

US Senate bill targets China's critical minerals grip

WASHINGTON

A bipartisan group of US lawmakers has introduced a bill in the Senate to strengthen domestic and allied supply chains for critical minerals to counter China's monopoly over global markets.

The Securing Essential and Critical US Resources and Elements (SECURE) Minerals Act, introduced last week by Republican Senator Todd Young of Indiana and Democratic Senator Jeanne Shaheen of New Hampshire, aims at reducing US dependence on China by supporting domestic production, stabilising markets and encouraging long-term investment through policy-backed mechanisms.

The SECURE Act envisages the establishment of a Strategic Resilience Reserve (SRR) in an independent government corporation, run by a seven-member board appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate.

The SRR would focus on supporting the critical minerals market, including through stable prices, domestic and allied production, stockpiles, competitive markets and supply chain work, with minerals where the US is reliant on China, the bill said. "China's global dominance of critical minerals supply chains gives it significant leverage and leaves the US vulnerable to economic coercion. PTT

Denmark rejects talks on Greenland sovereignty

COPENHAGEN

DENMARK's prime minister insisted that her country can't negotiate on its sovereignty on Thursday after US President Donald Trump said he agreed on a "framework of a future deal" on Arctic security with the head of NATO. Trump said the outcome would be "all the military access we want" to Greenland.

Trump on Wednesday abruptly scrapped the tariffs he had threatened to impose on eight European nations to press for US control over Greenland, a semi-autonomous territory of NATO ally Denmark. It was a dramatic reversal hours after he insisted he wanted to get the island "including right, title and ownership" — though he also said he would not use force.

Much about the potential deal remained unclear on Thursday, though Trump said in a Fox Business interview that "we're going to have total access to Greenland."

"We're going to have all the military access we want," he added. Trump said the deal, if completed, will also allow for the United States to install an element of his "Golden Dome," part of a multibillion dollar missile defense system, in Greenland. Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen said security in the

Body expands beyond Gaza ceasefire, 35 nations to sign

DAVOS

PRESIDENT Donald Trump wants to spotlight his proposed "Board of Peace" at the World Economic Forum on Thursday, looking to create momentum for a project that has been overshadowed this week first by his threats to seize Greenland, and then by a dramatic retreat from that push. The new board was initially envisioned as a small group of world leaders overseeing the Gaza ceasefire, but has morphed into something far more ambitious and skepticism about its membership and mandate has led some traditional US allies to so far take a pass.

No major European allies attended the signing ceremony amid tension on Greenland.

Trump expressed confidence in his idea ahead of what the White House said would be a "charter announcement" on the sidelines of the forum in the Swiss alps, featuring opening remarks by Trump and a collection of administration officials and leaders from various countries. "We have a lot of great people that want to join," Trump said with Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi by his side during a Wednesday meeting. Egypt is among the countries that have announced it will join the board.

Attending are Secretary of State Marco Rubio, US special envoy Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner, the president's son-in-law and a key overseas negotiator for his administration on several fronts. Also on-hand will be leaders or top diplomats from several countries, including Saudi Arabia's Foreign Minister, Prince Faisal bin Farhan; Azerbaijani's President Ilham Aliyev; Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashin-



Donald Trump signs the charter of his Board of Peace initiative at the Annual Meeting of the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland | AP

Pak Opposition raps Shehbaz for joining in

ISLAMABAD: Hours after Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif signed the charter for the Board of Peace for Gaza, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf said it does not accept the decision. Jailed former prime minister Imran Khan, who heads PTI, said: "Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf does not accept the Government of Pakistan's decision to join the Board of Peace." Meanwhile, Malis Wahdat-e-Muslimeen (MWM) chief Allama Raja Nasir Abbas, the Leader of the Opposition in the Senate, denounced the government's decision to join Trump's Board of Peace, calling it "morally incorrect and indefensible."

yan, Paraguayan President Santiago Peña; and President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev of Kazakhstan. Some 35 countries had agreed to sign on to the project, an official told reporters, and 60 nations had been invited to join. AP

With deft diplomacy and great survival skills, NATO chief Mark Rutte emerges as 'Trump Whisperer'

THE HAGUE: Days of tension between Europe and the United States over Donald Trump's threat to seize Greenland eased after NATO chief Mark Rutte stepped in. Trump dropped plans to impose tariffs on European nations backing Denmark and announced a "framework of a future deal" on Arctic security following talks with Rutte at Davos. Details remain unclear and Trump could shift position again, but the move temporarily defused a crisis with major geopolitical stakes. Rutte's ability to charm Trump has earned him the nickname "Trump Whisperer," built on a reputation for deft diplomacy and political survival during his long tenure as Dutch prime minister. His skill in keeping Washington engaged is now seen as vital as NATO navigates an unpredictable US president.

Arctic is a matter for all of NATO, and it is "good and natural" that it be discussed between the US president and Rutte.

She said in a statement that she had spoken with Rutte "on an ongoing basis," including before and after he met Trump in Davos.

