

INBRIEF

House passes
resolution on
TET exemption

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly on Thursday unanimously passed a resolution seeking exemption of Teacher Eligibility Test (TET) for teachers appointed before October 31, 2019.

Minister for School Education Sakeena Itoo moved the resolution in the assembly on Tuesday, but it was deferred until Thursday after Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather said several MLAs wanted to speak on the issue.

The resolution sought amendments to the Right to Education Act to exempt teachers appointed before October 31, 2019, from appearing in the TET.

"This House unanimously urges the Union Government to make necessary statutory amendment to Section 23 of the Right ► P11

Govt schooling
Bill for officials'
children rejected

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly today rejected a Private Members' Bill proposing to make it obligatory for the public representatives and public servants to educate their children in government educational institutions.

The Bill, moved by MLA Sheikh Khurshed Ahmad, was titled "A Bill to make it obligatory for the Public Men and Public Servants to educate their children in Government educational institutions and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto" (L.A. Private Members' Bill No. 22 of 2025).

Minister for School Education, Sakeena Itoo, while opposing the Bill, ► P11

J-K to set up
AI centre of
excellence

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir government has set in motion plans to establish an Artificial Intelligence Centre of Excellence, adopting a phased roadmap to build a regional AI ecosystem and advance its digital transformation agenda, the legislative assembly was informed on Thursday.

In a written reply to Zaidal MLA Tanvir Sadiq, the government said it is promoting AI and other emerging technologies in the Union territory as part of its broader digital transformation ► P11

CM reviews draft Industrial Policy 2026–35
Directs dept to ensure policy
responsive to evolving needs

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday chaired a meeting here at Civil Secretariat to review the draft Jammu & Kashmir Industrial Policy (2026–35).

Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary, Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary to the CM Dheeraj Gupta, ACS Finance Shaileendra Kumar, Commissioner Secretary Industries & Commerce Viramjit Singh, MD & CEO J&K Bank Amitava Chatterjee and senior officers of the



Industries & Commerce Department and allied departments attended the meeting.

Commissioner Secretary Industries & Commerce made a presentation on the draft policy and apprised the meet-

ing of its broad framework, objectives and the policy formulation process.

The Chief Minister held detailed discussions on the proposed policy and directed the department to ► P11

Govt approves 6 free LPG refills for AAY
families; BJP flags broken promise of 12

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Minister Satish Sharma on Thursday informed the assembly that the government has approved six free gas cylinders for AAY families in the Union territory, an announcement that triggered noisy scenes with the opposition BJP accusing it of reneging on its promise of providing 12 cylinders.

"I want to inform the House that the six free gas cylinder scheme has got approval of authority concerned. Details will be

shared shortly," Sharma, the Minister for Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, said.

While the announcement was welcomed by the treasury benches by thumping of desks, the opposition BJP members shouted slogans against the government, leading to noisy scenes.

"This is cheating. The ruling party had promised 12 free cylinders," the BJP members said.

"The government has promised 12 free cylinders to all households. This six cylinders is a 'dihoka' (cheating). You have

cheated in the name of cylinders, electricity and rations," Leader of the Opposition, Sunil Sharma, said.

He accused the government of misleading" the poor.

"How long will this continue," he questioned, as the ruckus continued.

The noisy arguments between the treasury and the opposition benches continued for some time, but later, Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather restored order in the House and took up the remaining business for the day. ► P11

Statehood not
cover for Govt
failures: Sunil



SRINAGAR: Leader of Opposition in the Jammu & Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Sunil Sharma, today strongly criticized the National Conference Government over what he termed its failure to deliver on promises made to the people of Jammu & Kashmir.

Reacting to the NC Government's reported decision to provide only six free LPG cylinders to AAY families, despite its earlier promise of 12 free cylinders, Sharma said that the people deserve ► P11

CM tables Bill
to amend J-K
Municipal Act

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, who also holds the Housing and Urban Development portfolio, on Thursday introduced a Bill in the on-going Autumn Session of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly to amend the Jammu and Kashmir Municipal Act, 2000.

The Jammu and Kashmir Municipal (Amendment) Bill, 2026 (L.A. Bill No. 10 of 2026) has already been published in an ► P11



‘One Officer, One Vehicle’ Policy
Pathania questions multiple vehicles
for officers; Speaker asks for timeline



reprimanded Transport Minister Satish Sharma over the delay in implementing a report of a high-level committee on allotment of official vehicles to government officials.

"The high-level committee has submitted its report on September 1. What have you done in 24 days? Why the delay in implementing the report?" Rather asked Sharma during the Question Hour.

The speaker said a "poor state" like Jammu and Kashmir cannot afford "such luxuries for officers when people are suffering".

Rather intervened when Sharma was replying to a question



by BJP MLA R.S. Pathania regarding the implementation of 'One Officer, One Vehicle' ceiling across all departments, PSUs, boards and autonomous bodies to ► P11

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather on Thursday

Legal, regulatory
hurdles stuck 113
dev projects: Govt

SRINAGAR: As many as 113 development projects worth Rs 245 crore in Jammu and Kashmir are currently held up due to court cases and pending decisions by competent authorities, the government said on Thursday.

