

AI Impact Summit: 85 countries, 3 bodies sign New Delhi Declaration

U.S. and China are among the signatories of the statement that offers voluntary, non-binding framework to promote access to AI resources, support locally relevant innovation, and strengthen resilient AI ecosystems while respecting national laws

Aroon Deep
NEW DELHI

Eighty-five countries and three international organisations signed the New Delhi Declaration at the AI Impact Summit on Saturday, a day after the event's scheduled conclusion, as officials sought to expand the signatory list to achieve as broad a consensus as possible.

"Guided by the principle of *Sarvajan Hitaya, Sarvajan Sukhaya* (Welfare for all, Happiness for all), the Declaration underscores that the benefits of AI must be equitably shared across humanity," the government said in a statement regarding the declaration.

Major participants, including the United States and China, endorsed the document.



Union Minister Piyush Goyal with U.S. Ambassador to India Sergio Gor, Bhutan Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay, OpenAI CEO Sam Altman, and other dignitaries on the sidelines of the AI Impact Summit, in New Delhi on Friday. ANI

As with the 2023 G20 Summit, the road to consensus was paved with non-binding and voluntary commitments.

Democratising AI

While the Declaration does mention AI safety and trust – issues that the

U.S. in particular rejected during last year's Paris discussions – its commitments lean heavily on knowledge sharing.

The 900-word statement offers a "Charter for the Democratic Diffusion of AI" as a "voluntary and non-binding framework to

promote access to foundational AI resources, support locally relevant innovation, and strengthen resilient AI ecosystems while respecting national

laws." It also introduces a Global AI Impact Commons – described as a voluntary initiative – to exhibit AI use cases for governments to draw inspiration from.

Human capital

On security and trust, the statement says, "Advancing secure, trustworthy and robust AI is foundational to building trust and maximising societal and economic benefits. Noting that deepening our understanding of the potential security aspects remains important, we recognise the importance of security in AI systems, industry-led voluntary measures, and the adoption of technical

solutions, and appropriate policy frameworks that enable innovation while promoting public interest throughout the AI's lifecycle."

The statement emphasised that achieving "the full promise of AI requires equipping individuals with relevant skills by expanding AI human resource development, specific initiatives on education, AI workforce development, training of public officials, enhancing public awareness of AI capabilities, increasing AI literacy, as well as upgrading vocational and training ecosystems."

"We take note of the voluntary guiding principles for reskilling in the age of AI and the playbook on AI workforce development, which would support participants in preparation for a future AI-driven economy," the statement added.

AI SUMMIT SPURS TECH INVESTMENTS IN INDIA

\$109.8 billion

Investment over seven years by Reliance Industries and Jio for AI and data infrastructure build-out

\$100 billion

Investment by Adani Group for renewable energy-powered AI data centres by 2035

\$150 billion

Adani Group's Investment is set to trigger an additional \$150 bn across related industries, such as server manufacturing and sovereign cloud platforms.

● Together, it is projected to create a \$250 bn AI infra ecosystem in India over the decade, said Adani.

AI computing and data centre services

● Over \$2 billion commitment by Yotta Data Services for one of Asia's largest AI computing hubs using Nvidia's Blackwell Ultra chips.

● TCS has signed up OpenAI as first customer for its data centre unit under the global AI infra initiative 'Stargate'.

Senior executives from global artificial intelligence (AI) firms joined world leaders in India this week for the AI Impact Summit. Here is a list of the major deals struck during the summit in New Delhi.



Core AI and data infrastructure

● L&T announced a proposed venture with Nvidia for AI-ready data centre infra, advanced computing platforms and ecosystem support.

AI expansion and global access

● \$50 billion investment by Microsoft to expand AI across the 'Global South'

● It previously unveiled \$17.5 billion in India AI investments last year.

Source: Reuters

E175 regional jets: Adani, Embraer to set up final assembly line in India

Press Trust of India

New Delhi, February 21

ADANI DEFENCE & Aerospace and Brazilian major Embraer plan to set up a final assembly line in India for the E175 regional jets.

In this regard, both firms' officials exchanged an enhanced MoU in the presence of Brazil's

President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva and Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal in New Delhi Saturday.

The development follows the two companies announcing a strategic collaboration on January 27.

The advancement from the initial MoU signed in January represents a significant step

forward and forms part of a broader roadmap to develop an integrated Regional Transport Aircraft (RTA) ecosystem in India, a release said on Saturday.

