



Uproar in Assembly over free gas cylinder scheme

Minister Satish Sharma says scheme approved; BJP slams 'betrayal' of 12-cylinder election promise



Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Sep 24: The Legislative Assembly descended into chaos on Thursday after Minister for Consumer Affairs Satish Sharma announced that the scheme of providing six free gas cylinders to Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families had received approval from the competent authority. The

announcement prompted the main opposition party, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), to question the government over its election promise of 12 free cylinders.

Making the announcement in the House, Sharma, as per news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said the scheme for AAY families had been cleared and an order rolling it out would be issued

shortly.

The statement immediately drew sharp reactions from the Leader of Opposition, who accused the government of betraying the people on promises ranging from 12 free gas cylinders to free electricity supply.

"This is mockery of the people with whom you had made promises. You stand exposed. You have repeatedly lied to the people," | [More on P6](#)

SIX FREE LPG CYLINDERS

Govt says key assurance made in budget fulfilled

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Sep 24: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah's commitment to provide six free LPG cooking gas cylinders annually to Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families across Jammu and Kashmir has been approved by the government, marking the fulfilment of a key assurance made in his second Budget earlier this year.

Minister for Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Satish Sharma announced the approval today on the floor of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly during the ongoing Autumn Session.

"I want to inform this august House that the six free gas cylinder policy for

AAY has got approval from the competent authority. Necessary orders for rolling out the scheme are being issued shortly," the Minister informed the House, drawing applause from the members.

Soon after the announcement, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said the initiative would provide direct relief to the most deserving households and strengthen the government's commitment to public welfare.

"This key initiative aims to extend direct relief to the most deserving households, ensuring a dignified life for vulnerable sections and reinforcing the government's commitment to social justice and public welfare," the Chief Minister said.

The | [More on P6](#)

NC govt failed to fulfil promises: LoP Sharma



Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Sep 24: Leader of Opposition in the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly Sunil Sharma on Thursday said the National Conference-led government has failed to fulfil its promises and provide basic amenities during its two years in office, questioning its commitments on free LPG cylinders, | [More on P6](#)

'Where is statehood?' Dy CM hits back at BJP



Waris Fayaz

Srinagar, Sep 24: Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary on Thursday hit back at the BJP amid a ruckus in the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly over the government's decision to provide six free LPG cylinders annually to Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families.

Speaking to reporters, Choudhary, | [More on P6](#)

Assembly adopts resolution urging Centre to exempt teachers from TET

Riyaz Bhat

Srinagar, Sep 24: The Jammu and Kashmir Assembly Thursday adopted a resolution seeking amendments to the Right to Education Act to exempt teachers appointed before October 31, 2019, from appearing in the Teacher Eligibility Test (TET).

According to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Education Minister, Sakina Itoo moved the resolution that urges the Union Government to make necessary statutory amendment to Section 23 of the Right of Children to Free and RTE Act, 2009, to exempt all teachers appointed before October 31, 2019 from appearing in the TET.

The resolution moved by the Minister reads, "This House unanimously urges the Union Government to make necessary statutory

amendment to Section 23 of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009, to exempt all teachers appointed before October 31, 2019 from appearing in the TET."

The House further urges the Union Government to take all necessary legal steps and issue the requisite Notification through the National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) for exemption of Teacher Eligibility Test (TET).

In the meantime, the minister thanked all the legislators for expressing their concerns and for coming together to unanimously support the Resolution.

She said that the Resolution was being moved in the House with the intention of addressing the concerns of teachers who have been serving the education sector for years.

She said that the issue should not be | [More on P6](#)

CM Omar reviews draft Industrial Policy 2026–35

Directs dept to ensure policy is balanced, pragmatic

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Sep 24: 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 Dooloo, 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 | [More on P6](#)

CM introduces Bill to amend J&K Municipal Act, 2000

KT News Desk

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, who also holds the Housing and Urban Development portfolio, on Thursday introduced a Bill in the ongoing 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 | [More on P6](#)

Speaker's grilling on car policy puts minister in tight spot



Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Sep 24: Transport Minister Satish Sharma on Thursday struggled to reply to questions posed by Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather in the Legislative Assembly over the delay in implementing the revised car policy proposing the principle of "one officer, one vehicle."

During Question Hour, as per news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Sharma informed the House that the revised car policy is under consideration.

He said the proposed policy would provide for specific exceptions as may be considered necessary by the government, keeping in view security requirements, field duties, additional assignments/charges, operational exigencies, and functional requirements of particular departments and organisations.

Sharma added | [More on P6](#)

Assembly rejects Bill seeking mandatory govt school for public servants' children

Waris Fayaz

Srinagar, Sep 24: The Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly on Thursday rejected a Private Member's Bill that sought to make enrolment in government educational institutions mandatory for the children of public representatives and government servants.

The Bill was moved by Langate MLA Sheikh

Khursheed Ahmad, who sought to introduce legislation making government schooling compulsory for the children of "public men and public servants."

Opposing the proposal, the government, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said that while the intent behind the Bill was appreciated, mandatory enrolment in government schools was not

feasible.

The minister said the government was upgrading infrastructure in government schools and acknowledged that some institutions still required improvement. She added that the remaining schools would also be taken up for upgradation.

Emphasising the right of students to choose their educational institution, the minister said | [More on P6](#)

Dental Surgeon recruitment on hold: Govt

Jahangeer Ganaie

Srinagar, Sep 24: The Jammu and Kashmir government has said that recruitment to the posts of Dental Surgeons has not been referred to the concerned recruitment agency due to the availability of surplus dental surgeons and financial considerations, while indicating that fresh recruitment will be considered after the withdrawal of the ongoing austerity measures.

The government said this in response to a question raised by MLA Reyaz Ahmad Khan, who sought details about the reasons for the delay in

referring sanctioned vacant posts of Dental Doctors to the concerned recruitment agency and whether the government proposed to initiate the recruitment process.

In its reply, the Health and Medical Education Department, as reported by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), stated that recruitment to the posts of Dental Surgeons is undertaken subject to the availability of substantive vacancies.

The department further said that a number of Dental Surgeons are already working in Jammu and Kashmir against supernumerary | [More on P6](#)

PDD enforces 6-hour daily power cuts in high-loss areas

6 hours cut for over 40% losses, 3 hours for 15–40%, no curtailment under 15%

Riyaz Bhat

Srinagar, Sep 24: The Power Development Department (PDD) is enforcing 6 hours of daily forced power cuts in the areas having Aggregate Technical & Commercial (AT&C) losses of over 40 percent.

Furthermore, the areas having an AT&C losses of 15–40 percent faces a power curtailment of three hours. However, the government further said that the feeders having losses less than 15 percent face no curtailment.

According to the news agency—Kashmir | [More on P6](#)

'Over 5.73 lakh ST-II certificates issued across J&K'

Raja Syed Rather

Srinagar, Sep 24: The Jammu and Kashmir Government on Thursday informed the Legislative Assembly that 5,73,667 Scheduled Tribe-II (ST-II) certificates have been issued to eligible persons belonging to Pahari ethnic groups across the Union Territory.

According to data tabled in the Assembly and accessed by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), a total of 5,73,667 ST-II certificates have been issued across all 20 districts of Jammu and Kashmir.

Responding to a question raised by MLA Narinder Singh Raina, the Minister in charge of Revenue said ST-II certificates are being issued to eligible persons across the Union Territory.

The data showed that 5,04,007 certificates have been issued in the Jammu division, while 69,660 certificates have been issued in the Kashmir division.

It says, Rajouri recorded the highest number of ST-II certificates at 3,01,091, followed by Kupwara with 34,224, Baramulla with 29,635, Poonch with 18,435 and Kishtwar with 17,304 certificates.

The data further says, in the Kashmir division, Ganderbal recorded 1,018 certificates, while Pulwama had 836, Anantnag 1,290, Shopian | [More on P6](#)

Thousands throng Dastgeer Sahib shrine on Urs Sheikh Abdul Qadir Jilani (RA)

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Sep 24: Thousands of devotees thronged the historic Dastgeer Sahib shrine at Khanyar on Thursday as the annual Urs Mubarak of Hazrat Sheikh Abdul Qadir Jilani (RA), popularly known as Ghaus-ul-Azam, was observed with religious fervour across Kashmir.

The display of holy relics at the shrine drew large crowds, with devotees arriving from different parts of Srinagar and elsewhere in the Valley to offer prayers, seek blessings and participate in religious observances.



The shrine premises and adjoining areas remained packed throughout the day

as devotees joined special prayers, recitation of the Holy Qur'an, | [More on P6](#)

CS reviews implementation of new Labour Codes in J&K



KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 24: Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Thursday, chaired a review meeting to assess the status of the implementation of the four new Labour Codes in Jammu and Kashmir, directing the concerned departments to expedite the remaining formalities and ensure a smooth transition to the new regulatory framework.

The meeting, as per an official statement, was attended by the Additional Chief Secretary, Finance; Commissioner Secretary, Law; Secretary, Labour and Employment; Labour Commissioner, J&K; and other concerned officers.

Reviewing the overall progress, the Chief Secretary appreciated the steps taken by the Labour and Employment Department and directed the concerned departments to strictly adhere to the prescribed timelines. He emphasised the need for timely completion of the remaining statutory and administrative formalities to ensure the effective implementation of the new Labour Codes in Jammu and Kashmir.

He underscored that the transition to the new framework should strengthen workers' welfare and social security while promoting transparency, industrial harmony and a more efficient regulatory environment for industrial establishments across the Union Territory.

During the meeting, the Secretary,

Labour and Employment Department, Kumar Rajeev Ranjan gave a detailed presentation on the progress achieved in implementing the four Codes, namely the Industrial Relations Code, 2020; Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020; Code on Social Security, 2020; and Code on Wages, 2019.

He apprised the meeting about the new framework that consolidated 29 existing labour laws into four Codes to strengthen workers' welfare, improve industrial relations and facilitate ease of doing business.

Reviewing the status of rule formulation, the Chief Secretary was informed that Jammu and Kashmir has already notified the rules under the Industrial Relations Code and the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code. The rules under the remaining two Codes are in the final stages of notification.

The Department further informed that the draft rules under the Code on Social Security and the Code on Wages had been pre-published following the necessary approval of the Lieutenant Governor, attracting 27 and five objections respectively. Additionally these objections have been examined and are being disposed of, with the Department targeting submission of the rules for final publication within the next ten days.

The meeting was further informed that administrative

notifications under all four Codes have been framed and submitted to the Law Department for statutory vetting. The requisite notifications are proposed to be issued soon after reception from the Department of Law.

The Chief Secretary also reviewed the Department's preparedness for transitioning to a unified digital compliance and grievance redressal system through the Central Government's Shram Suvidha and Samadhan portals.

He was informed that J&K has already conveyed its consent to the Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India, for onboarding onto the Shram Suvidha portal and furnished the requisite banking details to facilitate digital transactions.

Moreover it was divulged that the Shram Suvidha portal will provide a single-window platform for registration, licensing, filing of annual returns and inspections, while the Samadhan portal will enable workers and employers to register, track and seek resolution of industrial disputes and grievances online.

It was informed that the Ministry is presently undertaking the necessary customisation and revamping of both platforms to facilitate their seamless integration with J&K's compliance systems and ensure their effective implementation for the benefit of stakeholders across the Union Territory.

Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo condoles demise of former IAS officer S. S. Rizvi

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 24: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, has expressed profound grief over the demise of S. S. Rizvi, a retired IAS officer of the erstwhile Jammu and Kashmir cadre, who served in several key administrative positions during his illustrious career.

Recalling his service as Deputy Commissioner, Leh, Additional Chief Secretary and Joint Secretary to the Government of India, the Chief Secretary, as per an official statement, said that Rizvi's long administrative career reflected his dedication to public service and his contribution to governance at both the regional and national levels.

Describing his passing as a loss to the administrative fraternity, Dulloo conveyed his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family and prayed for eternal peace to the departed soul and strength to the family to bear this irreparable loss.

JDI Kashmir employees condole demise of Abdul Ahad Bhat

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 24: Joint Director Information, Kashmir, Syed Shahnawaz Bukhari, along with officers and officials of the Joint Directorate of Information (JDI), Kashmir, Thursday expressed profound grief and sorrow over the sad demise of Abdul Ahad Bhat, Driver at JDI Kashmir.

A condolence meeting, as per an official statement, was held at the JDI Kashmir, wherein the officers and officials expressed their deep anguish over the untimely demise of Abdul Ahad Bhat. The participants recalled



his association with the department and expressed heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family and relatives during this difficult hour of grief.

