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STATE TIMES

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

Modi to lead Yoga Day celebrations from Srinagar on June 21

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI/SRINAGAR: The main International Day of Yoga celebrations this year will be held at the Sher-i-Kashmir International Conference Centre (SKICC) in Srinagar on June 21 with Prime Minister Narendra Modi leading the event there, AYUSH Minister Prataprao Jadhav said on Tuesday.

It will be Modi's first visit to Jammu and Kashmir after being sworn-in as the prime minister for his third term. Modi is scheduled to arrive in Srinagar on June 20 and lead the IDY celebrations the next day.

"Preparations are on and the arrangements for the programme have been put in place," an official in Srinagar said, adding hundreds of people, including many sportspersons, are expected to participate in the event.

The participants have been shortlisted and are being trained in various 'asanas'



expected to be performed by the prime minister, the officials added.

Modi's last visit to Srinagar was in March this year when he addressed a public rally at the Bakhshi stadium here.

In Delhi, Minister of State for Ayush (independent charge) Jadhav said this year's theme 'Yoga for Self

and Society' highlights yoga's dual role in fostering individual and societal wellbeing.

It underlines promoting connection between the inner-self and the outer world going beyond one's own wellbeing, Jadhav said.

"Yoga nurtures physical, mental, and spiritual

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Police bans operation of drones in Srinagar ahead of PM visit

SRINAGAR: Ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Srinagar, the Jammu and Kashmir Police on Tuesday declared the city as a temporary "red zone", banned the operation of drones.

In his first visit to Jammu and Kashmir after being sworn-in as the prime minister for the third time, Modi is scheduled to visit Srinagar on Thursday and would lead the main event to mark the International Yoga Day at the SKICC here on Friday morning.

"Srinagar city has been declared as 'Temporary Red Zone' for the operation of drones and

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It appears Maa Ganga has adopted me: PM

VARANASI: Visiting his Varanasi constituency which elected him to the Lok Sabha for a third consecutive time, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said it appears that mother Ganga has now adopted him.

Addressing a PM Kisan Samman Sammelan, he said the mandate given by the people in this Lok Sabha election is truly unprecedented and has created history.

"I consider farmers, women, the youth and the poor strong pillars of 'Viksit Bharat' (developed India)," Modi said on his first visit to his constituency after the Lok Sabha polls and added that the first decision of the new government related to farmers and the poor.

He won from Varanasi with a reduced margin of 1,52,513 votes in these polls. In 2019, the margin

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Rajnath meets senior ministers, discusses Parliament strategy

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Tuesday chaired a meeting of senior ministers to plan the floor strategy for the upcoming Parliament Session during which President Droupadi Murmu is scheduled to spell out the NDA government's vision for the next five years.

The meeting at Singh's official residence was attended by ministers S Jaishankar, Manohar Lal Khattar, Bhupender Yadav, Piyush Goyal, Dharmendra Pradhan, Kiren Rijju, Annapurna Devi, Rajiv Ranjan Singh 'Lalan' and Chirag Paswan.

The defence minister is learnt to have sought inputs from the senior ministers, including NDA partners Lalan Singh and Paswan of the JD(U) and LJP(RV) respectively, for the president's address to the joint sitting of Parliament scheduled



for June 27.

The first session of the 18th Lok Sabha begins on June 24 when members will take oath and then choose the Speaker on June 26.

Both Houses will take up the debate on the Motion of Thanks on the President's address on June 28. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to reply to the debate on July 2-3.

The meeting at the defence minister's residence is also learnt to have deliberated upon the possible candidates

for the post of Lok Sabha Speaker and Deputy Speaker.

The JD(U) has said it would support the BJP nominee for the Speaker's post, while another key ally TDP has sought a consensus candidate for the coveted post.

The opposition INDIA bloc has sought the Deputy Speaker's post for its nominee, while the BJP is mulling giving the post to one of its alliance partners. The names of BJP leaders

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Search operations launched following firing in Poonch



STATE TIMES NEWS

POONCH: Security forces launched a search operation following reports of firing of few rounds in Poonch district on Tuesday, officials said.

However, they denied any exchange of fire between the troops and the terrorists in

the area.

There was firing of a few rounds in Buziaz forest area prompting the security forces and the police to launch a search operation, they said. The operation was going on when reports last came in from the area.

