

THOUGHT
of the
DAY

If you're offered a
seat on a rocket
ship, don't ask
what seat! Just
get on.
—Sheryl Sandberg

INBRIEF

House skips
adjournment,
ensues after
obituaries

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly on Monday broke away from tradition by carrying out regular government business immediately after obituary references for three former members of the House.

In the past, the assembly used to adjourn for the day after the obituary reference.

Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather called for Question Hour proceedings soon after the House observed a two-minute silence as a mark of respect to three former MLAs -- Sheikh Mustafa Kamal, Dharam Paul and Ghulam Hassan Khan.

Following Chief Minister Omar Abdullah's suggestion last year, the speaker did not call on any member ▶ P11

Over 40,000
vacancies in
Govt deptts

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir has over 40,000 vacancies in various government departments, with the highest in the Health and Medical Education department, the assembly was informed on Monday.

In reply to questions from MLAs Sajad Lone and Irfan Hafeez Lone about recruitment and vacancies, the government said there were 40,672 vacancies across various government departments.

A total of 3,318 gazetted posts, 24,427 non-gazetted posts, and 12,927 multi-tasking staff (MTS) posts were lying vacant, the government said. The highest ▶ P11

Govt to move
resolution on
TET exemption

SRINAGAR: The Jammu & Kashmir Government will tomorrow move a resolution in the Legislative Assembly seeking amendments to the Right to Education Act to exempt teachers from the Teacher Eligibility Test (TET).

As per the list of business circulated by the Assembly Secretariat on Monday, the resolution unanimously urges the Union Government to make the necessary statutory amendment to Section 23 of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009, to ▶ P11

Sinha felicitates
Langar organisers
on successful Shri Amarnath Yatra

JAMMU: The Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday felicitated the organisers and volunteers of the Langar Organisations at Katra, Reasi, following the successful culmination of the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra 2026.

The Lieutenant Governor said the Langar volunteers are living embodiments of selfless service and compassion. He stated that every stakeholder associated with the sacred pilgrimage is a carrier of India's eternal cultural consciousness, and that history will remember the contribution of each one.

The 57-day yatra, which began on 3 July and concluded on Raksha Bandhan, 28 August 2026. More than 4.80 lakh devotees had Dar-

Uproar marks start of Autumn Session

BJP CORNERS GOVT ON PUBLIC ISSUES

SESSION BEGINS WITH STATEHOOD DEMAND

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: The seven-day autumn session of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly commenced on Monday amid uproar from BJP MLAs who stood up to corner the Government on various pending issues of public importance.

Chaos broke out in the Legislative Assembly as the opposition BJP tried to corner the government over various public issues.

The autumn session of the J-K assembly began in Srinagar on Monday with tributes to three former ministers. As soon as the obituary references concluded, the opposition BJP raised several public issues, including the recent protests by National Health Mission (NHM) employees, regularisation of daily wagers, and water and electricity supply.

The BJP MLAs raised slogans and took to their feet holding placards. However, Assembly Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather directed that the BJP demonstration not be recorded and proceeded with legislative business.

Earlier, the proceedings began with an obituary reference to former legislators of the assembly. Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather opened the session by paying tribute to late National Conference leader Sheikh Mustafa Kamal, late Congress leader Dharam Paul, and late PDP leader Ghulam Hassan Khan. Sheikh Mustafa ▶ P11

Omar seeks constructive discussions

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said the autumn session of the Jammu and Kashmir legislative assembly, which began in Srinagar on Monday, is an opportunity for meaningful debate and discussion on the issues faced by the public. "The Autumn Session of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly commenced in Srinagar today. The chief minister said the session would provide an ▶ P11

LoP Sharma: Govt evading BJP's queries

Leaders of Opposition in the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly Sunil Sharma on Monday accused the Omar Abdullah government of wanting to evade the BJP's questions on the people's issues in the Union territory. Speaking to reporters after the assembly was adjourned for the day, Sharma ▶ P11

Litany of Lies: Lone attacks
NC Govt over recruitment

Peoples' Conference president and Handwara MLA Sajad Lone on Monday criticised the National Conference (NC) government in Jammu and Kashmir over its recruitment record, alleging that only 899 new jobs had been created in nearly two years against its promise of one lakh. Citing data tabled in the Legislative Assembly in ▶ P11

Rs 3.22 Cr relief disbursed to
flood-affected families CM
‘Kupwara electrification works underway’

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today informed the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly that a detailed assessment of damage caused by the recent flash floods and landslides in Rajouri constituency has been carried out, with relief disbursed to affected families and plans prepared for permanent



restoration of damaged infrastructure.

