

THE BOLD VOICE OF J&K STATE Vol. 29 Issue 288 • Jammu • Thursday • October 17, 2024 • Pages 12 • ₹ 5.00

Dr Jitendra calls for collective | effort to meet Climate challenge

Regd. No. L-29/JK-346/22-24

3rd South Kashmir Volleyball Championship to begin from Oct 23

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

LG attends final match of Legends League Cricket at Bakshi Stadium

Air surcharge 50 paisa for Leh

Omar Abdullah sworn in as CM; Surinder DyCM Sakina Itoo, Javed Dar, Javed Rana, Satish Sharma sworn in as Ministers

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: 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. 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 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.

 $_{
m JKPCC}$

Subsequently, representa-

tives of Scientists and

Teachers' Association of

called on the Lt Governor.

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,

The Ministry of Home

Affairs (MHA) has also sanc-

tioned a fresh battalion of

specially trained personnel,

recently withdrawn from

Parliament security duties,

to be attached to the CRPF

official

Kashmir also

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Saima Jan,

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

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

STATE TIMES NEWS

National General Secretary

Tarun Chugh on Wednesday

praised the people of Jammu

International Convention (SKICC) Centre Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and Mallikarjun Kharge, SP chief Akhilesh Yadav, Left leaders Prakash

Karat and D Raja, DMK's

Chugh urges new Govt to fulfill poll promises

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

'I'm back': Omar takes charge SRINAGAR: National Conference Vice President Omar

Abdullah visited Civil on Wednesday to take charge as the chief minister Jammu and Kashmir, marking a significant moment for the Union territory.



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. ■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Before being sworn in, Omar Abdullah paid obeisance at the Hazratbal shrine and prayed for the peace and prosperity of the Union Territory.

Locals welcomed Omar Abdullah and showered tof-

any kind of unrest return to

He highlighted the progress

Jammu and Kashmir has

made and how peace has

been restored under Modi's

leadership, warning that any

attempts to disrupt this

Chugh praised the fact

that, for the first time in 40

years, elections in J&K were

peaceful, with all parties

campaigning freely day and

night, and people voting in

large numbers. This, he said,

is a clear sign of Modi's posi-

tive influence and the accept-

ance of his leadership in the

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

region. Chugh called

peace will not be tolerated.

the region," he said.

fees on him.

The NC vice president also interacted with the people. "JKNC VP & Chief Minister

Designate @OmarAbdullah visited the revered Hazratbal Shrine ahead of the oath taking

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Centre will work closely with Omar Abdullah,

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

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Abdullah Wednesday said that to avoid inconvenience to the people, there will be n green corridor' for him while ne moves by road. Less than three hours after

■ CONTD ON PAGE

Nasir Aslam Wani appointed as Advisor to CM

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Government on Wednesday appointed senior National Conference leader Nasir Aslam Wani a 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.

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Traders' delegation calls on LG



Raj Bhawan on Wednesday.

SKUAST

Meanwhile.

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.

3 pc hike in DA for govt employees cleared

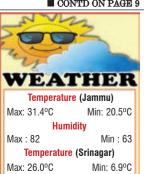
STATE TIMES NEWS NEW DELHI: The central government has raised the dearness allowance (DA) and dearness relief (DR) for its over a crore employees and pensioners by 3 per cent to compensate them against price rise. This takes the total from 50 per cent to 53 per cent, to be paid over and above the basic 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

"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

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

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9



Sunset: 17:56 Hours

Sunrise: 06:35 Hours

Max: 77

Min: 53

and Kashmir for embracing Prime Minister Modi's vision of development and trust. "Where there was once a boycott, we now see enthusi-

DELHI: BJP

astic voter turnout," he said, adding that the strong participation in the elections demonstrates support for Modi's leadership and the decision to abrogate Article

Congratulating OmarAbdullah on being sworn in as Chief Minister, Chugh urged him to deliver on his

