

**02 'Mentally unsound' man kills mother, two others in Anantnag**

**03 Industry can contribute in promoting StartUp culture in J&K: Dr Jitendra**

**10 Sadabahar Club clinches Ramban District Volleyball Championship trophy**

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## NIA raids 14 places in terror activities case in J&K

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Friday conducted searches at 14 locations in different districts in a case related to terror activities of various proscribed outfits in Jammu and Kashmir, an official said.

The raids were conducted in Jammu, Kulgam (south Kashmir), Pulwama, Anantnag and Sopore in (north Kashmir's Baramulla), a spokesperson of the federal agency said.

The searches were carried out in connection with a case which was suo-moto registered on June 21 by the NIA Police Station in Jammu.

"The case pertains to the criminal conspiracy for carrying out terrorist and subversive activities hatched by the cadres and



**Files charge-sheet against 3 terror-funding Kashmir based accused**

NEW DELHI: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Friday filed a chargesheet against three people accused in a case of terror-funding through cross-LoC trade, an official said.

The case was registered suo-moto on December 16, 2016.

The accused -- Tanveer Ahmad Wani of Pulwama, and Peer Arshad Iqbal and Bashir Ahmad Sofi of Baramulla -- were chargesheeted in a special court under various sections of the Indian Penal Code and the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, an NIA spokesperson said.

The spokesperson said the case pertains to profiteering and generation of funds through trade between Jammu and Kashmir and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) via the Line of Control (LoC) and using of those funds for promotion of terrorist activities in Jammu

Over Ground Workers of various proscribed organizations and their affiliates/off-shoots, operating under various pseudo names, at the behest of their Pakistani commanders/handlers," the spokesperson said.

The official said they are involved in carrying out terrorist attacks by using cyber-space in Jammu and Kashmir.

They have been targeting minorities, security personnel and spreading communal disharmony in J&K.

During the multiple raids, the spokesperson said incriminating material such as digital devices, SIM cards and digital storage tools have been seized from the searched premises.

Further investigation in the case continues, the NIA said.

**CJ (A) nominates Vacation Judges**

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: High Court of Jammu and Kashmir will remain closed for the winter vacation with effect from the January 2 to 28, 2023 (both days inclusive). The period commencing from January 2 to 7, 2023 is 'No Work Period' for the High Court.

Chief Justice (A) of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court

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**AC approves double carriage way road from Rajouri to BGSBU**

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: The Administrative Council (AC) which met here on Friday under the chairmanship of the Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, approved the proposal for upgradation of 8 kms of Road from District Headquarters Rajouri to Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah University (BGSBU). Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Advisor to the Lieutenant Governor;

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## Govt to provide free ration to poor people for one year under NFSA

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
NEW DELHI: In a major decision, the government on Friday decided to provide free ration to 81.35 crore poor people under the National Food Security Act (NFSA) for one year.

Under NFSA, also called the food law, the government currently provides 5 kilogram of food grains per person per month at Rs 2-3 per

kg. The families covered under Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) get 35 kg of food grains per month.

Rice is given to poor persons under NFSA at Rs 3 per kg and wheat at Rs 2 per kg.

Briefing reporters about the decision taken by the Union Cabinet, Food Minister Piyush Goyal said the Centre will bear the

entire burden of providing free food grains under NFSA.

The annual cost to the exchequer is estimated at Rs 2 lakh crore.

Meanwhile, the government decided not to extend the free ration scheme Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY), which ends on December 31.

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## COVID preparedness: States/UTs to undertake mock drill to ensure operational readiness of health facilities

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
NEW DELHI: Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Friday advised states and union territories to undertake a mock drill across all health facilities on December 27 to ensure readiness of infrastructure with a specific focus on oxygen plants, ventilators, logistics and human resources.

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**MoCA issues guidelines for random testing of international arriving passengers**

NEW DELHI: With random coronavirus testing of international arriving passengers set to start from Saturday, the Ministry of Civil Aviation has said that airlines' crew members will have to bring such identified passengers to the testing facility at the airport.

Against the backdrop of rising coronavirus cases in China and some other parts of the world, the government has decided to subject 2 per cent of the passengers arriving on international flights to random coronavirus test starting from Saturday morning. In a communication on Friday, the ministry said that airlines are required

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## IPL 2023: JKPS Ex-student Vivrant Sharma fetches Rs 2.6 cr in IPL auction, joins SRH

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: J&K's talented south paw, Vivrant Sharma was bought by Sunrisers Hyderabad for Rs 2.60 crores, while speedsters Yuvvir Singh Chakar and not much known Avinash Singh Manhas went to Lucknow Supergiants and Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) for 20 lakhs and 60 lakhs respectively in the IPL Auction 2023 held at Kochi on Friday.

The Kolkata Knight Riders and Sunrisers Hyderabad

were involved in the bidding war for Vivrant and finally SRH bought him for 2.60 crores.

Left-handed explosive opening batsman Vivrant also bowls leg-breaks.

