

!! Continuations from Page 1 !! CM pays tribute...

must be sought from the concerned officers," he said.
Earlier, Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather paid homage to former Governor Satya Pal Malik, former minister; Guleshan Singh Charak, former MLA Dina Nath Bhagat, former MLC, Ghulam Nabi Shahneen, former MLC, Ramesh Arora, former MLC, Sardar Mohammad Akhlaq Khan and former legislator Mohammad Sultan Pandithpori.

He reflected on the lives of the former Governor, former minister and other legislators of the House, noting that they had made significant contributions to the nation's development, including that of Jammu and Kashmir.

The Speaker also urged legislators to make the best use of most of the limited time available so that the proceedings prove meaningful and beneficial to the people of Jammu and Kashmir

During the obituary reference, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah; Leader of Opposition, Sunil Kumar Sharma; Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Kumar Choudhary; Minister Javed Ahmad Rana, MLA's Dr. Bashir Ahmad Shah Veeri, Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal,Ghulam Ahmad Mir, Rafiq Ahmad Naik, Dr Rameshwar Singh, Mubarak Gul, Salman Ali Sagar; M.Y Tarigami, Khurshheed Ahmad Sheikh, Pawan Gupta, Sajad Gani Lone, Aijaz Jan, Abdul Majid Bhat Larmi, Nizamuddin Bhat, Vikram Randhawa, Balwant Singh Mankotia, Choudhary Mohammad Akram, Nazir Ahmad Khan Gurezi, Iftikhar Ahmed and Narinder Singh also paid tributes to the departed souls.

Legislators across party lines lauded the contributions of their former colleagues, recalling their dedication to public service and commitment to the welfare of the people. The Speaker and members of the house also held two minute silence in their remembrance.

Stage set for...

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday expressed confidence that his party will win all four seats but deep down, he would also know that it would require every non-BJP vote to be cast in favour of NC candidates.

Congress legislators did not attend a key meeting of allies convened by the NC on Wednesday, two days ahead of the Rajya Sabha polls.

Abdullah also sought to play down the absence of Congress, saying every party follows its own procedure.

"They (Congress) have their own process. There is a difference between their party and ours. Their leadership has to wait for the signal of their high command, while we take our decisions here. This is not something new, and no one should have any problems with it," Abdullah told reporters.

Asked if Congress' abstention will hurt the chances of NC candidates in the Rajya Sabha polls, Abdullah said as far as the elections are concerned, the national party has regularly maintained that it will not support the BJP, nor will it allow the saf-ron party to win.

"So, let them have their meetings, no one should have any objection to that. The signal from the (Congress) high command will not be such that will help the BJP," he added.

Abdullah also said he is thankful to CPM leader M Y Tarigami and Independents for attending the meeting.

"The enthusiasm I see in my members and those with us, I am hopeful that the NC candidates will emerge winners on all four seats," he said.

Asked if the opposition PDP was ready to support the NC candidates, Abdullah said while PDP president Mehbooba Mufti has not made any announcement, she has assured that a right decision will be taken after consulting her party colleagues.

"One of our candidates, Shammi Oberoi, met Mehbooba Mufti and requested her on behalf of the party to vote in favour of the NC to make our candidates success-ful. First, our president (Farooq Abdullah) had dialled Mehbooba.

"While the PDP has not announced anything, she (Mehbooba Mufti) has told Farooq Abdullah as well as Oberoi that she will discuss the matter with her party colleagues and take a right decision," he said.

The Union territory, with four Rajya Sabha seats, had remained unrepresented in the Upper House since February 15, 2021, the day when Ghulam Nabi Azad and Nazir Ahmed Laway completed their terms.

Two other members -- Fayaz Ahmed Mir and Shamsheer Singh Manhas -- completed their terms on February 10 the same year.

GoC assesses security...

the region. "GoC White Knight Corps, along with GoC Delta Force, visited Basantgarh to review the security mechanism and commended troops of Delta Force for their exceptional dedication and commitment to duty," the White Knight Corps said in a post on X.

The GoC emphasised maintaining a proactive stance, adopting cutting-edge strategies, and upholding the highest standards of professionalism in operational conduct. The Dudu-Basantgarh area, along with other parts of the Jammu region, has been the site of multiple search and anti-terror operations throughout 2025.

