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Omar Abdullah sworn...

ceremony today. He prayed for the peace & prosperity of Jammu & Kashmir," the NC said on X.

Earlier in the day, Abdullah visited the mausoleum of his grandfather Sheikh Abdullah and grandmother nearby the shrine, and offered 'Fatiha khawani' (special prayers) there ahead of the swearing-in-ceremony.

'I'm back'...



"I'm back," Abdullah posted on X with photographs of him in his office chair.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary, along with ministers Sakeena Masood Itoo, Javed Ahmad Rana, Javid Ahmad Dar, and Satish Sharma.

Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Director General of Police Nalin Prabhat, and all administrative Secretaries of departments were present in the meeting. Dulloo extended a warm welcome to the new chief minister and extended the administration's full support to the Abdullah-led government.

"We are fully dedicated to fulfilling the vision of the government and ensuring the progress of the people," Dulloo said.

Abdullah praised the officers for their role in ensuring peaceful elections in Jammu and Kashmir.

He emphasised the immense faith the people of the region have placed in democracy, the government, and its institutions. "We must rise to the occasion and meet the expectations that have been placed on us," the chief minister said.

Focusing on governance, the Chief Minister reiterated the need for a people-first approach, highlighting that the government's primary role is to serve the citizens and address their concerns.

He acknowledged that a gap has emerged between the people and the government over the years, but expressed his commitment to reduce this distance.

"Our administration's approach will be people-friendly. We have entered the Civil Secretariat with a positive mindset, focused on delivering the best for the people of Jammu and Kashmir," he said.

Abdullah emphasised that bridging the gap between citizens and the government is a top priority.

"Democratic governments are preferred all over India for this very reason, and we will work tirelessly to bring people closer to the government and its institutions," he added.

Abdullah also expressed his willingness to collaborate closely with the officers, pledging his full cooperation and expecting the same in return.

CM orders no...

taking charge, Abdullah posted on X: "I have spoken to the DG @JmuKmrPolice that there is to be no 'green corridor' or traffic stoppage when I move anywhere by road. I have instructed him to minimise public inconvenience & the use of sirens is to be minimal."

In his first term as the chief minister from 2009 to 2014, Abdullah set an example by directing his cavalcade to follow traffic signals.

"The use of any stick waving or aggressive gestures is to be totally avoided. I'm asking my cabinet colleagues to follow the same example. In everything our conduct must be people friendly. We are here to serve the people & not to inconvenience them," the chief minister said.

Nasir Aslam Wani...

"Nasir Aslam Wani is hereby appointed as advisor to Chief Minister, J&K," an order issued by General Administration Department reads.

It said the terms and conditions of Wani's appointment shall be notified separately. Wani, who lost the assembly elections from the Kupwara seat, is the NC provincial president of Kashmir.

Chugh urges new...

on Omar Abdullah to fulfill his promise of rehabilitating the Kashmiri Pandits, demanding a clear plan and immediate action. He also expressed concern over reports of threats and attacks on BJP workers after the election, stating firmly that any violence or intimidation against party workers would not be tolerated.

Traders' delegation calls...

District Development Council from BK Pora, Budgam and Abhijeet Jasrotia, BJP Spokesperson met the Lieutenant Governor.

SC judgement on...

R Venkataramani, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, senior advocates Shyam Divan, Kapil Sibal and others for four days.

The bench, also comprising Justices Surya Kant, M M Sundresh, J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra, reserved its order on 17 petitions questioning the constitutional validity of Section 6A, which was inserted into the Citizenship Act as a special provision to deal with the citizenship of people covered under the Assam Accord.

It says those who came to Assam on or after January 1, 1966, but before March 25, 1971, from specified territories, including Bangladesh, in accordance with the Citizenship Act amended in 1985, and since then are residents of the northeastern state, must register themselves under Section 18 for acquiring Indian citizenship.

As a result, the provision fixes March 25, 1971, as the cut-off date for granting citizenship to migrants, particularly those from Bangladesh, residing in Assam.

J&K Admin rescinds...

forthwith," Verma said in his order.

It comes in the backdrop of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and his five-member council of ministers assuming the charge of the government after they were sworn in

earlier in the day.

Govt orders withdrawal...

guard the Parliament till a few months back. After a security breach that took place last year, the Parliament security was handed over to the CISF from the CRPF, a senior officer told PTL.

As part of the taking over the new task, a team of Andhra Pradesh Police was in Delhi recently for the change of its chief minister's security from the NSG to the CRPF, the sources said.

Two among these nine VIPs will also have the advanced security liaison (ASL) protocol being undertaken by the CRPF-- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and UP Chief Minister Adityanath, as per the sources.