Continued on
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GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) MECHANICAL DIVISION ANANTNAG

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

TWO COVER SYSTEM

e-NIT No: R&B/MDSK/17 of 2026-27, Dated:24-09-2026

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of J&K Union Territory, Executive Engineer PW(R&B) Mechanical Division South Kashmir invites e-tenders in two (02) cover system, from Registered/Reputed/ Experienced firms / Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEM) for the below-mentioned work: -

S. No.	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (In Lacs)	Cost of Tender Document (INR)	Earnest Money @ 2% of Adv. Cost (INR)	Time of Completion	Position of Funds
1	Construction of Slaughter house at Uranhall Anantnag.	99.99/- (Base cost -84.74+ GST=15.25)	1600.00/-	199980/-	(04 Months)	Available With the intending department

Intending Authority: Department of Urban Local Bodies.

Major Head Account: FC Grants

Position of AAA = AAA vide Order no. MC/ANG/091 of 2022, Dated :07-05-2022

Technical Sanction No: SEMHK/TS-14/24, Dated: 31-07-2026

The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website <http://jktenders.gov.in> as per below schedule:

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	24/09/2026
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	24/09/2026 from 13.00 PM.
		29/09/2026 at 12.00 A.M in the Office of the
3	Date, Time and Place of Pre Bid meeting	Executive Engineer PW(R&B) Mechanical Division South Kashmir
4	Bid submission Start Date	24/09/2026 from 13.00 PM.
5	Bid Submission End Date	03/10/2026 upto 12.00 PM.
6	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	05/10/2026 at 12.00 P.M in the Office of the Executive Engineer PW(R&B) Mechanical Division South Kashmir
7	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed

- Tender Fee to be deposited in Account No: 0470010200000099, IFSC: JAKA0LALANG, Account Name: M/S CENTRALIZED POOL ACCOUNT PW R AND B ZONE SOUTH and EMD (2% of advertised Cost) to be deposited in the Account No: 0470010200000099, IFSC: JAKA0LALANG, Account Name: M/S CENTRALIZED POOL ACCOUNT PW R AND B ZONE SOUTH pledged to the Executive Engineer PW(R&B) Mechanical Division South Kashmir (Tender receiving Authority).
- All the Bidders have to submit Earnest Money/Bid Security (EMD@2% of Advertised Cost) to be deposited in the Account No: 0470010200000099, IFSC: JAKA0LALANG, Account Name: M/S CENTRALIZED POOL ACCOUNT PW R AND B ZONE SOUTH. Non submission of Earnest Money/Bid Security shall render the bidder as Non-responsive.
- Bidders who have previously participated in the bidding process for this tender shall upload proof of payment of the EMD Submitted in the Previous bidding process (e-NIT No: 11 of R&B/MDSK /2026-27, Dated: 13-08-2026).
- The 1st lowest responsive (Successful) Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 5% of contract as Performance Security to be deposited in the Account No: 0470010200000099, IFSC: JAKA0LALANG, Account Name: M/S CENTRALIZED POOL ACCOUNT PW R AND B ZONE SOUTH within 15 Days before fixation of Contract and shall be released after successful completion of Defect Liability Period (DLP) of the work. Failure to produce Performance Security shall render the L1 as non-responsive and case for debarring of the Contractor for a period of 01 Year shall be forwarded to Higher Authorities.
- The Earnest Money Deposit Rs 199980/- (EMD@2% of Advertised Cost) to be deposited in the Account No: 0470010200000099, IFSC: JAKA0LALANG, Account Name: M/S CENTRALIZED POOL ACCOUNT PW R AND B ZONE SOUTH of the allotted cost to be deposited in the Account No: 0470010200000099, IFSC: JAKA0LALANG, Account Name: M/S CENTRALIZED POOL ACCOUNT PW R AND B ZONE SOUTH and same shall be released after successful completion of Defect Liability Period (DLP) of the work.
- The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Executive Engineer PW(R&B) Mechanical Division South Kashmir (Tender Receiving Authority).
- Bidders can resubmit/withdraw the bids as specified.
- The bidders are requested to quote their rates exclusive of GST. GST @ 18% shall be added to the contract value by the allotting authority at the time of issuance of allotment
- The date and time of opening of Financial-Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The Financial-bids of Responsive Bidders shall be opened online in Office of the Executive Engineer PW(R&B) Mechanical Division South Kashmir. The date for same shall be intimated separately.
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids.
- The Earnest Money/Performance Security shall be forfeited if:-
 - Any bidder/tenderer withdraws his bid/tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modification in the terms and conditions of the bid.
 - Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required Performance Security within specified time period before signing contract agreement.
- In case contractor fails to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.
- Instruction to Bidders regarding E-tendering process.
 - Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in to acquaint bid submission process.
 - To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)' as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved vendors.
 - The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No financial bid will be accepted in physical form.
 - Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned above.
 - Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents mentioned in NIT and SBD with technical bid.
- Note: - Scan all the documents on 100 dpi with black and white option.
- The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reasons.
- Scanned copy of Cost of tender document in the shape of Receipt in favour of the Executive Engineer PW(R&B) Mechanical Division South Kashmir (The Date of Receipt should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date)
- EMD to be deposited in the Account No: 0470010200000099, IFSC: JAKA0LALANG, Account Name: M/S CENTRALIZED POOL ACCOUNT PW R AND B ZONE SOUTH pledged to Executive Engineer PW(R&B) Mechanical Division South Kashmir must be uploaded with the Technical bid documents for the work. After opening of financial bids, the lowest bidder shall submit the Performance Security to be deposited in the Account No: 0470010200000099, IFSC: JAKA0LALANG, Account Name: M/S CENTRALIZED POOL ACCOUNT PW R AND B ZONE SOUTH within 15 Days in the Office of the Executive Engineer PW(R&B) Mechanical Division South Kashmir. Failure to do so shall render the first lowest successful bidder non-responsive. The Original receipt (Cost of Tender Document), EMD (earnest money) and other relevant bid documents shall be obtained from the lowest bidder before the fixation of the Contract.
- Note: Bidders who have previously participated in the bidding process for this tender shall upload proof of payment of the EMD Submitted in the Previous bidding process (e-NIT No: 11 of R&B/MDSK /2026-27, Dated: 1308-2026).
- Bidders may contact Office of the Executive Engineer PW(R&B) Mechanical Division South Kashmir or Concerned Executive Engineer for any guidance for getting DSC or any other relevant details in respect of e-tendering process.
- Bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ (Bill of Quantities) contents. In no case they should attempt to create similar BOQ manually.
- Price escalation and Taxes: The % age quoted by the bidder entirely in Indian Rupees, shall be deemed to include price escalation and all taxes (excluding GST) upto completion of the work. Deduction on account of taxes shall be made from the bills of the contractor on gross amount of the bill as per the rates prevailing at the time of recovery.
- Bidders are advised to use "My Documents" area in their user on R&B e-Tendering portal to store such documents as are required.
- Defect Liability Period: 02 Years after date of completion.
- All key equipment and other accessories shall have to be arranged by the contractor strictly as per specifications with the approval of Engineer-in-charge.
- Qualification criteria for the work and other terms and conditions are contained in the bidding document available on website

No: R&B/MDSK/1947-51
Date: 24/09/2026

DIPK-6054/26
DATED: 24-09-2026

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
PW(R&B) Mechanical Division
South Kashmir

DDC Kulgam reviews implementation of RDSS

KT News Desk

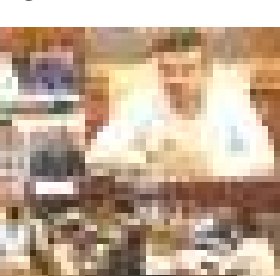
KULGAM, SEPTEMBER 24: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Kulgam, Shahzad Alam Thursday chaired a meeting to review the implementation of the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) in the district.

The meeting, as per an official statement, was attended by the SE, KPDCL, Mohammad Yousuf, concerned AEEs, PGCIL officials, RDSS-PMA (MEDHA) Tech-no Concept Pvt. Ltd.), TKC (Rahul Cables), and other concerned officials.

The meeting reviewed the progress of various works being executed under the scheme, including HT reconductoring, HT segregation, LT ABC/HVDS works and installation of

distribution transformers. The meeting also took stock of the physical and financial progress of the ongoing works.

The DDC instructed the KPDCL authorities and concerned agencies to expedite the completion of the ongoing works and ensure their



timely completion. The review of smart metering process was reviewed and directions issued for time-bound completions of process so as to improve the reliability and affordability of power supply to consumers.

JMC Commissioner inspects civic amenities in Preet Nagar

KT News Desk

JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 24: Commissioner Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) Dr. Devansh Yadav Thursday conducted an on-ground inspection of Preet Nagar and adjoining areas of Ward Nos. 45 and 52 to assess the civic infrastructure and review the problems being faced by local residents.

During the visit, members of the Mohalla Welfare Committee, Preet Nagar, along with residents of the two wards, apprised the Commissioner of a range of civic concerns, particularly relating to drainage, sanitation, garbage disposal, damaged internal roads and lanes, waterlogging and inadequate wastewater outlets.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Subject correction of father's name in jkhrms portal My self Fayaz Ahmad Rather s/o Gh Ahmad Rather R/O Iasser Rafiabad district barmulla in my HRMS portal my father's name has been inadvertently recorded as Ghulam Ahmad Rather instead of Gh Ahmad Rather. I intend to get the said error rectified and have my father's corrected name Gh Ahmad Rather in my HRMS portal

If any person has any claim or objection to this correction he/she may submit the same to the zonal education office zone Rohama within in seven days from the date of publication of this notice after the expiry date, no objection shall be as final

Sd
Fayaz Ahmad Rather
S/o Gh Ahmad Rather
R/O Iasser Rafiabad district barmulla
pH no 7780813256

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MECHANICAL& HOSPITAL DIVISION, SRINAGAR (Erstwhile Mechanical Hospital & Central Heating Division Srinagar)

Contact No: 0194-2496089, Email Id: exen-mechospmgr@jk.gov.in.

Sub:- 1. Providing Comprehensive Maintenance Contract (CMC) for One (01) Year (12 Calendar Months) Of 20 Passenger (G+4) OTIS Make Lift Installed At MRI Building, Opposite Staircase, Govt. Super specialty Hospital, Srinagar
2. Providing Comprehensive Maintenance Contract (CMC) for One (01) Year (12 Calendar Months) Of (G+3) 26 Passenger Staircase OTIS Make Lift Installed At Govt. Super Specialty hospital, Srinagar

Ref:- This office NIT No: M&HDS/TS /2026-27/47/e-tendering, Dated:- 12.08.2026.

EXTENSION 06

In view of No response, the critical dates of above subject work(s) tendered vide above referred e-NIT(s) are extended as follows: -

S.No	Description	Date and Time
1.	Last Date of Bid Submission	28.09.2026 (13:00 hrs)
2.	Date of Bid Opening	28.09.2026 (15:00 hrs)

All other Terms and Conditions of the NIT shall remain the same.

No: M&HDS/TS/ Date: -
DIPK-6063/26
DATED: 24-09-2026

Executive Engineer,
M&HD, Srinagar

FROM LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Committee examining regularisation of casual, seasonal workers: Govt

Raja Syed Rather

Srinagar, Sep 24: The Jammu and Kashmir Government has said that a committee constituted to examine the regularisation of casual, seasonal, temporary, contractual and need-based workers is currently examining the matter, but no rigid timeframe can be indicated at this stage for submission of its report or finalisation of the policy.

The government stated this in a written reply by CPI(M) MLA Mohammad Yousuf Tarigami during the ongoing sixth session of the J&K Legislative Assembly, regarding the status of the report/recommendations of the committee constituted under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary, J&K, on regularisation of casual, seasonal and other temporary/contractual/need-based workers in the Union Territory.

The government, as reported by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said the committee was constituted vide Order No. 384-JK(GAD) of 2025 dated March 19, 2025, and has been examining matters relating to casual, seasonal and other temporary,



contractual and need-based workers engaged in different departments across Jammu and Kashmir.

According to the reply, the committee has been tasked with examining various issues, including humanitarian, legal and financial aspects related to regularisation of such workers.

"The matter concerns a diverse set of workers engaged at different points in time under varying terms and conditions of engagement," the government said, adding that the proposed policy would have to conform to applicable statutory provisions, the prevailing legal

position and the prescribed recruitment framework, while duly accounting for the consequential financial implications.

The government further said the committee is undertaking a comprehensive examination for formulation of a uniform framework that is legally enforceable and administratively implementable across all departments.

On the present status of the committee's report/recommendations, the government said the matter involves a diverse set of workers whose engagements have taken place against different requirements

of different departments and that the committee is examining the matter comprehensively.

It said consultations with the concerned departments and examination of the issues from administrative, legal and financial perspectives are required before a final policy decision is taken.

"The time taken in the process is attributable to the need for comprehensive examination and reconciliation with legal and financial aspects and requirements of the established framework governing employment," the government said.

On the proposed timeframe for submission of the committee's report and final policy decision to ensure a fair, transparent and time-bound resolution of the long-pending regularisation issue, the government said it is conscious of the need for a structured and sustainable resolution.

