



20-01-2026
Total pilgrims: 73,788
Tonsures: 23,449
Hundi Kanakalu: 4,65 CR
Waiting Compartments: 13

Approx. Darsan Time for Sarvadharshanam
(with out SSD Tokens): 12 H



NATION | NEWS

**KTR condemns
Congress MP for
'attack' on BRS MLA**



WORLD | NEWS

**Could US Congress
stop Trump from
taking over Greenland?**

SPORTS | NEWS

**Abhishek Sharma
Shatters World Record
With 22-Ball Fifty In 1st
T20I Against New Zealand**



INBRIFS

America is now
world's hottest
economy: Trump

New Delhi (TSIT): US President Donald Trump on Wednesday addressed the World Economic Forum (WEF) in here, where he strongly promoted what he called the "American growth miracle" and praised his administration's economic record.

Speaking to global leaders and business executives, Trump said the United States had transformed from a "dead economy" into the "hottest economy in the world" within one year of his return to the White House. He claimed that growth, productivity, investment and incomes were all rising rapidly, while inflation had been brought under control. "After 12 months back in the White House, our economy is booming. Growth is exploding, productivity is surging, investment is soaring, incomes are rising. Inflation has been defeated," Trump said, calling it the fastest and most dramatic economic turnaround in US history. Trump sharply criticised former President Joe Biden, accusing his administration of creating stagflation, a situation of low growth and high inflation.

**7-year-old on
way to school
crushed to death**

Hyderabad (TSIT): A Class-I student of an Army School was killed, and her mother was critically injured when a two-wheeler they were riding skidded and fell under an Army vehicle in Telangana. The shocking incident occurred near Trimulgherry in Secunderabad on Wednesday. The seven-year-old boy, a student of Trimulgherry Army School, was on his way to the school and was riding pillion on the scooter driven by his mother. When they reached near the RK Puram Flyover, the scooter skidded. An Army truck coming behind ran over them. The child died on the spot, while her mother sustained grievous injuries. She was shifted to a hospital, where her condition is stated to be critical. The shocking visuals of the child getting crushed under the front wheel of the Army vehicle were recorded on CCTV. Neredmet police registered a case and took up the investigation. According to police, the boy's father serves in the Indian Army and is currently posted in Jammu and Kashmir. In another road accident in the city, three people were injured when a car overturned.

Telangana targets \$25 billion investment in life sciences by 2030



Hyderabad (TSIT): The Telangana government has set the target of attracting \$25 billion investment in life sciences in the next five years. The government unveiled Telangana Next-Gen Life Sciences Policy 2026-2030 at Davos with a clear roadmap to position Telangana among the top five global life sciences clusters by 2030.

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, who is leading a delegation of ministers and top officials at the World Economic Forum (WEF) annual meeting, released the policy. Industry minister Sridhar Babu said that the policy targets \$25 billion in investments and the creation of 5 lakh new jobs, with a strong focus on high-value R&D, advanced biologics and therapies, and environmentally sustainable manufacturing.

According to him, key initiatives include Green

Pharma City, flagship Pharma Villages, and 1Bio, a first-of-its-kind growth-phase centre and biopharma scale-up manufacturing facility. The State government will also establish a dedicated Life Sciences Innovation Fund, scalable up to Rs 100 crore (\$111 million). "With Hyderabad already home to the World Economic Forum's Fourth Industrial Revolution (C4IR) Network and the world's first centre focused on healthcare and life sciences, Telangana is uniquely positioned to lead the next wave of global life sciences innovation. We are building a future-ready ecosystem that is science-led, sustainable, and globally competitive," the minister said.

By leveraging its established strengths in pharmaceutical manufacturing, vaccine production, and R&D, while strategically diversifying into emerging

fields such as biologics, precision medicine, and biomanufacturing, Telangana is poised to redefine healthcare and life sciences innovation, says the policy document. Telangana currently contributes 40 per cent of India's pharmaceutical production. The state is the only region in the world housing over 250 USFDA-approved manufacturing sites.

The state has also earned the reputation of being the vaccine capital of the world and played a key role in saving millions of lives during the COVID-19 pandemic. With a total vaccine production capacity of approximately 14 billion doses, it has solidified its leadership position as a global vaccine hub. The state is also emerging as a leader in the manufacturing of medical devices and diagnostic equipment/reagents with a flourishing ecosystem.

AP Minister Nara Lokesh Accelerates Investment Push at Davos WEF 2026



Amravathi (TSIT): In a high-energy outreach at the World Economic Forum (WEF) Annual Meeting 2026, Andhra Pradesh's Minister for IT, Education, and RTG Departments, Nara Lokesh, intensified efforts to position the state as a premier hub for technology and renewable energy investments.

Lokesh held a series of targeted meetings with top executives from leading

global firms in fintech, green energy, and artificial intelligence, pitching Andhra Pradesh's strategic advantages, infrastructure, and policy support to attract substantial capital inflows.

The minister's agenda focused on transforming Visakhapatnam into a key tech and fintech center while advancing renewable energy projects across the state. He presented clear investment proposals highlighting port infrastructure, skilled talent pools, and supportive ecosystems for startups and innovation.

A standout meeting was with Nikhil Kamath, Founder of prominent stock-broking platform Zerodha. Lokesh proposed establishing a Technology Development Center in Visakhapatnam as part of the city's plan to emerge as a fintech hub. The center would concentrate on platform engineering, backend systems, trading algorithms, and data analytics.

Mamata directs DMs to strictly follow SC guidelines during electoral roll revision, avoid harassment

Kolkata (TSIT): West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday instructed district magistrates to strictly adhere to the Supreme Court's directions while conducting hearings related to the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, stressing that people should not be harassed in the name of "logical discrepancies".

The chief minister made the remarks after unexpectedly joining a meeting chaired by Chief Secretary Nandini Chakraborty with district magistrates at the state secretariat, Nabanna.

According to a senior official, Banerjee made it

**CM TELLS DMs:
ACCEPT EVERY
SC-LISTED
DOCUMENT, GIVE
RECEIPTS,
RESCHEDULE IF
VOTERS CAN'T
ATTEND.**



clear that all SIR-related hearings must be conducted strictly as per the apex court's instructions. She expressed concern that people were facing inconvenience due to hearings over so-called logical dis-

crepancies and said the process should be approached with a humanitarian outlook.

"She underlined that documents recognised as valid by the Supreme Court must be accepted without

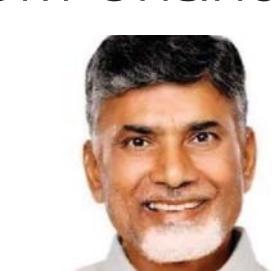
exception during the hearings. District magistrates were also asked to ensure that receipts are issued to citizens after submission of documents," the official said. The chief minister further directed officials to make alternative arrangements for voters who are unable to attend hearings on the scheduled dates.

Banerjee emphasised that while the Election Commission's work should continue, the state's development programmes must not be disrupted under any circumstances. She also assured officials that they need not fear, stating that her government stands firmly with them.

to companies within no time. In addition, an escrow account and other incentives are being provided to attract investments and promote industrialisation.

He said that the state government will monitor the progress of investment proposals in real time, according to an official release. The Chief Minister said that the state government is keen on introducing technology in the agricultural sector. He revealed that the state government has signed MoUs to export green ammonia to other

Focusing on promotion of Brand AP: CM Chandrababu Naidu



Amaravati, Jan 21 : Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu said on Wednesday that he is focusing on promotion of 'Brand Andhra Pradesh' to attract more investments.

The Chief Minister told media representatives on the third day of the World Economic Forum (WEF) that Andhra Pradesh is industry-friendly and by adopting speed of doing business it is according to permissions

countries. In addition to development in several sectors to provide employment opportunities to youth, the state government is focussing on the development of Amaravati as a green and blue city.

Naidu stated that efforts are on to set up a global leadership centre in Amaravati. Several global entrepreneurs met CM Naidu and discussed the investment opportunities in Andhra Pradesh.

India democratising AI with subsidised GPUs, skills, regulation push: Ashwini Vaishnaw

New Delhi, Jan 21 (UNI) Outrightly rejecting IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva's claim that India belongs to a "second grouping" of AI economies, IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said global benchmarks place the country firmly among the top tier of AI-ready nations.

He said that India is building capabilities across the entire AI stack, including by providing government-subsidised access to GPUs. "India is democratising AI by offering government-subsidised GPU access at one-third of the global cost, free AI models for common needs, training 10 million people in AI skills, and steering the IT industry toward scalable AI services for India and the



world," he said.

Speaking on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos on Tuesday, Vaishnaw questioned the criteria used by the IMF and pointed to a Stanford University assessment that ranks India third globally in AI preparedness.

"I don't know what the IMF

criteria is, but Stanford places India third in the world for AI preparedness. I don't think your classification is correct," he said, adding that India should "clearly be in the first group."

The minister highlighted that the AI regulation must follow a techno-legal approach, not just standalone laws, stressing the need for robust technical tools to address risks such as bias and deepfakes, including detection systems accurate enough to stand judicial scrutiny.

"India is developing technologies to mitigate bias, enable reliable deepfake detection, and ensure proper unlearning before AI models are deployed," he said.

The minister also emphasised India's systematic approach to

AI adoption, which is to overcome GPU scarcity. He said the government has established a public-private partnership with 38,000 GPUs as a common compute facility, accessible to students, researchers, and startups at roughly one-third the global cost, unlike many countries where big tech controls GPU access. Further, the minister highlights the economics of the Fifth Industrial Revolution. "ROI will come from deploying cost-effective solutions. Large AI models don't always need expensive GPUs; smaller models can suffice using widely available CPUs, reducing dependency on specific countries and minimizing geopolitical risks," he said.

Two minors escape from govt remand home in Ujjain

Ujjain, Jan 20: Two boys aged 13 and 15 escaped from a government-run remand home in Madhya Pradesh's Ujjain district late on Tuesday night, police said. The incident occurred at the facility located in the Lalpur area under the Naghiri police station limits. According to police, the boys broke the iron grill of a bathroom window and fled, managing to evade the security guards on duty.

City Superintendent of Police (CSP) Shweta Gupta said one of the boys had been lodged in the remand home for the past three months, while the other had been staying there for nearly a year. One of the minors sought permission to use the bathroom late at night, broke the grill and escaped, and the second boy followed shortly thereafter. The staff launched a search when the boys failed to return, following which the police were informed. Search teams have been formed to trace the runaway minors, police added.