ASL involves an advance reconnaissance of the location to be visited by the VIP. The CRPF undertakes such a protocol for five of its VIPs including Home Minister Amit Shah, former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and three Gandhi family Congress leaders.

The plan to relieve NSG from VIP security tasks has been in the making since 2012 when NSG commanders foresaw an event where simultaneous terror attacks could be witnessed at one time on multiple centres in the country and the commandos would have to be rushed in different directions.

PTI had reported in January 2020, that after the removal of the SPG (special protection group) from the Gandhi family-- Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra-- a committee of the MHA had decided to withdraw NSG from VIP security tasks.

The Union government has decided to "restructure" the NSG and use its manpower to raise and station 'strike teams' of commandos in some high-risk areas like near the Ram temple in Ayodhya and around some critical assets located in the southern part of the country.

Withdrawal of the NSG from VIP security, once done by November, will happen after over two decades since the 'black cat' commandos were drafted in this duty, a task not originally charted for it when the force was conceptualised and raised in 1984.

The NSG is celebrating its 40th raising day on Wednesday.

The Union government is of the view that the NSG should concentrate on its original charter of handling specific tasks of counter-terrorist and counter-hijack operations and that the task of securing high-risk VIPs was proving to be a "burden" on its limited and specialist capabilities.

Around 450 'black cat' commandos are expected to be freed once NSG is withdrawn from VIP security duties, the sources had said.

Cabinet hikes wheat...

(masur) increased by Rs 275 to Rs 6,700 per quintal, while that for gram MSP raised by Rs 210 to Rs 5,650 per quintal for the 2025-26 marketing season.

Support price for barley increased by Rs 130 to Rs 1,980 per quintal for 2025-26 rabi marketing season, from Rs 1,850 per quintal in the previous year.

The increase in rabi crops MSP is in line with the Union Budget 2018-19 announcement of fixing the MSP at a level of at least 1.5 times the All-India weighted average cost of production.

The expected margin over the All-India weighted average cost of production is 105 per cent for wheat, followed by 98 per cent for rapeseed & mustard; 89 per cent for lentil; 60 per cent for gram; 60 per cent for barley; and 50 per cent for safflower.

This increased MSP of rabi crops will ensure remunerative prices to the farmers and incentivise crop diversification, the minister added.

Terrorism hurdle in...

In his remarks at the conclave, Jaishankar said cooperation must be based on mutual respect and sovereign equality and that the SCO member nations can benefit immensely if the grouping moves ahead collectively with mutual trust.

He especially stressed on adhering to the SCO charter, highlighting its underlying essence of strengthening mutual trust, friendship and good neighbourliness.

"It should recognise territorial integrity and sovereignty. It must be built on genuine partnerships, not unilateral agendas. It cannot progress if we cherry-pick global practices, especially of trade and transit," he said, in remarks seen as an indirect reference to China's assertive behaviour on several critical issues such as trade and connectivity.

"But most of all, our endeavours will progress only when our commitment to the Charter remains firm. It is axiomatic that development and growth requires peace and stability. And as the Charter spelt out, this means being firm and uncompromising in countering the 'three evils'."

Jaishankar said there is a need to introspect if "good neighbourliness" is missing somewhere and there is a lack of trust.

"If we fast-forward from the inception of the charter to the situation today, these goals and these tasks are even more crucial. It is, therefore, essential that we have an honest conversation," he said.

"If trust is lacking or cooperation inadequate if the friendship has fallen short and good neighbourliness is missing somewhere, there are surely reasons to introspect and causes to address," he said.

"Equally, it is only when we reaffirm our commitment most sincerely to the Charter that we can fully realise the benefits of cooperation and integration that it envisages," he added.

Jaishankar said the SCO's objective was to strengthen mutual trust, friendship and good neighbourliness.

"It is to develop multifaceted cooperation, especially of a regional nature. It is to be a positive force in terms of balanced growth, integration and conflict prevention," he said. "The Charter was equally clear what the key challenges were. And these were primarily three, that the SCO was committed to combating: one, terrorism; two, separatism; and three, extremism," he said.

Jaishankar also described the challenge of debt as a serious concern.

The external affairs minister, delving into global issues, said the global institutions need to keep pace with the changes and underlined the need for 'reformed multilateralism'. Jaishankar also emphasised the need for comprehensive reform of the UN Security Council, both in the permanent and non-permanent categories, to make the global body more representative, inclusive, transparent and efficient.

"The SCO must be in the lead of advocating such change, not hold back on a matter of such importance," he said.

Jaishankar also referred to various global challenges.

"We meet at a difficult time in world affairs. Two major conflicts are underway, each with its own global repercussions. The Covid pandemic has left many in the developing world deeply devastated," he said.