"The issue is under active consideration, and efforts are being made to complete the requisite examination and consultations at the earliest," the reply stated.

However, the government said that in view of

the multiplicity of categories involved and the legal, administrative and financial implications of any decision, "it would not be appropriate to indicate a rigid timeframe at this stage."

It added that the government would take a considered decision after completion of examination of all relevant aspects and receipt of the requisite inputs from the concerned departments and authorities.

Tarigami had also sought details regarding the contours of a policy for compassionate engagement of an eligible family member of such workers who had died in harness while awaiting regularisation.

On this point, the government said the issue is not part of the Terms of Reference of the Committee.

The committee was constituted by the General Administration Department on March 19, 2025, to examine issues related to regularisation of casual, seasonal labourers and other workers in J&K and suggest a comprehensive way forward. The government order had provided for the committee to submit its report within six months—(KNO)

6 Cylinders a blessing, but deliver promised 12: MLA Tral



Waris Fayaz

Srinagar, Sep 24: MLA Tral Rafiq Naik on Thursday said the government's decision to provide six free LPG cylinders to Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families should be welcomed, but maintained that dispensation led by CM Omar Abdullah must honour its electoral promise of providing 12 free cylinders.

Representing Tral, Naik said the provision of six free cylinders would provide relief to AAY families and should not be rejected.

"Six free LPG cylinders are a blessing, but they should be given on the ground and not remain only on papers," Naik said. He, however, pointed out that the government had promised 12 free LPG cylinders to every household during the elections.

"The government should have made its promise and given 12 cylinders," he said.

His remarks came after the government approved the provision of six free LPG cylinders for AAY families, re-striking the count as promised during the election campaign—(KNO)

Govt Admits SE Canal shortages hit Sgr, G'bl drinking water

Raja Syed Rather

Srinagar, Sep 24: The Jammu and Kashmir government has acknowledged that shortages in the Sindh Extension (SE) Canal during the peak irrigation season affect drinking water availability in parts of Srinagar and Ganderbal districts.

The government made the disclosure in a written reply to a starred question raised by MLA Salman Ali Sagar re-garding uninterrupted water supply and the impact of reduced raw-water availability in the SE Canal.

According to the Jal Shakti Department, the SE Canal is the main source of raw water for the 30 MGD Rangil Wa-ter Treatment Plant, 6.80 MGD Alusteng WTP and various other water supply schemes in rural Ganderbal.

The department said the raw water intake gets disrupted during the peak irrigation season, affecting water availability to tail-end households. To mitigate the situation, the department resorts to shift-wise supplies, rationalisation of

distribution networks and deployment of tankers.

It said the SE Canal is fed by the Sindh Power Canal, with a major portion of its discharge initially utilised for power generation, while the remaining water flows into the SE Canal and is used as raw water for multiple filtration plants.

"Due to this, supplies in the SE Canal deplete from Vil-lage Hadura onwards," the department said, resulting in shortages in Khimber and Chatterham areas of the Haz-ratbal constituency, particularly during peak irrigation season coupled with deficient rainfall.

The government further stated that the Sindh Power Canal is designed around a general requirement of 400 cu-secs, while a significant shortfall in canal discharge is observed during the irrigation season from April to September.

The department said the Sindh Power Canal and Sindh Extension Canal are the principal sources of drinking water for more than 13 lakh people in Srinagar and Ganderbal districts and provide raw water to 16 major water

supply schemes.

"Owing to depleted capacity and canal safety concerns, no more than 300 cusecs can presently be maintained in the Power Canal, against the requirement of around 400 cu-secs, leading to repeated complaints of drinking water scarcity," it added.

The department said it had transferred Rs 200 lakh to JKPDCL during 2025-26 for maintenance and repair of the canal.

As per the reply, the Jal Shakti Department, through an official communication dated June 13, 2026, had highlighted the issue during the current season and requested JKPDCL to suspend operation of the Ganderbal Hydroelectric Power Project during the peak season from May to August to ensure sufficient drinking water availability.

Meanwhile, the department said the 5 MGD Rangil and 5 MGD Alusteng filtration plants are nearing completion/commissioning. Their raw water source is proposed to be tapped

Continued on
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GoI nod awaited for apple crop insurance scheme: Javid Dar



Waris Fayaz

Srinagar, Sept 24: Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, Javid Ahmad Dar on Wednesday said that the Government of Jammu & Kashmir is fully committed to implementation of the Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (WBCIS) to bring apple under insurance cover.

Speaking in the Legislative Assembly, the Minister said that all codal formalities were completed for roll-out of the scheme.

He, however added that as per communication from the Government of India regarding revision of WBCIS norms for States and UTs, the scheme has been put on hold.

"An Advisory Committee was constituted by the Ministry

Continued on
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'J&K's 2,241 health institutions operating from rented buildings'



Jahangeer Ganaie

Srinagar, Sep 24: As many as 2,241 dispensaries and other health institutions across Jammu and Kashmir are functioning from private or rented buildings, incurring a monthly rental expenditure of Rs 52.75 lakh, the government informed the Legislative Assembly on Thursday.

The information was provided in response to a question by Channapora MLA Mushtaq Guroo, who sought details of health institutions operating from rented premises, the expenditure involved and plans for developing permanent infrastructure.

According to the government's reply, the

monthly rental expenditure for these institutions stands at Rs 52,75,309, amounting to nearly Rs 6.33 crore annually.

The government said the suitability of rented buildings is assessed by field-level health authorities, including Chief Medical Officers (CMOs), Block Medical Officers (BMOs) and Medical Officers. The assessment takes into account factors such as space availability, accessibility, basic healthcare infrastructure, patient privacy and other prescribed standards.

It said the exercise is aimed at ensuring healthcare services are delivered from safe, accessible and appropriate premises. On the

construction of permanent buildings, the government said efforts are underway to develop permanent infrastructure for health institutions operating from rented accommodation in a phased manner.

The move, it said, is intended to strengthen healthcare infrastructure and reduce recurring expenditure on rent.

However, the government noted that constructing permanent buildings for all such institutions would require financial investment running into thousands of crores of rupees, which cannot be accommodated within the available resources in the short term.

Given the scale of the investment involved, permanent infrastructure will be developed in phases, subject to the availability of funds and fulfilment of other required formalities, the government said.

It added that the process would be planned in a manner that ensures healthcare services are not disrupted during the transition to permanent facilities—(KNO)

CD Hospital expansion awaits LCMA, BOCA clearance: Govt

Jahangeer Ganaie

Srinagar, Sep 24: The proposed expansion of Chest Diseases (CD) Hospital, Dalgate, has not received administrative approval as mandatory clearance from the J&K Lake Conservation and Management Authority (LCMA) or the Building Operation Controlling Authority (BOCA), Srinagar, is still awaited, government said on Thursday. The information was disclosed by the Health and Medical Education Department in the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly in response to a question by Lal Chowk MLA Sheikh Ahsan Ahmed Pardi.

The government said a new G+4 building has been proposed to strengthen the hospital's infrastructure. The De-tailed Project Report (DPR), vetted by the Chief Engineer of the Public Works (R&B) Department and received by



the department in February 2026, estimates the project cost at Rs 1,999.53 lakh (nearly Rs 20 crore).

According to the department, administrative approval cannot be granted until the required clearance from LCMA or BOCA is obtained. The process for approval will be initiated once the permission is received. A token allocation

of Rs 73 lakh has been earmarked for the project under the 2026-27 Capex Budget. The government said the allocation may be enhanced at the Re-vised Estimates stage depending on the project's progress.

Funding and execution will be taken up as per prescribed

Continued on
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30% teaching posts vacant in Govt schools of Kupwara constituency

Riyaz Bhat

Srinagar, Sep 24: At least 30 percent teaching posts are lying vacant in government schools across the Kupwara constituency.

The official figures reveal that nearly 57 percent lecturer posts in Kupwara constituency, 21 percent teacher and nearly 42 percent masters posts are lying vacant.

The minister in-charge in a question tabled by MLA Mir Mohammad Fayaz in Legislative Assembly said that 403 lecturer, teacher and masters posts have been sanctioned for the Kupwara constituency out of which only 280 are in position.

The official figures said that out of 77 sanctioned posts for Lecturers, 44 posts remain vacant—a vacancy rate exceeding 57%.

It also said that 252 posts for

teachers have been sanctioned out of which only 204 are in position.

In case of masters posts, the government said out of 74 sanctioned posts, 43 remain vacant.

In Mathematics and English both have 5 vacant posts out of 6 and 7 sanctioned posts respectively.

Likewise, Physics is missing 4 out of 7 sanctioned lecturers, while Urdu is missing 4 out of 6.

On infrastructure ownership, the government said that out of the total operating schools in Kupwara constituency, 200 schools operate from Government-owned buildings, 2 schools operate from rented facilities and 4 schools function in rent-free premises.

The government further said, "Keeping in view the limited access at Senior Secondary level, the School Education

Continued on
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MLA Kangan raises key issues in Assembly

Raja Syed Rather

Srinagar, Sep 24: Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) Kangan Mehar Ali on Thursday raised several issues concerning his constituency in the Legislative Assembly, seeking the establishment of a Government Degree College (GDC) in Gund, permission for over-night stays by tourists at Naranag, and upgradation of winter tourism infrastructure in Sonamarg.

Raising the issue of a degree college in Gund, Mehar Ali said the land documents sought by the government had already been provided to the concerned college. He urged the government to consider establishing a GDC in Gund whenever new degree colleges are sanctioned.

He also sought permission for tourists to stay overnight at Naranag, saying that although the tourist destination has reopened, visitors are currently not allowed to stay there at night.

On Sonamarg, the MLA said winter activities have been taking place for the past two years but need to be expanded and upgraded. He called for improvement of infrastructure and greater focus on winter tourism and winter sports in Sonamarg.

Mehar Ali also raised concerns over the outsourcing of mess facilities in hostels run by the Tribal Department. He urged the

Continued on
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EDITORIAL

Extend The Amnesty Scheme, But Fix The System

The government's indication that it is examining the reintroduction or extension of the power amnesty scheme is welcome, but it must be pursued with compassion and prudence. The scheme, which concluded on March 31, 2026, offered domestic consumers a genuine lifeline—clear your principal dues, and the accumulated interest is

waived. For thousands of families burdened by mounting electricity arrears, this was not a luxury but a necessity. The Chief Minister's concern that repeated amnesties could undermine the culture of timely bill payment is valid. No system can function if consumers learn to wait for periodic waivers instead of paying on time. However, the answer is

not to abandon the scheme altogether, but to make it smarter and more targeted. The government should consider a two-pronged approach. First, extend the amnesty scheme, but with clearly defined eligibility criteria that prioritise genuine defaulters—households below the poverty line, families facing medical emergencies, and those with small,

recoverable arrears. Second, and more importantly, address the root causes of non-payment. Many consumers do not pay because bills are inaccurate, metering is faulty, or billing disputes remain unresolved. No amnesty can fix a system that generates incorrect bills. Additionally, the government must improve the efficiency of its revenue

collection. Amnesty schemes should be accompanied by stronger enforcement against wilful defaulters, particularly commercial and industrial consumers who can afford to pay but choose not to. The electricity sector cannot survive on a cycle of arrears, amnesty, and arrears again. A one-time extension, coupled with genuine reforms in metering,

billing, and dispute resolution, would be a pragmatic step. But if amnesty becomes an annual ritual, it will erode the very discipline the Chief Minister rightly wants to protect. Extend the scheme—but use this opportunity to fix what is broken. Compassion for the poor must be matched by accountability for the system.

National Single Window System: Transforming Business Approvals In India

The NSWs marks a significant step towards creating a transparent, and technology-driven regulatory ecosystem. Continued integration of Ministries, States, and regulatory authorities will further strengthen its effectiveness.

Press Information Bureau

The National Single Window System (NSWS) is a digital platform that guides investors in identifying the approvals required for their businesses. It also enables them to apply for these approvals based on their specific business requirements. Implemented by DPIIT, it enables investors to identify, apply for, and track approvals through a single interface. Its key features include the Know Your Approvals module, Common Registration Form, Applicant Dashboard, Document Repository and E-Communication Module. By enabling one-time submission, online processing and real-time tracking, NSWS reduces duplication, compliance burden and approval timelines while improving transparency and coordination. With expanding integration of Central Ministries, States and regulatory authorities, NSWS is strengthening India's Ease of Doing Business and fostering a more seamless investment ecosystem.

National Single Window System: An Overview

An efficient regulatory ecosystem is essential for promoting investment and economic growth. The Government has undertaken several digital governance reforms to create a transparent and investor-friendly regulatory ecosystem. The National Single Window System (NSWS) is one such reform. It serves as a digital platform that guides investors in identifying and applying for the approvals required for their businesses.

