

!! Continuations from Page 1 !! Modi welcomes world...

Being held from February 16-20, the AI Impact Summit brings together more than 500 global AI leaders, 150 academicians and researchers, and 400 chief technology officers, vice-presidents, and philanthropists.

On 19th February, the Prime Minister will participate in the Opening Ceremony of the India AI Impact Summit 2026 at around 9:40 AM. Along with the Prime Minister, the Opening Ceremony will also be addressed by the President of France, Secretary-General of the United Nations as well as various top industry leaders from across the world.

This will be followed by a visit to the India AI Impact Expo 2026 along with other leaders at around 11 AM, where they will visit various country pavilions.

Prime Minister will then participate in the Leaders' Plenary which will take place around 12 noon onwards. It will bring together Heads of State, ministers, and senior representatives from multilateral institutions to outline national and global priorities on AI, including governance, infrastructure, and international cooperation.

Thereafter, Prime Minister will participate in the CEO roundtable from 5:30 PM onwards. It will convene senior executives from global technology and industry firms with government leadership to discuss investment, research collaboration, supply chains, and deployment of AI systems.

The theme of India AI Impact Summit 2026 is 'Welfare for All, Happiness of All'. It aims to position India as a leader in the field of AI and envisions a future where AI advances humanity, fosters inclusive growth, and safeguards our shared planet.

Seven Working Groups anchor the Summit, aligned to three pillars: People, Planet, and Progress. These groups will work on delivering concrete outcomes demonstrating AI's impact across sectors. The seven themes are: AI for Economic Growth and Social Good; Democratizing AI Resources; Inclusion for Social Empowerment; Safe and Trusted AI; Human Capital; Science; Resilience, Innovation and Efficiency.

The Summit will bring together more than 500 Global AI Leaders, including CEOs/CXOs, around 100 CEOs and Founders, 150 Academicians and Researchers, and 400 CTOs, VPs, and Philanthropists. It will also engage over 100 government representatives, including more than 20 Heads of State and Government and around 60 Ministers and Vice Ministers.

CM moves 13...

Chief Minister. He added: "I also move that a sum not exceeding the aggregate amount mentioned in Supplementary Demand Nos. 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 10, 12, 13, 17, 18, 19, 20, 25, 26, 30, 32, 35 and 36 be granted to Government to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st March, 2026 in respect of Heads indicated in the List of Business against each demand."

The discussion for demands of grants will continue for today, February 18 and 19 while Chief Minister Omar Abdullah will reply to the demands on grants on February 19 afternoon which will be followed by voice vote to pass the demands of grants.

219 ventilators defunct...

functional and defunct ventilators in government medical colleges (GMCs), associated hospitals and other major health institutions, including SKIMS.

Out of a total of 877 ventilators, 658 are functional while 219 are defunct, the official data said.

According to the data tabled in the House, GMC Jammu and its associated hospitals have a total of 320 ventilators, of which 209 are functional while 111 are non-functional.

Similarly, GMC Srinagar's SMHS Hospital has 76 ventilators, with 68 functional and eight non-functional, while its other associated hospitals have 173 ventilators, including 44 that are not working.

The data further said that at GMC Anantnag and its associated hospitals, only 10 ventilators are functional against 26 defunct ones, out of a total of 36.

GMC Baramulla reported two non-functional ventilators out of 41, while GMC Doda has 10 defunct ventilators out of 27 installed.

GMC Kathua reported two non-functional ventilators out of 52, GMC Rajouri three out of 54, and GMC Udhampur reported all 39 ventilators to be functional. GMC Handwara also reported all six ventilators as functional.

At the Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS), Soura, 13 out of 53 ventilators were reported to be non-functional.

ACB arrests Girdawar...

bribe amount was recovered from his possession on the spot, and he was arrested following due legal procedure. The spokesperson further informed that a search of the accused's residential premises at Sallian Talab, Udhampur, was also conducted in the presence of a Magistrate as per legal provisions. Notably, two FIRs were already registered against the accused at Police Station ACB Udhampur. Further investigation in the case is ongoing.