Delhi govt clears free LPG cylinder scheme for poor families ahead of Holi

New Delhi, Jan 21: In a major relief measure for economically weaker sections, the Delhi government has approved a scheme to provide one free LPG cooking gas cylinder to eligible households ahead of Holi. The decision was taken at a cabinet meeting held on Tuesday, with an allocation of Rs 300 crore sanctioned for the rollout, sources said.

The scheme, set to be implemented from Holi, marks the first on-ground execution of a key promise made by the BJP during the Delhi Assembly elections. In its election manifesto, the party had assured free LPG cylinders for poor families on the occasions of Holi and Diwali, along with an additional subsidised cylinder priced at Rs 500.



According to officials, the benefit will be extended to economically weaker households holding ration cards in the national capital. Identified beneficiaries will receive financial assistance equivalent to the cost of one LPG cylinder beginning this Holi.

However, the scheme will not involve the physi-

cal delivery of cylinders to households. Instead, it will be implemented through the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mechanism. The amount corresponding to the cost of one LPG cylinder will be credited directly into the Aadhaar-linked bank accounts of eligible beneficiaries. Officials said the DBT route has

been chosen to ensure transparency and convenience, enabling beneficiaries to purchase refills from their existing LPG distributors without the need to change connections or suppliers. The funds are expected to be credited to accounts ahead of the festival.

The cabinet has earmarked Rs 300 crore for the first phase of the scheme linked to Holi. Future financial allocations will be decided based on the response to the initiative and further policy decisions. Meanwhile, officials clarified that a decision regarding the BJP's other poll promise of providing LPG cylinders at a subsidised rate of Rs 500 for poor households is still pending.

President Murmu, PM Modi extend Statehood Day greetings to Meghalaya, Tripura and Manipur

President Murmu, PM Modi extend Statehood Day greetings to Meghalaya, Tripura and Manipur

New Delhi, Jan 21: President Droupadi Murmu on Wednesday extended warm greetings to the people of Meghalaya, Tripura and Manipur on the occasion of their Statehood Day, highlighting the rich cultural heritage and valuable contributions of the three northeastern states to the nation. In a social media post, the President said the states are blessed with a vibrant cultural legacy, diverse traditions and exceptional natural beauty. She noted that the enterprising and talented people of Meghalaya, Tripura and Manipur have played a significant role in India's progress and development, and wished the residents a future marked by peace, prosperity and harmony. Prime Minister Narendra Modi also conveyed



his greetings to the people of the three states through separate social media messages. Extending his wishes to Meghalaya, the Prime Minister said the people of the state have made strong contributions to the country's development. He praised Meghalaya's cultural vibrancy and scenic beauty, and expressed hope that the state would continue to scale new heights of progress in the years ahead. In his message to Tripura, Prime Minister Modi said the state's journey reflects a remarkable blend of tradition and modernity.

Lucknow becomes UP's first zero fresh waste dump city

Lucknow, Jan 21: With the commissioning of the Shivari Solid Waste Management Plant, Lucknow has achieved a major milestone in urban sustainability by attaining 100 per cent scientific processing of municipal solid waste under the Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban (SBM-U).

Officials of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) said Lucknow's waste management model reflected a strong commitment to circular economy principles by maximising resource recovery, minimising legacy waste and promoting reuse of recyclables. They described the initiatives of the Lucknow Municipal Corporation (LMC) as a model for other cities in India and abroad.

The newly launched Shivari plant has a processing capacity of 700 metric tonnes (MT) per day. With this addition, and the two existing facilities, LMC can now scientifically process the city's entire daily waste generation of over 2,100 MT, eliminating open dumping.

Lucknow generates around



2,000 MT of waste every day. To handle this, LMC, in partnership with Bhumi Green Energy, has established three waste processing plants of 700 MT per day capacity each. Waste is segregated into organic and inorganic fractions, with organic waste converted into compost and biogas, while inorganic waste is recycled or processed into Refuse Derived Fuel (RDF) for use in cement and paper industries.

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The capital city of Uttar Pradesh, with nearly 40 lakh residents and about 7.5 lakh establishments, faces growing challenges in waste management due to rapid urban expansion. LMC is addressing these issues through a multi-pronged strategy focused on scientific

disposal, resource recovery and sustainable urban development.

According to the Municipal Corporation, out of nearly 18.5 lakh MT of legacy waste, about 12.86 lakh MT has already been scientifically processed. The resulting RDF, construction and demolition waste, bio-soil and coarse fractions have been utilised through recycling, co-processing and low-land filling.

Officials said around 2.27 lakh MT of RDF has been supplied to industries across the country, while inert materials such as coarse fractions, bio-soil and construction waste have been repurposed for infrastructure development and landfilling in low-lying areas. Over 25 acres of land have been reclaimed and developed into a full-fledged waste treatment facility with supporting infrastructure. Looking ahead, LMC is preparing to set up a Waste-to-Energy plant at Shivari. The proposed 15 MW facility will use 1,000 to 1,200 MT of RDF daily to generate electricity, reducing both transportation costs and dependence on distant cement plants for RDF disposal.

Kerala woman remanded in custody in sales manager suicide case

Kozhikode, Jan 21: Shimjitha Musthafa, the accused in the case linked to the suicide of a Kerala-based sales manager, has been remanded to police custody for 14 days. She was produced before the Kumamangalam Magistrate after her arrest for posting a video of the victim on social media, in which she alleged that he had touched her inappropriately. Earlier, the Kozhikode Medical College police booked Musthafa (35), a resident of Vadakara, under charges of abetment to suicide, officials confirmed. The case relates to the death of 41-year-old Deepak U, a sales manager with a textile company, who died by suicide at his residence on Monday. Police said

Deepak had been under severe mental stress following intense trolling and abuse on social media. According to the police, the incident that triggered the controversy occurred on Friday when Deepak was travelling to his office on a crowded bus in Kozhikode.

IAF trainer aircraft crashes into pond in Prayagraj; pilots rescued safely

Prayagraj, Jan 21: An Indian Air Force (IAF) trainer aircraft crashed into a pond during a routine training flight near Prayagraj airport on Wednesday. Emergency teams, including the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) divers and fire tenders, quickly reached the site to secure the area. Both pilots were rescued safely, officials confirmed.

Eye witnesses reported that the small propeller-driven plane appeared to lose control before diving into the water, with thick black smoke rising from the crash site. Local residents rushed to assist before emergency responders arrived. Visuals from the scene showed wreckage scattered around the pond as onlookers gathered nearby. Authorities are continuing operations to recover the aircraft, and further details about the incident are awaited. This comes after a similar incident in November last year when an IAF Pilatus PC-7 aircraft crashed near Tambaram in Chennai's Chengalpattu district. The pilot ejected safely, and no civilian property was damaged. In both cases, the IAF has ordered formal probes to ascertain the causes of the accidents.

26 students injured as four private buses collide near Diwancheruvu

Andhra Pradesh, Jan 21: At least 26 students sustained injuries after four private buses collided near Diwancheruvu in the early hours of Tuesday, police said. The accident involved two travel buses and two buses carrying students who were returning from an excursion. According to Rajanagaram police in East Godavari district, the students — studying in Classes IX, X and Intermediate at a Model Government School and College in Gundlapalli near the Dindi project in Nalgonda district of Telangana — had gone on a tour to Araku, Paderu and nearby areas. Around 80 students, accompanied by 10 teachers and staff, were travelling in two buses. After offering prayers at the Annavaram Sri Satyanarayana Swamy temple, the group was heading back towards Rajamahendravaram shortly after midnight. Police said the mishap occurred when a buffalo suddenly crossed the road near Diwancheruvu, forcing the driver of a travel bus to apply sudden brakes. The two buses carrying the students and another travel bus following closely behind rammed into one another, resulting in the collision. On receiving information, police rushed to the spot and shifted the injured students to the Government Hospital in Rajamahendravaram using three ambulances. The remaining students were moved to a nearby hall as a precautionary measure. A case has been registered and further investigation into the incident is under way, police added.

Officials suspended after new water tank collapses during testing



Tadkeshwar, Jan 20: Two officials were suspended on Tuesday after a newly constructed water tank collapsed during testing at Tadkeshwar village in the district, triggering concerns over construction quality and accountability. According to Mandvi MLA Kuvarji Halpati, the company that built the structure will be blacklisted if it is found responsible for the collapse. "Strict action will be taken once the probe establishes fault," he said.

The 15-metre-high water tank, with a capacity of nine lakh litres, was constructed at a cost of Rs 21 crore. It collapsed on Monday evening while undergoing testing, officials from the water supply department said.

Following the incident, Deputy Engineers Jay Chaudhari and Rajnikant were placed under suspension. MLA Halpati said an inquiry has been initiated to fix responsibility, adding that more officials could face suspension based on the probe's findings. Authorities said the investigation would examine construction quality, supervision lapses and compliance with safety norms before further action is taken.

EDITORIAL

HOW TO FEED 10 BILLION PEOPLE

Rome: With the world struggling to feed eight billion people today, how will we feed ten billion by 2050? Meeting the nutritional needs of a growing population requires not just a radical increase in food production – almost all of it plant-based – but also a more equitable distribution to ensure that no one is food-insecure. That is a tall order. The current food system is already buckling. Roughly 673 million people go to bed hungry every night, and in 2025, we witnessed two famines (in Gaza and Sudan), each driven by conflict, climate shocks, and soaring food prices. At the same time, 1.66 billion hectares – 60% of which are agricultural land – have been degraded by the very practices we rely on to feed the world.

Global hunger stems not from a lack of capacity to produce enough food, but partly from our failure to produce it efficiently and distribute it evenly. Conflict and insecurity remain the dominant causes of hunger across 20 countries and territories, leaving nearly 140 million people facing acute food insecurity. Disasters have inflicted an estimated \$3.26 trillion in agricultural losses worldwide over the past 33 years – an average of \$99 billion annually, or roughly 4% of global agricultural output; and recent supply-driven food-price spikes have pushed tens of millions of people into hunger almost overnight. Worse, these are not one-off shocks. They represent the new normal. For decades, the agriculture sector has responded well to rising demand by developing higher-yielding crops and using more of everything: more fertiliser, more pesticides, and more water. Yet this trend has produced unnecessary waste, polluted rivers, degraded the soil, and released ever-more greenhouse gases (GHGs). We need to find a better path, and science can show us the way. We already have the knowledge and the tools to optimise what we use and diversify what we grow.