The E175 plane can seat up to 88 passengers and these aircraft can be deployed for connecting Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities to boost regional air connectivity.

'India and U.S. Navies have critical role to play in IOR and Indo-Pacific'

Sumit Bhattacharjee
VISAKHAPATNAM

Both India and the United States have a critical role to play in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) and the Indo-Pacific, given their strong naval capabilities, says Admiral Stephen T. Koehler, Commander of the U.S. Pacific Fleet.

Speaking to *The Hindu* on the sidelines of the recently held International Fleet Review (IFR) and MILAN-2026 in Visakhapatnam, Admiral Koehler said the IOR and the Indo-Pacific were vast oceanic regions where it was important to safeguard sovereignty and ensure stability.

"It is a major trade route that underpins the economies of many nations. It is vital for like-minded countries such as India and the U.S. to maintain freedom of navigation in this region. Both nations share common values and possess strong naval forces. When they work together with other like-minded partners, their combined strength can help protect the region from various challenges, safeguard sovereignty, maintain peace,



India has the capacity to play a central role in the IOR, says Admiral Stephen T. Koehler, Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet, on the sidelines of the International Fleet Review in Visakhapatnam. V. RAJU, K.R DEEPAK

respond swiftly to disasters, and, if necessary, act as a deterrent," he said.

'Strong partners'

Highlighting the growing operational cooperation between the two countries, Admiral Koehler said India was a strong partner and that both nations regularly undertake joint operations and complex exercises such as Malabar, MILAN, and RIMPAC to enhance interoperability.

"Both Navies operate P-8I aircraft and MH-60R helicopters, which are capable of anti-submarine warfare. We are working to strengthen our capabilities in areas such as quicker response to Humanitarian

Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) operations and anti-submarine warfare by deploying our assets, as we value a free and open Indo-Pacific," he said.

Responding to allegations from China that the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad) was formed to contain Chinese naval expansion, Admiral Koehler said the grouping – comprising the United States, Japan, India, and Australia – consisted of like-minded nations committed to a free and open IOR and Indo-Pacific, and was not created to contain any particular country.

On the rapid expansion of the Chinese Navy, he said, "We welcome any

country expanding its naval forces. However, we will not accept any breach of peace or challenge to sovereignty. That position applies universally."

Praising India's naval capabilities, Admiral Koehler said, "India has a strong Navy and the capacity to play a central role in the IOR. Most importantly, it is a highly professional force. In the coming years, we expect to scale up the complexity of our joint exercises."

He also noted that Visakhapatnam-based Eastern Naval Command (ENC) was strategically positioned and likely to play a leading role in the years ahead.

T.N. fishermen go on strike against arrests by Lankan Navy

The Hindu Bureau

RAMESWARAM

Condemning the recent arrest of Tamil Nadu fishermen by Sri Lankan Navy personnel, members of various fishers' associations refrained from venturing into the sea on Saturday.

The Sri Lankan Navy arrested 22 fishermen from Rameswaram and Mandapam near the Neduntheevu and Katchatheevu islets three days ago. After being produced before the court, the fishermen were sent to judicial custody in the neighbouring country for 15 days.

As a mark of protest, the



Fishermen and their families protesting in Thangachimadam near Rameswaram on Saturday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

fishing communities observed a day-long strike.

In a demonstration in Thangachimadam, which saw the participation of over 400 people, Jesu Raja, a

leader of the fishermen community, said the Centre should not remain a mute spectator. "When the Sri Lankan President came to New Delhi for the AI sum-

mit, the fishermen in Tamil Nadu were being arrested. Prime Minister Narendra Modi should have directly appealed to the Sri Lankan President about the incident," he added.

In recent years, the Lankan authorities have not only impounded the mechanised vessels but have also refused to return them. Such moves have resulted in huge losses for the boat owners, who were unable to repay their loans. As a consequence, the fishermen also lost their jobs, Mr. Raja said.

Several who have depended on the Palk Strait for fishing for generations

said such arrests not only threatened their survival but also cast doubt on their livelihood.

The fishermen jailed in Sri Lanka were reportedly required to pay fines. "If they fail to comply with the court directives, they face imprisonment. Their families back home suffer, with several women and children experiencing psychological trauma," a fisherman said. The Centre should find a lasting solution by helping retrieve over 100 mechanised boats lying in naval ports in Sri Lanka and facilitating the return of the jailed fishermen, he added.

