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British architect Lutyens' statue to go from Rashtrapati Bhavan: Modi

celebrations, or even other festivals. "Keep them away from festivals, keep them away from Holi as well, and adopt 'swadeshi'. When you buy swadeshi, you also help in the campaign to make the country self-reliant," he said.

He said the India AI Impact Summit proved to be a turning point in the trajectory of how the world will utilise the power of artificial intelligence in the future, and asserted that global leaders were impressed with the breakthroughs achieved by India in the domain.

Modi also asked people to remain vigilant against online financial fraud and digital arrest, and appealed to all to comply with requests from banks for doing KYC (know your customer) as it is crucial for an individual's bank account's safety.

The prime minister said the country recently witnessed an achievement during the AI Summit held in the city where leaders from many countries, industry leaders, innovators, and people associated with the start-up sector came together.

"This summit proved to be a turning point in the trajectory of how the world will utilise the power of AI in the future," he said.

At the summit, Modi said, he showed myriad things to world leaders, especially two things which impressed them a lot.

He said the first product was at Amul's booth where it was explained how Artificial Intelligence (AI) is helping people in the treatment of animals, and how farmers keep track of their livestock with the help of 24x7 AI assistance.

The prime minister said the second product was related to Indian culture and leaders from all over the world were amazed to see how, with the help of AI, India is preserving ancient texts, knowledge, manuscripts and adapting them in accordance with today's generation.

"At the India AI Impact Summit, world leaders were impressed by these AI breakthroughs," he said.

At the summit, the world got to see India's amazing capabilities in the field of AI and during the event, India also launched three Made in India AI models, he said, noting it was the biggest AI summit ever.

On the growing incidents of digital arrest and digital frauds, he said many senior citizens and innocent people have become victims of such financial crimes and hence it was very important to remain alert and vigilant.

"Sometimes, when you receive messages from your bank asking you to update KYC or re-KYC, the question arises in your mind: I have already done KYC, then why this? I urge you not to fret; this is just for the safety of your money," he said.

The prime minister also referred to many Indian origin players playing for other nations in the T-20 World Cup, noting it gives joy to the people

"Yes, it's natural to have some doubts at such times. Sometimes you wonder if you'll remember everything or not! Sometimes you wonder if you'll run out of time. Children of every generation have experienced these feelings; you're not alone. Remember, your worth isn't determined by your mark sheet. So, trust yourself. Write wholeheartedly about what you've studied," he said.

During the address, the prime minister also paid tributes to former chief minister of Tamil Nadu J. Jayalalithaa, whose birth anniversary falls on February 24, and also mentioned about Kerala's centuries-old Mamangam tradition, often called the Kerala Kumbh, which has come alive again after nearly 250 years.

3 top Pak terrorists killed in Chatroo encounter

killings of terrorists. "Lt Gen Pratik commends the commanders and troops on ground for their persistence in challenging terrain and weather conditions. Northern Command remains committed to ensuring a terror-free Jammu and Kashmir," the Army said in a post on X.

The Chatroo forest belt has witnessed nearly half a dozen gunfights between security forces & terrorists since January 18, resulting in the martyrdom of a soldier and the killing of a Pakistani terrorist. While the soldier lost his life on January 18, the terrorist was eliminated on February 4.

With the killing of three terrorists today, a total of seven JeM terrorists have been eliminated by security forces in separate encounters in Jammu region this year. Earlier, two terrorists were killed in Ramanagar forests of Udhampur on February 4 and one in Parhetar village of Kathua on January 23.

B'desh fully restores visa services for Indians

from Monday. The official on Sunday said that while other visa services had been ongoing, tourist visas had generally been stopped except for urgent cases. "Including the Bangladesh High Commission in Delhi, and in various cities of India such as Guwahati, Agartala, Mumbai and Kolkata - wherever Bangladeshi diplomatic missions are located - apart from tourist visas, other visa services were mostly ongoing. However, tourist visas had generally been stopped, though they were still issued in urgent cases," the official said.

