



February 23, 2026

## Headlining This Week's Brief

### Top Stories

- Climate and Natural Hazards
- Worldwide
- Cyber and Regulatory
- Infrastructure and Supply Chain
- Health
- Demonstrations and Industrial Action
- Upcoming Events

### Top Stories

#### **Historic Blizzard Delivers Life-Threatening Snow and Winds to the Northeast U.S.**

A [historic, high-impact winter storm](#) continues to batter the Northeast U.S., prompting States of Emergency in Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Jersey, Rhode Island, and Delaware, with additional emergency actions in New York and Pennsylvania. As of late Monday morning, nearly 700,000 customers were without power, with the highest concentrations in central and southern New Jersey and southeastern Massachusetts. [Blizzard Warnings](#) remain in effect from Delaware through coastal Maine, where strong winds and locally intense snowfall are ongoing. Officials across the region are urging residents to avoid travel unless absolutely necessary due to life-threatening conditions.

The storm has already delivered widespread [snowfall totals](#) of 18 to 24 inches across Delaware, New Jersey, southern New York, coastal Connecticut, and southeast Massachusetts, with more than 2 feet reported in Long Island and Rhode Island. Snowfall amounts taper off farther inland, though Philadelphia and Worcester received about a foot as well. As of late Monday morning, snowfall rates of 2-3 inches per hour have been observed in the heaviest bands ([radar](#)), particularly in Rhode Island and southeast Massachusetts. Additional accumulations for Boston and Providence are expected to surpass 12 inches, with even higher totals likely to the south and east. The heavy, wet nature of the snow combined with strong winds as high as 55 to 65 mph in metro areas and up to 75 mph across Cape Cod and the Islands, continues to exacerbate power outages and create blizzard conditions.

# Weekly Intelligence Briefing

February 23, 2026



Travel conditions remain extremely dangerous to nearly impossible across much of the region due to low visibility, blowing snow, and snow-covered roads. Thousands of flights have been canceled at major airports in New York City, Philadelphia, and Boston, with widespread cascading delays expected even after snowfall ends. While snow will gradually taper off from west to east through Monday afternoon and evening, significant disruptions are expected to persist into Tuesday and possibly beyond from New Jersey through coastal Maine. Road clearing operations will take considerable time, especially on secondary and neighborhood streets. Of particular concern is the threat of prolonged power outages due to the combination of strong winds and weight of the wet snow on trees and power lines. Restoration efforts may take multiple days, particularly in Rhode Island and southeast Massachusetts, where considerable tree and power line damage is expected.

## **Killing of Cartel Head Prompts Blockades, Arson Attacks Across Mexico**

Security concerns across Mexico remain elevated following the death of Nemesio Oseguera Cervantes (“El Mencho”), long-time leader of the **Cártel Jalisco Nueva Generación (CJNG)**, following a Mexican military **operation** in Tapalpa, Jalisco, on Sunday. Mexican authorities, including the Secretariat of National Defense (SEDENA), stated that Oseguera was wounded during an attempted capture and later died while being transported to Mexico City for medical treatment. The operation reportedly **included** intelligence support from the United States as part of a program designed to target cartel networks operating on both sides of the border. Mexican authorities have **stated** that the raid itself was planned and executed by their forces.

Following his death, Mexico experienced an **surge** in security **incidents**, including **over** 250 road blockades (narcobloqueos), vehicle and business arson, and localized clashes with security forces. The violence prompted the U.S. and other countries to **advise** their citizens to shelter-in-place. Most of the current incidents are concentrated in Jalisco, including Guadalajara, and in select neighboring municipalities. While most blockades have been **cleared** and major highways reopened, intermittent **violent** disruptions and heightened security deployments remain possible as authorities continue stabilization efforts. Authorities confirmed 27 targeted attacks against security forces during the unrest, resulting in the **deaths** of 25 members of the National Guard, while 30 suspected cartel operatives and one civilian bystander were also killed.

Absent a clear succession plan, El Mencho’s death could lead to a prolonged power struggle within the CJNG, similar to what has taken place in **Sinaloa** between warring factions of the Sinaloa Cartel since 2024. Other groups, including the Sinaloa Cartel, may also look to take advantage of the presumably newly weakened CJNG to claim valuable territory from the group. Such conflict, alongside a more aggressive and assertive approach to combating the cartels from Mexico, suggests that a further increase in violence is likely in the near and medium terms.