Launched on 22 September 2021, NSWS is implemented by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce & Industry. This year, it completes 5 years of its success.

It integrates approvals offered by Central Ministries, State Governments, and regulatory authorities on a common digital platform.

Contribution to Ease of Doing Business

The NSWS simplifies the approval process by enabling one-time submission of information and documents. It helps reduce compliance and approval timelines. The platform also enhances transparency through real-time application tracking and online communication with regulatory authorities. These features make the approval process more predictable and efficient.

NSWS minimizes duplication of information across departments and improves coordination among government agencies through an integrated digital ecosystem. Collectively, these reforms strengthen the Ease of Doing Business, facilitate investment, and support the Government's vision of Minimum Government, Maximum Governance.

Key Functionalities of NSWs

NSWS enables online submission of applications and payment of fees. A key feature of NSWS is the Know Your Approvals (KYA) module, a tool that identifies the approvals applicable to a business based on its proposed activities. The portal hosts applications for approvals from 32 Central Ministries/ Departments and 34 State Governments and Union Territories. This helps investors navigate regulatory requirements for business. The guidance provided through KYA is advisory in nature and does not constitute legal advice.

To simplify compliance, NSWS provides a Common Registration Form that captures information through a single interface and enables reuse of information across

applications. The platform also offers seamless access to State Single Window Systems through a dedicated State Registration Form, ensuring integration with State-level approval mechanisms.

The platform includes an Applicant Dashboard for submitting applications, monitoring their status, and responding to departmental queries. The portal also allows investors to renew applicable approvals easily and track the status of the application in real-time. A centralized Document Repository enables one-time upload and reuse of documents across multiple approvals, reducing duplication of submissions. The E-Communication Module facilitates online exchange of queries and clarifications between applicants and the concerned Ministries and State Governments.

Approval Workflow under NSWs

An investor begins by registering on NSWS using an email ID and mobile number. The investor may identify applicable approvals through the Know Your Approvals (KYA) module or search for required approvals from list of approvals. After verification, they can submit applications for various Central and State approvals.

Once an application is submitted, NSWS forwards it electronically to the concerned Ministry, Department, or State Government for processing through its respective backend system. While registration on NSWS is free of cost, applicants are required to pay the statutory fees prescribed by the respective authority through the portal.

Applicants can monitor the status of their applications through the Applicant Dashboard. They can respond to departmental queries using the E-Communication Module, and access all uploaded documents

from the centralized Document Repository.

Expanding Digital Integration

NSWS implements Permanent Account Number (PAN) as the Single Business ID, with user authentication of authorised representatives through the Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) and DigiLocker (for sole proprietors).

The Foreign Investment Facilitation Portal (FIF Portal) has also been integrated with NSWS, enabling a single-window mechanism for FDI applications requiring Government approval. The Industrial Entrepreneur Memorandum (IEM) and Industrial License (IL) processes have been fully migrated to the National Single Window System (NSWS) since October 2025 and March 2026, respectively, and are now completely digital. The digitalised processes facilitate auto-population of information through integration with relevant government databases, eliminate manual approval requirements, and enable industries to generate acknowledgements instantly, thereby improving efficiency and reducing processing time.

Further, the Production Investment Business Registration module was launched on NSWS in November 2025 to facilitate Indian companies in generating Sponsorship Letters for inviting foreign professionals under the e-Production Investment Business Visa (e-B-4 Visa). The module provides a streamlined digital mechanism for registration and issuance of sponsorship-related documentation.

Additionally, the Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organisation (PESO) has integrated all 74 licensing modules with NSWS, making it the first department to achieve complete transaction-level

integration.

Coverage and Performance

Since its launch, the NSWS has significantly expanded its reach and service delivery. As of 21 September 2026, the platform receives an annual average of over 3.06 lakh applications and facilitates the processing of more than 2.26 lakh approvals each year. The platform has also onboarded over 5.69 lakh business entities, including sole proprietorships, companies, LLPs and foreign entities.

NSWS currently provides access to over 327 Central approvals and 3452 State approvals across 34 States and Union Territories. It facilitates key regulatory approvals such as company incorporation, industrial licences, startup recognition, FDI approvals, and registration under the Contract Labour Act. Assam (335), Karnataka (327), Tamil Nadu (223) and Manipur (190) offer the highest number of integrated approvals.

The platform also serves as a common gateway for approvals under flagship initiatives, including the National Green Hydrogen Mission, Ethanol Policy, Vehicle Scrapping Policy, and the Indian Footwear and Leather Development Programme.

Towards a Seamless Business Ecosystem

The NSWS marks a significant step towards creating a transparent, and technology-driven regulatory ecosystem. Continued integration of Ministries, States, and regulatory authorities will further strengthen its effectiveness. Leveraging digital technologies and process simplification will enhance investor confidence and improve India's ease of doing business. As the platform evolves, NSWS has the potential to become the cornerstone of a unified business regulatory framework in India.

The Psychology of World Peace

The science of cooperation suggests war is irrational. Peace is natural

Bobby Azarian

September 22 was World Peace Day. I spent it thinking about a message my cousin sent me from Tehran earlier this year.

After President Trump warned Iran that if the Strait of Hormuz wasn't opened "you'll be living in hell," I wrote to her pleading for her family to leave the city. She's in her twenties. She wrote back:

"Tonight is a difficult night for us, pray for us, the sounds are really loud, I hope the war ends as soon as possible."

I have dozens of family members living in Tehran. And, to be honest, like most people I might not have felt the urgency I feel now if it weren't personal. We are wired to feel the suffering closest to us most acutely. That's not a moral failing. It's biology. But if we genuinely believe that every innocent life has equal value, then we have to reckon with an uncomfortable gap between what we believe in principle and how we actually behave. The people caught in any war zone are someone's family. They are human beings no different from the ones we would risk our lives to protect. The distance between "someone's family" and "the enemy" is not a geographical distance. It's a psychological one.

And psychology, it turns out, is where a key part of the solution lives.

War Is a Design Problem

Most of us have been raised with a quiet assumption that war is unavoidable — a necessary evil baked into human nature and the way civilizations work. This assumption is wrong, and the science is increasingly clear about why. War is not simply a human nature problem. It is a design problem.

My colleague at the Evo-Devo Universe Research Institute, Clément Vidal, recently published a paper introducing what he calls the planetary cooperation barrier — the systemic misalignment that prevents humanity from coordinating at the scale our existential challenges demand. Drawing on cybernetics, evolutionary theory, and game theory, Vidal makes a deceptively simple argument: The current international order is not failing because human beings are inherently selfish or violent. It is failing because the architecture is wrong.

We have a world full of institutions generating accurate warnings about existential threats — nuclear proliferation, AI risk, and ecological collapse. What we lack is a governance layer capable of acting on those warnings. The knowledge exists. The structure to use it doesn't.

The historical precedent is instructive. In 1787, thirteen American states that were effectively in trade wars with each other, disputing borders and competing for advantage, came together at the Constitutional Convention. They did not abolish their individual identities. They integrated into a higher-level system that constrained their behavior on matters of collective concern while preserving what made each of them distinct. That is the model. Not a world government. Not the erasure of national sovereignty. Unity without uniformity.

Evolutionary theory suggests we are now at exactly this kind of threshold. The same logic that took us from single cells to multicellular organisms, from individuals to societies, now points toward a higher level of coordination among nation-states. This isn't utopian. It is what complex systems naturally do when the pressure is sufficient

and the conditions are right. The question is whether we can make the conditions right deliberately, before catastrophe makes them right for us.

The Pseudospecies Problem

To understand why the cooperation barrier is so hard to break, you have to understand something about how human minds were built.

One of the stranger facts about our species is that we are a single biological species that repeatedly behaves as though we are many. In his 2002 book *The Emergence of Everything*, the complexity theorist Harold Morowitz used the term *pseudospecies* (coined by Erik Erikson) to describe this tendency: Human cultures construct boundaries between groups where no biological boundary actually exists. Religion, nationality, ethnicity, and political ideology can bind millions of strangers into a cooperative group — but the same mechanism that creates an us inevitably creates a them.

This produces something resembling what ecologists call *competitive exclusion*. In nature, two species competing for exactly the same resources in exactly the same niche cannot indefinitely coexist. When human groups come to see the world as a zero-sum competition for territory, resources, security, or identity, they import this logic into their politics. Each group begins treating the other as a competing population whose gain must be its loss.

Here lies the central paradox of human civilization: The same cognitive machinery that made large-scale cooperation possible can also tear it apart. Shared worldviews are extraordinarily powerful coordination technologies. They give people common values, common stories, and enough trust

to cooperate with strangers. But once those stories harden into mutually exclusive identities, the coordination mechanism becomes a conflict mechanism. The tribe becomes a pseudospecies.

That is when another human being stops looking like someone's daughter or father and starts looking like an abstraction: Iranian, American, Muslim, Jew, Palestinian, Israeli, or enemy.

This is why propaganda is so psychologically potent. It does not merely give people false information. At its most dangerous, it degrades the resolution at which we model other human beings. A person becomes a category. And categories are much easier to hate than people.

The Cooperation Principle

This is where psychology offers something that policy alone cannot.

In research I've been developing on what I call the *Game Theory of Mind*, I describe a cognitive switch between two fundamental modes of thinking. The first — call it *Mind A* — is fast, reactive, tribal, and threat-sensitive. When we feel attacked or endangered, this mode rapidly sorts the social world into allies and enemies. It evolved to keep us alive in environments where that sorting mattered enormously. In many contexts, it still does.

The second mode — *Mind B* — is more regulated, reflective, and meta-aware. It can step outside the immediate emotional frame, model another person's perspective, examine its own assumptions, and ask whether a conflict can be transformed into cooperation by aligning interests rather than escalating opposition.

The point is not that we can reason our way out of every conflict. Human beings are not going to think their way to world peace

through pure logic. The point is something more modest and more powerful: We can become aware of the psychological machinery driving the conflict. We can notice the us-versus-them program while it is running. And that awareness — that small gap between impulse and action — is where the possibility of peace lives.

The Cooperation Principle in Practice

The cooperation principle does not mean eliminating competition. Competition is useful. It generates variation, innovation, and excellence. The trick is to nest competition inside cooperation — to find the level at which former rivals share a larger objective.

American states compete for businesses, talent, and political influence while participating in a larger cooperative structure that constrains their most destructive impulses. The same logic has to move up another level. Countries can compete economically, scientifically, and culturally while sharing one non-negotiable commitment: do not destroy the game board.

This is the premise of the *Manhattan Peace Project*, an initiative I announced yesterday at my Substack, "Road to Omega." The original Manhattan Project mobilized an extraordinary concentration of scientific talent around what seemed like an existential problem. It succeeded. The question *Project Unity* asks is simple: What if we did that for peace? What if we brought together scientists, systems theorists, psychologists, artists, musicians, technologists, and ordinary people around an equally ambitious problem — not how to win a war, but how to make war obsolete? Let's find out.

Bobby Azarian, Ph.D., is a cognitive neuroscientist and science writer in the Washington, D.C. area. Courtesy: Psychology Today

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■ From J&K Assembly Autumn Session 2026

Legislators raise public welfare, infrastructure, development issues during Zero Hour

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 24: MLA Nazir Ahmad Khan (Gurezi) asked for swift forest clearance of the road projects to ensure their timely completion. The Minister In-Charge PWD clarified that the matter would be taken on priority with the forest department and the connectivity Projects completed on time.

MLA Nizam-ud-din Bhat raised the issue about the refusal of Environmental Clearance to the New Ganderbal Hyderal Power Project.

MLA Shamim Firdous, as per an official statement, raised the issue of Water Scarcity in her area and demanded the construction of reservoir to tide over this issue.

MLA Mohammad Yousuf Rather (Tarigami) Requested the Government to hike the Honorarium of consolidated employees like Asha, Anganwadi and Mid Day Meal workers on the lines of Sikkim and Pondicherry

MLA Muzzaaffar Iqbal Khan asked the Minister In charge to consider the Cooks and other similar staff in schools to be paid as per the Minimum Wages Act as their Honorarium is very Less. He also demanded fair compensation in favour of the farmers whose land has been acquired for the construction of schools or Water supply schemes in his areas. MLA Mir Mohammad Fayaz raised the issue of dearth of doctors and medical supplies in his constituency. MLA Mian Mehar Ali demanded Degree College, horticulture office for Gund tehsil, Night stay Permission for tourists at Naranag and large scale winter events at Sonamarg. MLA



Surjeet Singh Salathia raised the issue about release of the money of the Account Holders of cooperative Bank, pending salaries of its staff and asked for the time frame to make the payments.

MLA Daleep Singh Parihar raised the issue of Sexual Assault of a young Girl in his area and demanded stern punishment to the culprits.