'Bangladesh set to restore visa for Indian nationals'

Kallol Bhattacharjee

NEW DELHI

Days after the Bangladesh Nationalist Party-led (BNP) government took charge after scoring a major electoral win, Bangladesh is moving towards normalising visa facilities for Indian visitors, a diplomatic source has confirmed to *The Hindu*. However, a formal notification in this regard is yet to be issued by Bangladesh.

Bangladesh had halted issuing of visas in December 2025 when Indian missions faced protest and several incidents of stone throwing targeting Indian missions and visa centres were reported in Bangladesh. Subsequently, protests were held in India targeting Bangladesh's High Commission in New Delhi as well as visa centres in West Bengal. Against this backdrop, the High Commission of Bangladesh had paused visa issuance.

Visa had been one of the major areas that faced disruption with the overthrow of the Sheikh Hasina government in Bangladesh



Security personnel outside the Indian High Commission in Dhaka as Bangladeshi groups gather for a march. FILE PHOTO

in July-August 2024. As per diplomatic sources, India used to issue more than eight thousand daily visas for Bangladesh through multiple Indian visa centres in Bangladesh before the overthrow of the Hasina regime. However, following the major disruption of July-August 2024, Indian Visa Application Centres opened sporadically because of security threats. As per diplomatic sources, India issued around 3,000 medical and student visas and at the time of the swearing-in of BNP's Chairman Tariq Rahman who became the new

Prime Minister of Bangladesh on February 17, 2026.

Diplomatic outreach

The visa-related statements came soon after the Ministry of External Affairs on Friday expressed willingness to take the bilateral relation forward. Official Spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs Randhir Jaiswal had said in Friday's weekly briefing, "Building on the warm and historic ties between the two countries, India looks forward to further strengthening our multifaced bilateral ties with Bangladesh."

India, Brazil ink pacts on minerals, steel mining; agree to step up trade

Day after the U.S. Supreme Court struck down Trump's tariffs, Modi and Lula discuss developments, launch action plan on digital partnership for the future; **the Brazilian President proposes increasing bilateral trade to \$30 billion annually by 2030**

Suhasini Haidar

NEW DELHI

India signed agreements to cooperate in rare earth and critical minerals, and steel mining with Brazil as Prime Minister Narendra Modi held talks with Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva in New Delhi on Saturday. The two countries committed to enhancing trade beyond the current target of \$20 billion by 2030, and to expanding the India-Mercosur Preferential Trading Agreement.

A day after the U.S. Supreme Court struck down tariffs imposed by U.S. President Donald Trump, and Mr. Trump levied a new 10% tariff on all countries, the two leaders also discussed the development, which has cast a cloud over the trade deals just negotiated with the U.S. After the talks, the two sides also launched a joint declaration and action plan on a



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva in New Delhi on Saturday. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

digital partnership for the future.

"Brazil is India's biggest trading partner, and we have committed to go beyond 20 billion dollars in the next five years. Our trade is not just a number, it is a symbol of trust," Mr. Modi said in a joint press appearance. "When India and Brazil work together, the voice of Global South becomes stronger..." he added.

The agreement on critical minerals is a significant step towards diversifying from China, which currently dominates all processing supply chains for critical minerals. India and Brazil have also been attempting to increase cooperation on the biofuel alliance announced in 2023 along with the U.S. and other countries, which has taken a back seat given the Trump administration's fo-

cus on fossil fuels.

"Increasing investments and cooperation in matters of renewable energies and critical minerals is at the core of the pioneering agreement that we have signed today," Mr. Lula said. "We are not just the two biggest democracies of the Global South. This is a meeting of a digital superpower with a renewable energy superpower," he added, saying India and Brazil are both regional hubs, and defend multilateralism and peace.

Mr. Lula, who was accompanied by 11 Ministers, and the largest ever business delegation for his five-day visit, which included the AI Impact Summit, said India and Brazil should aim for a more ambitious trade target, and proposed doubling current levels of trade estimated at about \$12-15 billion to \$30 billion annually by 2030.

Briefing the media, Secretary (East) P. Kumaran

said that Mr. Modi and Mr. Lula had discussed trade and tariff developments in the U.S. "Both leaders agreed...that both sides need to study the implications of [the U.S. Supreme Court judgment and the new tariffs] and wait for further developments by the U.S. administration. So we are in a wait and watch mode," he added.

