



BJP holds demonstration outside Congress office against 'shirtless' protest at AI summit

New Delhi(GNS): The BJP leaders and workers on Saturday (February 21, 2026) held a demonstration near Congress headquarters on Akbar Road here against a "shirtless" protest by the latter's youth wing at the AI Impact Summit.

The BJP protesters, carrying placards and raising slogans, slammed the Congress and its leader, Rahul Gandhi, calling them "traitors" for allegedly tarnishing the nation's image.

Leading the protest, Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva and Lok Sabha MP Manoj Tiwari termed the demonstration by IYC as an act of "treason".

Gandhi, are unable to

digest the country's success. While opposing Prime Minister Narendra Modi, they have now started opposing India.

"The protest by hired goons of the Congress dented the image of the country on the world stage, and every Indian who takes pride in the success of the country is ashamed by it," he said.

Several BJP leaders, including state general secretary Vishnu Mittal and MLA Raj Kumar Bhatia, along with a large number of workers, gathered for the protest at Man Singh Road.

Police personnel stopped them at a barricade as they tried to march towards Congress headquarters at



Akbar Road.

On Friday (February 20, 2026), a group of Indian Youth Congress workers staged a dramatic "shirtless protest" at the AI Impact Summit exhibition hall in Delhi's Bharat Mandapam, walking around holding t-shirts with slogans against the government and the India-US trade deal printed on them.

Following the incident, the Delhi Police arrested four IYC workers in connection with the protest at the Summit venue, with a senior officer saying that a probe for a wider conspiracy is underway.

AI Impact Summit, inaugurated by Mr. Modi, concluded on Friday (February 20, 2026).

Five terrorists, two security personnel killed in NW Pakistan

New Delhi(GNS): Two security personnel were killed in a suicide attack during an intelligence-based operation in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province in northwest Pakistan on Saturday, military's media wing said.

Five khawarij from the Fitna al Khwarij were also killed during the operation in the Bannu district of the province. Fitna-al-Khawarij is a term that the state uses for the banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan. The intelligence based operation was being conducted on reported presence of khawarij, including a suicide bomber, when a convoy of the security forces was targeted by the terrorists. Officials said that a vehicle-borne suicide bomber was intercepted by the leading group, foiling his nefarious design to target innocent civilians and law enforcement personnel in the Bannu city.

BJP MP on Mamata's stage, CM gave Banga Vibhushan award

Kolkata(GNS): Ahead of the assembly elections, an important signal emerged in the state's politics. The presence of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Rajya Sabha member and prominent representative of the Rajbanshi community, Ananta Maharaj, on stage with Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee at an event held on Saturday at Amar Ekushey Udyan in Deshpriya Park on the occasion of International Mother Language Day, sparked discussion in political circles. On this occasion, the Chief

Minister presented him with the "Banga Bibhushan" award. He was presented with a dhoti and a memento.

During the event, Ananta Maharaj recited a composition by Chila Rai, considered a pioneer of the Rajbanshi community, in his mother tongue. He emphasized community pride. Speaking in his native language from the Mother Language Day platform is also considered politically significant.

The relationship between the Chief Minister



and Ananta Maharaj has been in the news before. During her visit to North Bengal after the Lok Sabha elections, the Chief Minister herself visited his residence in Cooch Behar. This was

seen as a sign of shifting political dynamics. It's worth noting that Ananta Maharaj was a longtime supporter of the BJP, championing the demand for Greater Cooch Behar, and the party elected him to the Rajya Sabha. However, after the central government rejected the demand for a separate state, he expressed displeasure, leading to speculation about a rift between him and the party. Recently, Trinamool Congress candidate Jagdish Verma Basunia, who won the election from Cooch Behar, publicly stated that he had received Ananta Maharaj's support. Following this, the Chief Minister's visit to his home to express gratitude was also considered politically significant.

Transformation will happen only through coordination between government, industry and society: Vice President



New Delhi(GNS): Vice President C.P. Radhakrishnan has said that strong coordination between government, industry, and society is essential for the country's overall transformation and will form the basis for achieving the goal of a developed India.

The Vice President was addressing a media group event at Bharat Mandapam here on Saturday. He said that such cooperation becomes even more important in this transformative phase of India's development journey. Referring to the country's progress over the past decade, he said that India has grown from the world's tenth largest economy to the fourth largest and is moving towards the third position. Structural reforms, inclusive growth, digital connectivity, financial inclusion, and infrastructure expansion have lifted more than 250 million citizens out of extreme poverty and awakened new aspirations across the country.

He said that the next phase of development requires a deeper partnership between government, industry, and civil society. According to him, Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) is no longer a peripheral topic but a central pillar of national progress, where enterprise and compassion converge.

NASA admits Sunita's spacewalk was dangerous considers it similar to Kalpana Chawla's accident

Classifies the incident as serious

Washington DC(GNS): The US space agency NASA acknowledged that Sunita Williams's stranding in space was dangerous. NASA classified the mission as a Type A accident, considered the most serious category of accident.

