108 minutes
the length of Trump's State of the Union adress, the longest in recent history

GLOBAL WEATHER

Beijing	21	1	SNY	Los Angeles	20	12	SNY
Colombo	28	24	SNY	Melbourne	26	15	LC
Dhaka	31	19	SNY	Moscow	4	2	SNY
Dubai	26	21	SNY	New York	7	2	SNY
Houston	31	19	TDS	Singapore	28	25	TDS
Istanbul	33	21	SNY	Toronto	1	-5	SNY
London	13	9	SNY	Washington	3	-2	SNY

LR: Light Rain • HR: Heavy Rain • LS: Light Snow • TDS: Thundershower • LC: Light Cloud • SNY: Sunny

Don 'overstates' Union's progress in annual address

Paints rosy picture amid rising domestic challenges and plunging polls

WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump boasted Tuesday of a "turnaround for the ages" in his State of the Union speech, seeking to reverse dismal polls and see off mounting challenges at home and abroad ahead of crucial midterm elections.

His main objective was convincing increasingly wary Americans that the economy is stronger than many believe, and that they should vote for more of the same by backing Republicans during November's midterm elections.

Much of the nation is worried about the direction of the economy, but Trump says the good times are here, insisting repeatedly that rising costs are no longer a problem.

"The roaring economy is roaring like never before," he said. He cheered the lower cost of gasoline, mortgage rates, prescription drug prices and the rising stock market: "Millions and millions of Americans are all gaining."

Such optimism, as so many Americans are feeling economic strains, risks painting Trump as out of touch. Just 39 per cent of US adults approved of Trump's handling of the economy in February, according to AP-NORC polling.

Still, the president focused much of the first hour of his speech on the economy, something Republicans had urged him to do as they head into the midterm elections.

By Trump's standards, he held his tongue when it came to the Supreme Court. After the court struck down his tariff policy last week, Trump said the justices who voted against one of his signature issues were an "embarrassment." By Tuesday, he simply called the ruling "unfortunate."

Trump sought to treat the ruling with indifference, insisting that tariff revenues were "saving" the US, ignoring the fact that the levies haven't made a significant dent in government debt. He said the tariffs were paid by foreign countries even as virtually every study concludes that costs have been paid by US firms and consumers.

At one point, he seemed to take the long view that history would ultimately vindicate him even if the Supreme Court would not. "I believe the tariffs paid by foreign countries will, like in the past, substantially replace the modern-day system of income tax, taking a great burden off the people that I love," he said. *Agencies*

US President Donald Trump delivers the State of the Union address in the House Chamber of the US Capitol in Washington, DC | AFP

Iran rejects Trump's missile claims as 'big lie'

DUBAI

IRAN'S foreign ministry on Wednesday dismissed US claims about its missile programme as "big lies", after President Donald Trump said Tehran was developing missiles that can strike the US.

"Whatever they're alleging in regards to Iran's nuclear programme, Iran's ballistic missiles, and the number of casualties during January's unrest, is simply the repetition of 'big lies'," ministry spokesman Esmaeil Baqaei said.

Baqaei did not specify exactly which claims he was responding to, but hours earlier Trump had said Iran was seeking missiles that could reach American soil. In an interview with Al Jazeera this month, Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said Tehran lacked the capability to target the US but would attack US bases in Middle East.

During his State of the Union speech, Trump also reiterated that Iran would never be allowed to build a nuclear weapon, saying Tehran's leaders were "at this moment again pursuing their sinister nuclear ambitions". *AFP*

SOME FALSE AND MISLEADING CLAIMS

HERE'S A CLOSER LOOK AT THE FACTS

THE ECONOMY

CLAIM: "When I last spoke in this chamber 12 months ago, I had just inherited a nation in crisis, with a stagnant economy"

THE FACTS: The US gross domestic product rose 2.8% in 2024 after adjusting for inflation. That's a stronger pace of growth than the 2.2% achieved last year during the start of Trump's second term

INVESTMENT

CLAIM: "I secured commitments for more than $18 trillion pouring in from all over the globe"

THE FACTS: The White House website offers a far lower number, $9.6 trillion

JOBS

CLAIM: "More Americans are working today than at any time in the history of our country"

THE FACTS: The unemployment rate is a low 4.3%, but was lower when Biden left office in January 2025, at 4%

FOREIGN WARS

CLAIM: "My first 10 months I ended eight wars"

THE FACTS: Although he has helped mediate relations among many nations, his impact isn't as clear-cut as he makes it seem

TARIFFS

CLAIM: "Tariff revenues are saving our country, the kind of money we're taking in"

THE FACTS: The Congressional Budget Office estimated his new taxes would raise $3 trillion over 10 years. That's not enough to cover the cost of his $4.7 trillion in tax cuts

IMMIGRATION

CLAIM: "We will always allow people to come in legally, people that will love our country and will work hard"

THE FACTS: Trump has actually taken steps to restrict who can emigrate to the US, often in the name of protecting national security

UK introduces eVisas, physical document no longer needed

LONDON

NEW rules in force from Wednesday will see the UK transition to a digital transit system, including mandatory eVisas for Indian travellers and Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA) for non-visa requiring visitors.

