

India rips into Pakistan, says
terror won't repay loans

Reiterating India's principled and unyielding legal position, Randhir Jaiswal added, "For starters, the so-called ruling is not a ruling by the Permanent Court of Arbitration as sought to be projected by the Pakistan minister. It is a ruling by an illegally-constituted court. We see this as just another attempt by Pakistan at distorting reality. Our position on this issue is very clear and we have reiterated it several times."

Speaker expresses displeasure
over delay in policy rollout

both? You should address this issue," Rather asserted. Sharma assured the Speaker that he would inform the House about the latest status of 'One Officer, One Vehicle' policy during the current session of the assembly.

Meanwhile, in written reply to Pathania's question, the government said there was no specific government policy prescribing a uniform ceiling for allotment/retention of official vehicles for individual officers across all departments.

"However, 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 policy. 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/organisations. 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 minister said.

"The proposed 'one vehicle, one officer' principle is intended to ensure rationalisation of government vehicles, optimum utilisation of available resources and economy in government expenditure" he added.

The minister said the state motor garages department conducts necessary audit/physical verification of the vehicle fleet timely.

He informed the House that, pursuant to the Committee's deliberations, a draft Government Vehicle Management Policy, 2026 has been framed and is presently under consideration in the Department.

Oct 31 deadline set for 2027-28
Budget proposals

the year 2027-28 in the right earnest to enable examination, compilation and consolidation of these estimates in the administrative departments for onward submission of the same to the finance department, the government said.

"The administrative departments shall further carry out due scrutiny of estimates and forward their recommendations to the finance department not later than October 31, 2026. To achieve this target date, the budget preparation at the DDO and the HOD level shall be completed by October 20, 2026 and October 25, 2026 respectively. The budget preparation forms for both Revenue Budget and Capital Budget will be made available to all the field offices as well as the administrative departments online through 'Budget Estimation, Allocation and Management System' (BEAMS) only. Hard copies of forms except for B4(i), B4(ii), B-10 and project wise statement shall not be entertained in the finance department. The technical assistance in this regard shall be had from the PMU Team, Finance Department and the Resource Persons available in each district treasury," it added.

Private Members' Bill rejected

Sakeena Itoo, while opposing the Bill, said that the government was already taking several steps to increase enrolment in government schools, where capable and hardworking teachers were serving.

She said that meetings had also been held in this regard and emphasised that such a measure could not be enforced through compulsion.

The minister also said that legislation alone would not address the issue and emphasised that improving enrolment and strengthening government schools required a collective effort and shared responsibility.

She urged the MLA Sheikh Khurshed to withdraw the Bill. However, he declined to withdraw the Bill.

Subsequently, Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather put the Bill to vote and it was defeated by voice vote.

Govt working on establishing AI Centre of
Excellence

technology-enabled development initiatives.

"A phased and coordinated approach has been adopted for development of an AI ecosystem encompassing technological infrastructure, capacity building, skill development, research, innovation, entrepreneurship and deployment of AI-based solutions across different sectors," it said.

It said the Department of Information Technology, being the nodal department for IT and digital initiatives in J&K, is facilitating various initiatives in collaboration with Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, IIT Jammu, Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geo-informatics, academic institutions, industry and other stakeholders.

"The department has initiated the process for establishment of an AI Centre of Excellence in J&K, equipped with advanced AI laboratory and computing infrastructure, incubation and innovation facilities, and support for research, skilling and development of AI-based solutions," the reply said.

It also said that a whole-of-government approach is being pursued for identification and implementation of suitable AI use cases in different departments, with emphasis on improving efficiency of processes, evidence-based decision-making and citizen-centric service delivery.

"The government is also exploring development of IT/ITeS (Information Technology Enabled Services) infrastructure and IT Park in the UT, while leveraging existing institutional facilities such as it is and Polytechnics for imparting AI skills and facilitating access to laboratory and learning centres," the reply said.

Accordingly, it added, that AI Labs, AI Learning Centres and Centres of Excellence are proposed to be promoted at appropriate institutions and locations in a phased, need-based and resource-specific manner, subject to availability of infrastructure, technical expertise and funds, with emphasis on optimal utilisation of existing facilities and creation of sustainable AI capabilities across the UT.

Can't set timeframe for regularisation of
workers: Govt

rary/contractual/need-based workers engaged in different departments.

"The committee has been tasked to examine various issues including humanitarian, legal and financial related to the regularisation of these workers," it said.

"As the matter concerns a diverse set of workers engaged at different points in time under varying terms and conditions of engagement, the proposed policy is required to conform to the applicable statutory provisions, legal position, prescribed recruitment framework while duly accounting for the consequential financial implications," the government said.