Meanwhile, according to a report, a senior Indian consular official said India was also preparing to resume all visa services in Bangladesh soon.

"Medical and double-entry visas are being issued now, and steps are under way to resume other categories, including travel visas," Aniruddha Das, India's senior consular official in Sylhet, said. Das asserted that efforts were underway to restore all visa services.

The Indian assistant high commissioner in Sylhet further assured of maximum cooperation to strengthen bilateral ties through the facilitation of visas, saying relations between both countries stand on the "foundation of mutual respect and honour."

Truck driver detained for questioning

several Pakistani numbers on the driver's phone, they took him into custody, officials said. His sustained questioning was in progress.

Bangladeshi nationals among 8 LeT operatives held

(27); and Umar (32), all residents of Bangladesh. According to police, the group was planning to target areas with heavy public footfall.

The case came to light on February 8 after a written complaint was submitted by a CISF shift in-charge at the Supreme Court Metro police station regarding pro-Pakistan and pro-terror posters being affixed by unknown persons at the Janpath Metro Station. During inquiry, similar posters were found at several other locations in Delhi.

Police said the posters carried photographs glorifying slain Burhan Wani of Jaiish-e-Mohammad and other militants. One of the posters read "India stop genocide & Free Kashmir", along with Urdu slogans translating to "Hum Pakistani Hain, Pakistan Hamara Hai" and "Kashmiri Ek Jut-ta Divas". Additional Commissioner of Police (Special Cell) Pramod Singh Kushwah said.

An FIR was registered at the Supreme Court Metro police station and the investigation was transferred to the Special Cell. Investigators traced the initial leads, which were subsequently developed into actionable operational intel-

ligence. The Special Cell had already been gathering inputs on LeT operatives and their Bangladeshi linkages in the wake of recent developments in Bangladesh. Based on technical analysis and manual verification, the movement of suspects was tracked in Delhi and Gurugram, eventually leading investigators to Kolkata.

On February 15, the hideout of the Kolkata module was identified at Majherpara in Hatiaara Gote area, following which a raid was conducted and Umar and Robiul Islam were arrested. Subsequently, on February 21, hideouts of the Tamil Nadu module were identified, and six cadres were arrested from Tiruppur in simultaneous raids.

In December 2025, Lone directed Faruk to conduct reconnaissance of important locations across the country and to send videos after the recce. Following the reconnaissance, Faruk was instructed to visit Lone in Bangladesh for further directions and was tasked with recruiting more Bangladeshi nationals illegally residing in India.

As per Lone's instructions, Faruk rented a hideout in Kolkata and shared its details with him. The premises were meant to serve as both a safe house and a base for terror activities. Lone also directed Faruk to arrange weapons, following which Faruk began contacting local sources.

On February 6, Faruk and Robiul Islam travelled from Kolkata to Delhi via Patna. During the night of February 7, they affixed pro-Pakistan and pro-terror posters at 10 locations in Delhi, filmed the act and sent the videos to Lone, before returning to Kolkata by train the next day. Lone later congratulated them and instructed them to carry out similar activities in Kolkata as well.

Police said Lone was assisted by another accomplice, Saidul Islam, a Bangladeshi national currently believed to be in a foreign country. Saidul allegedly facilitated Lone's illegal entry into Bangladesh, arranged his hideout there, and also provided details of the Tamil Nadu-based LeT operatives to Lone and Faruk.

Faruk and Robiul Islam subsequently affixed posters at multiple locations in Kolkata, recorded videos and shared them with Lone. Investigators said Lone was actively planning terror incidents in India using Bangladeshi nationals.

Police further stated that Lone had direct links with LeT's top leadership, including Hafiz Saeed and his deputy Zaki Ur Rehman Lakhvi, at the time of his arrest in 2007. A trained militant of LeT, Lone underwent Daura-e-Aam (basic training) and Daura-e-Khaas (advanced training) at the Muzaffarabad LeT camp.

