

JAMMU AND KASHMIR LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT

JAMMU

**1ST LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE
UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR**

(5th SESSION)

BULLETIN

Friday, March 27th, 2026

The House met today on 27th of March, 2026 at 10:00 A.M. in the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly Hall, Jammu.

Advocate Abdul Rahim Rather, Hon'ble Speaker in the Chair.

As soon as the Hon'ble Speaker took the Chair, both Ruling and Opposition Members rose from their seats. The ruling party raised slogans against the US and Israel and condemned the "barbaric" attack on Iran. Simultaneously, opposition members demanded a National Law University (NLU) for Jammu. Meanwhile, Mr. M.Y. Tarigami (CPIM) also condemned the US-Israel attack and urged the House for condemning the barbaric attack on Iran. The Hon'ble Speaker requested the protesting members to resume their seats, assuring them of ample time to speak in an orderly manner, once Question Hour is concluded.

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Starred Questions: 34 Starred Questions set down in the Question list were answered in writing, out of which one (01) question was called and answered orally as well.

Un-starred Questions: Written replies to 38 un-starred questions set down in the Question List were distributed among the concerned Hon'ble Members.

Note 1: At this stage, Hon'ble Members from both the Opposition and the Ruling Party continued their protest despite repeated requests from the Chair. Meanwhile, Hon'ble Member, Mr. Irfan Hafiz Lone (INC), supported by Mr. Nizam-ud-din Bhat (INC) and Ch. Iftikhar Ahmed (INC) also condemned the attack and killing of innocent civilians in Iran while holding placards. They attempted to enter the well of the House; however, the Watch and Ward staff prevented them from doing so.

Hon'ble Member, Mr. Tanvir Sadiq (NC), holding a portrait of the Supreme Leader of Iran, Syed Ayatollah Khamenei and supported by other members of the ruling party, also attempted to enter the well. They raised slogans against US-Israeli military action in Iran and repeatedly demanded a condemnation from the House. Hon'ble Member, Mr. Nazir Ahmad Khan (NC) requested the Chair to ask the Leader of the House to speak on the issue and demanded a statement from him. Hon'ble Member Shri S. S. Slathia, (BJP), also sought a

response from the Government regarding the establishment of a National Law University in Jammu.

Amidst the protests, the Hon'ble Speaker again requested the members to take their seats, but they did not pay any heed and continued their protest. Consequently, the Hon'ble Speaker adjourned the House for 30 minutes.

Note 2: At this stage, the House was adjourned at 10:29 A.M. to meet again after half an hour.

The House re-assembled at 11:10 A.M.

Advocate Abdul Rahim Rather, Hon'ble Speaker in the Chair.

After the House resumed, Hon'ble Member, Mr. Tanvir Sadiq alongwith all the Members of National Conference stood in solidarity with Iran and stated they would end their protest only, if the Leader of the House addresses on the "barbarity unleashed on Iran" and assassination of the Supreme Leader, Syed Ayatollah Khomeini. Hon'ble Chief Minister, Mr. Omar Abdullah responded that the House lacks unanimity, it would be inappropriate to speak on its behalf in such a situation. Hon'ble Member, Shri Sham Lal Sharma (BJP) argued that the matter should not be discussed as it is an international issue falling strictly within the domain of the Government of India. However, Hon'ble Member, Mr. Nizam-ud-Din Bhat (INC) countered Mr. Sharma's

argument, asserting that the matter could be discussed as it is a humanitarian issue. He added that no legislative rules prohibit members from speaking on such matters.

Hon'ble Member, Mr. Javed Hassan Baig (NC) stood in support of his party urging the opposition not to view every issue through a religious prism. Subsequently, Hon'ble Member Mr. Muzaffar Iqbal Khan (Ind.) stated that this House is fully competent to discuss foreign policy and formalize requests. This matter does not concern a single community alone and this House has the full authority to do so.

Furthermore, he said that everything is permissible, unless specifically prohibited. Since, no such prohibition by law exists within the rules, the discussion is permissible.