"The committee is accordingly undertaking a comprehensive examination for the formulation of a uniform framework that is legally enforceable and administratively

implementable across all departments," it said.

It added that consultations with the concerned departments and examination of the issues from administrative, legal and financial perspectives were required before a final policy decision was taken.

The government stressed it was conscious of the need for structured and sustainable resolution of the matter.

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

In response to a question about the proposed time-frame 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 setting a rigid timeframe at this stage was not appropriate.

"However, 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.

The government also said that it will take a considered decision after completion of the examination of all relevant aspects and receipt of the requisite inputs from the concerned departments and authorities.

There are over 60,000 casual and daily rated workers in Jammu and Kashmir who have been awaiting regularisation for years.

9 killed, 20 rescued as bus
catches fire in Greater Noida

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.

Additional District Magistrate (ADM) Ajeet Kumar Singh told reporters that the incident occurred around 11:20 pm on Wednesday.

"The fire was caused by a short circuit. There were 35 passengers in the bus and nine people lost their lives in the incident. After receiving first aid, the injured were transported to Mahoba in a special vehicle," he said.

"There were approximately 15 people who were sent to Mahoba in a special vehicle, while some left in private vehicles. One woman remains hospitalised and is undergoing treatment at Arogya Hospital," he added.

Singh said the bodies had been sent to a mortuary.

Police said they were 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.

An FIR has been registered at the Jewar police station on a complaint by a passenger, Suneel Kumar of Hamirpur district.

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.

An injured passenger, Rekha, who was travelling with her husband, told reporters that smoke filled the bus after the fire erupted on the driver's side. The driver fled the bus.

She said she managed to escape and fell on the road.

"The bus was stopped and passengers were jumping out of the bus to save themselves," Rekha said.

AAY families to get
6 free gas cylinders

consumer affairs said.

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

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

"The government had promised 12 free cylinders to all households. This six-cylinders announcement is a 'dhokha' (cheating). You have cheated in the name of cylinders, electricity and rations," Leader of the Opposition, Sunil Sharma, said.

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," he said.

The 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.

113 projects stuck due to court
cases, regulatory decisions: Govt

The availability or revalidation of budget provision, surrender of savings or re-appropriation, wherever permissible, was governed by the applicable financial rules and budgetary instructions, it said.

The government also said the progress and financial position of developmental works were reviewed periodically by the concerned departments.

"In cases, where the execution of a work is impeded by a court order, the concerned department pursues the matter before the courts for vacation or modification of the order, wherever legally permissible, it added.

Govt adopted holistic approach to bolster def
preparedness: Rajnath

He pointed out that some leaders had operated under the assumption that just like India, everyone else bats for peace, underlining that this mindset has changed under PM Modi's leadership.

"We've made it clear that the nation possesses both 'power of argument' and 'argument of power', and we will communicate through whichever language the other party understands best. Today, while we work towards establishing global peace through diplomacy, we are simultaneously strengthening our defence and strategic capabilities to counter any potential threat. Events such as Surgical Strikes, Balakot air strike, and Operation Sindoor demonstrated that we possess the necessary capability and resolve to safeguard our national interests... India is a peace-loving nation that has never advocated for war. Yet, we must always remain prepared to safeguard our integrity & sovereignty, and protect our citizens," he said.

Singh highlighted that military preparedness without diplomacy can lead to confrontation and a security dilemma, whereas proceeding solely on the basis of diplomacy, without requisite capability, was perceived as a sign of

weakness and was detrimental to national security.

He termed a balance between the two aspects as essential.

The defence minister enumerated the efforts taken by the government to ensure strategic autonomy and national security while advancing towards the goal of Aatmanirbharta in defence.

"Through QUAD, we're working towards a free, open, and rule-based Indo-Pacific. Through I2U2 (India, Israel, UAE and USA), we've advanced cooperation in new areas. Our active participation in multilateral organisations such as BIMSTEC, BRICS, and SCO has also increased. We've strengthened strategic partnerships, created new platforms for cooperation, and expanded diplomatic reach on the global stage," he explained.

Through actions like 'Operation Sindoor', he said the government had made it clear that India no longer tolerates nuclear blackmail.

He emphasised that terrorism and talks cannot go hand in hand; nor can terrorism and trade coexist. "We've also conveyed the message that no border can prevent us from dismantling terrorist infrastructure. No distinction will be made between terrorists and their sponsors. By suspending the Indus Waters Treaty, we've made it clear that blood and water cannot flow together. Our approach has now evolved beyond 'strategic containment' and 'deterrence by denial' towards 'deterrence by punishment'," he added.

