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# STATE TIMES

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**SOWING SKILLS**

**SHAPING INDIA**

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**10** Kathua Blue makes clean sweep in Kathua Rollball

Website : www.statetimes.in, Email: statetimes1@gmail.com

## Amit Shah reviews J&K security situation; calls high-level meeting on June 16

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
NEW DELHI: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday reviewed the security situation in Jammu and Kashmir in the wake of several terror incidents there, including an attack on a bus ferrying pilgrims, sources said.

He called a high-level meeting on June 16, to be attended by National Security Adviser Ajit Doval, Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir Manoj Sinha, top officials of the Army, CRPF and others to review the prevailing situation in the Union Territory and steps taken to check terror incidents.

During Sunday's meeting, the home minister will also take stock of the preparedness for the annual Amarnath Yatra which will begin on June 29, sources said.

The home minister was briefed about the prevailing



situation in Jammu and Kashmir and the steps taken following the terror incidents, they said.

Terrorists struck at four places in Reasi, Kathua and Doda districts of Jammu and Kashmir over the past four days, killing nine pilgrims and a CRPF jawan, and leaving seven security personnel and several others injured.

Two suspected Pakistani terrorists were also killed in an encounter with security forces in Kathua district and a large quantity of arms and ammunition were recovered

from them.

On Sunday, terrorists opened fire on a 53-seater bus carrying pilgrims when it was en route to the Mata Vaishno Devi shrine in Katra from the Shiv Khori temple. The bus, carrying pilgrims from Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Delhi, plunged into a deep gorge following the gunfire, killing nine people and injuring 41 others.

On Tuesday, terrorists fired at a joint checkpoint of the Rashtriya Rifles and police at Chattergalla in Bhandarwah while a search party in the

Gandoh area of Doda district was attacked on Wednesday, resulting in injuries to seven security personnel, including a police personnel.

The search operation launched in Jammu and Kashmir to track down and neutralise terrorists after the June 9 attack on a bus carrying pilgrims continues, officials said.

Officials said security forces launched a fresh search and cordon operation in Kathua's Saidda Sukhal village on Thursday following information about the presence of two more terrorists. This came a day after two suspected Pakistani terrorists and a CRPF jawan were killed in the village after an over 15-hour operation.

A large quantity of arms and ammunition, including one M4 Rifle, an AK assault rifle, a satellite phone and more than Rs 2.10 lakh besides Pakistan-made

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**Rajiv, Zargar, Yashpal appointed PSC Members**

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, Manoj Sinha appointed three officers as Members of the Public Service Commission (PSC) for the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

"In exercise of the powers conferred by Section 93 of the Jammu and Kashmir Re-organization Act,

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**Three JKAS, two Jr JKAS officers transferred**

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: The government on Friday transferred three JKAS and two Junior JKAS officers.

According to the order issued by Sanjeev Verma, Commissioner/Secretary, General Administration Department (GAD), Tariq Ahmad, Jr. JKAS:2012-II batch and Vishal Kumar, Jr. JKAS:2023 batch, presently awaiting orders of adjustment in the GAD, have

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## LG pays obeisance at Kheer Bhawani, lays foundation stone for Yatri Bhawan

'Over 30,000 devotees paid obeisance this year'



LG Manoj Sinha paying obeisance at Mata Kheer Bhawani Temple, Tulmulla, Ganderbal on Friday.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SRINAGAR: On the auspicious occasion of Jyeshtha Ashtami, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday laid the foundation stone for Yatri Bhawan at Mata Kheer

**Sinha meets J&K's Int'l Para Shooter, representing India at Paris 2024 Paralympic Games**

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday met Amir Ahmad Bhat, International Para Shooter from J&K who is going to represent India in Pistol Shooting Competition at Paris 2024 Paralympic Games.

The Lt Governor congratulated Amir Ahmad Bhat for his remarkable achievements in national and international events and conveyed best

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Bhawani Temple, Tulmulla, Ganderbal. The Lt Governor paid obeisance to Mata Kheer Bhawani and prayed for peace, prosperity, happiness and well-being of one and all. He interacted with the devotees and extended his heartiest greetings on the auspicious occasion.

Addressing the media persons, the Lt Governor reiterated the commitment of the UT Administration to augment the facilities for the devotees of Mata Kheer Bhawani.