The same category was used for the Challenger and Columbia shuttle accidents, including the one that claimed the life of Indian astronaut



Kalpana Chawla. Administrator Jared Isaacman wrote that released on February 19, 2026, NASA Sunita Williams' mission was seriously flawed.

INS Aridhaman, the third indigenous nuclear submarine, will soon be inducted into the Indian Navy

New Delhi(GNS): India is poised to elevate its maritime military power and nuclear deterrence to new and unsailable heights. The country's third indigenous nuclear-capable ballistic missile submarine (SSBN), INS Aridhaman (S4), is expected to officially join the Indian Navy by April-May this year. This development not only completes India's nuclear triad (capability to launch nuclear strikes from land, air, and sea) but also provides unprecedented strength to the country's second-strike capability. Indian Navy Chief Admiral D.K. Tripathi had previously indicated its commissioning in 2026, and the submarine is currently in the final and crucial phase of its sea trials.

With the induction of INS Aridhaman into the Navy, India will have three operational nuclear submarines in service simultaneously for the first time in history. This strategic achievement will place India in the unique position of Continuous At-Sea Deterrence, meaning that at least one Indian nuclear submarine will be on high seas patrol 365 days a year. This capability provides the greatest psychological and military deterrent to any adversary. Built in Visakhapatnam under the Advanced Technology Vessel Project, the submarine is far more lethal, larger, and technologically advanced than its predecessors, INS Arihant and INS Arighat.

In terms of technical specifications,



Aridhaman has a total weight of approximately 7,000 tons, significantly higher than the 6,000 tons of previous submarines. Its greatest strength lies in its K-4 ballistic missiles, which have a range of up to 3,500 kilometers. Additionally, the submarine is capable of carrying 24 K-15 Sagarika mis-

siles, which have a range of 750 kilometers. It is powered by a powerful 83-megawatt pressurized water reactor. To evade enemy detection and sonar, it uses advanced anechoic tiles, which minimize underwater noise. Furthermore, it is equipped with state-of-the-art sonar systems such as the

indigenously developed Ushas and Panchendriya for improved target identification. This move by India is extremely significant amid the changing regional security dynamics. While Pakistan is acquiring eight advanced Hangor-class submarines from China, India is undertaking a multi-pronged effort to secure its maritime borders. The leasing of the Akula-class nuclear submarine (Chakra-3) from Russia and the construction of six state-of-the-art diesel-electric submarines under Project 75(1) with Germany are part of this strategy. Once commissioned, INS Aridhaman will be stationed at a high-security underground base called Project Varsha, located near Visakhapatnam.

Terrorist alert in Delhi, Red Fort security beefed up; Chandni Chowk temple also targeted

Security beefed up at religious and historical sites

New Delhi(GNS): Following inputs from central intelligence agencies, security has been beefed up in Delhi. An alert has been issued regarding the possibility of an IED blast near the Red Fort.

According to intelligence inputs, Pakistan-based terrorist organisation Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) has targeted major religious places in India.

According to sources, the temple in the Chandni Chowk area is also a target of terrorists. Consequently, security has been increased at major religious and historical sites in Delhi.



Although this information is still being investigated, precautions are being taken.

The Kashmir where Mukherjee was martyred is ours and the whole of it is ours

Dr. Praveen Dataram Gugnani

(Kashmir Resolution Day, February 22)

The Indian Parliament's Kashmir Resolution of February 22, 1954, is auspicious, true, and praiseworthy, but it has not been realized. This is sad.

There are two undeniable truths - first - Kashmir is the crown jewel of our nation, second - this crown jewel of ours is currently under eclipse.

Our entire Indian nation has been concerned about the current situation in Kashmir. This national concern manifested itself in the "Kashmir Resolution," passed in Parliament on February 22, 1954, by the former Prime Minister Narasimha Rao's government. This resolution encompassed the political parties and opposition, and the

sentiments of all citizens of India. This resolution was inspired by the concerns, sentiments, and ideas of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh.

This resolution, passed in Parliament, resolved that "Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK) was, is, and will always remain an integral part of India. Pakistan has occupied this large area of Indian territory since 1947-48. This resolution resolved that we will, under all circumstances, reclaim our land in Ladakh and Jammu and Kashmir that is under Pakistan's illegal occupation."

This Sankalp Diwas is also the Sankalp Diwas for the liberation of PoJK, POTL and COTL. Actually, the total area of Jammu-Kashmir and Ladakh is approximately 2,22,236 sq km. Out of this, the

area of POJK i.e. Pakistan occupied Jammu and Kashmir is 13,297 sq km. POJK includes cities like Mirpur-Muzaffarabad, Bhimber, Kottli of Jammu-Kashmir region, which were once Hindu majority. Whereas POTL i.e. (Pakistan occupied area Ladakh) includes Gilgit and Baltistan. This area is full of mineral wealth. The total area of POTL is approximately 64817 sq km. PoJK and POTL are essentially a part of Jammu and Kashmir, bordering Pakistan's Punjab, north-west, Afghanistan's Wakhan Corridor, China's Xinjiang region, and the eastern region of Ladakh. Gilgit-Baltistan (POTL) has 1,480 gold mines, 123 of which have ore, with gold deposits many times greater than the world-famous mines of South Africa.

