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**Dr Jitendra calls for collective effort to meet Climate challenge**

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**3rd South Kashmir Volleyball Championship to begin from Oct 23**

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**LG attends final match of Legends League Cricket at Bakshi Stadium**

Website : [www.statetimes.in](http://www.statetimes.in), Email: [statetimes1@gmail.com](mailto:statetimes1@gmail.com)

Omar Abdullah sworn in as CM; Surinder DyCM

Sakina Itoo, Javed Dar, Javed Rana, Satish Sharma sworn in as Ministers

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**

**SRINAGAR:** National Conference leader Omar Abdullah was sworn in as the chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday, the first elected government in the Union territory since 2019 when Article 370 was abrogated.

The Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha has appointed Omar Abdullah as the Chief Minister of J&K UT. Further, as advised by the Chief Minister, the Lieutenant Governor has appointed Surinder Kumar Choudhary, Sakina Itoo, Javed Ahmed Rana, Javid Ahmad Dar and Satish Sharma as Members of the Council of Ministers.

The Lieutenant Governor administered the Oaths of Office and Secrecy to the above Members of the Council of Ministers at a ceremony held in the SKICC, an official spokesperson said.

While Itoo and Dar are



LG Manoj Sinha along with Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and his council of ministers after swearing-in ceremony at Srinagar on Wednesday.

from the Kashmir valley, Rana, Choudhary and Sharma are from the Jammu region. Choudhary will be Deputy Chief Minister.

The Congress said it will not join the council of ministers for the moment.

JKPCC chief Tariq

Hameed Karra said the Congress will not join council of ministers in J-K for the moment as it is unhappy that statehood has not been restored.

INDIA bloc leaders attended the event in full strength. Among those who had gath-

ered at the Sher-i-Kashmir International Convention Centre (SKICC) were Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and Mallikarjun Kharge, SP chief Akhilesh Yadav, Left leaders Prakash Karat and D Raja, DMK's

Kanimozhi and NCP's Supriya Sule. PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti also attended the event.

Omar Abdullah's family, including his father Farooq Abdullah, mother Molly Abdullah, his two sisters, and two sons were present on the

'T'm back': Omar takes charge

**SRINAGAR:** National Conference Vice President Omar Abdullah visited the Civil Secretariat here on Wednesday to take charge as the chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir, marking a significant political moment for the Union territory.

He was given a grand reception by officers and employees, and also accorded a ceremonial guard of honour. Abdullah, made his way to his office chambers where he was warmly greeted by his staff before formally assuming charge.

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CM orders no 'green corridor' or traffic stoppage for him

**SRINAGAR:** Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Wednesday said that to avoid inconvenience to the people, there will be no 'green corridor' for him while he moves by road. Less than three hours after

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Nasir Aslam Wani appointed as Advisor to CM

**SRINAGAR:** Jammu and Kashmir Government on Wednesday appointed senior National Conference leader Nasir Aslam Wani as Advisor to Chief Minister Omar Abdullah.

Wani is a close aide of Abdullah and served as the Minister of State during his first tenure between 2009 and 2014 and held charge of multiple ministries.

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Traders' delegation calls on LG



Delegation of Traders calling on LG Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhawan on Wednesday.

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**

**SRINAGAR:** A delegation of Traders Association Central Lal Chowk Srinagar led by its President Feroz Ahmad Baba, called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhawan on Wednesday.

Subsequently, representatives of Scientists and Teachers' Association of SKUAST Kashmir also called on the Lt Governor. Meanwhile, Saima Jan, Member,

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3 pc hike in DA for govt employees cleared

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**

**NEW DELHI:** The central government has raised the dearness allowance (DA) and dearness relief (DR) for its over a crore employees and pensioners by 3 per cent to compensate them against price rise. This takes the total from 50 per cent to 53 per cent, to be paid over and above the basic pay. The hike in DA rate was decided at a cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi this morning.

The new rate will be effective from July 1, 2024. The decision, taken weeks ahead of Diwali, comes as a major relief to central government employees amid the festive season.

"This increase is in accordance with the accepted formula, which is based on the recommendations of the 7th Central Pay Commission," the government said in a statement.