"Disruptions of various kinds - ranging from extreme climate events to supply chain uncertainties and financial volatility - are impacting growth and development," he said.

He also added: "Technology holds great promise, as well as raising a new host of concerns."

3 pc hike...

government employees and 64.89 lakh pensioners, the government said.

DA is given to government employees and DR to pensioners to compensate them for increasing prices. Revised periodically twice a year, this allowance is calculated on the basis of the latest consumer price index for industrial workers.

Crown of thorns: Farooq Abdullah

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: It is a crown of thorns and may Allah help him fulfil the hopes of people, National Conference president Farooq Abdullah said on Wednesday after his son Omar Taking a cue from his grandfather, Zahir Abdullah, Omar Abdullah's son, said the new government's first priority is restoration of statehood.

"The state is full of challenges and I hope this government will do what it had promised in the election manifesto... It is a crown of thorns and may (almighty) Allah succeed him (Omar) and he fulfils the people's hope. This is my message," Farooq Abdullah told reporters after the oath-taking ceremony at the Sher-i-Kashmir International Convention Centre (SKICC).

"After statehood, our true struggle (for restoration of) Article 370 will start. Article 370 will always be our priority," Zahir Abdullah added.

Will fight together for strengthening democracy, statehood: Kharge

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Wednesday expressed happiness over National Conference leader Omar Abdullah taking oath as chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir and said the two parties will fight jointly to restore statehood.

Kharge was among a galaxy of INDIA bloc leaders, including Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, SP chief Akhilesh Yadav and left leaders Prakash Karat and D Raja, DMK's Kanimozhi and NCP's Supriya Sule who attended the swearing-in ceremony here.

"We are happy that our alliance partner became the chief minister and it is a big success for J-K. Today, democracy has been restored and we will fight together to strengthen it. We will keep fighting till J-K gets back the statehood," the Congress president said.

5 vehicles seized for illegal mining

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA: Continuing its drive against illegal mining, Police has seized five vehicles across district Samba which were being used for illegal transportation/mining of the construction material.

Police teams headed by SHO Police Station Vijaypur, Incharge Police Post Rajpura falling under Police Station Ghagwal and Incharge Police Post Mansar falling under Police Station Samba while performing patrolling duty in their respective jurisdictional areas, have seized five vehicles including one dumper bearing registration No. JK02CX-6469 and four tractor trolley without registration No. which were being used for illegal transportation/mining of the construction material in the area.

The above mentioned vehicles have been seized by Samba Police and handed over to Geology & Mining Department, Samba for further legal action.

GRP Jammu solves theft case; recovers 4 stolen mobiles

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Railway Police J&K (GRP Jammu), solved a theft case within hours and recovered and seized 04 Stolen Mobile Phones worth Rs. 5 Lakh. Accordingly, a case under FIR No.07/2024 has been registered at P/S GRP Kathua and investigation initiated.

Cyber Cell recovers Rs 1,58,184 in online financial frauds

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KUPWARA: Cyber Cell of J&K Police have solved multiple cases of online financial frauds, thereby prevented further financial losses & successfully recovered a total of Rs 1,58,184. The swift action and effective use of cyber tactics by the Cyber Cell Kupwara have helped resolve multiple cases including Online Job Scam, Credit Card Update Scam, Investment Fraud, SIM Card Update Fraud & Fake Credit Message Scam etc.

A complainant was defrauded of Rs. 23,000 in an online task-based job scam. Upon receiving the complaint, the Cyber Cell collected all necessary evidence and successfully recovered the full amount of Rs. 23,000. Another victim lost Rs. 20,590 in a credit card update scam. The fraudsters tricked the victim into following fraudulent steps to update the card, leading to the financial loss. Cyber Cell Kupwara promptly intervened and managed to recover Rs. 20,000 of the lost amount.

In another case, a victim was duped of Rs. 44,270 after being promised double returns on investments. The fraudsters persuaded the victim to make multiple transactions. Upon receiving the complaint, the Cyber Cell blocked the transactions, saving the entire amount of Rs. 44,270. Another complainant was scammed of Rs. 69,500 after receiving a phone call asking for SIM card updates. The Cyber Cell managed to recover Rs. 14,500 for the victim. Another victim lost Rs. 72,001 in another online fraud case. The Cyber Cell successfully managed to save Rs. 52,001 for the victim. In another case, a complainant was tricked by a fake credit message and lost Rs. 5,000. The Cyber Cell recovered Rs. 4,413 after quick action.

MC Bhaderwah seizes 17 kg banned polythene

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BHADARWAH: Municipal Committee Bhaderwah conducted a major enforcement operation here today, seizing 17 kg banned polythene bags.

