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J&K's debt at Rs 1.37 lakh cr to be offset by increased GSDP: Omar ate the impact of rising debt on the Union Territory. Abdullah said that his government had ensured that borrowings were not directed towards unproductive expenditure.

"A substantial portion of funds has been channelled into capital expenditure, infrastructure development, power sector reforms and asset creation, strengthening long-term growth potential," he said.

Capital outlays during the period under review, the chief minister said, consistently supported roads, power infrastructure, health facilities and other productive sectors.

He also asserted that borrowings were kept within the prescribed limits of the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) framework, with an emphasis on calibrated market borrowings, improved cash management and prioritisation of development-linked spending.

"The concern that rising internal debt has occurred without commensurate creation of productive assets is not established by the data," Abdullah said, adding, "The improving debt-to-GSDP ratio and sustained capital investment clearly indicate responsible fiscal management."

### SMVDSB enhancing puja samagri procurement from SHGs to Rs 12 cr: LG

tees. It will be a living emblem of India's eternal culture, collective faith, resilience, and profound spiritual-cultural consciousness," Sinha said.

"Devotees visiting the holy cave shrine of Mata Vaishno Devi will also come to the Shankaracharya Temple, generating significant economic momentum across the region. This influx will create employment opportunities, strengthen local enterprises, and inject fresh energy into overall regional development," he added.

During his visit to Katra, the LG also presided over 'Samridh Nari, Samridh Bharat' programme at Spiritual Growth Centre, where he interacted with women entrepreneurs of Self-Help Groups of Reasi and adjoining areas.

He reiterated the board's commitment towards keeping spiritual hubs vibrant while prioritising devotees' comfort, safety, and dignity.

"When sacred sites thrive with vitality, they spark renewed faith and unlock paths to progress," he said.

"SMVDSB has consistently prioritised welfare of local communities. It has not only generated a large-scale local employment and supported extensive business activity, but has also contributed significantly to shaping a renewed social and cultural identity in the Union Territory," he said.

The board in a recent meeting had approved key decisions to transform the shrine and surrounding area into India's premier vibrant spiritual hub, he said.

"The soul of J&K UT is deeply rooted in India's rich civilisational heritage, so we have decided to channel vedic education's vast wisdom to the youth to nurture this legacy. Through the Gurukul initiative, SMVDSB will nurture youth who will uphold sacred traditions and perform religious practices with authenticity and understanding," he added.

The LG also shared his vision for the future of the holy town. "I envision Katra carving a unique global identity in the coming years- drawing investments, superior infrastructure with Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board support, booming business activity, and boundless opportunities for the youth," he said.

He highlighted that the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board envisions building a world-class cultural and spiritual center-one that provides society with a foundation of lasting stability.

Suresh Kumar Sharma and Gunjan Rana, Members, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board; Prof. Pragati Kumar, Vice-Chancellor SMVDU; Shri Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner Jammu; Mohd Ajaz Asad, Secretary Rural Development & PR; Sarah Rizvi, DIG Udhampur and Reasi Range; Shri Sachin Kumar Vaishya, CEO SMVDSB; Nidhi Malik, Deputy Commissioner Reasi; senior officers of Police and Civil Administration, members of women self-help groups from Reasi and adjoining districts attended the function.

### Govt examining proposal to raise upper age limit for JKCEC exam

JKCEC 2018 rules, overall service requirements, cadre management considerations, and comparative recruitment standards followed in other jurisdictions.

The government said that prior to the issuance of SRO 103 of 2018, the upper age limit for appearing in the combined competitive examination was 30 years for Open Merit candidates and 32 years for candidates belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes and those holding a civil post in the UT in a substantive capacity or having served in a temporary post continuously for at least three years.

The minister said that rules unveiled in 2018 prescribed 32 years upper age limit for Open Merit category candidates, 34 years for reserved categories and in-service candidates and 35 years for physically handicapped candidates.

### 5 HDFC Bank employees arrested for financial fraud

said and identified them as Adil Ayoub Ganai, Irfan Majeed Zargar, Mubashir Hussain Sheikh, Zaid Manzoor and Javaid Ahmad Bhat.