The potential area of the China-

occupied Ladakh region, or COTL, is 37,000 square kilometers, and Pakistan ceded 5,180 km of Shaksgam to it in 1963 under the Sino-Pak Agreement. This means the total area under Chinese occupation is 42,735 square kilometers. COTL includes not only Aksai Chin but also the Trans-Karakoram Tract and Minsar. Several rivers originate from here, such as the Galwan River, Chip Chap River, and Kars. The largest of these is the Kars River, which flows northward and is known as the Black Jade River. This significant portion of India is currently under Chinese control. In fact, just a few months after the partition of the country in 1947, the Pakistani army invaded Jammu and Kashmir on October 22, 1947. In this invasion, Pakistani soldiers committed a

heinous massacre of thousands of innocent Hindus (predominantly Sikhs) and destroyed ancient temples, gurdwaras, and other Hindu sites. These captured religious sites were later used in a derogatory manner to humiliate these Hindus.

Following these incidents, a large number of Hindus were forced to flee Kashmir. For the past eight decades, Pakistani terrorists have selectively destroyed our historic temples, gurdwaras, and Buddhist monasteries in PoJK. Pakistan has illegally controlled PoJK for 76 years. Today, the entire Indian nation, along with the displaced people of PoJK, demand that our Kashmir, which is under illegal occupation of Pakistan, be taken back and the rights of the displaced people of PoJK be restored.

Editorial

Revdi clinks, votes are quickly

A bench headed by Chief Justice Surya Kant of the Supreme Court has issued a scathing remark on "freebies," or "rewadis," expressing concern that they will hinder the country's economic development. Questions have also been raised as to why political parties and governments announce freebies just before elections. Many state governments are facing heavy debt and losses, yet why are they distributing freebies? If governments continue to distribute freebies, such as free money, free electricity, and free food, who will bear the costs? The Chief Justice has stated that the burden of distributing freebies will ultimately fall on taxpayers. If "rewadis" continue to be distributed, who will work? What kind of culture are we creating? Governments should focus more on job creation rather than "freebies." If someone cannot afford education and basic living expenses, it is the government's responsibility to provide them with facilities. However, the "freebies" are going into the pockets of those who are enjoying themselves. Shouldn't governments pay attention to this? However, the Supreme Court has made a verbal comment, and political party spokespersons are claiming they are not bound to obey the Supreme Court. These are not "freebies," but welfare schemes. We are a welfare democracy, and it is our duty to help the public. Therefore, with apologies, we also ask the Supreme Court: why does it make verbal comments? What good is merely expressing concern? The Constitution has granted the Supreme Court special privileges, and the court has used them to issue judgments, so why can't it issue orders against freebies? The court should give clear instructions to governments regarding when to announce schemes before elections. It should also define "freebies."

The reality is that the country's states have a total debt of over 104 lakh crore. The country itself has a debt of 200.50 lakh crore. Some experts estimate it to be closer to 225 lakh crore. Despite this, freebies are being distributed. Prime Minister Modi has stated on numerous occasions that the common man does not seek freebies. Freebies are dangerous for the country's development and can destroy the economy.



The US Supreme Court has dealt a major blow to President Donald Trump. A nine-judge bench of the US Supreme Court, with a majority of six, declared the tariffs imposed by President Trump on countries over the past year illegal. The Supreme Court ruled that President Trump had no authority to impose tariffs on most countries. Despite this, Donald Trump, using emergency powers, sought to intimidate countries around the world into making arbitrary agreements.



US Supreme Court declares Trump's rights, cancels tariffs

Sanat Jain

He has succeeded to some extent in this. He has tightened his grip on a major nation like India. He has successfully negotiated a bilateral trade agreement with India. He has also reached similar agreements with several other countries in the past few months. The agreements Donald Trump has reached by threatening tariffs, in some way, benefit the Trump family. The way Donald Trump has threatened US allies and other countries around the world with tariffs has caused significant damage to US national interests and America's reputation. Furthermore, the tariffs have increased inflation in the US, causing significant losses to American businesses. America is suffering the most from the tariffs. Donald Trump became President for the second time. According to US law, he cannot become President for a third time. In a way, he used this strategy to benefit his family during his second term. The Supreme Court has reviewed the President's decision and declared it completely illegal. The Supreme Court stated that such powers are only vested in Parliament. The President was granted certain powers for emergency situations. In extreme circumstances, tariffs could have been imposed against one or two nations. The way Donald Trump has arbitrarily imposed tariffs using emergency powers under this law is an abuse of power. American businesses have fought this

