


OM NAMO
VENKATESAYA



20-01-2026
Total pilgrims: 73,788
Tonsures: 23,449
Hundi kanukalu: 4.65 CR
Waiting Compartments: 13

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

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KTR condemns Congress MP for 'attack' on BRS MLA



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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



IN BRIFS

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.

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

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 1,000 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.

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.

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 discrepancies

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

Won't use force, but US needs Greenland for strategic reasons: Trump at Davos

Davos (TSIT) President Donald Trump on Wednesday said the US will not use force to take Greenland and stressed that only America can protect the mineral-rich island, which is at the centre of escalating geopolitical tensions with Europe.

Speaking at the annual meeting of the World Economic Forum, Trump said the US is booming but Europe is "not heading in the right direction".

"I have tremendous respect for people of Greenland and Denmark, but only the US can secure Greenland," Trump said in his 70-minute-long speech during which he launched a blistering attack on NATO allies on a range of issues, including tariffs, environment and immigration.

"We fought for beautiful Denmark, which is not a land, but a big piece of ice, cold and poorly located. It is a very small ask compared to what we have given them for many, many decades. We were stupid to give it back," Trump said, staking claims over the region. "People thought I would use force. I don't have to use force. I don't want to use force. I won't use force." Trump said that Greenland, which is a Danish territory, has a strategic location between the US, Russia and China. "The US needs it for strate-



gic reasons, not for rare earth minerals." Only the US can protect Greenland, and many European nations have also acquired territories; there is nothing wrong with it. "We were a powerful force when we saved Greenland and gave it to Denmark after World War II, but we are much more powerful now," Trump said.

He also called for immediate negotiations for the US to acquire Greenland from Denmark, describing the country as ungrateful, during his speech at Davos. The President also spoke on the US' economic strength and global prosperity, saying "the USA is the economic engine of the planet". "When America booms, the entire world booms."

India defeated New Zealand by 48 runs in the first T20I

Nagpur (TSIT): India defeated New Zealand by 48 runs in the first T20I of the five-match series during New Zealand's tour of India 2026, taking a commanding 1-0 lead. The match took place at the Vidarbha Cricket Association Stadium in Nagpur on January 21, 2026.

New Zealand captain Mitchell Santner won the toss and elected to bowl first. India capitalized on the opportunity with an explosive batting display, posting a formidable total of 238/7 in their 20 overs. Abhishek Sharma stole the show with a blistering 84 off just 35 balls, smashing 5 fours and 8 sixes at a strike rate of 240.00. His aggressive innings set the platform early.

Suryakumar Yadav contributed a quick 32 off 22 balls, while Hardik Pandya added 25 off 16. Rinku Singh provided a strong finish with an unbeaten 44 off 20 balls (4 fours and 3 sixes), helping India reach their highest T20I total against New Zealand.

The Indian innings featured a powerful power-play (68 runs in the first 6



overs) and consistent partnerships, despite regular wickets falling. New Zealand's bowlers struggled to contain the onslaught, with Jacob Duffy (2/27) and Kyle Jamieson (2/54) picking up two wickets each, but the economy rates were high across the board.

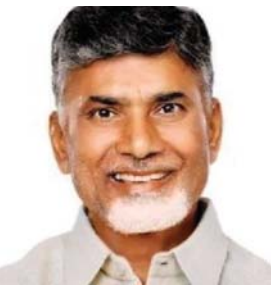
Chasing 239, New Zealand never truly got going. They were bowled out for 190/7 in 20 overs. Glenn Phillips top-scored

with a valiant 78 off 40 balls (4 fours and 6 sixes), while Mark Chapman chipped in with 39 off 24. However, early setbacks—Devon Conway dismissed for a duck in the second ball—and regular fall of wickets derailed their chase. India's bowlers were clinical: Varun Chakaravathy took 2/37, Shivam Dube claimed 2/28 (including two in the final over), and Axar Patel, Hardik

Pandya, and Arshdeep Singh picked up one each. The spinners and death bowlers restricted the Kiwis effectively. This victory marks a strong start for India under Suryakumar Yadav's captaincy in the T20I format, serving as ideal preparation for the upcoming ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026. The series continues with the second T20I in Raipur on January 23.

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 permissions



to companies within no time. In addition, an escrow account and other incentives are being provided to attract invest-

ments 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

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.

7 TN fishermen arrested by Lankan Navy, Stalin writes to EAM seeking their release

Chennai, Jan 21 (TSIT) Seven fishermen from Tamil Nadu were on Wednesday arrested by the Sri Lankan Navy along with their two boats for allegedly fishing in their territorial waters, even as Chief Minister M K Stalin wrote to External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar urging him to prevent further apprehensions and secure their release along with their fishing boats by utilising appropriate diplomatic channels.