He is allegedly backed and funded by Inter-Services Intelligence to recruit Bangladeshi youth illegally residing in India for planning and executing terror plots, police said.

ED sets target of filing 500 chargesheets

Conference of Zonal Officers (QCZO) held in Assam's capital, Guwahati, on December 19-21 last year. The meeting was chaired by ED Director Rahul Navin.

The agency has been holding this once-in-three months conference outside Delhi since last year, with the last two editions held in Kevadia (Gujarat) and Srinagar (Jammu and Kashmir).

"The decision to hold the conference in northeastern region reflects the directorate's recognition of the strategic and operational importance of the region," the ED said in a statement.

The ED officials were also told that the powers given to them under the criminal sections of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) come with a corresponding responsibility and they should exercise those with caution, fairness and accountability.

"It was advised that officers must remain mindful of the impact of enforcement actions and ensure that summons and other statutory notices are issued judiciously, based on clear necessity and proper application of mind," the statement said.

The conference also discussed issues related to "priority areas" like intensifying efforts to track illicit assets abroad, identifying trade channels being misused for money laundering, misuse of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) and prioritisation of digital-arrest and cyber-fraud cases, instances of which are witnessing a "sharp" rise.

ED investigators were also asked to check the proliferation of illegal-betting and online-gaming platforms in the country, money laundering through share-market manipulation, and remain vigilant against foreign funding channels that may be used for unlawful narrative building, destabilising activities or anti-national purposes.

The officers were also advised to leverage mechanisms, such as Interpol, using the domestic BHARATPOL, including issuance of colour notices, especially "Purple" notices.

The "Purple" notice issued by the Interpol aims to seek or provide information on the modus operandi, objects, devices and concealment methods used by criminals.

The officers were also directed to complete the adjudication of all pending cases registered under the now-repealed Foreign Exchange Regulation Act (FERA) by March 31.

Some other central agencies like the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI), Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU), Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) and Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) delivered thematic presentations for the ED officials during the conference.

SA beat India in T20 WC match

co-hosts out for 111 in 18.5 overs with Marco Jansen taking 4/22.

Keshav Maharaj grabbed 3/24, while Corbin Bosch (2/12) also gave crucial breakthroughs.

Credit should also go to Lungi Ngidi who didn't take any wicket but bowled miserly and gave away just 15 runs from his full quota of four overs to stymie India's fightback.

Shivam Dube was India's top-scorer with a 37-ball 42. In a bold move, part-time off-spinner Aiden Markram (1/5; 1 over) opened with the new ball and gave the crucial breakthrough, removing in-form Ishan Kishan for a four-ball duck in the opening over.

India's star opener Abhishek Sharma ended his hat-trick of ducks to open his account in the T20 World Cup but fell for 15 as Marco Jansen struck twice in the powerplay to have India 26/3.

Miller rolled back the years with exhilarating strokes but Jasprit Bumrah's superb bowling restricted South Africa to 187/7.

Miller struck 63 off 35 balls and got fine support from young Dewald Brevis (45 off 29 balls) as the duo led a recovery act in a 97-run fourth-wicket stand that came off just 51 balls.

Bumrah (3/15 in 4 overs) and Arshdeep Singh (2/28 in 4 overs) had reduced the Proteas to 20/3 inside the first four overs after they opted to bat.

Brief Scores: South Africa: 187 for 7 in 20 overs (David Miller 63, Dewald Brevis 45, Tristan Stubbs 44; Jasprit Bumrah 3/15, Arshdeep Singh 2/28).

India: 111 all out in 18.5 overs (Shivam Dube 42; Marco Jansen 4/22, Keshav Maharaj 3/24, Corbin Bosch 2/12).

Next agri revolution to be AI-driven: Jitendra

"Global Conference on AI in Agriculture and Investor Summit 2026" here, he said, "AI offers, for the first time, scalable solutions to structural challenges that have long constrained farm productivity - erratic weather, information asymmetry and fragmented markets.