MLA Rameshwar Singh raised the issue of maintenance and restoration of Road infrastructure damaged due to rainfall in his constituency and rollback of new UGC rule.

MLA Pirzada Farooq Ahmad Shah raised the issue of Poonch- Tangmarg road and called for taking up the work on this pivotal project aiming to connect two regions of Jammu and Kashmir. He also called for taking stringent measure for ensuring ban on

Polythene in Gulmurg and catchment areas.

MLA Shakti Raj Parihar raised the issue of delay in execution of connectivity works due to delay of forest clearance and dearth of manpower in his constituency.

MLA Justice (Retd) Hasnain Masoodi raised the issue of absorption of daily wagers of JK Cements and the pending dues of Handloom Development Corporation Employees. He also raised the issue of Customary Quarry Mining of the area.

MLA Sajad Gani Lone raised the issue of privileges entitled to the Members of Legislative Assembly and called for ensuring the same.

MLA Narinder Singh Raina raised the issue of ST2 Certificates in his Constituency and called for taking measure for their early issuance.

J&K's horticulture sector supports livelihoods of nearly 35 lakh people: Javid Dar

Contributes around 10% to UT's GDP

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 24: Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Cooperative and Election Department, Javid Ahmad Dar, Thursday informed the Legislative Assembly that the horticulture sector remains one of the key pillars of Jammu & Kashmir's economy, supporting the livelihoods and employment of a large section of the population.

The Minister, as per an official statement, was responding to a clubbed question raised by MLAs Pirzada Farooq Ahmed Shah, Ghulam Mohi-ud-din Mir and Irfan Hafiz Lone, along with the supplementary raised by MLA Shabir Ahmad Kullay.

Javid Dar said that approximately 35 lakh people, comprising nearly 7.5 lakh families, are directly or indirectly associated with the horticulture sector. The sector contributes approximately 10 per cent to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of the Union Territory and generates an estimated annual income of around 12,000 crore.

He further stated that horticulture has considerable employment potential, with one hectare of orchard area generating approximately 400 man-days of employment annually, thereby making a significant contribution to rural livelihoods and the broader economy of J&K.

On crop insurance, the Minister said that the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) is presently being implemented across all 20 districts of Jammu & Kashmir. He informed the House that the scheme is demand-driven and there is no cap on the number of farmers who



can avail its benefits, subject to prescribed guidelines and eligibility criteria. He said that approximately 13,985 lakh Farmer Families (FoFs) in the UT are eligible to avail the benefits of the scheme.

As per the available data, 6,86,741.37 hectares of area has been covered, benefiting 12,89,917 farmers, while 3,72,134 claims have been registered involving an amount of approximately Rs 221.71 crore.

The Minister acknowledged that farmers and orchardists in various areas have suffered losses due to natural calamities, including hailstorms, floods and heavy rains.

He said that the Department undertakes assessment of crop losses through its field functionaries and extends assistance and relief, wherever admissible, under the provisions of applicable schemes and guidelines.

Javid Dar stated that PMFBY provides insurance coverage against notified natural risks, including hailstorms, for notified crops. The basic cover provides area-based insurance against yield losses in standing crops from sowing to harvesting arising from

eligible beneficiaries receive the benefits due to them under the scheme.

On the transportation of horticultural produce during the peak fruit season, Javid Dar said that the Government has strengthened traffic and logistics management through coordinated measures to ensure smooth, timely and uninterrupted movement of fruit and other horticultural produce.

He informed that a dedicated Control Room has been established at Qazigund for real-time traffic monitoring, coordination with concerned agencies and dissemination of timely advisories to growers, traders and transporters.

The Minister said that the Mughal Road is also being utilized as an alternative route, wherever feasible, to ease congestion and reduce pressure on NH-44.

He further stated that railway parcel, goods and freight services from Anantnag and Budgam to Delhi have been facilitated and promoted for transportation of horticultural produce.

"These coordinated measures are aimed at diversifying the transportation network, reducing dependence on NH-44 and minimizing the possibility of prolonged stranding of fruit-laden vehicles during the peak harvest season," Javid Dar said.

The Minister reiterated the Government's commitment to protecting the interests of farmers and orchardists, strengthening crop insurance mechanisms, expediting settlement of genuine claims and improving transportation, logistics and market connectivity for horticultural produce across Jammu & Kashmir. He further stated that various schemes under HADP the farmers get benefits and avail more than 60 percent subsidies in the projects.

Revised car policy under consideration: Satish Sharma

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 24: Minister for Transport, Satish Sharma Thursday informed the J&K Legislative Assembly that the Revised Car Policy is presently under consideration of the Government, wherein it has been proposed to introduce the principle of "One Vehicle-One Officer".

The Minister, as per an official statement, was replying to a question raised by Ranbir Singh Pathania.

"The proposed policy shall also provide for such specific exceptions as may be considered necessary by the Government, keeping in view security requirements, field duties, additional assignments/

charges, operational exigencies and the functional requirements of Particular Departments/ organizations' After approval of the Revised Car Policy by the Government, the provisions thereof shall be implemented across the concerned Departments/ PSUs/ Boards/ Autonomous Bodies as Per the approved policy. The proposed "One vehicle-one officer" principle is thus intended to ensure rationalization of Government vehicles, optimum utilization of available resources and economy in Government expenditure" he informed.

He said that the State Motor Garages Department conducts necessary audit/Physical verification of the vehicle fleet timely.

Schools with higher PTR being addressed through ongoing rationalisation process: Sakeena Itoo

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 24: Minister for Education, Sakeena Itoo Thursday informed the J&K Legislative Assembly that the issue of maintaining the Pupil-Teacher Ratio is being addressed by providing additional staff to understaffed schools through rationalisation across J&K, including those in Uri constituency

Replying to a question raised by MLA Uri Sajjad Shafi, as per an official statement, during Question Hour of the ongoing Autumn Session of the Legislative Assembly, the Minister said the staffing requirements of schools with relatively higher PTR are being addressed through the ongoing rationalisation process.

She said that only 10 out of



375 government schools in Uri constituency have a Pupil-Teacher Ratio (PTR) of more than 40, while steps are underway to address staffing requirements in these schools through rationalisation and judicious deployment of available teaching resources

Sakeena Itoo said applications from eligible teachers have already been invited under the Annual Transfer Drive (ATD)-2026, and these applications will be considered with due regard to the staffing

requirements of schools having relatively higher pupil-teacher loads, wherever warranted.

The Minister further informed the House that 22 Laboratory Assistants have recently been promoted as Teachers, of whom eight have been adjusted in Uri constituency. In addition, five Masters have been transferred to Uri constituency to supplement the existing teaching arrangements, particularly in schools where the pupil-teacher load is relatively higher.

Sakeena Itoo added that the rationalisation exercise for the current academic year has already been initiated and the staffing requirements of individual schools will be duly considered as part of the exercise to ensure a more balanced distribution of teaching personnel.

JJM, AMRUT projects to strengthen water supply infrastructure in Sopore: Rana

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 24: Minister for Jal Shakti, Javed Ahmed Rana, Thursday stated that the Jal Shakti Department is implementing various water supply schemes under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) and AMRUT to ensure adequate and potable drinking water supply to rural and urban habitations of Sopore Constituency.

The Minister, as per an official statement, stated this while replying to a Calling Attention Motion moved by Legislator Irshad Rasool Kar in the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly Thursday.

Rana informed the House that 16 water supply schemes have been taken up under JJM at an estimated cost of 85.55 crore to provide Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTCs) to households across the rural areas of Sopore Constituency. He also said that nine of these schemes have been completed and made functional.

Regarding Sopore Town, the Minister said that its water supply infrastructure is being



augmented under AMRUT 2.0 at an estimated cost of 73.39 crore, against which 63.92 crore have been allotted. The project is presently under execution and has achieved around 35 per cent physical progress. He said that upon completion and commissioning, the project would substantially augment and improve the water supply infrastructure of Sopore Town and cater to its increasing water demand.

The Minister said that the Department is providing drinking water to the affected habitations through water tankers as an interim arrangement

pending completion and commissioning of the ongoing schemes. He added the tanker service would continue to bridge the gap in water supply until the JJM and AMRUT 2.0 projects are completed and made fully operational.

It was further informed that PHE Division Sopore has, presently, six functional water tankers deployed in areas covered under incomplete JJM schemes, including Dangerpora, Saidpora, Warpora, Adipora, Aminabad, Tarzoo, Watlab-Sangritop and adjoining areas besides various water-deficient areas of Sopore Town.

The Minister informed the House that the Department is pursuing release of funds with the UT and Central Governments to clear pending work-done claims under JJM schemes on a first-charge basis, so that work on these schemes can be resumed and completed at the earliest. He said the completion and commissioning of these schemes would ensure improved availability and reliability of drinking water supply in the habitations covered under their ambit.

Govt strengthening trauma, critical care services in remote, hilly areas: Sakina Itoo

17 Critical Care Blocks being established across J&K UT

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 24: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Sakina Itoo, Thursday informed the Legislative Assembly that the Government is taking a series of measures to strengthen healthcare delivery, emergency response, trauma care and critical-care services in remote, hilly and difficult-to-access areas of Jammu Division, including the Padder-Nagseni Assembly Constituency.

The Minister, as per an official statement, was responding to a question raised by Sunil Kumar Sharma regarding the availability of doctors, specialists, nurses and paramedical staff, besides infrastructure, diagnostic facilities and emergency healthcare services in remote areas.

The Minister said that the Government is progressively augmenting Emergency, Trauma and Critical Care Services in remote and difficult areas through

strengthening of critical-care infrastructure, emergency and trauma services, ambulance and medical evacuation facilities, human resources and telemedicine support.

She said the focus is on ensuring timely stabilization and management of critically ill and trauma patients at the nearest available health facility, followed by referral to higher centres wherever specialized treatment is required.

Highlighting the initiatives being undertaken under PM-ABHIM, the Minister informed that 17 Critical Care Blocks are being established across the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, comprising 15 blocks of 50 beds each and two blocks of 100 beds each.

These facilities, she said, are aimed at substantially augmenting critical-care capacity and decentralizing specialized services, thereby reducing the need for patients from remote and far-flung areas to undertake long journeys for critical medical care.

The Minister further informed that emergency response and patient transportation facilities have also been strengthened with the addition of 44 Advanced

110 Irrigation Schemes in Sonawari Constituency: Javed Rana

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 24: Minister for Jal Shakti, Javed Rana Thursday informed the J&K Legislative Assembly that 110 Irrigation Schemes in the Sonawari Constituency comes under the purview of Department.

The Minister, as per an official statement, was replying to a question raised by Hilal Akbar lone.

The Minister further informed that the Department has prepared 7 DPRs to repair/restore/upgrade the old/non-functional Irrigation Schemes at an estimated cost of Rs 116.00 cr in total. These shall form the part of shelf of projects for the FY 2027-28, he added.



Life Support (ALS) ambulances, including 22 each for Jammu and Kashmir divisions, taking the total fleet under 102/108 ambulance services to 530.

She said that another 100 ambulances are being added to the fleet, comprising 75 critical-care ambulances and 25 4x4 All-Terrain Ambulances, which will further enhance emergency transportation and evacuation capabilities, particularly in mountainous, remote and difficult-to-access areas.

"An effective ambulance network plays a crucial role in ensuring timely emergency response, initial stabilization and safe transportation of patients, particularly from remote, hilly and geographically challenging areas," the Minister said.

She added that the Department is undertaking need-based augmentation of manpower and emergency-care infrastructure in health institutions, keeping in view patient load, geographical accessibility, institutional requirements and identified service gaps.

Emphasizing the role of technology in bridging geographical barriers, Sakina Itoo said that

telemedicine and specialist outreach services are also being utilized wherever feasible to facilitate specialist consultations and provide clinical support to patients and healthcare institutions in remote areas. The Minister informed that Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) have been signed between the Principals of GMC Jammu, GMC Kathua, GMC Udhampur and GMC Rajouri and the Medical Superintendents of District Hospitals Reasi, Samba, Ramban and Poonch respectively for conducting specialist outreach camps and providing tele-consultation services.

She further informed that the draft MoU between GMC Doda and District Hospital Kishtwar has already been prepared and will be finalized shortly, which will further strengthen specialist support and referral linkages for patients in the region. Regarding healthcare services in Padder-Nagseni, the Minister said that the First Referral Unit (FRU) at SDH Atholi, Paddar, provides referral services to District Hospital Kishtwar or higher health institutions, depending upon the clinical requirements of patients.

CM Omar condoles loss of lives in Greater Noida bus fire

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Sep 24: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday expressed grief over the loss of lives in a tragic bus fire accident in Greater Noida.

The Chief Minister conveyed his deepest condolences to the bereaved families who lost

their loved ones in the accident and prayed for strength to them in this hour of grief. He also wished those injured in the incident a swift and complete recovery.