## **U.S., Iran Plan to Meet Thursday in Bid to Avert Military Action**

U.S.-Iran tensions have entered a more acute phase as negotiators prepare to meet in Geneva on Thursday in what appears to be a final effort to avoid military conflict. Media reports indicate that President Donald Trump is weighing the possibility of authorizing a limited strike in the coming days if Tehran does not agree to abandon its ability to produce a nuclear weapon. While no final decision has been announced, reported targets under consideration range from Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps facilities to nuclear and ballistic missile sites. The possibility of broader military action later this year has also been left open should initial measures fail to achieve U.S. objectives.

Diplomacy is continuing alongside heightened military signaling. Special envoy Steve Witkoff stated over the weekend that President Trump was “curious” why Iran had not yet capitulated in the face of Washington’s military build-up, while reiterating that the administration prefers a negotiated outcome. Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi has said there is still room for a “win-win” solution and that negotiators are working through the elements of a potential agreement. The Geneva talks, facilitated through Omani mediation, represent a narrowing window for de-escalation.

The U.S. military posture has expanded further, with the USS Gerald R. Ford carrier strike group joining the USS Abraham Lincoln in regional waters. Anti-government protests re-emerged at several Iranian universities over the weekend, marking the first significant demonstrations since January’s crackdown and highlighting continued domestic fragility amid heightened external pressure.

## Climate and Natural Hazards

- **Southeast U.S. Fire Weather Conditions:** [Elevated to critical fire weather conditions](#) are forecast once again across the Southeast U.S., particularly in southern Florida. Most of Florida is under severe to extreme [drought conditions](#), leading to dry vegetation that is highly susceptible to burning. Parts of South Florida will observe low humidity levels and northwesterly gusts up to 20-30 mph Monday afternoon. Any fires that spark could spread rapidly and may prompt localized evacuations on short notice. On Sunday, parts of I-12 in Louisiana were shut down for several hours due to [wildfire smoke and flames](#) crossing the roadway.
- **River Flooding Continues in Western France:** It has now rained for [40 consecutive days](#) in France, making this February the wettest February ever recorded in the country. River flooding due to the historic rainfall has prompted localized evacuations over the last week or two, and [maximum Level Warnings](#) are in effect for Charente-Maritime, Maine-et-Loire, and Loire-Atlantique. Major flooding is currently occurring on the Charente, Loire, and Maine river basins, though river levels are beginning to recede. Significant rainfall is not expected this week, which should allow river levels to gradually normalize throughout the week.

# Weekly Intelligence Briefing

February 23, 2026



- **Vanuatu Threatened by Tropical Cyclone:** All is quiet in the South Pacific tropics as of late Monday, but models strongly favor the formation of a severe tropical cyclone between Wednesday and Friday. The greatest threat for destructive winds and flooding will extend from Port Vila southward, especially near Lenakel. While information is currently limited, residents and travelers should monitor [local weather authorities](#) and the [JTWC](#) for upcoming watches and warnings. Following a potential landfall, the storm is expected to track across open waters midway between Fiji and New Zealand.

## Worldwide

- **As Trump Prepares for State of the Union, Democrats Organize Counter-Rally:** Heightened security and traffic disruptions are likely near the U.S. Capitol Building tomorrow due to President Donald Trump's State of the Union address to the U.S. Congress and an associated counter rally. The speech is scheduled for 9 pm on Tuesday. Several Democratic lawmakers plan to join activists and public figures for a rally on the National Mall for a "People's State of the Union" to protest the Trump administration's policies. The event will begin at 8:30 pm at 3rd St between Jefferson Dr and Madison Dr and is expected to draw substantial crowds.
- **Progress Toward Peace Remains Elusive Four Years Into Ukraine War:** [Four years](#) into Russia's war in Ukraine, Russian forces occupy around a fifth of Ukrainian territory, with the pace and reach of recent tit-for-tat strikes rising in the days leading up to [peace talks](#) hosted by US mediators in Geneva last week. While representatives of all three parties claimed [varying degrees](#) of progress during the talks, Ukrainian President Zelenskyy [accused](#) Russian negotiators of slowing progress deliberately and claimed that U.S. President Trump was exerting "[unfair](#)" pressure on Ukraine to expedite the end of the war. Ahead of the talks, Ukraine launched one of its [biggest drone attacks](#) of 2026.
- **Former South Korean President Yoon Sentenced to Life Imprisonment:** On February 19, the [Seoul Central District Court found](#) former South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol guilty of insurrection. The court ruled that his declaration of martial law on December 3, 2024, and the deployment of military forces to the National Assembly constituted an attempt to undermine the constitutional order and sentenced him to life imprisonment with hard labor, which is the maximum custodial punishment under South Korean law. The brief duration of the martial law and the limited use of force were reasons [cited](#) by the judges for their commuted sentence, as prosecutors had asked for death penalty. Yoon was impeached and removed from office in 2025 and continues to deny wrongdoing, already announcing plans to appeal the verdict. The decision has sparked intense political debate in South Korea over presidential accountability and the strength of democratic institutions. Demonstration activity is likely as Yoon's appeal is adjudicated.
- **Board of Peace Pledges \$7 Billion Toward Gaza Reconstruction as Trump Floats Expansion to Other Conflicts:** The Board of Peace, a new international organization led by U.S.