In 2025, the U.S. levied 50% tariffs on both India and Brazil, the highest in the world, for different reasons. In recent months,

both have negotiated with the U.S. for lower tariffs and more exemptions on goods, although neither has completed a trade deal with the U.S. yet. Both also face the threat of higher U.S. tariffs over their BRICS membership.

The two leaders also agreed to step up ties in defence, energy, healthcare, agriculture and pharmaceuticals, and South-South cooperation.

Farm politics intensifies in west U.P. over India-U.S. deal

BKU's Tikait faction seeks clarity from the govt. on the impact of the trade deal on farmers, takes on Jayant Chaudhary; concerns unfounded: RLD; khaps discuss direct and indirect impact of deal

The Hindu Bureau
GHAZIABAD

With India and the United States weeks away from finalising the trade deal, farm politics is again intensifying in western Uttar Pradesh. The Tikait faction of the Bharatiya Kisan Union (BKU) has sought clarity on the impact of the deal on Indian farmers. Having seen the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government's U-turn on farm laws, khaps in the region are discussing the direct and indirect impact of the deal. Rakesh Tikait, BKU spokesperson, has described the deal as a unilateral U.S. declaration and threatened agitation. A panchayat scheduled for Sunday on this issue has been put on hold in view of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Meerut to inaugurate the final leg of the Delhi-Meerut Namo Bharat corridor.

Earlier this week, the BKU leadership took on Rashtriya Lok Dal president



The BKU has threatened to launch an agitation over the deal. FILE PHOTO

and Union Minister Jayant Chaudhary for supporting the deal. Speaking to mediapersons at the BKU headquarters in Sisauli, Muzaffarnagar, president Naresh Tikait described Mr. Chaudhary as a "local confectioner's wasp". Speaking in Hindi, he said, "*Halwai ka tataiyaa halwai ko nahin kat sakta. Woh mithai par baitha rahta hai* (The confectioner's wasp doesn't sting the confectioner. It sits on the sweets)."

The statement caused a flutter in West U.P. as RLD was seen as the political force behind the BKU during the agitation against the farm laws. Responding to the jibe, Mr. Chaudhary

posted on X that he would like to tell that he "was not fond of sweets".

This month, Mr. Chaudhary has held two meetings in Hathras and Bulandshahr, where he described the deal as beneficial to farmers. The Union Minister argued that Indian farmers were superior to those in the U.S. and that the agreement would not result in a flood of foreign wheat, sugar, or rice, thus protecting local farmers from losses.

In an attempt to douse the fire, Mr. Naresh's brother Rakesh Tikait posted a video in which he said RLD and BKU were together and held the media responsible

for the confusion. He said by saying that he was not fond of sweets, Mr. Chaudhary had clarified that he was not bound by the government's point of view and would hit the ground for the farmers' cause if the need arises. "The media should ask him questions about the deal when he [Chaudhary] becomes the Agriculture Minister," he said, paving the way for a new set of speculations.

'Address concerns'

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Mr. Naresh said the Centre couldn't match the U.S. in terms of subsidies given to the farmers and, hence, they wanted the Prime Minister to address their concerns.

RLD sources said Mr. Naresh's concerns were unfounded. "It seems he is speaking at the behest of the Leftist farmer outfits because the farmer groups in Punjab and Haryana have not protested against the deal, which has proved beneficial for farmers of basmati rice," said a leader.

Global economic impact of U.S. SC invalidating Trump tariffs

The order introduces uncertainty around executive-driven trade arrangements concluded with the EU, the U.K., Japan and Vietnam and ongoing with India, among others as sweeping tariff authority requires explicit Congressional sanction.

NEWS ANALYSIS

Kunal Shankar

The U.S. Supreme Court's decision striking down President Donald Trump's "Liberation Day" tariffs has sent shockwaves through global trade – not only because of what it invalidated, but because of what comes next. Even as the SC ruled Mr. Trump lacked authority under IEEPA to impose sweeping tariffs, the administration proposed a fresh 10% across-the-board duty under Section 122 of the Trade Act of 1974, effective February 24.

