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10 Udhampur Volleyball meet from Dec 2

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Sinha addresses closing ceremony of Audit Week

Critical role for audit community in contributing to good governance: LG



LG Manoj Sinha addressing during closing ceremony of Audit Week in Jammu on Friday.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday said that a significant change is taking place in the administrative and business processes due to e-governance and digital penetration.

"This change has brought new challenges and opportunities for audit community to

pay special attention to the safety and security of the IT system and also make institutions and youth partners at the Panchayat level", the Lieutenant Governor was speaking at the closing ceremony of 'Audit Week' here.

On the one hand, the use of artificial intelligence and knowledge-based expert systems has facilitated audit

risk evaluation, internal control evaluation, and audit planning, while on the other new challenges have also emerged due to concerns about data security and minimum human control, the Lt Governor said.

"We have to strike a balance and use every tool available to ensure proper utilization of resources and make life

easier for the beneficiaries of the schemes", Sinha added.

The Lt Governor appreciated the efforts of the audit community towards transparent and accountable governance.

He said the week-long audit day celebrations provide us with an opportunity to reflect on the critical role the audit community plays in contributing to good governance and shaping the governance landscape of our Nation.

"Public audit ensures that every rupee is well spent for the purpose to bring about a change in the lives of the people standing in the last queue of development," the Lt Governor said.

One of the earliest institutions established to bring transparency, accountability and honesty in public life is the Institution of Comptroller and

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Northern Army Commander reviews operational situation in Rajouri

Encounter ends, search operations underway: Army

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Northern Army Commander Lieutenant General Upendra Dwivedi on Friday visited the Kalakote area of the Rajouri district in Jammu and Kashmir and reviewed the operational situation in the region.

The visit came a day after two foreign terrorists of the proscribed Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) outfit, including the mastermind behind various attacks, were eliminated in a 36-hours-long gunfight with security forces in Bajinaal area of Rajouri's Darnasal.

Five army personnel - Capt M V Pranjal, Capt Shubham Gupta, Hav Abdul Majid, Lance Naik Sanjay Bisht and Paratrooper Sachin Laur laid down their lives in the gunfight.

"Lt Gen Upendra Dwivedi, Army Commander Northern Command, visited Kalakote area in Rajouri and reviewed the operational situation,"

Homage to martyrs, Sinha lays wreaths

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday laid wreath and paid homage to the bravehearts of Indian Army, who made supreme sacrifice in the service of the nation during an anti-terror operation in Rajouri.

The Lt Governor posted on X: "I bow to our army bravehearts, Capt MV Pranjal, Capt Shubham Gupta, Hav Abdul Majid, LNaik Sanjay Bisht, Ptn Sachin Laur martyred while protecting motherland during an anti-terror ops in Rajouri. Their valour & sacrifice will never be forgotten. Condolences to their families".



LG Manoj Sinha paying homage to army bravehearts martyred during an anti-terror operation in Rajouri.

the Army's Northern Command wrote on X.

He was briefed on the recently conducted operation.

The Army Commander complimented and felicitated the gallant troops and Army Dog 'Domino' for a successful Operation in the most dif-

ficult terrain and harsh weather conditions, it said.

Meanwhile, the Army on Friday said the search

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IIT-J Breakthrough: Green hydrogen-fueled vehicle unveiled

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a groundbreaking achievement, Dr. B. Satya Sekhar's research group at the Department of Mechanical Engineering at IIT Jammu has successfully showcased a green hydrogen-based fuel cell-powered vehicle, supported by the institute.

The meticulous integration process spanned over two years, resulting in a vehicle that operates seamlessly without adverse environmental effects. The vehicle incorporates a hydrogen-based Proton Exchange Membrane (PEM) fuel cell, a hydrogen storage tank, and a DC-DC

converter, collectively forming an innovative and eco-friendly transportation solution.

One of the remarkable features of this development is the substantial reduction in charging time. The team has successfully brought down the charging time from an initial eight hours to a mere five minutes, enhancing the efficiency and practicality of the E-vehicle.

