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

## Police seizes heroin worth Rs 100 Cr from truck in Jammu; 1 held

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
**JAMMU:** Police on Thursday seized 52 kilogram of heroin worth Rs 100 crore from a Punjab-bound truck and arrested one person here, a senior police official said.

Initial investigation suggests that the narcotics was smuggled into Jammu and Kashmir from Pakistan to fund terrorism in the Valley, police said.

"On a specific information, station house officer (SHO) of Jhajjar Kotli Devender Singh set up checkpoints for the search of vehicles on a highway." Additional Director General of Police (ADGP), Jammu zone, Mukesh Singh told reporters at a press conference.

Jammu and Kashmir Director General of Police (DGP) Dilbag Singh was also present.

Mukesh Singh said a truck on its way to Punjab from Srinagar jumped a checkpoint and tried to sped away



DGP Dilbag Singh flanked by ADGP Jammu Mukesh Singh briefing media in Jammu on Thursday.

### Some people looking at killers as innocent: DGP

**JAMMU:** The Director General of Jammu and Kashmir Police, Dilbag Singh on Thursday said that some people are looking at the killers as innocent people.

While responding to a question about Mehbooba Mufti's aspersions about Rambagh encounter, Singh during a press conference at Jammu said that some people deliberately try to ignore the reality and give statements which are far from reality and these people have started to look at the killers as innocent people.

According to Srinagar based news agency, Kashmir News Service (KNS), Singh, while replying to a question regarding Hyderpora encounter, said that there is no doubt that some civilians were killed during the encounter but after that dozens of successful anti-terrorism

but was intercepted.

During the search of the truck, police seized 52 kilogram of heroin worth Rs 100 crore in the international market, he said.

However, the driver of the truck managed to escape, the police official said.

But co-driver, identified as Bharat Kumar of Haryana, was arrested, he added.

During initial investigation, it came to the fore that the consignment of heroin was being smuggled to Punjab from Srinagar in Kashmir, the ADGP said.

Pockets containing heroin have 1999 markings, which points towards its smuggling into J-K from Pakistan to fund terrorism, he said. Earlier seizures of heroin had similar markings as well, he added.

Giving further information, Mukesh Singh said police have seized 185 kilogram of heroin worth Rs 360 crore in the past two years in

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## PM lays foundation stone for Noida Int'l Airport

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

**JEWAR (UP):** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday laid the foundation stone for the Noida International Airport at Jewar in Uttar Pradesh.

It will be one of the largest aerodromes in Asia.

The airport, the second international aerodrome in Delhi-National Capital Region, is expected to be operational by September 2024 with an initial capacity to handle 1.2 crore passengers per annum.

The airport, spread over 1,330 acres of land, will be developed by Zurich Airport International AG. On Wednesday, Civil

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## Centre issues fresh advisory to states, UTs over new COVID variant

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

**NEW DELHI:** The Centre on Thursday asked all states and union territories to conduct rigorous screening and testing of all international travellers coming from or transiting through South Africa, Hong Kong and Botswana, where a new COVID-19 variant of serious public health implications has been reported.

In a letter address to additional chief secretary/principal secretary/secretary (Health) of all states and union territories, Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan asked them to ensure that samples of trav-

ellers turning positive are sent to designated genome

sequencing laboratories promptly.

It has now been reported by National Centra for Disease Control (NCDC) that multiple cases of a COVID-19 variant B.1.1529 have been reported in Botswana (3 cases), South Africa (6 cases) and Honk Kong (1 case), Bhushan said in the letter.

"This variant is reported to have a significantly high number of mutations, and thus, has serious public health implications for the country, in view of recently relaxed visa restrictions and opening up of international

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### J&K reports 182 new COVID cases, Ladakh 28

**SRINAGAR:** Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday recorded 182 new cases of coronavirus, taking the infection tally to 3,36,063 while no fresh death due to the virus was reported in the last 24 hours, officials said.

Of the new cases, 33 were reported from the Jammu division and 149 from the Kashmir division, they said.

Srinagar district recorded the highest of 69 cases

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Minor PoK boy held along LoC

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

**POONCH:** A 14-year-old boy from Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (PoK) was apprehended by Army along the Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch district on Thursday, officials said. Identified as Asmad Ali, a resident of Tatrinate Tehsil in Rawalakot, the boy crossed into this side of LoC near a forward post, following which he was nabbed, they said. He is being questioned by Army, officials said, adding further details are awaited.

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## Removal of encroachments & menace of illegal mining: DB directs IG, DC Jammu to file latest status report

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

**JAMMU:** In a much publicized Public Interest Litigations filed by Advocate Dewakar Sharma highlighting various issues involving the conservation/preservation of river Tawi, a Division Bench of State High Court comprising Chief Justice Pankaj Mithal and Justice Mohd Akram Chowdhary directed Inspector General of Police Jammu and Deputy

Commissioner Jammu to file status reports regarding extent of removal of encroachments and about the alleged illegal mining still being carried out from bed of River Tawi.

DB further directed Deputy Commissioner Jammu to inform the Court about the progress of work initiated for stopping flow of sewage water into river or regarding dumping of any waste

material into river. This significant direction has been passed when PIL came-up for hearing it has been informed that in pursuance to the directions of the court, some encroachments have already been removed from the River bank/bed but as per the reports on record still a vast area of land remains to be illegally occupied and the encroachers have not been removed.

