

# With far-reaching advances expected in AI, future going to be dramatic: Murmu

RANCHI, Feb 15 (PTI)

PRESIDENT Droupadi Murmu on Saturday asserted that with far-reaching advances in the fields of artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning, the future is going to be dramatic.

She said, the Centre was taking steps to integrate AI into higher education, and it was a matter of pride that Birla Institute of Technology, Mesra, Ranchi was ahead of the curve with related courses launched in 2023.

"Ours is the age of technology. New advances in the field of information technology have changed the way we live. What was unthinkable till yesterday has become reality today. The coming years are going to be even more dramatic with far-reaching advances expected particularly



President Droupadi Murmu during Platinum Jubilee celebrations of BIT Mesra in Ranchi, Jharkhand on Saturday. (PTI)

in Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning.

"As AI rapidly transforms economies, the Government of

India has been quick in responding to the emerging scenario. Several initiatives are being taken to integrate AI in higher education institutions," Murmu said while addressing the platinum jubilee celebrations of BIT Mesra here.

She, however, cautioned innovators and entrepreneurs not to ignore the knowledge base of traditional communities, saying, "Often, problems do not need big technological interventions." The President said that as technology creates great disruptions in societies, one should remain concerned about its impact on marginalised groups.

"The great opportunities being created should be available to all; the great transformations being brought about should benefit all," she emphasised.

# India a solar superpower, says UNFCCC's Simon Stiell

NEW DELHI, Feb 15 (IANS)

**AS INDIA** strives to reach the ambitious target of 500 GW of non-fossil fuel-based energy capacity by 2030 set by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the country has already become a "solar superpower", according to Simon Stiell, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

Speaking at a media event in the capital on Saturday, Stiell said that while some Governments talk, "India takes action, prioritising sustainable growth and energy security".

Under the leadership of PM Modi, India has become a global leader in the fight against climate change.

Ensuring energy access while tackling climate change is crucial," Stiell said, highlighting India's ambitious plans to expand clean energy infrastructure at the ET NOW Global Business Summit 2025.

"Under PM Modi's leadership, India is expanding clean energy, cutting carbon intensity, and driving a green economy," he noted.



India's commitment to achieving net-zero emissions aligns with global targets, demonstrating its dedication to sustainability.

"As global climate action intensifies, India is leading in sustainability, clean technology, and climate finance, positioning itself as a future clean energy superpower," said the top UN executive, adding that an even stronger embrace of the global clean energy boom will supercharge India's economic rise. The UN climate chief also urged India to develop



an ambitious climate plan covering its entire economy.

The country has already achieved a historic milestone by surpassing 100 GW of installed solar power capacity, reinforcing its position as a global leader in renewable energy.



# 'Practise what you preach'

## Jaishankar to West over global democracy

MUNICH, Feb 15 (PTI)

**EXTERNAL** Affairs Minister S Jaishankar took a dig at the Western countries for treating democracy as a "Western characteristic", accusing them of not practising abroad what they valued at home.

Jaishankar made these remarks on Friday at a panel discussion titled "Live to Vote Another Day: Fortifying Democratic Resilience" at the Munich Security Conference.

He also said that "if you do want democracy eventually to prevail, it's important the West also embraces successful models (democracy) outside the West." "There was a time — I have to say this in all honesty — when the West treated democracy as a Western characteristic and was busy encouraging non-



democratic forces in the Global South. It still does. Everything you value at home, you don't practice abroad."

"So, I do think the rest of the Global South will view the successes, shortcomings and the responses of other countries," he said.

He also said India, for "all the challenges that we have had, even

at a low income, we have stayed true to the democratic model, which is almost if you look at our part of the world. We are pretty much the only country that has done that."

"So I think it's something the West should look at, because if you do want democracy eventually to prevail, it's important

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### 'Democratic India able to feed 800 million people'

MUNICH, Feb 15 (PTI)

**EXTERNAL** Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said since India is a democratic society, it is able to give nutrition support and food to 800 million people.

Speaking on Friday at a panel discussion titled 'Live to Vote Another Day: Fortifying Democratic Resilience' at the Munich Security Conference, Jaishankar made these remarks as a counter to US Senator Elissa Slotkin's remark that democracy "doesn't put

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# CBSE exams for Classes 10, 12 begin

Over 42 lakh students set to appear at 7,800 centres



Students at the examination centre after appearing for the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) Class 12th exams, in Prayagraj on Saturday. (ANI)

NEW DELHI, Feb 15 (PTI)

THE Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) exams for Classes 10 and 12 began on Saturday, with more than 42 lakh students set to take the tests at over 7,800 centres across the country and abroad.

According to board officials, a total of 24.12 lakh Class-10 students will take the test in 84 subjects, while more than 17.88 lakh students will appear in the Class-12 exams across 120 subjects.

The exams are scheduled to be

conducted at 7,842 centres in India and 26 abroad.

On the first day of the exams, the Class 10 students appeared for the English (Communicative) and English (Language and Literature) papers, while the Class-12 students appeared in the Entrepreneurship exam.

"The CBSE board exams for Classes 10 and 12 have started. Today, the Class-10 English and Class-12 Entrepreneurship exams were held. The Class-10 exam took place at 7,780 centres, with over 23.86 lakh students

appearing, while the Class-12 exam was conducted at 995 centres with around 23,000 students," CBSE Examination Controller Sanyam Bhardwaj said. "The exams were organised smoothly. I hope all the students reached their exam centres with enthusiasm and were able to take the tests in a positive environment," he added.