The MC team also recovered ₹1000 fine from the defaulters during the drive which was part of a larger effort to enforce the guidelines of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) and tackle the increasing pollution problems impacting the region's water bodies.

The drive was conducted under the direct supervision of Executive Officer Ravi Saini. The EO emphasized the importance of adhering to the regulations issued by the Jammu and Kashmir Pollution Control Committee, highlighting the urgent need to address the deteriorating condition of local water bodies. He also urged the public to shift towards using eco-friendly alternatives like cloth or jute bags to help maintain a cleaner environment.

Several key officials, including Arshad Kagazghar, Randhir Singh, Sajjad Ahmed, Heema Begum, Waseem Raja, Berjesh Yogi, Mohd Yaseen, and Mohd Ayaz, actively participated in the enforcement drive.

Police hands over 50 desks to GHS Naran

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

GHAGWAL: In a generous gesture under the Civic Action Programme (CAP), the J&K Police has donated 50 desks to the students of Govt. High School Naran in the jurisdiction of Police Station Ghagwal.

The distribution ceremony was overseen by Dy.SPHqrs Samba, accompanied by I/C SHO Police Station Ghagwal under the guidance of Senior Superintendent of Police, Samba.

During the event, 50 desks were handed over to the school management in the presence of the Headmistress of GHS Naran. The distribution ceremony was well-attended by a large number of students, teachers and other members of the school management.

While speaking on the occasion, DySPHQrs. Samba urged upon the students to channelize their energy in the right direction and participate in recreational activities besides taking keen interest in their studies. He asked the students to stay away from the drug abuse and join hands with the police in its fight to eradicate the drug menace from the society.

Expressing gratitude, the Headmistress of Govt. High School Naran extended heartfelt thanks to the Police Department for their generous contribution towards enhancing the learning environment for the students.

Drug peddler arrested with heroin

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Continuing its actions against drug peddlers, a police party of Police Post Sidhra while on routine patrolling established naka at Sidhra Bridge for checking. During naka checking at Sidhra Bridge one bike bearing registration no JK17A/5158 which was coming from Narwal towards Nagrota was signalled for checking but rider of the said bike and the other person sitting in the bike tried to escape from spot. On this police party of PP Sidhra overpowered both the persons and detained them. On preliminary questioning the said persons disclosed their name as Akash Bhartim son of Ashok Bharti, resident of Poochal, Kishtwar and Omar Ali, son of Sardar Ali, resident of Poochal, Kishtwar. During their personal search Heroine like substance weighing 30 grms approx. recovered from the possession of both the above said persons.

In this regard a case FIR No 274/2024 U/S 8/21/22/29 NDPS Act stand registered at Police Station Nagrota and the investigation of case started.

Inqlabi wellcome CM's decision to give befitting share to Jammu province particular Pir-Panchal region

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The people of Pir- Panjal thanks the Omar Abdullah for giving balance due share in cabinet to Jammu region particularly Pir Panchal region. Terming the meticulous decisions to give Deputy Chief Minister portfolio to Surinder Chaudhary. Inqlabi has welcome and appreciated visionary decisions of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah. He has expressed confidence that Government will work to mitigate the division created by some self-interested people of two region. Ch. Rashid Azam Inqlabi has congratulated Chief Minister and his cabinet specially Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Chaudhary and Cabinet Minister Javed Ahmed Rana. The Pir Panjal region got the first Deputy Chief Minister in the history of Jammu and Kashmir. The people of pir-panjal feel the proud on get the Surinder Choudhary inducting as Deputy Chief Minister.

The people of Pir - Panjal region has great hope from both the Cabinet Ministers and hope that they will redress the grievances of the people particularly the problem of unemployment among youth.

J&K Cong congratulates Omar, expresses confidence in his Govt

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The Congress here on Wednesday expressed hope that the new government in Jammu and Kashmir will lead the Union territory towards prosperity, progress and inclusive development, and come up to the expectations of the people.

Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) chief Tariq Hameed Karra and CLP leader Ghulam Ahmad Mir congratulated NC leader Omar Abdullah on being sworn in as the chief minister of J-K.

They also congratulated the ministers who were sworn in along with Abdullah, the Congress said in a statement. Karra and Mir expressed confidence that the new government led by Abdullah would come up to the expectations of the public and do its utmost to address their genuine concerns and hardships. The people of Jammu and Kashmir have been under the President's rule for six years for no fault of theirs. They have high expectations from this elected government, the leaders said.

"We wish Abdullah all the success and hope the new government under him shall lead J-K towards prosperity, progress and inclusive development," the statement read.