The fishermen, hailing from Mayiladuthurai district, had ventured into the sea last night and were fishing in the Palk Strait region, when they were arrested by the Lankan Navy personnel for fishing in their waters after crossing the International Maritime



Boundary Line (IMBL). The Lankan Navy personnel later took the seven fishermen into their custody along with their two fishing boats to the Kankesanthurai Port in the Island Nation for further action. The incident comes close on the heels of three fishermen each arrested by the Lankan Navy

on December 28 and 30, 2025, 11 from Karaikal on January two, nine from Nagapattinam district on January 3 and 10 fishermen

from Rameswaram on January 14. The latest arrest of fishermen today while fishing in the Palk Strait, took place despite Mr Stalin time and again writing to the union government seeking urgent steps through diplomatic channels to secure the release of apprehended fishermen, besides convening the Joint Working Group of fishermen between the two countries to find a lasting solution to this vexatious issue, as the continuing frequent

arrests has caused much heartburn among the fishing community in the state. This was also reiterated in the Governor's address in the State Assembly on the opening day of the first session of New Year.

Various fishermen associations condemned the oft-repeated instances of arrests of fishermen and urged the central and the state governments to find a permanent solution to sustain their livelihood and restore their traditional fishing rights in the Palk Strait region. Mr Stalin also urged the Centre to retrieve Katchtheevu, an islet, ceded to Sri Lanka through a pact in 1974 and said this alone will provide a lasting solution to restore the traditional fishing rights of the fishermen.

Madras HC quashes FIR against BJP leader Amit Malviya



Madurai, Jan 21 (GNS) The Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court has quashed an FIR registered against BJP leader Amit Malviya for alleged distortion of comments made by Deputy Chief Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin on 'Sanatana Dharma'.

Justice S Srinath said the comments of Udhayanidhi were tantamount to hate speech and held that questioning it was a reaction.

BJP leader K Annamalai said the court has quashed the vindictive and politically motivated FIR filed by "the corrupt, anti-Hindu" DMK government against Amit Malviya.

ED freezes Rs 1.3 crore in assets, seizes gold bar in Sabarimala temple money laundering probe



Chennai (TSIT) The raids, conducted under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002, aim to trace the "Proceeds of Crime" from a well-planned conspiracy. The ED initiated the investigation based on Kerala Police FIRs that implicated senior officials of the Travancore Devaswom Board (TDB), former temple administrators, private sponsors, and jewelers.

Preliminary findings reveal that gold-clad sacred artefacts, including Dwarapalaka idol components, pedestals (peedams), and sanctum sanctorum door frames, were falsely recorded as "copper plates"

in official records between 2019 and 2025. This allowed their unauthorized removal and transfer to private facilities—Smart Creations in Chennai and Roddam Jewellers in Karnataka—where the gold was chemically extracted under the guise of repair work.

plates" misrepresentation, official correspondence, jewellers' invoices, and documents pointing to wider financial irregularities in temple offerings and rituals. "The seized materials are being examined to quantify the exact Proceeds of Crime, establish.

TN Assembly adjourns for day after adopting condolence resolutions, obituary references

Chennai, Jan 21 (TSIT) The Tamil Nadu Assembly was adjourned today without transacting any business after adopting condolence resolutions and making obituary references in respect of former members who died during the intervening period. Soon after the House Assembled for the

day, Speaker M Appavu read obituary references on the passing away of former MLAs S. Pannirselvam and L. Ganesan of MDMK. The House also adopted condolence resolutions on the demise of prominent Industrialist A Vellayan, former Chariman of Murugappa Group.