Singh stated that India articulated its new policy against terrorism through Op Sindoor. "Any terror attack originating from Pakistani soil will be considered an 'Act of War' against India. Those contemplating any form of misadventure will be met with a response they deserve," he said.

He underlined that the physical power of any state rests on two pillars, a robust economy and a strong military. "When the economy is strong, more resources become available for national security and defence preparedness. Only when a nation is secure do the conditions become favourable for advancing development initiatives. National security and national development complement each other," he said.

He highlighted that India's economy was growing at a rate of 7.8 percent, and the country was now among the top five economies.

Besides bolstering the economy, he listed the measures taken to augment the defence sector, including a nearly three-fold increase in defence budget from approximately Rs 2.50 lakh crore in Financial Year (FY) 2013-14 to a record Rs 7.85 lakh crore in FY 2026-27.

He noted that defence production has surged to an all-time high of approximately Rs 1.80 lakh crore, with the Defence Forces witnessing continuous modernisation. Ordnance factories undergoing complete transformation, and Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs) registering profits.

Describing 'Terrain', 'Technology' and 'Thinking' as the three Ts crucial to any war, he said that as new domains have emerged in modern warfare, the government is focusing on technological development to tackle the challenges posed by the changing nature of warfare.

He stressed that capabilities are being developed across sectors such as drones, AI, cyber security, electronic warfare, space, and quantum technology. "We've developed indigenous unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) like Rustom, Ghatak, and Nagastra. Our drone warfare capabilities were demonstrated during Op Sindoor. Indigenously developed BrahMos missiles wreaked havoc in Pakistan, demonstrating India's defence capabilities to the world. 'Sudarshan Chakra' is being developed with future combat challenges in mind," he said.

Underlining that national security becomes robust when it is self-reliant, Rajnath Singh stated that work is currently underway with the vision of 'Design in India', 'Develop in India' and 'Manufacture in India'. He noted that over the last 12 years, the allocation for defence research and development has increased by more than 112 percent, from approximately Rs 13,700 crore in FY 2014-15 to over Rs 29,000 crore today. Twenty-five (25) percent of the defence R&D budget has been opened up for the industry, start-ups, and academia, enabling them to actively contribute to defence innovation, he added.

He highlighted that licensing rules in the defence production sector have been simplified, with priority being accorded to indigenous systems through the Defence Acquisition Procedure. He said over 5,500 items have, so far, been included across more than 10 Positive Indigenisation Lists, demonstrating the emphasis on indigenous manufacturing of defence equipment and components that were previously imported.

He also mentioned the transfer of technology for conventional missile systems developed by DRDO to Indian industries, along with the establishment of 15 Industry-Academia Centres of Excellence to foster research. He added that very few countries possess the advanced Multiple Independently Targetable Re-entry Vehicle technology, which India successfully tested with the Agni-5 missile.

To strengthen the domestic supply chain, Rajnath Singh asserted that Defence Industrial Corridors have been set up in various parts of the country to boost defence manufacturing, stressing that instead of relying solely on large defence manufacturers, start-ups and MSMEs have been integrated into defence innovation. "Indian defence manufacturers, MSMEs, and vendors are being brought together through the Srijan Defence Equipment Empowerment Platform. So far, over 41,000 vendors and more than 2.7 lakh products have been listed on this platform.

He emphasised that the Government is working not only to enhance the operational capabilities of the soldiers but also to ensure their welfare. "Special attention has been paid to the welfare of veterans and their families. ECHS facilities have been expanded. The SPARSH platform was launched with the objective of ensuring 'Right Pension, Right Pensioner, Right Time'. The 'One Rank One Pension' policy, which had been pending for years, has also been implemented. The courage, sacrifice, and service of our brave soldiers should be honoured not merely through words, but by ensuring their well-being and comfort. In this spirit, earlier this month, a lifetime free train travel facility was granted to all soldiers awarded the 'Sena Medal' and selected members of their families," he said.

Sessions court can't impose 'till rest of life'
sentence for murder: SC

mission.

"We are of the view that there is no doubt that the Trial Court was competent to impose the punishment of imprisonment for life upon the appellants for the offence under Section 302 read with Section 34 IPC. However, at the same time, the Trial Court was not competent to impose a special category sentence that the appellants 'to remain in prison till rest of their life', which in substance and effect, excludes the statutory power of remission or commutation," the verdict said.