Unlike the IEEPA tariffs, Section 122 authority is explicitly temporary. It allows the President to slap up to a 15% ad valorem tariff for 150 days, after which continuation would require Congressional approval. In the current political climate – with the President's approval ratings under pressure ahead of mid-term elections – securing that approval may not be straightforward.

Refund question

The fiscal stakes are enormous. As per Final Monthly Treasury Statement for Fiscal 25 (Oct. 1, 2024 - Sept. 30, 2025), the U.S. raised \$195 billion in Customs duties, more than twice what it raised the previous fiscal. A large



Trump Trumped: The U.S. Supreme Court building, where justices struck down Trump's sweeping tariffs in Washington, D.C. REUTERS

share of that increase reflects the post-April 2, 2025 measures now invalidated.

This means tariff collections between April 2, 2025 and February 20, 2026 may be subject to protest and refund claims.

Under U.S. customs law, refunds hinge on a technical concept: "liquidation of an entry."

When goods enter the U.S., Customs initially assesses estimated duties. "Liquidation" is the formal administrative act by which Customs finalises the duty owed on that specific shipment.

Once liquidated, the importer has 180 days to file a protest challenging the duty assessment.

If Customs denies the protest, the importer may sue before the U.S. Court of International Trade. Once liquidation becomes final

and the protest window expires, refund options narrow considerably.

The dissenting justices warned invalidating the tariffs would create an administrative "mess."

They were referring to the cascading process of protests, litigation and accounting adjustments that could stretch over months.

Who benefits?

Under U.S. law, only the "importer of record" – typically a U.S. company – may file the protest and receive the refund.

The answer for who benefits lies largely in contractual arrangements, not statutory entitlement

There is no government-to-government mechanism that channels refunds back to foreign exporters.

Distribution depends on private commercial arrangements.

gements.

Chinese importers gain

China accounted for roughly one-third of U.S. tariff collections in CY2025, by far the highest nation paying duties to the US. Reports before the Senate Joint Economic Committee indicate importers of Chinese goods paid roughly \$91.8 billion in Customs in CY25. Even before the reciprocal tariffs, China was one of the largest contributors to U.S. customs revenue.

If a significant share of post-April collections is refunded, the largest nominal relief would accrue to importers dealing in Chinese goods. The same logic applies to exporters from the European Union, India, Vietnam, Japan and the United Kingdom, all of whom faced higher effective duties in 2025. For context, automotive products, vehicle parts, electronics, apparel and textiles were among the top revenue-generating sectors in 2025. A reversal would materially reduce effective tax exposure for exporters from these economies.

Trade deals, leverage

The ruling also introduces uncertainty around executive-driven trade arrangements concluded with the EU, the U.K., Japan and Vietnam and ongoing with India among others. While the agreements themselves

remain intact, the Court has clarified that sweeping tariff authority requires explicit Congressional sanction. That shifts the bargaining landscape. Countries yet to finalise deals may now negotiate with greater confidence.

Section 122 gamble

The proposed 10% tariff under Section 122 offers the administration a legally clearer pathway. However, it is capped at 150 days. Its continuation requires Congressional approval, cannot exceed 15% and is intended to address balance-of-payments concerns, not broad geopolitical leverage. With mid-term polls approaching, Congressional appetite for extending universal tariff – amid inflation sensitivities – may be limited.

Institutional jitters

Internationally, the ruling sends two contrasting signals. On one hand, it reinforces confidence in U.S. constitutional checks and balances. On the other, it may weaken the perceived credibility of Presidential tariff threats.

For global markets, uncertainty – over refunds, Section 122's lifespan, and future Congressional action – may prove as economically consequential as the tariffs themselves.

The economic consequences of SC order are only beginning to unfold.

Aye for AI, but some fear too



ACROSS THE AISLE

BY P CHIDAMBARAM

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) is here. It is true that AI will multiply manifold human capabilities and productivity. India has a huge and growing wealth of human resources (at least until 2050). However, its quality is significantly different from the human resources of developed countries. In a developed country, practically everyone is school-educated and a great proportion is college-educated. There is an opportunity for life-long learning and acquiring new skills. In India, the demographic dividend comes with demographic burdens. While school enrolment at primary level is very high, there is a decline, at every stage, in enrolment at upper primary, secondary and higher secondary levels. Gross Enrolment Ratio in higher education is between 45-50%. Most college-enrolled students acquire an undergraduate degree that does not make them 'skilled' or 'employable' — the main reason why it is an onerous task for young men and women to find suitable jobs.

