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Govt extends one-time package of up to Rs 3,850 Cr to subsidise DAP, 2 crop insurance schemes

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The Union Cabinet on Wednesday extended a one-time package to subsidise key fertiliser DAP at the cost of up to Rs 3,850 crore and approved a one-year extension of two crop insurance schemes, decisions that Prime Minister Narendra Modi said were dedicated to farmers.

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), chaired by the Prime Minister, extended two crop insurance schemes -- PMFBY and RWBCIS -- for one more year till 2025-26 and created a separate Rs 824.77 crore fund for technology infusion in the implementation of flagship schemes.

Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) and Restructured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (RWBCIS) have been extended to align it with the 15th Finance Commission

Cabinet's first decision in New Year dedicated to farmers: Modi

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Wednesday that the government's first decision in the New Year is dedicated to farmers, as the Union Cabinet headed by him enhanced allocation to crop insurance scheme and raised subsidy to a key fertiliser.



He said on X, "(Govt's) first decision of the New Year is dedicated to crores of farmer brothers and sisters of our country. We have approved increasing the allocation for crop insurance scheme. This will provide more security to farmers' crops and will also mitigate their concerns about any damage." The Cabinet's decision on extending the one-time special package on Di-Ammonium Phosphate (DAP) will help farmers by ensuring the fertiliser at affordable prices, he added.

period.

The total outlay for PMFBY and RWBCI has been enhanced to Rs 69,515.71 crore for 2021-22 to 2025-26, higher from Rs 66,550 crore for 2020-21 to 2024-25.

In another big decision, the Union Cabinet extended an additional subsidy on di-ammonium phosphate (DAP) beyond December 31, 2024, to help maintain retail prices of this key fertiliser at Rs 1,350 per bag of 50 kg.

Last year, the Centre announced a one-time special package on DAP at Rs 3,500 per tonne, valid from April 1, 2024, to December 31, 2024, with a financial implication of Rs 2,625 crore to keep prices under check. The package was over and above the nutrient-based subsidy (NBS) fixed by the government on non-urea nutrients.

The Cabinet also approved the proposal for an extension of a one-time special package on DAP at the rate of Rs 3,500 per tonne for the period from January 1, 2025, till further orders.

On social media platform X, the Prime Minister said, "(Govt's) first decision of the New Year is dedicated to crores of farmer brothers and sisters of our country. We have approved increasing the allocation for the crop insurance scheme. This will provide more security to farmers' crops and will also

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Shah, Pradhan to launch book documenting story of J&K, Ladakh

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Union ministers Amit Shah and Dharmendra Pradhan will on Thursday launch a book titled "Jammu Kashmir and Ladakh: Through the Ages", according to education ministry officials. "The book attempts to document the story of Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh from a perspective and format that enables an overview for both the subject specialist and those less conversant," a senior education ministry official said.

"It is presented in seven sections that cover over 3,000 years of the region's history. Each illustration selected for inclusion has been done with care, being representative of an age, its importance and contribution to the larger historical canvas of Indian history," the official added. Published in Hindi and English, the book is the result of collaborative efforts of the National Book Trust, India, and the Indian Council of Historical Research.

3 SSPs, three SPs among 416 police personnel awarded DGP's Commendation Medal

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In recognition of their exceptional contributions to law enforcement and maintaining peace in Jammu and Kashmir, the J&K Police has honoured 416 personnel with the prestigious DGP's Commendation Medal and Certificate. This distinguished recognition highlights their dedication, exemplary service, and tireless efforts in ensuring the safety and security of the Union Territory.

Among the recipients of this coveted award were three Senior Superintendents of Police (SSPs), including S a h i l Sarangal, Virinder Singh Mannas and Amarjit Singh and three Superintendents of Police (SPs) namely Noor-Ul-Hassan, Pardeep Kumar, SP Altaf Hussain, Inspector Sushil Sharma (SHO Satwari) also got DGP's Commendation Medal and Certificate.



