

!! Continuations from Page 1 !! We will let...

to addressing the genuine issues of citizens. "After completing our term, we will present ourselves before the people to judge our government's performance," he remarked.

Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary, Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, MLA Eidgah Mubarak Gul, MLA Central Shalteng Tariq Hameed Karra, besides several senior officers and officials from the concerned departments, were present on the occasion.

The inauguration of the Noor Jahan Bridge is expected to not only decongest existing traffic bottlenecks but also enhance accessibility for commuters, traders, and residents in the area and help people in commuting and going about their business in this busy area of Srinagar city.

Tashi Rabstan among...

Former Judge, Rajasthan High Court; Justice Rakesh Kumar Jain, Former Judge, High Court of Punjab and Haryana and Justice Tashi Rabstan, Former Chief Justice, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh

The designation, effective from October 29, 2025, is a recognition of their exceptional service, contribution to the legal profession, and distinguished careers on the Bench.

Justice Tashi Rabstan, who recently retired as Chief Justice of the J&K and Ladakh High Court, is among the notable names in this list.

Sardar Patel wanted...

independence, he said.

The policies that Sardar Patel formulated, the decisions he took, created new history, the PM said. "The idea of One India, Excellent India, was paramount for him," Modi said.

Attacking the Congress, Modi said Kashmir and the country paid a heavy price for the party's mistakes in handling the issue.

"Sardar Patel wanted the entire Kashmir region to be integrated into India, just as he had integrated the other princely states. But Nehruji did not allow his wish to be fulfilled. Kashmir was divided, given a separate Constitution and a separate flag - and the nation suffered for decades because of Congress' mistake," he said.

For Sardar Patel, the country's sovereignty was above all else, but in the years after his death, successive governments did not show the same seriousness regarding the nation's sovereignty, said Modi.

"The mistakes made in Kashmir; the problems that arose in the Northeast, and the Naxalite-Maoist terrorism that spread throughout the country were all serious challenges to the nation's sovereignty," he said.

Instead of following Sardar Patel's policies, the governments of that era chose a spineless approach, said the PM.

"Due to Congress' weak policies, a part of Kashmir went under illegal occupation of Pakistan, which then fueled state-sponsored terrorism. Kashmir and the country paid a heavy price, yet the Congress always bowed down to terrorism. It forgot Sardar Patel's vision, but we have not," he said.

The PM said Kashmir has been fully integrated into the mainstream by breaking the "shackles" of Article 370.

"Today, Pakistan and the terrorists also know what India's true strength is. In Operation Sindoor, the world witnessed that if anyone casts an evil eye on India, we will enter their homes and eliminate them. This is Sardar Patel's India," said the PM.

Highlighting the government's action against Naxal terror in the past 11 years, Modi said the campaign would continue until the menace is rooted out of the country.

"Before 2014, about 125 districts of the country were affected by Maoist terrorism. Today, it has come down to 11 districts. Even in those, Naxalism is prevalent in only three districts," said Modi.

Axing to continue...

Governor administered the Unity pledge and flagged off 'Run for Unity' to commemorate the birth anniversary of unifier of India, former Deputy Prime Minister and first Home Minister, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

The Lieutenant Governor said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the dreams of Sardar Patel and Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee are being fulfilled by all-round development of Jammu Kashmir.

The Lieutenant Governor called for unity with a singular objective of inclusive development.

"We must follow the vision and ideals of Sardar Patel and work as a unified force for the shared goal of Aatm-Nirbhar J&K and Viksit Bharat. We have made history in terms of all-round development and need to continue this journey as an unbreakable entity," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor said that the Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister, Amit Shah have assured on statehood and made it clear that delimitation first, then assembly elections, and statehood at an appropriate time.

Referring to termination of government employees involved in terror activities, the Lieutenant Governor said that this process will continue till we completely wipe out the terror ecosystem from the governance system.

The Lieutenant Governor asked the people to stand united against the elements trying to disrupt the development process. He said attempts are being made to stall the speed of development and people must be united to see that development process continues unabated.

He also called upon the public representatives and government officials to discharge their shared duties to ensuring peace, harmony and maintaining the momentum of J&K's remarkable growth journey.

"Since 2019, the aspirations of Jammu and Kashmir are linked to the aspirations of the country. We must work with dedication to transform our unity into widespread prosperity. This path will be guided by the vision of the 4 Ps: Peace, Progress, Prosperity, and People First," the Lieutenant Governor further said.

On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor inaugurated a Photo Exhibition on "An Era of Transformative Governance in Jammu Kashmir". Young achievers and budding entrepreneurs shared their success stories, and a documentary by Department of Information and Public relations on 'Viksit Jammu Kashmir' was also showcased to mark the day.