The new procedure will replace paper-based visa stickers as part of a phased programme over recent years. While the new system will still involve a physical visit to the application centre for biometric registration, it will do away with the need to leave behind the passport document.

"I'd urge anyone wanting to travel to the UK to ensure they are travel-ready and have the right permission, to make their journey much smoother," said Mike Tapp, UK Minister for Migration and Citizenship.

It will be mandatory for visitors to the UK to have obtained digital permission to travel, which means airlines can prevent passengers from boarding planes if they do not have an eVisa, ETA or other valid documentation.

The UK government had launched the eVisa system last year, with physical documents being accepted during the transition phase up until this week. "An eVisa cannot be lost, stolen or tampered with," the Home Office said. *PTI*

Nepal readies 3-tier security plan for polls

KATHMANDU

THE Nepal Army on Wednesday said it is implementing a three-phase integrated security plan, including aerial patrols and neutralising suspicious objects, for the general elections next week.

A total of 18.9 million eligible voters will exercise their franchise to elect 275 members of the House of Representatives (HoR), polling for which will be held from 7 am to 5 pm on March 5. The army said it has made arrangements for security management in three phases -- before, during and after the election, so as to conduct the general election in a free, fair and fearless manner.

Necessary preparations have been completed by conducting election-related training and joint exercises, said Army Spokesperson Rajaram Basnet. As per the integrated security plan, the army will carry out security work at polling stations and counting sites, conduct aerial patrols, and neutralise suspicious objects during the election, the army spokesperson said.

On the day of the voting, three-tier security will be provided at all the polling booths, and after the election, integrated teams will provide security during collecting and transporting the ballot boxes to the counting sites.

These integrated teams will include personnel from other security agencies, election officers and party representatives. *PTI*

Pentagon sets Friday deadline for Anthropic to drop AI curbs

WASHINGTON

THE US Defense Department has given AI company Anthropic until Friday to agree to unrestricted military use of its technology or face being forced to comply under emergency federal powers, a senior official said Tuesday.

Anthropic chief executive Dario Amodei met personally with Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth at the Pentagon on Tuesday, with the company saying he "expressed appreciation for the Department's work and thanked the Secretary for his service."

At the heart of the conflict is Anthropic's refusal to let its Claude models be used for the mass surveillance of US citizens or in fully autonomous weapons systems.

"We continued good-faith conversations about our usage policy to ensure Anthropic can continue to support the government's national security mission in line with what our models can reliably and responsibly do," the company said.

But after the meeting, the Pentagon delivered a stark ultimatum: agree to unrestricted military use of its technology by 5.01 pm Friday or face being forced to comply under the Defense Production Act.

The Cold War-era law, last used during the Covid pandemic, grants the federal government sweeping powers to compel private industry to prioritise national security needs. The Pentagon also threatened to label Anthropic a supply chain risk, a designation usually reserved for firms from adversary countries that could severely damage the company's ability to work with the US government and reputation.

Home of 'Mona Lisa' has new boss to steer it out of crisis

PARIS

THE home of the "Mona Lisa" is getting a new boss. Art historian Christophe Leribault, a veteran museum director, is taking over at the Louvre, shouldering the challenge of getting the world's largest museum out of crisis after the brazen heist in October of the French crown jewels.

French government spokeswoman Maud Bregeon announced the appointment on Wednesday. Leribault takes over from outgoing Louvre director Laurence des Cars, who resigned on Tuesday. The difficulties he inherits are formidable. The daylight robbery—among the highest-profile museum thefts in living memory—exposed alarming security holes at the Paris landmark. The former royal palace has also suffered a broad array of other problems that have presented a picture of a treasured national institution spiralling out of control. They include a burst pipe near the "Mona Lisa," water leaks that damaged priceless books, ageing buildings, staff walkouts over overcrowding, understaffing and ticket price hikes for most non-European visitors. Leribault brings a proven track record. He has been running another landmark, the Versailles Palace. *AP*

EXPRESS READ

Bill Gates admits affairs with 2 Russian women

Washington: American billionaire founder of Microsoft Bill Gates has admitted making a "huge mistake" in associating with Jeffrey Epstein, telling staff at his charity foundation that he had affairs with two Russian women but denying involvement in the disgraced financier's crimes. "I did have affairs, one with a Russian bridge player who met me at bridge events, and one with a Russian nuclear physicist who I met through business activities," he said. But he denied any involvement with victims of Epstein, who died in a New York jail cell in 2019.