NEET-UG exam row: SC says any negligence should be thoroughly dealt with

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Tuesday said even if there was "0.001 per cent negligence" on the part of anyone in the conduct of the NEET-UG 2024 examination, it should be thoroughly dealt with.

Observing that students have to labour hard while preparing for these examinations, the apex court said the litigation pertaining to the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (Undergraduate)-2024 examination ought not be treated as adversarial.

"Even if there is 0.001 per

cent negligence on the part of anyone, it should be thoroughly dealt with," a vacation bench of Justices Vikram Nath and SVN Bhatti told the advocates appearing for the Centre and the National Testing Agency (NTA).

The NTA conducts the all India pre-medical entrance test.

The bench was hearing two separate petitions raising grievances, including on grace marks given to students in the examination held on May 5.

"We all know the labour which the children undergo, especially in preparing for

these exams," the bench said, adding, "Imagine a person who has played fraud on the system becomes a doctor; he is more deleterious to the society".

"Representing an agency which is responsible for conducting the examination, you must stand firm. If there is a mistake, yes this is a mistake and this is the action we are going to take. At least that inspires confidence in your performance," the bench told the NTA's counsel.

Stressing on timely action by the authority, the top court said the pleas would come up for hearing on July

8 along with other pending petitions, including those which have sought a direction to conduct the exam afresh.

It said the NTA and the Centre would file their responses on these fresh petitions within two weeks.

When one of the advocates appearing for some petitioners raised the issue pertaining to a question asked in the exam, the bench said, "They (NTA and Centre) will respond to it".

"Let us understand the purpose of your submissions. In these matters, we

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Bandipora encounter: Slain terrorist was active since 2018



Commandant 3 Sector RR, Brigadier Vipul Tyagi briefing media at Bandipora.

STATE TIMES NEWS

BANDIPORA: The terrorist killed in an encounter with security forces in Jammu and Kashmir's Bandipora district on Monday has been

identified as Umar Lone, a category 'A' terrorist of Lashkar-e-Taiba outfit who was active since 2018. Addressing a press

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Defence ministry issues RFP for procurement of 156 light combat helicopters

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The defence ministry has started the process to procure 156 light combat helicopters from state-run aerospace major Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL), officials said on Tuesday.

A request for proposal (RFP) or initial tender has been issued by the ministry for the procurement project, they said.

Separately, the HAL informed the BSE Ltd in a filing that the RFP has been issued by the ministry for procurement of 156 light combat helicopters.

In November last year, the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) had cleared the proposal to procure 156 Prachand combat helicopters.

Out of the 156 Prachand Light Combat Helicopters, 90 will be for the Army and 66 will be for the Indian Air Force.

Developed by Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL), the 5.8-tonne twin-engine

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Doda terror attacks: Three picked up for questioning

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Security personnel have picked up three persons, including a couple, for questioning in connection with the movement of terrorists involved in the recent attacks in Jammu and Kashmir's Doda district.

The authorities believe a group of three to four terrorists is present in the higher reaches of the district.

On June 11 night, five soldiers from the Rashtriya Rifles and a special police officer (SPO) were injured when terrorists attacked a

joint check post in the upper reaches of Chattergalla on the Bhaderwah-Pathankot road.

On Wednesday evening, a policeman was injured when the terrorists opened fire on a search party in the Kota Top village in the Gandoh area of the district.

The security personnel have detained three persons from Jai area of Doda district. The three include a couple and a teenager, who are suspected of providing food to the terrorists and failing to report

their movements to the security forces, sources said. The three persons are being questioned, the sources said.

Earlier, 50 people were detained in connection with the investigation into the recent terror attack on a bus carrying pilgrims in Reasi district of Jammu and Kashmir, police said on Thursday.

Last week saw four terrorist attacks in which 10 people including a CRPF and two terrorists were killed and 50 others suffered injuries in Reasi, Kathua and Doda districts.

CDS Gen Chauhan releases joint doctrine for cyberspace ops

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Chief of Defence Staff Gen Anil Chauhan on Tuesday unveiled a joint doctrine for conducting cyberspace operations by the three services, in a significant move aimed at streamlining operations in the key domain.

The doctrine lays emphasis on understanding military aspects of cyberspace operations and provides conceptual guidance to the military in planning, and achieving desired objectives in the domain.

