

03 People of Kashmir Valley also support Art 370 abrogation: Dr Jitendra

08 BJP's highest poll percentage in J&K is stamp of approval to Art 30 abrogation: Core Group

10 District Ganderbal Volleyball Championship from Oct 28

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LG allocates portfolios to Ministers in Omar-led cabinet

Mubarak Gul appointed as pro-tem Speaker of J&K Assembly
Newly elected MLAs to be administered Oath on Monday

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday allocated portfolios to the newly inducted Ministers in Chief Minister Omar Abdullah-led council of ministers.

An order to allocate the portfolios on the advice of the Chief Minister was issued by the Lieutenant Governor here. Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary will hold the charge of Public Works (R&B), Industries and Commerce, Mining, Labour and Employment, and Skill Development.

Sakeena Ittoo has been assigned the charge of important ministries of Health and Medical Education, School Education, Higher Education, and Social Welfare.

Javed Ahmed Rana has been allocated the departments of Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment, and Tribal Affairs.

Javid Ahmad Dar will be the minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, Cooperative, and Election.

Satish Sharma has been assigned the charge of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, Transport, Science and Technology, Information Technology, Youth Services and Sports and ARI and Trainings.

According to the order any other departments/subjects not allocated to any of the ministers, shall remain with

MINISTERS	DEPARTMENTS ASSIGNED
Surinder Kumar Choudhary (Deputy Chief Minister)	Public Works (R&B), Industries & Commerce, Mining, Labour & Employment and Skill Development.
Sakeena Masood (Ittoo)	Health & Medical Education, School Education, Higher Education and Social Welfare.
Javed Ahmed Rana	Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs.
Javid Ahmad Dar	Agriculture Production, Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, Cooperative and Election.
Satish Sharma	Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Transport, Science & Technology, Information Technology, Youth Services & Sports and ARI & Trainings.
Any other departments/subjects not allocated to any of the Ministers shall remain with the Chief Minister.	

the Chief Minister.

Meanwhile, the Lieutenant Governor, in pursuance to Section 24 of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization Act, 2019, appointed Mubarak Gul, Member Legislative Assembly, as Speaker Protem who shall administer the oath/affirmation to all members of the J&K Legislative Assembly for the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir in terms of Section 24 of aforesaid Act.

The oath/affirmation will be adminis-

tered in the Legislative Assembly, Srinagar, on 21st October, 2024 at 02:00 pm.

All the members of the J&K Legislative Assembly have been urged upon to attend the Legislative Assembly for making and subscribing the oath/affirmation on the scheduled date and time.

Mubarak Gul shall also discharge the functions of the Speaker till the election of the Speaker is held, added an official communication issued in this regard.

Two JKAS officers transferred

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Government on Friday transferred two JKAS officers.

According to the order issued by Sanjeev Verma, Commissioner Secretary, General Administration Department, Muddasir Latif Tasir, JKAS, who was serving as the Additional Secretary, Planning, Development, and Monitoring Department, has been transferred and posted as Officer on Special Duty (OSD) to assist Javed Ahmed Rana, Minister, Government of Jammu and Kashmir. "Mohd Raiyaz, Junior Scale JKAS,

Omar urges Cabinet colleagues to monitor departments assigned to them



Chief Minister Omar Abdullah chairing a meeting at Srinagar on Friday.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Friday asked his Cabinet colleagues to actively monitor and review the functioning of the departments assigned to

them to improve governance in Jammu and Kashmir: Chairing a meeting, the Chief Minister assessed developmental scenario of Jammu and Kashmir besides the performance and

progress of various government departments. He asserted the Government's commitment to transparency and accountability in its functioning. Deputy Chief Minister

Modi proposes holding NDA leaders conclave twice every year

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi has described the meeting of NDA leaders in Chandigarh on Thursday as the largest get-together of non-Congress political parties post 1975, the year Emergency was imposed, and called for holding such a conclave twice every year, a BJP statement said.

Making a point about the deeper connect his govern-

Congress-led UPA government, he said at the meeting that he has received over 4.5 crore letters in the past 10 years compared to only 5 lakh letters received by his predecessor. Manmohan Singh headed the UPA government during 2004-14.

This reflects people's trust in his government,

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CM to visit Jammu today

JAMMU: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah is all set to address National Conference rank and file at Sher-e-Kashmir Bhavan here tomorrow.

His visit, just three days after taking over the reins of the government in Jammu and Kashmir, is seen as an effort to reach out to all segments of society in both the regions of the Union Territory.

Surinder Choudhary, Minister for Health

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PFI wanted to create Islamic movement, start civil war in India: ED

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Friday said the Popular Front of India (PFI), a proscribed terrorist organisation, was working to create an Islamic movement in India through a "jihad" that included non-violent air raids and "guerilla theatre", apart from various methods of cruelty and subjugation.

