

# NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL

## AI Impact Summit signals to world, India is serious about AI: CK Tandon

**NEW YORK, FEB 12:** A global Artificial Intelligence summit being hosted in New Delhi signals to the world that India is serious about AI and will provide opportunities to spur interesting collaborations, an eminent Indian-American business leader has said.

Chandrika Krishnamurthy Tandon, a distinguished philanthropist and Grammy-award winning artist, described efforts of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his government to prioritise AI as "stunningly impressive."

"I applaud this whole notion that we are trying to use AI to benefit all sectors of society, and that has been a stated goal of 'Viksit Bharat' and all of the broader initiatives," Tandon told PTI in an exclusive interview here Tuesday.

New Delhi is set to host the India AI Impact Summit 2026 on February 16-20. The Summit, announced by Prime Minister Modi at the France AI Action Summit, will be the first-ever global AI summit hosted in the Global South and will focus on the principles of 'People, Planet, and Progress'.

Noting that the AI Summit is bringing together government, industry, leading names in academia from different parts of the world, Tandon said "this is an opportunity to not just have conversations in the formal agenda, but the informal interactions that get built as a result of this are going to spur a lot of interesting collaborations and innovation."

"It also signals to the world that India is serious about AI. Given the demographic dividend that we have as a country, it's a tremendous opportunity for India to leverage that and give gifts to the world. Because I think India's learning will not be contained within India. Everyone can learn from it," she said.

Just a few weeks before the

"From agriculture to

A former partner at McKinsey, Tandon is the founder of strategic advisory and investment firm Tandon Capital Associates. She was also chair of the Board of the New York University Tandon School of Engineering, named after a generous gift of \$100 million from her and her husband for engineering at NYU.

Ranjan Tandon is an IIT Kanpur and Harvard Business School alumnus and founder and chairman of Libra Advisors.

Outlining the vision for the School, Tandon emphasized that the initiative will have a core focus on F.I.R.E – with the themes of foundational work about creating partnerships, impact, research and education.

"There's going to be a lot of focus on creating a new kind of thinker...we have to now teach people about critical thinking, ethical thinking, emotional thinking. Those are some of the issues that are going to change governance and management," she said adding that AI is going to be upending many functions and the future of work is going to be different.

"Ultimately, the goal of all this is to be able to help solve challenges for India and make it accessible. If we have great leaders, they can make better techniques available to the rest of their organisations, the country, the society," she said.

Tandon also highlighted that the School is also "hoping to create very interesting partnerships with other institutions. This is not a competition. This is a cooperative strategic strategy for the betterment of education in India." "AI is redefining territories, redefining business, redefining society. It's a genie that's come out of the bottle. It's not something we're going to contain. So we're going to have to think very carefully about impact – impact on security, productivity and on the future of work," she said.

Members of the National Assembly's intelligence committee said the National Intelligence Service (NIS) now assesses that Kim Ju Ae has progressed beyond being a potential successor and may be entering a stage where her succession is being actively prepared, according to South Korea's official Yonhap News Agency.

**LONDON, FEB 12:** A 13-year-old boy, arrested over the stabbing of two boys at a school in north-west London, has been charged with attempted murder and to appear before Westminster Magistrates Court, the UK's Metropolitan Police said on Thursday.

The boy, who cannot be named for legal reasons as a minor, has been charged with two counts of attempted murder, possession of a bladed article on school premises and administering a noxious substance spray and possession of a bladed article, namely a knife.

The Met Police have described him as a UK-born British national who was a former pupil at the Kingsbury High School in Brent, where he is said to have targeted two pupils aged 12 and 13 with a knife and a third with an insect spray on Tuesday.

"These are extremely serious charges against a young boy, and we continue to support the victims and their families, as well as the wider school community following this shocking incident," said Detective Chief Superintendent (DCS) Helen Flanagan, from Counter Terrorism.



Policing London.

"While we have now charged the boy with these offences, our investigation is ongoing, and detectives will continue to carry out enquiries in the local area. We are working closely with local policing colleagues in the Brent area, and I would also like to thank the school and the wider local community for their support in recent days," she said.

"The suspect went on to stab a 13-year-old boy, Child A, inside the classroom before running down the hallway and stairs. As he is leaving, he is said to have stabbed a 12-year-old boy, Child B, before running off and away from the school.

"Armed police attended the school, and a manhunt

was immediately stood up to try and locate and detain the suspect as quickly as possible. While urgent enquiries were being made to try and locate the suspect, police were called by a member of the public at approximately 16:15 hrs over concerns of a child who had been seen at a mosque in NW10.

"Officers attended shortly after and arrested the 13-year-old boy on suspicion of attempted murder, and he remains in custody. I must add at this point that we do not believe the suspect has any particular connection to the mosque. At this stage, we think it may have been coincidental he ended up in that area, and those at the mosque have been incredibly supportive of our investigation," said DCS Flanagan.

"CTP London has taken the lead for this investigation, and clearly that is because at the outset there was concern that the attack may have had some kind of terrorism motivation. In terms of the investigation, currently we are keeping an open mind as to any motivation. We are exploring a number of different potential motivations for the attack," she added.

## Kim Jong Un's daughter now seen as likely successor



According to details released by the Met Police earlier, the suspect entered the school on Tuesday afternoon and proceeded to a first-floor classroom where he sprayed a substance towards a pupil's face. Although the spray was not believed to have been noxious, the police are treating the boy named Child C as a victim in this case as well.

