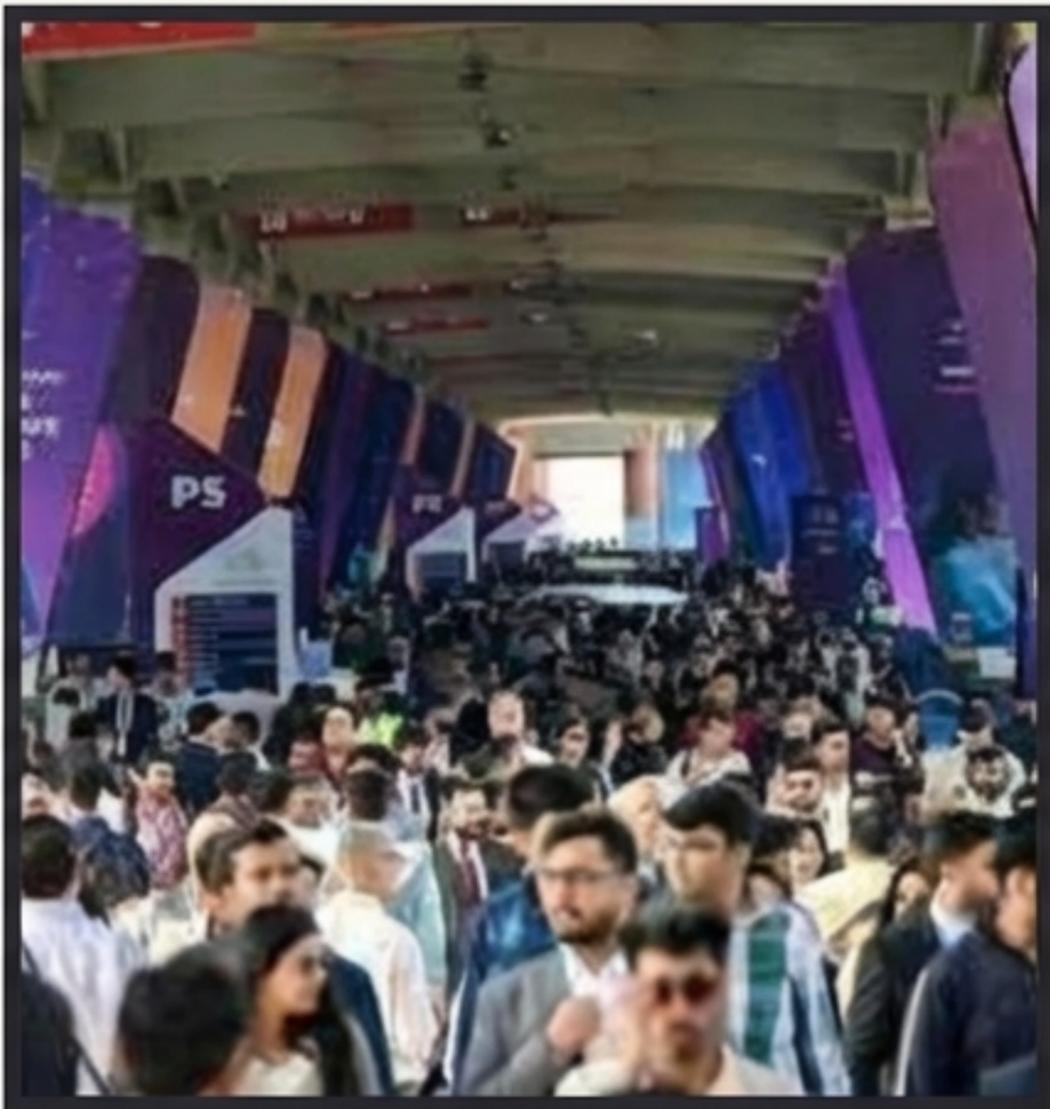


The Hindu SimplEified

Daily News Highlights & Updates | February 18, 2026



We read the paper so you don't have to.

GURATION OF TATA ADVANCED S
FOR THE AIRBUS H125 H M



Global Highlights: India & France

Partnership upgraded to 'Special Global Strategic Partnership'

- **The Deal:** Agreement signed on defense, space, and technology during PM Modi and President Macron's meeting in Mumbai.
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- **Key Outcome:** Inauguration of the first private helicopter assembly line (Airbus H125) in India by Tata Advanced Systems.
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- **The Quote:** PM Modi describes the alliance as a “Partnership for stability” in uncertain times.



