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Plight of imprisoned Hong Kong ex-publisher Jimmy Lai evokes grief over loss of press freedoms

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India ranks 2nd globally in enterprise AI usage

India has emerged as a global powerhouse in artificial intelligence (AI) adoption, ranking second only to the United States in enterprise AI/ML transactions, according to a report by cloud security major Zscaler.

The findings, released in the 'Zscaler ThreatLabz 2026 AI Security Report', come a week ahead of the high-stakes India AI Impact Summit 2026.

The summit, expected to be a gathering of global

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CRPF cop found dead

A CRPF was today found dead under mysterious circumstances in Hiranagar area of Kathua district of Jammu.

He was identified as Prabhu Nath.

Officials said he was first taken to the nearby Ghagwal hospital and later referred to the Government Medical College & Hospital (GMCH), Kathua, where doctors declared him brought dead.

Police had taken cognizance.

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Man detained for 'disrespecting' national flag

Police today detained a man for allegedly disrespecting the national flag at Nagri in Doda district of Jammu.

After a video of the incident went viral on social media, officials said.

Officials said a video uploaded on social media showed a man, who was later identified as Farooq Ahmed of Nagri, allegedly using the national flag to clean the window glass of his house.

As the act prima facie

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Rs 3,450 cr earned from bars, wine shops in 3 yrs

Himalayan Mail News JAMMU, FEB 10

The government today informed the legislative assembly that there was no proposal under consideration to declare J&K a dry zone, even as liquor sales had generated over Rs 3,450 cr in revenue during the last three financial years.

Prohibition could lead to increased smuggling from neighbouring states & UTs, growth of illegal distillation, strengthening of liquor mafias, and serious public health risks, the government said in a written reply to a question tabled by MLA Balwant

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Govt examining proposal to hike honorarium of MLAs' PAs

Himalayan Mail News JAMMU, FEB 10

The government on Tuesday said a proposal to enhance the monthly honorarium of personal assistants engaged with MLAs was under examination.

The information was provided by the finance department in a written reply to a question by Congress MLA Tariq Hameed Karra in the assembly.

Karra had asked whether it was a fact that PAs with MLAs had sought an increase in their monthly hon-

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God willing, we'll initiate regularisation of daily wagers this year: Omar

Highlights key features of Budget

Himalayan Mail News JAMMU, FEB 10

Highlighting key features of Budget and roadmap for the J&K's growth, chief minister Omar Abdullah today said that his government would initiate the process of regularisation of daily wagers this year.



He also reaffirmed the government's firm commitment to fulfilling all promises made to the people of Jammu and Kashmir, stating that 'Budget 2026-27 lays a strong foundation for sustained economic growth, social welfare and inclusive development across Jammu and Kashmir.'

"The government is focused on creating employment opportunities, strengthening core infrastructure, improving public services and ensuring that the benefits of development reach every sec-

tion of society in a transparent and time-bound manner," Omar said while replying to the discussion on Budget 2026-27, presented by him for the second consecutive year in the legislative assembly on February 6, 2026.

On the issue of regularisation of daily wage workers, he said, "God willing, we will initiate regularisation of daily wagers this

year and will continue to support them."

He said the opposition was finding it hard to digest the pro-people nature of the budget.

"Opposition is frustrated because we have presented a good and people-centric Budget for Jammu and Kashmir," he remarked.

He recalled that the SRO-based employment support for terrorism-hit

Govt-Oppn logjam breaks, LS takes up discussion on Budget

NEW DELHI, FEB 10:

Signalling the end of the gridlock between treasury and opposition benches, the Lok Sabha on Tuesday afternoon took up a discussion on the Union Budget, which had been held up for days over the opposition's demand that LoP Rahul Gandhi be allowed to speak on a variety of issues.

When the House assembled at 2 pm after two adjournments, Krishna Prasad Tenneti, who was in the Chair, asked Congress member Shashi Tharoor to initiate the debate and the Thiruvananthapuram MP started speaking on the issue.

