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Modi holds roundtable with 16 heads of AI, deeptech startups

therapy, and efficient patient record management to extend quality care to the last mile.

In agriculture, they leverage geospatial and underwater intelligence to boost productivity and help manage climate risks.

The group also included ventures focused on cybersecurity, ethical AI, space, social empowerment through vernacular access to justice and education, and modernising legacy systems to strengthen enterprise productivity.

"Together, they reflect an ecosystem addressing local needs while building global leadership in AI-driven innovation," the statement added.

It further said AI startups praised India's sustained push to strengthen its artificial intelligence ecosystem.

"They highlighted the sector's rapid expansion and immense untapped potential, noting that the global momentum of AI innovation and deployment is increasingly shifting toward India," it said.

The startups noted that the country now offers a supportive and dynamic environment for AI advancement, firmly establishing its presence on the global AI landscape.

The participants also lauded the India AI Impact Summit, describing it as a reflection of the country's growing stature in shaping the global conversations around AI.

The roundtable meeting was attended by CEOs and founders of Abridge, Adalat AI, BrainSightAI, Credo AI, Eka Care, Glean, Innogle, Invideo, Miko, Origin, Prop-haze, Rasen, Rubrik, SatSure, Supernova and Sypha AI.

Principal Secretary P K Mishra, Principal Secretary-2 Shaktikanta Das and Minister of State Jitin Prasada were also present during the meeting.

India witnessing civilisational awakening under PM Modi's leadership: LG

has firmly established as an emerging global power through inclusive growth, technology growth and world-class infrastructure," Sinha said.

"We have reached an era where fresh energy surges in every direction of progress, while a remarkable renaissance of spiritual and cultural consciousness takes shape," he added.

"The India, that will stand tall as a developed nation by 2047, will be driven by economic aspirations and it will also be an India that is spiritually enriched, culturally self-assured, and fully awakened to its true identity," the LG said.

Pak violates ceasefire along LoC

After the firing, vigil was further stepped up in the area, the officials added.

CEO placed under suspension

placed under suspension.

"During the period of suspension, he will remain attached to the office of the directorate of school education, Kashmir," says the order.

3 IAS officers relieved after transfer

enable them to join their new places of posting, says the order.

No power tariff hike since Dec 2023: CM

Responding to a supplementary regarding rationalisation of power tariff, the chief minister said, "Tariff determination falls within the domain of regulatory authority, ie Joint Electricity Regulatory Commission (JERC). Tariff is fixed strictly in accordance with the rationale and parameters laid down by the regulator."

He clarified that aggregate technical and commercial (AT&C) losses were not realised from consumers.

NH toll plazas may go cashless from Apr 1

The authority said it is contemplating completely discontinuing cash transactions at the National Highway fee plazas across the country from April 1, 2026, in order to develop a fully digital National Highway tolling ecosystem.

The proposed measure is aimed at consolidating the gains achieved in Electronic Toll Collection and strengthening the efficiency & reliability of National Highway fee plaza operations, it said.

The transition will help to enhance 'Ease of Commuting' for National Highway users by improving lane throughput, reducing congestion at fee plazas and bringing greater consistency and transparency in toll transactions.

In the past few years, over 98 per cent penetration of FASTag has significantly transformed toll collection practices in the country. At present, an overwhelming

proportion of toll transactions are processed electronically through RFID-enabled FASTag affixed to vehicles, facilitating seamless and contactless movement across toll plazas.

In addition, UPI payment facilities have been operationalized at the National Highway toll plazas, ensuring availability of instant and accessible digital payment options for National Highway commuters nationwide.

As per National Highway fee rules, vehicles entering a fee plaza without a valid, functional FASTag are charged twice the applicable user fee, if the fee payment is made in cash. Whereas National Highway users who opt to pay via UPI are charged only 1.25 times of the user fee for the applicable vehicle category.

These initiatives have collectively advanced the objective of reducing dependency on cash transactions and digitizing the tolling framework.

Plaza-level assessments indicate that cash-based payments contribute to congestion, increased waiting times during peak traffic periods and transaction-related disputes.

A complete transition to digital only mode of payment will strengthen operational efficiency, improve traffic management, minimise delays and enhance overall National Highway user experience at over 1.150 fee plazas on various National Highways and Expressways in the country.