"Searchers are presently underway at multiple locations in Shopian and Budgam areas to collect material evidence in the case," officials said, adding that a written complaint brought the financial fraud at the branch to light.

Officials did not provide further details regarding the alleged crime or the modus operandi used by the accused.

### 5 detained as manhunt for juvenile home escapee continues

(20) and Ahsan Anwar (21), had attacked police personnel and fled from the juvenile home at about 5 pm on Monday. Two cops were injured in the incident.

A purported video of the gangster, said to be associated with the 'Khauff' gang, showing Gugga resorting to a few rounds of firing inside the juvenile home, is circulating on social media, drawing public concern.

Officials said Gugga, who was believed to be the mastermind of the escape, was still at large, and efforts were on to trace him.

"Special teams have been fanned out within and outside Jammu to nab him," officials said, adding that his mother was also missing from her Jammu residence and

was believed to be accompanying him.

Officials said five people, who were in regular contact with the gangster inside the juvenile home, had been detained for questioning.

He was arrested along with nearly a dozen other accused in connection with the murder of rival gang member Sumit Jandiyal alias 'Gatatu' in Jewel Chowk area in January last year and was subsequently lodged in the juvenile home.

Six police personnel, including an assistant sub-inspector, were placed under suspension for dereliction of duty in connection with the incident.

### India beat Netherlands in T20 WC match

Sharma registering his third duck in a row. However, Shivam Dube smashed 66 off 31, while captain Suryakumar Yadav (34), Hardik Pandya (30) and Tilak Varma (28) contributed cameos as India posted 193/6 in 20 overs.

In response, Netherlands managed 176/7 in 20 overs.

Varun Chakravarthy scalped three wickets, including two in two balls, while Dube took two and Jasprit Bumrah impressed. The victory means India have won all four of their group games, maintaining a 100% record heading into the Super 8 stage.

### Death-cum-retirement gratuity ceiling raised to Rs 25 lakh

secretary finance, attention was invited to Note 8 below Article 240-BB of the Jammu and Kashmir Civil Service Regulations, Volume I, added vide SRO-194 dated April 24, 2018, which provides that the ceiling on Death-cum-Retirement Gratuity will increase by 25 pc whenever the Dearness Allowance rises by 50 pc of the basic pay.

Vide Government Order No 178-F of May 21, 2024, it was ordered that government employees working in the regular pay levels under 7th Pay Commission recommendations shall be paid Dearness Allowance at the revised rate of 50% of Basic Pay with effect from January 1, 2024.

References have been received in the Finance Department seeking clarification regarding enhancement of the maximum limit of Death-cum-Retirement Gratuity, consequent upon the Dearness Allowance reaching 50 pc, with effect from January 1, 2024.

The matter has been examined and it is hereby clarified that, subject to other conditions prescribed under the rules governing grant of Death-cum-Retirement Gratuity, the maximum limit of Death-cum-Retirement Gratuity shall be deemed to have been enhanced by 25 pc from existing ceiling, ie, from Rs 20 lakh to Rs 25 lakh, with effect from January 1, 2024, the date on which dearness allowance reached 50 pc of the basic pay, it reads.

### India major global talent hub, says EAM Jaishankar

economic transformation, noting the need for countries to manage talent flows while ensuring legality, transparency, and fairness.

"We are living through a period of profound transformation in the global economy. De-risking is a growing priority. Supply chains are being reconfigured. Technology is reshaping work. Demographics are diverging sharply across geographies. The concept of a global workforce is an emerging reality. Countries that can connect talent flows with seizing opportunity, while ensuring legality, transparency and fairness, will be best positioned to navigate this transition," he said.

On the role of AI, the EAM said the focus of the India AI Impact Summit has been on recognising AI's potential to bridge divides, amplify growth, enable social progress, and deliver solutions at scale.

Highlighting India's partnership with the European Union, Jaishankar noted that shared values and strategic convergence had strengthened ties between the two sides.

"India's partnership with the EU is promising not just because of our shared values, but because we see each other today as natural and preferred partners with more strategic convergence than ever before. The conclusion of negotiations for an India-EU FTA, the signing of the Security and Defence Partnership, and other concrete outcomes of the 16th India-EU Summit have put forward a roadmap for our shared future. The adoption of the 'Towards 2030' Joint Comprehensive Strategic Agenda at the Summit opens up a new chapter in our ties, a chapter towards mutual prosperity, security, and sustainability," he said.