The release of the key document came as the

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Delhi court to hear on June 22 Er Rashid's interim bail plea to take oath as MP

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: A Delhi court on Tuesday fixed for hearing on June 22 further arguments on an application filed by Engineer Rashid, arrested in a 2016 Jammu and Kashmir terror funding case, seeking interim bail to take oath as an MP.

Sheikh Abdul Rashid, popularly known as Engineer Rashid, defeated former Chief Minister Omar Abdullah in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls in Baramulla.

Additional Sessions Judge Chander Jit Singh directed the NIA to inform the court about the likely date for his

oath-taking.

The judge passed the directions after he was informed that the newly elected Lok Sabha MPs will take oath on June 24, 25 and 26.

Rashid has moved the court seeking interim bail, or custody parole in the alternative, to take oath and perform his parliamentary functions.

Rashid has been in jail since 2019 after he was charged by the NIA under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act in the alleged terror funding case. He is at present lodged in Tihar jail.

The former MLA's name cropped up during the investigation of Kashmiri businessman Zahoor Watali, who the NIA had arrested for allegedly funding terrorist groups and separatists in the Valley.

The NIA had filed a charge sheet against several individuals, including Kashmiri separatist leader Yasin Malik, Lashkar-e-Taiba founder Hafiz Saeed and Hizbul Mujahideen chief Syed Salahuddin in the case.

Malik was awarded life imprisonment by a trial court in 2022 after he pleaded guilty to the charges.

"Took more than 50-yrs for rail track to get extended into J&K,": Dr Jitendra

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Union Minister Jitendra Singh said on Tuesday that the first train arrived in Jammu and Kashmir for the first time in 1972 but it took more than 50 years for the rail track to get extended.

Singh was welcomed by his supporters during a visit to Jammu days after securing a third term from the Udhampur Lok Sabha seat, according to a national news agency.

"In the last 10 years, there has not been a single day when this constituency and our team of workers has not dedicated itself to the work of development in the constituency... I have to humbly express my gratitude to the people of the constituency



Union Minister Singh welcomed by his supporters during visit to Jammu days after securing a third term from the Udhampur Lok Sabha seat.

who have been a constant source of inspiration for us to work day and night..." Singh told reporters here.

Replying to a query, he said, "...Nobody could have

thought of till a few years ago that a day would come when the Valley of Kashmir would be connected with the rest of India, rest of world through a rail link."

He said that the train arrived in Jammu and Kashmir for the first time in 1972.

"It took more than 50 years for the rail track to get

extended. It was only when Prime Minister Narendra Modi took over, the work was put on the fast track. There was some issue related to the bridge at Reasi which was resolved. Now this is the highest bridge in the world... Very soon we will have a train running into the Kashmir Valley".

The Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) project will be completed by year-end. The USBRL project, including the 48.1 km long Banihal-Sangaldan section, was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on February 20, 2024.

Phase I of the project, covering the 118 km long Qazigund-Baramulla

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41 airports across India get hoax bomb threat on email

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Forty-one airports, including in Varanasi, Chennai, Patna and Jaipur, received bomb threat emails on Tuesday, prompting authorities to scramble contingency measures and carry out anti-sabotage checks that lasted hours, and each of them was found to be a hoax, official sources said.

Security was beefed up as agencies swept the airport terminals after the emails were received around 12.40 pm from the ID exhumedy-ou888@gmail.com.

The airports in Varanasi, Chennai, Patna, Nagpur, Jaipur, Vadodara, Coimbatore and Jabalpur were among those that received the hoax threats.

Prime Minister Narendra

Modi was in his parliamentary constituency of Varanasi on Tuesday, the first time after the Lok Sabha poll results were declared on June 4.

An online group called "KNR" is suspected to be behind these hoax threat emails. The group reportedly issued similar emails to several schools in the Delhi-National Capital Region on May 1, the sources said.

The emails received by the airports carried almost the identical message: "Hello, there are explosives hidden in the Airport. The bombs will soon explode. You will all die."

The airports put into action contingency plans and carried out anti-sabotage checks following

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WEATHER

Temperature (Jammu)
Max: 43.0°C Min: 27.0°C

Humidity
Max: 34 Min: 18

Temperature (Srinagar)
Max: 31.0°C Min: 29.0°C

Humidity
Max: 29 Min: 21

Sunset : 05:23 Hours
Sunrise : 07:41 Hours