Hydrogen-based energy holds the promise of a closed and pollution-free chemical cycle for energy infrastructure. The PEM fuel cell, in particular, initiates

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J&K PDD eases burden: 15 pc Electricity Duty withdrawn, consumer bills unaffected despite revised tariff

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a strategic move to alleviate the impact of a 15 percent tariff increase, the Jammu and Kashmir Power Development Department (PDD) on Friday announced the withdrawal of Electricity Duty (ED) in its revised power tariff.

The decision, effective from 1st December 2023, comes following the issuance of a new Tariff Order by the Joint Electricity Regulatory Commission (JERC), Jammu & Kashmir.

The JERC, after thorough consideration and adherence to standard procedures,



Principal Secretary, PDD H Rajesh Prasad addressing press conference in Jammu on Friday.

implemented a 15 percent tariff hike while maintaining fixed charges at their existing levels. Notably, the revised overall tariff rate remains below the actual procure-

ment cost incurred by the corporations in supplying power to consumers.

To safeguard consumers from an increase in their electricity bills, the

Government of Jammu and Kashmir has taken a proactive step by withdrawing the 15 percent Electricity Duty previously applied to energy charges in the existing tariff structure. This calculated decision ensures that the overall impact on consumers' electricity bills is nullified.

A sample calculation for a domestic consumer consuming 500 units per month reveals energy charges of Rs. 2185 (calculated at Rs. 3.80 per unit, plus 15% Electricity Duty), fixed charges of Rs. 40, resulting in a total electricity bill

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Cold wave hits Kashmir, Srinagar records 0.9 deg C

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The mercury rose above freezing point at most places in Kashmir last night as residents got respite from cold and fog, officials said on Friday.

Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, recorded a minimum temperature of 0.9 degrees Celsius, the officials said.

They said the minimum temperature stayed above freezing point in the city for the first time in five days.

Bandipora, Baramulla, Ganderbal, Kokernag, Kulgam and Kupwara also recorded minimum temperatures between zero degrees Celsius and 1.7 degrees Celsius.

Pahalgam tourist resort in south Kashmir Anantnag district was the coldest recorded place in the valley at minus 3.3 degrees Celsius, followed by Shopian where mercury settled at minus 2.5 degrees Celsius.

Gulmarg ski resort in north Kashmir recorded a low of minus 2.0 degrees Celsius.

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SIA arrests woman in terror-funding case

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The State Investigation Agency on Friday arrested a woman for her alleged involvement in a terror funding case in Jammu and Kashmir's Anantnag district, officials said here.

The case pertains to the involvement of the Barkati family in orchestrating an extensive fund-raising campaign, resulting in the generation of funds amounting to crores of rupees, they said.

The officials claimed that the family had managed to raise around Rs 1.74 crore through crowdfunding campaigns.

"These funds were raised

for personal gains and a significant portion of the collected funds was allegedly misused for undisclosed purposes, including financing of secessionist and terrorist activities.

"A substantial portion of the acquired funds had been deposited in various Fixed Deposit Receipts under the names of the Barkati family members, raising questions about the legitimacy of the sources and utilization of the funds," an official said.

According to officials, these funds were used for money laundering and the acquisition of undisclosed assets for the propagation of radicalism within the Kashmir

Valley.

"While Sarjan Barkati was arrested in August this year, his wife Shabroza Bano has been evading arrest after her role surfaced in the case," an official said.

Bano was arrested on Friday. She, along with her husband has been found involved in terror financing by raising money through crowdfunding, he added.

Officials said the State Investigation Agency, during the investigation, identified Shabroza Bano as one of the conspirators. She was in constant contact with Pakistani handlers through encrypted messaging platforms,

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3 LeT operatives arrested in Budgam with arms

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Security forces on Friday arrested three overground workers alleged to be associated with terror group Lashkar-e-Taiba in Budgam district, officials said.

A joint team of Police, army, and CRPF apprehended them during a check of vehicles in Patkote in Beerwah area of Budgam district, they said. One hand grenade, 13 AK rounds, and posters of LeT were recovered from the three men who were identified as

Mohammad Younis Dar, Syed Jahangir Shah, and Irfan Ahmad Wagay.