One priority is to improve efficiency. Between 1990 and 2020, fertiliser use rose 46% and pesticide use doubled. But only 30-60% of fertiliser nutrients and 20-70% of pesticides are effectively absorbed; the rest washes into rivers, degrades soil, or releases GHGs. Fortunately, research shows that optimising nitrogen use can boost yields by up to 19% and slash fertiliser use by 15-19%. Improved pesticide management – through precision spraying, biopesticides, and residue monitoring – reduces chemical waste while safeguarding biodiversity. Agroecological practices – such as intercropping, crop rotation, and integrating trees into farm systems – further enhance soil health, lower input dependence, and strengthen long-term resilience.

The next priority is to diversify the food system. Decades of productivity gains have fostered a dangerous dependency on just three crops. Wheat, rice, and maize now provide most of the world's calories. Such reliance on monocultures creates profound vulnerability to pests, diseases, and climate change. The solution lies in the crops we have marginalised. Traditional and underused species – hardy millets, nutrient-dense legumes, indigenous fruits, robust yams – offer ample nutrition alongside other benefits such as climate resilience. United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization initiatives like Future Smart Food (in Asia) and 100 Crops for Africa demonstrate how these "forgotten" crops can simultaneously expand diets, boost farm incomes, and restore degraded soils. Finally, we must scale up effective technologies. Data analytics and precision-agriculture tools are already reshaping farming. Drones can plant seeds and deliver inputs with pinpoint accuracy. AI platforms can use satellite imagery to provide tailored, real-time recommendations. Robots can detect weeds for targeted spraying, avoiding the need for blanket herbicide applications.

Edit

VIJAYAWADA
THURSDAY, JANUARY 22, 2026

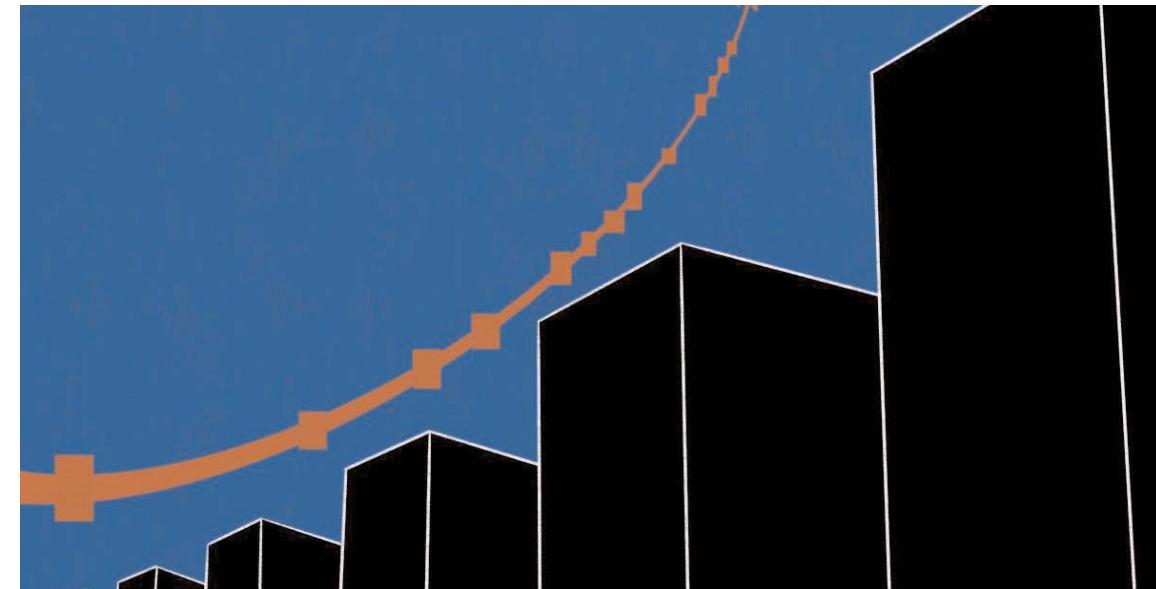
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info.southindiatimes@gmail.com

Venezuela, Greenland and Why The Rich Gathered in Davos Aren't Going to Change Anything

Capitalism always taught us that market economy and fair play were its founding principles. That anybody, any country, could get rich by 'hard-work' and following the rules. Yet, the world doesn't run on the fancies of a market economy. If that were true, we wouldn't have had the many wars in the first place. The latest geopolitical ongoing: the assault on Venezuela, Trump's threats of seizing Greenland, the controversial 'Board of Peace' plan for Gaza, all show that it is time for another round of resource grab. In fact, resource grab is the central principle of capitalism. Its origin story is that of plunder, from colonialism, slave trade, looting of Africa, India and so on. It continues with the policies enacted via Bretton Woods institutions. And it is nourished with a resource-grab war now and then.

And this time the self-endorsed leader of the neoliberal paradise, Donald Trump, has made the ambitions of his empire as clear as possible. It's astonishing how a person can go about inciting wars, giving threats to countries and asking for a Nobel Peace Prize all at the same time. Every sane person knows the real motive behind the political turmoil in Venezuela was oil. Yet the American establishment kept shifting the narrative to drugs, and democracy. But as soon as President Nicolas Maduro was brought to the US, everybody from Trump to Marco Rubio reverted to their interest in Venezuelan oil. With high national debt, rising consumer debt, inflation and inequality, the US economy is facing significant challenges at home. It needs more resources to stay afloat. It needs to maintain its petrodollar hegemony to stay on the top. For the unaware, the US dollar is deeply linked with oil money. In the early 1970s, the US signed a contract with Saudi Arabia that all oil trade payments must be done in dollars. That forces countries to maintain a balance of dollars in their forex accounts. But today, the world has shifted. BRICS countries hold over 40% of the world GDP. An estimate says about 20% of global oil trade is already happening in other currencies, Euros, Chinese yuan, rubles and even digital payment systems. And this was exactly the crime of Venezuela. It had started to accept payments for its crude oil in yuan and other currencies. Trump's outbursts on Truth Social clearly show



how much a talk of this de-linking of dollar from oil trade ruffles them. Even before he assumed the presidency, in December 2024, he wrote on Truth Social, "The idea that the BRICS Countries are trying to move away from the Dollar while we stand by and watch is OVER." No wonder that they couldn't stand that Venezuela, a country heavily sanctioned by the US, was still managing to keep itself afloat. When the US sanctions a country, usually the world follows. See the extent of sanctions on the people of Venezuela; its elected government officials can't travel to other countries, and their assets are frozen in the US. Of course there was a ban on oil imports from Venezuela, yet Chevron was granted an exception. Other countries importing Venezuelan oil also faced a 25% extra tariff from the US. Apart from that, efforts were made to sabotage the oil industry in Venezuela, with bans on imports of machinery, technology, even the crucial naphtha used in oil production. Tankers of oil moving in and out of Venezuela were targeted. In such a situation, how could Venezuela develop its oil industry? The country was never left in peace. Political coups destabilised it, while hybrid wars remained a constant feature in Venezuela. After all this, the IMF data says that Venezuela's GDP is going to be -3%. This is like tying someone's hands and then blaming them for not working. A study published in Lancet looked at the impact of US sanctions on 152 countries between 1971 and 2021. It estimated that about 600,000 deaths occurred each year in these 50

years in these countries as a direct and indirect result of US sanctions. The scale of this data is horrifying. Between 1971 and 2021, US sanctions have caused about 3 crore deaths in 152 countries. Unfazed by sanctions, China found a way to trade with Venezuela, and also other Latin American countries. Out of 33 Latin American countries, 24 are part of China's Belt and Road Initiative. China is building critical infrastructure and renewable energy projects in many of these countries. Between 2000 and 2023, China invested \$100 billion in Venezuela. This investment went into crucial infrastructure like railways and power plants. In return, Venezuela supplies oil to China. Last year, 80% of Venezuela's oil exports went to China. Experts say the US attack on Venezuela isn't just about Venezuela – it's also an attack on China's growing influence. Trump is simply not able to digest China's growing influence in Latin America. A few weeks ago, he pressured a Hong Kong-based company to sell two major ports on the Panama Canal. They were sold to the US company BlackRock. And now the unprovoked threat to Greenland, a sovereign nation, is only a testament to the new imperial vision of America. In this new vision, the US refuses to acknowledge the sovereignty of other nations. Either they work as extended colonies of the US, or they face its ire. From tariffs to sanctions or outright military action, this is the new US foreign policy. Though Russia and China often become enemies in this game, they are a smokescreen behind which the

US pursues its interest. What's appalling is these are not even the legitimate interests of a nation, but of a few elite corporations. Perhaps that is why a real-estate man like Trump is their best bet to make the best deals. If you look closely, the US military is carrying out the job of boosting profits and expanding markets for American private companies. From oil companies to Big tech giants, the promoters of the US economy want to reap maximum profits. The controversial 'Board of Peace' initiative further consolidates the power of a few elites over democratic institutions built with decades of effort. Invitations have been sent to over 60 nations, including France, Germany, Italy, Hungary, Australia, Canada, India, Pakistan, and the Middle East countries. Countries can pay \$1 billion for a permanent seat on the board or stay there for free for 3 years. Donald Trump is to remain its chair for life. His son-in-law Jared Kushner is directly involved in the workings of the board. Even Russia has been invited to be a member of the board. What is the message to the world? Is it that the UN and other independent institutions, formed after the second world war, now irrelevant? The world's elites are directly going to thrust themselves in conflicts, and the resulting 'deals'? That the exploits of the genocide are up for grabs, come and take your pick? Morality and humanity are things of the past, forget progress and innovation, just grab natural and public resources, supplement them with cheap labour in slavery like conditions!