# Weekly Intelligence Briefing

February 23, 2026



President Donald Trump, [convened for the first time](#) in Washington, D.C. on February 19. The group of 40 initial members and observer states announced a pledge of \$7 billion in funding toward the reconstruction of Gaza, the impetus behind the convention of the board. While Israel and Arab states were among the members and observers at the initial meeting, no Palestinian representative was present. Trump also hinted at broader aspirations beyond the reconstruction of Gaza, including that the board might play a role in "making sure [the UN] runs properly," a suggestion that could undermine the credibility of both organizations.

- **Thai Military Accused of Razing Cambodian Villages, Occupying Territory Post-Ceasefire:** Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen [expressed hope](#) that the Board of Peace "could play a role in de-escalating the situation on the border" with Thailand, accusing Thai forces of occupying Cambodian territory while in Washington for the inaugural meeting of the new international organization. Investigator s with rights group LICADHO [also claim](#) that portions of at least two villages in Cambodia's Banteay Meanchey province "have been razed and cleared by Thai forces" in the weeks since the ceasefire. In light of these developments, the potential that the purported Thai aggression in the wake of the ceasefire agreement might contribute to the resumption of border conflict between the two countries cannot be ruled out.

## Cyber and Regulatory

- **State and Local Governments Explore Tax Hikes to Plug Budget Shortfalls:** With municipal and state governments from [Massachusetts](#) to [California](#) facing funding gaps, decision makers are increasingly open to new taxes (or raising rates on existing ones). [Growing costs](#) associated with public safety and social programs, longer-term issues such as chronic [mismanagement](#), and core concerns like public education are driving the consideration of innovative measures like Illinois Governor JB Pritzker's [proposed monthly tax](#) on social media firms based on usership in the state. In other cases where state governments are less supportive of raising corporate taxes, municipal leaders like New York City Mayor Zohran Mamdani could turn to [raising property taxes](#) (by as much as 10% in New York's case) to meet funding needs.
- **Many Business Leaders Flag AI's Lack of Impact Even as Tech Leader Predicts Future Obsolescence of White-Collar Positions:** Microsoft AI CEO Mustafa Suleyman recently [predicted](#) that "most, if not all, professional tasks" will be "fully automated by an AI within the next 12 to 18 months." Despite the stark warning, a series of studies have [repeatedly flagged](#) the lack of impact and low uptake of AI by business leaders around the world, at least so far. Observers are also questioning the purported productivity gains of AI integration, with many workers reporting decreases in confidence in the technology over time, suggesting that distrust might impact future uptake as well.
- **China Jams Philippine Coast Guard's Starlink, Disrupting Communications:** A spokesperson for the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) [accused](#) a People's Liberation Army-Navy vessel of jamming the Starlink connection of Philippine ships patrolling the contested Scarborough Shoal (Bajo de

# Weekly Intelligence Briefing

February 23, 2026



Masinloc) area. The incident disrupted communications between impacted vessels during a visibility patrol and resupply mission in the area. While other Philippine vessels traveling as far as 24 nautical miles offshore of Scarborough have experienced similar jamming, this is the first confirmed targeting of PCG vessels. In recent years, China has grown [increasingly assertive](#) in its claims to virtually all of the South China Sea (West Philippine Sea). The Philippines' decision to [host additional](#) U.S. weapons and officials' [recent travel](#) to the disputed Thitu Island have contributed to a re-escalation, raising the risk of an accident or military miscalculation that leads to wider conflict.

