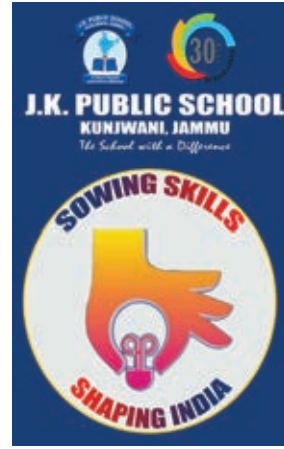


# STATE TIMES

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## India seeks extradition of LeT founder Hafiz Saeed

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: India has asked Pakistan to extradite LeT founder Hafiz Saeed, the Mumbai attack mastermind and a UN-proscribed terrorist, who is wanted by Indian probe agencies in a number of terror cases.

India also took note of reports of Saeed's son Talha Saeed standing for elections in Pakistan and said the "mainstreaming" of radical terrorist outfits in that country is nothing new and that it has been part of its state policy for a long time.

External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said the request for extraditing Saeed along with certain documents was recently sent to Islamabad.

"The person in question is wanted in numerous cases in India. He is also a UN-proscribed terrorist. In this regard, we have conveyed a request along with relevant supporting documents to the



government of Pakistan to extradite him to India to face trial in a particular case," he said.

Bagchi's remarks came in response to a question at his weekly media briefing.

The Indian high commission in Pakistan handed over the request to Islamabad a few weeks ago, he said.

The spokesperson said India has been flagging to Pakistan the activities of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) founder Saeed and that he is wanted in India.

has been part of its state policy for a long time."

"Such developments have serious implications for the security of the region. On our part, we will of course continue to monitor all developments that have an implication on our national security," he added.

Talha Saeed is considered number two in the LeT hierarchy with his father being at the helm of the terror outfit.

In response to media queries regarding India's request to extradite Hafiz Saeed, a Pakistan foreign ministry spokesperson said Islamabad has received it.

"Pakistan has received a request from the Indian authorities, seeking extradition of Hafiz Saeed in a so-called money-laundering case," the official said.

"It is pertinent to note that no bilateral extradition treaty exists between Pakistan and India," the spokesperson said.

### Rajeev promoted as Addl Commissioner of Income Tax

#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Rajeev K. Gubgotra, an IRS officer of 2008 batch from Jammu, has been promoted as Additional Commissioner of Income Tax.

An order has been issued to this effect by Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), New Delhi on December 26, 2023. Rajeev K. Gubgotra is son of soil has a vast

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### CB charge-sheets Naib Sarpanch, property dealer in land fraud case

#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Economic Offences Wing of Crime Branch Jammu on Friday against a Naib Sarpanch and a property dealer in a land fraud case.

The 544 page charge-sheet against accused Karanjeet Singh, son of Sain Dass, resident of Badyal Qazian, Suchetgarh, R.S. Pura District Jammu and Rajinder Singh alias

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## Ayodhya all set for PM's visit, heavy security deployed

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

AYODHYA: Ayodhya is all geared up for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit on December 30, with the city being decked up with flowers, murals and thematic ornamental columns amid heavy security deployment in the temple town.

Divisional Commissioner of Ayodhya, Gaurav Dayal said preparations are in full swing for the visit and despite dense fog in the city in the last two days, all arrangements are on course.

Modi will visit the town on Saturday to inaugurate the redeveloped Ayodhya railway station and a new airport. He will also address a public rally near the airport.

"The prime minister is expected to reach Ayodhya airport somewhere around 10:45 am. After landing at the airport, he will move straight to Ayodhya railway station where he will inaugurate the redeveloped railway



A view of Shri Ram International Airport ahead of inauguration by PM Narendra Modi on December 30.

station. He will then return to the airport, inaugurate the newly-built airport and subsequently address a 'jan sabha' (public rally)," Dayal told PTL.

About 1.5 lakh people are expected to assemble for the rally that will last nearly an hour, after which the prime minister will depart from Ayodhya, he added.

The administration on Thursday had began work on putting up temporary wooden barricades on both sides of

the recently redeveloped Ram Path, and other roads that will fall on his route on way to the railway station from the airport.

Sources said Modi will hold a roadshow on a stretch between the airport and the railway station and acknowledge the greetings of people of Ayodhya.