Uniform, dignity and a crisis of trust



DR. SATYAWAN SAURABH

The police system is the most sensitive and influential face of power in a democracy. The police are not only law enforcement agencies but also a symbol of the state's moral strength. When a top official within this system faces serious ethical allegations, questions are not limited to the individual, but raise concerns about the credibility, accountability, and conduct of the entire system. The suspension of a senior IPS officer and DGP (Civil Rights Enforcement) of Karnataka after the emergence of an allegedly objectionable video points to this deep crisis. The alleged video clips, which went viral on social media, created a stir in administrative and political circles. The state government's swift suspension decision indicates that the matter was not limited to personal conduct, but rather involved the dignity of public office and institutional prestige. However, it is equally essential that a fair and transparent investigation be conducted before any individual is legally convicted. This is the balance of democracy – neither ignoring allegations nor passing judgment before investigation. The police uniform is more than just a mere garb. It symbolizes trust between citizens and the state. An officer, particularly at the rank of DGP, is not merely an administrator issuing orders but also a face that sets ethical standards for the entire force. His or her conduct conveys the message of where the system stands. When such allegations are leveled against a top official, it's

natural for ordinary citizens to question: "If those responsible for formulating policy and enforcing discipline are so careless about decorum, how can we expect justice from the system?" This is the point where personal conduct becomes a matter of public concern. This incident highlights another important aspect – the impact of social media. Today, any alleged video or content can spread widely within hours. This has increased transparency, while also exacerbating the risk of rumors, editing, and misuse. Therefore, the state and investigating agencies face a dual challenge: to thoroughly investigate the facts while respecting public sentiment. Taking administrative action based on viral content on social media is a sensitive decision. The Karnataka government's decision to suspend demonstrates an effort to establish accountability at an early stage, ensuring an impartial investigation. It's important to understand that suspension is not a punishment in itself, but a process to clear the way for an investigation. It's often argued that an official's private life should be separate from their work. This may seem true in theory, but for those in high constitutional or administrative positions, the line between private and public life is very thin. The reason is clear: their every action becomes linked to the image of the institution. If the alleged acts are considered contrary to public morality, the dignity of women, or the dignity of the office, they cannot be dismissed as merely a "private matter," especially when the acts involve public symbols, uniforms, or official settings. The biggest question in this entire episode is one of institutional accountability, transcending the individual. Are the mechanisms within our administrative structure robust enough to identify behavioral deviations in a timely manner? Is the internal code of conduct for senior officials merely on paper? Society expects a prestigious cadre like the IPS to not only enforce the law but also pro-

India's Timeless Ideals Face the Perils of Majoritarian Power Now



In the Rig Veda, among humanity's earliest surviving texts, a deceptively simple line unsettles every politics of exclusion: Ekam sat vipra bahudu vadanti – truth is one, the wise call it by many names. Long before pluralism became a constitutional principle or a liberal slogan, it was articulated as a civilisational instinct. India did not merely tolerate difference; it theorised it, ritualised it, and – at its best – governed through it. The Upanishads argued not for uniform belief but for shared inquiry. Adi Shankara's Advaita Vedanta did not erase difference; it wove contradiction into coherence. Bhakti and Sufi saints – Kabir, Nanak, Ravidas – collapsed rigid boundaries through devotion that refused to ask whether God answered Ram or Rahim. Disagreement was not a threat to truth; it was its method. This philosophical disposition was not confined to metaphysics. It shaped statecraft. Ashoka, ruling over a vast and wounded empire, responded to the carnage of Kalinga not with triumphalism but remorse. His edicts warned against disparaging other sects, arguing that honouring differences strengthened one's own faith. Akbar later translated this ethic into governance – abolishing discriminatory taxes, convening interfaith dialogue, and articulating sulh-e-kul, peace with all. These were not acts of benevolence alone; they were recognitions that legitimacy in India flowed

from inclusion. Even epic imagination reflected this moral order. Valmiki's Ramayana described Rama as rule by religious dominance but by impartial justice – where the weak were protected, the poor heard, and power restrained by dharma. Gandhi reclaimed this idea, carefully stripping it of sectarian meaning. His Rama was not a Hindu state but a moral republic, grounded in self-rule, restraint, and equal regard. Independent India's founders attempted to institutionalise this inheritance. Ambedkar's Constitution did not privilege belief; it protected conscience. Nehru insisted that the state must act as an umpire, never a player. Secularism, in the Indian sense, was not hostility to religion but neutrality among them. It is against this long arc that recent developments have unsettled observers – within India and beyond. Critics argue that the post-2014 political order marks not a routine ideological shift

but a redefinition of the state's moral posture. Where the republic once mediated difference, it increasingly appears to arbitrate identity. Where power once sought legitimacy through accommodation, it now draws energy from consolidation. The Citizenship Amendment Act of 2019 crystallised these anxieties. By introducing religion as a criterion for fast-tracked citizenship, it punctured a foundational premise of constitutional equality. Coupled with proposals for a nationwide National Register of Citizens, it triggered fears – particularly among Muslims – of statelessness by bureaucratic design. The protests that followed were among the largest in independent India's history. The state's response – police crackdowns, internet shutdowns, and selective enforcement – deepened the sense that dissent itself was being reclassified as disloyalty. Institutional guardrails have also come under strain. The Election Commission, once admired

for muscular impartiality, has faced sustained criticism for delayed or uneven responses to incendiary campaigning. Judicial independence has been shadowed by opaque transfers and post-retirement appointments that invite questions about incentive and pressure. Investigative agencies, according to publicly available data cited by opposition parties and civil liberties groups, have overwhelmingly pursued leaders outside the ruling coalition – fuelling the perception that law has become an instrument of political management rather than neutral accountability. For minorities, these shifts have been felt less abstractly. Cow-protection vigilantes, documented by independent monitors, has claimed dozens of lives since 2015, disproportionately Muslim and Dalit. The 2020 Delhi riots – sparked amid charged political rhetoric – left over 50 dead, most of them Muslim, and raised troubling questions about policing failures.

Telangana Sets Global Ambition with Next Gen Life Sciences Policy 2026–30

DAVOS, SWITZERLAND 21st January 2026 — The Government of Telangana, India unveiled its Next-Gen Life Sciences Policy 2026–30 at the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting in Davos, signalling the State's intent to play a far more consequential role in shaping the future of global healthcare, advanced therapeutics, and sustainable bio-manufacturing. The policy articulates a decisive shift from scale-driven manufacturing to value-led, innovation-powered growth and positions Telangana as a globally integrated life sciences hub across discovery, development, and deployment. With a clear ambition to rank among the top five life sciences clusters worldwide by 2030, the policy targets USD 25 billion in investments, creation of 500,000 high-quality jobs, and deeper integration into global life sciences value chains. The manufacturing depth is increasingly complemented by high-value R&D and innovation activity. Several global sciences organizations — including Amgen, Sanofi, Bristol Myers Squibb, Lilly, among several others have established or expanded R&D, digital, and global capability centres in Hyderabad,



reflecting confidence in the Telangana's scientific talent and innovation-ready infrastructure. The Next-Gen Life Sciences Policy 2026–30 represents a deliberate scale-up, designed to accelerate Telangana's transition from being indispensable to global supply chains to becoming a global originator of advanced therapies and platforms. The policy was unveiled by the Hon'ble Chief Minister Mr. A. Revanth Reddy in the presence of the Hon'ble Minister for IT & Industries, Mr. D. Sridhar Babu, Special Chief Secretary Mr. Sanjay Kumar IAS, and the CEO, Telangana Lifesciences, Mr. Shakthi M. Nagappan. Unveiling the policy, Mr. A Revanth Reddy, Chief

Minister of Telangana, India said "We are building one of the world's most trusted and transformational biosciences ecosystems—driving global health impact from Telangana. The policy's global unveiling at Davos reflects Telangana's conviction that the next phase of growth in life sciences will be driven by cross-border collaboration, global capital, and shared innovation agendas." "In the last two years alone, we have been able to attract investment to the tune of Rs. 73,000 Crores. With the launch of new policy, we are now aiming higher to attract Rs. 2 Lakh crore over the next 5 years. The policy prioritizes frontier science and advanced manufacturing

platforms, including cell and gene therapies, peptides, precision fermentation, and other next-generation modalities. It strengthens the broader ecosystem across clinical research, pharma services, diagnostics, medical electronics and digital health—positioning Telangana as a preferred destination for global life sciences hubs" Mr. D. Sridhar Babu, Hon'ble Minister for IT, Electronics & Communications, and Industries & Commerce, Government of Telangana. Adding to this Mr. Sanjay Kumar (IAS), Special Chief Secretary, Industries & Commerce and ITE & C Departments, Government of Telangana, "The Policy

builds on the strong foundation and spirit of innovation. The policy is not merely a framework; it is designed to accelerate the adoption of breakthrough technologies such as AI, digital health, and next generation therapeutics, while nurturing skilled talent. A defining reform is the recognition of R&D units as full-fledged industrial enterprises, allowing them equal access to incentives and reinforcing the State's commitment to innovation and high-value scientific activity" "Focused on frontier R&D, sustainable manufacturing, talent development, and a robust startup-to-scale-up pipeline, the policy strengthens Telangana's integration into the global life sciences value chain. A dedicated Life Sciences Innovation Fund, scalable up to INR 1,000 crore (USD 100 million), will catalyze early- and growth-stage innovation, support deep-tech ventures—particularly biotherapeutics. Another key initiative proposed is the establishment of the Telangana School of Life Sciences, a university of global excellence focused on research, education, and future-ready talent development" added Mr. Shakthi M. Nagappan, CEO, Telangana Life Sciences.

