

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



summit, Tandon and her husband Ranjan Tandon exchanged a Memorandum of Understanding with the Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad (IIMA) for the establishment of the Krishnamurthy Tandon School of Artificial Intelligence at the prestigious institution.

The School will be established through a generous endowment of 100 crore rupees by Tandon, an alumna of IIMA’s Class of 1975, and her husband.

She termed the establishment of the dedicated school of Artificial Intelligence at the Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad as a “real milestone for India” and underlined that learnings in India about translational AI will hold deep relevance for the world.

“This will create a school of data science and AI at IIM Ahmedabad, my alma mater, and it is going to be the first-of-its-kind in a management institution. I think it’s a real milestone for India. The focus of this School will be on translational research to look at how AI is going to affect different segments of management, different functions in management, and different industrial verticals,” she said.

“From agriculture to

healthcare to education, this will really look at what are the specific problems and what is AI going to do towards that,” she said.

“The research around translational issues and challenges, defining the problems, asking questions and harnessing data for that is where I think real breakthroughs are going to happen. And what we learn in India is going to be relevant to the world in more than one way,” she said.

The MoU was exchanged on January 29 this year in the presence of Minister of Education Dharmendra Pradhan and Ambassador Vinay Kwatra virtually in the US. Pradhan had said that the MoU in the lead-up to the India-AI Impact Summit 2026 is a “solid reflection” of the concrete actions the country is taking to become a global AI superpower.

He also expressed confidence that the Krishnamurthy Tandon School of Artificial Intelligence will work towards “boosting India’s AI capabilities, democratising AI, creating jobs from India for the global AI economy and harnessing AI for creating a global impact in improving lives and advancing social good.”

A former partner at McK-

insey, 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.

Teenager charged with attempted murder in UK school double stabbing

**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.

Her team continues to lead the investigation “due to circumstances surrounding the incident”, but the stabbings have not been declared a terrorist incident. The two boys taken to the hospital with stab wounds remain there in a “stable condition”.

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.

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

Kim Jong Un’s daughter now seen as likely successor

**SEOUL, FEB 12:** South Korea’s intelligence agency believes North Korean leader Kim Jong Un may be moving closer to formally naming his daughter as his heir, law-makers said Thursday after a confidential parliamentary briefing.

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.

Her repeated appearances



at high-profile national events, including military commemorations and a recent visit to the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun, the mausoleum dedicated to North Korea’s former leader, were cited as notable developments.

The NIS said it plans to closely observe whether Ju Ae attends an upcoming key meeting of the ruling Workers’ Party and whether she is granted any formal position or title, moves that could further clarify her political standing.

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.

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

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.”

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

were “exhausted, overburdened and chronically understaffed”.

He said even at night, bank employees could be seen working in public sector banks across the country.

Citing data provided in the Lok Sabha, the MP said that as of June 2025, 32,567 posts were lying vacant in public sector banks alone.

“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)

If You Want To Hang Us, We Are Ready: Cong’s Venugopal On Notice To Cancel Rahul’s LS Membership



**NEW DELHI, FEB 12:** “We are not bothered about any motions and if you want to hang us, we are ready for that also,” said Congress general secretary K C Venugopal on Thursday after BJP MP Nishikant Dubey gave a notice to initiate a ‘substantive motion’ against Rahul Gandhi.

Venugopal lashed out at the government over

Gandhi’s certain remarks in the House being expunged from the records on Wednesday, saying questions were asked as to why “we took an extreme position” to submit a notice for the removal of the Lok Sabha speaker.

The answer to that is “we have not been getting justice from the chair”, he said.

His remarks came after Dubey said he has given a notice to initiate a ‘substantive motion’ against Gandhi, and demanded that the former Congress chief’s Lok Sabha membership be cancelled and he be debarred from contesting elections for life.

Speaking to PTI videos in Parliament House complex,

Dubey said that in his notice, he has stated how the Leader of the opposition visits foreign countries, joining hands with the Soros Foundation, USAID, Ford Foundation and “colludes” with anti-India elements.

Asked about the ruling party’s actions against Gandhi’s remarks in the Lok Sabha during the discussion on the budget, Venugopal said, “Which privilege has Rahul Gandhi broken? They removed his membership last time.

“What happened afterwards was that people ensured his victory with more votes compared to that of Modi ji... We are not both-

ered about any motions, if you want to hang us, we are ready for that also... we will continue to tell the truth in Parliament.” On Gandhi’s remarks being expunged, Venugopal said the government is pressuring the chair not to give a chance to the members of the opposition to speak.

“Whatever Rahul ji said is completely expunged from the records. Whatever Nirmala Sitharaman said, the same remarks were included in the records. The government has double standards... This Parliament is running for the government, not for the opposition,” he said. (Agencies)

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.

However, transport services in the state functioned normally, and shops, markets and most business establishments remained open.

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

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

The industrial hub of Sriperumbudur 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 Sriperumbudur-Oragadam industrial belt faced delays due to the scarcity of transport vehicles.

In Kerala, though the state government declared a diesel non (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-

fices, shops and businesses were also likely to remain closed due to the nationwide 24-hour strike.

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.

Punjab’s ruling party, AAP, has extended support to the nationwide strike.

The party announced that its cadre across Punjab and the rest of the country would join the shutdown shoulder-to-shoulder with workers and farmers.

The agitation drew a mixed response in Goa, with banking operations affected while essential services remained undisrupted. Nationalised banks and offices of many insurance companies remained shut in the coastal state.

Over 25,000 civilian employees working with defence establishments across Madhya Pradesh reported to work an hour late on Thursday to support the strike. Markets, schools and colleges remained open across the state.

The strike call failed to evoke any response in West Bengal as vehicles plied normally and state government and private offices recorded usual turnout.

Similarly, the strike call failed to evoke much response in Tripura. Government offices, banks, educational institutions, and markets remained open, while road transport and train services operated as

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.