"What AI offers is not a new diagnosis. It offers, finally, a prescription that can scale," he said, noting that even a 10 pc productivity gain for the 600 million farmers across the Global South would amount to what he described as the single largest poverty-reduction opportunity of the century.

Framing agriculture as a strategic sector rather than a legacy one, Dr. Jitendra Singh linked the AI push to the Rs 10,372-cr India AI Mission, which is building sovereign compute capacity, datasets and startup infrastructure at scale.

He highlighted BharatGen, India's government-owned large language model ecosystem, which has already released "Agri Param", a domain-specific agriculture model operating in 22 Indian languages, enabling farmers to access advisory support in their own language.

"This is AI that speaks to a farmer in Marathi, Bhojpuri or Kannada," he said, underscoring the importance of linguistic inclusion.

The minister said the Department of Science and Technology (DST) was supporting an open, interoperable India AI Open Stack to ensure that agri-AI solutions developed anywhere in the country can plug into a national framework.

Brazil Prez asks US not to spark 'new cold war'

dent Donald Trump that we don't want a new Cold War," Lula said at a press conference in New Delhi, where he wrapped up a three-day visit to India. "We don't want interference in any other country, we want all countries to be treated equally."

Lula said his upcoming agenda with Trump would focus on trade, immigration, investment, and academic partnerships. Relations between Brasilia and Washington have been tense over recent months, with disputes ranging from tariffs on Brazilian exports to disagreements on foreign policy.

In recent months, the Trump administration has eased some tensions, exempting key Brazilian exports from a 40 pc tariff imposed last year. Lula described the thaw in relations as a step toward global stability. "The world doesn't need more turbulence, it needs peace," he said. Lula's visit to India also focused on strategic partnerships, with both countries agreeing to strengthen cooperation on critical minerals and rare earths. The two nations signed a series of agreements covering trade, technology, and innovation during the meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The Brazilian leader, who is known for his leftist positions and has often clashed with Trump on trade and foreign policy, emphasized dialogue over confrontation. "We don't want to interfere in any country; we want all nations to be treated fairly," Lula said, highlighting Brazil's preference for diplomacy and cooperation in an increasingly tense global environment.

India strongly condemns Pak strikes in Afghanistan

tions to secure the life and property of its citizens," Pakistan's State Minister for Interior, Talal Chaudhry, said.

Earlier, Pakistan's ministry of information and broadcasting confirmed that the strikes were carried out in response to recent suicide bombings in Islamabad, Bajaur and Bannu. Kabul, however, warned that it would deliver a "necessary and measured response" to the attacks.

In the latest incident, an army lieutenant colonel and a soldier were killed in a suicide bombing in the Bannu area of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province on Saturday.

According to a statement from Pakistan's ministry of information and broadcasting, the government has conclusive evidence that the recent terrorist attacks, including one at a Shiite-mosque in Islamabad, as well as attacks in Bajaur and Bannu, followed by another incident in Bannu on Saturday, were allegedly carried out by Khwarij militants acting on the direction of their Afghanistan-based leadership and handlers.

The ministry said responsibility for the attacks was claimed by Afghanistan-based Pakistani Taliban belonging to Fitna-al-Khwarji (FAK) and its affiliates, as well as the Islamic State of Khorasan Province (ISKP).

Fitna-al-Khwarji is a term used by the Pakistani state to refer to the banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP).

Poll rolls shrink by 1.7 cr in 9 states/UTs under SIR phase 2

SIR, at around 68 lakh or 13.4 pc. Chhattisgarh's electorate shrank by 11.8 pc and Goa's by 10.7 pc. The remaining three states saw a modest decline: with Kerala's final electorate down by 3.2 pc, Madhya Pradesh's by 5.9 pc and Rajasthan's by 5.7 pc.

Among the UTs, only Andaman and Nicobar saw a sharp net decline of 16.9 pc in its electors. Puducherry electorate was 7.6 pc less than what it was on Oct 27, 2025; the decline in Lakshadweep was just over 0.3 pc.