The hike in DA and DR will cost the exchequer an additional Rs 9,448.35 crore every year and benefit about 49.18 lakh central

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**WEATHER**

**Temperature (Jammu)**  
Max: 31.4°C Min: 20.5°C

**Humidity**  
Max: 82 Min: 63

**Temperature (Srinagar)**  
Max: 26.0°C Min: 6.9°C

**Humidity**  
Max: 77 Min: 53

Sunset : 17:56 Hours  
Sunrise : 06:35 Hours

Govt orders withdrawal of NSG commandos from VIP security, CRPF to take charge

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**

**NEW DELHI:** The Union government has ordered the complete withdrawal of the counter-terrorist commando force NSG from VIP security duties and handing over its nine "high-risk" VIPs to the CRPF by the next month, official sources said Wednesday.

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has also sanctioned a fresh battalion of specially trained personnel, recently withdrawn from Parliament security duties, to be attached to the CRPF VIP security wing.

The 'black cat' commandos

of the National Security Guard (NSG) provide 'Z plus' category protection to nine VIPs which include Uttar Pradesh chief minister Yogi Adityanath, his predecessor and BSP supremo Mayawati, Union defence minister Rajnath Singh, veteran BJP leader and former Deputy Prime Minister L K Advani, and Union Shipping Minister Sarbananda Sonowal.

The others include BJP leader and former Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Raman Singh, former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister and Democratic

Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) President Ghulam Nabi Azad, National Conference (NC) president Farooq Abdullah and Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu.

The transfer of duties between the two forces under the MHA is expected to be completed within a month, they said.

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ing 12 free gas cylinders per year, 200 units of free electricity, and employment for the youth. He warned that winter power cuts are already happening and people are facing hardships.

Chugh emphasized that the

2 JKAS officers posted in CM's Secretariat

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**

**JAMMU:** The government on Wednesday transferred two JKAS officers.

according to the order issued by Sanjeev Verma, Commissioner/Secretary, General Administration Department, Haris Ahmad Handoo, JKAS, Special Secretary in the office of Chief Secretary, has been transferred and posted as Special Secretary in the Chief Minister's Secretariat and Reyaz Ahmad Wani, JKAS, Additional Secretary in the J&K Services Selection Board, has been transferred and posted as OSD/Private Secretary to the Chief Minister.

J&K Admin rescinds orders empowering Administrative Council

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**

**SRINAGAR:** Hours after a new elected government took charge in Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday, the administration rescinded various orders which gave powers to the Administrative Council headed by the Lieutenant Governor for governing the union territory.

According to an official statement, some such government orders instituted in 2020 stand withdrawn.

The order for rescinding them was issued by Commissioner/Secretary to the Government, General Administration Department,

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Centre will work closely with Omar Abdullah, his team for J&K's progress: Modi

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**

**NEW DELHI:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday congratulated Omar Abdullah on being sworn in as the chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir, and said the Centre

will work closely with him and his team for J-K's progress.

In a post on X, Modi said, "Congratulations to Shri Omar Abdullah Ji on tak-

ing oath as the Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir. Wishing him the



very best in his efforts to serve the people."

"The Centre will work closely with him and his team for J&K's progress," the prime minister said.

SC judgement on constitutional validity of Sec 6A of Citizenship Act today

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**

**NEW DELHI:** The Supreme Court is scheduled to pronounce on Thursday its judgement on petitions challenging the constitutional validity of Section 6A of the Citizenship Act related to the grant of Indian citizenship to illegal immigrants in Assam.

A five-judge constitution bench headed by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud is likely to deliver the verdict.

The apex court on December 12 last year had reserved its order after hearing the submissions of Attorney General

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Cabinet hikes wheat MSP by Rs 150 to Rs 2,425/quintal for 2025-26

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**

**NEW DELHI:** The Cabinet on Wednesday raised the minimum support price (MSP) for wheat by 6.59 per cent to Rs 2,425 per quintal for the 2025-26 rabi marketing season.

The Rs 150 per quintal hike in wheat support price is significant ahead of elections in states like Maharashtra, Jharkhand and Delhi. Rabi marketing season begins from April 2025.

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved the increase in the MSP of six mandated rabi crops for 2025-26 marketing season in the range of Rs 130-300 per quintal.

"The major decision taken by the cabinet is related to

the welfare of the farmers. Like in Kharif, there is a significant increase in the MSP for rabi crops," I&B Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw told media after the cabinet meeting.

He said the support price for wheat has been increased to Rs 2,425 per quintal for 2025-26, from Rs 2,275 per quintal in the previous year.

To increase domestic production of oilseeds, the cabinet increased the support price for rapeseed/mustard seed by Rs 300 to Rs 5,950 per quintal for the 2025-26 marketing season.

The support price for safflower was increased by Rs 140 to Rs 5,940 per quintal from Rs 5,800 per quintal in the previous year.

In case of pulses, support price for lentil

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