

# Russia ready for talks on Ukraine: Putin

MOSCOW, Jan 25 (IANS)

MOSCOW is open to talks on Ukraine, Russian President Vladimir Putin said.

"We have always said this, and I would like to emphasise this once again, we are ready for negotiations on the Ukrainian issue," Putin said on Friday.

In the meantime, the Russian President said that certain issues require special attention. He recalled that Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky had previously issued a decree prohibiting such negotiations, Xinhua news agency reported.

"How can negotiations be resumed now when they have been banned?" Putin questioned, adding that if talks were to resume, they would be illegiti-

mate under Ukraine's current legal framework.

Putin said that as long as the decree remains in place, it will be difficult to talk about whether these negotiations can begin, or whether they can be properly completed. He noted that while some preliminary discussions can happen, serious negotiations would be difficult given the existing ban from the Ukrainian side.

The Russian leader said Zelensky "was in no hurry" to lift the decree banning negotiations, and follow the orders of his sponsors. He said that those who are funding Kiev should pressure the Ukrainian leader to do so.

During his speech at the World Economic Forum (WEF) Annual Meeting in Davos on Thursday, US President Donald Trump said

US efforts to secure a peace settlement between Russia and Ukraine were "hopefully underway," adding that Ukraine was ready to make a deal.

Meanwhile, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said on Friday that Moscow is ready for nuclear disarmament talks with Washington, although it would be necessary to take into account the nuclear arsenals of US allies. During his virtual address to the World Economic Forum (WEF) Annual Meeting in Davos Trump called for denuclearisation.

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# India to display military might, cultural heritage, celebrate 75 years of Constitution

NEW DELHI, Jan 25 (PTI)

INDIA is set to showcase its military prowess and rich cultural heritage and display a symbolic confluence of 'virasat' and 'vikas' on Kartavya Path here to mark the 76th Republic Day on January 26 when the nation will also commemorate the platinum jubilee of the enactment of the Constitution.

Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto will be the chief guest on the occasion. A 352-member marching and band contingent from Indonesia will be participating in the parade.

Subianto will be the fourth Indonesian president to attend India's Republic Day celebrations. Sukarno, the first President of Indonesia, was the chief guest at India's first Republic Day cel-

ebrations in 1950.

While 75 years of the Constitution is the focus of celebrations this year, the theme for the tableaux is 'Swamin Bharat: Virasat aur Vikas'.

Sixteen tableaux from across States and Union Territories and 15 from central ministries, departments and organisations will roll down the ceremonial boulevard on Sunday.

The country will display its military prowess by showcasing some of the cutting-edge defence platforms including BrahMos, Pinaka and Akash, with the Army's Battle Surveillance System 'Sanjay' and DRDO's surface-to-surface tactical missile 'Pralay' set to register their presence in the ceremonial parade for the first time.

T-90 'Bhishma' tanks Sarath (infantry carrying vehicle BMP-



Tri-Services tableau during the full dress rehearsal for Republic Day Parade 2025, at Kartavya Path in New Delhi on Friday. (ANI)

II), Short Span Bridging System 10m, Nag Missile System, multi-barrel rocket launcher system 'AgniBaan' and 'Bajrang' flight specialist vehicle) will also be part of the parade, officials said on Thursday.

The parade will see many other firsts as well, such as the tri-services tableau that will depict the spirit of "jointness" among the armed forces.

The tableau would display a battlefield scenario demonstrating a synchronised operation in land, water and air with the indigenous Arjun battle tank, Tejas fighter aircraft and advanced light helicopter, according to the Defence Ministry. The theme of the tri-services tableau will be 'Shashakt aur Surakshit Bharat' (Strong and Secure India).

Besides, the DRDO will present a tableau with the theme 'Raksha Kavach -- multi-layer protection against multi-

domain threats', officials said.

President Droupadi Murmu will deliver an address to the nation on the eve of the Republic Day. This January 26 will carry extra significance as India's Constitution, which came into effect on this historic day in 1950, completes 75 years.

The Constitution was adopted by the Constituent Assembly on November 26, 1949.

Before the parade, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will lead the nation in paying tribute to the country's martyrs by laying a wreath at the National War Memorial.

The parade will begin in the morning with the National Salute and will continue for 90 minutes, reflecting the journey of India's heritage and growth.

C-130J Super Hercules, C-295, C-17 Globemaster, P-8I, MiG-29 and Su-30, among other aircraft, will also take part in the celebrations.



# 942 police personnel awarded gallantry and service medals



NEW DELHI, Jan 25 (PTI)

**A TOTAL** of 942 police, fire and civil defence personnel have been awarded different categories of gallantry and service medals on the eve of the Republic Day, according to a Government statement issued on Saturday. These include 95 gallantry medals. The awardees include the personnel of police, fire, home guard and civil defence and those working in correctional services, the Union Home Ministry said.

**SEVEN J&K POLICE OFFICERS GET AWARD:** SEVEN of the 15 Jammu and Kashmir Police officers, including former Kashmir Zone inspector general of police Vijay Kumar, awarded gallantry medals on the eve of Republic Day, played a key role in averting a possible terror attack on the Amarnath Yatra three years ago, officials said.