Seven killed in Ukrainian attack inside Russia

MOSCOW

A Ukrainian drone attack on a fertiliser plant in Russia's western Smolensk region killed seven people and wounded 10 others, Russian officials said on Wednesday. The plant, just outside the Russian town of Dorogobuzh, lies around 290 kilometres from the Ukrainian border. Unverified images published on social media purported to show the plant in flames early Wednesday, with columns of smoke billowing into the night sky.

"The enemy struck PJSC Dorogobuzh, a civilian plant producing nitrogen fertiliser," Smolensk region governor Vasily Anokhin said in a post on Telegram. Russia's Investigative Committee, which probes major crimes, said later seven people were killed, updating a previous toll, in what would be one of the deadliest attacks on a Russian industrial site of the four-year war. *AFP*

Supporters of Ukraine demonstrate on in Copenhagen on Tuesday | AFP

Sri Lanka's former intel head arrested

COLOMBO

Sri Lanka's former state intelligence service chief Suresh Sallay was arrested on Wednesday, in connection with the 2019 Easter bombings that killed 270 people, police said. Sallay, a retired Major General, will be detained for 72 hours for questioning under the Prevention of Terrorism Act, Sanjeewa Madawatta, senior deputy inspector general, told reporters.

The 2019 Easter Sunday bombings killed 270 people, including Indians, at Colombo five star hotels. Sallay headed the state intelligence service under the then Mahinda Rajapaksa government prior to 2015. He was arrested based on the investigations thus far on the 2019 Easter Sunday attack, Madawatta said. "There will be extensive investigations upon his arrest and the details could only be released later," he added. His questioning should lead to the exposure of the mastermind of the suicide bombings. *PTI*

बैंक ऑफ़ इंडिया Bank of India BOI

RECOVERY DEPARTMENT : COIMBATORE ZONAL OFFICE
'Star House', 324, Oppanakara Street, Coimbatore - 641 001
Phone: (0422) 2397221, 2383074,
e-mail: ARD.Coimbatore@bankofindia.bank.in

NOTICE OF E-AUCTION FOR SALE OF VEHICLE

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s), and Guarantor (s) that Bank has repossessed/seized the Hypothecated Motor Vehicle mentioned below in exercise of the powers conferred under Hypothecation/Loan Agreement executed by the parties and Vehicle will be sold on **"As is where is", "As is what what is"**, and **"Whatever there is"** basis for recovery of dues in below mentioned account/s. The details of Borrower/s / Guarantor/s / Vehicle / Total Dues / Reserve Price / e-Auction date & Time, EMD and Bid Increase Amount are mentioned below: -

Name & Address of the Borrower	Description of Vehicle	Total Dues
1) Mr.Sabarish Rajan S/o Rajan Kuttan, Door No6, Sri Saisuruthulayam, Metukadu 1st Street, Kuniyamuthur, Coimbatore-641008.	LMV (Car) Month & Year : **06/2024** Registration Number: **TN99 AC4749** Makers Name: **NISSAN MOTORS INDIA PVT LTD** Makers Classification : **NISSAN MAGNITE MT XE 9/2024**	**Rs.6,57,420/-** as on 24.02.2026 + Interest @7.90% p.a with monthly rests from 10.04.2025 for Vehicle loan with cost and other charges

Reserve Price: Rs.5,15,000/- EMD Amount: Rs.51,500/- BID Increment : Rs.10,000/-

Date & Time of E-auction: 25.03.2026 between 11am - 5pm
(with unlimited extension of 10 minutes if bidding continues till sale is concluded).

Vehicle Inspection Date & Time: Inspection of the vehicle can be done on 26.02.2026 to 18.03.2026 10 AM to 4 PM for this purpose the branch manager may be contacted. BANK OF INDIA, 'Perur Branch, No.56, Siruvani Main Road, Perur, Coimbatore-641 010. Email: Perur.Coimbatore@bankofindia.bank.in

For detailed terms and conditions of sale, please refer/visit to the website link **https://baanknet.com** prospective bidders may contact the Branch Manager **Mr.Vinothkumar G,** on Mob. **99528 62810.**