The federal agency issued a statement, saying it

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Kejriwal Govt completely failed to address Delhi pollution in 10 yrs: Chugh

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Bharatiya Janata Party National General Secretary Tarun Chugh on Friday strongly condemned the AAP government for persistent and worsening pollution crisis in Delhi, describing it as a significant failure of the Kejriwal government over the past decade.

In a statement, Chugh said that despite earlier promises made by former Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal to clean the Yamuna, the river

remains severely polluted. "Toxic foam continues to accumulate, and the

government failed to act, putting the health and safety of Delhi's residents at serious risk.

Chugh criticized the AAP government's continued inaction in regulating industrial pollutants entering the Yamuna. Even after record monsoon rainfall, which could have improved water quality, pollution levels have only worsened, with alarmingly high levels of ammonia and other toxic chemicals being detected,

unchecked presence of harmful pollutants is wreaking havoc on Delhi's water resources and public health" he said, adding that despite repeated warnings, the AAP

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Jammu got three ministers: Good, but region deserves more



There are many angles through which Omar Abdullah's return to chair of Chief Minister are being looked at, and one of the prisms was how would he entertain Jammu in decision-making. This particular issue had cropped up due to two reasons - BJP won 29 seats from Jammu's Hindu dominated areas. Secondly, there were apprehensions that Kashmir-centric dispensation would keep Jammu off its place in the government or will not give due representation in the government. For the time being, Omar Abdullah has lived up to his word that they will carry Jammu region along as much as they would the Kashmir Valley. He has inducted Surinder Choudhary, who emerged as a giant killer by defeating BJP President Ravinder Raina in Nowshera constituency, as Deputy Chief Minister; and two others - Javed Rana and Satish Sharma as ministers. This looks good because the Kashmir Valley, too, has been given three ministerial berths, including Chief Minister and two others being Sakina Ittoo and Javed Dar.

As the days will pass by, the stand of the Omar Abdullah government towards the Jammu region will become clearer. His attitude and approach towards issues of the Jammu region will determine the outreach he is willing to make. There is no way of prejudging things at this stage as he is overburdened by tons of challenges

On his part, the Chief Minister should understand the real perspective of bal-

ancing relations between the two regions. A striking fact is that the Kashmir division gave the National Conference a majority of seats that enabled him to form and lead the government. His party's tally increased with independents aligning with it. NC's ally Congress was the worst performer in Jammu region where it could win only one seat; five others came from the Valley where it was piggy-riding the alliance partner. Once upon a time Congress held a remarkable position in the region. Historically, it was the most favoured party until 2014 when BJP dealt a body blow to the party. It could not recover in 2024. This should make the party introspect. All the time, it cannot depend upon the Gandhi family to

NEWS ANALYSIS

sail it through. That experiment has also failed in J&K and Haryana.

Jammu's issues need to be spelled out. Besides sharing the common problems like unemployment, and lack of connectivity, power and water crisis, this region has an accumulated anger over the discrimination meted out to it by successive governments. This region was taken for granted, and its aspirations were suppressed. It was deemed as a poor cousin of Kashmir even by the national parties, particularly the Congress. This attitude has not changed.

This region needs a sense of equality. The equality is not to be measured by the equal number of ministerial berths for Jammu as that of Kashmir. It needs equal share in all spheres-- jobs, opportunities and development. The neglect that the region suffered since 1947

needs to be compensated. For example, tourist destinations need to be developed and publicized like the tourist resorts in Kashmir. The infrastructure is virtually non-existent in its tourist places. A look at the tourism huts and Dak Bungalows at Patnitop, Kud, Batote, Sanasar, Mansar and Bhaderwah exposes all the claims of the governments that they have devoted equal attention and investment in Jammu region's tourist spots. Same holds true for its industries.

Jammu is also suffering from the bypass culture. Developments of new highways and ring roads are welcome, but where does it leave Jammu economically also demands answers. The education system, beyond the private schools, is crumbling. At many places, government schools are without proper buildings and other facilities. Jammu is more mountainous and remote than other parts of the U.T. Quite often Jammu's definition is drawn from its plains. It is just a selected view. Jammu is much larger in terms of geography, culture, language and areas. In a real sense, Jammu is mini-India.

That all the sufferings of Jammu accumulated over the decades cannot be overturned overnight. Omar Abdullah's government has no magic wand to change things so soon. But two things can be done without any delay - a fact-based survey of the problems of the people in the region and ways suggested how to address these. Second, the civil society should be consulted to seek opinion and suggestions, making the region come out of its difficulties. That, however, cannot be done unless the region sets up a credible leadership and institutions.



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