Nine passengers were killed after a bus travelling from Delhi to Mahoba in Bihar caught fire on the Yamuna Expressway in Greater Noida.

Youth succumbs, another critical in Sopore motorcycle collision

KNO Correspondent

Sopore, Sep 24: A 20-year-old youth succumbed to his injuries while another was critically injured after the motorcycle they were travelling on collided with another motorcycle near Fruit Mandi in Sopore on Wednesday.

An official told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that both riders sustained injuries in the collision and were shifted to SDH Sopore, from where they were referred to Srinagar for

specialised treatment.

The official said that one of the injured, identified as Haziq Maqbool Mir (20), son of Mohammad Maqbool Mir a resident of Kensoo, Bandipora, succumbed to his injuries at SKIMS Soura. The other injured, identified as Aashiq Ahmad Mir (30), son of Ghulam Mohammad Mir a resident of Wagora, Baramulla, is undergoing treatment at the hospital.

Meanwhile, police have taken cognisance of the incident and initiated an investigation. (KNO)

Govt taking measures to restore, maintain landslide, flood-affected roads: Dy CM

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Sep 24: Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary on Thursday informed the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly that the government has undertaken necessary measures for restoration and maintenance of roads affected by landslides, floods and other damages, to ensure traffic connectivity and minimise inconvenience to the general public.

The Deputy CM was replying to a Calling Attention Notice moved by Balwant Singh Mankotia. He assured the House that the government is closely monitoring the condition of the affected roads through the concerned field formations. He said that permanent restoration works have been sanctioned for identified damages, clear landslides and maintain road connectivity, particularly in areas vulnerable to landslides and flood-related damages.

Giving a road-wise status, the Deputy Chief Minister informed the House that the



Nagulta to Razar road comprises of two parts, with Part-I measuring 11.00 km and Part-II measuring 12.700 km, making a total length of 23.700 km.

Surinder Choudhary said that Nagulta-Razar Part-I was completed in January 2024, while permanent restoration works amounting 47.99 lakh have been sanctioned and are

presently 75 per cent complete.

Regarding Nagulta-Razar Part-II, the Deputy Chief Minister said that the 12.700-km road was completed in October 2022 and is currently being maintained by the contractor. He informed that an estimate of 35.29 lakh has been framed for the permanent restoration of damage

caused during 2026–27. He further stated that permanent restoration works, sanctioned at a cost of 95.73 lakh for damages caused by the 2025–26 floods, are already 70 per cent complete.

On the 17 Km long Gujard to Chirdi road, the Deputy Chief Minister informed that the road was completed in December 2021. Permanent restoration works amounting 35.19 lakh have been sanctioned and are presently 90 per cent complete, he stated.

Regarding the Narsoo to Thanidhar road, measuring 20.700 km, the Deputy Chief Minister said that the road was completed in June 2023 and is being properly maintained by the contractor. He informed that permanent restoration works amounting 31.99 lakh, sanctioned for damages caused during the 2025–26 floods, have been completed.

Surinder Choudhary further stated that regular slip clearance is being undertaken on the roads as and when required.

Man sustains leg injury in Samba firing, police begin probe



KNO Correspondent

Samba, Sep 24: A 30-year-old man sustained a gunshot wound to his leg in a firing incident near the Tarore area of Bari Brahmana in Samba district, officials said.

A senior police officer told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that two to three rounds were fired during the incident. The injured man was shifted to AllMS Vijaypur for treatment.

The injured was identified as Vishal Singh (30), a resident of Rahya in Vijaypur.

Police have registered a case and launched an investigation into the incident. (KNO)

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Uproar in Assembly

Sharma told the treasury benches.

He said the people would never forgive the National Conference over its freebie promises. “You want to put balm on the wounds of people by announcing six gas cylinders. People have rejected you. Do you think they will be convinced by your sweet talk? Not at any cost. People will never forgive you for deceiving them in the name of cylinders, electricity, and ration,” the Leader of Opposition added.

He further claimed that the government would not even be able to provide six cylinders. “Today, you are trying to befool people in the name of six cylinders. You will not be able to provide them. Where will you get these six cylinders from? This is betrayal of the poor people of Jammu & Kashmir whose blood has been sucked by you. When will you give these six cylinders?” Sharma asked.

The LoP also demanded that the government give an account of the 24 cylinders promised over the past two years.

Sharma’s sharp remarks triggered strong protests from National Conference MLAs as well as its ally Congress.

“Chanda Choor Kahan Milenge, BJP Ke Daftar Mein (You will find donation thieves in BJP office),” the ruling party legislators shouted.

The BJP responded with slogans such as “Bijli Choor Hai Hai” (Down with electricity thieves) and “Cylinder Choor Hai Hai” (Down with cylinder thieves).

As chaos continued in the House, the Speaker asked the protesting lawmakers to take their seats, after which the situation returned to normal. (KNO)

Govt says key assurance

initiative was announced by the Chief Minister while presenting his second Budget as Finance Minister in February this year, wherein he had proposed six free LPG cylinders annually for AAY households across Jammu and Kashmir.

The provision will extend direct assistance to AAY families across Jammu and Kashmir, helping ease their household expenditure on cooking fuel and providing additional support to economically vulnerable households.

NC govt failed to

electricity, jobs, education and healthcare.

Reacting to the government’s approval of six free LPG cylinders annually for Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families, Sharma termed the decision a “mockery” and questioned the earlier promise of providing one free cylinder every month to every household.

“They had announced that one cylinder would be given to every household every month. Today they have made a big joke with the people of J&K by giving only six cylinders in the name of AAY,” Sharma said while speaking to reporters at the Assembly Secretariat, as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO).

He asked, “If they have to give only to AAY, then where are those 24 cylinders over the past two years? And what about the rest of the people?”

Sharma also questioned the government’s earlier promise of 200 units of free electricity for AAY families. “Two years ago, one year ago, the CM said he would give 200 units of electricity to AAY. That has not been delivered either,” he said.

He further questioned the status of the government’s commitment to provide one lakh jobs, alleging that several promises made to the people remained unfulfilled.

On the Teacher Eligibility Test (TET), Sharma said teachers who had served for years were being asked to prove themselves again, expressing concern over the manner in which the issue had been handled. “Teachers have contributed immensely to building our society and shaping generations. Yet, the government has failed to hold any meaningful debate on their concerns and has shown little sensitivity towards their difficulties. The manner in which this issue has been handled has left the teaching community deeply disappointed,” he said.

On healthcare, Sharma said around 1,500 doctor posts were vacant and 219 ventilators in Government Medical Colleges were non-functional. He also questioned diagnostic facilities and the availability of essential materials, including CT scans and X-ray films. “The health infrastructure cannot be allowed to suffer while the government continues to offer excuses. When patients are struggling to access basic healthcare, the government must answer why critical posts remain vacant and why essential equipment is lying defunct,” he said.

Sharma further criticised the functioning of the Assembly, alleging that issues of public importance were not being adequately discussed. “The government is least bothered to discuss or address issues of public importance. They are just setting up a session for the sake of a session,” he said, adding that the sitting was being held merely to meet the constitutional requirement of convening the Assembly within six months. (KNO)

‘Where is statehood

according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), questioned the BJP over the delay in the restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir.

“Ask BJP where is statehood? They had promised statehood after the elections. Where is that?” he said.

The Deputy Chief Minister said the BJP had made commitments on the issue at the highest constitutional forums, while the National Conference had made its promises directly to the people.

“We made promises before the people, but BJP made promises in Parliament and before the Supreme Court. Who is a bigger liar than them?” he said.

Choudhary said the government had already begun implementing its manifesto commitments and still had three years

remaining in its term.

“We have at least started working on our promises. We still have three years. Remind us in 2029 and hold us accountable then,” he said.

He also accused the BJP of relying on “fake narratives” to mislead the public.

On the government’s legislative agenda, Choudhary said every bill brought before the Assembly was important and that the government would continue to support measures aimed at benefiting the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

“Every bill has its importance. The government works on all issues to ensure people benefit in the larger public interest,” he said. (KNO)

CM Omar reviews

on the draft policy and apprised the meeting 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 ensure that the final framework is balanced, pragmatic and responsive to the evolving needs of Jammu & Kashmir’s industrial sector.

He emphasised that the policy should provide a conducive environment for investment while ensuring that its benefits translate into greater opportunities for local entrepreneurs, businesses and employment generation.

The Chief Minister emphasized that the new policy should provide a comprehensive and competitive incentive framework, with focused support for priority sectors and emerging sunrise sectors.

He also stressed strengthening market access for local industries, further improving ease of doing business, and closely linking incentives with local employment generation and skill development.

The Chief Minister also stressed the importance of a robust implementation mechanism, with clear focus on simplifying processes, facilitating ease of doing business and ensuring effective delivery of the policy’s objectives.

The department was directed to further refine the draft in light of the discussions before it is finalised through the prescribed process.

CM introduces Bill

an extraordinary issue of the Official Gazette.

Assembly adopts

viewed merely from the perspective of whether teachers can pass another examination, as many of them have already appeared in and cleared various tests during their careers.

The Minister emphasised that the contribution and years of service of these teachers need to be duly recognised while considering the matter.

Pertinently, on the first day of the debate, legislators Balwant Singh Mankotia, Ranbir Singh Pathania, Waheed Ur Rehman Para and Khursheed Ahmad Sheikh participated in the discussion and expressed their views on various aspects of the

Resolution.

The debate continued on Thursday with legislators Pirzada Farooq Ahmad Shah, Nazir Ahmad Khan (Gurezi), Dr. Bashir Ahmad Shah (Veeri) also participating in the discussion and putting forth their views on the issue.

Meanwhile, a teacher delegation from Jammu interacted with Education Minister Sakina Itoo and thanked her for taking a stand for the dignity of the teachers.

“Ever since you came to power, we have started feeling that we are the teachers and mentors,” one of the teachers said. (KNO)

‘Over 5.73 lakh

1,735, Kulgam 347, Budgam 336, Bandipora 193 and Srinagar 46 certificates.

In the Jammu division, Jammu district recorded 140 certificates, Udhampur seven, Ramban two, Samba one, Doda three, Reasi 24 and Kathua zero certificates.

The government also said the certificates are being issued to eligible persons belonging to Pahari ethnic groups residing across Jammu and Kashmir, as per the prescribed eligibility criteria. (KNO)

PDD enforces 6-hour

News Observer (KNO), the government in a reply to a question tabled by Leader of Opposition (LoP) in Legislative Assembly said, “JKPDD is presently enforcing Load Curtailment Programme based on the Loss level of the feeders with no curtailment on feeder having less than 15 per cent losses, 3 hours for feeders with 15–40 per cent losses and 6 hours curtailment on feeder with above 40 per cent losses.”

“The areas and the feeders experiencing frequent interruptions, low voltage or inadequate power supply are being identified and monitored by the concerned field officers based on feeder performance, loading conditions, consumer complaints and field reports,” the government said.

It also informed the house that the situation is particularly reviewed during peak summer and winter demand and in remote and hilly areas where difficult terrain and weather conditions may affect supply reliability.

“To address these issues, PDD is implementing RDSS works for strengthening and upgradation of the distribution network, including replacement of old and worn-out conductors with AB Cable, augmentation of undersized conductors, and replacement, augmentation of overloaded and aged Distribution Transformers,” the government informed the house.

It also said that PDD has taken various measures for augmentation and strengthening of the Distribution System across UT of J&K to ensure reliable and uninterrupted power supply through centrally sponsored scheme RDSS and UT Capex. (KNO)

Assembly rejects Bill

children have the freedom to decide where they pursue their studies. She also cited the success of students from government schools, including NEET qualifiers, to highlight the quality

of education being provided.

According to the minister, the focus should be on strengthening public confidence in government schools rather than making enrolment compulsory. She urged the member to withdraw the Bill.

However, Khursheed pressed for the legislation, arguing that infrastructure development alone could not improve the condition of government schools.

He said enrolment was equally important and that increasing the number of students in government schools would contribute to their overall improvement. The MLA also argued that children of ministers, MLAs and government employees should study in government institutions.

Following the discussion, the House rejected the Bill. (KNO)

Dental Surgeon

posts, resulting in surplus manpower in the cadre.

“Thus, the non-referral of the posts is not due to abandonment of the recruitment process, but is based on the availability of vacant posts and financial prudence,” it said.

On the future recruitment of Dental Surgeons, the government said that a proposal for the creation of posts would be worked out after assessing the actual manpower requirements and identifying gaps, if any.

It said the proposal would be processed once the austerity measures imposed under Government Order No. 198-F of 2026 dated May 22, 2026, are withdrawn.

The response indicates that the government currently does not intend to proceed with fresh recruitment merely on the basis of sanctioned or vacant positions, but will first assess the actual requirement of dental manpower and the availability of substantive vacancies.