She wrote that NATO is fully aware of the kingdom of Denmark's

position that anything political can be negotiated on, including security, investment and economic issues — "but we cannot negotiate on our sovereignty."

"I have been informed that this has not been the case," she said, adding that only Denmark and Greenland can make decisions on issues concerning Denmark and Greenland. AP

Zelenskyy said the Ukrainian team led by Secretary of the National Security and Defence Council, Rustem Umerov, would also be represented by the military, namely Lieutenant General Andriy Gnatov. "It will be a trilateral meeting at the level of negotiators. We'll see what the result will be," he added, speaking to journalists including AFP after his address at Davos.

Meanwhile, Zelenskyy blasted the EU's lack of "political will" in countering Russian leader Vladimir Putin, during an address criticising some of Kyiv's top allies at the World Economic Forum. "Russians have to be ready for compromise," he added.

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Illegal Amazon gold mining raids net 200 in border ops

BOGOTA

POLICE and prosecutors from Brazil, French Guiana, Guyana and Suriname have arrested nearly 200 people in their first-ever joint cross-border operation targeting illegal gold mining in the Amazon region, authorities said Thursday.

The operation was backed by Interpol — the international police cooperation agency that helps law enforcement agencies in different countries share information and coordinate investigations — as well as EU and Dutch police specialising in environmental crime. Carried out in December, it involved more than 24,500 checks across remote border areas and led to the seizure of cash, unprocessed gold, mercury, drugs and mining equipment, Interpol said.

Among those arrested were three men detained in Guyana on suspicion of gold smuggling and money laundering after officers seized unprocessed gold and about \$590,000 in cash. AP

Trilateral Ukraine peace talks set in UAE, says Zelenskyy

DAVOS

UKRAINIAN President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has said that United Arab Emirates will host "trilateral" talks on the Ukraine war this week with Ukrainian, US and Russian officials. The Ukrainian leader did not elaborate on the format of the talks, or whether Ukrainian and Russian officials would negotiate directly. "It will be the first trilateral meeting in the Emirates. It will be tomorrow and the day after tomorrow," Zelenskyy said following his address at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland.

"Russians have to be ready for compromise," he added.

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Bids are invited from the manufacturers / dealers for the supply of Unisex Ready-made uniforms to the pre-school children attending anganwadi centres in 437 projects of Tamil Nadu under the department of Integrated Child Development Services. The details are available in the e-procurement portal- <https://tntenders.gov.in>

GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU
DEPARTMENT OF INTEGRATED CHILD DEVELOPMENT SERVICES
No.1, Dr. M.G.R.Salai, Taramani, Chennai - 600 113.
Notification for supply of Unisex ready-made uniforms
to the pre-school children attending anganwadi centres in
437 Project of Tamil Nadu.
SHORT e-TENDER NOTICE Ref. No.4654 / NC-3 / 2026 Dated 23.01.2026

Director cum Mission Director



2 dead

after landslides hit New Zealand
campground and house; Rescue underway

Beijing	29	19	SNY	Los Angeles	20	12	SNY
Colombo	29	23	TDS	Melbourne	17	5	LC
Dhaka	27	16	TDS	Moscow	4	2	SNY
Dubai	26	22	SNY	New York	2	-3	SNY
Houston	30	23	TDS	Singapore	27	25	TDS
Istanbul	33	21	SNY	Toronto	-6	-8	SNY
London	12	8	SNY	Washington	3	-2	SNY

GLOBAL WEATHER

LR: Light Rain • HR: Heavy Rain • LS: Light Snow

TDS: Thundershower • LC: Light Cloud • SNY: Sunny

newindianexpress.com

Japan shuts reactor hours after historic restart

TOKYO: A reactor at Japan's Kashiwazaki-Kariwa nuclear plant, was shut down again hours after restarting for the first time since the 2011 Fukushima disaster. Operator TEPCO said a control rod malfunction forced the suspension but posed no safety risk. The unit will remain offline until the cause is identified.

3 killed in Aus shooting; gunman at large

MELBOURNE: A shooting in Lake Cargelligo, a small town in Australia's New South Wales state, left three people dead and another wounded on Thursday. Police said two couples were shot at separate locations within minutes. A suspect, known to police, remains at large and is believed to have fled by vehicle.

THE SOUTH INDIAN BANK LTD., REGIONAL OFFICE, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

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Ph: 0471-2469584, 2469585, E-mail: ro1007@slb.co.in

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immoveable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) & 9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower/Guarantor that the below described immoveable properties mortgaged/charged to the South Indian Bank Ltd, below mentioned Branches (Secured Creditor), the Physical possession of which has been taken on below mentioned date by the Authorised Officer of the South Indian Bank Limited (Secured Creditor), will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" (with respect to the lie and nature of the property) on below mentioned dates and time for recovery of below mentioned amount together with further interest and costs due to The South Indian Bank Limited, (Secured Creditor) from the below mentioned Borrower/Guarantor.