Assembly adjourned after...

As the din continued for several minutes, Mubarak Gul, who was in the Chair, adjourned the House for the day.

Earlier in the day, BJP MLAs had joined Jammu University students holding a demonstration for the establishment of an NLU in Jammu.

Protests have been underway in Jammu since the announcement that the proposed NLU would be set up in Budgam district of Kashmir, triggering allegations of regional imbalance.

Students took out protest marches on Wednesday, raised slogans against the government and the chief minister, and briefly blocked the Tawi bridge, disrupting traffic for about half-an-hour before the police cleared the area.

The protesters later attempted to march towards the Civil Secretariat but were stopped at the gates, leading to brief scuffles between the students and the police.

The controversy began after Chief Minister Abdullah announced the establishment of the NLU in Budgam, prompting students and political leaders in Jammu to demand that the institution be set up in their region to ensure equitable access to quality legal education and opportunities for local students.

5 detained as...

to be accompanying him.

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

Singh was arrested along with nearly a dozen other accused in connection with the murder of rival gang leader Sumit Jandiwal alias 'Gataru' in the 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.

The officials said police have registered an FIR under sections 109 (attempt to murder), 132 (assault or criminal force to deter public servant from discharge of duty), 262 (resisting, obstructing, or escaping from lawful custody), 307 (theft with preparation to cause death, hurt or restraint), 111 (organised crime) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and sections 3 and 25 under Arms Act (unauthorised possession, carriage, use of firearms).

J&K's debt at...

that in the current fiscal year, liabilities are projected at Rs 1,37,067 crore, while GSDP has expanded significantly to Rs 2,88,422 crore, again bringing the debt-to-GSDP ratio down to 48 per cent.

The chief minister highlighted that fiscal sustainability has improved over the years, with economic growth helping to moderate the impact of rising debt on the Union Territory.

Abdullah further said that his government has ensured that borrowings are 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."

5 HDFC Bank...

and Budgam to collect material evidence in the case," he said, adding that a written complaint brought the financial fraud at the branch to light. The spokesperson did not provide further details regarding the alleged crime or the modus operandi used by the accused.

LA hails J&K's...

summit clash, marking a landmark moment in the cricketing history of the J&K.

The Speaker lauded the players, coaching staff and support team for their dedication, discipline and fighting spirit throughout the tournament. He said that 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 expressed confidence that the team will continue its winning momentum in the final and bring greater glory to the J&K.

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

LG, CM greet people on beginning of holy month of Ramzan

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha has extended his greetings to the people on the beginning of holy month of Ramzan.

In a message, the Lieutenant Governor said: "Heartiest greetings and best wishes to the people on the commencement of the holy month of Ramzan. May this time of prayer and forgiveness guide us to support those in need and strengthen the bonds of brotherhood. May this sacred month foster a spirit of mutual goodwill, love, compassion and bring harmony and kindness to all". Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has conveyed his warm greetings to the people of Jammu and Kashmir on the commencement of the holy month of Ramadan.

In his message, the Chief Minister underscored the spiritual significance of Ramadan as a time for self-discipline, compassion and introspection. He urged the people to strengthen the bonds of unity, extend sup-

port to one another, and promote an atmosphere of mutual respect, peace, and harmony.

"This spirit of togetherness will further strengthen our society and enhance resilience across Jammu & Kashmir," the Chief Minister said.

The Chief Minister prayed that Almighty Allah accept the fasting and prayers of the faithful, grant fulfillment of their supplications, and bless the region with peace, prosperity and well-being.

"May Allah's blessings be upon us all. Ramadan Mubarak," he added.

Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Chowdhary, Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo and Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, also extended their heartfelt greetings to the people on the sacred occasion of the holy month of Ramadan.

Lamp lighting and oath-taking ceremony held at Government Nursing College Rajouri



STATE TIMES NEWS

RAJOURI: The Lamp Lighting and Oath-Taking Ceremony for the B.Sc Nursing students of Government Nursing College Rajouri was held with great enthusiasm and academic dignity. The ceremony marked a significant milestone as the nursing students formally entered the noble profession of nursing.