Govt orders withdrawal of NSG commandos

from VIP security, CRPF to take charge

of the National Security

Guard (NSG) provide 'Z

plus' category protection to

nine VIPs which include

Uttar Pradesh chief minister

Yogi Adityanath, his prede-

cessor and BSP supremo

Mayawati, Union defence

minister Rajnath Singh, vet-

eran BJP leader and former

Deputy Prime Minister L K

Advani, and Union Shipping

The others include BJP

and

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister

Jammu and Kashmir Chief

Raman Singh,

Sarbananda

former

former



winter power cuts are already happening and people are facing hardships

Chugh emphasized that the

Progressive Azad Party

(DPAP) President Ghulam

Farooq Abdullah and Andhra

Pradesh Chief Minister N

The transfer of duties

between the two forces under

the MHA is expected to be

completed within a month,

The Central Reserve Police

Force (CRPF), which has six

VIP security battalions, has

been asked to absorb a sev-

enth battalion for this pur-

pose. The fresh battalion is

Azad, Conference (NC) president

Chandrababu Naidu.

they said.

BJP would hold protests if immediate action is not taken to address these issues. Chugh also paid tribute to the 34 BJP workers who

have sacrificed their lives over the past 12 years to bring peace to the Valley.

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, 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

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 territo-

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 Adminstration Department,

Administrative Council Sanjeev Verma.

J&K Admin rescinds orders empowering

pursuance Notification S.O. 4484(E) dated 13th October, 2024 issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, it is hereby ordered that Government Order No. 808-JK(GAD) of 2020 01.09.2020. dated Government Order No. 809-JK(GAD) of 2020 dated 01.09.2020, Government Order No. 810-JK(GAD) of 2020 dated 01.09.2020 and Government Order No. 811-JK(GAD) of 2020 dated 01.09.2020, alongwith any modification, alteration or addition are rescinded

his team for J&K's progress: Modi ing oath as the Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir. Wishing him the

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on

Wednesday congratu. lated Omar Abdullah on being sworn in as the chief minis-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 takvery 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: 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 citizen-

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

ship to illegal immigrants in

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

Attorney General

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Cabinet hikes wheat MSP by Rs 150

Terrorism hurdle in regional cooperation: Jaishankar

STATE TIMES NEWS

VIP security wing.

ISLAMABAD: Delivering a thinly veiled message to Pakistan from its national capital, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Wednesday said if activities across borders are "characextremism and separatism. they are hardly likely to encourage trade, energy flows and connectivity in par-

In his address at a conclave of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) chaired by Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and attended among others by Chinese Jaishankar also asserted that trade and connectivity initiatives must recognise territorial integrity and sovereignty and it is essential to have an "honest conversa-



tion" on lack of trust The remarks came amid

the lingering military standoff between Indian and Chinese troops in eastern Ladakh and concerns over China's increasing military muscle-flexing in the Indian Ocean and other strategic

Ahead of the SCO deliberaat the Jinnah tions Convention Centre, PM

Sharif shook hands with Jaishankar and warmly received him for the second time in the last two days. Sharif and Jaishankar shook hands and briefly spoke at a dinner reception last night.

terrorism, extremism and

In his address at the conclave, Jaishankar flagged concerns over a number of challenges including that of countering the 'three evils" of

"If activities across borders are characterised by terrorism, extremism and separatism, they are hardly likely to encourage trade, energy flows, connectivity and people-to-people exchanges in parallel," the external affairs minister said, without naming Pakistan.

Before leaving Islamabad, Jaishankar thanked PM Sharif and Pakistan Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar in a post on 'X' that is being seen as a positive gesture by senior functionaries in the Pakistan establishment.

He also described the SCO's Council of Heads of Government meeting as "pro-

"Departing Islamabad. Thank PM @CMShehbaz, DPM & FM @MIshaqDar50 and the

Government of Pakistan for the hospitality and courtesies," Jaishankar said.

In another post, the external affairs minister identified eight takeaways from the Indian perspective at the conclave that included the inclusion of digital public infrastructure (DPI) and digital in the SCO framework and a decision to develop a dialogue on the idea of 'One Earth, One Family, One

Other key takeaways listed by the minister included upholding fair and balanced connectivity projects in accordance with international law and reemphasising rules-based, non-discriminatory, open, fair, inclusive and transparent multilateral trading systems with WTO

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

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 5,950per 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

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9