MEA on India's engagement with new Bangladesh govt

ing things forward," Jaiswal said.

Responding to a query on visa-related issues, Jaiswal said India had conveyed its desire to build and strengthen bilateral ties and that all aspects of the relationship will be discussed with the new government.

He added, "We have conveyed a desire to build and strengthen our bilateral ties. We have a new government which has come in all aspects of our ties will be discussed with them."

Earlier, Om Birla attended the swearing-in ceremony of Bangladesh's new Prime Minister Tarique Rahman in Dhaka and conveyed a personal invitation from Prime Minister Narendra Modi to visit India.

According to a release from the Lok Sabha Secretariat, on behalf of the people of India, Birla extended warm congratulations to Tarique Rahman and reiterated that India stands ready to support Bangladesh's efforts to build a democratic, progressive, and inclusive nation.

He also reaffirmed India's commitment to strengthening the enduring partnership between the two neighbouring countries.

On the sidelines of the ceremony, Birla met with several other leaders, including Mohamed Muizzu, President of the Maldives, and Tshering Tobgay, Prime Minister of Bhutan, underscoring India's engagement in the region.

PM Modi also extended a warm invitation to the BNP chairman to visit India at a mutually convenient time.

In his letter, PM Modi also invited Tarique's wife, Zubaida Rahman, and daughter, Zaima, to accompany him.

"I take this opportunity to invite you, along with Dr Zubaida Rahman and your daughter Zaima, on a visit to India at a mutually convenient time. A warm welcome awaits you in India. Please accept, Excellency, my best wishes for your good health and success and for the continued progress and prosperity of the people of Bangladesh," the letter from the PM stated.

He added that he looks forward to working closely with the newly appointed Bangladesh PM to strengthen bilateral relations and enhance regional cooperation in areas including connectivity, trade, technology, education, skills development, energy, healthcare, and cultural and people-to-people exchanges.

"As two fast-growing economies and aspiring societies, India and Bangladesh can truly become catalysts for each other's sustainable growth, work for each other's security and enable mutual prosperity," the letter read.

In a historic political shift, BNP Chairman Tarique Rahman was sworn in as the Prime Minister of Bangladesh on Tuesday.

BNP won a landslide victory in the February 12 general elections, with the party-led alliance securing a commanding 212 seats in the 300-seat parliament.

Terrorists injured; AK, other items recovered

rorists, officials.

During subsequent searches, forces found the blood trails leading towards PoJK. Further search led them to the recovery of one AK rifle, two magazines with ammunition, three rucksacks, blankets, rations and clothing from the

area, the officials added.

Searches were continuing in the area when reports last came in, officials said.

SC directs deployment of judicial officers in Bengal's SIR exercise

ernment officials in the SIR process.

The top court also directed the Calcutta High Court Chief Justice to hold a meeting by Saturday of all the stakeholders including the chief secretary, DGP and an official from the EC.

Logical discrepancies in progeny linking with the 2002 voter list include instances of a mismatch in the parent's name and the age difference between a voter and their parent being less than 15 years or more than 50 years.

Rejecting the state government's objections, the Bench allowed the EC to publish a final list of voters in West Bengal by the February 28 deadline. However, it said the poll panel could come out with supplementary lists later. No prejudice will be caused to anyone if supplementary voter lists are issued after February 28 as names of electors can be included till the last date of filing of nomination papers for the elections, it added.

The Bench lamented that constant bickering between the West Bengal government and the Election Commission was delaying the SIR process in the state.

20 IAS, 2 JKAS officers transferred, posted

sioner/secretary, planning, development and monitoring department. She shall also hold the charge of the post of administrative secretary, information department, in addition to her own duties, till further orders.

Yasha Mudgal, commissioner/secretary, youth services and sports department, is transferred and posted as commissioner/secretary, cooperatives department.

Shahid Iqbal Choudhary, commissioner/secretary, science and technology department, is transferred and posted as commissioner/secretary, youth services and sports department.

Piyush Singla, secretary, information technology department, shall also hold the charge of the post of administrative secretary, public grievances department, in addition to his own duties, till further orders, relieving Naveen S L of the additional charge of the post.

JKAS officer Babila Rakwal, commissioner/secretary, cooperatives department, is transferred and posted as commissioner/secretary, science and technology department.