The programme was conducted under the able guidance of Prof. A.S. Bhatia, Principal Government Medical College Rajouri. The ceremony was coordinated by Dr Jameel ul Hussain, HoD Medicine and Coordinator Government

Nursing College Rajouri, along with Jb Ashraf Haq, Financial Advisor/CAO, Dr Yasmeen from TB Hospital, and the dedicated staff of the Nursing College.

Addressing the gathering, Prof. A.S. Bhatia emphasized the vital role of nursing professionals in strengthening the healthcare system and highlighted that compassion, clinical excellence, discipline, and ethical responsibility form the foundation of quality patient care. He congratulated the students on entering a noble profession and encouraged them to uphold the highest standards of professionalism, empathy, and lifelong learning in their

Bhaderwah residents unite to seek resolution on GDC Admission issue

STATE TIMES NEWS

BHADERWAH: A joint press conference was convened by the civil society of Bhaderwah, where speakers strongly criticised the Higher Education Department over what they termed a "negative and discriminatory approach" towards Government Degree College Bhaderwah, an institution serving students of the Chenab Valley for over 70 years.

Addressing the media, Beopar Mandal President Bhaderwah, Naseer Mehboob, along with Ravi Thakur (Retired SDM and President ABTA), Manish Kotwal (Owner, Tamara Resort), social activist Mushtaq Ahmed, senior citizens, and political and religious leaders, expressed grave concern over recent admission-related decisions affecting the college.

Naseer Mehboob said it was "highly unfortunate" that local youth were being pushed to the wall through



what he called unnecessary and unjustified measures at GDC Bhaderwah. The speakers highlighted two major issues: the imposition of the CUET examination for admissions at GDC Bhaderwah while GDC Doda has reportedly been exempted and the reduction of major subjects from 21 to 13 at the college.

Terminating the move a "well-planned attempt to weaken and eventually shut down" the institution, the speakers alleged blatant discrimination against students of Bhaderwah and adjoining areas. They demanded immediate intervention by

the Education Minister and senior Higher Education authorities to resolve the issue.

The civil society members called for the immediate revocation of the CUET requirement for admissions to GDC Bhaderwah, Rescheduling of academic session and restoration of all major subjects previously offered, so that students could get much-needed relief.

They warned that if corrective orders are not issued within seven days, the civil society would be compelled to launch a protest in Bhaderwah.

Idol installation ceremony held at Rajpura Mangotra Temple



STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: With the blessings of Kuldev Bua Baba Ji, a grand idol installation ceremony was held on Wednesday at a temple in Rajpura Mangotra, Jammu, amidst deep devotion and spiritual fervor.

A large number of devotees from the locality and adjoining areas gathered at the temple premises to witness the sacred ritual and seek divine blessings. The ceremony was conducted by learned priests who performed traditional Vedic rituals, chanting hymns and offering prayers as per established religious customs.

The temple premises res-

onated with spiritual chants and devotional songs, creating a serene and uplifting atmosphere. Devotees actively participated in the rituals, expressing their faith and reverence throughout the ceremony.

Following the idol installation, a community feast (Bhandara) was organized for the devotees. Hundreds of people partook in the feast with enthusiasm and devotion, symbolizing unity and collective celebration.

The event concluded peacefully, leaving the devotees spiritually enriched and thankful for the divine blessings received on the auspicious occasion.

Illegal Appointments: Anti-Corruption Court frames charges against 2 ex J&K Bank Chairmen, others

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The Court has framed charges against two former Chairmen of J&K Bank Ltd and others in connection with alleged illegal appointments of Bank Attendants and Assistant Bank Associates.

The Court of the Special Judge Anti-Corruption Srinagar, Tasleem Arief after hearing the prosecution through Special Public Prosecutor, Wajahat Jamil and the accused through their counsel, held that sufficient prima facie material exists to proceed against the accused for offences punishable under relevant sections of J&K Prevention of

Corruption Act and Ranbir Penal Code.