Large posters bearing Prime Minister Modi's image and carrying a message of welcome to the "holy

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## LG pays homage to SGCT Ravi Kumar



LG Manoj Sinha consoling the family members of SGCT Ravi Kumar.

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday visited the family members of Special Security Force (SSF) Personnel, SGCT Ravi Kumar who lost his life in an

unfortunate road accident. LG paid homage to SGCT Ravi Kumar for his selfless service to the nation. He extended his condolences to the family and assured all assistance and support from the government.

## Mobile internet restored in Rajouri-Poonch

Searches launched in Rajouri forests, ammunition seized at Kasblari

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Mobile Internet services were restored in Poonch and Rajouri districts a week after being suspended following a terror attack on two army vehicles, officials said.

The curbs were effected last Friday as a precautionary measure to check rumour-mongering and prevent any law and order situation from arising.

"The services have been restored in the Rajouri-Poonch belt. The situation is normal," Jammu region Divisional Commissioner Ramesh Kumar told PTL.

Three persons, who were



among those detained for questioning by the Army after the terrorist ambush that left four personnel dead, were found dead mysteriously the next day.

Their bodies were handed over to their families for last

rites as investigation in continuities in their deaths.

Meanwhile, security forces launched a search operation in a forest area in Rajouri district following information about the movement of suspicious elements, officials said.

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## Govt hikes interest rates on Sukanya Samriddhi scheme, 3-yr term deposit by up to 20 bps

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

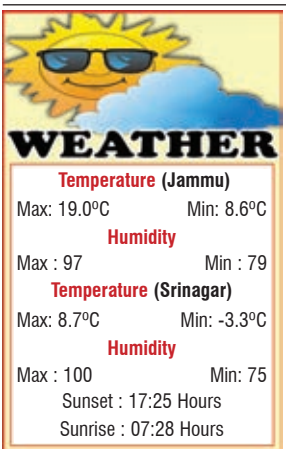
NEW DELHI: The government on Friday raised the interest rates on Sukanya Samriddhi scheme by 20 basis points and three-year term deposit scheme by 10 basis points for the January-March quarter, while retaining the rates for all other small savings schemes.

According to a finance ministry circular, the deposit under Sukanya Samriddhi scheme would attract an interest rate of 8.2 per cent from the existing 8 per cent, while the 3-year term deposit would become 7.1 per cent from the current 7 per cent.

However, the interest rates for popular PPF and savings deposits have been retained at 7.1 per cent and 4 per cent, respectively.

The rates were the same during the December quarter. The interest rate on the Kisan Vikas Patra is 7.5 per cent and the investments will mature in 115 months.

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## Union Minister flags off vehicles from Srinagar, Gandhinagar under 'One Nation One Pass System'

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Union Minister for Forest and Environment, Bhupender Yadav, on Friday virtually flagged off vehicles from Srinagar carrying forest produce, using National Transit Pass System (NTPS), for Pune, Maharashtra State and from Gandhinagar Gujarat for West Bengal under government's ambitious initiative 'One Nation One Transit Pass system'.

Pertinently, the innovative endeavor was part of e-governance initiatives being introduced for promoting Ease of Doing Business, transparen-



Union Minister for Forest and Environment, Bhupender Yadav virtually flagging off vehicles from Srinagar.

cy, accountability and efficiency in government systems. 'One Nation One Transit Pass system' aimed at to facilitate seamless and

smooth transportation of timber and other Forest produce within states as well as for inter-state movement.

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## Govt sanctions Rs 1,170 Cr for road projects in Ladakh: Gadkari

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Union minister Nitin Gadkari said the government has sanctioned Rs 1,170.16 crore for 29 roads projects in Ladakh.

In a post on social media platform X, Gadkari said Rs 1,170.16 crore has been sanctioned for 29 roads projects, encompassing state highway and other major roads in the Union Territory.

Additionally, Rs 181.71 crore has been allocated for 8 bridges under the Central Road and Infrastructure Fund (CRIF) scheme for the fiscal year 2023-24, the road transport and highways

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## CBI Court awards 5 years RI to Rice Mill Owner and Patwari in bank fraud case

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Special Judge CBI Jammu Bala Joyti today awarded five years rigorous imprisonment to Gharu Ram Prop. M/s Jai Laxmi Rice Mills and Vinod Kumar; son of Govind Ram the then Patwari Halqa Chohala, Tehsil R.S.Pura, District Jammu in bank fraud case.