Anjali Sehrawat, awaiting orders of adjustment in GAD, is posted as Mission Director, Jal Jeevan Mission vice Khurshid Ahmad Shah (JKAS), who shall await further orders of posting in GAD.

Nidhi Malik, deputy commissioner, Reasi, is transferred and posted as Inspector General of Registration, J&K, vice Bashir Ahmad Bhat, who shall await further orders in GAD.

Owais Ahmed, director, food, civil supplies and consumer affairs, Kashmir, holding additional charge of the post of special secretary, planning, development and monitoring department, is transferred and posted as director, skill development, J&K. He shall continue to hold the additional charge of the post of special secretary, planning, development and monitoring department, in addition to his own duties, till further orders.

Sagar D Dattatray, awaiting orders of adjustment in GAD, is posted as director, food, civil supplies and consumer affairs, Kashmir.

Athar Aamir Ul Shafi Khan, deputy commissioner, Kulgam, is transferred and posted as deputy commissioner, Budgam.

Kumar Abhishek, awaiting orders of adjustment in the general administration department, is posted as deputy commissioner, Reasi.

Akriti Sagar, awaiting orders of adjustment in the general administration department, is posted as managing director, national health mission, J&K. She shall also hold the charge of the post of special secretary, health & medical education department, in addition to her own duties, till further orders.

Bilal Mohiud Din Bhat, deputy commissioner, Budgam, is transferred and posted as deputy commissioner, Anantnag.

Minga Sherpa, deputy commissioner, Baramulla, is transferred and posted as deputy commissioner, Udhampur, vice Saloni Rai, who shall await further orders of posting in the general administration department.

Syeed Fakhruddin Hamid, deputy commissioner, Anantnag, is transferred and posted as deputy commissioner, Baramulla.

Harvinder Singh, deputy commissioner, Doda, is trans-

ferred and posted as director, employment, J&K. He shall also hold the charge of the posts of chief executive officer, mission youth and mission director, mission YUVA, in addition to his own duties, till further orders.

Shahzad Alam, director, employment, J&K, holding additional charge of the posts of chief executive officer, mission youth & mission director, mission YUVA and director, skill development, J&K, is transferred and posted as deputy commissioner, Kulgam.

JKAS officer Krishan Lal, special secretary in the LG's secretariat, is transferred and posted as deputy commissioner, Doda.

Ladakh LG pays obeisance at Baba Lal ji temple

Gupta said that these sacred sites inspire people to uphold values of compassion, unity and service to humanity.

He was accompanied by his Bindu Gupta.

Lt Gen Pratik reviews anti-infiltration grid in Kashmir

review the anti-infiltration grid and assess operational preparedness along the LoC," Army's Northern Command said in a post on X.

It said that during his visit, the Army Commander interacted with the troops, commending them for their battle-hardened resilience, indomitable courage and unwavering commitment to duty.

"He exhorted all ranks to relentlessly refine their professional acumen and harness emerging technologies, ensuring that they remain formidable in action and mission-ready in defence of the nation," the Northern Command said.

MBBS/BDS intern stipend enhancement under review: Govt tells LA

favour of MBBS/BDS interneers.

The government said recommendations were examined in the department and submitted to the finance department for concurrence. It added that the finance department had sought clarifications on multiple occasions and conveyed certain observations.

These observations, as per the reply, were communicated to the concerned government medical colleges (GMCs), which furnished the required information from time to time. The submissions received were examined and the case has again been forwarded to the Finance Department for consideration.

The government further stated that there is no undue delay in issuance of formal orders and that the department is actively considering the demands of MBBS/BDS interneers.

Ashwini Vaishnaw after India joins strategic bloc Pax Silica

emerging global silicon supply chain would open new opportunities for India's youth.

He said India's participation in Pax Silica would significantly benefit the domestic electronics and semiconductor sector, noting that 10 semiconductor facilities were at various stages of establishment in the country and that the first fabrication plant was expected to begin commercial production soon.

Vaishnaw added that engineers in India were already designing advanced two-nanometre chips and that a comprehensive semiconductor ecosystem was beginning to take shape. The Minister said the new framework would accelerate that process and create long-term opportunities for young professionals in the technology sector. aiahnaw

Cong's dig at Modi govt over US-Pak ties

clared Vishwaguru is busy giving the world gyaan through his acronyms and forcing CEOs to hold his hand to demonstrate their solidarity with him," Ramesh said.