case in various courts and reached the Supreme Court. Trump faced rebukes from all courts. Following the imposition of tariffs, inflation in the United States was rising. The business interests of American merchants were being affected. Trump claimed, The US has benefited by approximately \$600 billion from the tariffs. The burden has fallen on US citizens and businesses. Linking the tariffs to national security was completely false. This has now come to light. US President Donald Trump has abused his authority to promote his family's businesses. In fact, the International Emergency Economic Powers Act is in effect in the US. Under this Act, the President was granted special powers in the event of a serious threat or extraordinary international crisis. Through these powers, the President could immediately suspend or ban foreign transactions. By abusing this authority, Trump intimidated countries around the world through tariffs and pressured them into arbitrary agreements. This served not American interests but the Trump family. Following this Supreme Court decision, US President Donald Trump's troubles are sure to increase. Trump has been facing similar allegations over the past year, alleging that he is abusing his position to further his family and business interests. This decision will undoubtedly increase Donald Trump's troubles. The agreements signed by the United States with

India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and several other countries will remain valid in the future. The agreement is being seen as a consensus between both parties. Tariffs for countries that have not signed agreements with the United States will be automatically canceled. The US government may also have to refund the revenue collected from companies and businesses through tariffs. In a way, Donald Trump's bullying behavior as US President, taking decisions based on his personal and family interests, has now been halted by the Supreme Court's order. This is sure to provoke a strong reaction in the United States and across the world. Now let's see how the world sees the resolution of this issue in America after this Supreme Court decision. The tariff agreement India reached with the United States has become a trap for India. India will have to find its way out of this. Why is the Indian government so helpless in the face of Trump? This is already having its impact on Indian politics. US President Donald Trump's troubles are sure to increase. Over the past year, Trump has been facing allegations of abusing his position to further his family and business interests. This decision will undoubtedly worsen his troubles. The agreements signed by the US with India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and several other countries will remain valid in the future. The agreement is being seen as a mutually agreed agreement through tariffs.

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India's fate, future and fear in the age of artificial intelligence

Vinod Kumar Singh

The AI Impact Summit, held from February 16 to 20, 2026, at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi, will be recorded as a defining moment in India's modern history. It was not just an international technology conference, but a civilizational declaration—that India now seeks to shape its destiny through the power of artificial intelligence. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Minister of Electronics and Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnav, the event symbolized India's ambition to transform technology not just into a tool for development, but into a philosophy for nation-building. Prime Minister Modi's confident declaration in his inaugural address that artificial

intelligence is India's destiny and future was more a strategic pronouncement than a political one. It was the voice of an India that missed out on the industrial revolution during the colonial era, confined itself to the services sector during the information technology revolution, and now aspires to lead in the third major technological revolution—artificial intelligence.

For the Modi government, AI is not just a technological tool, but the main engine of the dream of a developed India 2047. Just as railways, electricity, and roads became the cornerstones of nation-building in the twentieth century, data, algorithms, and supercomputing are being seen as national infrastructure in the twenty-first century. The Prime Minister described AI as the path to "digital swaraj" – a swaraj

in which India will be the creator and controller, not the consumer, of technology.

Ashwini Vaishnav's vision attempts to provide an institutional framework for this dream. He described AI as national infrastructure, saying that India must develop its own foundation model, national data grid, and supercomputing capabilities. He believed that AI would play the same role for India as railways and electricity did in the twentieth century—connecting and accelerating the country.

The AI Impact Summit saw several strategic announcements that set the tone for India's technological future. The government reiterated its commitment to developing AI-based solutions, including a national AI compute grid, indigenous language models, and the

widespread use of AI in government services, digital platforms in health and education, smart cities, and defense systems. Coordinated efforts across policy, finance, and infrastructure were announced to make India a global hub for AI research, startups, and industry. A key achievement of the summit was its focus on attracting foreign investment. Global tech companies, investment funds, and multinational corporations expressed interest in investing in India's AI ecosystem. Billions of dollars in investment proposals were discussed in data centers, cloud infrastructure, semiconductors, chip design, and AI startups. Several international partnerships were announced to make India a global hub for AI manufacturing and research. This signals that global capital is recog-

nizing India as a key hub for the next technological revolution.

Employment opportunities associated with foreign investment were also a central theme of the conference. Government and industry claim that AI will create millions of new jobs in India – in fields such as data scientists, AI engineers, cybersecurity experts, chip designers, digital service providers, and technical trainers. Additionally, new types of employment will emerge in AI-based healthcare, education, agriculture, and administrative services. It is hoped that India's vast youth population will be equipped with skills for the AI era and prepared to lead the global workforce. But history teaches us that every technological revolution brings displacement along with opportunities.