An Alumni of JK Public School Kunjwani, Vivrant Sharma, as batsman, has a credit of 550 runs with a ton, while 21 wickets as a right-arm leg spinner in his first class career.

Talented Vivrant Sharma, after leading J&K as a skipper in Under-23 Col

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Vivrant Sharma

## Mayor constituting 5-member panel to hold inquiry Parking slots allotment scam in Jammu; Over Rs 99 lakh loss to JMC in last 11 months

**■ VIVEK SHARMA**  
JAMMU: Detecting a major scandal of allotment of 20 parking slots in Jammu City, the Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) Mayor Rajinder Sharma has decided to constitute a panel on Saturday of five JMC Corporators along with technical experts from PWD and finance department to fix the responsibility of the concerned officers of JMC and consequently recommend ACB to book these officers involved in this major scandal wherein the JMC, in last 11 months, suffered loss of whopping Rs 99 lakh.

When contacted, Mayor Rajinder Sharma said, "I have told the government that I am proceeding with a detailed inquiry along with ACB probe to punish those in JMC who manipulated the official records to favour the blue eyed contractors."

From 20 parking slots, JMC earned only Rs One lakh in 11 months while the contractor's gain was over Rs 24 lakh. The total amount which JMC could have collected

from Parking slots must have been over Rs one crore in same period, revealed Mayor Rajinder Sharma, adding, "A major loss of Rs 99 lakh to the JMC exchequer is loss of general public and those JMC senior officers involved in it will not be spared irrespective of their political affiliations."

"With this Rs one Crore we have repaired so many lanes and drains in the City, the Mayor said adding, "Every day we receive numerous complaints and without funds nothing can be constructed or

renovated."

"I have even spoken to the Chief Secretary and apprised him about this major scandal," Mayor Rajinder Sharma said. A five-member panel from Corporators will be asked to submit its report in one week's time so that JMC's further revenue loss can be averted and the corrupts can be booked.

Sources said that the newly elected Jammu Mayor Rajinder Sharma is conducting many preliminary inquiries into the works allotted by JMC, in last one year, without meeting any codal formalities.



**EXCLUSIVE**

## Lt Gen Sandeep Jain takes over as Corps Commander White Knight Corps

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU : Lt Gen Manjinder Singh, YSM, VSM relinquished the command of the elite White Knight Corps on Friday. The General laid wreath and paid tributes to the bravehearts at Ashwamedh Shaurya Sthal in Nagrota Military Station.

Lt Gen Sandeep Jain, SM takes over the command of the elite White Knight Corps from Lt Gen Manjinder Singh, YSM, VSM.

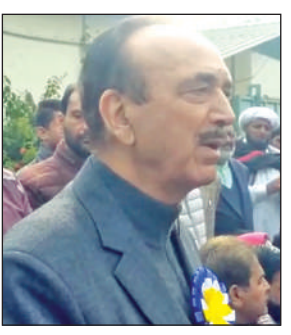
## DAP to emerge strong political force in J&K: Azad

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Democratic Azad Party Chairman, Ghulam Nabi Azad on Friday, while addressing the party workers in Jammu, stressed for early elections in Jammu and Kashmir.

He said, in democracy governor rule can't be prolonged at any cost. But here in Jammu Kashmir, we continue to live under the same and they probably want us to live on the mercy of bureaucracy.

On the occasion Congress leader Naveen Bali, Corporator Anu Bali along with hundreds of workers joined the DAP.

Speaking to the gathering,



Azad said that DAP is a political forum open for all but only merit will prevail.

He said he doesn't want to continue with the people who have poor or tainted political track record but his party is looking for fresh and energetic faces who can work for the people.

He, however, said that no one should expect a rosy bed and enjoy the power only.

He said whosoever joins his party will have to work hard and keep his record clean.

Commenting on the secularism, Azad said every citizen of India has to believe in its diverse culture and rise above the religious, social and cultural beliefs to respect each other.

He said his party has thrown doors open for all people who wants to join hands for the better and prosperous Jammu

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## JEE-Advanced to be held on June 4, 2023

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
NEW DELHI: The Joint Entrance Exam (JEE) Advanced for admission to the Indian Institutes of Technology will be conducted on June 4, 2023, IIT Guwahati announced on Friday.

The institute is responsible for conducting the crucial examination for 2023.

The examination comprises two papers of three-hour duration each.

According to IIT officials, it is compulsory for candidates to appear in both the papers.

"The JEE-Advanced 2023 will be conducted by the seven zonal

## Major drug racket busted in north Kashmir 4 SPOs, Constable, political activist among 17 held

**■ SHAKEELA ANDRABI**  
SRINAGAR: In a major operation against drug menace, police on Friday busted a major drug smuggling module and arrested 17 persons including five policemen, a political activist, a Contractor and a shopkeeper from different areas of district Kupwara and Baramulla.

This is yet another narcotics smuggling module originating from Pakistan, said a police spokesperson in a statement.