'F' for future, also fear

I have read a summary of Mr Dario

Amodei's (CEO, Anthropic) copyrighted 38-page essay 'The Adolescence of Technology'. On economic disruption, he says that AI could disrupt labour markets at 'unprecedented speed and across wide occupational categories, potentially displacing a significant portion of jobs, especially white-collar work in the near term'. It is scary. Another study in India found that AI recognises caste. If humans have taught caste-bias to AI, it is scarier.

Hon'ble prime minister is right that AI will open the doors to the future and fortune. But there is also fear that jobs will be lost. Routine and repetitive jobs such as ticket issuers and checkers, bus and train conductors, rail signal persons, traffic police officers, stenographers and typists, tourist guides, translators, lab technicians, bank tellers, private tutors, etc may vanish. Microsoft's CEO said that many tasks in white collar jobs will be automated. The company axed thousands of jobs in 2025. Tata Consultancy Services announced in 2025 that it would 'let go' of more than 12,000 employees as part of a restructuring exercise. Mr Vinod Khosla predicted that AI could eliminate IT services and BPO firms could almost disappear within the next five years.

India's biggest problem is lack of jobs. The current 'official' unemployment rate is 5.1 per cent, but we know it is more. Youth unemployment rate is 15 per cent. About 55 per cent of the 'employed' are self-employed or in casual labour. In the prosperous regions, agriculture operations are already mechanised. Rural families disguise unemployment with the excuse that the young man or woman is 'self-employed'. If urban

blue-collar jobs too become scarce, and joblessness spreads to educated youth in 'skilled' sectors such as Information Technology and IT products/services, the situation will become explosive.

How ready is India and the world to tackle the inevitable challenges? As far as I gather, the world including India is not yet ready with solutions. The Chief Economic Adviser (CEA) drew a distinction between the impact of AI on advanced economies (facing demographic decline, AI may be a plus) and developing countries (AI will be a stress test for state capacity). Naturally, the solutions will be different. His solution is that "relentless execution could help India become the first large society... to align technological adoption with mass employability." I wish the solution was so simple.

Difficult measures

The early results of relentless adoption of technology are reduction in jobs, at least in Indian factories. But there is time, as the *Economist* says, between "invention and diffusion", and to take the hard measures that will absorb the impact of technological adoption. For example, given the vast numbers of job-seekers and jobs, India must be prepared to:

➔ Recognise that, unlike developed countries, India is required to create a variety of jobs for the youth who may drop out at upper primary, secondary or higher secondary levels of school;

✓ Separate, at the higher secondary level, the academic stream and the non-academic stream of students based on ap-

titude and merit;

✓ Close the numerous 'pass' courses in non-science subjects and channel the students to post-graduate education, STEM or skilling courses;

✓ Massively invest in education, healthcare and environment management;

✓ Develop local/regional markets that will produce and consume quality goods and services supported by local or regional banks, and not be obsessed with Big business, Big markets, Big chains and Big banks;

✓ Acknowledge that, in the present day, MSMEs are the biggest job creators in India. If AI can help MSMEs — as promised by the Minister of Information Technology — MSMEs will be able to create more jobs. The CEA has noted that India needs to create "at least 80 lakh jobs every year." The required number will be more; and

✓ Require those who will adopt AI and, resultantly, destroy jobs, to create an equal number of jobs. We don't have to agree with Mr Jamie Dimon (CEO, JP Morgan Chase) and ban 'lay-offs'. Corporate Social Responsibility has infused a degree of social responsibility in businesses; that must include job-creating responsibility.

Dystopian Future

A world without jobs, or fewer jobs, will stare at a dystopian future. 'Work' defines a human. No other living creature works voluntarily except to hunt for food. If AI will do all our work, and bring prosperity to all, what will humans do? While the impact of AI unfolds during the next few years, it is time to ponder the question.

If AI will do all our work, and bring prosperity to all, what will humans do? While the impact of AI unfolds during the next few years, it is time to ponder the question

Cuba pulls security forces from Venezuela amid US pressure

Reuters

Caracas, February 21

CUBAN SECURITY advisers and doctors have been leaving Venezuela as Interim President Delcy Rodriguez's government faces intense pressure from Washington to unwind Latin America's most consequential leftist alliance, according to 11 sources familiar with the matter.