JNU VC Shantishree Dhulipudi Pandit's 'Dalit victim card' remark sparks row; says 'I am Bahujan myself'

New Delhi, (GNS): An alleged casteist remark by JNU vice-chancellor Shantishree Dhulipudi Pandit, that Dalits and Blacks "cannot progress by being permanently a victim or playing the victim card", has sparked controversy on the campus, with student groups demanding her resignation and calling for a countrywide protest on Saturday. Pandit responded to the allegations by saying she is a Bahujan herself. The VC made the statement on a podcast published on Feb 16 while speaking about UGC's 2026 Equity (Anti-Discrimination) Regulations, which seek to address caste-based discrimination in higher educational institutions.



The regulations have been stayed by the Supreme Court following protests by some upper-caste groups.

Misinterpreted: JNU VC
During the podcast, which has been widely circulated on social media, Pandit said: "UGC regulations are unnecessary... UGC regulation is irrational... You cannot

progress by being permanently a victim or playing the victim card. This was done for the Blacks; the same thing was brought for Dalits here... the question is, by making somebody the devil, it is not easy to progress... It is a temporary type of drug."

Pandit told Media that she had been misinterpreted. "I did not mean that. I meant that wokes have written like this and those who opposed the had this to say about permanent victimhood and imaginary worlds being created," she said. On her criticism of the UGC regulations, she said, "When it was criticised, I felt the whole controversy was unnecessary and there is suspicion that due diligence was not put. This is the

perception. I am a Bahujan myself."

In a statement issued on Friday, JNU Students' Union (JNUSU) condemned what it termed "blatantly casteist statements" and demanded Pandit's resignation. It alleged that her remarks reflected "a chronology of injustice, caste supremacy and perpetual systemic exclusion in universities and public spaces" and appealed to unions and student organisations across campuses to condemn the statements and participate in the protest call. The union also objected to her highlighting her association with Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS). Pandit had said, "I am proud of my affiliations with RSS... It gave me a world view, which is universal and unique. RSS taught (me) appreciation of difference and diversity."

HC grants bail to SUV driver accused of mowing down two



New Delhi, (GNS): Delhi High Court has granted bail to the driver of a speeding SUV who allegedly mowed down two people in Chanakyapuri in Aug last year, citing his young age and lack of criminal antecedents.

Justice Manoj Jain directed that Ashish Bachchas be released on a personal bond of Rs 25,000 with one surety of the same amount, subject to trial court approval.

Bachchas, 26, was arrested at the spot after his Thar allegedly ran over two persons near Gate No. 3 of Talkatora Stadium on the morning of Aug 10. A chargesheet has been filed and arguments on charges are slated for April 8.

Police said multiple drugs were recovered from the vehicle. The defence questioned the LSD claim and said other quantities did not bar bail. Police opposed the plea.

HC refuses blanket gag order in road accident involving minor

New Delhi, (GNS): Underlining that freedom of the press cannot be curtailed without any legal basis, Delhi High Court on Friday refused to impose a blanket gag order on media reporting in connection with the Dwarka road accident case.

The court underscored that freedom of expression and of the press are integral to a democratic society while hearing a plea by the father of the juvenile accused in the accident that claimed the life of a 23-year-old motorcyclist, seeking restrictions on media coverage of the case.

"On what basis are you asking for a complete gag order? There is no rule which says journalism and right to press has to be barred," Justice Saurabh Bannerji orally observed.

The father contended that the media was pursuing the minor and his family and subjecting them to harassment through extensive coverage. This resulted in him receiving hateful messages and also made him fearful for the safety of the family.

The court, however, issued notice

to the Centre and Press Council of India among others on the plea and ordered that no information capable of revealing the minor's identity or portraying his character should be disclosed or published in any manner. According to allegations raised by the victim's mother, the minor was filming social media reels while speeding moments before the collision. The minor, who allegedly doesn't have a valid driving licence, was apprehended and produced before the juvenile justice board, which sent him to an observation home. He was later granted interim bail on Feb 10 to enable him to appear for his Class X board exams. Delhi Police since registered a case under sections 281 (rash driving), 106(1) (causing death by negligence) and 125(a) (act endangering life or personal safety of others) of the BNS. The minor's father was detained during the investigation and later released, with police indicating that he would be named in the chargesheet under relevant provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act.

UK AI Showcase had Rishi Sunak and David Lammy chatting

New Delhi, (GNS): What's an AI reception without some cool AI-related activity? On the sidelines of the AI Impact Summit in Delhi, before taking the stage at the Shaping Tomorrow - The UK AI Showcase & Reception at the British High Commissioner Lindy Cameron's residence, the UK's former Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and the UK's Deputy Prime Minister David Lammy had their caricatures sketched by a robot. What followed was a wide-ranging conversation on AI, cricket, and the UK's proactive approach to the technology.



