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STATE TIMES

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Omar chairs first cabinet meeting in Jammu; discusses reservation, employment, recruitments



CM Omar Abdullah chairing cabinet meeting of his government in Jammu on Friday.

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah chaired a cabinet meeting of his government here on Friday during which various issues, including employment, reservation and recruitment processes, were discussed and directions were passed.

The cabinet, which discussed the growing demand for revising the reservation limit in government jobs in Jammu and Kashmir, decided to form a

sub-committee to engage with all stakeholders on the issue.

Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary, other ministers and Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo participated in the meeting.

This was the second meeting of this government during its tenure of over one month.

Briefing the media after the meeting, Minister for Jal Shakti and Forests, Javed Ahmed Rana, said that critical

Strong foundation laid on which grand edifice of Viksit Bharat will be built: PM

STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said the world is acknowledging India's strategic importance and this has been due to the "reform, perform and transform" mantra of the last 10 years.

He also said that in India, a strong foundation has been laid on which the grand edifice of Viksit Bharat will be built.

Addressing the News9 Global Summit being held in Germany's Stuttgart via video conference, Modi said that in the last few years, the Indo-German partnership has been strengthened.

"India is the fastest growing economy and every country in the world wants to partner with India for development. Germany's 'Focus on India' document is an example of it. This document shows how the world is acknowledging India's strategic importance,"

Army conducts patrolling, sets up posts in upper reaches of mountain ridges: GoC

STATE TIMES NEWS
POONCH: Asserting that the residual terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir stems from external forces, the General Officer Commanding (GoC) White Knight Corps, Lieutenant General Navin Sachdeva, emphasised on Friday that the Army's enhanced operational capabilities and growing bond with people will continue to contribute towards achieving peace in the region.

Laying emphasis on the enhancement of security in the region, Lt Gen. Sachdeva said actions have been taken to conduct patrolling and set up posts in the upper reaches of mountain ridges.

"In recent times, all of you have witnessed that the Indian Army has significantly enhanced its operational capabilities and effectiveness. Actions have been taken to conduct patrolling and establish posts in the upper reaches of



GoC White Knight Corps, Lieutenant General Navin Sachdeva laying wreath at war memorial in Poonch.

Northern Army Commander reviews 'Asmi' machine pistols

JAMMU: Northern Army Commander Lieutenant General M V Suchindra Kumar on Friday reviewed the newly inducted 'Asmi' machine pistols.

The Indian Army earlier this month inducted 550 indigenously developed Asmi machine pistols into the Northern Command which oversees operations in Ladakh and Jammu and Kashmir.

This is the first batch of the 100 per cent Indian-made weapon intended to equip Special Forces for close-quarter battles and specialised operations in India's Northern Theatre.

"Lt Gen M V Suchindra Kumar, Army Commander Northern Command, reviewed and

CB lodges two persons in jail for forging fake PRC to claim migration relief

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The Crime Branch (CB) Jammu on Friday arrested two individuals for preparing and using fake Permanent Resident Certificates (PRC) to fraudulently claim migration relief benefits from the government.

After completing a detailed investigation, the Crime Branch presented the case before the Court and lodged the accused in District Jail Jammu (Amphala).

The arrested individuals, identified as Manpreet, son of Popinder Singh, a resident of Dardapora, Baramulla (currently residing in Raipur Satwari, Jammu), and Surjeet Singh, son of Fauja

Singh, from Tral, Kashmir (currently residing in Belicharana, Jammu), were produced before the Court of Special Mobile Magistrate (Electricity) Jammu.

They have been charged under various sections of the Indian Penal Code, including 420 (Cheating), 511 (Attempt to commit offence), 465 (Forgery), 466 (Forgery of documents), 467 (Forgery of valuable security), 468 (Forgery for purpose of cheating), 471 (Using forged document as genuine), and 120-B (Criminal conspiracy).

The case was registered at Police Station Crime Branch Jammu after a written

Father-daughter duo among 3 booked for duping 2 youths of Rs 55 lakhs on job promise

VIVEK SHARMA
JAMMU: Crime Branch on Friday booked three persons including father-daughter duo for duping Rs 20 unemployed youth of Rs 55 lakhs, assuring job as Junior Engineer in Jal Shakti Department and clearance in JKAS 2023 exam.

The accused assured the family that the jobs would be ensured through proper process of selection by J&K Service Selection Board and Public Service Commission.