Clix Capital Services Pvt. Ltd.
NOTICE UNDER SECTION 13(2) OF THE SECURITIZATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002
The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of Clix Capital Services Pvt. Ltd., a Non Banking Financial Company (duly registered with Reserve Bank of India) under the provisions of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (SA of 2002) (hereinafter referred to as "SARFAESI Act, 2002") having its Registered Office: W2/14, 1st Floor, West Patel Nagar, Delhi, 110008 (hereinafter referred to as "CLIX") and is engaged in the business of providing financial assistance to meet the needs of over millions of its customers all over India, hereby invites you to the following notice :-
Name & Address Of Borrower/Co-Borrower: 1. SAKSHI KUMAR SUBRAMANIAM S/O SUBRAMANIAM S. SWETHA K VIVEKANANDHAR SUBRAMANIAM S/O R/O 301, SOUTH STREET, KURUPPUR, TOORADUR, VIJAYAPURAM, DIST TIRUPPUR, TAMIL NADU-641606. ALSO AT: R/O 2/5, VANIAMMAN KOVIL STREET, ARUN GARDEN, VIJAYAPURAM TIRUPPUR, VIJAYAPURAM, TIRUPPUR-641606. ALSO AT: OLD S.F. NO. 566/1A AND NEW S.F. NO. 907/18, 907/19, 907/20, 907/21, 907/22, 907/23, 907/24, 907/25, 907/26, VIJAYAPURAM NATHAM, NALLUR VILLAGE & SRO, TIRUPUR SOUTH TALUK, TIRUPUR DISTRICT-641606. 3. SRI SA AGENCIES AND MOBILE THROUGH ITS PROPRIETOR SAKSHI KUMAR SUBRAMANIAM OLD S.F. NO. 566, 566/1A AND NEW S.F. NO. 907/18, 907/19, 907/20, 907/21, 907/22, 907/23, 907/24, 907/25, 907/26, VIJAYAPURAM NATHAM, NALLUR VILLAGE & SRO, TIRUPUR SOUTH TALUK, TIRUPUR DISTRICT-641606
Loan A/c Number : SC01HM0000715533 & SC01HM0000836152, **Loan Amount Availed /Date :** Rs. 72,29,475.00/- & Rs. 15,48,750/- dated 13.12.2024, **Date of 13(2) Notice :** 19.01.2026, **NPA Date -7 Jan 2025, Demand Date and Amount as Per Sec. 13(2) Act. Notice :** Rs. 98,61,688.54/- as on 16.01.2026
Mortgage Properties : Item No. 1 - Tiruppur Registration District Nallur Sub Registration District, Tiruppur South Taluk Vijayapuram Village Old S.F. No. 566/1A And New S.F. No. 907/18 In This And Extent Of 215.28 Square Feet Of Land Bounded On Amidst East-West On Northern Side - 2.0 Meter, East-West On Southern Side - 7.0 Meter, South-North On East Side - 3.0 Meter, South-North On West Side - 2.8 Meter, Totally Admeasuring 215.28 Square Feet Or 20 Square Meter. **Item No. 2 -** Land In Old S.F. No. 566/1A And New S.F. No. 907/22 Manaiyari Patta No. 683 In Which 44 Square Meter Is Bounded On: In Midst- East-West On North Side - 6.3 Meter, East-West On South Side - 6.6 Meter, North-South On East Side - 6.6 Meter, North-South On West Side - 6.6 Meter, Admeasuring To An Extent Of 44 Square Meter Of Land. **Item No. 3 -** Land In Old S.F. No. 566/1A And New S.F. No. 907/20 Manaiyari Patta No. 452 In Which 25 Square Meter Is Bounded On: In Midst- East-West On Northern Side - 5.8 Meter From Its Eastern, Eastern Side East-West 5.0 Meter From Its Eastern Point, North-South - 2.4 Meter From Its Southern Point, North-South - 1.6 Meter From Its Southern Side, Admeasuring To An Extent Of 44 Square Meter Of Land. **Item No. 4 -** Land In Old S.F. No. 566/1A And New S.F. No. 907/24 Manaiyari Patta No. 452 In Which 34 Square Meter Is Bounded On: In Midst- East-West On Northern Side - 5.4 Meter, East-West On South Side - 5.4 Meter, North-South On East Side - 6.2 Meter, North-South On West Side - 6.4 Meter, Admeasuring To An Extent Of 366 Square Feet Or 44 Square Meter Of Land. **Item No. 5 -** Land In Old S.F. No. 566/1A And New S.F. No. 907/21 Manaiyari Patta No. 1315 In Which 22 Square Meter Of Land Is Bounded On: North By Land In S.F. No. 907/22, 907/23, 907/24, 907/25, South By Land In S.F. No. 907/18, 907/19, 907/20, East By Land In S.F. No. 907/17, West By Land In S.F. No. 907/26, In Midst - East-West On North Side - 24.6 Meter, East-West On South Side - 24.4 Meter, North-South On East Side - 0.8 Meter, North-South On West Side - 1.0 Meter, Admeasuring To An Extent Of 236.88 Sq Feet Or 22 Square Meter Of Land
Further with reasons, we believe that you are evading the service of demand notice, hence this publication of demand notice. You are hereby called upon to pay Clix Capital Services Pvt. Ltd., within a period of 60 days of date of publication of this demand notice the aforesaid amount along with interest, cost, incidental expenses, charges etc., failing which Clix Capital Services Pvt. Ltd., will take necessary action under all or any of the provision of Sec. 13(4) of the said Act against all or any one or more of the secured assets including taking possession of this secured assets of the borrower. Further you are prohibited U/S 13(13) of the said Act from transferring either by way of sale/lease or in any other way the aforesaid secured assets. Please note that no further demand notice will be issued.
Date -22.01.2026, Place -Tamilnadu **Authorized officer, Clix Capital Services Pvt. Ltd.**

EASTERN RAILWAY
e-Tender Notice No. : W_LLH_24_2025-26, dated 17.01.2026. E-Tender (Open Tender) is invited online by Dy. Chief Mechanical Engineer/Elect, C&W Workshop, Eastern Railway, Liluah, Howrah-711204 from tenderers having technical capabilities for the following work : **Name of the Work :** Coach alteration in electrical system in 300 LHB coaches manufactured during 2011 & 2012 against RB LB item no. 528 of 2025-26 (WB item no. 702/2024-25) = 25 Coaches for ER. (PH-21) at C & W Workshop, Eastern Railway, Liluah.
Approx. cost of Works: ₹ 1,24,61,987.50. **Earnest Money:** ₹ 2,12,300/-. **Tender Closing date & time:** 09.02.2026 & 14.00 hrs. **Website where complete details of Tender is available:** www.irps.gov.in (MISC-364/2025-26)
Tender Notice is also available at websites : www.einrailways.gov.in / www.irps.gov.in
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ICICI Home Finance Corporate Office: ICICI Home Finance Company Limited ICICI HFC Tower, Andheri - Kurla Road, Andheri (East), Mumbai - 400059, India
Branch Office: 356/1, Empire Arcade,Ground floor, Omnar Main, Alagapuram,Opp New Bus Stand, Salem, Tamil Nadu - 636004
Branch Office: 1st Floor, Door No. 66, G.G. Towers, Kumanur Road, Opposite Town Hall, Tiruppur- 641601
[See proviso to rule 8(6)] Notice for sale of immovable assets
E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of ICICI Home Finance Company Ltd., will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" as per the brief particulars given hereunder:

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower(s)/ Co Borrowers/ Guarantors/ Legal Heirs. Loan Account No.	Details of the Secured asset(s) with known encumbrances, if any	Amount Outstanding	Reserve Price Earnest Money Deposit	Date and Time of Property Inspection	Date and Time of Auction	One Day Before Auction Date	SARFAESI Stage
(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)	(H)	(I)
1.	C Rajkumar (Borrower) Vijayalakshmi R (Co-Borrower) P Chinnu (Co-Borrower) Lan No. LHSAL00001565960	D No 5 581 S/F No 507 1 Perambalur Village Pennanagarum Sro And Taluk Dharmapuri District Perumbalur S/F No 507 1 Dharmapuri Tamil Nadu- 636811	Rs. 32.08, 775.00/- January 13, 2026	Rs. 71.08, 218/- Rs. 7.10, 822/-	February 16, 2026 11:00 AM- 03:00 PM	February 24, 2026 02:00 PM- 03:00 PM	February 23, 2026 Before 05:00 PM	Symbolic Possession
2.	M D Thangavel (Borrower) K Tomilselvi (Co-Borrower) Lan No. LHCBT00001571003 & LHCBT00001571004	Sf No 424 2 Site No 15 B 8 Door No 192 Iyandandur Street No 15 Velampalayam Village Tiruppur Taluk Joint 2 Sro Tiruppur 641601 Tiruppur Tamil Nadu- 641601	Rs. 2,45,77, 453.46/- January 14, 2026	Rs. 3,14.06, 580/- Rs. 31.40, 658/-	February 16, 2026 11:00 AM- 03:00 PM	February 24, 2026 02:00 PM- 03:00 PM	February 23, 2026 Before 05:00 PM	Symbolic Possession
3.	T Jayachitra (Borrower) G Thangavel (Co-Borrower) Lan No. LHSAL00001644562 & LHSAL00001644624	Old S.No.35/181 New S.No. 35/181A1A 1A1 Plot 15 Kottamettupatti Village And Village Panchayat Limi Panchayath Salem Tamil Nadu- 636603	Rs. 18.61, 332.16/- January 14, 2026	Rs. 46.05, 795/- Rs. 4.60, 580/-	February 16, 2026 11:00 AM- 03:00 PM	February 24, 2026 02:00 PM- 03:00 PM	February 23, 2026 Before 05:00 PM	Symbolic Possession
4.	Ravikumar T (Borrower) Nithisha Rani E (Co-Borrower) Lan No. LHTR00001475065 & LHTR00001475066 & LHTR00001475780 & LHTR0000136293	Sf No 538, Site No.33 South Part, GN Garden, Neruperichal Village, Tiruppur North Taluk, Tiruppur Corporation 641666 Tiruppur 33 Tiruppur Tamil Nadu- 641601	Rs. 36.55, 473.82/- January 14, 2026	Rs. 36.63, 513/- Rs. 3.66, 351/-	February 16, 2026 11:00 AM- 03:00 PM	February 24, 2026 02:00 PM- 03:00 PM	February 23, 2026 Before 05:00 PM	Symbolic Possession

The online auction will be conducted on website (URL Link- https://BidDeal.in) of our auction agency ValueTrust Capital Services Private Limited. The Mortgagors/ notice are given a last chance to pay the total dues with further interest till February 23, 2026 before 05:00 PM else these secured assets will be sold as per above schedule. The Prospective Bidder(s) must submit the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) RTGS/ Demand Draft (DD) (Refer Column E) at ICICI Home Finance Company Limited Branch Office Address mentioned on top of the article on or before February 23, 2026 before 04:00 PM. The Prospective Bidder(s) must also submit signed copy of Registration Form & Bid Terms and Conditions form at ICICI Home Finance Company Limited Branch Office Address mentioned on top of the article on or before February 23, 2026 before 05:00 PM. Earnest Money Deposit Demand Draft (DD) should be from a Nationalized/Scheduled Bank in favor of "ICICI Home Finance Company Ltd. - Auction" payable at the branch office address mentioned on top of the article. For any further clarifications with regards to inspection, terms and conditions of the auction or submission of tenders, kindly contact ICICI Home Finance Company Limited on 9920807300. The Authorized Officer reserves the right to reject any or all the bids without furnishing any further reasons. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please visit https://www.icicifhc.com/

Date: January 22, 2026
Place: Dharmapuri, Tiruppur, Salem

Authorized Officer, "ICICI Home Finance Company Limited",
CIN Number- U65922MH1999PLC120106



Union Education Ministry calls for participation to IIT-Madras Bharat Bodhan AI Conclave 2026