 Hon'ble Member, Shri R. S. Pathania (BJP) informed the House that it cannot pass a Resolution on the issue as it is primarily a concern of the Gol. He noted that India has specifically condemned the matter and the Hon'ble Prime Minister has already stated his position in Parliament. We are governed by a rule of law and under Rule 58 and 59 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the J&K Legislative  Assembly question and discussion shall not relate to a matter which is not primarily concern of the Government. Besides, a resolution shall not relate to a matter which is under the jurisdiction of Gol.

In response, the Hon'ble Speaker emphasized that the House was not passing any resolution. He remarked that since the GoI has already condemned the situation, there should be no objection to this House for doing the same, or to the Hon'ble Chief Minister speaking on the issue.

Consequently, the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Mr. Omar Abdullah made a statement maintaining that the crises directly impacts India, as many citizens including those from J&K are currently stranded in Iran. He noted that the impact of the attack is visible in the emotional distress of the people and the long queues at petrol pumps.

In his concluding remarks, he strongly condemned the conflict on behalf of the House characterizing it as "unjust and illegal war imposed on Iran". He expressed condolences for all those who lost their lives in the conflict, specifically mentioning Syed Ayatollah Khomeini and his associates. Subsequently, appealed the GoI to utilize all diplomatic efforts to bring the war to an end.

 ➤ **PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE**

 **Mr. OMAR ABDULLAH, HON'BLE CHIEF MINISTER** laid on the Table of the House, a copy of each of the following Reports:-Annual Report of Jammu and Kashmir Power Development Corporation Limited (JKPDCL), for the financial year 2016-17 (Report-1);

- i. Annual Report of Jammu and Kashmir Power Development Corporation Limited (JKPDCL), for the financial year 2017-18 (Report-2);
- ii. Annual Report of Jammu and Kashmir Power Development Corporation Limited (JKPDCL), for the financial year 2018-19 (Report-3); and
- iii. Annual Report of Jammu and Kashmir Power Development Corporation Limited (JKPDCL), for the financial year 2019-20 (Report-4).

➤ **Mr. OMAR ABDULLAH, HON'BLE CHIEF MINISTER** laid on the Table of the House, a copy of each of the following Books:-

- (i) Finance Accounts (Volume I) for the Year 2024-25;
- (ii) Finance Accounts (Volume II) for the Year 2024-25; and
- (iii) Appropriation Accounts for the Year 2024-25.

➤ **MOTIONS FOR ELECTIONS TO COMMITTEES**

i. **Mr. OMAR ABDULLAH, HON'BLE CHIEF MINISTER** moved the following Motion:-

"That the Members of the House do elect in accordance with Rule 344 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, eleven members to serve on the Committee on Public Accounts for the period ending 31 March, 2027."

ii. **Mr. OMAR ABDULLAH, HON'BLE CHIEF MINISTER** moved the following Motion:-

"That the Members of the House do elect in accordance with Rule 346 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, eleven members to serve on the Committee on Estimates for the period ending 31st March, 2027."

iii. **Mr. OMAR ABDULLAH, HON'BLE CHIEF MINISTER** moved the following Motion:-

"That the Members of the House do elect in accordance with Rule 349 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, eleven members to serve on the Committee on Public Undertakings for the period ending 31st March, 2027".

➤ **BILLS FOR INTRODUCTION, CONSIDERATION AND PASSING:**

The Motion for Introduction of following three (03) Bills was moved by the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Mr. Omar Abdullah. Thereafter, the Consideration and Passing Motion was also moved. All the three (03) Bills were accordingly passed by the House with the voice vote:-

1. "A Bill to authorize payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the consolidated Fund of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir for the services of the financial year 2025-2026." (L.A. Bill No. 04 of 2026).

2. "A Bill to authorize payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the consolidated Fund of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir for the services of the financial year 2025-2026." (L.A. Bill No. 06 of 2026).
3. "A Bill to authorize payment and appropriation of certain sums from and out of the consolidated Fund of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir for the services of the financial year 2026-2027." (L.A. Bill No.05 of 2026).

