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# Our endeavour to increase impact of governance, reduce interference of Govt: Modi

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**  
NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said it has always been his government's endeavour to increase the impact of governance and reduce the interference of the government in every citizen's life. Modi said his government is striving tirelessly to make the ecosystem transparent and faster by simplifying procedures and processes at every level. In his message on 'Second Sushasan Saptah' (good governance week) to be observed from December 19 to 25, the prime minister said his government has taken various citizen-centric initiatives, including redressal of public grievances, online services, disposal of service delivery applications and good governance prac-



tices. "It has always been our endeavour to increase the impact of governance, but reduce the interference of government in every citizen's life," he said. Modi said the scrapping of thousands of unnecessary compliances, repealing of thousands of outdated laws and decriminalisation of many kinds of minor offences are major steps towards this end. Guided by the principle

of 'citizen first', he said technology has immense potential to bring the government and citizens closer. "Today, technology has become a powerful tool to empower citizens, as well as a medium to optimise transparency and accountability in day-to-day functioning," the prime minister said in a message dated December 12. Through various policy interventions, he said, "We

are strongly marching ahead towards digital empowerment of citizens and digital transformation of institutions". Modi said the people have resolved to build a glorious and self-reliant India during 'Amrit Kaal' of next 25 years. "The government's role is to complement the people's resolve by being an enabler in their efforts. Our role is to increase opportunities and remove obstacles from their path," the prime minister added. He expressed hope that the Second 'Sushasan Saptah' will help in furthering good governance at every level. "It is particularly pleasing to note that this year too, the 'Prashasan Gaon Ki Ore' campaign continues to be a part of good governance week," Modi said.

**J&K Bank Board appoints GM Sudhir Gupta as Exec Dir for 3 years**

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SRINAGAR: In a significant development, J&K Bank's Board has appointed General Manager Sudhir Gupta as



Executive Director (ED) for a period of three years. The Bank's board announced the decision in their meeting held yesterday soon after receiving the approval from Reserve Bank of India (RBI). Commenting upon the development, MD & CEO Baldev Prakash said, "I welcome the decision and congratulate Mr. Gupta on joining the Bank's board. While augmenting the presence of Bank's management in the board with his knowledge and experience, I think his induction will

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LG Manoj Sinha during a meeting with Union Power Minister R.K. Singh and senior officials of Power Ministry at New Delhi on Thursday.

## LG meets Union Minister, seeks higher power allocation to J&K

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

NEW DELHI: Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha had a meeting on Thursday with Union Minister of Power and NRE R.K. Singh at Delhi. Power Secretary, Alok Kumar and other senior officials of the Ministry of Power and New & Renewable Energy were also present. Various measures required to ensure uninter-

rupted power supply and improve power infrastructure in the Union Territory of J&K were discussed. The Lt Governor requested higher power allocation to J&K. Union Minister of Power and NRE R.K. Singh assured to examine this request and take early action. The Lt Governor also shared the efforts of the UT Government

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## ISI-run drug nexus busted with arrest of juvenile girl from Mendhar

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Security agencies have busted a Pakistan ISI-run narcotics trafficking racket with the arrest of a school-going girl living along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir, official sources said Thursday. The juvenile, a student of class ten, lives in a village ahead of the LoC fence in the Mendhar sector of the Poonch district and has been apprehended with 400 grams of "suspected heroin" in a joint operation conducted by the Border Security Force (BSF) and the Jammu and Kashmir Police on Wednesday. The agencies have been informed about another cache of drugs that the juve-

nile allegedly hid in a ditch near her house even as her questioning is going on, the sources said. The security agencies have also identified a Pakistani "handler", Ashaig, who reportedly used to visit the juvenile's house to hand over the narcotics to her for further supply to school-going students and youngsters living in the adjoining villages near the LoC. A number of Indian habitations are located ahead of the India-Pakistan LoC fence, also known as the anti-infiltration obstacle system (AIOS), in Jammu and Kashmir and intelligence agencies have reported that Pakistanis living on the

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## J&K Govt constitutes committee to frame export policy for UT's agricultural commodities

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: In its endeavors to boost agricultural export from the UT, the Jammu and Kashmir government on Thursday constituted an expert committee to formulate a comprehensive Export Promotion Policy for identified potential exportable agricultural commodities. The primary assignment of the committee would be to develop commodity specific export promotion recommendations which inter alia shall include strategic and operational aspects of the export. Besides, it shall provide all necessary technical inputs to Agriculture Production Department within a set timeline of one month for

finalization and implementation on ground. The main objective of the Export Promotion Policy would be to increase annual agricultural exports from current Rs 190 crore to Rs 3000 crore over next 5 years. Besides, the policy would promote brand "J&K" for its pristine agro-climatic conditions, uniqueness and near organic quality. It would also diversify the UT export base and thereby empower farmers with adequate export opportunities. The policy would create an ambient ecosystem for export agricultural commodities from J&K. The policy would lay emphasis on bringing a paradigm shift in the approach

from mere harvesting and selling of produce at local level to a demand driven supply activity with focussed attention on GI tagging, processing, stringent quality control, international certifications, traceability, branding and marketing of the produce. The diverse agro climatic conditions of J&K have resulted in development of niche crops offering adoption of holistic approach for promotion of agricultural exports. This shall help the growers in finding post-harvest solutions at better prices within or near the production belt. Furthermore, the document inter alia shall also focus on market access initiative

through assistance by Export Promotion Organizations, Trade Promotion Organizations, National Level Institutions, Research Institutions, Universities, Laboratories and Exporters etcetera for enhancement of exports by accessing new markets or by increasing the share in the existing markets. Besides, assistance shall also be extended in establishing quality control setup, national/international certifications, GI, transport and marketing assistance and all other prerequisite shall be duly taken care of for identified Agriculture Products like apple, basmati rice, walnut, almond, cherry,

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## India's longest escape tunnel on Banihal-Katra rail link completed



S.P Mahi, CAO, USBRL Project, Northern Railway along with his team of officials and staff members after completion of tunnel work at Banihal.