Letters of Interest is January 29, a release from IIT-Madras said today. Submissions are invited across four priority verticals-AI for School Education, AI for Higher Education, AI for Skillling and Workforce Readiness, and AI Research and Deep Technology. The call is open to solution providers, academic and research institutions, foundations, government

bodies and other stakeholders from across India and abroad. Calling upon people from all over India to take part, IIT-Madras Director Prof.V.Kamakoti said India's education system is undergoing decisive transformation under National Education Policy 2020 and National Curriculum Framework, with a strong emphasis on competency-based learning,

inclusion, multilingual education and measurable learning outcomes beginning with strong foundations. In this context, AI is emerging as a powerful enabler to address persistent challenges across the education ecosystem, particularly in Foundational Literacy and Numeracy, teacher support, assessment and diagnostics, personalised learning, and system-level monitoring at scale, he said. To advance this national priority,

the union Education Ministry has established a Centre of Excellence in Artificial Intelligence for Education at IIT Madras and named as 'IIT Madras Bodhan AI Foundation'. The Centre carries a national mandate to develop responsible, scalable and India-first AI solutions for education, aligned with national policies and digital public frameworks.

Kozhikode suicide case: Bus harassment complainant arrested

Kozhikode, Jan 21 : The woman who shared a video accusing a man of sexual harassment on a bus - which allegedly led him to commit suicide - was arrested by police in Kerala's Kozhikode on Wednesday. Shimjitha

Mustafa was taken into custody from a relative's home at Badagara after a case was registered against her for abetment to suicide. Her arrest came even as she approached the Kozhikode district court

seeking anticipatory bail in connection with the suicide of U. Deepak, 42, who was found dead in his bedroom, days after her video accusing him of sexual harassment on a private bus went viral on social media.

ACRE MAKING ASSETS WORK
Assets Care & Reconstruction Enterprise Ltd
Unit No. 502, C Wing, One BKC, Radius Developers, Plot No. C 66, G Block, Bandra Kurla Complex, Mumbai- 400 051
Demand Notice Under Section 13(2) of Securitisation Act of 2002
ACRE-ARC has acquired the entire Financial Assets along with underlying securities of the Borrower under the provisions of section 5 of the SARFAESI Act from the Assignor. By virtue of the said Acquisition of debt, ACRE-ARC has acquired all the rights, title and interest in the outstanding debts of the Borrower acting in its capacity as trustee by way of assignment of Financial Assets as per financial documents and the underlying securities, ACRE-ARC has stepped into the shoes of Assignor being Secured Creditor to the Borrower and is entitled to recover outstanding dues in respect of the Loan facilities and enforce the underlying security interest.

