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# STATE TIMES

THE BOLD VOICE OF J&K

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**SHAPING INDIA**

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

## Welcomes Prime Minister's participation Yoga on Dal Banks; over 7,000 people to join PM Modi in Srinagar: LG

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

SRINAGAR: More than 7,000 people from different walks of life will join Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday to celebrate the 10th International Yoga Day on the banks of the famous Dal lake in Srinagar.

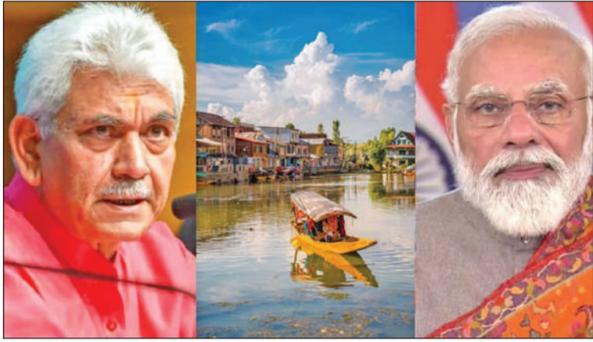
Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said it is an honour for the entire Kashmir Valley to have the prime minister here on the International Yoga Day.

"It is a matter of pride for the people of J&K that Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be performing Yoga near the iconic Dal lake in Srinagar, alongside over 7,000 people," LG said.

The event is jointly organized by the J&K administration and the Ayush Ministry, who have extended invitations to people from several districts to join in the celebrations.

This historic event aims to promote unity, wellness, and celebration, showcasing Jammu and Kashmir's beauty and potential.

The LG said the prime minister



has a special connection with Jammu and Kashmir which is the reason that he chose to celebrate the 10th International Yoga Day in Srinagar.

"In the past 10 years, Yoga has got a recognition at both national and international level. More than 23.5 crore people have participated in the event so far.

"In Jammu and Kashmir, last year 23 lakh people participated in

Yoga Day and I am seeing an increase in people performing Yoga on everyday basis. For a stress-free life, people are opting for yoga," he said.

On PM Modi's relationship with the people of Kashmir, Sinha said they are equally attached to the Prime Minister as was seen at his public meeting at Bakshi stadium in March this year.

"I don't believe there's a distance

between the people of Jammu and Kashmir and PM Modi. Three months ago when he gave a speech at Bakshi stadium, a sea of people came to witness the historic moment. This proves that the people are equally attached with PM Modi.

"If some people believe that there is a distance between the people and the PM, then it's their problem. Our PM remains in touch with locals here through different mediums. "When a weaver does something extraordinary, when youth initiate something new, our PM appreciates them. The boost in economy that we are witnessing also has a big contribution of our PM," he added. On the upcoming Amarnath Yatra, Sinha said the administration is always on its toes when it comes to religious festivals and events of all communities.

"We have made special arrangements for Amarnath Yatra also. Muharram is also approaching and we will make sure that everything is in place,"

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## Govt raises paddy MSP by Rs 117 to Rs 2,300 per quintal for 2024-25

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

NEW DELHI: The government on Wednesday raised the minimum support price (MSP) for paddy by 5.35 per cent to Rs 2,300 per quintal for the 2024-25 kharif marketing season, a move that comes ahead of key state assembly polls.

The Rs 117 per quintal hike in paddy support price comes despite the government grappling with massive rice surpluses but it is significant ahead of elections in states like Haryana, Maharashtra, Jharkhand and Delhi.

The MSP increase in the 14 kharif (summer) crops is the first major decision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's third term in office and shows the government's "clear policy" to keep support prices at least 1.5 times the cost of production, Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnav said.

Paddy is the main kharif crop. Sowing of kharif crops usually begins with the onset of the southwest monsoon in June and marketing between October 2024 and September 2025.

Announcing the MSP increase, Vaishnav said the Cabinet has approved the minimum support prices for 14 kharif crops based on recommendations from the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP).

The total financial implication from the MSP hike is estimated at Rs 2,00,000 crore, about Rs 35,000 crore higher than the previous season, significantly boosting farmers' income, the minister said.

The MSP for 'common' grade paddy has been raised by Rs 117 to Rs 2,300 per quintal, while for the 'A' grade variety, it has been hiked to Rs 2,320 per quintal for the upcoming kharif season, Vaishnav told reporters.

Among cereals, the MSP for 'hybrid' grade jowar has been raised by Rs 191 to Rs 3,371 per quintal, while for the 'Maldani' variety, it has been hiked by Rs 196 to Rs 3,421 per quintal for the 2024-25 marketing season (October-September).