SSP Sahil Sarangal SSP Virinder Manhas DySP Sumit Sharma



DySP Ishan Gupta Insp Sushil Sharma Insp Jaswinder Singh

The awardees were specifically recognised for their outstanding leadership and contributions in tackling crime, enforcing law and order, and supporting various police initiatives across the region. They have played a crucial role in handling complex law

enforcement situations, managing resources effectively, and leading their teams with distinction in challenging circumstances.

The DGP's Commendation Medal is awarded to police officers who demonstrate

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IMD says 2024 warmest year in India since 1901

Warm January likely in most parts of India

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The year 2024 was the warmest on record in India since 1901, with the average minimum temperature settling 0.90 degrees Celsius above the long-period average, the IMD said on Wednesday.

The annual mean temperature in 2024 was 25.75 degrees Celsius, 0.65 degrees above the long-period average.

The average maximum temperature stood at 31.25 degrees Celsius, 0.20 degrees above normal. The average minimum temperature was 20.24 degrees Celsius, 0.90 degrees above normal, according to India Meteorological Department (IMD) Director General Mrutyunjay Mohapatra.

The year 2024 surpassed 2016, which had recorded a mean land surface air temperature 0.54 degrees

Celsius above normal, making it the warmest year since 1901.

The average minimum temperature was the highest on record for July, August, September and October, and the second highest for February, the IMD chief said.

According to the European climate agency Copernicus, 2024 likely ended as the warmest year globally and the first with average temperatures 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial (1850-1900) levels.

According to a yearly review by two independent groups of climate scientists -- World Weather Attribution and Climate Central -- the world experienced 41 additional days of dangerous heat in 2024. Mohapatra said the rise in minimum temperatures in 2024 was

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Four construction firm employees injured in attack on bus by 'masked men'

STATE TIMES NEWS

RAMBAN: Four employees of a construction company suffered minor injuries in an attack on a bus that was carrying them to a project site in Jammu and Kashmir's Ramban district on Wednesday, leading to the detention of eight people who are being interrogated, officials said.

The bus carrying the employees of the company to a tunnelling project site in Marog was intercepted at Seri in the evening by masked men, who

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Four associates of JeM terrorist outfit held in Awantipora

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Police on Wednesday arrested four associates of Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) terrorist outfit from Awantipora area of Pulwama district.

"Police in Awantipora along with security forces have arrested four terrorist associates of proscribed terror outfit JeM in Tral area," a police spokesperson said.

He said the arrested terrorist associates have been identified as Mudasar Ahmad Naik, son of Farooq Ahmad Naik, resident of Tral

Payeen; Umar Nazir Sheikh, son of Nazir Ahmad Sheikh, resident of Kuchmulla; Inayat Firdoos Rather; son of Firdoos Ahmad Rather, resident of Tral Payeen and Salman Nazir Lone, son of Nazir Ahmad Lone, resident of Kouserbal Tral.

The spokesperson said incriminating materials have been recovered from their possession.

The arrested individuals were involved in providing logistics support and transportation of arms and ammunition to the active

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J&K Bank rolls out its 'Special One Time Settlement' Scheme I encourage all account holders eligible under this scheme to seize this golden opportunity: Amitava Chatterjee

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: In line with its ongoing efforts to reduce Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) while addressing the genuine challenges faced by borrowers in repaying their loans, J&K Bank today rolled-out its scheme titled 'J&K Bank's Special One Time Settlement Scheme for NPAs/RLAs (Karz Se Mukti)'.

MD & CEO Amitava Chatterjee today formally unveiled the scheme in the presence of Executive Director Sudhir Gupta,



General Managers and other senior officers here at a ceremony held at the Bank's Corporate Headquarters. Notably, the scheme has

been tailored to provide an opportunity to the borrowers with NPA accounts classified as Doubtful-I, Doubtful-II, and Doubtful-III.