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In early 2024, the agency described Ju Ae, who is believed to have been born in 2013, as the most probable successor to Kim. At that time, officials suggested she appeared to be in training for a future leadership role. The latest briefing indicates the agency now sees signs that the process may be advancing.

The NIS said Pyongyang could consider engaging in dialogue with the United States under certain circumstances. North Korea has voiced objections to joint US-South Korea military activities and the deployment of American strategic assets in the region. (UNI)

## No Major Impact On Normal Life Due To One-Day Nationwide Strike Call

**NEW DELHI, FEB 12:** Normal life largely remained unaffected by the strike call given by a joint forum of central trade unions across the country on Thursday to protest against the alleged "anti-worker, anti-farmer and anti-national pro-corporate policies of the central government".

According to reports, a mixed response was seen in states including Odisha, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Goa, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Punjab.

Normal life was affected in port operations in Tamil Nadu, and workers staged protests. Port operations in Thoothukudi and Chennai bore the brunt of the agitation.

Public transport, markets, educational institutions, and business establishments were affected as major roads, including national and state highways, were blocked.

The bandh's impact was felt in all major urban areas, including Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Balasore, Berhampur and Sambalpur.

In Jharkhand, banking, insurance and coal sectors have been affected by the strike, Bank of India (BOI) Employees' Union state Deputy General Secretary Umesh Das said.

Left parties and the Congress have also extended their support to the strike in the state.

In Chhattisgarh, several nationalised banks remained closed as employees joined the strike. Staff of insurance companies, post offices, along with labourers and farmers, also participated in

the agitation, affecting operations in their respective sectors. Mining activities in the mineral-rich state were partially hit.

Travellers were among the worst affected, with KSRTC and private buses remaining off the roads.

Auto-rickshaw unions also announced that they would not operate during the strike.

Normal life was largely unaffected in many areas, including Durg district in Chhattisgarh, where operations at the Bhilai Steel Plant continued as usual.

Normal life was affected in port operations in Tamil Nadu due to a 12-hour nationwide agitation, as per reports.

Public transport, markets, educational institutions, and business establishments were affected as major roads, including national and state highways, were blocked.

The industrial hub of Sripurumbudur also witnessed significant activity as workers from several manufacturing units held gate meetings and demonstrations in solidarity with the strike.

While production in some major automobile and electronic facilities continued with reduced manpower, the movement of goods in the Sripurumbudur-Oragadam industrial belt faced delays due to the scarcity of transport vehicles.

In Kerala, though the state government declared a diesnon (a day when no legal business is carried on) for government employees, attendance at offices was expected to remain low as transport vehicles remained off the roads.

Apart from government of

usual across the state.

It had little impact in Gujarat, with most services and commercial establishments functioning as usual across the state.

Normal life remained largely unaffected in major cities, including Ahmedabad, Surat, Vadodara and Rajkot.

Markets, shops, industrial units and educational institutions operated without disruption, while public transport services and autorickshaws ran without any problem.

The joint forum of trade unions has claimed that 30 crore workers are being mobilised for a "general strike" to protest against the new Labour Codes, among other issues.

All India Trade Union Congress General Secretary Amarjeet Kaur told PTI that the general strike has started across the country on Thursday morning, and that she has received reports of agitation from states, including Assam, Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry, Kerala, Odisha and Bihar.

She also informed about the processions in the industrial areas of New Delhi and that traffic on the roads is relatively light.

Kaur said banking, insurance, postal, transport, health, coal and non-coal mines, gas pipeline and electricity sectors will be affected by the strike.

She further said the farmers' unions are also holding protests in their respective areas.

## CPI-M MP flags 500 bank employee deaths due to work stress, urges end to 'slavery' in sector

**NEW DELHI, FEB 12:** CPI-M leader from Kerala AA Rahim on Thursday in the Rajya Sabha raised concern over alarming working conditions in public sector banks, claiming around 500 employees have died by suicide in the last decade due to work-related stress, harassment and workplace abuse.

Raising the issue during Zero Hour, Rahim cited multiple instances of bank employees taking their own lives, unable to cope with mounting work pressure and "impossible targets".

"I am not able to bear it anymore. I have lost the will to live," a bank employee in Gujarat told a superior officer over the phone before

"This list is endless, sir," Rahim told the House, adding that bank employees

committing suicide, the MP said.

He recounted several such incidents between 2021 and 2024, including a chief manager of Union Bank who hanged himself and wrote in his suicide note that "staff should not be assigned impossible targets..."

A branch manager in Tamil Nadu ended his life, leaving behind a one-year-old daughter, while a 38-year-old bank manager hanged herself inside a bank in Kannur, Kerala, writing in her death note: "I am unable to cope with the work pressure."

"The number of businesses and branches of public sector banks is increasing, but the number of staff is decreasing," he said.

Rahim alleged that the fundamental duty of the Indian public banking sector had "drastically changed" from making financial transactions easier for common

people and ensuring their financial security to functioning as a "market for third-party products of Indian and foreign corporates".

He said unrealistic targets were being assigned to bank employees to sell third-party products such as private insurance and mutual funds, in addition to targets related to government schemes like Atal Pension Yojana and Sukanya Samridhi Yojana.

"Many employees are forced not to leave the bank even at night without achieving their daily target," the CPI-M leader said.

"Stop the slavery in the Indian public banking sector," Rahim urged, calling for immediate intervention. (PTI)

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