Loan A/c No.	ACRE TRUST	Portfolio	Date of Assignment ACRE	Name of Borrower, Co-Borrower	Date & Amount Of Demand Notice Under Sec. 13(2)	Description Of Mortgaged Property
AFH00050 0274629	Trust 166	JCF	11-Apr-2025	Rajendran T (Borrower) Bhuvananswari (Co-Borrower)	31-Dec-2025 Rs. 24,50,550/- as on 26-Dec-2025	All That Piece and Parcel of Vacant Land Situate At Plot No.9, Prashanthi Nagar, Irungattukottai, Land Of An Extent of 3000 Square Feet Comprised in S. No.289/4 & 288/2, Patta No.835 As Per Patta New Survey No.288/1a3 And Approved Layout No. L.P./D.T.C.P., No.970/1993 of Irungattukottai Village, Sriperumbudur Taluk, Kanchipuram District, Measuring An Extent of 3000 Sq.ft., And Being Bounded As Follows: North By : Plot No.10, East By : Plot Nos.7 And 8, South By : 30 Feet Road, West By : 23 Feet Road, Measuring: On The North: 60 Feet, On The East : 59 Feet, On The South: 65 Feet, On The West: 37 Feet. Measuring An Extent of 3000 Sq.ft., of Land or Thereabouts And Lying Within The Registration District of Chengalput and Sub-Registration District of Sriperumbudur Schedule "B" 476.56 sq.ft. Undivided Share of Land Out of 3000 Sq.ft. Of Schedule 'A' Mentioned Property.
AFH0616 00539420	Trust 166	JCF	11-Apr-2025	Raja S (Borrower) Selvi R (Co-Borrower)	31-Dec-2025 Rs. 16,54,416/- as on 26-Dec-2025	Madurai District, Madurai South Registration District, Arasaradi Sub Registration District, Madurai South Taluk, At Present Madurai West Taluk, Achampatti Village, S No.43/3a Measuring 0.15.5 Hectare i.e., Measuring 37 Cents in Which End of Eastern Measuring 9% Cents in That Plot Nos. 5 & 6 Totally Measuring 1967 Sq.ft. in Which Left for Western Portion of Land And Balance Eastern Measuring 793 ½ Sq.ft. Land And House Is Abounded On: North: 15 Ft Wide Road, East Lands of Indira, South: Vaikkal And House Of Rajendran And Periyasamy, West: Western Portion of Plot Nos.5 & 6. Measurements East to West On North: 19 Ft, East To West On South: 19 Ft, North to South On East: 43 Ft, North to South On West: 40 Ft Ft
AFH0616 00587549	Trust 166	JCF	11-Apr-2025	Veerakkumar R (Borrower) Rajamanickam Krishnan (Co-Borrower)	31-Dec-2025 Rs.20,11,290/- as on 26-Dec-2025	(Description of Property) Sivagangal District, Sivagangal Registration District, Thiruppuvanam Sub Registration District, Thiruppuvanamtaluk, Thoathai Group, Thoathai Village, S No 119/108 Measuring 0.22.25 Hectare i.e., 55 Cents in Which South of The Top Measuring 10 Cents Is Abounded On: North: Lands Belongs to Rajamanickam, East: Lands Belongs to Rajamanickam, South: Rasu Land, West: Road
AFH0616 00405895	Trust 166	JCF	11-Apr-2025	Karikalak N (Borrower) S Sangeetha (Co-Borrower)	31-Dec-2025 Rs.34,11,548/- as on 26-Dec-2025	Details of The Size of The Land For The Nakkumal Plot, Which is Located At Meenambalapuram Kamaraj Nagar Street, Door 293/A19.1, Located in The Reserve 31/2 Water in The Village of Nakkappukkulam, Madurai North, Which is Attached to The Madurai D Chokkikulam Subdistrict, Madurai Corporation, North: Kamaraj Nagar Street East: The Land That Isakki Amman Had Desired. South: Reserve 33 Water Poison West: 20 Feet Wide False Street.
AFH0616 00337382	Trust 166	JCF	11-Apr-2025	Jayakandhan R (Borrower) M Uthappa (Co-Borrower)	31-Dec-2025 Rs.38,09,164/- as on 22-Dec-2025	All of That Piece and Parcel No. 108/5A, The Land Measuring 0.66.50 Acres Per Acre and 64 Cents, The Upper Part of The Land Measuring 1 Acre and The Adjacent Land, Has Been Divided Into Several Blocks By Laying Out The Layout and Dividing It Into "Visva Nagar I" Exterior and Sub-Particular. The Vacant Land of Flat No. 3 Built in The Above Reserve No. 108/5A (Part) Is Four-storied. Boundaries To The North : Land in Survey No. 108/1, To The East : To The Owner of Flat No. 2, To The South : 23 Feet Wide Public Road, To The West: To The Owner of Flat No. 4.
AFH0036 00309946	Trust 166	JCF	11-Apr-2025	Vinoth S (Borrower) Vijay S (Co-Borrower) Sekar A (Co-Borrower)	31-Dec-2025 Rs.43,75,904/- as on 22-Dec-2025	(Description of Property): Property Details Coimbatore Ridge, Madukkarai Subdistrict, Madukkarai Taluk, Madukkarai Village, K.S. 1054/2A, Dated 7.06.06, of Which The Upper Part Is A.O.84, of Which The North Side Is A Total of 0.05.1/4 Cents, And The Dimensions of The Property Are As Follows: North- Ponnusamy Bhumli Also South- 6 Feet Wide Old Track Previously Owned By A. Mani, Currently Owned By Gauri Murugan East- To The Place West- Saroja Kriyam's Old Part is Also Vacant. Amidst This. North Side, Old Foot 25'3", South Side Kizhmelady - 23'0", East- West Sea Level 48'9" Feet, Top South Seas - 47'7" The Land Measuring 1166 Square Feet or 108.324 Square Meters or 2 Cents 294.8 Square Feet and The Rcc House Built On The Said Land, All Doors, Windows, Roofs, Perimeter Walls, Electricity Connections and The Deposit Amount For The Same Attached To The Said House Are Free From All Public Roads on The Said Road Leading To The Said House.
MOR0616 00528361	Trust 166	JCF	11-Apr-2025	Parthiban M (Borrower) Mrs.Indira P (Co-Borrower)	31-Dec-2025 Rs.52,61,324/- as on 22-Dec-2025	Madurai District, Madurai South Registration District, Arasaradi Sub Registration District, Madurai Town Survey Ward 5, Melmadurai Village, T.S No.1315 & 1327 in That House on Bearing Door Nos. 47 & 48A, Ward No.27, Having An Area of 760 Sq.ft., Situated At Gnanalipuram Technical School (West) Municipality Taluk, Having Assessment No. 44698 & 44702 Is Abounded on: North: Visuvapuram 4th Street, East : Thiyaagarajan Oil Mill, South : House of Karuppanan, West : House of Shanmugam & House of Veeramal Parvathi Vagayara. Measurements East to West on North: 19 Ft, East to West on South : 19 Ft, North to South on East: 40 Ft, North to South on West : 40 Ft.
AFH0523 00196672	Trust 166	JCF	11-Apr-2025	Jeyanthan F (Borrower) Francis T (Co-Borrower)	16-Jan-2026 Rs.69,19,994/- as on 06-Jan-2026	Tiruchirappalli District, Tiruchirappalli Registration District, Joint I & II Sub Registration District, Tiruchirappalli Town, Kabishekupuram Village, Ayan Punja in New Ward L1, New Block No.21. T.S. No.5/IA/IA/IA/ 3A3, Measuring An Extent of Acre 2.92 Cents of Land Had Been Divided into House Plots and Formed Into A Layout Named As "Rajarajan Nagar" In Which A Plot Bearing Plot No.27 Measuring An Extent of 2925 Sq.ft., Lies Within The Following Four Boundaries:- North By: Plot No.26, South By: 30 Feet Wide Road, West By: 30 Feet Wide Road, East By: Plot No: 28. Within These Boundaries Admeasuring East to West on The Northern Side 65 Feet, on The Southern Side 65 Feet and South to North on The Eastern Side 45 Feet and on The Western Side 45 Feet Totally Measuring An Extent of 2925 Sq.ft. (271.74 Sq.mtr.) of Plot and Along With All Usual Pathway and Easementary Rights Related Thereto, The Above Property Lies Within The Limits of K. Abishekupuram Village of Tiruchirappalli City Corporation. This Property Now Comprised In New Ward Ac, Block No.21, Ward L, T.S. No.5/IA/IA/IA/ 3A3. Schedule-B In The Property Described In Schedule A Above, An Undivided Share of An Extent of 239 (205+34) Sq.ft., For Flat No. "C-1" in First Floor Measuring An Extent 722 Sq.ft., of Super Plinth Area and One Car Park Slot in Stilt Floor In "Southwest Aarthi Arcade" To Be Constructed In The Property Detailed in Schedule-A Above.