Rupee declines 76 paise to settle at record low of 91.73 against USD



Mumbai: The rupee crashed

76 paise to close at an all-time low of 91.73 (provisional) against the American currency on Wednesday, January 21, pressured by persistent foreign fund outflow amid heightened uncertainty and risk-off sentiment in global markets. The rupee recorded its previous all-time low of 91.14 on December 16, 2025, and so far this month, the local unit has fallen by 1.50 per cent, forex traders said, adding that the depreciation can be attributed to heightened geopolitical uncertainty. Rising tensions in Europe over the Greenland issue and potential tariffs, along with a negative trend in the domestic market, further dented investor sentiment, they said. At the interbank

foreign exchange, the rupee opened at 91.05 and lost ground to touch an intraday low of 91.74 against the greenback. The domestic unit settled for the day at an all-time low of 91.73 (provisional), registering a decline of 76 paise from its previous close. On Tuesday, the rupee depreciated 7 paise to close at 90.97 against the US dollar. "Emerging economies like India are facing pressure from volatile capital flows," Abhishek Bisen, Head-Fixed Income, Kotak Mahindra AMC, said. Besides, geopolitical tensions, including the Greenland dispute that has strained US-Europe relations (which is a risk of NATO breakdown) and also the control of Venezuela's oil reserves by the US, are creating ripple effects across the

Zomato's Deepinder Goyal to step down, Blinkit's Albinder Dhindsa takes over

Mumbai: Zomato's parent firm Eternal Limited on Wednesday, January 21, announced a major leadership change, with its CEO Deepinder Goyal resigning from his position with effect from February 1, 2026. The company said Albinder Dhindsa, who is currently the CEO of Blinkit, will take over as the new chief executive. In a letter addressed to the shareholders, Goyal said he has recently been drawn towards new ideas that involve higher levels of risk, experimentation and exploration. He explained that such ideas are better pursued outside a public company like Eternal, which needs to stay focused and disciplined in its current business strategy. "Of late, I have found myself drawn to a set of new ideas that involve significantly higher-risk exploration and experimentation," he said. "These are the kinds of ideas that are better pursued outside a public company like Eternal," Goyal added. He added that if these ideas belonged inside Eternal's strategic scope, I



would have pursued them within the company. Last week, Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Rajya Sabha MP Raghav Chadha joined gig workers in celebrating a victory for their "safety, dignity and work conditions" as the government directed food delivery and quick-commerce platforms to do away with rigid "10-minute delivery" commitments. In a video message, Chadha said that it is a memorable day for gig workers as the Central government has struck down the private companies' "10-minute delivery" brand-

ing. "I want to thank the Central government for intervening in the matter," said Chadha, describing the cruelty linked to "10-minute delivery" as real. He said the promise of "10-minute delivery" adds to the mental stress of delivery workers and forces them to drive dangerously to meet the deadline, endangering other road users. Earlier, Labour Minister Mansukh Mandaviya asked major food delivery and quick-commerce platforms to do away with rigid '10-minute' delivery time commitments,

stressing that the safety of delivery partners must come before speed. Mandaviya held discussions with officials of Blinkit, Zepo, Swiggy and Zomato in Delhi, during which he advised them to remove strict delivery deadlines from their platforms and promotional material in the interest of delivery workers' safety. Last week, AAP MP Raghav Chadha joined gig workers in celebrating the government's move to end rigid 10-minute delivery commitments, calling it a win for their safety and dignity.

Iconic category leader, blenders pride announces the launch of zenith black edition

National, 21 January 2026: A Limited Release of One Million Bottles ONLY Where Bold Black Design and Iconic Heritage Converge to Redefine Premium Whisky Excellence. Blenders Pride, a leader in India's premium whisky segment, proudly announces the launch of the Blenders Pride Zenith Black Edition—a limited-edition expression that unites a bold black aesthetic with the iconic Blenders Pride blend to create a truly distinctive experience. Encased in a striking black design that signifies elevated luxury and distinction, the Zenith Black Edition is meticulously crafted for discerning whisky connoisseurs—for the One in a Million. With only one million bottles available, this edition is as rare as it is refined. In the world of luxury, black represents more than just a colour—it is an attitude, a statement of sophistication and power. Long associated with Blenders Pride,



black now takes centre stage in an innovative design expression that redefines the codes of premium whisky. This is not simply new packag-

ing; it is a bold expression of style for those who don't follow trends—they set them. Debasree Dasgupta, CMO, Pernod Ricard India, said, "Blenders Pride continues to redefine the benchmarks of premium whisky in India. The launch of the Zenith Black Edition marks the brand's most refined expression yet—an evolution that translates its enduring legacy into a bold new design language. This year, Blenders Pride brings its core values to life through an aesthetic that celebrates aspiration, distinction, and craftsmanship. Limited to one million bottles, the Zenith Black Edition is created for individuals who don't merely admire excellence—they embody it." Blenders Pride Zenith Black Edition is crafted for those who pursue the extraordinary—an elevated experience that blends uncompromising quality with the distinction of owning something truly exceptional. Planned for a pan-India launch, Blenders Pride Zenith Black Edition is currently available in exclusive stores only.

Team Global Express expands partnership with HCLTech to transform logistics operations with AI

NOIDA, India, Jan 2026 — HCLTech, a leading global technology company, has been selected by Team Global Express, the largest multimodal logistics organization in Australia and New Zealand, to accelerate digital transformation with AI-powered solutions. HCLTech's partnership with Team Global Express has grown rapidly. The new agreement consolidates the logistics major's multi-vendor IT landscape into a single, strategic partnership with HCLTech as the trusted advisor to drive efficiency, innovation and data-driven decision-making. HCLTech will be responsible for end-to-end managed IT services for Team Global Express across applications, hybrid cloud infrastructure, networks, cybersecurity, digital workplace and

Highlights

- HCLTech, a leading global technology company, has been selected by Team Global Express, the largest multimodal logistics organization in Australia and New Zealand, to accelerate digital transformation with AI-powered solutions.

service management. AI Force, HCLTech's GenAI-driven platform for service transformation, will drive automation, enhance compliance and elevate customer experience across Team Global Express' operations. "We are delighted to onboard HCLTech as our strategic technology partner," said Danny Gravell, Chief Innovation Officer, Team Global Express. "Their deep domain expertise, fur-

ther strengthening Lamborghini's position in the Indian market, with close to 800 Lamborghini cars now on Indian roads, the company stated. "Despite challenging market conditions, we are very proud of the results achieved in 2025, which confirm Lamborghini's ability to stand out even in a complex global environment," Stephan Winkelmann,

Chairman and CEO of Automobili Lamborghini, said. The performance reflects the automaker's capacity to interpret market dynamics and to make strategic choices that respond concretely to customers' expectations, he added. In 2025, the EMEA (Europe, the Middle East, and Africa) region continued to be the company's leading market with 4,650

automaker sold 10,747 units globally in 2025; a 0.56 percent growth over 2024. The 800hp Urus SE likely provided the necessary lift to Lamborghini's overall sales volumes. Lamborghini's India sales dropped by 2 units in 2025. The Urus SE was likely the key driver of sales in 2025. Lamborghini surpassed the 100-unit sales mark in 2023. Lamborghini India sales over the years Lamborghini sold 103 units in 2023, which was nearly a 12 percent improvement over its 2022 numbers. In fact, this was the very first time the Italian marque managed to sell over 100 cars in our country. That figure rose by 10 percent in 2024, with 113 units sold. While Lamborghini's sales did drop this year, the company claims to have sold 17 percent more units of the Urus. Given the soaring popularity of SUVs in our country (and abroad), the Urus has always managed to make bank for Lamborghini.

Lamborghini sold 111 cars in India in 2025, SUVs in demand



Trump wants 'immediate negotiations' to acquire Greenland but insists he 'won't use force'

Trump has just finished speaking – after an astonishing scrum to try to get into the room here at Davos. People were turned away. Even heads of state. And the security has been unbelievable, with people – even some famous ones – not being let in or out of the hall. Some of those queuing thought Trump would be a laying down the law of the new rules of the world economy. Trump initially talked in friendly terms about the western allies that had been most perturbed by what they'd seen on his social media posts. He even acknowledged that he probably shouldn't speak about the controversial issue of Greenland. Then, he announced he was seeking immediate negotiations for the USA to acquire Greenland. A negotiated settlement he said. No force required. But the US needed "full title". "We want this land" to build the "greatest Golden Dome ever built" he

said. During his address, Trump said "Biden gave \$350bn to Ukraine" when speaking about support for their war against Russia. He's made similar claims previously – but BBC Verify has found no evidence for this figure. The Kiel Institute, a German-based think tank which tracks defence spending, has put the total amount of support the US government has given, external to Ukraine at \$119bn (£88.5bn) from January 2022 up until October 2025. Former president Joe Biden was in office from January 2021 until January 2024. The US Department of Defense has also done a calculation which looks at a broader range of US military activity in Europe and includes replenishing defence stocks. Its figure was \$182.8bn (£136bn) when Trump came into office – considerably less than the figure the president has mentioned. Trump's description of how



the US economy is doing will sound familiar to anyone who has been listening to the US president over the past year. But does it match reality? Trump's claims often contain some truth – while being significantly exaggerated. Take growth, which he said has been "extraordinarily high". Growth in the US has been stronger than many analysts expected, coming in at an annual pace of 4.3% over

the three quarters to September. But that's not unprecedented – the US had stronger growth during the same period in 2023. And the figures have been jumpy due in part to sharp swings in trade. He says "inflation is defeated" – and again, not quite. Overall, consumer prices jumped 2.7% over the 12 months to December. That's down from 3% a year ago, when Trump took office, but still above the Fed's 2% target. He's also boasting about investment. Some companies have increased production plans in the US, but there are plenty of reasons to be sceptical about the claims. More now from Trump on tariffs, as he says he imposed them on different countries with large economic deficits. "You're all party to them, in some cases victim to them but in the end it's a fair thing and most of you realise that," he says. In some cases, such as in Switzerland, Trump says he initially imposed a 30% tariff before reducing this, because he doesn't want to hurt people. He says that the US is keeping the whole world afloat" and it should be paying the lowest interest rate of any countries. Trump turns to the cost of prescription drugs in the US coming down. On tariffs, he says he used them to get favoured nations treatment for drug prices. He says he did it to secure access to goods without having to pay

13,14,15 times more than certain other countries. He recounts a conversation he had with French President Emmanuel Macron – and how he threatened to put up tariffs on French goods unless Macron agreed to Trump's demands on drug prices. He says the US is not going to subsidise the whole world. Well pay whatever the lowest price is around the whole world, he says. He says because of this, drug prices are going to come down everywhere. "Without tariffs I wouldn't have been able to get it done." US markets rebounded after President Trump told the World Economic Forum he would not use force to acquire Greenland, easing market fears. Shortly after the opening bell, the S&P 500 and Dow Jones Industrial Average both rose around 0.3%, and the Nasdaq also made modest gains. Treasury yields fell as prices rose, while the dollar pared losses.