Replying to a question by MLA Rajouri Iftikhar Ahmed during Question Hour of the Autumn Session, the Chief Minister, who also holds the portfolio of Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation & Reconstruction, said 149 family-wise ▶ P11

ACB books ex-bank branch
head for diversion of fund

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Monday registered a case against a former branch manager of Grameen Bank for allegedly committing financial irregularities by misusing his official position.

A spokesperson of the ACB said the anti-graft agency has registered an FIR against Arvind Saini, the former Reban branch head of Jammu and Kashmir Grameen Bank in Sopore area of Baramulla district. It alleges a criminal conspiracy in connivance with Firdous Ahmad Sheikh, a beneficiary

of the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) scheme.

The financial irregularities involved premature release of capital subsidy under sponsored schemes in relation to the implementation of the PMEGP, etc., between 2021 and 2023, the spokesperson said, adding that the PMEGP operational guidelines were violated.

During verification, it was revealed that Saini, "under a well-knit criminal conspiracy with beneficiary Sheikh", prematurely released or reversed capital subsidy amounting to Rs 41,17,500 in 25 PMEGP loan accounts before ▶ P11

Govt teacher dismissed under
Article 311 in POC SO, BNS case

GOVT OBSERVED THAT IT IS NOT REASONABLY PRACTICABLE TO HOLD AN ENQUIRY IN CASE, FALLING UNDER CATEGORY OF RAREST OF RARE CASES

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir government has dismissed a government school teacher from service with immediate effect and disqualified him from future government employment under Article 311(2)(b) of the Constitution of India.

As per government order number 388-JK (Edu) of 2026 dated 21.09.2026 issued by the School Education Department, the action has

been taken against Khalid Hussain, Teacher Grade-II, Government Middle School Bumalpora, Gurinalla, Zone Inderwal, District Kishtwar S/o Ghulam Mohd R/o Gurinalla, Chatroo, District Kishtwar. According to the order issued by Commissioner/Secretary, Ram Niwas Sharma, the government is satisfied after considering the facts and circumstances of the case, including registration of "FIR No. 34/2026 at Police Sta-

tion Chatroo under Sections 61(2), 65(1), 90, 91 and 92 of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) 2023, and Sections 4, 6, 8, 10 & 17 of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012" and on the basis of material on record, that the activities of the teacher warrant imposition of major penalty.

The order further stated that the case of Khalid Hussain, who was already under suspension, was placed before the competent authority, which after due consideration has decided to impose the major penalty of dismissal from service which ordinarily disqualifies from future employment ▶ P11

Millets can boost farmers' resilience,
promote healthier food systems: LG

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday called for bringing millets back into mainstream Indian diets and agriculture, saying the traditional crops can strengthen climate-resilient farming, improve farmers' livelihoods and promote healthier food systems.

Addressing a national dialogue on "Millets for health: Building healthy ecosystems, climate-resilient agriculture and sustainable food systems" at Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology here, Sinha said millets had been part of India's agricultural heritage for centuries.

"Today, science is understanding this traditional wisdom through new research and evidence. Countries across the world that are facing the challenge of climate change are also realising that the food of the future will not merely be food that can be produced in large quantities. It will have to be nutritious, profitable



Sinha addresses 'Millets for Health' seminar at GMC Jammu

for farmers and sustainable for the planet," Sinha said.

"The time has come to restore them to the consciousness of society," he added.

According to experts, millets are climate-resilient, nutrient-dense crops that can replace wa-

Deceased
Cop's wife
gets Govt
job support

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday handed over an appointment letter on compassionate grounds to Dr Vaishali Misra, wife of police sub-inspector Sachin Verma, officials said.