The steps are being taken for substituted service of notice. The above borrowers, co-borrowers and/or their guarantors (where ever applicable) are advised to make the payments of outstanding within 60 days from the date of the publication of this notice failing which further steps will be taken after the expiry of 60 days of the date of this notice as per the provision of Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002. Please be informed that the said notice is also under section 13(13) informing the borrowers/guarantors/mortgagors that the said mortgaged property should not be sold/leased/transferred.

Date : 22/01/2026, Place: Tamil Nadu
Authorized Officer, Assets Care & Reconstruction Enterprise Ltd

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.

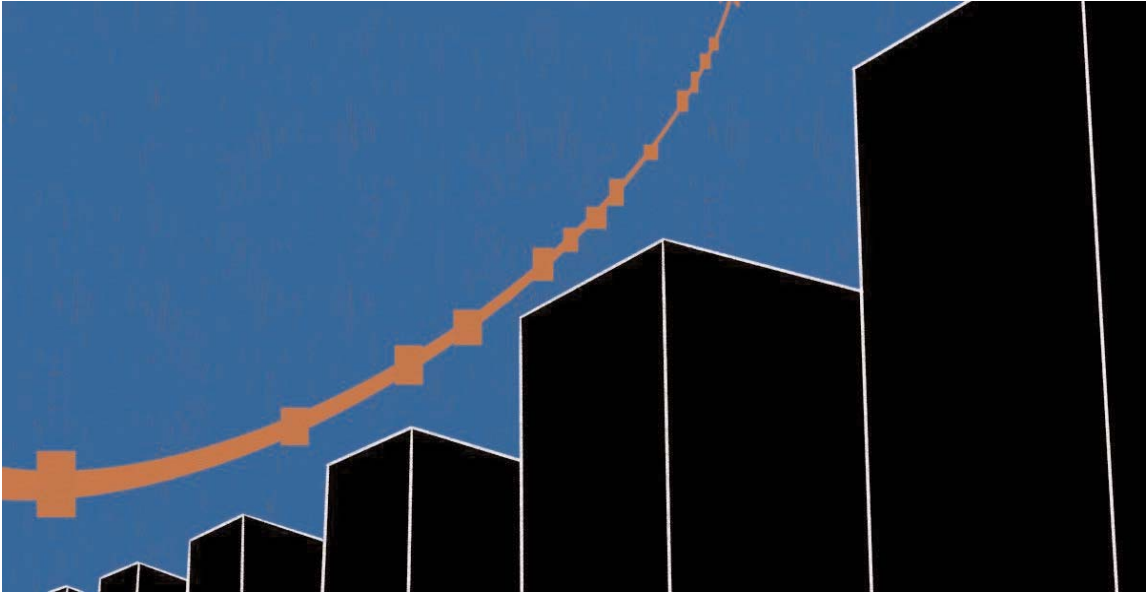
Global hunger stems not from a lack of capacity to produce enough food, but partly from our failure to produce it efficiently and distribute it evenly. Conflict and insecurity remain the dominant causes of hunger across 20 countries and territories, leaving nearly 140 million people facing acute food 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.