1 Branch: **Oachira** Name and address of the Borrower/Guarantor: (1) Mrs. Syamala Pillai, Proprietor of Mrs. Devas Farm (2) Mr. Raveendran Pillai (3) Mr. Rejith Kumar, all having address at: Kalleluvally Banangal, Kidanganadu, Sooranad, Pathamur PO, Kollam-690522

Recovery Amount: Rs. 84,465.27 (Rupees Eighty Four Lakhs Eighty Two Thousand Four Hundred Sixty Five and Paisa Twenty Seven only) as on 16.01.2026, with future interest, costs and expenses etc. thereon

2 Description of Properties: All that part and parcel of land measuring 30.70 Acres (75.85 Cents) with double storied building constructed thereon measuring approx 1348 sq.ft. bearing Door No. X1/22, along with all other constructions, improvements, easementary rights existing and appurtenant thereon, lying in Old Sy No. 725/1B and Re Sy No. 502/10, Block No. 8, Sooranad Village, Kuntharai Taluk, Sasthamcotta Sub-Registration District, Kollam District, owned by Mrs. Syamala Pillai, more fully described in Sale Deed No. 830/1979 dated 26.02.1979 of Sasthamcotta SRO. Bounded on: North: Property of Somayavila Pillai; South: Property of Venugopala Pillai; East: Property of Sasthamcotta Pillai; West: Road.

Reserve Price: Rs. 50,54,000/- (Rupees Fifty Lakhs Fifty Four Thousand only)

Earliest Money Deposit (EMD): Rs. 5,05,400/- (Rupees Five Lakhs Five Thousand Four Hundred only)

Encumbrances known to the Bank: The Authorised Officer has obtained EC/ search report regarding the property from 01.01.1987 to 06.07.2024 and it contains following entries. Attachment for Rs. 99,15,760/- effected vide IA 01/2022 in CP no 397/2022 before Family Court Mavelikara. (The above noted entries are created subsequent to creation of the mortgage charge over the secured assets/and/or not binding on the Bank and successful auction purchaser/s). There is no encumbrance over the property to the knowledge of the bank other than those mentioned herein)

3 Branch: **Karette** Name and address of the Borrower/Guarantor: (1) Mr. Dillumon Soman Sakunthala @ Dillumon (2) Mrs. Rajitha G. R, both having address at: Valiyavila Veedu, Cherekumaram, Pullayal P O, Trivandrum-695601

Recovery Amount: Rs. 44,39,493.57 (Rupees Forty Four Lakhs Thirty Nine Thousand Four Hundred Ninety Three and Paisa Fifty Seven only) as on 16.01.2026, with future interest, costs and expenses etc. thereon

4 Description of Properties: All that part and parcel of land measuring to 2.02 Acres along with building and all other constructions, improvements, easementary rights existing and appurtenant thereon situated in Old Sy No 104/2 Re Sy No 153/17-1, Block No. 36 of Koduvazhannur Village, Chirayinkeezhu Taluk, Thiruvananthapuram District and owned by Mr. Dillumon Soman Sakunthala @ Dillumon fully described in Sale Deed No. 220/2015 dated 12-03-2015 of Sub Registrar Office Nagarcoil. Bounded on (as per location sketch No. 1183/17 dt 17-10-2017 issued by Village Officer, Kuduvazhannur. North: Property of Regnathun, South: Property of Raveendran, East: Property of Deepamal and Deepum).

Reserve Price: Rs. 27,86,000/- (Rupees Twenty Seven Lakhs Eighty Six Thousand only)

Earliest Money Deposit (EMD): Rs. 2,78,600/- (Rupees Two Lakhs Seventy Eight Thousand Six Hundred only)

Encumbrances known to the Bank: The Authorised Officer has obtained EC/ search report regarding the property from 01.01.1986 to 04.06.2025 and it contains no encumbrance.

5 Branch: **Ayur** Name and address of the Borrower/Guarantor: (1) Mr. Sunil Kumar M (2) Ms. Lathika Sunil, both having address at: Puttiva Veedu, Chithara P O, Kollam-691559

Recovery Amount: Rs. 1,27,74,768.00 (Rupees One Crore Twenty Seven Lakhs Ninety Four Thousand Seven Hundred Sixty Eight and Paisa Ninety only) as on 16.01.2026, with future interest, costs and expenses etc. thereon

6 Branch: **Paripally** Name and address of the Borrower/Guarantor: (1) Mr. Anshad Somanakuthala @ Anshad S (2) Mrs. Sumanakuthala, both having address at: Paripally House No. 50, 12 Muri, Thattamala P O, Kollam-691020

Recovery Amount: Rs. 35,22,737.40 (Rupees Thirty Five Lakhs Twenty Two Thousand Seven Hundred Thirty Seven and Paisa Forty only) as on 16.01.2026, with future interest, costs and expenses etc. thereon

7 Branch: **Paripally** Name and address of the Borrower/Guarantor: (1) Mr. Anshad Somanakuthala @ Anshad S (2) Mrs. Sumanakuthala, both having address at: Paripally House No. 50, 12 Muri, Thattamala P O, Kollam-691020

Recovery Amount: Rs. 37,70,927.45 (Ru