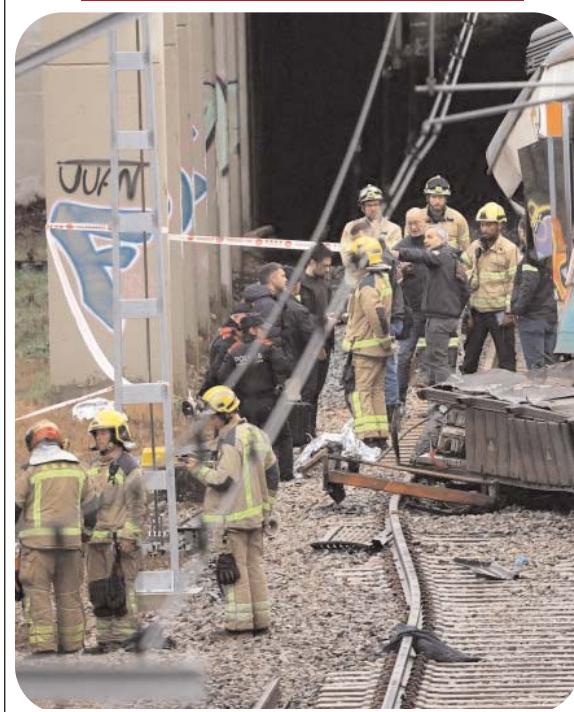
LIFE SENTENCE FOR MAN WHO KILLED JAPAN'S EX-PM SHINZO ABE



The man who killed Japan's former prime minister Shinzo Abe has been sentenced to life in prison, three and a half years after he shot him dead at a rally in the city of Nara in 2022. Tetsuya Yamagami had pleaded guilty to murder charges at the trial's opening last year, but how he should be punished has divided public opinion in Japan. While many see the 45-year-old as a cold-blooded murderer, some sympathise with his troubled upbringing. Prosecutors said Yamagami deserved life imprisonment for his "grave act". Abe's assassination stunned the country, where there is virtually no gun crime. Seeking leniency, Yamagami's defence team said he was a victim of "religious abuse". His mother's devotion to the Unification Church bankrupted the family, and Yamagami bore a grudge against Abe after realising the ex-leader's ties to the controversial church, the court heard. On Wednesday, Judge

Shinichi Tanaka from the Nara district court sentenced Yamagami to life in prison without parole, as the prosecution had requested. "The act of waiting for an opportunity, finding an opening, and targeting the victim with a gun is despicable and extremely malicious," said the judge, public broadcaster NHK reports. Yamagami sat quietly with his hands clasped and eyes downcast as the sentence was handed down. Nearly 700 people had lined up in the cold to try to get one of the 31 seats inside the courtroom to attend the hearing. Abe's shocking death in broad daylight prompted investigations into the Unification Church and its questionable practices, including soliciting financially ruinous donations from its followers. The case also exposed links with politicians from Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party and resulted in the resignations of several cabinet ministers.

Train driver killed in second deadly Spain rail crash in days



Japan restarts world's largest nuclear plant as Fukushima memories loom large



and tsunami triggered a meltdown at Fukushima, causing one of the worst nuclear disasters in history. This is the latest installation in Japan's nuclear power reboot, which still has a long way to go. The seventh reactor at Kashiwazaki-Kariwa is not

expected to be brought back on until 2030, and the other five could be decommissioned. That leaves the plant with far less capacity than it once had when all seven reactors were operational: 8.2 gigawatts. Triggered by the most powerful earthquake ever

recorded in Japan, the meltdown in the reactors at Fukushima Daiichi, 220km (135 miles) north-east of Tokyo on the coast, led to radioactive leakage. Local communities were evacuated, and many have not returned despite official assurances that it was safe to do so. Critics say the plant's owner Tokyo Electric Power Company, or Tepco, was not prepared, and the response from them and government was not well co-ordinated. An independent government report called it a "man-made disaster" and blamed Tepco, although a court later cleared three of their executives of negligence.

Israeli PM Netanyahu agrees to join Trump's Board of Peace



expressed reservations. It is not clear how many countries have been invited to join Trump's new body – Canada, Russia, Turkey and the UK are among them, but have not yet publicly responded. Norway has said it will not join because the current proposal "raises a number of questions", while France and Sweden have indicated they will do the same. According to a copy of the charter leaked to the media, member states will be given a renewable three-year term, but they can secure a permanent place if they contribute \$1bn (£740m) of funding to the board. The document says the Board of Peace will be "an international organisation that seeks to promote stability, restore dependable and lawful governance, and secure enduring peace

in areas affected or threatened by conflict". It will "undertake such peace-building functions in accordance with international law", it adds. Trump will be the chairman but also "separately serve" as representative of the US. A US official has said the chairmanship can be held by Trump "until he resigns it", but that a future US president may choose a new representative. As chairman, he will

founding Executive Board. They included US Secretary of State Marco Rubio, Middle East special envoy Steve Witkoff; Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner as well as former British prime minister Tony Blair. Trump also named Nickolay Mladenov, a Bulgarian politician and former UN Middle East envoy, as the Board of Peace's representative on the ground in Gaza during phase two of Trump's peace plan, which should see the reconstruction and demilitarisation of the territory, including the disarmament of Hamas, as well as a full withdrawal of Israeli forces. Mladenov will act as a link with a Palestinian technocratic government which will "oversee the restoration of core public services, the rebuilding of civil institu-

tions, and the stabilisation of daily life". A separate Gaza Executive Board will help support the technocratic government, according to the White House. Witkoff, Kushner, Blair, Rowan, Mladenov will serve on it with Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan, Egyptian intelligence chief Hassan Rashad, Qatari strategic affairs minister Ali al-Thawadi, UAE minister of state for international co-operation Reem al-Hashimy, billionaire Israeli real estate developer Yakir Gabay, and Sigrid Kaag, a Dutch politician and UN special co-ordinator for the Middle East peace process. On Saturday, Netanyahu's office said the Gaza Executive Board's composition "was not co-ordinated with Israel and runs contrary to its policy".

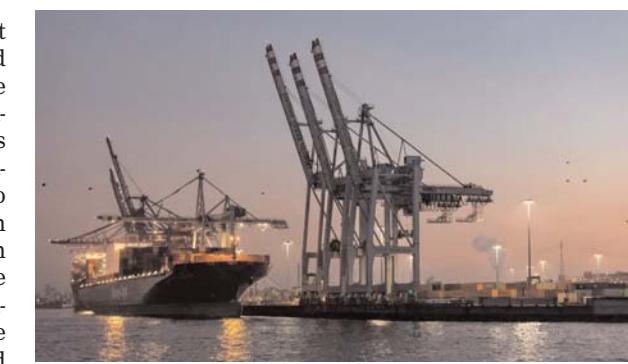
Could US Congress stop Trump from taking over Greenland?



President Donald Trump's push to acquire Greenland has sparked a backlash from Republicans in Congress, as lawmakers voice growing concern about US military intervention overseas. But it remains unclear if enough Republicans are willing to join Democrats to block a takeover of the island territory – and whether Trump would bow to pressure from Congress, or act alone as he's done several times in a second term marked by growing American entanglements abroad. The focus on

Greenland has grown into a broader discussion over the Trump administration's unilateral use of military force, along with diplomatic and economic coercion, to project power in Venezuela, Iran and elsewhere around the world. Republicans have largely backed Trump's foreign policy agenda since he returned to the White House. But now, a growing number are siding with Democrats in Congress and Nato allies who say a takeover of Greenland would violate US and international law.

Global markets on alert as Europe to suspend approval of US trade deal



The European Parliament is planning to suspend approval of the US trade deal agreed in July, according to sources close to its international trade committee. The suspension is set to be announced in Strasbourg, France on Wednesday. The move would mark another escalation in tensions between the US and Europe, as Donald Trump ratchets up his efforts to acquire Greenland, threatening new tariffs over the issue on the weekend. The stand-off has rattled financial markets, reviving talk of a trade war and the possibility of retaliation against the US for its trade measures. Shares on both sides of the Atlantic were lower on

Tuesday, with European stock markets seeing a second day of losses. In the US, the Dow Jones slid more than 1.7%, while the S&P 500 dropped more than 2% and the Nasdaq closed about 2.4% lower. Stock markets in the Asia-Pacific region were mixed on Wednesday, with major indexes in Japan and Hong Kong trading a little lower, while shares in Hong Kong and mainland China were slightly higher. The price of gold continued to make gains as it rose above \$4,800 (£3,570) an ounce for the first time. The price of silver dipped from Monday's record high above \$95 an ounce. Precious metals are seen as safer assets to hold

in times of uncertainty, and the prices of both gold and silver have soared over the past year. On the currency markets, the US dollar held steady against its major peers, having dropped 0.5% overnight – the biggest daily fall since early December. Trade tensions between the US and Europe had eased since the two sides struck a deal at Trump's Turnberry golf course in Scotland in July. That agreement set US levies on most European goods at 15%, down from the 30% Trump had initially threatened as part of his "Liberation Day" wave of tariffs in April. In exchange, Europe had agreed to invest in the US and make changes at on the continent expected to boost US exports.

Nigeria police confirm mass church abductions after previous denial



Nigeria's police have now confirmed that a group of worshippers was kidnapped from three churches in a remote part of the northern Kaduna state, after previously denying it. More than two days after the raid on the Kurnin Wali village, police on Tuesday night said that an earlier statement denying the attack had been "widely misinterpreted". Local residents told the BBC that 17 worshippers had been abducted but that 11 later escaped. Police spokesperson Alhaji Muhammad Rabiu described the reports of a kidnapping as "mere falsehood which is being peddled by conflict entrepreneurs who want to cause chaos". He challenged "anyone to list the names of the kidnapped victims and other particulars." The chairman of Kajuru local government area, which includes Kurnin Wali, Dauda Madaki, said security forces had been sent to the area but found no sign of a kidnapping. "We visited the church where the so-called kidnap took place. There was no evidence of the attack. I asked the village head, Mai Dan Zaria, and he said that there was no such attack."



David Beckham's First Reaction After Son Brooklyn's Explosive 6-Page Note Goes Viral

David Beckham, a legendary footballer, found his name in the top trends on social media after his eldest son, Brooklyn, made some scathing remarks about him and mother, Victoria Beckham, over their attempt to 'control' him and his wife, Nicola Peltz Beckham. Brooklyn shared a 6-page statement on social media, making some serious allegations against his parents while also ruling out the possibility of a reconciliation. While David didn't directly respond to the allegations made by Brooklyn against him and Victoria, he touched upon the topic by suggesting that "children make mistakes". Speaking on CNBC's Squawk Box on Tuesday, David Beckham said that children are bound to make mistakes, and that is the only way for them to learn as well. He has carried the same belief while educating his own children. "I've been



able to use my platform and my following for Unicef and it's been the biggest tool to make people aware of what's going on around the world for children. I've tried to do the same. I've tried to do the same with my children to educate them. They make mistakes.

Children are allowed to make mistakes. That's how they learn," the former Manchester United and Real Madrid midfielder said. "So that's what I try to teach my kids. But you know, you have to sometimes let them make those mistakes as well," he added.