Basantgarh has witnessed several encounters and terror incidents in the past.

It lies on a traditional infiltration route used by Pakistani terrorists who enter from the International Border in Kathua and move via higher reaches to Doda and Kishtwar districts in the Jammu region and further into the Kashmir Valley.

Court convicts former...

verification established the accused's genuine date of birth.

After trial, the Court held that the prosecution had proved the case beyond reason-able doubt, relying on convincing documentary, expert, and oral evidence presented by the ACB.

Consequently, the Court sentenced the accused to seven years of simple imprisonment, imposed a Rs fine of Rs 3,52,760, and directed his lodgment at Central Jail Srinagar.

An ACB official, commenting on the judgment, said, "This conviction underscores the Bureau's unwavering commitment to ensuring accountability and integrity in public service. No individual who misuses public office for personal gain will be allowed to go unpunished. The ACB remains steadfast in its mission to root out cor-ruption at all levels of administration."

Central Drugs Laboratories...

on the CDSO portal on a monthly basis.

For September 2025, Central Drugs Laboratories have identified 52 drug sam- ples, and State Drugs Testing Laboratories have identified 60 drug samples to be not of standard quality," an official said.

Identification of drug samples as NSQ is done based on failure of the drug sam- ple in one or more specified quality parameters. The failure is specific to the drug products of the batch tested by the government laboratory, and it does not warrant any concerns on the other drug products available in the market, the officials said.

Further, in September, one sample from the state of Chhattisgarh was identified as a spurious drug, which was made by an unauthorised manufacturer using a brand name owned by another company. The matter is under investigation, and action will be taken as per the Act and Rules.

This action of identifying NSQ and spurious medicines is taken on a regular basis in collaboration with state regulators to ensure that these drugs are identified and removed from the market.

NC issues whip...

been a parliamentarian for 22 years in his 45-year political career, said he has to take care of Jammu and Kashmir now.

"I have done a lot of Parliament. Now, I have to take care of my home. When the house is prosperous, the nation will also be prosperous. We have to strengthen our home, remove its difficulties, and give respite to the people here. That is our aim," he said.

The NC chief said there is no need for him to go to Parliament as it is the turn of the younger generation to go to Parliament now.

"The young will go there now, who will speak about our difficulties there. Our Parliament members are not for us only, they will have to see about the nation as well. They have to address the problems of the nation," he added.

Responding to a question on Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath urg- ing people to check for "halal certification" on products before purchasing them, Abdullah said the people of the state have to decide on that.

"You should ask that question to the people of UP. It is not related to us. The peo- ple of UP should decide on that," he said.

However, the former chief minister of J-K said India is a country with unity in diversity.

"As long as we strengthen diversity, India will be strong. It is a question of time, change takes place, and no government remains forever. Their time to leave will also come. We should not lose hope, we should have patience and tolerance. Everything will be alright till we remain patient. God is for everyone, whichever religion a per- son belongs to. This is God's biggest blessing on India," he said.

Talking about the US tariffs, Abdullah said that should be rolled back.

"See the amount of tax America has imposed on us. What is that? Are we trying to destroy the world? I want to tell Trump to roll it back and move forward, think- ing that while God has bestowed powers on him, the same God can take those pow- ers away.

"Where did the British Empire or the Persian Empire go? Where is the Roman Empire or the Russian Empire? They were destroyed. All the empires get destroyed when their arrogance reaches their peak," Abdullah added.

Responding to a question about the people of Kashmir being angry with the instal- lation of smart electricity metres, the NC president said the people need to under- stand that the government has to buy power worth crores of rupees. He also called upon the people to use electricity judiciously.

In a press conference, People's Democratic Party (PDP) President Mehbooba Mufti announced its support to the ruling National Conference in the upcoming Rajya Sabha elections.

"We have decided to give support to the NC and vote for their candidates," party chief Mehbooba Mufti said at a press conference.

The decision has been taken to keep the BJP away, she said.

"The PDP, which has three votes, will vote to keep the BJP away and vote for such a party which does not deserve it," Mehbooba asserted.