The thaw came soon after opposition parties submitted a notice to bring a resolution to remove Om Birla as Speaker of the Lok Sabha.

Since February 2, the Lok Sabha has witnessed unruly scenes and repeated disruptions that led to the suspension of seven Congress members and one CPI(M) member for the rest of the Budget session.

Apprehending unpleasant scenes, Birla requested Prime Minister Narendra Modi not to attend the

House last week when he was to respond to the Motion of Thanks to the President's address.

Birla's claim that Congress members could create unpleasant scenes had further aggravated the stalemate between the government and the opposition.

The stalemate earlier intensified after the government released video footage showing women members from the opposition carrying banners, crossing over to the treasury side, and blocking the path to Prime Minister

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Days after India and the US announced in a joint statement the framework for an interim agreement

families was initiated in 1996 by former chief minister Farooq Abdullah, benefiting thousands.

Responding to the three-day-long debate, the chief minister expressed gratitude to all legislators who participated in the discussion.

"For the last three days, I have been standing here to respond to the debate on the budget. I thank all the MLAs who took part in the discussion. They gave valuable suggestions and we will try to implement many of them," he said.

He noted that the budget was widely discussed not only inside the House but also outside, and that people had largely responded positively.

"Generally, people were satisfied with the Budget. They understand that it is not easy to propel Jammu and Kashmir forward in these circumstances, but through this budget, a roadmap has been laid out

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Fact sheet on India-US trade deal released

NEW YORK/WASHINGTON, FEB 10:

In the coming weeks, the US and India will work towards finalising the interim agreement on trade with a view to concluding a mutually beneficial Bilateral Trade Agreement, the White House said today.

The two countries would also continue negotiations to address remaining issues, including services and investment, labour and government procurement, it said.

Days after India and the US announced in a joint statement the framework for an interim agreement

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Final voters' list out in Assam

NEW DELHI, FEB 10:

The final voters' list was published in poll-bound Assam on Tuesday with over 2.43 lakh names deleted from the draft roll, an EC official said.

Eligible voters, whose names were deleted from the electoral rolls during the Special Revision (SR) on the grounds of having "permanently shifted", can apply for inclusion of their names, officials said on Tuesday.

"People who have shifted from their earlier places of residence due to various reasons, including eviction drives, will find their

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2 IAS officers transferred, posted

Himalayan Mail News JAMMU, FEB 10

removal of the Speaker or Deputy Speaker of the Lok Sabha.

It states they may be removed by a resolution passed by a majority of all the then-members of the Lower House, but requires a 14-day notice before the motion is tabled. However, the motion itself is unlikely to be tabled, if it comes to that, before the end of this session of Parliament.

The two-half budget session ends February 13. The House will reconvene on March 9.

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Article 94C allows for the

SC seeks govt response on plea to exclude creamy layer from SC/STs

NEW DELHI, FEB 10: The Supreme Court on Tuesday asked the Centre to file its response to the plea seeking a direction to lay down criteria for exclusion of creamy layer of Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes from availing benefits of reservation in admissions and public employment.

A bench comprising Chief Justice Surya Kant and justices Joymalya Bagchi and N V Anjaria was hearing the petitions filed by O P Shukla and the Samta Andolan Samiti seeking enforcement of the landmark judgement of August 1, 2024 on reservation.

It asked the Centre to file its response on the pleas and said that they will be taken up after some time.

The creamy layer principle was laid down in the famous Mandal Commission judgement and under the principle, the affluent people among OBCs were barred from taking quota benefits in admissions and jobs.

In a landmark verdict, a seven-judge constitution bench headed by the then Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud, by a majority of 6:1, held that states are constitutionally empowered to make sub-classifications within the Scheduled Castes (SC), which form a socially heterogeneous class, for granting reservation for the uplift of castes that are socially and educationally more backward among them.

Justice B R Gavai (since retired), who was also part of the majority opinion, had held that the "finding of M Nagaraj, Jarnail Singh and Davinder Singh to the effect that creamy layer principle is also applicable to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes lays down the correct position of law".