Constitutional Check: Words Matter

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- **The News:** Supreme Court observes that high office holders must uphold “**Constitutional Morality.**”
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- **The Ruling:** Leaders have a duty to foster “**Fraternity**” (friendship), not division.
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- **Simplified Takeaway:** Politicians must be responsible for what they say. Statements that stigmatize communities violate the spirit of the Constitution.
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Tech Focus: The AI Impact Summit (Part 1)

Government Stance & Security

- **PM's Message:** AI must remain 'human-centric' and safe for society.
 - **Security Upgrade:** Indian Army unveils indigenous AI tools including 'XFace' for facial recognition and new Deepfake Detection systems.
 - **The Hiccup:** Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw issued an apology for 'chaos and mismanagement' on Day 1 of the summit.
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Tech Focus: Corporate Power Moves (Part 2)

Business & Future Tech

Adani Group

\$100 Billion

Investment in green AI-ready data centers over the next decade.

Infosys

Partnership: Collaborating with “Anthropic” to build new AI models.

Corporate India is betting heavily that AI is the engine of the future economy.

National Updates: Legal Wins & Crash Probe Progress



Legal Relief

Rahul Gandhi

Karnataka High Court quashes the defamation case regarding the '40% commission' ads, providing a significant legal respite for the leader.

Investigation Update

Crash Probe

The 'Black Box' of the plane that crashed in Baramati (killing Ajit Pawar) has been found. Status: Damaged by heat; cockpit voice recorder data retrieval is pending, requiring advanced analysis.

State Watch: Northeast India



Regional Security Briefing

- **Location:** Manipur.
- **The Incident:** 51 Kuki students evacuated from Ukhrul district due to rising community tensions.
- **Why:** Police intervention was required to ensure student safety for upcoming Board exams.

World Watch: Neighborhood Shifts



New Leadership:

Tarique Rahman takes oath as Prime Minister, ending the interim government period.



Political Unrest:

Imran Khan's family alleges "unimaginable mistreatment" in jail and calls the current rule "un-Islamic".

World Watch: Global Diplomacy



Status Report: US & Iran

Progress in Geneva talks;
agreed on "guiding principles."

Status Report: Russia & Ukraine

US-brokered peace talks have
officially begun.

Status Report: Russia Internal

2nd Anniversary of Alexei
Navalny's death marked by
continued crackdowns.

Editorial: The 'Smart City' Reality



The Incident:

Yuvraj Mehta, a tech professional, died falling into an unguarded pit in Noida.

The Argument:

This was a failure of civic governance, not just an accident.

The Takeaway:

True 'Smart Cities' require basic safety and accountability, not just high-rises.

Editorial: Satire & Democracy



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- **Context:** A cartoon video featuring the PM was blocked.
 - **Legal View:** Supreme Court precedents state that satire is essential for democracy.
 - **Simplified Rule:** Making fun of leaders is protected free speech, provided it doesn't threaten national security.
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Business Snapshots

Green Finance	Aviation	Exports
<p data-bbox="186 1007 1084 1164">\$500 Billion</p> <p data-bbox="186 1219 999 1506">Amount India needs per year to meet Net Zero climate goals.</p>	<p data-bbox="1236 1007 2015 1164">Fare Surge</p> <p data-bbox="1236 1219 2117 1607">IndiGo crisis leads to higher ticket prices; experts call for stricter regulation.</p>	<p data-bbox="2286 1007 3049 1164">60 Million</p> <p data-bbox="2286 1219 3133 1607">Roses shipped from Bengaluru airport this Valentine's season (up 38%).</p>

Sports Round-Up: Cricket



- **Tournament Update:**
India looks to end the group phase on a high against Netherlands.

- **South Africa:**
Team confident heading into the “Super Eight” stage.

- **Business of Sport:** Private equity firms (Blackstone, KKR) are eyeing Indian cricket teams as hot investments.

Vocabulary Check

Three key terms from today's news

HEGEMONY

Dominance or leadership of one country over others.

Context: Mentioned by Macron regarding world order.

FRATERNITY

A feeling of friendship and mutual support within a group.

Context: Mentioned by the Supreme Court regarding hate speech.

INDIGENOUS

Originating or occurring naturally in a particular place; native.

Context: Mentioned
Mentioned regarding the Army's new AI tools and helicopters.

The Final Takeaway

Theme of the Day: PARTNERSHIPS

- India & France (Defense)
- Infosys & Anthropic (Tech)
 - US & Iran (Diplomacy)

Student Task: Read the editorial on “Urban Infrastructure” for your next essay on civic issues.

See you tomorrow for more simplified news!