"This is MODI governance -Maximum Optics Damaging India," the Congress leader said.

Trump Thursday said he had threatened to put 200 per cent tariffs on India and Pakistan if they didn't stop the fighting last summer, reiterating the claim that he stopped the war between the two nuclear-armed neighbours.

Trump repeated the claim that he stopped eight wars within the first year of his second term in the White House as he addressed an event of the Board of Peace in Washington.

India has consistently denied any third-party intervention.

Trump said he likes Sharif and the country's Field Marshal and Chief of Defence Forces Asim Munir, whom he called a "great guy".

Training Program on Fruit Tree Management under JKCIP Concluded at Udheywalla

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
JAMMU, FEB 20

The Department of Horticulture, Jammu, today successfully concluded a Training Programme on Fruit Tree Management under the Jammu & Kashmir Competitiveness Improvement Project (JKCIP) at Udheywalla.

The programme was organized under the guidance of the Worthy Chief Horticulture Officer (CHO), Jammu, Sh. R. K. Kotwal. Among the prominent officers present on the occasion were Sh. Rakesh Kumar Bhagat, DLSMS Jammu, Dr. Deepji Bhat, Dr. Anju Bhat, the Horticulture Development Officer, Bhalwal, along with field staff of the department.

During the training session, farmers were imparted practical knowledge on scientific fruit tree management practices including proper pruning, canopy management, balanced nutrient application, integrated pest and disease management, and overall orchard hygiene. The experts emphasized adoption of mod-



ern and sustainable horticultural practices under JKCIP to enhance productivity and improve the income of fruit growers.

The participants actively

engaged with the experts and appreciated the Department for organizing such informative and field-oriented training programmes.

The programme con-

cluded with a vote of thanks, reiterating the Department's commitment towards strengthening the horticulture sector through capacity building initiatives.

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
JAMMU, FEB 20

Emphasising that the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047 rests on the strength of the nation's education system, Ladakh LG Kavinder Gupta today said that educational institutions were the foundation upon which a developed and self-reliant India will be built.

He was addressing the gathering as Chief Guest at the 33rd Foundation Day cum-Grandparents Day celebration of a private school here. Congratulating the management, teachers, students and parents on the occasion, he said that the celebration marked not just the completion of another year but honoured decades of dedication and service in the field of education.

Highlighting the national resolve to transform India into a developed nation by 2047, the LG said that education was not merely a tool for securing employment, but a means to nurture confidence, creativity, discipline and a sense of national duty among young minds.

He stressed that holistic



education—integrating knowledge, skills, innovation and values—is essential for nation-building.

Referring to recent deliberations at the India AI Summit, he shared that he had the opportunity to engage with leading global and Indian technology companies such as Google, Meta, Airtel and Amazon, and to participate in discussions alongside Prime Minister Narendra Modi and global CEOs. He noted that the guiding principle—"Sarva-jan Hitay, Sarva-jan Sukhay"—underscores that technology must serve humanity and accelerate inclusive growth.

The LG observed that Artificial Intelligence is emerging as a transformative force

across sectors, particularly in education, where AI-based personalised learning platforms in Indian languages are enhancing academic support and bridging learning gaps. He added that technological advancements, when adopted with balance and foresight, generate new opportunities rather than diminish them.

Drawing parallels with the technological transition of the 1990s, he said that while computers once sparked apprehension about job losses, they ultimately led to the expansion of the IT sector and the emergence of India as a global technology hub. He encouraged students to embrace innovation, focus on skill development and lead the transformation with

confidence.

Addressing the students directly, he urged them to dream big, remain disciplined, respect their parents and teachers, and dedicate their knowledge and energy to the service of the nation.

He emphasised that strong character and moral values are as important as academic excellence in building a developed India. He also highlighted the importance of physical and mental well-being, encouraging students to incorporate yoga into their daily routine for a healthy body and focused mind.

Appreciating the teaching fraternity for their dedication, he lauded the students for their impressive cultural performances during the celebration. He commended the school for harmonising modern education with Indian culture and values and expressed confidence that the school will continue to contribute meaningfully to society and the nation.

The celebration concluded with the National Anthem, leaving the audience inspired and filled with pride.