"It has been absolutely wonderful to have you here tonight at our AI Summit UK Party. I was privileged to attend the very first AI Safety Summit at Bletchley Park in 2023. It is special to be back at the fourth AI Summit, hosted by incredible India. We've had a phenomenal day. I hope you enjoyed the AI talks - or got your caricature done by a robot. I've been watching our two special guests getting theirs done. I think I should frame them once we get hold of them," said Cameron, before welcoming Sunak and Lammy to the stage.

Came to India for the first time 35 years ago: UK Deputy PM Lammy

"I first came to India 35 years ago as a student. I was 18, wearing tie-dye - as you did back then. It has been a privilege to bring my family here on holiday. We spent a wonderful time in Kerala. And now I am here for work. When there was a change of government in the UK in 2024, there were two things I had to get right as Foreign Secretary. One was managing the relationship with the incoming Donald Trump administration. The second was ensuring that the UK-India bond - which had grown stronger over the last decade, including during Rishi's tenure - continued to strengthen. Our job was to pick up the baton, carry it across

the line, and not drop it," Lammy said.

During their chat, Lammy said to Sunak, "While we sit on different sides of the political aisle, we have worked together and been friends for many years... But we are here to discuss AI. You kicked off the first summit at Bletchley Park. It was clearly an issue you cared about - why did you use your platform?" Sunak began by apologising for arriving late. "AI can do many things, as we've heard this week, but it can't fix Delhi's traffic," he said, drawing laughter. He then added, "When I moved into Downing Street, people from the Foreign Office sat me down with a long list of international summits I should attend - about 150 of them. Looking at that list, I realised there wasn't a single summit focused on the most defining technology of our time: AI... We needed a forum to discuss that. India has now, according to Stanford rankings, moved into the medal positions as an AI superpower - something to be proud of, although it is a little bit disappointing because they leapfrogged the UK to get to that position. I did point out to Prime Minister Modi just now that, if you look at the ICC Test rankings, England is still ahead, which is arguably more important."

Reform Hiccup: Delhi Govt May Extend Old Liquor Policy Again

New Delhi, (GNS): With a new excise policy still in the making for over three years, Delhi govt may extend its existing liquor policy yet again. Last extended for nine months in Aug 2025, it is set to expire this March 31. If it is not extended before mid-March, liquor supply in the capital could be disrupted. Hence, the excise department has moved a proposal to govt to extend it till March 2027, officials told Media. "If approved, this will be the longest extension of the current policy," one of the officials said.



Liquor industry representatives said the delay in notification of a new policy has created uncertainty in Delhi's market. "Our neighbours - UP, Haryana and Rajasthan - have announced their excise policies in a timely manner. Many states have long-term policies spanning two to four years to ensure business stability," said Vinod Giri, director general of

Brewers Association of India, adding that Delhi govt must introduce a new, stable policy to ensure quality products, restore industry confidence, retain business in the capital and protect revenues.

The current policy has been in force in Delhi since Sept 2022 after a 2021-22 regime drafted by the then AAP govt was scrapped amid allegations of irregularities. The new policy, initially expected in late 2022, has been delayed due to

investigations into the previous one, 2024 Lok Sabha elections and Delhi assembly polls in 2025. Following a CBI probe and arrests of several AAP members, including then chief minister Arvind Kejriwal, govt reverted to the old policy. Soon after it came to office in Feb 2025, BJP govt started the process of drafting the new one, but it is yet to see the light of day.

If the existing policy is extended, wholesale (L-1, L-

1F), retail (L-2), hotel, club and restaurant licences will be renewed under existing terms upon payment of applicable fees. Govt-run retail outlets will also renew permits to continue operations. "Once approval is granted, the excise department will issue circulars inviting licensees to submit fees for renewal," the official said. Repeated extensions of the policy have led to periodic supply constraints, with several premium Indian and international brands often unavailable on the shelves in the city. Industry representatives have sought modernisation of the policy, citing neighbouring states where private retailers operate with broader product availability. The existing policy was meant to be a temporary arrangement but had been repeatedly extended, retaining flaws such as pushing of some brands, cheap imports and poor retail experience, Giri said.

DDA okays 15,000cr budget urbanisation of 48 villages

New Delhi, (GNS): Delhi Development Authority (DDA) on Friday approved a budget of Rs 14,962 crore for the 2026-27 financial year, registering a revenue surplus of Rs 2,112 crore (till Feb 18), making this the 18th consecutive year for it to happen.



The meeting, chaired by lieutenant governor VK Saxena, cleared key proposals that included the urbanisation of 48 rural villages, approval of a detailed advertisement policy to augment revenue, land for Atal Canteens, and relaxations for universities in the Narela sub-city.

To bridge infrastructure gaps, DDA has approved a proposal to urbanise 48 villages that are categorised as rural right now. Delhi has 357 villages, of which 309 are already urbanised. The remaining 48, identified by the land and building depart-

ment of Delhi govt, are near urban areas but continue to be governed by agricultural land-use norms under the Delhi Land Reforms Act.

Officials said development work in the villages is time-consuming as land-use changes and approval from Delhi govt's revenue dept are needed.