The support price for bajra has been increased by Rs 125 to Rs 2,625 per quintal, ragi by Rs 444 to Rs 4,290 per quintal and maize by Rs 135 to Rs 2,225 per quintal for 2024-25.

To reduce the country's dependence on import of pulses, the MSP for tur has been raised by Rs 550 to Rs 7,550 per quintal, for urad by Rs 450 to Rs 7,400 per quintal and for moong by Rs 124 to Rs 8,682 per quintal for 2024-25 kharif marketing season.

Similarly, the support price for sunflower seed has been raised by Rs 520 to Rs 7,280 per quintal, for groundnut

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## UGC-NET exam cancelled; CBI to probe irregularities

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

NEW DELHI: National Testing Agency (NTA) on Wednesday announced the cancellation of UGC-NET exams following prima facie indications that integrity of the exams were compromised, reports news agency PTI.

According to the Education Ministry, UGC-NET to be conducted afresh, and the matter of exam integrity being compromised being handed over to CBI.

"Government is committed to ensure the sanctity of examinations and protect the interest of stu-

dents. Ministry of Education has decided that the UGC-NET June 2024 Examination be cancelled on the basis of inputs from Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) under the Ministry of Home Affairs, prima-facie indicating that the integrity of the examination may have been compromised. Fresh Examination shall be conducted, for which information shall be shared separately. Matter being handed over to CBI for thorough investigation in the matter." The government posted on X.

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## Govt working towards more advanced, research-oriented higher education system: Modi

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

RAJGIR (BIHAR): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday asserted that he wanted India to re-emerge as the world's "most prominent knowledge centre" with an "advanced and research-oriented" higher education system.

Modi, while inaugurating the new Nalanda University campus here, called upon students to always remain curious and courageous.

The varsity is named after the world-renowned ancient seat of higher learning, which was razed by invading armies in the 12th century.



The PM said Nalanda bore testimony to the fact that "knowledge cannot be destroyed by fire", and that India was looking forward to playing its role in the 21st

century, "which belongs to Asia", by becoming a developed country by 2047.

He underscored that history was proof that all developed countries became eco-

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## 18 J&K Prosecution Service officers transferred

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: The government on Wednesday transferred 18 members of J&K Prosecution Service.

Laeq Ahmad Jt Dir Prosecution Crime Hqrs; Sunita Jt Dir Prosecution ACB; Irshad Ahmad Dy Dir Prosecution ACB; Masroor posted as Commandant SDRF 1st Bn. Srinagar

According to the order issued by Chandraker Bharti, Principal Secretary, Home Department, Laeq Ahmad Dar, Deputy Director Prosecution Crime Headquarters has been transferred and posted as Joint Director Prosecution, Crime Hqrs, J&K; Aijaz Ahmad Bhat, Deputy

Director Prosecution, in the office of Director General of Prosecution as Joint Director Prosecution Hqrs, J&K; Sunita Kargotra, Deputy Director Prosecution in the office of Director Prosecution, Jammu holding additional charge of Deputy Director Prosecution, Samba-Kathua has been transferred and posted as Joint Director Prosecution Anti Corruption Bureau, J&K. Irshad Ahmad

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## Shahid, Bhupinder appointed Nodal Officers for Shri Amarnath Yatra

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: The government on Wednesday appointed two IAS as nodal officers for smooth conduct of annual Amarnath Yatra.

"It is ordered that Shahid Iqbal Choudhary, IAS, Department of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj and Bhupinder Kumar,

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## Man arrested for snatching SPO's rifle in Doda, weapon seized

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

BHADARWAI: A man was arrested for snatching the rifle of a special police officer (SPO) in Jammu and Kashmir's Doda district on Wednesday, officials said.

The weapon has been recovered.

A joint team of the police and the Army launched a search operation to trace Mohd Rafi who snatched the AK-47 rifle of the SPO from Doda on Tuesday, they said.

Rafi was arrested from

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**WEATHER**

Temperature (Jammu)  
Max: 43.8°C Min: 28.0°C

Humidity  
Max: 28 Min: 22

Temperature (Srinagar)  
Max: 29.5°C Min: 18.0°C

Humidity  
Max: 66 Min: 53

Sunset: 19:41 Hours  
Sunrise: 05:22 Hours

## Two terrorists killed in Watergam Baramulla encounter

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

SRINAGAR: Two terrorists are believed to be killed while two security personnel sustained injuries in an encounter that broke out in Baramulla district on Wednesday, officials said.