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## NIA carries out searches in Al-Qaeda related case in Kashmir

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

**SRINAGAR:** The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Thursday carried out searches at five locations in Kashmir in connection with its investigation into a case related to an Al-Qaeda group's planning to launch terror attacks in India, an official said.

The case was initially registered in Lucknow by Uttar Pradesh's Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS) on July 7 and subsequently taken over by the NIA for an in-depth investigation on July 29, a spokesperson of the agency said.



The NIA said the raids were carried out at five locations in south Kashmir's Shopian district and central Kashmir's Budgam district. A large number of incriminating documents and digital devices were seized, it added. The case pertains to Umar Halmandi, an Al-Qaeda operative, who along

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### Rambagh encounter Mobile internet suspended

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

**SRINAGAR:** Most of the shops in the Downtown area of Srinagar were shut on Thursday while mobile internet remained suspended in many parts of the city a day after the killing of three militants, including the self-styled commander of The Resistance Front (TRF), in an encounter, officials said.

They said the areas where the shutdown was observed included Nowhatta, Gojwara, Khanyar, Safakadal, Nawakadal, Rajouri Kadal and MR Gunj in the interior areas of Srinagar. However, traffic was plying normally,

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### Active COVID cases in country lowest in 539 days

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

**NEW DELHI:** India logged 9,119 new coronavirus infections taking the country's total tally of COVID-19 cases to 3,45,44,882, while the active cases declined to 1,09,940, the lowest in 539 days, according to the Union Health Ministry data updated on Thursday.

The death toll climbed to 4,66,980 with 396 fresh fatalities, including 308 from Kerala, according to the data updated at 8 am.

The daily rise in new coronavirus infections has been below 20,000 for 48 straight days and less than 50,000 daily new cases have been reported for 151 consecutive days now.

The active cases comprise 0.32 per cent of the total infections, the lowest since March 2020, while the national COVID-19 recovery rate was recorded at 98.33 per cent, the highest since March 2020, the

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**WEATHER**

Temperature (Jammu)  
 Max: 25.0°C Min: 9.6°C

Humidity  
 Max: 83 Min: 74

Temperature (Srinagar)  
 Max: 14.4°C Min: 0.4°C

Humidity  
 Max: 90 Min: 74

Sunset : 17:27 Hours  
 Sunrise : 07:12 Hours

## PIL regarding illegal occupation of Ministerial Bungalows DB seeks details regarding politicians occupying Govt accommodation

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

**JAMMU:** In a significant order, a Division Bench of High Court of Jammu and Kashmir & Ladakh (Jammu Wing) comprising Justice Dhiraj Singh Thakur and Justice Mohd Akram Chowdhary directed AAG Aseem Sawhney, appearing for Govt of J&K to provide all details of politicians /ex-Legislators who are ordinarily residents of Jammu province and other areas in and around Jammu District, and possess accommodation in their names or have been furnished Govt accommoda-

tion on so called security considerations, not only in Jammu but even in Srinagar.

When this much publicized PIL No. 17/2020 highlighting illegal occupation of Ministerial Bungalows/ A-Type Kothis/ flats/ quarters situated at Jammu / Srinagar came up for hearing, Advocate Sheikh Shakeel Ahmed with Advocates Supriya Chouhan, Mohd Zulkarnain Choudhary and Majid Shah appearing for petitioner submitted that since June 2018, Ex- Ministers/ Ex-Legislators/ Political workers

are illegally staying in the Govt accommodation both at Jammu and Srinagar and Estates Department has miserably failed to evict these VVIP illegal occupants owing to political pressure.

Advocate S S Ahmed vehemently argued that Jammu city is a peace Zone and even Ex- Ministers /Ex-Legislators belonging to Jammu province as well as areas in and around Jammu District who are having their residential houses but even then continuing in Ministerial Bungalows

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## LG announces scholarships for 21,000 children of Gaddi, Sippi, Dard, Sheena communities



LG Manoj Sinha addressing the gathering during the launch of 200 Smart Schools in Tribal areas on Thursday.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

**JAMMU:** Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, on Thursday dedicated the UT government's ambitious project of transforming 200 Schools into Smart Schools in Tribal areas at a cost of Rs 40 crores and announced

that scholarships will be provided to the 21,000 children of Gaddi, Sippi, Dard, Sheena communities.

The modernization of Smart Schools will be executed in two phases. In the first phase, works related to 100 schools will be completed by

March 2022 and another 100 schools by December 2022.

On the occasion, the Lt Governor announced another major decision of the government to provide scholarships to 21,000 children of Gaddi, Sippi, Dard, Sheena

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**Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana**  
**Ayushman Bharat**  
**PM-JAY**

**AYUSHMAN BHARAT**  
**PM-JAY/AB PM-JAY SEHAT**

**Har Ghar Dastak**

**SPECIAL WALK-IN-DRIVE**  
**Registration under AB PM-JAY SEHAT at**

- Luthra Public School, Talab Tillo, Jammu
- Trimurti Temple, Janipur, Jammu
- Hall of Gurudwara Rani Talab, Digiana
- Baba Yamuna Ji Community Hall, Ward No. 51, Channi
- Jambo Lochan Hall, Near CPO, Panjtirthi

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