"But these people (NC) do not think like that. When the PAGD was created, we wanted to give a collective leadership to J-K so as to fight the BJP and its onslaught. But, they broke it when they realised it does not serve them any benefit," she said, referring to the People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) - a col- lective of political outfits seeking restoration of special status.

Chugh addresses rally...

failing to deliver even a single promise made in its manifesto. He said the people still remember how Omar Abdullah abandoned them after winning from the con- stituency.

Chugh said that Omar Abdullah had promised to retain the Budgam seat if elect- ed, but later left it "on God's mercy," never returning to thank the voters who ensured his victory. "He didn't visit the constituency even once after the election. Such arrogance and detachment from the people will now face a democratic answer," Chugh said.

He said the National Conference, from Sheikh Abdullah to Farooq Abdullah to Omar Abdullah, has only thrived on dynasty politics, and now preparations are underway to launch the next generation. "For decades, this family has treated Jammu and Kashmir like a personal estate. Every reign has been marked by betray- al, nepotism, and neglect," he said.

Chugh accused the Omar-led government of ignoring key sectors such as tourism, employment, and infrastructure. "Not a single promise has been fulfilled. When asked about tourism, Omar Abdullah talks about his trips to Mumbai and Delhi, but what about the people of Kashmir? Has he ever sat with them and listened to their struggles?" Chugh questioned.

Chugh said Prime Minister Narendra Modi has transformed governance in Jammu and Kashmir, ensuring that benefits reach every village and youth without discrimination. "Under Modi's leadership, the youth of J&K are reaching interna- tional levels in sports, tourism is booming, and development is visible on the ground," he added.

Calling upon the people to support BJP candidate Aga Syed Mohsin, Chugh said, "This election is not just about one seat; it is about ending dynastic misrule and giv- ing Budgam a leader who stands with the people. The BJP is committed to trans- parent governance, real development, and dignity for every citizen of Jammu and Kashmir."

Sat Sharma said that the BJP has gained tremendous ground in Jammu and Kashmir over the years through consistent hard work and people's trust. "The acceptance of BJP has grown across regions because the party represents every sec- tion and community. Today, people look to BJP with hope because it stands for Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayas. Under Prime Minister Modi, India has emerged as the world's fourth-largest economy, driven by trans- parency, integrity, and inclusive growth," he said.

He added that the Congress and its allies looted the nation for years, while the Modi government established a corruption-free system that works for the poor and marginalized. "The BJP will make history in Budgam as it did in other regions," Sharma asserted.

Ashok Koul said the BJP's growing strength in Kashmir reflects people's faith in Prime Minister Modi's vision. "The enthusiasm among the workers and people is a clear sign that J&K is ready for change. We are moving towards a new era of peace, progress, and empowerment under the BJP," he said.

Speaking on the occasion, BJP candidate Aga Syed Mohsin thanked the party leadership and the people of Budgam for their overwhelming support. He assured that if elected, he would dedicate himself to resolving local issues, empowering youth, and ensuring that the benefits of development reach every family in the con- stituency.

World witnessed Indian...

n addition, our Navy has provided safe passage to approximately 335 merchant vessels, equalling approximately 1.2 million metric tons of cargo and a trade value of USD 5.6 billion," he said.

This, he said, is proof that India has now become a trusted and capable partner in the global maritime economy.

The defence minister also underlined the need to advance naval strategy and thinking in sync with the rapidly evolving world.

"We must work together in three areas: capability, people, and partnerships. Capability means technology and strength; people means sailors and their families; and partnerships mean industries, academia and international cooperation," he said.

"When these three come together, our Navy will emerge as an even more reliable and powerful force," he said.

Singh lauded the Indian Navy for enhancing its capabilities through indigenous equipment and emerging as the flag bearer of Aatmanirbhar Bharat (self-reliant India).

"In the last 10 years, nearly 67 per cent of the Navy's capital acquisition contracts have been with Indian industries. This proves that we are no longer dependent solely on imports," he said.

Singh said the Indian Navy is working on 194 innovation and indigenisation proj- ects. "Today, our Navy has become a pioneer in the country's self-reliance, innova- tion, and industrial development," he said.

Govt initiates process...

letter is sent a month before the incumbent CJI retires on attaining the age of 65 years.

Justice Surya Kant is the seniormost judge after the CJI and is next in line to become the head of the Indian judiciary.