The security forces launched a cordon and search operation in Watergam area of Baramulla district on Wednesday morning following information about the presence of ultras there, they said.

The officials said the search operation turned into an encounter after the ter-



rорists opened firing on the security forces.

A senior police official said two bodies have been seen at the scene of the gun battle but have not been retrieved

so far.

He added that two security personnel -- a cop and an army jawan -- were injured in the exchange of firing with the terrorists.

## Cylinder blast in Kupwara jail; 7 hurt

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

SRINAGAR: At least seven inmates were wounded in a gas cylinder blast inside a jail in Jammu and Kashmir's Kupwara district on Wednesday, authorities said.

The blast took place inside the kitchen of the district Jail in the north Kashmir district, said an official.

The injured, seven in all, were rushed to a hospital, which referred five of them to a hospital in the state capital.

Police have registered a case and begun an investigation into the incident, the official said.

## Major breakthrough in terror strike case on pilgrims Reasi bus attack: Terror associate arrested for harbouring, guiding terrorists

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: Police arrested a terror supporter on Wednesday for his involvement in harbouring and helping terrorists who carried out the June 9 attack on a bus carrying pilgrims in Reasi district, officials said.

Nine people, including seven pilgrims from Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi, were killed and 41 more injured when the terrorists opened fire on the bus returning from the Shiv Khori shrine in the Pooni area. The 53-seater vehicle veered off the road and fell



Reasi police arrested Hakam Din on Wednesday who was involved in Reasi terror attack.

into a deep gorge following the gunfire. Police (SSP), Reasi, Mohita Sharma identified the Senior Superintendent of

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## Union Cabinet approves Rs 2254 Cr scheme to expand forensics infrastructure Scheme to ensure training of manpower, speedy justice delivery: Shah

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

NEW DELHI: A Rs 2254.43 crore scheme for building forensic infrastructure in the country that include setting up of new campuses and laboratories among others was approved by the government on Wednesday.

A meeting of the Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved the central sector project, the National Forensic Infrastructure Enhancement Scheme (NFIES), with a total financial outlay of Rs 2254.43 crore to be implemented during 2024-25 to 2028-29, an official release said.

Under the scheme, forensic campuses and laboratories will be established and other

infrastructure will be enhanced, it said.

Financial outlay of the scheme will be provisioned by the Ministry of Home Affairs from its own budget.

Under the scheme, campuses of the National Forensic Sciences University (NFSU) will be established and Central Forensic Science Laboratories will be set up across the country.

The existing infrastructure of the Delhi campus of the NFSU will also be enhanced.

The government of India is committed to put in place an effective and efficient criminal justice system, based on scientific and timely forensic examination of evidence, the release said.

The scheme underscores the importance of high quali-



ty, trained forensic professionals in the timely and scientific examination of evidence for an efficient criminal justice process, leveraging the advancements in technology & evolving manifestations and methods of crime.

With the enactment of the new criminal laws, which

mandates forensic investigation for offences involving punishment of 7 years or more, a significant increase in the workload of forensic science laboratories is expected.

The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita 2023, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita 2023 and Bharatiya Sakshya

Adhinyam 2023, enacted last year, will come into effect from July 1.

These laws are set to replace the British-era Indian Penal Code, Code of Criminal Procedure and the Indian Evidence Act respectively.

Further, there is a significant shortage of trained forensic manpower in the Forensic Science Laboratories (FSL) in the country.

To meet this heightened demand, significant investment and enhancement in national forensic infrastructure is imperative, the release said.

The establishment of additional off-campus of the NFSU and new

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## Court extends Kejriwal's judicial custody till July 3

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

NEW DELHI: A Delhi court on Wednesday extended till July 3 the judicial custody of Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal in a money laundering case linked to the alleged excise scam.

Special Judge Niyay Bindu extended the custody of Kejriwal after he was produced before the court through video conference on expiry of his judicial custody granted earlier.

During the hearing, the counsel appearing for Kejriwal opposed the ED's application seeking extension of his custody, saying there were no grounds justifying extension of his custody.

The judge also heard submissions on the bail application moved by Kejriwal in the case.

The judge will resume hearing arguments on the application on Thursday.

During the arguments, the Kejriwal's counsel told the court that the entire case upon the CM rests on statements.

"Those statements are of those people who have confessed themselves to be guilty. They are not saints here. They are those who are not only tainted but it appears, some were arrested and they were given a promise of bail and promise of being granted pardon. And there is another category who have not been arrested," the counsel said.

He added that if the quality was only statements, then it was a circumstantial evidence.

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