No corruption in BJP-ruled states: Rajnath

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

HYDERABAD: Attacking the K Chandrasekhar Rao-led BRS government in Telangana over its alleged corruption and family rule, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said no one can make allegations of corruption in BJP-ruled states.

"After the BRS government was formed, corruption rose sharply in Telangana. You must be watching that there is an inquiry also going on against this government. There are corruption charges against his (KCR) family members," he said, addressing an election meeting in

Medchal.

, no one can point a finger of corruption charge against any of the BJP-ruled state



governments in the country, he claimed.

"We all and the people of Telangana say 'State First' but BRS says 'Family First'," he claimed. "I want to tell

that if the BJP forms its government here (in Telangana), then it won't be 'family First' here, it will be 'Telangana First'."

After independence, there would have hardly been any Congress government that did not face corruption allegations, he claimed, adding even their ministers had to go to jail on corruption charges.

"You have seen Atal Bihari Vajpayee government and now Narendra Modi government has been in office for the past over nine years.

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Addl Secy I&B visits J&K Pavilion of 17th Film Bazaar in Goa



Union Additional Secretary, I&B Neerja Shekhar visiting J&K Pavilion at Goa.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

GOA: On the fourth day of ongoing 17th Film Bazaar, here, Union Additional Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (I&B), Neerja Shekhar on Friday visited the J&K Pavilion.

During the visit, the Additional Secretary inter-

acted with the team of officers of Jammu and Kashmir Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) at J&K Pavilion.

She was briefed by Nodal Officer JK Film Policy about the initiatives taken by DIPR for promoting and reviving the film

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History created with holding of maiden Digital Transformational Conclave & Awards in Ladakh

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

LEH: The 12th edition of the Digital Transformation Conclave & Awards, 2023 successfully culminated in Leh, Ladakh on Friday which were organized by GovConnect and iLounge Media Private Limited in collaboration with the IT Department of UT Ladakh, led by IT Secretary Amit Sharma. This Conclave is a ground breaking initiative, being a maiden mega scale event which happened in the UT of Ladakh since its formation wherein more than 20 states/UTs participated and Lieutenant Governor Brig (Dr) B.D Mishra (Retd) graced the occasion as Chief Guest and Advisor to Hon'ble Lt Governor, UT Ladakh Dr Pawan Kotwal as the Guest of Honour.

This Inaugural Digital Transformation Conclave in Ladakh has attracted a diverse



LG Brig (Dr) B.D Mishra (Retd) and other dignitaries during the award ceremony at Leh.

audience, including government officers/officials from Tamil Nadu, Bihar, Karnataka, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, industry experts and technology enthusiasts. The gathering aimed to delve into the latest trends, challenges, and success stories in the digital realm. Additionally, it shed light on the unique challenges faced by the public sector in embracing digital technologies for enhanced governance, service delivery, and citi-

zen engagement.

Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brig (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd), welcomed the participants, emphasizing Ladakh's rapid progress in digital transformation. He highlighted the importance of digital sovereignty for national defense, stressing towards creating total autonomy in IT domain. Mishra acknowledged the significant contributions to the Conclave, citing examples like digital transactions

and income tax digitization.

MP Ladakh, Jamyang Tsering Namgyal, emphasized work ethics and Ladakh's potential contribution to India's five trillion-dollar economy. He underscored the importance of connectivity and financial literacy, highlighting the positive impact of Ayushman Bharat in remote areas. He emphasized the crucial role of digital transformation in promoting connectivity and financial inclusivity in border areas.

Advisor Dr. Pawan Kotwal invited participation in the 12th Digital Transformation Conclave, acknowledging the challenging weather conditions. He showcased Ladakh's potential in AI strength, advanced technology, and economic growth. Kotwal underlined the region's vastness, low population density and clean atmosphere, calling for increased

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WEATHER

Temperature (Jammu)
Max: 26.6°C Min: 11.5°C

Humidity
Max: 81 Min: 72

Temperature (Srinagar)
Max: 17.0°C Min: 0.9°C

Humidity
Max: 88 Min: 66

Sunset : 17:19 Hours
Sunrise : 07:04 Hours