In a series of Instagram Stories, Brooklyn alleged that his parents have been against him ever since he decided to stand up for himself. "I do not want to reconcile with my family," he wrote. "I'm not being controlled, I'm standing up for myself for the first time in my life. [...] My parents have been trying endlessly to ruin my relationship since before... pic.twitter.com/FBF1K1d4fu — Pop Base (@PopBase) January 19, 2026 "For my entire life, my parents have controlled narratives in the press about our family. The performative social media posts, family events and inauthentic relationships have been a fixture of the life I was born into. Recently, I have seen with my own eyes the lengths that they'll go through to place countless lies in the media, mostly at the expense of innocent people, to preserve their own facade. But I believe the truth always comes out."

On T20 World Cup Row, ICC Blasts Bangladesh: "Unrelated Development"



The international Cricket Council (ICC) rejected Bangladesh Cricket Board's request to shift their T20 World Cup 2026 matches from India. The BCB had previously cited 'security concerns' and asked the global cricket governing body to shift their group stage games to Sri Lanka. However, the ICC said that there were no 'credible or verifiable threat to the safety or security of the Bangladesh team in India'. The BCB was also given a 24-hour deadline to take a decision on their participation and if they refuse to travel to India, it is likely that Scotland will replace Bangladesh in the T20 World Cup 2026. "Over the past several weeks, the ICC has engaged with the BCB in sustained and constructive dialogue, with the clear objective of enabling Bangladesh's participation in the tournament. During this period, the ICC has shared detailed inputs, including independent security assessments, comprehensive venue-level

security plans and formal assurances from the host authorities, all of which consistently concluded that there is no credible or verifiable threat to the safety or security of the Bangladesh team in India," an ICC spokesperson's statement in relation to the decision read. "Despite these efforts, the BCB maintained its position, repeatedly linking its participation in the tournament to a single, isolated and unrelated development concerning one of its player's involvement in a domestic league. This link

"He Might Still Be In Contention": Michael Clarke On Shubman Gill's T20 Axe

One of the most sought-after batters in Indian cricket, Shubman Gill, was surprisingly dropped from the T20 squad as the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) announced the squad for the World Cup, starting February 07. The Ajit Agarkar-led selection committee picked the likes of Ishan Kishan and Rinku Singh in the team, leaving out Gill, a decision that continues to be debated among fans and experts. However, Gill has now been backed by former Australia captain Michael Clarke to not just return to the team but also take the captain's role. "He might still be (in contention). I don't think that changes too much. I think the squads needed to be



announced by a certain time, and he wasn't batting as well as he would like. India's got so many opening batting options; he's not the captain of the team at this stage, so I think they pretty much made the decision. They wanted these couple of warm-up games to be a real focus on what they are

doing in the World Cup. There were questions about his form. They made that decision specifically in the lead-up to the World Cup," Clarke said in the Beyond23 Cricket Podcast. Gill was named India's T20I vice-captain when he returned to the T20 side last year, replacing Axar Patel. But, the selection committee took a U-turn and re-appointed Axar as the team's vice-captain in the shortest format for the T20 World Cup. As the T20 World Cup ends, however, Clarke feels Gill could end up leading Suryakumar as India's captain in the shortest format. "I think after the World Cup, don't be surprised if he not only comes back into the team, but he also takes over the captaincy. He's an unbelievable player; just not playing his best cricket at the moment. I don't think there are too many concerns moving forward with Shubman Gill. India has made it clear we are 100 per cent focused on this World Cup, and we want to win it," he said.

Abhishek Sharma Shatters World Record With 22-Ball Fifty In 1st T20I Against New Zealand



Indian cricket team batter Abhishek Sharma shattered a sensational world record with a 22-ball half-century during the first T20I encounter against New Zealand in Nagpur on Wednesday. It was a trademark aggressive knock as he dominated New Zealand bowlers from the very beginning. Abhishek reached the milestone with the help of 4 fours and 4 sixes. Thanks to his brilliant knock, he became the first batter to score 8 T20I half-centuries in 25 or fewer deliveries. Previously, he was tied with teammate Suryakumar Yadav, Phil Salt and Evis Lewis at 7. This was also the quickest half-century in terms of balls for India against New Zealand in

T20Is. Earlier, the record belonged to KL Rahul and Rohit Sharma who achieved the feat in 23 balls. Earlier, New Zealand won the toss and elected to bowl against India with pacer Kristian Clarke handed a debut cap. Left-handed wicketkeeper-batter Ishan Kishan returned to the India T20I side for the first time since 2023. With Shubman Gill omitted, Sanju Samson returned as the opener alongside an in-form Abhishek Sharma. The series comes ahead of the

T20 World Cup starting on February 7 in India and Sri Lanka, where the Suryakumar Yadav-led side enter as defending champions. "We were looking to bowl first because we felt there was dew around 8:30pm during our practice. But we don't mind putting runs on the board and we have done well batting first. Shreyas, Harshit, Bishnoi and Kuldeep are the ones who are missing out," said Suryakumar, who's playing his 100th T20I game. Earlier this month, New Zealand defeated India in an ODI series on Indian soil for the first time. "Looks like a pretty good wicket and looks pretty high-scoring. Last week was pretty special. Every team knows how hard it is to come to India and win."

Alcaraz In Splits At Fan's "Carlos Nadal" Quip In Australian Open



Six-time Grand Slam winner Carlos Alcaraz was put through his paces by German journeyman Yannick Hanfmann on Wednesday before swatting him aside to book his place in the Australian Open third round. After overcoming a shaky start in the set, Alcaraz truly made his sporting prowess count, winning the contest in straight sets. The 22-year-old Spaniard came through the arm-wrestle 7-6 (7-4), 6-3, 6-2 on Rod Laver Arena to set up a clash with France's Corentin Moutet or American student Michael Zheng.

As Alcaraz chases his maiden Career Grand Slam in Melbourne, comparisons with fellow Spaniard Rafael Nadal are bound to come. In fact, during the match on Wednesday, Alcaraz was called "Carlos Nadal" by a fan in the arena. The quip left the Spaniard in splits. Here's the video: "I knew he was going to play great. I mean, I know his level, I played him a few times already," said the world number one,

who is bidding to become the youngest man to complete a career Grand Slam of all four majors. So far, the Melbourne Park hard courts have proved his nemesis, failing to go past the quarter-finals in his four trips to Australia. He crashed at that stage last year to Novak Djokovic and Alexander Zverev the year before. "To be honest, it was tougher than I thought at the beginning. I didn't feel the ball that good. You know, the ball was coming as a bomb, forehand and backhand," he added.

"Really, really happy that I got through a really difficult first set and then I started to feel a little bit better on the court." The turning point came when Hanfmann netted a forehand on serve to give Alcaraz a 5-4 advantage and the Spaniard served to seal a marathon set that spanned 75 minutes. The reigning French Open and US Open champion reset and quickly took a grip on set two as he began to find his rhythm, rattling through it in just 43 minutes.

'Playoffs Start at 0/0': Tristan Stubbs Ahead Of Sunrisers SA20 Clash With Pretoria Capitals



think so," he added when asked whether their track record gives them an advantage. "Having guys who have been in this situation definitely helps. Like I said earlier, it's still a game of cricket. Your experience doesn't really matter if you can't perform on the day. It doesn't count for anything." A big reason behind the

Sunrisers finishing on top of the standings has been Quinton de Kock's form. In eight innings, he has scored 328 runs at an average of 46.85. "De Kock has been awesome for us. Everybody sort of played as a team. It helped us get into the playoffs," Stubbs said. While de Kock is the second-highest scorer in the

SA20 so far, he is closely followed by Pretoria Capitals' Sherfane Rutherford in third place with 317 runs at an average of 79.25. "He has been very good for them. They've done well to get into the top two. But in the playoffs, you start on nought for nought. You've got to play well on the day," he said. The winner of Qualifier 1 will progress directly through to the coveted Betway SA20 Season 4 Final on Sunday, January 25 at Newlands. The loser gets another opportunity in Qualifier 2 on Friday, January 23 at the Wanderers against the winner of Thursday's Eliminator between Paarl Royals (third) and Joburg Super Kings (fourth) at Centurion.

RADUCANU'S 'MOST DISPIRITING' SLAM DISPLAY - WHAT WENT WRONG?



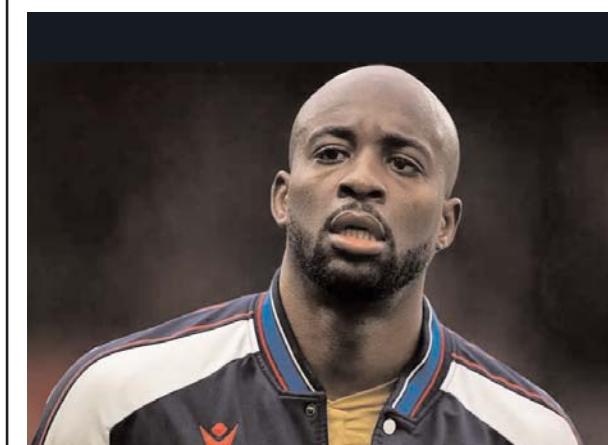
When Grand Slam draws are made, we're all guilty of plotting ahead. It turns out we looked one round too far in the case of Emma Raducanu at the Australian Open. A potential shot at top seed Aryna Sabalenka loomed in round three, but the British number one fell to a stinging defeat by Austria's Anastasia Potapova on Wednesday. Former US Open champion Raducanu was seeded 28th in Melbourne, but was completely out of sorts against 55th-ranked Potapova in a 7-6 (7-3) 6-2 second-round loss. "She has had far heavier defeats in Grand Slams before in terms of scoreline, but for me this was the most dispiriting performance of her Grand Slam career," said BBC tennis cor-

respondent Russell Fuller. "She lacked confidence, lacked conviction and lost fight in the final few games." BBC Sport analyses the technical, mental and physical issues facing 23-year-old Raducanu - and whether there is another coaching change in the offing. Raducanu made encouraging

progress last year, climbing back into the world's top 30 and playing more matches than in any previous season. But this defeat means she has still only gone past the third round of a Grand Slam once since her stunning US Open triumph as a teenage qualifier in 2021. Her preparations for the opening major of the

season were disrupted. The off-season technical work she planned to put in with coach Francisco Roig - who helped Rafael Nadal win 16 of his 22 major titles - was compromised by a foot injury. When Raducanu returned in 2026, a tweak to her forehand - a higher and longer takeback, designed to add more spin - was clear. But she seemed to lack trust in the shot against Potapova, landing 70% of her forehand returns in - compared to 96% from her opponent - and making 19 unforced errors off that wing. "I want to be playing a different way. The misalignment with how I'm playing right now and how I want to be playing is something I want to work on," said Raducanu.