The European Union inaugurated the first-ever European Legal Gateway Office in New Delhi, in the presence of Henna Virkkunen, EU Executive Vice-President for Tech Sovereignty, Security and Democracy, and EAM Jaishankar.

According to a statement, the European Legal Gateway Office in India is the first of its kind in a partner country and will facilitate safe, legal, and well-informed migration and mobility from India to EU Member States in the ICT sector.

It will support Indian students, researchers, and professionals in the ICT sector by providing clear, reliable information on mobility pathways and the skills and qualification requirements across all 27 EU Member States. It will also support EU-based employers and higher education institutions in engaging with Indian talent.

The European Legal Gateway Office in India will operate through three connected pillars: a Gateway Office in India, a Support Office in the EU, and a digital tool that will function as a one-stop hub for clear and reliable information on work, study, and research mobility opportunities, the statement said.

### PM meets Google CEO, discusses AI collaborations

ongoing India AI Impact Summit, which is being held at Bharat Mandapam here alongside an expo.

"It was a delight to meet Sundar Pichai on the sidelines of the AI Impact Summit in Delhi. Talked about the work India is doing in AI and how Google can work with our talented students and professionals in this field," Modi wrote on X.

The prime minister on Monday visited the India AI Impact Expo here, featuring more than 600 high-potential startups and 13 country pavilions showcasing international collaboration in the AI ecosystem. Over 20 heads of state, 60 ministers and 500 global AI leaders are attending the summit.

### Allocations for women, children jump 11.55 pc to Rs 5.01 trn

Rs 3,63,412.37 crore (72.54 per cent) has been reported by 28 ministries and one UT.

Meanwhile, Rs 29,777.94 crore (5.95 per cent) has been reported by 37 ministries and five UTs under Part C, which includes schemes with less than 30 per cent allocation for women.

Among the top ministries that reported more than 30 per cent of their allocations in the gender budget in 2026-27 include the Ministry of Women & Child Development

(81.73 per cent), Department of Rural Development (69.92 per cent) and Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (48.60 per cent).

### ECI sets Mar 16 date for biennial RS polls to 37 seats

stressing that no other writing instrument is permitted.

Reiterating its commitment to a fair and impartial process, the EC said the biennial elections would be completed within the prescribed constitutional timeline to uphold the integrity of the Rajya Sabha electoral process.

### House hails J&K's historic entry into Ranji Trophy finals

The Speaker lauded the players, coaching staff and support team for their dedication, discipline and fighting spirit throughout the tournament.

"This historic achievement has filled the entire region with pride and joy, inspiring the aspiring cricketers across Jammu and Kashmir to pursue excellence in sports," he said.

He expressed confidence that the team would continue its winning momentum in the final and bring greater glory to J&K.

Rather conveyed his best wishes to the players for the upcoming title match, stating that their remarkable performance had already etched their names in the annals of J&K's sporting history.

### AI emerging as key enabler of inclusive growth: Kavinder

native AI-based solutions showcased at the summit, particularly those aimed at improving governance efficiency, public service delivery, healthcare, education and digital inclusion.

Gupta said that under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India had emerged as a global voice for innovation with responsibility.

He noted that the Prime Minister's vision of Digital India, AI for All and technology-led governance had laid a strong foundation for leveraging emerging technologies to empower citizens, strengthen institutions and ensure development reaches the last mile.

"India AI Summit has brought together heads of states, ministers, policymakers, industry leaders and technology experts from across the globe, reinforcing India's leadership role in framing global AI discourse. The summit reflects international confidence in India's technological capabilities and its commitment to developing AI systems that are transparent, ethical and aligned with democratic values," he said.

Highlighting the relevance of artificial intelligence for frontier regions, the LG said that Ladakh, with its unique geography, strategic importance and developmental challenges, stands to benefit significantly from AI-driven interventions.

"The Union Territory aims to harness artificial intelligence for smart administration, predictive governance, environmental monitoring, disaster management, climate resilience, tourism management and youth empowerment," he added.

