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STATE TIMES

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Vol. 29 Issue 283 • Jammu • Saturday • October 12, 2024 • Pages 12 • ₹ 5.00

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

NC-led alliance stakes claim to form Govt in J&K; oath-taking likely on Wednesday

STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: The National Conference-led alliance on Friday staked claim to form a government in Jammu and Kashmir, setting the ball rolling for the formation of the first government of the Union Territory.

Chief Minister-designate Omar Abdullah met Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha to present letters of support from coalition partners, shortly after the Congress officially extended its backing to the party. He indicated the oath-taking ceremony may take place on Wednesday.

An official spokesperson said in the evening that Omar Abdullah, Vice President, Jammu & Kashmir National Conference (JKNC) called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhawan and handed over a letter from the Party President Dr. Farooq Abdullah stating that Omar Abdullah has been



Vice President, JKNC Omar Abdullah meeting LG Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhawan, Srinagar on Friday.

elects as Leader of the Legislature Party of JKNC. Letters of support from INC, CPI(M), AAP and independent members were also handed over to the Lieutenant Governor; the spokesperson added.

Abdullah was unanimously

Congress coalition government.

The NC won 42 out of the 90 seats which went to poll in the recent elections, while the Congress won six. Together, the two pre-poll allies hold a majority in the 95-member assembly -- five members are to be nominated by the LG. They strength is further bolstered by support from four independent MLA-elect and a lone Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) MLA-elect.

"I met the LG and presented the letters of support from the NC, Congress, CPI(M), AAP, and independents backing the NC. I requested him to schedule the oath ceremony at the earliest so that the government elected by the people can start functioning," Abdullah told reporters at his residence following his meeting with the lieutenant governor.

A Raj Bhawan spokesperson said Abdullah handed over the letters of

51 first-time MLAs to enter J&K Assembly

STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: There are 51 first-time MLAs among the 90 members elected to the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly in the first polls held for the Union Territory's legislature.

The National Conference (NC), which has emerged as the single-largest party in the election with 42 seats, has the highest number of debutant MLAs at 24.

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which swept the polls in the Jammu plains winning 29 seats, is second in terms of seats won as well as the number of first-time MLAs. The saffron party has 15 first-time MLAs, accounting for more than half of its tally.

The Congress, which fared poorly in the Jammu region but got six face-saving seats in the Kashmir valley, has two debutant MLAs while six of the seven Independent candidates who won the polls have become members of the elite House for the first time.

All three elected members of the People's

LG pays obeisance at Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine, prays for UT's prosperity

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir LG Manoj Sinha on Friday paid obeisance at the Mata Vaishno Devi shrine atop Trikuta hills in Reasi district, and prayed for peace and prosperity in the Union Territory.

"Paid obeisance at revered Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine on the auspicious occasion of Durga Puja and prayed for J&K's prosperity and the well-being of all," the Lieutenant Governor's office said in a post on X.

The cave shrine is witnessing heavy rush of pilgrims during the ongoing Navratri with over 40,000 devotees visiting it daily.

Meanwhile, the Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has greeted the people on the occasion of Vijaydashami.

In a message, the Lt Governor said: "On the auspicious occasion of Vijaydashami, I convey my warm greetings and good



LG Manoj Sinha paying obeisance at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine on Friday.

wishes to all.

The festival of Vijaydashami signifies the triumph of good over evil and fosters righteousness within. This festival inspires the people to lead a pious and virtuous life. On this auspicious occasion, let us imbibe the teachings and ideals of Maryada Purushottam Shri Ram and rededicate ourselves to the cause of a just society.

May this sacred festival of Vijaydashami usher in happiness, prosperity and well-being of all".

J&K Admn amends Civil Services Rules to set up Services Selection Board

STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir administration on Friday amended the Civil Services Rules to provide for the setting up of Services Selection Board for recruitment of non-gazetted staff, including Class IV employees.

"There shall be constituted a Service Selected Board for making selection for recruitment to subordinate services/non-gazetted/class IV (MTS) posts borne on establishment of any department or service of the government or any Public Sector

Undertaking /Government company/Corporation/ Board/ Organisation and body substantially owned or controlled by the government of union territory of Jammu and Kashmir," the amendment issued by the administration reads.

The move has led to criticism of the LG administration for taking a decision on the matter as an elected government is about to take charge.

"Just when the elected government about to be sworn in," PDP leader Naem Akhtar posted on X in an apparent reference to the LG's order.