Bhardwaj said the CBSE has ensured that all necessary guidelines and security measures are in place to maintain the integrity of the examination process.

"Schools and exam centres have been briefed on strict protocols to facilitate a fair and seamless examination experience. The CBSE had organised a live webcast on Friday in the presence of school principals from Delhi-NCR, outlining the essential exam guidelines for the schools and stakeholders," he added.

The Class-10 exams are scheduled to end on March 18, while the Class-12 exams will conclude on April 4.

The CBSE started its annual counselling service ahead of the board exams to alleviate examination-related stress and support the students as they prepare for their theory exams.



# USD 500 billion target; plans for trade pact to help India boost its exports to US: Exporters

NEW DELHI, Feb 15 (PTI)

A TARGET to take bilateral trade to USD 500 billion by 2030 and plans to negotiate a bilateral trade agreement will help India boost its exports to the US, exporters say.

The focus on technology, defence, and green energy will particularly benefit India's export sectors and enhance global competitiveness, exporters said.

Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) President Ashwani Kumar underscored the importance of enhancing bilateral trade by eliminating barriers and streamlining processes.

International trade expert and Hi-Tech Gears Chairman Deep Kapuria said that the USD 500 billion bilateral trade target is an important outcome of Prime



Minister Narendra Modi's high-level visit to Washington.

"Since India has surplus in trade with the US, it would bring significant gains to India in terms of enhanced export to the world's largest economy. What is important here is that the two leaders have agreed to negotiate the first

tranche of a mutually beneficial multi-sector bilateral trade agreement by fall of 2025," he said.

Kapuria added that this decision will give a big boost to US investors who are wanting to relocate to India and also looking for new investment opportunities in India.

"For Indian industry, this is a great opportunity to enhance their exports to the US as well as integration into GVCs (global value chains) led by US companies," he said.

In 2023, the US and India bilateral trade in goods and services stood at USD 190.08 billion (USD 123.89 goods and USD 66.19 services trade). In that year, India's merchandise exports to the US stood at USD 83.77 billion, while imports were USD 40.12 billion, leaving a trade gap of USD 43.65 billion in favour of India. The country's services exports to America were USD 36.33 billion in 2023, while imports were USD 29.86 billion. The trade gap (difference between imports and exports) was USD 6.47 billion in favour of New Delhi.

# Trump, Musk do joint interview on ~~media attempts~~ to split them

WASHINGTON DC, Feb 15 (ANI)

IN AN exclusive joint interview set to air on *FOX News* on February 18, US President Donald Trump has panned attempts by media of trying to create tension between him and the billionaire DOGE chief Elon Musk and said the efforts are not working.

The interview with *FOX News* Channel's Sean Hannity will also cover other topics such as Trump's first 100 days in office and major ongoing news stories. In a sneak preview of the interview airing on *FOX News* on February 18 at 9:00 pm ET, and released by *FOX News* on Friday, Trump discusses how the media's efforts to split him from Musk are ineffective.

In a video published by *FOX*



*News* on its YouTube channel Trump said, "I see it all the time... Actually, Elon called me, you know they are trying to drive us apart. I said absolutely."

He added, "We have breaking news, Donald Trump has ceded control of the presiden-

cy to Elon Musk, President Musk will be attending a cabinet meeting at 8:00. And I say it is just so obvious."

He further said, "They are so bad at it. I used to think they were good at it. They are actually bad at it... I think nobody in history has ever gotten more

bad publicity than me. I could do the greatest things. I get 98% bad publicity."

*The New York Post* in a report said that 47th President, speaking in television news anchor's cadence, parodied some of what he's heard about himself and Musk on the news.

"You know, they said, 'We have breaking news. Donald Trump has ceded control of the presidency to Elon Musk. President Musk will be attending a cabinet meeting tonight at 8:00,'" Trump joked.

A few days back, Musk, accompanied by his four-year-old son X, was seen in the Oval Office alongside Donald Trump as the US President signed an executive order to continue downsizing the federal workforce.



# Army chief lauds '10-year plan' for India-US defence deals

NOIDA, Feb 15 (ANI)

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ARMY Chief General Upendra Dwivedi lauded the India-US defence deals signed following Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the United States and said that the 10-year plan that will be laid out will greatly benefit defence production in the country. He further said that the Indian Army has a big role not just in providing security but also in nation-building.

Speaking to the media after attending the annual reclaiming ceremony in Noida, General Dwivedi said, "We have received very good news that a 10 year plan will be laid out. The joint production will greatly benefit the defence production in our country, benefit the Indian Army and promote self-reliance."

"Indian Army has a great role to play in nation building and not just providing security," he added. Notably, India and the US are set to begin talks to sign this year a new 10-year defence framework that will run from 2025 to 2035 and is expected to be finalized later this year. The framework for the "US-India Major Defence Partnership in the 21st Century," is aimed at strengthening defence ties between the two countries, according to a joint statement released following Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent meeting with US President Donald Trump in Washington DC. Once this agreement is in place it will ensure that both countries can easily purchase defence goods and services from one another, promoting efficiency in procurement processes.