Justice Surya Kant, born in a middle-class family on February 10, 1962, in Hissar district of Haryana, became a top court judge on May 24, 2019.

Once appointed, he will have a tenure of nearly 15 months as the CJI till his retire- ment on February 9, 2027.

Justice Surya Kant brings to the country's top judicial office a wealth of experi- ence spanning two decades on the Bench, marked by landmark verdicts on abroga- tion of Article 370, free speech, democracy, corruption, environment and gender equality. Justice Surya Kant was part of the historic bench that kept the colonial- era sedition law in abeyance, directing that no new FIRs be registered under it until a government review.

He nudged the Election Commission to disclose details of 65 lakh excluded voters in Bihar, showing his commitment to electoral transparency. He also made history by directing that one-third of seats in bar associations, including the Supreme Court Bar Association, be reserved for women.

Justice Surya Kant was part of the bench that appointed a five-member commit- tee headed by former Supreme Court judge Justice Indu Malhotra to probe the security breach during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 2022 Punjab visit, saying such matters required "a judicially trained mind."

He upheld the One Rank-One Pension (OROP) scheme for defence forces, calling it constitutionally valid, and continues to hear petitions of women officers in the armed forces seeking parity in permanent commission.

He was on the seven-judge bench that overruled the 1967 Aligarh Muslim University judgment, opening the way for reconsideration of the institution's minor- ity status.

He was part of the bench that heard the Pegasus spyware case, which appointed a panel of cyber experts to probe allegations of unlawful surveillance, famously stat- ing that the state cannot get a "free pass under the guise of national security."

Electric 3-wheeler ops begin under zonal system; commuters, operators decry move

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The zonal regulation system for electric three-wheeler - rickshaws, autos and carts - came into effect in Jammu district on Thursday, even as operators and commuters expressed strong resentment over the move, calling it "impractical" and "anti-people."

Traffic Police Jammu issued a public notice informing citizens and vehicle opera- tors that the operation and regulation of e-rickshaws, autos and carts shall be in accordance with the colour-coded zonal scheme.

"Each vehicle is required to operate only within its allotted zone and display colour- coded identification plates and painted strips on the front and rear," it said.

"Inter-zonal movement shall not be permitted under any circumstances. Vehicles found plying without proper colour coding shall be seized and penalised accord- ingly," said Farooq Qaiser, Senior Superintendent of Police (Traffic), Jammu.

He said the operation of such vehicles on flyovers, national highways and state highways within the district is prohibited in the interest of public safety and to ensure smooth traffic flow.

Under the new system, seven crossings on highways have been designated for safe and controlled movement between operational areas.

The SSP added that electric three-wheeler registered outside Jammu district are not permitted to operate within city limits, and strict enforcement action will be taken against violators under relevant laws.

However, the decision drew sharp criticism from three-wheeler operators and pas- sengers, who called it "unjustified and inconvenient."

"This decision is neither good for us nor for passengers. For example, from Jewel Chowk to the Railway Station - a stretch of just three km - a passenger will have to change autos mid-way. It makes no sense," said Sohan Lal, an e-rickshaw driver from north Jammu.

Another operator, Sukhwant Singh from Gandhi Nagar, said, "If a patient needs to be taken from Nanak Nagar to GMC Hospital, I cannot go beyond the Tawi bridge. The patient will have to change autos."

Commuters also voiced concerns, warning that the move could lead to chaos and increased inconvenience. "This will only create confusion and suffering for passen- gers. Authorities should rethink this decision," said Omkar Nath of Janipur.

Jammu dwellers, however, acknowledged that the number of three-wheelers in the city has surged by nearly 70-80,000 over the last one-and-a-half years, worsening traffic congestion.

"How can the city take such a huge load of autos? Every second vehicle in the city is an auto. You need to regulate," a retired officer, Avtar Singh, said.

Jammu Deputy Commissioner Dr Rakesh Minhas said the "rapid and significant increase" in the number of battery-operated three-wheelers in the city led to traffic congestion, unregulated movement and instances of overcharging.

"To address the issue...several meetings were held with operators, and directions were issued. The primary objective is to ensure public safety, traffic discipline and commuter convenience while protecting the legitimate interests of operators," DC said.