He said the Yatri Bhawan, to be constructed at a cost of Rs 3.85 crore, will enhance the pilgrimage experience by offering comforting lodging and

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## Way to peace through 'dialogue and diplomacy': Modi to Zelenskyy

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
BARI (ITALY): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday conveyed to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy during a meeting that India would continue to do everything within its means to support a peaceful solution to the Ukraine conflict and that the way to peace is through "dialogue and diplomacy".

Modi met Zelenskyy on the sidelines of the G-7 summit in Italy's Apulia region.

The prime minister also told Zelenskyy that India believes in a "human-centric" approach. The two leaders exchanged views on the situation in Ukraine and the upcoming Summit on Peace being hosted by Switzerland.

The prime minister described the meeting with the Ukrainian president as "very productive" and said India is eager to "further cement" bilateral relations with Ukraine.

"Had a very productive meeting with President Volodymyr Zelenskyy. India is eager to further cement bilateral relations with Ukraine," Modi said on 'X'.

"Regarding the ongoing hostilities, reiterated that India believes in a human-centric approach and

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## Land mafia-revenue officials-police nexus exposed

### ACB unearths over 225 kanals land scam; 5 FIRs registered; houses of Tehsildars, Naib Tehsildars, patwaris and property dealers raided

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Friday unearthed a major scam involving more than 225 kanals of land usurped by the land mafia in connivance with revenue officials, a senior police officer said.

Five FIRs have been registered against the accused, including government officials, and raids are underway at the premises of 16 people including Tehsildars, Naib-Tehsildars, Patwaris, property dealers and their conduits



DIG ACB, Vikas Gupta, SSP ACB (central) Surinder Kumar Sharma addressing media in Jammu on Friday.

involved in the scam, Deputy Inspector General of ACB, Jammu, Vikas Gupta told reporters. Gupta, who was flanked by senior officers including Senior Superintendent of Police, ACB (central)

## CS launches competitions on MyGov portal to mark Int'l Yoga Day

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, on Friday launched several online competitions for the citizens of Jammu and Kashmir on MyGov portal (https://jk.mygov.in/)

to mark 10th International Yoga Day celebration to be observed on 21st June, 2024. The competitions, themed 'Yoga for Self and Society', included yoga doodle challenge, essay writing, poster making and story-telling video contests. The competitions are live on the J&K MyGov portal and registration is open till June 30, 2024. The topper would be

awarded with a cash prize of Rs 10,000, second with Rs. 8,000 and the third would get Rs 5,000. The interested participants can register and submit their entries on the MyGov portal.

In addition, the portal offers opportunity to the citizens to upload their selfies by June 30, 2024. In this regard, a custom frame has been designed to allow the citizens to capture their yoga selfie sharing moments of achievement, peace and self-discovery through Yoga, promoting a movement of wellness and self care. While launching these

competitions, the topper would be

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## Police rewards 5 villagers for foiling cross-LoC narcotics smuggling bid

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
NOWSHERA: Five residents of Jammu and Kashmir's Makdi village have been rewarded for foiling a bid to smuggle about 10 kg of heroin from across the Line of Control, an official said on Friday.

The police headquarters has sanctioned Rs 4 lakh as reward money for the villagers for their "heroic display of bravery and patriotic act", a police spokesman said.

Makdi, he said, is a village that falls ahead of the anti-infiltration obstacle system near the LoC in the Nowshera sector of Jammu and Kashmir.

Without caring for their safety, the villagers intercepted four narcotics smugglers in April, leading to the seizure of the heroin consignment that weighed 9.94 kg, the spokesman said. He said the smugglers were arrested and efforts are being made to trace others involved in cross-border narcotics smuggling.

**WEATHER**

Temperature (Jammu)  
Max: 40.5°C Min: 25.4°C

Humidity  
Max: 30 Min: 17

Temperature (Srinagar)  
Max: 27.2°C Min: 13.4°C

Humidity  
Max: 64 Min: 40

Sunset : 19:39 Hours  
Sunrise : 05:22 Hours

## 300 Women Scientists to get grant for 3 years: Dr Jitendra

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
NEW DELHI: "300 women Scientists to get research grant for 3 years under CSIR- ASPIRE scheme" said Dr. Jitendra Singh Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Earth Sciences, MoS PMO, Department of Atomic Energy, Department of Space, Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, here on Friday.