Date : 25.02.2026

Branch Manager
Bank of India, Perur Branch

बैंक ऑफ़ बड़ौदा Bank of Baroda

BANK OF BARODA
Branch - ROSARB [REGIONAL STRESSED ASSETS RECOVERY BRANCH] :
2nd Floor, No.82, Bank Road, Coimbatore - 641 018.
Telephone Nos – 0422 2302423, 2302324, e-mail id: sarcoi@bankofbaroda.bank.in

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

"APPENDIX- IV-A [See proviso to Rule 6 (2) & 8 (6)]

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 6 (2) & 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), Mortgagor (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Bank of Baroda, Secured Creditor, will be sold on **"As is where is", "As is what is" "Whatever there is" and "without recourse"** basis for recovery of dues in below mentioned account/s. The details of Borrower/s/Mortgagor/Guarantor/s/Secured Asset/s/Dues/Reserve Price/e-Auction date & Time, EMD and Bid Increase Amount are mentioned below -

NAME & ADDRESS OF THE BORROWER/S / GUARANTOR/S	SHORT DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY WITH KNOWN ENCUMBRANCE, IF ANY	Total Dues	Date & Time of E-auction	1. Reserve Price, 2. EMD Amount, 3. Bid Increase Amount.	Status of Possession (Constructive / Physical)	Property Inspection date & Time
M/s. TRANSO TECHNOLOGIES (Borrower), Represented by its Partners 1. Mr.Subheesh PC 2. Mr.Somasundaram M and 3. Mrs.Suvarna RM S.F. No. 3/172-1, Kaduvettipalayam, Karumathampatti, Coimbatore-641659 **Mr. SUBHEESH PC (Managing Partner of M/s Transo Technologies and Guarantor)** C/o Balan KM, Parapurath Chalil, Vattoli Bazar, Balussery, Kozhikode, Kerala-673612 **Mr.SOMASUNDARAM M (Partner of M/s Transo Technologies and Mortgagor and Guarantor)** S/o Meiyappan, Site No. 24, Kumudham Nagar, East Zone, Coimbatore District - 641035 **Mrs.SUVARNA RM (Partner of M/s Transo Technologies and Guarantor)** C/o Rajany T, T. Parayil House, Landmark Ladies GYM, Kottooli Post, Kottulli, Kozhikode, Kerala - 673016.	In Coimbatore Registration District, Gandhipuram (Now Ganapathy) Sub-Registration District, Coimbatore Taluk, Vilankurichi Village, S.F. No. 231, an extent of Punjai Acre 10.24; in this an extent of Acre 1.48 situated within the following **Boundaries:** North: East-West pathway, East: Property belonging to R.Sengottaiyan, South: S.F. No.360, West: Property belonging to K. Govindaraju and S. Sujatha. which is converted into a layout of house sites under the name and style as "KUMUDHAM NAGAR" approved by DTCP in LP/R (CPN) No. 351/87, in this the Plot No. 24 situated within the following **Boundaries:** North of – Site No. 37, East of – Site No. 23, South of – 40 feet width East-West Road, West of – Site No.25. With Dimension; East to West on both sides – 40 feet, South to North on both sides – 65 feet. Within the above, an extent of 2,600 sq. ft. or 5 cents and 422 sq. ft. of plot along with the RCC residential house with all its appurtenances, together with usual pathway rights in the above layout Roads. As per sub-division, the property is situated in S.F. No. 231/1A1A, in Patta no. 443. Building Plan and Permit approved by The Commissioner, Sarkar Samakulam Union under Moo.Mu. 2572/95-A5 dated 07.07.1995, additional plan under 565/2011-12 by Vilankurichi Panchayat, (Schedule of Property given as per Sale Deed under Doc. No. 4361/1988). **Latitude: 11.049972; Longitude: 77.014972** The above property is standing in the name of Mr. M. Somasundaram S/o Mr. Meiyappan.	**Balance outstanding including charges in Cash Credit facility (A/c No. 59500500002475): Rs.1,25,52,493/- (Rupees One Crore Twenty Five Lakhs Fifty Two Thousand Four Hundred and Ninety Three Only) as on 24.02.2026 and further costs, charges**	**16.03.2026 2.00 pm to 6.00 pm**	**1. Rs.1,62,00,000/- 2. Rs.16,20,000/- 3. Rs.50,000/-**	**Symbolic Possession**	**13.03.2026 10.00 am to 4.00 pm**

For detailed terms and conditions of sale, please refer/visit to the website link **https://bankofbaroda.bank.in/e-auction** and online auction portal **https://baanknet.com** Also, prospective bidders may contact the Authorised officer on mobile number 9790247824.

DATE : 24.02.2026
PLACE : COIMBATORE

Authorised Officer
Bank of Baroda