"The authority will request MCD to declare them urban under Section 507 of the Delhi Municipal Corporation Act, 1957. The move will align with the newly constituted revenue sub-divisions and districts.

Reconnected: 1,500 stolen phones returned under Op Vishwas 2.0

New Delhi, (GNS): Over 1,500 mobile phones were traced under Mission Reconnect and Vishwas of Delhi Police, with most returned to their original owners. The devices were stolen from south and southeast Delhi, as well as from metro trains, railway stations and IGI Airport.



Within two months, teams from the south and southeast district police traced over 1,000 phones. According to police, the Central Equipment Identity Register portal - designed to block, trace and recover lost or stolen mobile phones using their IMEI numbers - played a key role. Every police station had a dedicated team continuously monitoring the portal. "As soon as a SIM card was inserted into a stolen phone, the team con-

cerned received an alert and immediately sent a raiding party," police said. Most of the people from

whom the phones were recovered unknowingly bought them after they were stolen. The accused allegedly sold the phones at lower prices, claiming they urgently needed money.

The recovered phones were handed over to their owners at the NCU auditorium in Hauz Khas under Operation Vishwas 2.0 by special CP Madhup Tewari. Police also felicitated good samaritans and shared cyber safety tips with people, especially senior citizens.

"Operation Vishwas 2.0 is not merely a recovery drive; it is a reaffirmation of our promise to every citizen. When we return a lost phone, we return peace of mind. When we spread cyber awareness, we prevent future loss," Tewari said. "In the digital

age, awareness is power, vigilance is protection, and partnership is our greatest strength."

Among the beneficiaries, Punit had lost his phone in Feb 2025 at Nehru Place while travelling by bus. It had crucial documents. Shakuntala Devi's phone was stolen from a tailor shop in Mehrauli in Dec. Her son Vivek said it had important documents and family photographs, raising concerns about misuse.

Joint CP (southern range) SK Jain said timely reporting of suspicious activities, prompt sharing of credible information, adherence to cyber hygiene and participation in awareness initiatives significantly strengthened the security grid. Some devices were also returned through the respec-

tive police stations.

Meanwhile, 580 phones were traced over the past three-four months and handed over by the metro, railway and airport units. Joint CP (transport) Milind Dumbere said the coordinated efforts of these units led to the recovery of these phones, including 266 by the metro unit, 188 by the railway unit and 126 by the IGI Airport unit, collectively valued at over Rs 1.3 crore.

Stolen devices were also traced to several states across north and east India, including Haryana, Punjab, West Bengal, Rajasthan, Bihar, Jharkhand and Uttarakhand. Investigators found that many of the stolen phones were quickly moved out of Delhi to evade detection and complicate tracking.

Japanese culture celebrated in Delhi with sushi & sake

New Delhi, (GNS): Aaj yahan ekatrit hone ke liye aap sabhi ka dhanyavad," ONO Keiichi, Ambassador of Japan, began in Hindi, drawing warm applause, as he welcomed guests to a reception celebrating the Emperor of Japan's 66th birthday recently. Delhi's diplomatic circle recently gathered at the Embassy of Japan, where kimonos met saris and namastes met bows in a celebration of cultural ties, as the garden transformed into a slice of Japan.



Entering the tea room, ONO Keiichi donned the hat of a tea master in the authentic Japanese tea ceremony as he whisked matcha for the guests from India. Following the precise process of whisking, he maintained concentration and silence. Kiren Rijiju remarked, "If I drink this tea regularly, I don't know if I will

become stronger but I will become younger (laughs)!"

'People to people exchanges make the bond stronger'

Talking about the cultural ties with India, the ambassador said, "The close Japanese relationship is supported, not only by high level expenses, but also by eco-

nomie ties and people to people exchanges. Next year, we mark the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Japan, which is very significant." He added his appreciation for India in Hindi and said, "It's been a year and four months since I've been in

India. To learn more deeply, I have travelled to 16 states in the country and had the pleasure of trying out their food and experiencing the diverse culture. Although tonight I am conversing in Hindi, I have also conversed in Gujarati, Telugu and other regional languages during my travels." A Takasaki Daruma inscribed with 'India-Japan.' Inspired by Bodhidharma from India, the Daruma is a traditional lucky charm - one eye is filled when making a wish, and the other when that wish is fulfilled, in gratitude. Addressing the gathering, Kiren Rijiju, Union Minister for Parliamentary and Minority Affairs, who was the chief guest, said, "I must express my excitement for your excellency, the Japanese ambassador's beautiful Hindi.

Zomato delivery boy killed after speeding car rams bike in Delhi's Subhash Nagar; driver held



New Delhi, (GNS): A Zomato delivery boy died after being hit by a speeding car around 3 am in the Subhash Nagar area of West Delhi, police said on Saturday.

According to Delhi Police, the incident occurred in the early hours when the victim, who was on a bike, was struck

by a car allegedly being driven at high speed.