While Phase 1 of SIR completed last year was exclusive to Bihar, Assam witnessed only a special summary revision. Another 22 states and UTs are yet to conduct SIR. EC recently indicated that it may start the next phase of SIR in April.

Netanyahu calls Modi 'personal friend'

arrive. He will deliver a speech at the Knesset (Israeli Parliament), and I am sure you will all be there. We will also hold an innovation event in Jerusalem and visit Yad Vashem together," Netanyahu said at the start of a meeting of government officials here.

His remarks were posted by the Israel Prime minister's office.

"This week, expression will be given to the special relationship that has been forged over recent years between Israel and the global power that is India, and between myself and its leader, Prime Minister Modi. We are personal friends; we speak frequently on the phone and visit one another. I have visited India, and Modi has visited here. We waded together in the waters of the Mediterranean, and much water has flowed since then in the Mediterranean, the Ganges, and the Jordan, though less in the Jordan," Netanyahu said.

"We are personal friends; we speak frequently on the phone and visit one another. I have visited India, and Modi has visited here. We waded together in the waters of the Mediterranean, and much water has flowed since then in the Mediterranean, the Ganges, and the Jordan," he added.

"This week, expression will be given to the special relationship that has been forged over recent years between Israel and the global power that is India, and between myself and its leader, Prime Minister Narendra Modi," he said.

The Israeli PM said that "the fabric of this relationship has grown tighter, and he is coming here so we can tighten it further through a series of decisions related to strengthening cooperation between our governments and countries. This includes economic, diplomatic and security cooperation."

During Prime Minister Modi's visit to Israel, Netanyahu said Israel will "promote cooperation in high-tech, AI, and quantum computing."

"I say AI and quantum not because they are the future, but because they are the present. We, of course, want to be among the world's leading nations in these fields, Netanyahu said.

This will be PM Modi's second visit to the country, following his 2017 visit when he became the first-ever Indian Prime Minister to visit Israel.

PM Modi's scheduled Israel visit comes in the backdrop of the Board of Peace meeting on February 19. Board of Peace is an initiative originated from US President Donald Trump's 20-point Gaza ceasefire plan endorsed by the UN

Security Council but has since expanded beyond its original scope. Administration officials said around 35 nations had committed to join, while 60 received invitations, with Trump suggesting the new body could assume roles currently held by the United Nations

During the recent AI Impact Summit 2026 that was held in New Delhi, Ilan Fluss, former Ambassador and Emerging and Disruptive Technologies (EDTs) Policy Coordinator at Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs underscored the country's commitment to innovation, responsible development, and expanded bilateral cooperation in emerging technologies.

Speaking on the sidelines of the AI Impact Summit 2026 in New Delhi, Fluss described artificial intelligence as a turning point comparable to historic global shifts.

According to The Press Service of Israel (TPS), the new platform is positioned as a bridge to enhance understanding of Israel's technological and strategic developments, at a time when defence and innovation partnerships between the two countries are expanding.

Will respond to any US attack, says Iran's Foreign Minister

of the text". "I believe that when we meet, probably this Thursday in Geneva again, we can work on those elements and prepare a good text and come to a fast deal," he told CBS.

But, as for Iran's uranium enrichment, which the US opposes, Araghchi said: "As a sovereign country, we have every right to decide for ourselves, by ourselves."

Iran and the United States remain at odds over the scope and mechanism of sanctions relief in ongoing negotiations to curb Tehran's nuclear programme, a senior Iranian official said.

Hindi reflects India's traditions, values, cultural continuity: Kavinder

country and abroad. Describing the event as a "Mahakumbh of linguistic awareness," he remarked that in the age of globalisation, cultural identity was the strongest pillar of national strength, and language waits most powerful instrument.

"True freedom is incomplete without linguistic confidence and that thinking, innovating, and creating in one's mother tongue strengthens both individual self-belief and national character," he said.