- **EU Parliament Suspends AI Tools Over Data Security and Privacy Concerns:** The European Parliament has [disabled](#) built-in AI features on work devices used by its lawmakers and staff, citing unresolved cybersecurity and data protection risks. The Parliament's IT department [discovered](#) that many AI tools, such as writing assistants, text summarizers, and enhanced virtual assistants, send data off devices to cloud servers, creating potential privacy vulnerabilities that could expose sensitive information to external service providers. The decision reflects wider European concerns over data sovereignty and foreign tech dependence. It follows past actions like TikTok bans on staff devices and debates over relying on U.S. technology and cloud providers.
- **OpenClaw Sparks Industry-Wide Security Concerns Over Autonomous AI:** Tech companies are increasingly [restricting](#) the use of OpenClaw, an open-source agentic AI tool, over serious security concerns. Originally known as MoltBot, OpenClaw can autonomously control computers and interact with various applications, which has raised fears about unpredictable behavior and potential privacy breaches. Meta and other tech firms have banned or warned against deploying OpenClaw on corporate systems, emphasizing that unrestricted use could expose sensitive data or compromise secure environments. Cybersecurity researchers have highlighted vulnerabilities like authentication bypass and the risk of malicious code injection, prompting some organizations to employ isolated testing to mitigate risks. The OpenClaw restrictions highlight growing concerns around autonomous AI agents that can take real action inside digital systems.

## Infrastructure and Supply Chain

- **U.S. Supreme Court Ruling on Tariffs Upends Trump Administration's Trade Policy, Ushers in Fresh Uncertainty:** The U.S. Supreme Court [ruled](#) that President Donald Trump exceeded his authority in imposing tariffs on almost all countries in 2025, sparking significant uncertainty for U.S. trade partners and businesses. Immediately following the ruling, Trump said that he was [placing tariffs](#) of 15% on all imports (albeit with [several carveouts](#)) effective February 24 under a different law that allows the president to impose global tariffs for a period of 150 days. Customs and Border Protection will [stop collecting](#) duties on the tariffs deemed illegal by the Supreme Court on the same day. The upending of Trump's signature trade policy has led to a cascade of questions, including whether businesses will be able to recoup some of the billions of

# Weekly Intelligence Briefing

February 23, 2026



dollars paid in tariffs, how the administration might seek to reinstate tariffs under other legal authorities, and what happens to the trade deals negotiated under threat of the levies. Other countries may follow the lead of the European Union, which has already **halted** the ratification process of the bloc's deal with the U.S.

- **Despite Trade Pressure, Canada and Mexico Well-Positioned Ahead of USMCA Talks:** As Mexican-Canadian trade ties **grow in response** to repeated threats of tariffs from Washington, U.S. President Donald Trump's reported **consideration** of a withdrawal from the current USMCA trade pact is eliciting a muted response. Mexican stakeholders' **reported discontent** with aspects of the current agreement ahead of its upcoming renegotiation are reportedly taking precedent as the Sheinbaum administration prepares for the agreement's upcoming July **2026 review**. Analysts **anticipate** that Mexican decision makers' confidence in the country's importance to the U.S. market ahead of **critical U.S. midterms** places them in a strong position ahead of the negotiations. It also remains to be seen how the U.S. Supreme Court's **striking down** of much of the Trump administration's tariff regime **might impact the talks**.
- **Employee Rights Violations Reported in Myanmar as Thailand Supports Economic Reengagement:** A recent report by **CIVICUS** and the **Business and Human Rights Centre alleges** a significant worsening in human and workers' rights violations in Myanmar under the junta government that has controlled the country since a February 2021 coup. The authors claim that employers "have increasingly worked with the military to restrict organizing and silence workers," with state security forces accused of intimidating labor advocates both in the workplace and at their homes. With Thailand working to bring Myanmar **back into the fold** of ASEAN after years of diplomatic isolation amid that latter's civil war, international firms that establish ties with suppliers in Myanmar face significant regulatory and reputational risk as these violations are reported.
- **Government Shutdown Disrupting FEMA Disaster Response Travel Despite Special Funding:** The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) restrictions on almost all travel during the **partial government shutdown** is **threatening** the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) ability to respond to disasters. While disaster response is not usually impacted by funding lapses during government shutdowns due to special funding provided under the Stafford Act, a DHS-wide communique distributed on February 17 ordered "a stop to all travel, including for disaster-related work." FEMA officials have reportedly been asked to justify any travel required during the shutdown to DHS. There is currently ongoing work relating to several disaster declarations, with fire weather in the southeast and a historic blizzard in the northeast potentially setting the stage for more.
- **Bangladesh Seeks to Renegotiate Power Deal With India's Adani:** Bangladesh's newly-elected government will push Indian utility provider Adani Power to **lower prices** in one of its first major moves since taking power. Adani is entering its third year of a 25-year supply contract with Bangladesh that was negotiated under the government of exiled former prime minister Sheikh Hasina Wazed, who now resides under protection in India. Tensions over this **dynamic**