He also highlighted Ladakh's strong potential as a suitable destination for Data Centres, citing its naturally cold climate, clean energy prospects and low humidity, which significantly reduce cooling requirements and enhance energy efficiency.

"Ladakh offers long-term advantages for sustainable and green data infrastructure, aligned with India's data sovereignty and digital security objectives. The Union Territory is well placed to emerge as a strategic hub for next-generation data centres supporting artificial intelligence, cloud computing and digital governance, while ensuring minimal environmental impact," he said.

"Ladakh is working towards becoming the country's first AI-enabled city, leveraging technology to enhance urban governance, improve quality of life and promote sustainable & inclusive development. With strong institutional support, innovation partnerships and the guidance of PM Modi, Ladakh can emerge as a national model for AI-led, future-ready development, particularly in remote and high-altitude regions," he added.

Gupta expressed confidence that the outcomes of the India AI Summit would further strengthen international cooperation, accelerate innovation and reinforce India's journey towards becoming a global AI powerhouse, while ensuring that technology remains people-centric, inclusive and development-oriented.

### India focused on practical applications of AI: Vaishnav

pact Summit, the minister also expressed happiness over the strong participation and optimism shown by young people at an AI Expo on Tuesday.

He informed that about 2.5 lakh attendees, mostly under the age of 30, took part across the exhibition area.

"It was a phenomenal response when I interacted with the young minds. I was so surprised by the optimism that most of the young people expressed towards this opportunity which is coming for them," Vaishnav said.



Today Camras David Babbloo President India Masih seva Dal, Parshotam Mehra Advisor All India masih seva & Rinku Gill vice President All India masih seva Dal welcome & Honour Er Balkar Anjurana for his assignment as posting as CTO Jammu Municipal Corporation. All India masih seva Dal said that Er. Balkar is very Honest officer & very helpful to the General public.

The minister said he was feeling hopeful for a totally new future for India and for the world.

"We, in India, are very focused on AI in the edge, AI for use cases, AI for solving real-world problems, AI for improving the productivity in the enterprises, for population-scale problems like healthcare, like agriculture, like climate change. These are things we are focussed on here in India. And the AI submit brings that opportunity," he said.

The minister asked participants of the symposium to come out with solid concrete suggestions on how to make AI safe. AI is a great tool and should be used for the benefit of humans.

The India AI Impact Summit, one of the country's largest global gatherings on artificial intelligence, has brought together policymakers, industry leaders and technology experts, and deliberations are on around AI innovation, governance and real-world applications in New Delhi.

### Ukraine peace talks end in Geneva without breakthrough

international guarantees, leaving little room for tactical compromise.

The US role in the talks was largely that of a facilitator and pressure point, seeking to test whether limited confidence-building measures or humanitarian steps could open the door to broader negotiations.

The lack of progress suggests that Washington currently sees more value in maintaining diplomatic channels than in expecting near-term results, especially as battlefield dynamics and domestic political considerations in all three countries continue to shape negotiating positions.

While the Geneva talks ended without tangible outcomes, their very convening signals that back-channel and formal diplomacy remain active alongside the war. Political analysts quoted in the reports note that such meetings often serve as probes rather than deal-making forums, helping each side assess red lines and internal cohesion.

For now, however, the failure to narrow differences reinforces expectations that any meaningful movement toward ending the conflict is likely to depend less on conference rooms and more on shifts in military, economic and political calculations on the ground, they said.

### Indian Navy vigilant in safeguarding maritime interests: Murmu

building bridges of trust, confidence and friendship with navies around the globe.

Murmu addressed the IFR after she sailed to review several Indian and foreign vessels.

"The International Fleet Review reflects unity, trust and respect among nations for maritime traditions. Ships with different flags and sailors from different countries exhibit the spirit of togetherness," she said.

She highlighted that this spirit of togetherness is well captured in the theme of this review: United Through Oceans. "It is a positive message to the global community that commitment and resolve of this collective naval strength can overcome all challenges," she said.

"India's approach to international relations including the maritime domain is guided by our ethos of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' or 'the world is one family'. This approach reflects the wisdom that global security and growth, sustainability and stability are built through partnerships. This spirit of partnership is the bedrock of an enduring global order. Therefore, India believes that a