The court framed the charges in connection with the FIR No. 10/2019 registered by the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) following a complaint alleging backdoor appointments in different branches of the J&K Bank.

According to the prosecution, the accused, including former Chairmen Mushtaq Ahmed Sheikh and Parvez Ahmed Nengroo along with some senior officials conspired to appoint certain beneficiaries without identifying vacancies, issuing advertisements, or following prescribed norms under the Officers Service Manual,

2000. The other accused officials named in the charge-sheet are Abdul Rouf Bhat, Muhammad Maqbool Lone, Muhammad Yahya Rafiqi, Syed Irfan Lateef, Arshid Hussain Dar, Shakoor Ahmed Bhat, Vagisha Chander Sharma, Muhammad Ayoub Wanchoo, Fayaz Ahmed Bhat, Asif Iqbal Raja, Showkat Ahmed Bhat, Parvaiz Ahmed Baba, Abdul Rashid Shigan, Muhammad Aslam Ganie, Imran Matoo.

Besides these, the charge-sheet mentions the accused beneficiaries- Waseem Mehrj, Anjum Ara, Faizan Ayaz, Mushtaq Ahmed Mir, Hameem Nusrat and Muhammad Iqbal Wani.

The appointments were initially made on a temporary basis for 89 days and later regularised, despite the absence of sanctioned vacancies, according to the ACB. The anti-graft body claimed that among beneficiaries included close relatives of the accused Chairmen.

The probe agency further revealed that the appointees drew salaries amounting to over Rs 41 lakh till August 2019, causing financial loss to the bank and conferring undue pecuniary advantage.

In support of their arguments the accused through their counsel, sought discharge, contending that the FIR was based on a pseudonymous complaint later disowned by the complainant.

The J&K Bank is a private entity and its officers are not public servants under the Prevention of Corruption Act, they said.

Their further argument was that temporary appointments were made under Rule 310 of the Officers Service Manual in view of administrative exigencies. And the Board of Directors had ratified the appointments through resolutions.

The court, however, held that in keeping with the supreme court judgments, at the stage of framing of charge, it is required only to assess whether there exists sufficient material to presume commission of offences, not to conduct a mini-trial.

The court observed that conspiracy is often proved through circumstantial evidence and that the material on record indicates a "concerted common course of action."

The court also upheld the validity of the prosecution sanction granted by the Chairman/CEO of J&K

Bank under Section 6 of the J&K Prevention of Corruption Act, observing that the Chairman was the competent authority to remove the in-service officials and was, therefore, duly empowered to sanction their prosecution.

"Consistent with the settled legal position and the foregoing discussion, this Court finds from a perusal of the material on record and the preliminary evidence that the prosecution has produced sufficient material furnishing grounds to proceed against the accused," the court said.

The material on record gives reason to hold that the accused have prima facie committed offences punishable under Section 5(1)(d) read with Section 5(2) of the J&K Prevention of Corruption Act and Section 120-B of the Ranbir Penal Code, the court said.

The court concluded that there was sufficient material on record which warrants the framing of charge against the accused and try them for the commission of the offences.

The court listed the matter for further proceeding on March 10.

Vehicle loaded with illegally 'khair' wooden logs seized

STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA: Police has seized a vehicle loaded with 'khair' wooden logs which were illegally cut and stolen from the State and the Private land in Rattwana Patyari (Surara) area falling under the jurisdiction of Police Station Ghagwal. Acting on information received from reliable sources regarding trans-

portation of illegally cut and stolen Khair wood by some unknown person(s), a team of Police Station Ghagwal has successfully intercepted a Mahindra load carrier bearing registration No. HP68-2447 near village Rattwana Patyari tehsil Ghagwal district Samba. During checking, the vehicle was found loaded with Khair

wooden logs which were illegally cut and stolen from the State and Private land in Rattwana Patyari (Surara) area. The vehicle along with the wooden logs was seized on the spot by the Police.

A case FIR No. 19/2026 u/s 303(2) has been registered at Police Station Ghagwal and investigation started.