Around 150 terrorists waiting at launch-pads across LoC: IG BSF

STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: Around 150 terrorists are waiting at launchpads across the Line of Control (LoC) to infiltrate into the Kashmir valley as winter approaches, but security forces would foil any such bid, a senior BSF officer said on Friday.

"Attempts of infiltration continue to take place. Based on the intelligence inputs we receive from various agencies, we coordinate with the army to establish a domination plan along the border.

"We also keep in mind the number of terrorists at the launching pads, which helps us shape our strategy and domination plan to ensure we foil any plans," BSF Inspector General (Kashmir Frontier) Ashok Yadav told reporters.

He said the security forces would ensure any infiltration attempt is



BSF IG (Kashmir Frontier) Ashok Yadav talking to reporters.

thwarted.

Asked how many terrorists were wait-

ing at terror launch-pads now, he said, "The number of terrorists at the launching pads usually varies between 130 and 150, at times it may be slightly higher."

On the challenges after conducting peaceful assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir, Yadav said the security forces coordinated closely with the Jammu and Kashmir Police and the administration to ensure fair and peaceful polls.

"There were numerous threat inputs, but with our well-coordinated domination plan, we prevented any attack, and the elections were successful."

"Now, with winter approaching, preparations are in place. Before winter sets in, terrorists often attempt infiltration, and we are dominating the area accordingly," he said.

Cong MLAs leave decision to nominate CLP leader on party's central leadership

STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Congress on Friday said it has left the decision of nominating the leader of legislature party in the assembly to the Congress' central leadership in New Delhi.

In another decision, the Congress Legislature Party (CLP) extended support to the National Conference (NC) for government formation in J&K.

"Today, we had a CLP meeting in which we unanimously decided to give the right to the central leadership to take the call on the CLP leader. We have passed

a resolution on the issue and that has been forwarded to the central leadership for taking the call," Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) president Tariq Hameed Karra told reporters after the CLP meeting here.

The meeting of the six newly elected MLAs -- including Karra, All India Congress Committee (AICC) General Secretary Ghulam Ahmad Mir, Nizamuddin Bhat, Peerzada Mohammad Saheed, Irfan Hafeez Lone and Iftikar Ahmad -- was held in the party headquarters at M A Road.

Prashant gets additional charge of Deputy Director Prosecution Jammu

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The government on Friday assigned additional charge to Deputy Director Prosecution.

"It is ordered that Prashant Mahajan, Deputy Director Prosecution, posted in the Office of Director General Prosecution, J&K, shall hold the additional charge of Deputy Director Prosecution, Jammu, in addition to his own duties till further orders," reads an order issued by Chandraker Bharti, Principal Secretary, Home Department.

Rusted mortar shell recovered in Bari Brahmana

STATE TIMES NEWS
SAMBA/JAMMU: A rusted mortar shell was detected by security forces in Samba district on Friday, officials said.

The people found a rusted mortar shell in JDA Colony in Bari Brahmana and informed the security forces, they said. The bomb disposal squad has been called to defuse the shell.

WEATHER

Temperature (Jammu)
Max: 31.3°C Min: 17.2°C

Humidity
Max: 70 Min: 58

Temperature (Srinagar)
Max: 25.9°C Min: 8.0°C

Humidity
Max: 71 Min: 46

Sunset: 18:02 Hours
Sunrise: 06:31 Hours

Armed forces should always be ready for unpredictable, uncertainties: Rajnath

STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: Amid a lingering border row in eastern Ladakh, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Friday addressed top commanders of the Army and expressed confidence in the force in dealing with "any contingency" even as he said the ongoing talks with China for a peaceful resolution "will continue at all levels".

The first phase of the second Army Commanders' Conference (ACC) of this year began in a forward area

Actual Control (LAC). "War preparedness should be a continuous phenomena and we should always be ready for unpredictable, for the uncertainties that may crop up any time. We should always be strengthening our fighting skills and weapons technologies so as to act effectively wherever called for," Singh said.

in Sikkim's Gangtok, a location that holds significance for the Indian Army given its proximity to the Line of



Rajnath Singh addressing top commanders of the Army.

GoC visits forward areas, reviews operational preparedness

STATE TIMES NEWS
DODA: A senior Army officer on Friday visited the hinterland areas and reviewed the security situation and operational preparedness of the troops deployed on ground zero in Jammu and Kashmir's Doda district.