The judgment was delivered in the criminal appeal filed by Naval Kishore and co-convict, arising from the killing of a woman and her two minor daughters in Ludhiana, Punjab in December 2009.

The case arose from the murder of Pinki alias Simran, her eight-year-old daughter Divya and five-year-old daughter Pooja at Ludhiana.

The trial court, by its 2014 judgment, convicted the accused and sentenced them to rigorous imprisonment for life and directed them "to remain in prison till rest of their life", besides imposing a fine of Rs 2,500 each.

The Punjab and Haryana High Court dismissed their appeal on December 12, 2022 and affirmed both the conviction and sentence. The top court also affirmed the conviction of the appellants under Section 302 of the IPC.

"However, the sentence imposed upon the appellants by the Trial Court, which was affirmed by the High Court, is modified to the extent indicated... The direction requiring the appellants 'to remain in prison till the rest of their life' is hereby set aside and in substitution thereof, both the appellants are sentenced to undergo rigorous imprisonment for a period of 25 years, without the benefit of any statutory remission," the apex court said.

Before the top court, the key issue was whether a trial court was competent to impose, in addition to life imprisonment under Section 302 IPC, a direction that the convicts remain in prison for the rest of their natural lives.

No matter how much power we gain, service will
remain our path: Modi

sage 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.

LA passes resolution seeking TET
exemption for teachers

The resolution states: "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."

It urges the union government to take all necessary legal steps and issue the requisite notification through the National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) for granting exemption from the TET requirement.

Sakeena thanked all legislators for expressing their concerns and coming together to unanimously support the resolution. She said the resolution was moved in the House with the intention of addressing the concerns of teachers who had been serving the education sector for years.

She said that the issue should not be viewed merely from the perspective of whether teachers can pass another examination, as many of them had already appeared in and cleared various tests during their careers. "These teachers have made immense sacrifices, devoted their time and energy and worked tirelessly to prepare our students for various professions, including doctors and engineers, while helping secure their future. The credit for their achievements goes to their teachers," she said.

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

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

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

Following the detailed two-day discussion, the House passed the resolution by voice vote.

Kavinder inspects NH 4-laning work
ahead of Prez's visit to Bilaspur

to the movement and connectivity around AIIMS Bilaspur in view of the forthcoming visit of President Murmu.

He emphasised the need to ensure timely clearance of the passage and completion of necessary arrangements well in advance.

He also stressed upon maintaining smooth, safe and regulated traffic movement during the visit, while ensuring that commuters & local residents face minimum inconvenience.

He also directed the officials to maintain close coordination among all concerned agencies and ensure that all requisite arrangements were completed within the stipulated timelines.

The governor underscored that development and infrastructure works should be carried out with due regard to public convenience, road safety and the requirements of important national and state-level visits.

Working towards forging better future, says

Trump; Let's race, not wrestle: Xi

Washington, Sep 24: US President Donald Trump and China's President Xi Jinping held talks on a range of issues, including artificial intelligence, the Iran war and market access for farmers, with the host vowing to work towards forging a better future for the two nations.

After the ceremonial welcome at the South Portico of the White House, brief opening remarks and a military review in the Rose Garden, Trump and Xi, along with their respective delegations, were in the Oval Office for substantive talks.

"We had a great meeting," Trump told reporters as he took Xi for a walk on the new helipad at the South Lawn of the White House and the under-construction Ballroom.

The two leaders were also seen walking to the Marine One helicopter and boarding the chopper and exiting after a while.

President Xi departed at 1:29 pm local time with Trump waving to him as he entered the car.

Earlier, Trump said he and Xi have forged a "truly great friendship" since his first election in 2016, built on mutual respect and the vital interest of our people.

"Just as our people worked together to win that war, President Xi and I will continue working together to forge a better future for both of our nations," Trump said in brief opening remarks at the White House, recalling America's role in World War II.

No major US TV network aired live footage of the Trump and Xi meeting or the ceremonies at the White House.

In his opening remarks, Xi said he was visiting the US at President Trump's invitation to carry on our friendship, expand cooperation, and promote the well-being of both our peoples.

"We should coexist in peace. As I have said many times, China and the United States, as two major countries, stand to gain from cooperation and will both lose in confrontation," Xi said in the remarks delivered at the ceremony in the Grand Foyer of the White House.

He said the two countries should avoid the Thucydides Trap, the theory that a rising power and an established power are likely to go to war.

"We do not need to avoid mentioning competition, but our competition should be a healthy one, and should be kept within bounds. It should be a race of catching up with one another, not a wrestle in which when either wins, or loses," Xi said.

"China and the US must hold the line of no conflict and no confrontation between us.