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**  
BANIHAL/JAMMU: The 12.89 km tunnel, which is the longest escape tunnel of India, on the 111 km under-

construction Banihal-Katra railway line in Jammu and Kashmir was completed on Thursday, officials said.

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## CBSE warns students against fake website


■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**  
NEW DELHI: The Central Board of Secondary Education Thursday warned students and parents against a fake website of the board and asked them not to make any payments on the portal for downloading admit cards for class 10 and 12 exams. "It has come to the notice of the board that certain unscrupulous elements have created a website resembling the official CBSE

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## NC wants India to have good relations with neighbouring countries: Omar

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SRINAGAR: National Conference (NC) Vice President Omar Abdullah Thursday said his party wants India to have good relations with its neighbouring countries including China and Pakistan. Abdullah's remarks came amid tension on the border with China in

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**WEATHER**

**Temperature (Jammu)**  
Max: 22.1°C Min: 7.1°C

**Humidity**  
Max: 89 Min: 66

**Temperature (Srinagar)**  
Max: 12.3°C Min: -3.2°C

**Humidity**  
Max: 100 Min: 71

Sunset : 17:28 Hours  
Sunrise : 07:26 Hours

## Sincere efforts should be made to bring corrupt public servants to book: SC

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**  
NEW DELHI: Observing that sincere efforts should be made to bring corrupt government officials to book, the Supreme Court on Thursday said a public servant can be convicted of the charge of illegal gratification in a corruption case on the basis of circumstantial evidence even when there is no direct oral or documentary proof. The top court said even if direct evidence of the complainant is not available, owing to death or other reasons, there can be conviction of the public servant under the relevant provisions of law.

"In the event the complainant turns hostile or has died or is unable to let in his



evidence during the trial, the demand of illegal gratification can be proved by letting in the evidence of any other witness either orally or documentary evidence or the prosecution can prove the case by circumstantial evidence.

"The trial does not abate

nor does it result in an order of acquittal of the public servant," the bench said.

A five-judge Constitution bench headed by Justice S A Nazeer said complainants as well as the prosecution should make sincere efforts so that corrupt public servants are brought to book and convicted so the administration and governance become unpolluted and free from corruption.

"In order to bring home the guilt of the accused, the prosecution has to first prove the demand of illegal gratification and the

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## JKLSA cancels Junior Legal Assistants' recruitment exam

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Jammu & Kashmir Legal Services Authority (JKLSA) has cancelled the examination for the post of Junior Legal Assistants which was conducted on November 13, 2021, officials said. In a notification by Member Secretary M.K Sharma, the authority stated that it has given the sanction to cancel the examination conducted on Saturday, November, 13, 2021 for the post of Junior Legal Assistants. "The Notification No.01 of 2021 dated 08.03.2021 for the posts of Legal Assistants and Junior Legal Assistants is also cancelled," it said.

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## CS launches SWAGATAM to provide hassle-free entry to visitors at Civil Sectt

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta on Thursday launched the online Visitor Management System called SWAGATAM at Srinagar Civil Secretariat in presence of Administrative Secretaries to ensure easy and hassle free entry of visitors to both Secretariats at Jammu and Srinagar. The system shall enable a person to schedule a meeting in advance for redressal of his genuine grievances. On the occasion, the Chief Secretary observed that the system was overdue and was one of several initiatives in furtherance of digital J&K.



CS Dr Arun Kumar Mehta launching SWAGATAM, an online Visitor Management System at Srinagar.

He complimented the whole team of GAD, for developing the management system in consultation with IT, Estates and Police Departments. He underscored the need for maximizing the satisfaction level of visitors by ensuring quality outcome of their visits. Dr Mehta also impressed

upon the officers to evaluate the requests of applicants as per laid down norms for efficient use of time and resources. He enjoined upon them to give hearing to all the visitors who are provided online passes and devise a proper mechanism regarding the same. He told

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## New land policy draconian, inhuman, says Altaf Bukhari

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SRINAGAR: Apni Party president Altaf Bukhari Thursday described Jammu and Kashmir government's new land policy as "draconian" and "totally inhuman", saying it will not be allowed to be implemented. Recently, the J&K administration has notified that all the outgoing lessees, except in the case of subsisting/expired leases for residential purposes, shall immediately hand over the possession of the land taken on lease to the government, failing which the outgoing lessee shall be evicted. On Wednesday, Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has

defended the new land lease laws, saying that necessary changes were being made in land laws to benefit the common man as earlier legislations were "very regressive". "These land laws are draconian. No where in the world are people removed from possession," Bukhari told reporters here. He said the lease holders mainly have commercial establishments and if their leases have expired and have not been extended, then it is not their mistake. "These laws cannot be implemented, it cannot stand the scrutiny of law. It is totally inhuman. The Apni Party will not allow

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