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

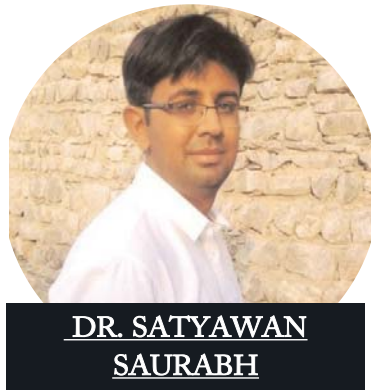


how much a talk of this de-linking of dollar from oil trade ruffles them. Even before he assumed the presidency, in December 2024, he wrote on Truth Social, “The idea that the BRICS Countries are trying to move away from the Dollar while we stand by and watch is OVER.” No wonder that they couldn't stand 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



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-

vide ethical leadership. If the alleged lapse of a single officer casts doubt on the image of the entire force, it signals the need for a fresh look at internal oversight and ethical training. The most important message in any democratic state is that the law applies equally to everyone, whether ordinary citizens or high-ranking officials. If allegations are proven after investigation, action must be taken that makes it clear that position, influence, and identity are not above the law. Furthermore, if the allegations are found to be false or exaggerated, it is equally important to restore the reputation of the officer involved. Justice does not only mean punishment, but also establishing the truth. The average citizen seeks not only protection from the police but also moral assurance. They want to believe that those in charge of the law are themselves within the bounds of law and decorum. When such incidents occur, public trust is shaken—and this poses the greatest threat to any democracy. Therefore, the responsibility of governments and institutions should not be limited to immediate action. They must also consider how to prevent such incidents from recurring in the future—through training, psychological counseling, ethical evaluation, and clear accountability processes. The Karnataka DGP case isn't just a case of alleged conduct by one officer. It reflects a broader question about how strong our balance is between power, ethics, and accountability. Suspension is a preliminary step, not a final conclusion. The true test will lie in a fair investigation, a transparent process, and a just decision. Democracy is strengthened only when institutions show the courage to reform themselves. To protect the dignity of the uniform, the decorum of office, and the trust of the public—all three require that the law be administered without fear or favor. This should be the most important message to emerge from this entire episode.

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 bahudha 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 Ramarajya not 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 Ramarajya 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 vigilantism, 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

global trade, he said. Bisen further noted that for India, the pending trade agreement with the US remains a key stabilising factor, as its conclusion could boost confidence and bilateral commerce. "Also, until the geopolitical risk eases and the trade deal materialises, the rupee is likely to remain vulnerable to external shocks. However, given the strong forex reserves, the Reserve Bank of India can manage the situation as the depreciation has made INR relatively cheaper on REER basis, which shall help shore up exports," he said. Meanwhile, the dollar index, which measures the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 0.02 per cent lower at 98.61.

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, Zepto, 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. Debashree 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,

innovative approach and commitment to operational excellence will play a vital role in modernizing our IT landscape and strengthening our ability to serve customers across Australia and New Zealand." "This partnership marks a significant milestone for HCLTech," said Sonia Eland, Executive Vice President and Country Manager for Australia and New Zealand, HCLTech. "Our comprehensive suite of solutions, powered by advanced AI and automation, will enable Team Global Express to accelerate transformation, enhance customer experience and drive long-term value creation." The partnership reinforces HCLTech's credentials as a trusted technology leader in enterprise transformation and digital innovation.

New Delhi: Italian super luxury automaker Automobili Lamborghini on Tuesday, January 20, said its sales in India declined marginally to 111 units last year, as compared to 113 units sold in 2024. Overall, the company delivered 10,747 units worldwide in 2025. Lamborghini India delivered a total of 111 cars in 2025, underscoring the brand's continued resilience and strong market relevance despite a challenging luxury automotive environment, it said in a statement. The year was marked by a robust performance in the super SUV segment, which recorded a strong 17 per cent year-on-year growth, reaffirming the increasing demand for Lamborghini's SUV portfolio in India, it added. This growth reflects the strong customer response to the brand's hybridisation journey and its ability to align performance with evolving consumer preferences, further

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



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

vehicles delivered. The Americas followed, closing the year with 3,347 units delivered, while the Asia Pacific (APAC) region recorded 2,750 vehicle deliveries, it stated. Lamborghini reported sales of 111 units in India in 2025, translating to a 1.13 percent drop compared to the volumes it managed in 2024. Despite the slowdown in India, the luxury Italian

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.

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. Brooklyn Beckham speaks out against parents Victoria and David Beckham: "I do not want to reconcile with my family. 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/FBFIK1d4fu — 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-

age has no bearing on the tournament's security framework or the conditions governing participation in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup." "The ICC's venue and scheduling decisions are guided by objective threat assessments, host guarantees, and the tournament's agreed terms of participation, which apply uniformly to all 20 competing nations. In the absence of any independent security findings that materially compromise the safety of the Bangladesh team, the ICC is unable to relocate fixtures.

"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 reappointed 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 from the left-handed opener 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 78 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

Sunrisers Eastern Cape are in familiar territory. For the fourth straight year, the team is in the SA20 playoffs. Already the most successful side in the league-with two titles and one runner-up finish-the Sunrisers now face a resurgent Pretoria Capitals in Qualifier 1 in Durban on Wednesday. Tristan Stubbs, who took over the captaincy from Aiden Markram ahead of Season 4, does not want to read too much into their run so far. "It doesn't mean much. It's good to know we played well throughout the season, but heading into the playoffs, you start every game 0/0. It's nice to have momentum going into the playoffs, but it doesn't mean much at all," Stubbs said ahead of Qualifier 1. "I don't really



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 have 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'd 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.

STREET: 333 E 7th Street, Suite 1000, Minneapolis, MN 55415, USA. TEL: 612.338.3333, FAX: 612.338.3334, WWW: WWW.MINDGARDEN.COM