Verma, who was a resident of Vijaypur in Samba district, was posted with the 23 Battalion of the Indian Reserve Police when ▶ P11

ter-heavy grains like rice, wheat, and maize as global temperatures rise and water becomes scarce.

Tracing the heritage of millets, Sinha said sorghum, pearl millet, finger millet, kodo millet, little millet, foxtail ▶ P11

Pathania exposes expenditure, outsourcing in 2 deptts

‘JMC spends Rs 100 Cr on hired vehicles since 2023; Udhampur has just 1 RERA-registered realty agent’

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: In a major expose, Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) incurred expenditure of Rs 100.14 crore on hiring private vehicles from 2023-24 to August 2026, while enforcement of real-estate regulation in Udhampur has so far resulted in 14 inspections, 11 notices to developers and registration of just one real-estate agent and one project, according to government replies placed before the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly.

The figures are contained in separate replies to questions raised by Ranbir Singh Pathania, MLA from Udhampur East, and provide a snapshot of expenditure, outsourcing and regulatory



enforcement across two departments. According to the Housing and Urban Development Department's reply on JMC, the civic body spent Rs 27.75 crore in 2023-24, Rs 31.73 crore in 2024-25, Rs 31.20 crore in 2025-26, and

Rs 9.47 crore during 2026-27 up to August 2026 on hiring private vehicles. The cumulative expenditure comes to Rs 100.14 crore.

The reply also lists four private vendors/NGO firms engaged by JMC since 2023 for civil ▶ P11

New CAT office opened
in Jammu: Centre to SC

NEW DELHI: The Centre on Monday told the Supreme Court that a new office-and-court complex of the Central Administrative Tribunal has been inaugurated in Jammu.

Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati, appearing for the Centre, told a bench comprising Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justices Joydalya Bagchi and V Mohana that the new complex of the Central Administrative Tribunal's (CAT) Jammu bench was inaugurated at Bahu Plaza on Sunday.

The top court took note of the submission and closed a 2020 PIL filed by Achal Sharma alleging lack of adequate space and staff for the

functioning of the CAT bench in Jammu.

The apex court granted liberty to the petitioner to approach it again and highlight any concern that may arise in future.

Union Minister Jitendra Singh on Sunday inaugurated the new office-cum-court complex of the CAT's Jammu bench, describing the facility as another step towards strengthening speedy, affordable and accessible justice in service matters.

Referring to the Tribunal's overall performance, Singh said that since its inception in 1985 till June 30, 2026, 10,01,177 cases had been filed before its ▶ P11

NHAI rolls out
‘guidelines’ for
high-speed NHs

NEW DELHI: State-owned NHAI on Monday said the lane configuration of high-speed national highways will be standardised based on detailed traffic assessment to facilitate seamless movement, as the authority released new comprehensive guidelines for design and development of access-controlled high-speed NHs.

The authority released new comprehensive guidelines that seek to bring uniformity in standards for preparation of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) of high-speed NH corridors and bring greater consistency in technical standards, strengthen road safety, and improve ▶ P11

IGP Sujit Kumar directs for realignment of
checkpoints to ease traffic, boost security

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: Kashmir Police chief Sujit Kumar on Monday directed realignment of security checkpoints to ease traffic congestion and enhance security coverage.

Kumar, the Inspector General of Police (IGP) Kashmir, chaired a security-review-cum-traffic management meeting with all stakeholders at PCR Kashmir here, a police spokesman said.

The existing city security grid and the deployment of personnel were reviewed, with particular emphasis on realigning naka points wherever required to enhance security coverage and reduce traffic congestion, the spokesman said.

He said the meeting focused



on ensuring the smooth flow of vehicular traffic without compromising the existing security grid.

The IGP Kashmir directed the implementation of security arrangements across intra-zone, inter-zone, inter-district and pe-

ripheral areas.

Kumar directed that check posts at the entry and exit points of Srinagar City be reinforced, with seamless coordination and real-time information sharing among the traffic ▶ P11