Venezuela's Interim President Delcy Rodriguez has entrusted her protection to Venezuelan bodyguards, according to four of the sources, unlike deposed president Nicolas Maduro and his predecessor, the late president Hugo Chavez, who both relied on elite Cuban forces.

Thirty-two Cubans were killed in the US military attack that captured Maduro on January 3, according to the Cuban government. These soldiers and bodyguards were part of a deep security agreement between Caracas and Havana that began



Venezuela's interim President Delcy Rodriguez and Cuban Foreign Minister Bruno Rodriguez Padilla at a ceremony in Caracas, Venezuela, on January 8, 2026. FILE

in the late 2000s in which Cuban intelligence agents embedded throughout the military and Venezuela's formidable DGCIM counterintelligence unit, which was fundamental to weeding out domestic opposition.

"The Cuban influence was absolutely essential" to the survival of the Chavista government, said Alejandro Velasco, an associate professor of history at New York University and an expert on Venezuela.

Inside DGCIM, some Cuban advisers have been removed from their posts, according to a former Venezuela intelligence official. Some of the Cuban medical workers and security advisers have travelled from Venezuela to Cuba on flights in recent weeks, two of the sources said. One source close to Venezuela's ruling party said the Cubans were departing on the orders of Rodriguez due to US pressure.

Israel airstrikes in east Lebanon kill 8 Hezbollah members

Associated Press

Rayak, February 21

ISRAELI AIRSTRIKES on eastern Lebanon have killed eight members of the militant Hezbollah group, including several local officials, two officials with the group said Saturday.

The Lebanese Health Ministry put the death toll at 10, but did not distinguish between militants and civilians.

The Hezbollah officials told *The Associated Press* that the eight militants were killed in strikes near the village of Rayak in northeast Lebanon late Friday. They spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to the media about such details.

The Israeli military said Saturday that several members of Hezbollah's missile unit, in three different command centers in the Baalbek area in Lebanon, were "eliminated."

The Israeli army added that the Hezbollah members killed

were identified "as operating to accelerate readiness and force build-up processes, while planning fire attacks toward Israel."

One of the Hezbollah officials said that three of the dead were local commanders and identified them as Ali al-Moussawi, Mohammed al-Moussawi and Hussein Yaghi.

Yaghi was the son of prominent Hezbollah official and one of its founders, Mohammed Yaghi, who died in 2023. Mohammed Yaghi was also a close aide to late Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah who was killed in an Israeli airstrike in September 2024.

Lebanon's Health Ministry said Saturday that Israeli strikes on eastern Lebanon killed 10 people and wounded 24, including three children.

Ali Abdullah, executive director of Rayak Hospital, told the *Associated Press* that the strike occurred after sunset, adding that they have received 10 bodies and 21 wounded.

Ukraine strikes key industrial site deep in Russia

Associated Press

Kyiv, February 21

UKRAINIAN DRONES struck an industrial site deep inside Russia on Saturday, which a Russian news channel said was a key state-owned missile factory.

The attack in Russia's Udmurt Republic left 11 people wounded, three of whom were hospitalised, according to a Telegram post by Sergei Bagin, the local health minister.

"One of the republic's facilities was attacked by drones"

launched by Ukraine, regional head Alexander Brechalov said in another Telegram post.

He added that the strike caused injuries and damage, but did not identify the site or give further details. An unofficial Russian news channel on Telegram, Astra, said the strike targeted the Votkinsk Machine Building Plant, a major state defence enterprise. Astra said its claim was based on an analysis of footage from residents.

There was no immediate comment from Ukrainian

authorities.

The Votkinsk factory, more than 1,400 kilometres (870 miles) from Ukraine, produces Iskander ballistic missiles, often used in strikes against Ukraine, as well as nuclear-capable intercontinental ballistic missiles.

Other Russian news channels posted videos and photos, which they said were from Votkinsk residents, showing black smoke rising from an industrial site and blown-out windows on buildings.

Another unofficial Russian Telegram channel, SHOT, which often quotes contacts in the security services, said residents of Votkinsk reported hearing at least three blasts during the night, as well as what they thought was the humming of drones.

The Udmurt Republic's main passenger airport, in the city of Izhevsk, and airports in other nearby regions suspended operations early on Saturday, according to Russia's civil aviation authority, Rosaviatsiya.