalist with India at the 2016

Kabaddi World Cup, the 2017 Asian Kabaddi Championship, the 2018 Dubai Kabaddi Masters and the 2019 South Asian Games, Nada now turns his focus to building Rohtak Royals from the sidelines. Speaking on the start of Rohtak Royals' journey in the Kabaddi

## Shreyas Iyer Snubbed, This India Star To Bat At No. 3 In 1st T20I Against New Zealand



Indian cricket team skipper Suryakumar Yadav said that wicket-keeper batter Ishan Kishan will be taking Tilak Varma's slot in the batting order during the first T20I against New Zealand on Wednesday. With Tilak out of the first few matches due to injury, Suryakumar revealed that Kishan will be batting at No. 3. While Shreyas Iyer was another option for the No. 3 slot, the India captain explained that Kishan will be given the chance as he is a part of the T20 World Cup squad.

Kishan was included in the T20 World Cup squad in place of Shubman Gill, keeping "team combination" in mind, while Shreyas was included as a replacement for Tilak for the first three T20I matches. "Ishan will bat at number 3 because he is a part of our T20 World Cup team and he was picked in the squad first so it's our responsibility to give him a chance," he said in the pre-match press conference. "He hasn't played for India for

past one and half year and in the mean time consistently performed in domestic cricket," the Indian skipper did not leave any room for guess work.

"Since he (Ishan) has been picked for World T20, he deserves to play ahead (of Shreyas). Had it been a question of batting slots Nos 4 or 5, it would have been a different question altogether. Unfortunately, Tilak isn't there so Ishan is our best bet," he added. When asked if he himself has any chance of

batting at No.3 where he got a lot of success, the skipper indicated that he would like to be flexible. "I have batted at both positions for India. My stats at No. 4 are slightly better" although they are good at No. 3 also. But then we are flexible with that," he said. "We will see and if the situation demands that we have to send a right-hander (in case right-hander Sanju Samson gets out), then, I will go in, otherwise Tilak (now injured) has been doing really well at number three."

## Full Details Of Babar Azam-Steve Smith Controversy Revealed: "Misunderstanding Of Cultures"



Sydney Sixers captain Moises Henriques revealed that the Big Bash League controversy involving Babar Azam and Steve Smith did not end on the spot and actually went on for a few days. It all started after the Pakistani cricketer was left fuming on being denied a singlet by Smith during their match against Sydney Thunder. Media reports claimed that Babar felt 'disrespected' by Smith's decision and even told his teammates in the dressing room about his feelings. He also slammed the boundary cushions with his bat after his dismissal during the match. However, ahead of their next game, Smith revealed that everyone was fine between the two and the

matter was completely resolved. Henriques has now revealed that he played a small part in establishing peace between the two players and he described the entire incident as "a bit of a misunderstanding of cultures". "It

took a couple of days for it to settle down. To be honest, I think it was just a bit of a misunderstanding of cultures. It's a pretty common thing in our culture, and for him, he wasn't used to it. Didn't quite understand. Once it was

explained to him, he was absolutely fine. They kissed and made up. I played a role post-game, and so it should be. He was quite upset with what happened on the field. So we needed to try and understand why he felt that way. So once we got to the bottom of it, it was ok," he said. Earlier, Smith opened up about his relationship with Pakistan star Babar Azam following their recent Big Bash League controversy. "Nah, he's good. We were just chatting before. I thought he batted really well the other night and we had a good partnership. We were talking about our golf there. He's looking forward to tonight; it's a nice wicket, so I hope we can get off to a good start again," Smith said.

## FULHAM IN TALKS TO SIGN MAN CITY WINGER BOBB



when asked about Bobb's injury, Guardiola replied: "He says he is not fit, so he is not fit." Semenyo's signing adds competition on the right wing, where Brazilian Savinho also plays, meaning Bobb may well be allowed to leave this month either on loan or a permanent transfer. Fulham have lost only one of their past seven games under Marco Silva, sitting 11th in the table and progressing into the fourth round of the FA Cup. Bobb has featured six times for Norway this year, helping them qualify for this summer's World Cup, and would unite with compatriot Sander Berge at Craven Cottage. He missed almost the whole of last season after fracturing a bone in his leg during training in August 2024.