Global Peace Organisation distributes relief among victims of Kalaban landslide

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

MENDHAR: The Global Peace Organisation, under the leadership of its Executive Director Zulfikar Naqvi, today distributed relief material among the 40 most deserving and genuine victims of the Kalaban natural calamity.

The relief distribution program was held at HSS Boys Mendhar and was attended by several dignitaries, including SDM Mendhar Imran Rashid Kataria (JKAS), Tehsildar Mankote Maroof Qadri (JKAS), Retired Joint Director, School Education Department Abdul Hamid Fani, and Dy. CEO Poonch HQ Mendhar Mohd Latief. The event was graciously hosted by Principal Saleem Shah. While speaking on the occasion, SDM Mendhar expressed gratitude to the Global Peace Organisation for its humanitarian efforts and commitment to support- ing disaster-affected families.

Abdul Hamid Fani, in his address, urged the public to extend their cooperation to such NGOs that work selflessly for the welfare of the downtrodden and affected sec- tions of society. He also appealed to the organisation to continue assisting deserving and needy students in pursuing higher education.

In his concluding remarks, Zulfikar Naqvi thanked the administration for their cooperation and participation in the relief distribution program. He expressed his solidarity and sympathy with the victims and reaffirmed the organisation's dedica- tion to serving humanity in times of distress.

Defence ministry approves procurement proposals worth Rs 79,000 Cr

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The defence ministry on Thursday cleared proposals to procure weapons and military hardware worth Rs 79,000 crore, including Nag missiles, amphibious warfare ships and electronic intelligence and surveillance systems, to boost the combat capabilities of the three services. The procurement proposals were cleared at a meeting of the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh. It is the second major decision on procurement following Operation Sindoor. Procurement projects worth Rs 67,000 crore were approved on August 5. The DAC approved various proposals amounting to a total cost of about Rs 79,000 crore, the defence ministry said.

For the Indian Navy, approval was granted for the procurement of Landing Platform Docks (LPDs), 30-mm Naval Surface Guns (NSGs), Advanced Light Weight Torpedoes (ALWTs), the Electro Optical Infra-Red Search and Track System and Smart Ammunition for the 76-mm Super Rapid Gun Mount.

The procurement of LPDs will help the Navy undertake amphibious operations along with the Army and the Air Force, the ministry said.

LPDs are amphibious warfare ships that are generally capable of carrying helicop- ters, ground mobility vehicles, tanks and land troops.

The Indian Navy was looking at procuring at least four LPDs.

The ministry said the integrated sea capability provided by LPDs will also help the Navy undertake peacekeeping operations, humanitarian assistance and disaster- relief measures.

"The induction of ALWT, which is indigenously developed by Naval Science and Technological Laboratory, DRDO is capable of targeting conventional, nuclear and midget submarines," the ministry said in a statement.

The procurement of 30-mm NSGs will enhance the capability of the Indian Navy and the Indian Coast Guard to conduct low-intensity maritime operations and ini- tiate anti-piracy measures.

Two drug peddlers arrested with heroin

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA: Continuing its drive against drug smugglers & peddlers, Samba Police has arrested two drug peddlers in the jurisdiction of Police Station Bari Brahmana and recovered 15.80 grams heroin like substance from their possession.

A Police team of Police Station Bari Brahmana, during naka cheking duty near BBIA Club Bari Brahmana, intercepted an Alto car bearing registration No. JK02CR-3823 for checking which was coming from Haldiram Factory side. During frisking, approximately 15.80 grams hero- in like substance was recovered from the possession of two persons travelling in the vehicle.

The drug peddlers identified as Masoom Ali @ Kala S/o Dulla R/o Rakh Barotian tehsil Vijaypur district Samba and Wali Mohammad @ Billa S/o Lal Hussain R/o ChaK Morar tehsil Bishnah district Jammu have been arrested and the contraband item has been seized. The vehicle has also been seized by the Police in the instant case. A case FIR No 173/2025 U/S 8/21/22/25/29 NDPS Act has been registered at PS Bari Brahmana and investigation started.

It is worthwhile to mention here that the accused Masoom Ali @ Kala is a notori- ous drug peddler and is also involved in multiple cases registered against him at Police Stations Samba and Vijaypur.