According to FIR 55/24, a retired government employee Bupal Kumar, son of late Krishan Lal, resident of Kot Bhalwal, Jammu lodged a complaint with Crime

Branch (Economic Offences Wing) Jammu against Pooja Choudhary, her father Subash Chander, resident of Rangarh in district Samba and Dalip Singh, resident of Gurha Brahmana, Bantialab, Jammu alleging therein that in January 2022, accused named Dalip Singh, son of Dayal Singh came in contact with him and assured that he could get jobs for his two sons, technically well qualified and educated, in government departments, in a legal way through proper selection process for which he demanded Rs.50 lakhs from him.

The accused also showed some fake joining letters of Ishit Khajuria in Prasar Bharti, Akashwani Bhawan to lure him. Thereafter, Bupal Kumar was introduced to Pooja Choudhary, who pretended to be very

influential, having links and resources in the administration and assured appointment of his two sons in Jal Shakti Vibhag, Jammu.

Bupal Kumar, initially, ignored her proposal on the pretext that his sons are qualified and eligible and will

get their jobs on the basis of merit and performance.

However, the accused approached him time and again and insisted on accepting their proposal. Subash Chander, father of Pooja Choudhary also approached Bupal Kumar and assured that he himself is a government employee and there is no hesitation in paying Rs 50 lakh to get government jobs. They also took the original educational documents of Bupal Kumar's two sons and assured him to complete this assignment within a month and their names will be included in the final selection list of JEs. Bupal Kumar initially paid Rs.4

Fuel stations, schools take lead in curbing underage driving

STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: In a move to dissuade underage driving in Kashmir, various sections of the society have declared not to entertain minors driving vehicles, with many fuel stations in Srinagar refusing to provide fuel to minors operating vehicles.

Several petrol pumps in the city have displayed posters reading "no fuel to minors". The employees at such fuel stations said minors riding two-wheelers or without helmets, or driving four-wheelers, will not be provided fuel to ensure their safety and to discourage underage driving.

The move by the fuel stations has been hailed

Srinagar experiences coldest night of season at minus 1.2 degrees Celsius

STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: Srinagar experienced the coldest night of the season so far as most parts of Kashmir reeled under sub-zero temperatures, officials said on Friday.

The city recorded a low of minus 1.2 degrees Celsius, a drop from the previous night's minus 0.4 degrees Celsius. The night temperature was 1.3 degrees Celsius, below the normal for this time of year.

Several areas in Kashmir recorded sub-zero temperatures for the third consecutive night, with the mercury staying below freezing point.

Qazigund registered a low of minus 1.4 degrees Celsius, while Pahalgam recorded the coldest temperature in the Valley at minus 2.3 degrees Celsius.

The Gulmarg, a tourist destination famous for skiing, saw a low of minus 0.6 degrees Celsius, and Kupwara shivered at a

WEATHER

Temperature (Jammu)
Max: 24.6°C Min: 10.9°C

Humidity
Max: 77 Min: 71

Temperature (Srinagar)
Max: 14.5°C Min: -1.2°C

Humidity
Max: 92 Min: 73

Sunset : 17:32 Hours
Sunrise : 06:56 Hours

Modi Govt stands with victim families of 1984 anti-Sikh riots: Chugh

STATE TIMES NEWS
CHANDIGARH: BJP National General Secretary Tarun Chugh on Friday expressed gratitude to the Modi Government for providing jobs to the families affected by the 1984 anti-Sikh riots and for the decision to grant relaxation in job qualifications.

The Lieutenant Governor of Delhi distributed appointment letters to 47 victims of the 1984 riots after granting them relaxation in recruitment eligibility. Additionally, the concerned department has been directed to complete the ver-

ification of 437 other applications and issue appointment letters as soon as possible.

Gandhi family. He pointed out that Congress leaders such as Jagdish Tytler, Sajjan Kumar, and Kamal Nath, who were either tried or are still facing trials, were found guilty and imprisoned. However, they continue to be members of the Congress party, which exposes the party's involvement in the 1984 Sikh riots, he added.

Chugh questioned the Gandhi family, asking, "For so many years, when Congress ruled, why were the riot culprits never punished? Instead, efforts were



Tarun Chugh, BJP National General Secretary.

Govt notifies rates for PET scans in Govt run hospitals

STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: In a significant step towards improving access to advanced medical care services in Jammu and Kashmir, Government on Friday announced the official rates for PET scans and CBCT machine charges for all government run hospitals and health institutions of Health and Medical Education department except SKIMS.