"Working relentlessly to identify and act against the drug peddlers active in the district Kupwara, police zeroed in on some drug ped-

dlers active in Kupwara town and its adjoining areas. On a tip-off one Mohd Waseem Najar - a poultry shop owner, son of Ghulam MohdNajar, resident of Darzipura, Kupwara was arrested with some quantity of narcotics from his residential house", the statement read.

"After preliminary investigations, Waseem admitted to be a part of a big group of drug peddlers and disclosed names of some of his associates belonging to this district as well as Uri area of district Baramulla involved in this illegal trade. Subsequent raids were conducted at various places across the district and 16 more persons namely;

Haroon Rasheed Bhat (SPO) son of Ab Rasheed Bhat resident of Halmatpora, Irshad Ahmed Khan (SPO) son of Anayatullah Khan resident of Batpora Hyama, Ishfaq Habib Khan - a political activist, son of Habibulla Khan Gonipora Hyama, Tahir Ahmed Malik son of Ab Ahad Malik resident of Rigipora, Kupwara, Khurshed Ahmed Khan - dry fruits Shopkeeper and his son Imtiyaz Khan residents of Halmatpora, Tamheed Ahmed Khan son of Shakir Ali Khan (originally hailing from Keran and now a Pakistan/POK

**■ CONTD ON PAGE 9**

## DB sets-aside life-imprisonment; acquits accused after 28 years trial

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: A Division Bench of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court comprising Justice Rajnesh Oswal and Justice Puneet Gupta today set-aside the life-imprisonment to Ram Dayal and Bishan Dass who were facing trial in murder case from 1996.

The facts as they stem out from the charge sheet are that a docket was sent by ASI Abdul Aziz for registration of FIR with Police Station, Domana on 28.04.1996 that was received at 1500 hours in the Police Station. It was mentioned in the docket that he along with Krishan Lal and Survesh were on patrolling

duty when a dead body was found in a Nallah at Village Deode-Kubbe. The dead body was taken out from the Nallah and there was deep cut in the neck and other injuries on neck and head of the dead body which were caused by a sharp-edged weapon. On receipt of this docket, FIR No. 60/1996 for commission of offence under section 302 RPC was registered and during the course of investigation the accused were arrested and during personal search of Bishan Dass, one broken gold chain with locket having inscription "LS" was recovered. The appellant Ram Dayal made the disclosure statement

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**WEATHER**

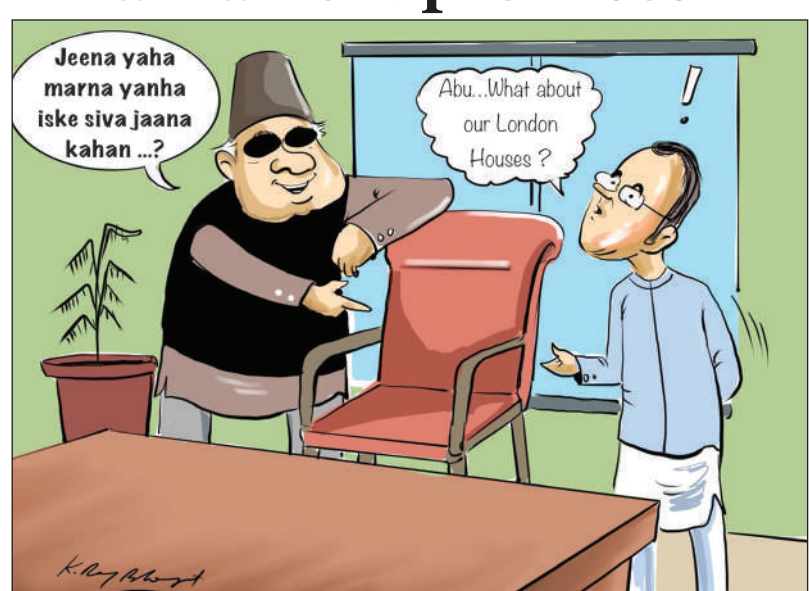
**Temperature (Jammu)**  
Max: 14.6°C Min: 6.3°C

**Humidity**  
Max: 97 Min: 90

**Temperature (Srinagar)**  
Max: 8.5°C Min: -4.8°C

**Humidity**  
Max: 99 Min: 62

Sunset : 17:31 Hours  
Sunrise : 07:30 Hours



## 'Jeena Yahan, Marna Yahan...', Farooq hummed in Parliament premises

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
NEW DELHI: Farooq Abdullah, former Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir and President of National Conference on Friday hummed a famous song from the film 'Mera Naam Joker' in the Parliament House complex.

Reacting to RJD leader Abdul Bari Siddiqui's statement that the country was unsafe for Muslims, Farooq Abdullah said, "Jeena yahan marna yahan, where else to go."

Humming the song, he said that it is true that the country is going through difficult times, hatred has increased, but leaving the country will not remove the hatred.

Staying in the country, this fire will have to be removed, it will have to be finished.