According to the CBI case, the accused Gharu Ram Prop. 'M/s Jai Laxmi Rice Mill' village Kothe 'Chohala', Tehsil R.S.Pura, District Jammu approached for term loan of Rs.30 lakhs to PNB Bank Branch, Canal Road,

Jammu and for working capital limit of Rs.60 lakhs to establish a "Rice Mill" and in order to procure these loan facilities, he offered primary securities hypothecation of entire stock of raw material, stock in process, entire plant, machinery and miscellaneous Fixed Assets including collateral security of land measuring 16 Kanals and 3 marlas and all these properties were mortgaged vide mortgage deed dated August 20, 007 in favour of the bank.

In fact, the synopsis of the prosecution case is that in October 2008 accused Gharu Ram after availing Term

Loan of Rs 30 lakhs again approached 'Punjab National Bank' Branch Canal Road Jammu to get his CC limit enhanced from 60 lakhs - 1.25 crores for promotion of his business and mortgaged additional collateral securities in the form of land measuring 11 kanals 16 marlas vide mortgage deed dated 29.10.2009 by suppressing the facts from the Bank in order to fraudulently avail the loan.

Accused Gharu Ram hatched a criminal conspiracy with co-accused Vinod Kumar and submitted

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## Intense cold conditions in Kashmir, dense fog in several places

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Dense fog shrouded many parts of Kashmir where the minimum temperature dropped several degrees below the freezing point, officials said on Friday.

Kashmir is currently in the grip of "Chilla-i-Kalan", a 40-day harsh winter period, when temperatures drop considerably leading to the freezing of water bodies, including the Dal Lake, as well as water in supply lines.

The chances of snowfall are the highest during this period and most areas, especially the higher reaches, receive heavy snowfall. "Chilla-i-Kalan" will end on January 31 and will be followed by the 20-day "Chilla-i-Khurud" and the 10-day "Chilla-i-Bachha". The minimum temperature in Srinagar settled at minus 3.3 degrees Celsius same as the previous night, officials said.

The visibility in Srinagar city and its adjoining areas was below 50 metres for the third day due to dense fog. The transport department has



A vendor selling 'Kangris', the traditional Kashmiri firepots, crosses a road amid dense fog in Srinagar on Friday.

issued an advisory for motorists in the city and termed foggy conditions the worst in recent memory.

The city and many other places in the valley have been witnessing foggy conditions over the past week.

Though fog did not affect operations at the Srinagar International

Airport, flights arriving from other cities in north India, including Delhi, were delayed due to bad weather conditions there, according to the Airports Authority of India.

Pahalgam in south Kashmir's Anantnag district, which serves as one of the base camps for the annual

Amarnath Yatra, recorded a minimum temperature of minus 5.4 degrees Celsius on Thursday night, the officials said.

Gulmarg, a famous ski resort in Baramulla, recorded a low of minus 2.5 degrees Celsius.

Qazigund recorded a low of minus 4.2 degrees Celsius, Kokernag town minus 2.6 degrees Celsius and Kupwara minus 4 degrees Celsius, the officials said.

Ganderbal, Bandipora, and Budgam recorded the lowest temperature of the season at minus 6.7 degrees Celsius, an independent weather forecaster said. These areas also witnessed very dense fog.

The dip in the minimum temperatures along with dense fog in several areas has caused many problems to the people. Apart from visibility issues, the cold and dry temperatures have increased common ailments like cough, cold, and other respiratory problems, especially among children and the elderly.

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## Forest Range Officer suspended for corrupt practices

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: In consonance with policy of the Government of zero tolerance for corrupt practices, the Forest Department has taken action and placed Mushtaq Ahmad Sofi, Incharge Range Officer, Khulhama Range in Bandipora Forest Division under suspension after he was found involved in corrupt practices and caught red handed by the Anti-Corruption Bureau on Thursday.

An official spokesperson of the department informed that the said Range Officer was found involved in illegal financial transactions with the contractor who had been executing the departmental works. On receiving a

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