On the assistance available to Dental Doctors intending to establish their own private clinics in J&K, the government said it provides the necessary regulatory and facilitation framework in accordance with applicable laws, rules, regulations and standards.

The department said doctors seeking to establish private dental clinics are required to fulfil prescribed conditions relating to registration, professional qualifications, premises, bio-medical waste management, patient safety and other statutory requirements.

Eligible Dental Doctors are required to obtain necessary registrations and permissions from the competent authorities before establishing and operating their clinics, it said.

The government clarified that the Health and Medical Education Department does not ordinarily provide direct financial assistance for setting up private dental clinics, unless such assistance is specifically covered under a government scheme or programme.

However, concerned regulatory authorities facilitate applicants in completing the prescribed procedures and obtaining necessary permissions and registrations, the government said. (KNO)

Thousands throng

zikr and other programmes organised to mark the occasion.

Speaking with news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Suhaib Ahmad, a devotee from Habbra Kadal, said the annual Urs brings together people from across Kashmir.

“Every year, we come here to offer prayers and be part of the Urs. Seeing so many devotees gathered here makes the occasion even more meaningful,” he said.

Firdous Jan, a devotee from Budgam, said the Urs serves as an occasion for prayer and remembrance.

“People come here with faith and devotion. It is always special to be part of this gathering,” she said.

The Urs of Hazrat Sheikh Abdul Qadir Jilani (RA) is observed annually at Dastgeer Sahib shrine with special prayers and religious gatherings. The occasion traditionally attracts devotees from across the Valley who visit the shrine to pay homage to the revered Sufi saint.

Elaborate arrangements were put in place around the shrine and adjoining areas to facilitate the movement of devotees and ensure smooth conduct of the annual observance. (KNO)

Speaker’s grilling

that once approved, the revised policy would be implemented across departments, PSUs, boards, and autonomous bodies to rationalise government vehicles, ensure optimum utilisation of resources, and promote economy in government expenditure. He said the General Administration Department had given a go-ahead to the policy on September 1 and that it would be notified within two months.

Intervening in the matter, the Speaker questioned the minister over the delay in implementing the report. “You said it will take two months to notify the new policy. That means the earlier policy is still in vogue. But you also said the 2015 policy is not relevant. You constituted a committee, and they submitted a report. On September 1, the GAD gave your department the go-ahead to issue orders. Tell me, what have you done in these 24 days? How many months do you take to go through files? This is an important matter,” Rather asked.

Pressing further, the Speaker said, “Would it take two more months?” The minister responded that inter-departmental consultations were taking place.

Rather countered, asking what consultations were needed when a high-level committee had already deliberated on the matter and submitted its recommendations. Finding himself cornered, Sharma struggled to defend the delay. “I will study the file and provide you information,” the minister said.

The Speaker then questioned why officers holding charge of more than one department were using two vehicles. “It is a question of state resources. Jammu & Kashmir is a poor state and it cannot afford luxury,” he remarked. (KNO)

No matter how much power we gain, we will never deviate from path of service: PM

PTI

Dewas (MP), Sep 24: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said that from Gujarat to Delhi, service has always been the guiding principle of the BJP's governance and values, and the party will never deviate from the path of service. Modi made the remarks during a video conference with participants of the Seva Sankalp Yatra, which is being taken out from Vadnagar in Gujarat to Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh. The yatra, involving youth from different states, is being organised to mark Modi's 76th birthday and 25 years of his public life as an elected representative. The participants are currently in Madhya Pradesh's Dewas district. PM Modi said, "From Gujarat to Delhi, service has been the core of our governance and values. When service is at the heart of governance, the resolve of 'Nagarik Devo Bhava' (Citizen is God) is at the heart of every policy."

"Our conduct should show that no matter how much power we gain



in politics, our fundamental path will remain service. We will never deviate from it, no matter how high we reach," he asserted. Modi emphasised that people remember work done in the spirit of service and bless those who serve.

"My entire life has been sustained by people's blessings. Their blessings have been my greatest source of energy," he said.

Addressing the Seva Yatra participants, Modi urged them to make service their primary mission. "You must spread the message of service through your

actions, you don't have to preach service. We will convey the message of service not through words, but by service," he said.

"Serve people and let your conduct itself deliver the message of service. Seva Paramo Dharmah — service is the highest religion — we will move forward with this spirit," he added.

During the interaction, a participant said that inspired by Modi, a village in Jhabua district of Madhya Pradesh has been named 'Modi Phalia'. The entire Gen Z generation stands in support of Modi, he added.

Nine killed, 20 rescued as bus catches fire on Yamuna Expressway in Greater Noida

PTI

Noida, Sep 24: Nine passengers were killed after a bus travelling from Delhi to Mahoba in Uttar Pradesh caught fire on the Yamuna Expressway in Greater Noida, officials said on Thursday.

They said 20 passengers were rescued safely during the incident that took place on the intervening night of Wednesday and Thursday.

Chief Fire Officer Pradeep Kumar said the bus, bearing registration number BR32PA8647, was travelling from Kashmere Gate in New Delhi towards Mahoba when it caught fire near the 33-km milestone on the expressway in the Jewar police station area.

"On receiving information, police officials along with local police personnel, a rescue tender, a fire tender stationed at the Jewar toll plaza and four other fire tenders immediately reached the spot and doused the fire," Kumar said.

"More than 20 passengers were rescued safely during the operation. When the police and fire service personnel entered the bus amid the smoke, nine people were found dead inside, apparently due to burns or suffocation," he added.

Kumar said a preliminary investigation indicated that a spark or blast in the air-conditioning system of the



bus might have caused the engine lubricant oil to catch fire, following which the blaze spread rapidly.

Police said they are making efforts to identify the nine deceased.

"A case has been registered under relevant sections and the driver and conductor have been taken into custody," police said in a statement.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has taken cognisance of the incident and announced financial assistance of Rs 2 lakh each to the families of the deceased, police said.

He has also directed officials to ensure proper treatment of the injured and to provide all possible assistance to the bereaved families.

PM condoles loss of lives, announces ex gratia



PTI

New Delhi, Sep 24: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday expressed grief over the loss of lives in a bus fire in Greater Noida and announced an ex gratia of Rs 2 lakh each for the next of kin of the deceased and Rs 50,000 each for the injured.

Nine passengers were killed when a bus travelling from Delhi to Mahoba in Uttar Pradesh caught fire on the Yamuna Expressway in Greater Noida on Wednesday night.

"Distressed to hear about the loss of lives due to a fire tragedy on a bus in Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh. Condolences to those who have lost their loved ones. Praying for the swift recovery of the injured," Modi said in a post on X.

He said an ex gratia of Rs 2 lakh each would be given to the next of kin of the deceased and Rs 50,000 each to the injured from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund (PMNRF).

'Adani Group to invest over Rs 1 lakh cr in Bengal by 2035'

PTI

Kolkata, Sep 24: Adani Group Chairman Gautam Adani on Thursday announced that the conglomerate would invest more than Rs 1 lakh crore in West Bengal by 2035.

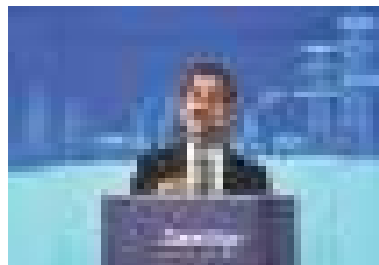
Addressing a gathering after laying the foundation for a 2,000-bed hospital in the New Town area near Kolkata along with Chief Minister Suvedu Adhikari, Adani said the group would spend Rs 4,000 crore on the multi-speciality 'Adani Arogya Mandir', and the project would create 10,000 jobs.

Adani said half of the beds at the not-for-profit hospital would be reserved for economically weaker sections eligible under state and central health insurance schemes, and the facility would also house a medical college along with research and care infrastructure.

"We expect to invest over Rs 1 lakh crore in West Bengal by 2035," Adani said, adding that the investment would span ports, logistics, power generation, power transmission and distribution, roads, bridges and ropeways, green cement and hyperscale data centres.

This is the first formal mention of the Adani Group's proposal to invest in power distribution, which has so far remained the monopoly of R P Sanjiv Goenka Group, through its flagship company CESC Ltd, in Kolkata and Howrah. CESC Ltd supplies power to the twin cities, while the rest of West Bengal, along with Salt Lake and New Town, remains under the state-owned WBSEDCL.

Explaining the rationale for the



infrastructure push, Adani said ports strengthen logistics, logistics attracts industry, industry drives manufacturing, manufacturing needs energy, and energy enables digital infrastructure, adding that "jobs multiply" as the chain builds up.

Calling West Bengal the country's natural maritime and logistics bridge to Northeast India and Southeast Asia, Adani said the state has the potential to become "one of Asia's greatest integrated industrial and economic platforms".

He also announced the group's support for the restoration of the Writers' Building, revitalisation of Kumartuli Ghat, and initiatives to showcase Kolkata's Durga Puja to the world.

Adani described Mundra Port in Gujarat as the group's first 'karmabhoomi' (land where one works), and he hoped West Bengal would become its second 'karmabhoomi'.

Adani said he had visited the Kalighat Temple earlier in the day and prayed for strength to lead, have the will to dream and energy to execute.

West Bengal's awakening and progress would translate into "India's momentum", he added.

BJP launches 'Seva First Innovation Challenge' to mark Modi's 25 years in public life

PTI

New Delhi, Sep 24: The BJP has launched a Seva First Innovation Challenge (SFIC) as part of its month-long nationwide Seva Sankalp Abhiyan to commemorate Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 25 years in public life.

The SFIC is being rolled out across the country to provide young Indians an opportunity to identify problems in their villages, towns and communities and develop innovative and practical solutions to address them, according to the party.

The Seva Sankalp Abhiyan was launched on Modi's birthday on September 17 with a series of programmes focused on youth outreach and public participation.

"Twenty-five years of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi as head of government -- first as chief minister of Gujarat and subsequently as prime minister of India -- have been marked by countless achievements.

"Among the most important have been the prime minister's commitment to creating a better future for India's youth, his trust in their potential, and his belief that innovation can provide solutions to people's problems," said Keralaam BJP president Rajeev Chandrasekhar, who is also the in-charge of SFIC.

Under the initiative, young people will be encouraged to identify problems and build solutions aimed at serving their respective states and the nation. Their efforts will be rewarded with prizes and investment opportunities.

The challenge seeks to encourage young innovators to move beyond identifying problems and



develop solutions that can be tested, demonstrated and potentially implemented, Chandrasekhar said.

Students from schools, polytechnics and colleges, as well as independent innovators, are being invited to participate and become solution-builders for problems affecting their communities.

The SFIC has already commenced its zonal rollout, according to BJP national spokesperson and national media co-in-charge Pradeep Bhandari.

Gujarat, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Odisha launched the challenge on September 18 at Gandhinagar Town Hall, with iHub Gujarat as the nodal institute for the zone.

West Bengal, Jharkhand and Bihar launched it on September 19 at the IIT Kharagpur Research Park in New Town, Kolkata, with IIT Kharagpur as the nodal institute.

The challenge for Delhi, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Punjab and Uttarakhand was launched on September 19 at Delhi Technological University, the nodal university for these states.

NSE enters top-10 most valued firms' club; shares jump over 5 pc



PTI

New Delhi, Sep 24: Shares of National Stock Exchange of India Ltd (NSE) jumped over 5 per cent during intraday trade on Thursday after a muted debut and entered the elite club of top-10 most valued firms by market valuation.

The exchange started trading at Rs 1,800, marginally up by 0.84 per cent from the issue price of Rs 1,785 on the BSE. Further in the trade, shares of the exchange surged 5.21 per cent to Rs 1,878.

NSE commanded a market valuation of Rs 4,54,966.88 crore. With this the exchange entered the elite club of top-10 most valued firms by market valuation on the BSE.

In the top-10 chart, Reliance Industries commanded a market valuation of Rs 16,67,750.07 crore, followed by Bharti Airtel Rs 11,32,338.92 crore, HDFC Bank Rs 11,26,035.78 crore, ICICI Bank Rs 9,57,570.88 crore, SBI Rs 9,12,415.14 crore, TCS Rs 7,57,627.53 crore, Bajaj Finance Rs 6,15,435.85 crore, Larsen & Toubro Rs 5,32,457.60 crore, LIC Rs 5,13,716.31 crore and NSE Rs 4,54,966.88 crore, as per BSE data.

NSE stands at the tenth place in the ranking of most valued firms. It is ahead of Hindustan Unilever, whose market capitalisation (mcap) is Rs 4,54,845.62 crore and Sun Pharma at Rs 4,46,985.57 crore.

Peer BSE has a market valuation of Rs 1,31,946.42 crore. The Rs 22,569-crore initial public offering of NSE, the country's second-largest IPO, received nearly 6 times subscription on the final day of bidding on Monday, led by strong demand from institutional buyers.