PALACE STRIKER MATETA TELLS CLUB HE WANTS TO LEAVE



France striker Jean-Philippe Mateta has told Crystal Palace he wants to leave amid interest from other Premier League and European clubs. Mateta, 28, has 18 months remaining on his current deal at Selhurst Park and as things stand he will not be signing an extension. Italian giants Juventus have tried to sign the striker this month but so far failed to reach Palace's valuation, which is believed to be around £40m. Aston Villa, who have been keen on Mateta for some time, have also shown interest in a move this month. Speaking last week, Palace manager Oliver Glasner admitted the club are listening to offers for Mateta. "There will be a price that Crystal Palace [accept], with 18 months left on his contract. We'll do the deal, if JP wants. If nobody pays that price, then he will stay," said the Austrian. Palace, who won the FA Cup in May, sold star midfielder Eberechi Eze to Arsenal in the summer and have lost captain Marc Guehi this January, after he joined Manchester City in a £20m deal. Glasner, who announced last week that he will leave the club at the end of the season, launched a scathing attack on the Palace hierarchy following Saturday's loss to Sunderland - claiming the team had been 'abandoned' by the club's recruitment strategy. Palace were knocked out of the FA Cup at non-league Macclesfield in one of the tournament's greatest shocks earlier this month. Analysis: A blow but not a surprise that Mateta wants out. The news will be a blow, but not a surprise to supporters of the club. Mateta, since his remarkable upturn in form over the past 18 months, has always made clear his desire to play at the highest level and has aims of playing in the Champions League and representing France at the World Cup. The 29-year-old's World Cup dream, one that seemed distant before Glasner's arrival at the club, is one that can be achieved now after making his senior debut in October while the frontman has scored in his last two appearances for Les Bleus.

Walkthrough Saif Ali Khan's lavish home in Qatar

Mumbai: Bollywood superstar Saif Ali Khan, also known as the Nawab of Pataudi, is known for his royal lifestyle and love for luxury. From the iconic Pataudi Palace to high-end cars and premium real estate, his possessions reflect elegance and class. Adding to his impressive property list is his stunning new home in Qatar, a place the actor has often described as close to his heart and one of his favourite destinations. Saif Ali Khan recently offered a glimpse into his elegant "home away from home" in Qatar. Located at St Regis Marsa Arabia at The Pearl Island, the Rs 15-crore property is a modern two-bedroom apartment with a maid's room, designed for comfort, privacy, and relaxation. Speaking about the home, Saif described it as peaceful, luxurious, and familiar, calling it the perfect place to unwind. The interiors feature a clean, minimal aesthetic with dark wood and soft cream tones, high ceilings, marble floors in common areas,

plush carpets in bedrooms, subtle lighting, linen curtains, and curated artworks. The living and dining areas blend modern and vintage elements seamlessly, while the standout feature is the expansive balcony offering stunning sea and marina views. Saif, who also owns multiple properties in Mumbai and other cities, calls the balcony his favourite corner, where he enjoys sunsets and the calming lights of the marina each evening. In a video shared by St Regis Residences Qatar, Saif Ali Khan offered a rare glimpse into his new home, explaining the emotional logic behind the choice. "It's peaceful. It's luxurious, and it's very private," he said. What draws him back to this space, he added, is its sense of retreat. "It's secluded, and it's a wonderful place to come and think and unwind and to get away from a hectic life," he shared, articulating what many global homeowners now seek: privacy without isolation. The two-bedroom residence is anchored in a

restrained palette of dark wood and soft cream, creating a timeless atmosphere that prioritises comfort over spectacle. High ceilings with surface lighting enhance the sense of openness, while marble floors, paneling, and linen curtains layered with blinds lend the interiors quiet sophistication. Artworks punctuate the space with personality, while plush carpeting in the bedrooms and a generous walk-in closet add practical indulgence. In the living area, a modern wooden cabinet serves as a focal point, complemented by a glass centre table, a dining nook, vintage-inspired printed sofas, and a richly textured carpet. If the interiors offer calm, the balcony delivers poetry. Overlooking the marina, framed by palm trees and the Doha skyline, it is Saif's favourite corner of the home. "It has to be this balcony. That's where the sun sets. And every night the lights come on in the marina, and it's a lovely place to sit," he said. Furnished sparingly with elegant patio

seating and softened by ambient sconce lighting, the outdoor space captures the essence of the residence. In Doha, Saif Ali Khan has found more than a property. He has created a refuge that mirrors his evolving sense of home, where discretion, design, and tranquility converge. The spacious 2-bedroom home follows a dark wood and cream colour scheme throughout, adorned with stunning art pieces, carpeted bedroom flooring, high ceilings accentuated with surface lighting, linen curtains layered with blinds, elegant wainscoting, luxurious marble flooring, and a large walk-in closet. The living room also features some styling elements, such as a modern wooden cabinet as the centrepiece,



Faria Abdullah confirms dating, drops hints about her mystery BF



has always kept her personal life private, choosing to let her work speak louder than gossip. That is why this confession

feels special and refreshingly honest. She did not reveal his name or face, only hinting that he belongs to the creative world. Is he a choreographer, a theatre actor, a painter, or a filmmaker? Hyderabad's internet detectives are already hunting for clues, turning every comment section into a guessing game. Long before films, Faria began her journey through her YouTube channel Hyderabad Diaries, where her fun and relatable content about Hyderabad life gained early popularity.

Hyderabad's beloved star Faria Abdullah, also addressed as 'Chitti' by her fans because of her breakthrough role in the hit Telugu comedy film Jathi Ratnalu (2021), has set social media buzzing with a surprise revelation from a recent interview. When the interviewer asked if she is in love, Faria paused, blushed shyly, and accepted that she is. She said that being in love keeps her life balanced, adding a soft glow to her otherwise busy film schedule. The actress revealed that her boyfriend comes from an art and dance background, instantly sparking curiosity among fans. When the interviewer playfully asked if he is Muslim, Faria smiled and clarified that he is Hindu, sending the internet into a frenzy of speculation. For the unversed, Faria



Priyanka Chopra enjoys the sea with her 'favourite people'



heart-eyes emoji in the comment section. On the professional front, Priyanka will be seen leading the forthcoming swashbuckler action thriller "The Bluff".

PRABHAS FANS ON HIGH ALERT AS SALAAR 2 TEASER RUMOURS TREND ONLINE



Hyderabad: Over the last few days, fans of Prabhas have been buzzing with excitement after rumours claimed that an announcement teaser for Salaar: Part 2 – Shouryaanga Parvam would be released just before Republic Day. Screenshots, fan edits, and bold claims flooded X, Instagram, and Reddit, leaving one big question behind. Is it real, or just another fan driven trend. The speculation reportedly started with unverified posts from Telugu 123. Soon after, multiple fan handles

began repeating the same claim that the Salaar 2 teaser would drop on January 25 or 26. With no official clarification, the rumour spread rapidly and became a trending topic. Despite the excitement, Hombale Films and director Prashanth Neel have remained silent. No poster, no teaser, and no confirmation has been released so far.

FACT CHECK, WHAT IS THE REALITY

Industry sources have now dismissed the teaser rumours as false. According to insiders, there is currently no promotional activity planned for Salaar 2. The project has not gone on floors, and there is no fixed timeline for announcements. Prashanth Neel is busy shooting Dragon with Jr NTR, while Prabhas is occupied with multiple commitments, including Faifi,

Spirit, and the sequel to Kalki 2898 AD. Sources also claim that allocating dates for Salaar 2 in the near future is unlikely. The sudden buzz also comes after Prabhas' recent film The Raja Saab failed to impress audiences. Shortly after, the release date of Spirit was officially announced as March 5, 2027, which helped divert attention. Many believe the Salaar 2 teaser chatter further helped energize disappointed fans.

WHAT THE SEQUEL WILL EXPLORE

Salaar: Part 1 – Ceasefire released on December 22, 2023, and gained strong popularity on OTT platforms. The sequel title was revealed in the closing credits. The second part will focus on Deva's transformation into an enemy of Varadha, played by Prithviraj Sukumaran. Rebel Star Prabhas' Salaar:

Part 1 – Ceasefire has a very special place in Telugu cinema history. The Prashanth Neel directorial showcased Prabhas in a powerful mass role that stood out even in his career. The film has a sequel titled Salaar: Part 2 – Shouryaanga Parvam, and it is now back in the headlines. A rumour is widely spreading online that an announcement teaser for Salaar 2 will be released on January 25, 2026. There is nothing from the makers' end so far, but the buzz is growing among fans and movie lovers. It remains to be seen how much truth this information holds. Prashanth Neel is currently busy shooting Dragon (tentative title) with Jr NTR, and the shoot is taking place at Ramoji Film City, Hyderabad. On the other hand, Prabhas recently appeared in The Raja Saab, which failed to enthrall a majority of audiences.

ZAKIR KHAN ANNOUNCES BREAK FROM COMEDY DURING HYDERABAD SHOW



Hyderabad: Popular stand-up comedian Zakir Khan has announced that he will be taking a long break from live comedy performances. The announcement was made during his recent show in Hyderabad, which is part of his ongoing stand-up special Papa Yaar. Zakir revealed that the break could last until 2028, 2029, or even 2030. Fans across social media have been expressing sadness but also support, encouraging him to prioritise his well-being.

• FINAL SHOWS UNTIL JUNE 20

Zakir clarified that although there is no official farewell show, all performances scheduled until June 20 will be his last live appearances before the long hiatus. Fans across social media have been expressing sadness but also support, encouraging him to prioritise his well-being.

• A HISTORIC CAREER MILESTONE

Last year, Zakir achieved a historic feat by becoming the first Indian comedian to perform a full Hindi-language stand-up show at New York City's Madison Square Garden. Calling it a "big day," he shared how overwhelming it felt to perform Hindi comedy for an audience of nearly 6,000 people. Celebrities like chef Vikas Khanna and actor Kal Penn were also present to cheer him on.

Zakir Khan rose to fame in 2012 after winning Comedy Central's India's Best Stand-Up. With hit specials like Haq Se Single and Kaksha Gyarvi, his journey has been deeply relatable for fans. For now, his remaining shows are being seen as a celebration of an era before a well-earned pause. Fans across social media have been expressing sadness but also support, encouraging him to prioritise his well-being.