Police have taken the accused driver into custody and seized the car involved in the incident. Further investigation is underway to ascertain the exact sequence of events. Officials said more details are being gathered.

Pvt schools can't collect unregulated fee from April 1: Delhi govt to HC



New Delhi, (GNS): Delhi govt told the high court on Friday that private schools cannot collect fees from April 1 for the new academic session, unless it is determined and approved in accordance with the new fee-regulation law.

Opposing pleas moved by several schools' associations seeking a stay on the govt mandate to constitute school-level fee regulation committees for the upcoming academic year, additional solicitor general S V Raju said the consequences would be "disastrous" and no prejudice would be caused to the schools at this stage by forming such a panel.

A bench of Chief Justice D K Upadhyaya and Justice Tejas Karia was hearing the petitions filed by the schools' associations challenging the Feb 1 notification of the govt on setting up the committees within 10 days.

"My case is that schools cannot charge anything other than the approved fee under the Delhi School Education (Transparency in Fixation and Regulation of Fees) Act. They cannot collect from April 1 because the Act prohibits it. The Act prohibited for the earlier year also, but it has somehow been kept in abeyance. From April 1, 2026, if they want to collect fees, which is unregulated, they cannot do it," the senior law officer said on behalf of Delhi govt.

Raju defended the Feb 1 notification and said the process to determine school fees started "earlier" than prescribed so that the fee is determined before the new academic session, in accordance with the new law. The court listed the matter for hearing on Feb 24 and also extended till then the Feb-10 deadline set by Delhi govt for private schools to form the fee regulation committees. The court asked the senior counsel appearing for the Action Committee Unaided Recognised Private Schools to explain why they did not want to set up the committees.

Senior advocate Akhil Sibal said the Feb 1 notification is legally unsustainable as it changes the timeline prescribed in the Act. He said under the Act, the process has to begin in July of the preceding academic year and accused the govt of "rushing". The power to fix the fee has been given to someone else and it was "practically impossible" to conclude the process for the upcoming academic session as the law required an unanimous decision on the committees, he added. In its response filed to the petitions, the Directorate of Education has said if the Act is not allowed to be implemented from April 1, it will defeat its objective - to have regulated fees from the beginning of the academic year 2026-27.

Meerut metro will zoom at same speed as Airport Line

New Delhi, (GNS):Meerut Metro will be the fastest such system in the country from Sunday at a maximum operational speed of 120kmph, the same as Airport Express Line in Delhi, the fast metro corridor for a smooth link to IGI Airport. The Meerut Metro services will also run on the same tracks and infrastructure as the semi-high-speed Namoo Bharat trains. The Airport Express Line became the fastest metro in the country in Sept 2023. Initially it ran at 90 kmph and Delhi Metro Rail Corporation gradually increased the speed in phases over six months. The average speed of Delhi Metro trains on regular lines is around 75kmph. The 24.9km Airport Express Line with seven stations takes 21 minutes from New Delhi to Yashobhoomi Dwarka Sector 25, while the travel time from Shivaji Stadium to IGI Airport Terminal 3 is 15 minutes.

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Prime Minister

Yogi Adityanath
Chief Minister, Uttar Pradesh

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Inauguration of Meerut Metro

Meerut South to Modipuram (21 km)

— By —

Narendra Modi

Prime Minister

— In the august presence of —

Yogi Adityanath

Chief Minister, Uttar Pradesh

Keshav Prasad Maurya
Deputy Chief Minister, Uttar Pradesh

Brajesh Pathak
Deputy Chief Minister, Uttar Pradesh

Jayant Chaudhary
Minister of State (Independent Charge), Skill Development & Entrepreneurship; MoS Education, Govt. of India

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Minister, Animal Husbandry & Dairy Development and Political Pension, Uttar Pradesh

Dinesh Khatik
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Somendra Tomar
Minister of State, Energy & Additional Sources of Energy, Uttar Pradesh

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Mayor, Meerut

Gaurav Chaudhary
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Arun Govil
MP, Meerut

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Dr. Laxmikant Bajpai
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Amit Agarwal
MLA, Meerut Cantt.

Ghulam Mohammad
MLA, Siwalkhas

Dinesh Kumar Goel
MLC

Shrichand Sharma
MLC

Ashwini Tyagi
MLC

Dharmendra Kumar Bhardwaj
MLC

and other dignitaries

Date: 22nd February, 2026
Time: 1:00 PM

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Venue: Rally Ground, Mohiuddinpur, Meerut

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Reduction of nearly 1 lakh private vehicles, leading to lower carbon emissions and improved air quality
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21 km intra-city travel in nearly 30 minutes
12 metro stations between Meerut South and Modipuram-Meerut South, Partapur, Rithani, Shatabdi Nagar, Brahmput, Meerut Central, Bhaalsali, Begumpur, MES Colony, Dauri, Meerut North, and Modipuram
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