As per the government order issued by Health and Medical Education department, the rates per scan/test for PET Scan Whole Body will be Rs. 10,000, for

Lays foundation of Chrysanthemum Garden, Hi-tech Nursery Chrysanthemums will do for autumn what Tulips do for spring in Kashmir: CM

STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Friday laid the foundation stone for the upgradation of a hi-tech flower nursery and the development of Bagh-e-Gul-e-Dawood (Chrysanthemum Theme Garden) here in Srinagar. The projects are being developed at an estimated cost of Rs 4.83 crore and Rs 1.869 crore, respectively.

The upgraded nursery at Poloview facility aims to serve not only as a resource center for plants but also as an education hub. Workshops



CM Omar Abdullah laying foundation of Chrysanthemum Garden, Hi-tech Nursery in Srinagar on Friday.

BJP's mandate is to empower Jammu, cannot reduce it to anything else

ANCHOR
DOST KHAN

JAMMU: Jammu is caught in cobwebs of its own making to the advantage of the political and economic forces that want to see the region downgraded and disempowered.

The region has a litany of complaints against the governing system, which have been raging for decades. No political set up has been fair to it. Unfortunately, the games of those inflicting pain and deprivation on the region and its generations have been aided by some of the leaders of this place who only wanted to butter their own bread, leaving others high and dry. Time has come to change that attitude once and for all.

Another misfortune has been that the region has never allowed itself to study its problems in clear terms. In absence of this, a proper diagnosis has escaped to the disadvantage of the people, as without

proper diagnosis there can be no solution either.

After the recent Assembly elections in which the National Conference won a majority of seats and formed the government, a peculiar situation has arisen; the party that won the majority of seats in Jammu is out of the government.

Jammu voted heavily in favour of BJP and made it to win 29 out of 43 seats, leaving only 14 seats for the other parties-National Conference, Congress, AAP and Independents. Almost all independents joined or supported the National Conference and the BJP's tally stayed where it was on October 8, the day of results. As the misfortune would have it, one of its stalwarts Devender Singh Rana lost his battle with life and the number stands at 28.

In democracy, more than percentage of votes, the number of seats matter. Numerically, the NC has larger numbers in its kitty as compared to BJP. The NC is leading the government, and the BJP is in

opposition. The opposition in democracy is no less important than the ruling party, as it has no constraints in raising issues of its constituents. The only limit is adherence to the constitutional norms.

The one-month calendar of the Omar Abdullah government saw a resolution by its cabinet on the restoration of the statehood, followed by a resolution in the Assembly insisting on the restoration of the special status as it existed before the

NEWS ANALYSIS

abrogation of Article 370, though all this has been stated in political metaphors. It also reverted to the November academic session in the winter zone of Jammu region and the Kashmir Valley. The government is pursuing its agenda - political and the rest of it by adopting a middle-path. It is seeking not to annoy the Centre while keeping work on agenda items in progress.

Where does it leave Jammu? The Omar government gave three ministerial berths

to the region, including that of Deputy Chief Minister. Some of the measures like enhancing the age limit for the competitive examinations is applicable to all in the two regions, and their sub regions.

The BJP, with a vast mandate from the region, should have risen to the occasion and insisted on fulfilling its agenda. It needs to bring in clarity in its priority list. It is not only the ruling party that has to fulfil its agenda; the opposition too has its responsibilities. There is an added responsibility for the BJP MLAs: to air all the grievances and seek their redressal in an effective manner. It should understand and understand it well that they have been given the custodianship of the rights of Jammu, and the party cannot cover itself with the excuse that it is in opposition and cannot do anything except to protest in seminars and streets.

First the BJP must understand that it is entrusted with the task to defend Indian nationalism as Jammu. Historically, this region has been a spring of Indian nation-

alism. It is an inspiration not just for its own people but for the rest of the country as it stood like a rock against the assault on nationalism, and continues to do so.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi infused a new life into nationalism and hailed Jammu's unquestioned patriotic spirit. This has given a clear direction to the party and its workers. They don't have to just fight the discrimination but also stand as a custodian of the Indian patriotism against all the possible and probable onslaughts on it.

Then there are day to day problems that BJP should highlight in an effective manner through debates and discussions and spread political education among the masses. For that, it is very important that the lawmakers learn to define their own direction in line with the expectations of the country and the people of the region, in particular Jammu has a pivotal role and the BJP must play that so that the masses get a sense of empowerment in this politically volatile situation in which J&K is today.