have driven recent unrest in both countries, though Indian [overtures](#) to the Bangladesh Nationalist Party's new administration could see India work to facilitate a power rate reduction. Bangladesh's new government faces the difficult task of rehabilitating the country's export-dependent economy amid still-tumultuous competitive, economic, and regulatory environments, with cost and consistency [concerns](#) amid domestic energy shortfalls particular pain points.

## Health

- **U.S. Preparing WHO Alternative for Disease Surveillance:** The Trump administration is proposing \$2 billion annually to build a U.S.-run global disease surveillance and outbreak response system after withdrawing from the World Health Organization (WHO). The plan would replicate laboratories, data-sharing networks, and rapid-response systems previously accessed through the WHO, despite costing roughly three times the former U.S. contribution of about \$680 million per year. The Department of Health and Human Services is leading the effort, expanding U.S. health agency presence to more than 130 countries. Public health experts argue the initiative would be costly, slower to implement, and unlikely to match the WHO's global reach or influence, potentially weakening U.S. preparedness and access to critical international health data. In addition to efforts at the federal level, several states are joining the [WHO Global Outbreak Alert Response Network](#), including [Wisconsin](#), [Illinois](#), [California](#), and [New York](#).
- **U.S. Approaching 1,000 Measles Cases in 2026:** The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) [reported](#) 66 new U.S. measles cases, bringing the 2026 total to 982 confirmed infections, with South Carolina's outbreak increasing by 11 cases to 973. Most cases (89%) are tied to outbreaks—primarily those that began in 2025—and 94% of patients are unvaccinated or have unknown vaccination status. Children and young adults account for the majority of infections. South Carolina remains the hardest-hit state, followed by Utah, Florida, Arizona, and Washington. Vermont and New York [recorded](#) their first cases of the year. Meanwhile, public health officials in Canada [advised](#) travelers to check their vaccination status before traveling to the southern U.S. or Mexico, where at least 28 people have [died](#) due to a measles outbreak that began in 2025.
- **Countries Cancel Cuban Medical Missions Amid U.S. Pressure Campaign on Havana:** Several countries are [winding down](#) arrangements with Cuba that brought in hundreds of Cuban medical professionals to support their own healthcare systems, especially for rural and underserved populations. Havana's export of medical personnel has been a key source of foreign revenue and diplomatic influence, but the U.S. government has sought to restrict them through visa bans and political pressure. An estimated 24,000 Cuban doctors are currently working in 56 countries worldwide, primarily in Latin America, Africa, and the Middle East. Some countries have resisted U.S. pressure to curtail the supply of Cuban doctors, saying that without access to the program, their healthcare systems will be compromised.

# Weekly Intelligence Briefing

February 23, 2026



- **FDA Issues New Guidance on Antibiotic Use in Food-Producing Animals:** The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has issued [final guidance](#) advising animal drug sponsors to define duration limits for medically important antibiotics used in or on feed for food-producing animals that currently lack such limits. The guidance recommends labeling revisions that specify when to begin and end antibiotic use and include a maximum duration, but it is nonbinding and voluntary. The agency frames it as supporting judicious use and efforts to mitigate antimicrobial resistance. Critics argue the guidance is too weak, as it bases limits on animal health needs and doesn't explicitly address impacts on human health or significantly reduce antibiotic exposure.
- **Other Stories the Global Intelligence Team is Monitoring:** Singapore will begin [easing](#) some screening measures at air and seaports after no new cases of Nipah virus have been detected in West Bengal or Bangladesh. Officials in Malaysia, meanwhile, have issued a [warning](#) for possible transmission of tuberculosis in crowded Ramadan bazaars. In other infectious disease news, the CDC [issued](#) a Level 2 – Practice Enhanced Precautions Travel Health Notice for chikungunya in Bolivia as a new [study](#) finds that the disease can now be transmitted across most of Europe. Finally, Moderna said that the Food and Drug Administration [will review](#) its mRNA flu vaccine after all. The agency had originally declined to even review Moderna's application for its novel vaccine, saying that Moderna's study design was flawed.