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Katra returns to normalcy after weeklong shutdown against ropeway project

STATE TIMES NEWS

KATRA/JAMMU: Katra -- the base camp for pilgrims visiting the Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine -- resumed normal business activity on Wednesday after a week-long shutdown protesting a proposed ropeway project in the Trikuta hills of Reasi district.

Eighteen people detained by police during the protests were also released, sparking overnight celebrations in the holy town.

"All shops, restaurants, and business establishments reopened after a week-long closure due to the shutdown, while traffic movement was also restored, bringing much relief to the pilgrims," an official said.

With the return of normal-

cy, hundreds of pilgrims thronged the holy town on the first day of the year to pay obeisance at the cave shrine, with long serpentine queues seen at the entry points in Katra and Bhawan.

"We are very happy that the bandh has ended. It was causing huge inconvenience to us. We have come here to pay obeisance on the first day of the new year," Suresh Kadam, a resident of Pune, said.

The 'bandh', which began on December 25, disrupted normal life in one of the country's busiest pilgrimage towns which draws thousands of devotees daily.

The Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Sangharsh

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Mandate 2014 - manifestation of centuries' long Hindu persecution

India's transition in 2014 from a seven-decade-long pseudo-secular political framework to a nationalist paradigm under Narendra Modi was not merely a reflection of his immense popularity. It was, more significantly, the outcome of deep-rooted scars of subjugation, exploitation, and persecution endured by the Hindu majority for over a millennium under successive Muslim and British rulers. For patriotic and nationalist Indians, Modi represented a beacon of hope—a leader who could catalyze a renaissance and restore India's cultural ethos, which had been consistently undermined for centuries.

It is vital for Narendra Modi and the BJP to understand that the 2014 mandate was not solely about achieving goals like "Viksit

Bharat by 2047" or becoming a "Vishvagruru." While progress and prosperity were undoubtedly desired, they were secondary to the larger aspiration of reclaiming the pristine glory of Sanatana Dharma. Hindus, who had been relegated to second-class citizens in their own land through systematic marginalization, voted for a restoration of their pride, hugely trampled by the Mughals, the British and ironically the Congress that colluded with the latter overtly and covertly. The growing realization of safeguarding the Hindu identity manifested in the formation of the Bharatiya Jana Sangh in 1951 as a political alternative to the Congress to represent the cultural, social, and political aspirations of nationalist Hindus in post-independence India. Its creation was rooted in dissatisfaction with the policies of the British. The seeds of nationalism began to take root and flourish during the period of Hindu subjugation under British colonial rule for nearly 200 years.

Indians in general and the Hindus in particular bore the brunt of policies that subjugated their identity, divided their society, and weakened the fabric of Sanatana Dharma. British rule systematically undermined the Hindu way of life through caste divisions and one after another legislative interventions. They viewed India not just as a colony but as a civilization to be reformed and controlled. Hindu society, with its diverse practices and spiritual richness, was perceived as an obstacle to the colonial mission. The Sahibs disempowered Hindus in governance, education, and military ranks. They replaced time tested systems of governance with British laws, often disregarding Sanatana customs and traditions. This led to the gradual erosion of self-governance that India's benevolent majority community had practiced for centuries. True that the caste distinctions existed in pre-colonial India, the British amplified these divisions to create havoc with the Hindu society

for their sustenance and political control. Through the introduction of census classifications and land tenure systems, the British rigidified the caste hierarchy. Communities were often categorized arbitrarily, solidifying social divisions that were previously fluid. This did not end there. Making the caste system more pronounced was actually intended to fragment the Hindu society and create an atmosphere for conversions. Mughals did their worst while enforcing conversion, the British unleashed a soft attitude to lure Hindus, especially, what they kept trumpeting as lower castes. The British prioritized Christian missionaries and their efforts to "civilize" Hindus. Missionaries denigrated Sanatana customs and practices, labeling them as backward and superstitious, thereby eroding the confidence of many Hindus.

Sanatana Dharma, the eternal way of life followed by Hindus, was deeply affected. Temples, which

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Date: 27.12.2024
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