Relying on the judgement, Shukla, sought a direction to the Centre and the states to "comply with the directions laid down by 7-judge constitution bench in State of Punjab & Ors. v. Devender Singh & Ors. 2024 INSC 562 dated 01.08.2024".

"Direct the Union of India and respective States to collect data on the inadequacy of representation of sub-classified Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the 'services of the Union/State' vis-a-vis the larger Class of Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe," the plea said.

One of the pleas, also sought a direction to the Centre and states to "lay down the objective criteria for exclusion of the creamy layer from the SCs, and STs for the purpose of affirmative action".

It also sought fixation of timeframe so as to come to the aid of the more 'disadvantaged' status of the sub-group of SCs and STs to which such preferential treatment is sought to be provided.

3 days before polls, Hindu trader hacked to death in Bangladesh

DHAKA, FEB 10: A 62-year-old Hindu trader

side the shop, and pulled down the shutters before fleeing.

Family members, who had been searching for him, later opened the shop and found Sarkar lying in a pool of blood.

The killing took place on Monday night at the Bogra Bazar intersection, Trishal Police Station officer-in-charge Muhammad Firoz Hossain said.

The victim, Susen Chandra Sarkar, owned Bhai Bhai Enterprise and hailed from Southkanda village. According to police, the attacker assaulted Sarkar with sharp weapons, left him critically injured in

those responsible.

The murder is the latest in a series of violent incidents affecting Bangladesh's minority communities. Hindus make up a small minority in Bangladesh, about 13.1 million people, or roughly 8 pc of the country's population of 170 million, while Muslims make up 91 pc.

The Bangladesh Hindu Buddhist Christian Unity Council, an umbrella group representing minority communities, says it documented more than 2,000 incidents of communal violence since the ouster of

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ECI extends SIR in poll-bound Bengal by 2 weeks

Final rolls on Feb 28

NEW DELHI, FEB 10:

The election commission on Tuesday extended the special intensive revision (SIR) deadline in poll-bound West Bengal by two weeks.

The roll revision in the TMC-ruled state will go on till February 21, and rolls will be published on February 28.

In compliance of the Hon'ble Supreme Court's direction, the Commission has decided to revise the programme of ongoing SIR in the State of West Bengal as follows," the letter said.

Under the revised schedule, hearings on notices will conclude by Feb-

February 9 order.

Earlier, the final voters' list was scheduled to be published on February 14, with elections to follow after completion of the exercise.

Rationalisation of polling stations is set to be finished by February 25, while health parameter checks will conclude by February 27. The final electoral roll will now be published on February 28, according to the letter shared by the CEO.

Supreme Court said Monday it would under no circumstances allow

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New rules notified

Govt makes AI-generated sexual abuse images punishable

NEW DELHI, FEB 10:

Notifying new rules, the government today brought in stricter obligations under which any synthetically generated information (SGI) or AI-generated content, that includes sexual abuse material, non-consensual intimate images, obscene or sexually explicit content, or fake documents or electronic records, would be treated as illegal.

Prince Kumar, sub-divisional magistrate, Kokernag, is transferred and posted as sub-divisional magistrate, Uri, vice Shubh

activity would also be dealt with under the same laws as other illegal online content.

The government notified amendments to the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021, that formally define AI-generated and synthetic content. The new rules will come into force from February 20, 2026.

The amendments define "audio, visual or audio-visual information" and "synthetically-generated information", covering

AI-created or altered content that appears real or authentic. Routine editing, accessibility improvements, and good-faith educational or design work are excluded from this definition.

Key changes include treating synthetic content as 'information'.

AI-generated content will be treated on par with other information for determining unlawful acts under IT rules.

Platforms must act on government or court orders

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India, China discuss trade concerns, stress peace to rebuild ties

NEW DELHI, FEB 10: India and China on Tuesday discussed ways to address "concerns" relating to trade and underlined the importance of maintaining peace and tranquillity in the border areas for overall progress in their relations.