

Bahrain engages global partners @ WEF 2026

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A high-level Bahraini delegation, led by His Highness Shaikh Isa bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Minister of the Prime Minister's Court, participated in the 2026 World Economic Forum (WEF) Annual Meeting, held from 19 to 23 January in Davos, Switzerland, under the theme "A Spirit of Dialogue."

On behalf of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, HH Shaikh Isa bin Salman took part in the signing ceremony of the Board of Peace charter, reaffirming Bahrain's commitment to global cooperation and dialogue.

During the Forum, the delegation engaged in bilateral meetings, roundtable discussions, and high-level strategy sessions, highlighting Bahrain's achievements in economic diversification, sustainability, and



innovation. HH Shaikh Isa also visited the Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates pavilions, reflecting the strong bilateral ties and exploring opportunities for future collaboration.

The delegation addressed key global issues and participated in sessions shaping the international agenda. HE Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, Minister

of Finance and National Economy and Chairman of the Board of Directors of Bahrain Mumtalakat Holding Company, spoke on a senior panel titled "New Dawn for Entrepreneurship?" which examined the role of AI in transforming careers, the impact of emerging technologies, and the future of entrepreneurship. The Bahraini delegation in-

cluded several senior government officials, including HE Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, Minister of Finance and National Economy and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Bahrain Mumtalakat Holding Company (Mumtalakat); HE Noor bint Ali Alkhulaif, Minister of Sustainable Development, Chief Executive of the Bahrain

Economic Development Board (Bahrain EDB); HE Abdulla bin Adel Fakhro, Minister of Industry and Commerce; HE Shaikh Abdulla bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, Chief Executive Officer of Mumtalakat; Hamad Yaquoub Al Mahmeed, Director General of the Prime Minister's Office; Yusuf Buhejji, Undersecretary for Research and Projects in the

Prime Minister's Office; Sara Buhejji, Chief Executive Officer of the Bahrain Tourism and Exhibitions Authority; HE Iain Lindsay OBE OB, Advisor to the Board at Bahrain EDB; Khalid Taqi, Chairman of the Gulf Air Group; as well as other senior officials from Bahrain's public and private sectors.



Donald Trump formally launched the Board of Peace at the World Economic Forum in Davos on January 22, 2026, signing its founding charter to help oversee a ceasefire and reconstruction efforts in Gaza and signalling ambitions for the body to play a broader role in resolving global conflicts

Aryabhata House Crowned Overall Champions at ISB Youth Festival

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Aryabhata House emerged as the overall champions of the Indian School Bahrain (ISB) Youth Festival Tarang 2025, securing the first position with a total of 1,815 points. The grand award ceremony was held on Thursday at the ISB campus in Isa Town and witnessed enthusiastic participation, vibrant performances, and keen competition among the four houses of the school. CV Raman House delivered a strong performance to secure the runners-up position with 1,717 points, while JC Bose House finished third with 1,685 points. Vikram Sarabhai House concluded the championship standings in fourth place with 1,656 points. The close point differences reflected the high level of talent, dedication, and teamwork displayed by students throughout the festival.

The festival also celebrated individual excellence through prestigious awards. Punya Shaji, a Class V student from Vikram Sarabhai House, was honoured with the esteemed Kalaratna Award, earning 47 points for her remarkable performances. The Kalashri Award was presented to Sannidhyu Chandra, a Class X student from CV Raman House, who secured an impressive 48 points for outstanding artistic achievements.

Group Champion awards were presented across different levels. Ayana Suji of Aryabhata House emerged as the Group



Champion in Level A with 66 points. In Level B, Shreya Muralidharan from Vikram Sarab-

hai House topped the category with 65 points. Aradhya Sandeep of Aryabhata House was declared Group Champion in Level C with 54 points, while Pratyusha Dey of JC Bose House won the Group Champion title in Level D with 50 points.

The House Star Awards recognised the top performers from each house. Deepanshi

Gopal from Vikram Sarabhai House earned 53 points, Priyamvada Neaha Shaju from CV Raman House secured 48 points, Joan Cijo from JC Bose House achieved a remarkable 38 points, and Araina Mohanty from Aryabhata House earned 64 points.

The ceremony was graced by dignitaries, including ISB Hon.

Chairman Adv. Binu Mannil Varughese, Hon. Secretary V. Rajapandian, Hon. Vice-Chairman and Hon. Member (Sports) Dr. Mohammed Faizal, Hon. Member (Projects & Maintenance) Mithun Mohan, Hon. Member Biju George, Principal VR Palaniswamy, Junior Wing Principal Pamela Xavier, Senior School and Academic Adminis-

tration Vice-Principal G. Sathesh and Staff Representative Parvathi Devadas.

Principal V. R. Palaniswamy welcomed the gathering. Hon. Chairman Adv. Binu Mannil Varughese officially declared Aryabhata House as the overall champions and presented the awards. The programme concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by Hon. Secretary V. Rajapandian.

The cultural evening featured a variety of prize-winning performances, including folk dance, Arabic dance, and cinematic dance. The programme began with the national anthems of Bahrain and India, followed by the recitation of verses from the Holy Quran, the lighting of the ceremonial lamp, and the school prayer.

The ISB Youth Festival Tarang 2025, one of the largest youth festivals in the Gulf region, saw the participation of more than 5,000 students across 121 events. Hon. Chairman Adv. Binu Mannil Varughese, Hon. Secretary V. Rajapandian, Hon. Vice-Chairman and Hon. Member (Sports) Dr. Mohammed Faizal, the Executive Committee Members, and Principal V. R. Palaniswamy extended their heartfelt congratulations to all the winners, applauding their exceptional achievements, commitment, and team spirit, which made the festival a grand celebration of talent and creativity.