The offering was India's second-largest public issue after Hyundai Motor India's Rs 27,870-crore IPO in 2024. The IPO surpassed LIC's Rs 21,000 crore offering in 2022.

The public issue marked a significant milestone for the NSE, whose listing plans had remained stalled for nearly a decade amid regulatory hurdles, including those linked to the co-location controversy.

The mega IPO generated nearly Rs 90,300 crore of demand against the Rs 22,568 crore issue size. The IPO had an Offer for Sale (OFS) of up to 12.64 crore equity shares by existing shareholders.

The exchange had fixed a price band of Rs 1,700-1,785 per equity share for the IPO.

NSE was incorporated in 1992 and recognised as a stock exchange by SEBI in April 1993. It commenced operations in 1994 with the launch of the wholesale debt market, followed shortly after by the launch of the cash market segment.

TMC name-symbol row: SC asks EC to give time frame for final decision

PTI

New Delhi, Sep 24: The Supreme Court on Thursday asked the Election Commission to apprise it of the time frame within which it can finally decide the dispute between two rival factions of the All India Trinamool Congress over its name and "flowers and grass" election symbol. A bench comprising Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justices Joydip Bagchi and V Mohana was hearing a plea of former West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee against the Election Commission's (EC) decision to freeze the TMC's name and party symbol.

The bench asked senior advocate D S Naidu, appearing for the poll panel, to apprise it of the timeline for finally deciding the row over the ownership of TMC's name and election symbol.

The court posted Banerjee's plea for hearing on September 28.



"In fairness, I cannot ask for a stay of this election," senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for Banerjee, said, referring to the October 6 West Bengal assembly bypoll when Justice Bagchi said that the election process had already begun.

Sibal said that the process, adopted by the poll panel, was completely wrong as it was done during the election process, leaving Banerjee without any remedy to challenge the freezing order.

"Maybe what is required is to issue a direction to the (Election) Commission that they should

start hearing the matter, hear it for some time on a day-to-day basis, whatever evidence or proof you have to lead, and decide it," the CJ said. On September 21, the top court agreed to list Banerjee's plea for urgent hearing.

The EC had allotted separate names and symbols to the two rival factions following its interim decision to bar both groups from using the name 'All India Trinamool Congress' and reserved its symbol pending a substantive determination of the dispute.

CWC to meet Sep 29; SIR row on agenda

PTI

New Delhi, Sep 24: The Congress Working Committee will meet on September 29 to discuss the party's roadmap for upping the ante against Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar and the government in the light of reports of differences within the Election Commission over SIR, sources said. The meeting, chaired by Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, is likely to be attended by former party chief Rahul Gandhi, Congress general secretaries Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, Jairam Ramesh, KC Venugopal, among others. Sources said the party's highest decision-making body will strategise on ramping up pressure over its demand for Kumar's removal and cornering the government over the issue.

They said preparations for the upcoming polls are also likely to be deliberated upon.

The Congress on Thursday alleged that Gen Z is being targeted for exclusion and pressed for its demand that Kumar must resign immediately.

The opposition party also said Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah will be held accountable for

their "diabolical designs".

The Congress' attack comes a day after an Indian Express report said that Election Commissioners Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi had objected on record at least 14 times over the last 10 months to decisions and orders they said were issued without their knowledge, even as the national rollout of the SIR was under the supervision of the full commission.

Their objections covered the manner in which the statutory voter registration Form 6 was amended, the handling of additions and deletions from voter lists, and centralised control over the electoral roll database, according to the report.

Under fire over the red flags raised by two of its commissioners over the SIR process, the EC asserted on Wednesday that differing views and observations are a normal part of deliberations in any institution and all its orders carry full legal sanction and follow established statutory procedures.

In a statement, the poll panel also said that not only the three commissioners, but every officer of the EC is fully authorised to give his suggestions to the commission for improving the electoral system.

Judge orders White House to restore access to CNN, MS NOW, Politico

AP

New York, Sep 24 : A federal judge temporarily blocked President Donald Trump's ban of three news outlets from the White House grounds, ordering early Thursday that CNN, MS NOW and Politico must have their access restored.

The ruling hands the outlets at least a temporary reprieve in what has been an extraordinary showdown between Trump and media outlets whose coverage he dislikes.

Trump first announced he was banning the outlets Friday, assailing what he called "fake news," and only later arguing that their reporting was a risk to national security. The outlets argued in a joint lawsuit that the ban was a blatant violation of the First Amendment because it singled them out for the content of their coverage.

In his late-night ruling, US District Judge Timothy Kelly ordered the White House to "immediately return, reinstate, and restore" the three outlets' access. He said they had met the legal thresholds to obtain a temporary restraining order, in effect for 14 days, and were likely to succeed in showing that their press passes were revoked without due process.

"This is a high bar, but Plaintiffs have met it," he wrote.

A few hours later, a CNN reporter said she was denied entry to the White House compound.

Kelly -- whom Trump nominated in 2017 and who ordered a CNN journalist's access restored in a similar case in 2018 -- said the government must have clear standards for conduct that would lead to revoking a press pass. He called the standard of objectionable reporting outlined in letters that the White House sent the outlets "so vague it hardly does the trick."

The judge also made clear he did not buy the administration's argument that the news outlets' reporting endangered national security -- and noted that Trump himself had not used that argument in the beginning, focusing solely on what he called negative coverage.

"Nothing in the record ... suggests that the revocation of Plaintiffs' hard passes was motivated by national security concerns," he wrote.

The ruling came after Kelly heard arguments in an emergency hearing Wednesday. Temporary restraining orders are typically designed to preserve the status quo pending a closer

Trump, Xi head into Washington summit with both sides confident time is on their side

AP

Washington, Sep 24: Presidents Donald Trump and Xi Jinping have no shortage of difficult issues to cover when they sit down for talks on Thursday at the White House.

China has resisted the Trump administration's urgings -- and economic threats -- to use its considerable leverage to prod Iran to agree to US terms to end the nearly seven-month war. Xi wants to see Trump permanently halt arms sales to Taiwan and loosen export restrictions on cutting-edge advanced chips. The two sides on Wednesday agreed to extend by two months a one-year trade truce that was set to expire Nov. 10 as they work to find a more durable agreement.

All the while, both leaders seem to believe that time is on their side as they look to outmanoeuvre the other in what is expected to be the world's most significant economic and national security competition for years to come.

"The president very much believes that over time the US economy is going to grow, the US will get stronger, the US will



keep making advances in AI and on technology, and that ... the US will develop alternative sources of critical minerals and rare earths," said Edgard Kagan, a former US ambassador to Malaysia who is now at the Centre for Strategic and International Studies in Washington. "I think when Xi Jinping sits down with Donald Trump, he very much believes the US is in hurtling decline and that time is on China's side."

The president said Thursday in a social media post that artificial intelligence -- "superintelligence" as he is trying to rebrand it -- will

be high on the agenda amid growing global anxiety that the technology will kill jobs or potentially even wipe out humanity.

"I want to leave it exactly where it is," Trump wrote. "That is China's position also."

Trump has made clear he wants to impress Xi with the visit. The Republican president made sure construction of a new helicopter landing pad on the White House's South Lawn was completed before the visit, and he met Xi and his wife, Peng Liyuan, on Wednesday evening when they flew into Joint Base Andrews

outside Washington.

Trump has lamented that his planned White House ballroom is not being ready for the state dinner in Xi's honour on Thursday evening.

That black-tie event will be held in the White House East Room, featuring décor that "draws on the colour red's longstanding cultural significance throughout Chinese history," according to First Lady Melania Trump.

Dinner will begin with a toast honouring the historic "Toast to Peace" between President Richard Nixon and Chinese Premier Zhou Enlai in Beijing in 1972.

The guest list includes Amazon's Jeff Bezos, Nvidia's Jensen Huang, and Meta's Mark Zuckerberg, among other tech titans staking out positions on whether more safeguards are needed in the race to develop artificial intelligence. US and China still have work to do on trade truce Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said the two leaders may be open to a new "notification mechanism" for AI incidents that could affect national security. But on AI and a host of other thorny issues, it remains unclear whether the leaders can make progress.

PM Modi congratulates Indian medallists Roshibina Devi, Satnam Singh, Salman Khan



KT News Desk

New Delhi, Sep 24: Prime Minister Narendra Modi today congratulated Naorem Roshibina Devi on winning the Silver Medal in the Women's Sanda 60kg event and Satnam Singh and Salman Khan on securing a Bronze medal in the Men's Double Sculls at the Asian Games.

Congratulating Roshibina Devi, the Prime Minister said that winning medals in three consecutive Asian Games is a noteworthy achievement. He praised her consistency, courage and determination are truly commendable. In a post on X, the Prime

Minister's Office shared, "Congratulations to Naorem Roshibina Devi on winning the Silver Medal in the Women's Sanda 60kg event. This is a noteworthy achievement... winning medals in 3 consecutive Asian Games. Her consistency, courage and determination are truly commendable."

Congratulating Satnam Singh and Salman Khan, the Prime Minister described their performance in the Men's Double Sculls as fine and said their composure and coordination stood out.

"May this achievement inspire them to scale even greater heights in the years ahead," the Prime Minister said in another post on X.

Six missiles intercepted as Saudi-led coalition accuses Houthis

AP

Cairo, Sep 24 : Six ballistic missiles targeting Saudi Arabia's port of Yanbu on the Red Sea and the southwestern city of Taif have been intercepted, a Saudi military spokesperson said Thursday, blaming Iran-backed Houthi rebels in neighbouring Yemen as fighting escalates.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility from the Houthis, who in recent days have been blamed for attempted attacks on the kingdom, including on Riyadh, the Saudi capital.

The Associated Press could not immediately verify the latest claim by Saudi Maj. Gen. Turki

al-Malki, who is also the spokesperson for the Saudi-led coalition fighting the Houthis. His statement followed alerts by Saudi civil defence authorities, who later noted the danger had passed.

The fighting near the crucial Red Sea shipping corridor has worried global markets as the Houthis pursue a blockade of Saudi Arabia, the world's top oil exporter, with Iranian support. The new launches came as Yemen's internationally recognised government prepared to take its turn addressing the annual gathering of world leaders at the United Nations. The situation

in the Arab world's poorest country is grim as the fighting backed by the two Middle East powers, Iran and Saudi Arabia, has pulled Yemen back into civil war after four years of relative calm. Over 125,000 people have fled the fighting as a humanitarian crisis grows. While the Saudis have sought military support from allies, their key partner, the United States, has said it has been in contact with the Houthis and indicated it was sitting this fight out.

The rebels have asserted they are targeting only the Saudis and said commercial shipping on the Red Sea otherwise faces no threat, but they have warned other nations against stepping in.



J&K youth participate in sports competitions organised by sports council

Kupwara hosts rugby, Akhnoor holds Thang-Ta, Pulwama hosts women's wushu

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Sep 24: The J&K Sports Council's push to strengthen grassroots sports continued this week, with Rugby, Thang-Ta and Wushu competitions drawing enthusiastic participation across Kupwara, Jammu and Pulwama.

In Jammu, the District Thang-Ta Championship 2026 wrapped up at the Indoor Sports Complex, Akhnoor, following a two-day competition. More than 465 students and athletes from schools and clubs across the district competed across various events and weight categories.

The championship gave young athletes a platform to showcase their skills and gain meaningful competitive experience, while underlining the role district-level infrastructure like the Akhnoor complex plays in bringing organised sport closer to young people. In Kupwara, the 10th District Rugby 7's Championship 2026 got underway at Government Boys Higher Secondary School, Hirri, with more than 150 young athletes from schools, colleges and rugby clubs across the



district taking part.

The championship is giving young rugby players valuable competitive exposure while building their speed, fitness, teamwork and tactical understanding. It is also helping strengthen the district's grassroots rugby structure and identify emerging talent.

Meanwhile in Pulwama, the Khelo India ASMITA Women's Wushu League 2026 was held at Hajahad Public Higher Secondary School, Awantipora, with around 250 young women athletes competing with enthusiasm, discipline and

commitment.

The ASMITA league gave young women athletes a dedicated competitive platform and reinforced the push for greater participation of girls and women in sport. Competitions like this also help identify talent and open pathways to higher levels of competition. Together, the three events reflect J&K Sports Council's continued focus on grassroots sports development, taking organised competition beyond major urban centres and into districts across Jammu and Kashmir.

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THE VVAAN (UA 16+)

HINDI

01:50 PM 04:40 PM 07:30 PM

MIRZAPUR: THE MOVIE (A)

HINDI

05:40 PM

HEART OF THE BEAST (UA 16+)

ENGLISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

03:25 PM

TASRU FDAAR

DJINNS OF KASHMIR (UA 13+)

KASHMIRI, URDU WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLE

02:20 PM