In a written reply to a question by BJP MLA from Nagrota Devyani Rana in the legislative assembly, the government said the projects ► P11

‘Accidental’ ministers
belittling MLAs: Lone



SRINAGAR: Peoples Conference chief Sajad Lone on Thursday alleged that elected representatives were being "undermined and humiliated" and an "accidental minister" was overriding their ► P11

Power won’t make us stray
from path of service: Modi

My entire life has been driven by people’s blessings,
their blessings have been greatest energy in my life

DEWAS: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said service has been the core of the BJP's governance and values, affirming that they will never deviate from this path regardless of how much political power they may attain.

He reaffirmed his party's resolve to focus on nation building and the country's development over politics and elections, and said that youth will play a major role in realising the resolve to make India a developed nation by 2047.

"Politics, elections, and governance have their own place, but we have set out with the resolve to build the nation and develop India," Modi said, interacting via video conference with participants of the 'Seva Sankalp Yatra', being held from Vadnagar in Gujarat to Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh.

The yatra, involving youth from various states, is being organised to mark Modi's 76th birthday and his 25 years of public



life as an elected representative. The participants of the yatra were currently in Madhya Pradesh's Dewas district.

Varanasi and Vadnagar are ancient cities that have remained vibrant, Modi noted, adding that one is his birthplace and the other his "karmabhoomi" (land of duty).

"From Gujarat to Delhi, service has been the core of our governance system and values. When service is at the core of governance, the resolve of 'Nagrik Devo Bhava' (Citizen is God) is at the heart of every policy," he stressed.

"Our conduct should show people that no matter how much power we attain in ► P11

DGP Prabhat, IGP Sujit Kumar review
operational readiness across Kashmir

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: Director General of Police (DGP), Jammu and Kashmir, Nalin Prabhat, along with Inspector General of Police (IGP), Kashmir Zone, Sujit Kumar, conducted a comprehensive operational review meeting with officers representing all districts and police ranges of the Kashmir Valley.

The review focused on the prevailing security situation, operational preparedness, law and order, crime control and policing measures being undertaken across different districts and ranges.

During the meeting, the senior police leadership took stock of the ongoing security operations and reviewed the preparedness of



field formations to effectively respond to emerging challenges.

The DGP stressed the need for continued coordination among different police units and field formations, effective intelligence

gathering and prompt action against activities that may affect peace and security in the region.

IGP Sujit Kumar emphasized the importance of intelligence-driven operations. ► P11

‘10 of 375 Govt-run schools’
‘Only 2.6% of Uri Schools have
Pupil-Teacher Ratio above 40’

■ ITIFAQ LONE

BARAMULLA: In a shocking revelation that undercuts claims of a widespread teacher shortage, the Jammu and Kashmir government on Thursday disclosed that a mere 10 out of 375 schools in the Uri Constituency of Baramulla district are operating with a Pupil-Teacher Ratio (PTR) above the critical 40 threshold.

Breaking it into the percentage level, 10 out of 375 government run schools in Uri make merely 2.66%.

The figures were laid bare in

the J&K Legislative Assembly in response to a pointed question from MLA Sajjad Shafi, who had flagged an alleged crisis in teacher availability across the constituency.

Far from a systemic collapse, the School Education Department insisted the situation is firmly under control.

Staffing shortfalls are being tackled head-on through aggressive rationalisation and strategic redeployment of existing teachers to the handful of schools feeling the pinch.

In a further show of action, the Education ► P11

Najeeb Naqi
voted PoJK
“President”

ISLAMABAD: Najeeb Naqi of the ruling Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) was on Thursday elected as the "President" of Pakistan-occupied Jammu & Kashmir (PoJK).

He secured 32 votes, while his challenger Chaudhry Latif Akbar of Pakistan Peoples Party got 13 votes in the election held at PoJK's so-called legislative assembly. Only assembly members were eligible to vote.

Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif congratulated Naqi on his victory and conveyed his best wishes, according to a statement issued by the PM's office.

Naqi has previously ► P11

Dr Jitendra launches bio-based
biodegradable plastic in 'BioE3'

NEW DELHI: Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology, Earth Sciences and MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr. Jitendra Singh on Thursday formally launched the commercial use of bio-based biodegradable plastic based on Polylactic Acid (PLA), marking an important step in India's transition towards next-generation sustainable manufacturing.

The initiative, being taken forward by Balrampur Chini Mills Limited (BCLM) under the Government's BioE3 (Biotechnology for Economy, Environment & Employment) framework,



combines biotechnology, sustainable manufacturing and commercial translation. A ₹75 crore grant from the Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC), under the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), is supporting the 100 TPA pilot-scale R&D facility

for PLA and co-polymers, aimed at developing advanced bio-based materials and facilitating their translation towards commercial production.

The initiative was unveiled at the Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science & ► P11

Mansustains
leginjury in
Samba firing

JAMMU: A man was injured in a firing incident near a tea stall Samba district, with police filing a case and launching a probe, officials said on Thursday.

The incident took place around 11.45 pm on Wednesday in the Tarore area of Bari Brahmana, when two to three rounds were allegedly fired by a person near a tea stall following a heated argument over a past issue, they said.

The firing hit the 30-year-old man in ► P11