## Demonstrations and Industrial Action

- **Third Anniversary of Tempi Train Crash to See Demonstrations Across Greece:** Heightened security measures and large crowds can be expected near demonstrations demanding government accountability and justice for the 57 victims of the [2023 Tempi train crash](#). The fatal crash sparked one of the largest protest movements in recent years, as hundreds of thousands of people [attended](#) more than 300 rallies nationwide on the 2-year anniversary. This year's mobilization will see a 24-hour strike by ships with the Panhellenic Seamen's Federation (PNO), with other labor groups [organizing](#) demonstrations on Saturday. Gatherings are planned in Athens (Panepemisto Station at 11:30 am and Syntagma Square at 12 pm) and Thessaloniki (Statue of Eleftherios Venizelos at 12 pm). Both cities reported [clashes](#) last year.
- **Activists Plan "March 4 Democracy" in Washington, D.C. This Weekend:** Several activist groups and civil society organizations are planning a "March for Democracy" in Washington, D.C. on Friday and Saturday, February 27 and 28. The March 4 Democracy coalition plans to lobby lawmakers to impeach President Donald Trump on Friday, followed by a rally and march along the National Mall on Saturday beginning at 11:30 am. Solidarity events are being planned in several other locations throughout the U.S., although as of this writing plans for marches have been confined to smaller cities and suburbs.

# Weekly Intelligence Briefing

February 23, 2026



- **Women’s Rights Groups Gear Up for International Women’s Day:** Demonstrations related to International Women’s Day (IWD), commemorated annually on March 8, are expected in many cities across the globe leading into next weekend. Calls for IWD demonstrations typically promote a **range** of interests in addition to women’s rights, including support for labor rights, LGBTQ+ rights, and human rights. Last year, a rally in Berlin that overlapped with support for Palestinians saw **clashes** with police, with over two dozen people arrested at gatherings throughout the day. Berlin’s largest IWD gathering, which saw approximately 21,000 attendees in 2025, will march again this year from Oranienplatz to Roten Rathaus. Istanbul’s Feminist Night March, which is regularly banned from **Taksim Square** and sees **police intervention**, will once again gather on March 8.
- **Climate Activists, Labor Groups Organizing Demonstrations in France, Germany, Portugal:** Portugal, which saw significant **strike**-related disruptions in December 2025, will see major gatherings this coming Saturday in Lisbon and Porto as unions continue to **push back** against proposed changes to the country’s labor laws. In Germany, the youth-led Fridays for Future climate activist network is organizing a “klimastreik” mobilization on Friday, February 27, to push for increased climate policy action ahead of early March state and local elections. French environmental activists with Extinction Rebellion and the Stop Lyon-Turin Coalition are organizing a protest action in the Paris region this weekend against the construction of the Turin–Lyon high-speed railway.
- **BJP Demonstrations Across West Bengal Headline Series of Protests Planned in India:** The center-ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is **calling** for marches and hundreds of rallies across West Bengal beginning March 1. The campaign, which will culminate in a rally in mid-March featuring Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Brigade Parade Ground in Kolkata, comes ahead of state assembly elections expected to take place in April-May. Also on March 1, the Election Commission will **deploy** central armed forces across the state. Elsewhere in India, the India National Congress is calling for farmers to take part in demonstrations **against the India-U.S. trade deal** beginning Tuesday, February 24. A similar demonstration is **planned** by the Biju Janata Dal in Bhubaneswar for Tuesday. The following day, on February 25, the Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh, one of India’s largest trade unions, is planning nationwide demonstrations **against recent labor code reforms**.

## Upcoming Events

- February 6 – March 15: Milano Cortina Olympic and Paralympic Games (Italy)
- February 7 – March 8: Men's T20 Cricket World Cup (India, Sri Lanka)
- February 17 – March 19: Ramadan (Global) *Dates approximate and vary by location*
- February 18 – April 2: Lent (Global)
- February 24: Fourth Anniversary of Russian Invasion of Ukraine (Global)
- February 24: State of the Union Address (Washington, D.C., United States)
- March 2-3: Purim (Global)
- March 4: Holi (Global)
- March 5: General Election (Nepal)
- March 8: General Election (Colombia)
- March 8: International Women's Day (Global)
- March 15: General Election (Vietnam)
- March 19: Eid al-Fitr (Global) *Date approximate and varies by location*
- March 20: Nowruz (Global)
- March 21: International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (Global)
- March 22: Presidential Election (Republic of the Congo)
- March 26: Ram Navami (India)