Note 3: At this stage, Hon'ble Member, Mr. Pawan Kumar Gupta (BJP) requested to speak on L.A. Bill No. 05 of 2026, However, the Hon'ble Speaker denied the request, clarifying that any member wishing to speak on Appropriation Bill must provide advance notice to both the Speaker and the Assembly Secretariat. The points intended for discussion should not have been raised previously during the Demand for Grants. Furthermore, the scope of discussion on Appropriation Bill is limited; Members may only raise issues that have not yet been addressed in the current session. Since, Mr. Gupta had not submitted the mandatory notice, as such, he is unable to speak on the Bill. Besides, the Hon'ble Speaker informed the House that only two Members, Mr. Mubarik Gul (NC) and Mir Saifullah (NC), had followed the procedure. When called upon to speak, Mir Saifullah (NC) stated that he has received a reply and did not wish to press the matter

further. Hon'ble Member, Mr. Mubarik Gul (NC) also did not speak after receiving written reply to the points raised.

Note 4: At this stage, Hon'ble Member, Mr. Saif-ud-Din Bhat (NC) supported by Hon'ble Members, Mr. Hasnain Massodi (NC) and Mr. Nizam-ud-Din bhat (INC) drew the attention to the withdrawal of their assigned escorts. They stated that this withdrawal of Security escorts adversely affected their ability to discharge their duties and made travel nearly impossible. In response, the Hon'ble Speaker directed the Government to take note of the issue.

➤ **SHORT DURATION DISCUSSION**

At this stage, Hon'ble Speaker while initiating Short Duration Discussion emphasized the urgent need for a comprehensive legal framework to tackle the growing challenges of fake news and smear campaign on social media across J&K. He stressed that the Law should be formulated following an extensive study of existing legal frameworks and best practices adopted by other states and jurisdictions. He emphasized that such legislation must create a robust mechanism to counter fake news/misinformation and safeguarding democratic values and responsible communication.

Hon'ble Member, Mr. Ranbir Singh Pathania initiated discussion on tackling fake news and misinformation in Jammu and Kashmir

having serious implications for governance, public accountability, social harmony, cyber security and democratic functioning.

The following Hon'ble Members participated in the Short Duration Discussion:-

1. Dr. Bashir Ahmad Shah Veeri (NC)

Note 5: At this stage, Hon'ble Speaker expressed displeasure on absence of the Secretary to the Government, Information Department and Director, Information in the House during this critical discussion. He directed the Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister to take serious note of their casual approach towards departmental matters.

2. Ch. Iftikhar Ahmed (INC)

3. Mr. Sajad Shaheen (NC)

4. Engineer Khursheid (NC)

5. Mr. Pawan Kumar Gupta (BJP)

6. Mr. Nazir Ahmad Khan (NC)

7. Mr. Rafiq Ahmad Naik (PDP)

8. Mr. Nizam-ud-Din Bhat (INC)

9. Dr. Rameshwar Singh (Ind.)

10. Dr. Sajjad Shafi (NC)

11. Mr. Saif-ud-Din Bhat (NC)

12. Pirzada Farooq Ahmad Shah (NC)

13. Mr. Sham Lal Sharma (BJP)

14. Aga Syed Muntazir Mehdi (PDP)

Note 6: At this stage, Hon'ble Minister, Mr. Satish Sharma emphasized that genuine journalists should be encouraged, besides those spreading fake news must face strict action.

Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister, Mr. Surinder Kumar Choudhary replied on the short duration discussion and informed the House that the Government will ensure corrective measures to promote ethical news dissemination and curb fake news/misinformation. While affirming the Media's role as the "Fourth Pillar of Democracy" he urged media outlets to introspect and strengthen their credibility. He also expressed regrets over the prevalence of below the belt content and character assassination being done by some news portals at the behest of some politicians.

 The House then adjourned at 1:18 PM, to meet again at 10:00 AM on Saturday, the 28th of March, 2026 at Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly Hall, Jammu.