Chairing a meeting of the Department of Scientific and Industrial research (DSIR) Dr. Jitendra Singh said innovations in Science and tech-



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh chairing meeting of senior officials of DSIR and DBT at New Delhi on Friday.

nology should empower citizens in line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision to promote ease of living. While reviewing the planning of DSIR and CSIR for the next 100 days, Dr Jitendra Singh commended

the CSIR- ASPIRE scheme which is a testimony of the government's efforts to support women scientists. "Aspire" is a Special Call for Research Grants for Women Scientists launched on the occasion of International

Women's Day last year. Around 3,000 proposals were received out of which 300 proposals have been selected after screening and independent reviewing, the area-wise research committees recommended a total of 301 research proposals for support.

Dr. Jitendra Singh expressed his satisfaction over the success of 'One Week One Lab' initiative and directed the team to scale it up and work on lines of 'One Week One Theme' initiative. 'One Week One Lab' (OWOL) campaign of CSIR showcases the diverse legacies, exclusive

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## SC seeks response of Centre, NTA on plea for CBI probe into 'irregularities' in NEET-UG

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
NEW DELHI: In a significant development amid a raging row over the NEET-UG, the Supreme Court on Friday sought responses from the Centre and the NTA on a plea for a CBI probe into allegations of question paper leak and other irregularities in the exam.

A vacation bench of justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta, which was hearing a batch of pleas including a PIL filed by Hiten Singh Kashyap, also sought responses from the

CBI and the Bihar government within two weeks. It said the pleas will be taken up with other pending



ones on July 8, when the top court will start functioning after the summer vacation. During brief hearing, the bench got irked when a

lawyer referred to the students committing suicides at Kota, a hub of coaching centres, in Rajasthan as an argument to buttress his case for a CBI probe.

"Don't make unnecessary emotional arguments here," Justice Nath said.

Responding to the submission for ordering a CBI probe, the bench said the reply of the NTA was necessary before an order could be passed. "It is the future of 24 lakh students," the

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## KPs celebrate annual Mela Kheer Bhawani

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
TULMULLA/JAMMU: "Faith is more powerful than fear," said a pilgrim, who was among the hundreds visiting temples across Jammu and Kashmir to celebrate the Mela Kheer Bhawani, amid heightened security following four terrorist attacks in the Union Territory.

The fair -- an annual event at the Kheer Bhawani temple, dedicated to Rangya Devi, in Ganderbal district's Tulmulla -- is also celebrated in other shrines and temples in Jammu and Kashmir to mark 'Zyeth Atham', or 'Jyeshtha Ashtami'.

"Everything is in the hands of God. There is some fear but people have come here in large numbers. Faith is more powerful than fear," Sunny, a Kashmiri Pandit from Delhi, said as he and several others



from the community congregated at Rangya Devi in the central Kashmir district for the Mela.

Terrorists struck at four places in Reasi, Kathua and Doda districts in the Jammu province between Sunday

and Wednesday, killing nine people, including seven pilgrims and a CRPF jawan. Seven security personnel, 41 pilgrims and a villager were also injured in the attacks.

The pilgrims were attacked while they were travelling in

a bus to the Mata Vaishno Devi shrine in Jammu's Katra on June 9.

Strict security measures were implemented to ensure the safety of the devotees. A multi-layered security ring was established around the

temple complex and along the routes.

Several Kashmiri Pandits also thronged a temple in Jammu city to mark the start of the three-day annual mela, seeking blessings and paying tributes to the victims of terror attacks.

Kheer Bhawani Peeth at Janipur area of Jammu city was constructed as a replica of the original shrine here after mass migration of the community from the valley in early 1990's.

"This is our biggest festival which we have been celebrating here for the past three decades... We prayed for the safety of our country, especially Jammu which has come on the terror radar," Anu, who visited Kheer Bhawani Peeth, said. Sunny said that the members

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## DGP pays obeisance at Mata Kheer Bhawani

SRINAGAR: Director General of Police R.R. Swain, on Friday paid his obeisance at the revered Mata Kheer Bhawani on the occasion of annual mela and prayed for everlasting peace, brotherhood, and harmony in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. Accompanied by jurisdictional police officers including IGP Kashmir V.K. Birdi, DIG CKR Rajiv Omprakash Pande, the DGP offered prayers at the sacred shrine, seeking the blessings of the divine for the welfare and prosperity of the people, families of martyrs, Police personnel & security forces. The DGP also interacted with the devotees and pilgrims and assured them unwavering support of J&K Police. "Mata Kheer Bhawani Mela is a symbol of our rich cultural heritage and communal harmony. It is a reminder that our diverse communities have always co-existed in peace and harmony, and we must strive to strengthen this bond," the DGP said.