Lieutenant General Navin Sachdeva, General Officer Commanding of the Army's 16 Corps, along with GoC Counter-insurgency force 'Delta', visited Doda to assess the security and operational preparedness for counter-insurgency operations in the area. Lieutenant Sachdeva appreciated the troops for their

Chugh expresses concern over incidents of 'hooliganism' post LA results in J&K

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: BJP National General Secretary Tarun Chugh on Friday expressed serious concern over some National Conference members 'playing havoc in different parts of Jammu and Kashmir'.

In a statement, Chugh said that complaints have come during the past three days some political workers have resorted to hooliganism, under the guise of celebrating victory of National Conference, in Bijbehara, Khiram, Dachinipora and Wagama. He described these incidents and beating of some



political opponents as a matter of concern.

On the question on the statehood to Jammu and Kashmir, Chugh said Prime Minister Narendra Modi has already clarified on it many times. He said the NC must not try to create a political atmosphere which is in tune with the agenda being furthered by Pakistan and ISI.

Challenges before BJP after massive mandate in Jammu

ANCHOR
DOST KHAN

Challenges before Jammu are very clear; it has to look for its space in the new governance model that will come into effect when the National Conference-led government will assume office under the leadership of Omar Abdullah, once the youngest chief minister of the Jammu and Kashmir in 2009 and now as the first-ever chief minister of the UT. He hopes that he will work for the restoration of statehood so that his government can have all the powers, enabling him to deliver in effective manner.

Jammu is reflecting on its own verdict. It made BJP to win 29 seats, a record of sorts. It has given a huge mandate to the party and its hopes too are huge. The region voted for BJP with three objectives - hope that the party would be able to lead govern-

ment in the UT and hence deliver on all the promises that it made to the people in its manifesto; to have a Hindu chief minister from the region and resurgence of Hindu dignity. There were solid reasons for Jammu to vote with these objectives in mind, since independence it has not been able to have a shot at the government. It never led the state government, which it sensed in the Union Territory, particularly when the delimitation of the constituencies in 2022 narrowed its gap of seats with the Valley. Kashmir had 47 seats and Jammu got 43. Earlier the gap was of six seats - the Valley had 43 seats as against 37 of Jammu. The region should be thankful to the Centre and in particular to Union Home Minister Amit Shah for ordering the delimitation after abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019.

This was a grand opportunity for Jammu to do what was not possible for all these decades. It had attempted

to do so in 2014 when it gave 25 seats to BJP enabling it to have a coalition government with the PDP --the Valley-centric party. There was nothing in common between the two parties, as they were poles apart in their ideologies. BJP was fighting for its space and dignity of Jammu region. It had its narrative against the Kashmir-centric parties that it alleged had always discriminated against the region, but the compulsion of the mandate demanded to partner with PDP to live up to expectations of the people. Both sides had made compromises in their Common Minimum Programme document fashionably titled as "Agenda of Alliance", yet the coalition did not last beyond three years. The contradictions surfaced and the government collapsed.

After the 2024 poll results, the BJP has no chance to enter into govern-

ment as National Conference is having a clear majority and it doesn't need the support of any other party. This is a fact that cannot be overlooked. But this doesn't mean that the BJP has no role to play in the future scheme of things.

It may be believed that the party would play the role of an effective opposition to get the things done. That's realistic assessment and interpretation of the mandate. There, however, is a catch. The opposition is concentrated in Jammu region, and such an opposition to the new government would have its regional implications, and worse still the religious ones too. It has to be guarded against.

National Conference leadership should understand that though the Valley has given it a majority of seats and few others have come from the hilly areas of Jammu region, that it would have to listen to and act in the overall interest of the whole of J&K. It cannot serve the interests of Kashmir

Valley without addressing the issues of the Jammu region. It would be wrong to assume that there is no opposition, since not many MLAs have been elected on the PDP, People's Conference and AIP tickets. It has always looked PDP in the frame of Opposition ever since the latter was founded in 1999. It was only during the 2014 and 2024 campaign that it saw a threat to its position in the Valley in BJP. Same holds true for the PDP.

The NC leadership has a chance to break the ice and respect the mandate of Jammu that it has given to the BJP. Omar Abdullah will have to reconcile to this if he hopes to govern without facing many hurdles. The opposition and ruling parties cannot be seen on the same page, but in the given situation it is not just the opposition but also stakes of very important region without which Kashmir is incomplete. It is incumbent upon BJP to seek and assert Jammu's space with dignity.

NEWS ANALYSIS