The LG stated that Swami Vivekananda advocated Hindi as a vital link for national unity. While respecting all mother tongues, he believed Hindi could connect diverse regions and make knowledge accessible to the masses, strengthening India's cultural identity and fostering true national awakening through language.

He said that former Late Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee had also elevated Hindi to new heights of global recognition by articulating India's voice in Hindi at international forums, demonstrating that language was a symbol of national self-respect.

Gupta said Prime Minister Narendra Modi was carrying forward this proud legacy by consistently promoting Hindi on global platforms.

"The PM's use of Hindi at international forums reflects India's rising confidence and reaffirms the nation's cultural identity and linguistic self-respect. The PM's address at the India AI Summit in Hindi sent a powerful message that even in deliberations on cutting-edge technologies and artificial intelligence, India articulates its vision with confidence in its own language - symbolising the seamless confluence of tradition and innovation in a New India," he added.

Highlighting India's multilingual heritage, Gupta clarified that Hindi complements all Indian languages and serves as a unifying link across diverse regions.

He stressed the need to expand the use of Hindi beyond literature and administration into science, technology, research, artificial intelligence, startups, digital innovation, and the judiciary.

He also underlined the opportunities created by the National Education Policy in promoting Indian languages as mediums of knowledge and innovation.

On the occasion, he described Ladakh as a symbol of cultural resilience, spiritual depth, and patriotic commitment.

He highlighted Ladakh's rich linguistic diversity, including Ladakhi, Balti, and Purigi, and stated that Hindi plays a significant role in connecting the region with the national mainstream.

He also referred to Ladakh's progress in renewable energy, sustainable development, and self-reliance, noting that its youth are confidently embracing both their mother tongues and Hindi as instruments of growth and national integration.

The ceremony was presided over by Rajesh Vats, President of the Hindi Olympiad Foundation, and coordinated by Hemlata, who presented an overview of the Foundation's initiatives aimed at promoting Hindi globally.

Among the distinguished guests present were Jai Bhagwan Yadav, Deputy Mayor of Delhi; Pradeep Kumar (IRS), Joint Director, GST; Renu Singh, Principal Director, Amity International School, Noida; Sunila Athale; and educationist Ayushi Ketkar.

The proceedings were conducted by Gopal Sharma. During the ceremony, winners of the International Hindi Olympiad and distinguished contributors to the promotion of Hindi were conferred with the Amrit Kumbh Samman in recognition of their excellence and dedication to the language.

Congratulating the organizers and participants, the Lieutenant Governor called upon students to take pride in their mother tongue, strengthen the use of Hindi in academic and digital domains, and contribute to the enrichment of all Indian languages.

The programme concluded with a vote of thanks followed by the National Anthem.

India, US postpone trade deal meet amid Trump's tariff setback

ted under a 1977 law called the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA).

The ruling invalidates many, but not all, of Trump's tariffs. An angry Trump called the judgment a "disgrace" after being informed about it during a meeting with governors. He also said he had a backup plan.

The US had imposed a 25 per cent reciprocal tariff on India in August 2025.

Later, an additional 25 per cent duty was imposed for buying Russian crude oil, taking the total tariffs on India to 50 per cent.

India and the US, earlier this month, agreed on a framework to finalise an interim trade deal, under which Washington will cut down the tariffs to 18 per cent.

So far, the punitive 25 per cent has been removed. The remaining 25 per cent exists.

Following the Supreme Court ruling, Trump has again announced hiking these tariffs to 15 per cent.

This levy, if notified, will be over and above the existing MFN or import duties in the US.

For instance, if a product faces a 5 per cent MFN duty, an additional 15 per cent will be imposed, taking the effective duty to 20 per cent. Earlier, this was 5 plus 25 per cent.

There is, however, no clarity about what the US tariff will be on countries such as India after the 150-day period.

To sign and implement the first phase of the bilateral trade agreement, the framework has to be converted into a legal document.

Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal had said the deal may be signed in March and implemented in April.

During 2021-25, the US was India's largest trading partner in goods.