The Medal for Gallantry recipients also included Humayun Bhat, a deputy super-

## 31 CBI officers awarded

NEW DELHI, Jan 25 (PTI)

**OFFICERS** who supervised probes into the Manipur riots, online trading scams, big-ticket corruption and the post-poll violence in West Bengal are among 31 officers awarded police medals on the occasion of 76th Republic Day.

Six officers have been awarded the President's Police Medal for Distinguished Service while 25 received the Police Medal for Meritorious Service, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) said in a statement.

intendent of police who was one of four officers to lay down their lives during an

*(Contd on page 3)*

## 139 honoured with Padma awards

- Padma Bhushan for former Maharashtra CM and former LS Speaker Manohar Joshi (posthumously)

NEW DELHI, Jan 25 (PTI)

**FORMER** Chief Justice of India J S Khehar, former chief of Suzuki Motor late Osamu Suzuki, Ram temple architect Chandrakant Sompura, folk singer late Sharda Sinha and hockey player P R Sreejesh are among 139 Padma awardees announced on the eve of the 76th Republic Day on Saturday.

The highest civilian honours of the country announced by the Government include seven Padma Vibhushan, 19 Padma Bhushan and 113 Padma Shri decorations. "Twenty-three of the awardees are women and the list also includes 10 persons from the category of foreigners, NRI (Non-resident Indians), PIO

(Person of Indian Origin), OCI (Overseas Citizenship of India) and 13 posthumous awardees," the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) said in a statement.

Former Maharashtra Chief Minister and Lok Sabha Speaker Manohar Joshi has been given the Padma Bhushan posthumously.

Publisher of Tamil daily Dinamalar Lakshmi pathy Ramasubbaier has been awarded Padma Shri for literature, education and journalism.

Former CJI Justice (retd) Jagdish Singh Khehar, Chairman of Asian Institute of Gastroenterology and AIG Hospitals D Nageshwar Reddy, Kathak dancer from Gujarat Kumudini Rajnikant Lakhia, violinist Lakshminarayana Subramaniam have been awarded Padma Vibhushan, the statement said. Former chief of the Suzuki Motor Corporation Osamu Suzuki, folk singer Sharda Sinha and author M T Vasudevan Nair have been

*(Contd on page 3)*

# ISRO gears up for 100th launch

BENGALURU, Jan 25 (PTI)

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INDIAN Space Research Organisation (ISRO) will launch its 100th satellite from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota on January 29, the space agency said on Friday. The agency is gearing up to launch the GSLV-F15 NVS-02 mission. "Mark your calendars! The Launch of GSLV-F15/NVS-02 Mission is scheduled on January 29, 2025 at 06:23 hrs IST from SDSC SHAR, Sriharikota," ISRO said, in a post on social media platform X.

The Satellite Launch Vehicle (SLV) was the first big rocket to lift-off from Sriharikota on August 10, 1979. Nearly 46 years later the Department of Space is ready to hit a century. The GSLV-F15 is the 17th flight of the GSLV rocket and the 11th flight featuring an indigenous cryogenic stage.



## EXTRADITION TO INDIA

# 26/11 terror accused Tahawwur Rana loses legal battle in US

■ By Lalit K Jha

WASHINGTON, Jan 25 (PTI)

**THE** US Supreme Court has turned down a review petition by terror accused Tahawwur Rana, dismissing his last legal challenge against his extradition to India in connection with the 2008 Mumbai attacks that killed 166 people.

“Petition DENIED,” the Supreme Court said. The apex court’s order came on January 21, a day after Donald Trump was sworn in as the US President.

Earlier, Rana lost legal battles in several federal courts, including the US Court of Appeals for the North Circuit in San Francisco.

Rana, a Canadian national of Pakistani origin, on November 13 filed a “petition for a writ of certiorari” before the US Supreme Court to review the lower court’s ruling.

Rana, who is currently detained at the Metropolitan Detention Center in Los Angeles, is known to be associated with Pakistani-American



terrorist David Coleman Headley, one of the main conspirators of the 26/11 Mumbai attacks.

Headley obtained Rana’s consent to open an office of First World Immigration Services as a cover for his activities in India. Earlier, the US Government had argued in the court that the petition for a writ of certiorari should be denied. US Solicitor General Elizabeth B Prelogar said this in its filing before the Supreme Court on December 16.

# President bats for 'One Nation One Election'

NEW DELHI, Jan 25 (PTI)

**PRESIDENT** Droupadi Murmu on Saturday advocated for the "One Nation One Election" initiative, asserting it has the potential to redefine "good governance" in the country by promoting consistency in governance, preventing policy paralysis, mitigating resource diversion, and alleviating financial burdens on the state.

In her address to the nation ahead of the 76th Republic Day,



she emphasised the Government's ongoing efforts to "eliminate remnants of a colonial mindset that have lingered in the country for decades" and cited the replacement of the British-era criminal laws with three new modern laws.

"We have been witnessing concerted efforts to change that mindset... Reforms of such magnitude require an audacity of vision," she said.

*(Contd on page 3)*