Sumil Sharma, Leader of Opposition (LoP) in J&K Legislative Assembly; Er. Gulam Ali Khatana, Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha; Dr Darakhshan Andrabi, Chairperson, J&K Waqf Board; Atal Dulloo, Chief Secretary; S.J.M. Gillani, Special DG Coordination PHQ; Shri Anshul Garg, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; Administrative Secretaries, senior officers of Security Forces, Civil and Police Administration, Heads of educational institutions, youth and prominent citizens from all walks of life were present.

Administers 'Unity Pledge'...

work with dedication for an Aatmanirbhar and developed India.

In a post on X, the Lieutenant Governor has said:

"Administered the Unity Pledge to Raj Bhawan officers and staff and paid tributes to the Iron Man of India, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel on his 150th birth anniversary. Urged all to work with dedication for an Aatmanirbhar and developed India."

LA ratifies recent...

the bill, but was turned down by Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather who said amendments cannot be made at this stage.

"I am talking about reforms which are to be done by the state. We are not challenging the Central Act," Gupta said.

Chief Minister Abdullah responded to the demand, saying Gupta has been MoS Finance and knows it better than him that the GST is a federal act and no change can be made in this assembly.

"What I am putting before the House has been approved by GST council. We are only putting it for ratification," Abdullah added.

Speaker Rather said the Act cannot be amended at this stage and the bill should be passed without wasting the time of the House.

The bill was then passed through a voice vote.

PM Modi fulfilled...

Junagadh, Jodhpur, Travancore, and Hyderabad made different kinds of attempts to remain separate, but Sardar Patel's iron will and unyielding determination brought all of them together to form one united India.

"The only task that remained incomplete was Kashmir's full integration with India due to Article 370, but Prime Minister Modi fulfilled that unfinished task of Sardar Patel - and today, we have before us a truly unified India," he said.

Shah said Congress governments did not give Sardar Patel the respect he truly deserved; a great personality like him was awarded the Bharat Ratna after a delay of 41 years.

"Neither a memorial nor a monument was built anywhere in the country. It was only when Narendra Modi became the chief minister of Gujarat that he conceptualised the Statue of Unity and built a grand memorial in Sardar Patel's honour,"

Shah said.

He further added that the foundation stone of the Statue of Unity was laid on October 31, 2013.

Shah said that Sardar Patel's leadership qualities became evident during the Bardoli Satyagraha of 1928, which was launched against the injustice done to farmers.

Under Sardar Patel's leadership, the farmers began their movement, and what started in a small town soon grew into a nationwide farmers' movement, compelling the British to accept their demands, he said.

The 182-metre-tall statue was completed in just 57 months using the iron from the farmers' tools collected from across the country, he said.

He said that Sardar Patel was a farmers' leader, and around 25,000 tonnes of iron used in constructing the statue came from melting farmers' tools.

The colossal statue, made using approximately 25,000 tonnes of iron, 90,000 cubic meters of concrete, and 1,700 tonnes of bronze, has so far been visited by about 2.5 crore people, he said.

Speaker adjourns Legislative...

satisfaction with the overall conduct of business and reaffirmed their commitment to public welfare.

Legislative Assembly Speaker, Abdul Rahim Rather invited the Members of the House to share their views, in keeping with the customary tradition of addressing the House on the final day of each session.

The Speaker expressed happiness over the proceedings and thanked the members for raising people's issues effectively.

"I thank all the members of the House for playing their part in conducting the proceedings smoothly and for their constructive participation in legislative discussions," Speaker said.

In her reflections on the session, Minister for Health, Education and Social Welfare, Sakeena Itoo said that the Speaker was deserving of congratulations and thanked him for running the House in a non-partisan and objective manner to ensure a productive and fruitful session.

She thanked the opposition for playing its role effectively in holding the government accountable, adding that they deserve credit for their constructive participation.

She expressed gratitude to the Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah for spending time in the House and responding to the Members' queries.

Regarding the queries raised by MLAs about the replies, Minister said that all replies in the House were prepared after due consideration to ensure satisfactory responses. MLA M.Y. Tarigami thanked all members and staff for making the session fruitful and productive, suggesting that future sessions be held for a longer duration to allow sufficient time for legislators to raise issues of public importance.

MLA Nizamuddin Bhat emphasized the need to maintain the dignity of the House, noting that every member has made sincere efforts to fulfill their responsibilities.

MLA Surjit Singh Slathia extended gratitude to the Speaker for conducting the proceedings efficiently and giving every member an opportunity to participate. He acknowledged that while differences and heated exchanges are natural in debates, members must observe legislative decorum and avoid remarks that may hurt others' sentiments. MLA Mubarak Gul while expressing satisfaction over the productive session, said that MLAs were able to raise all important issues through Calling Attention Motions, Question Hour and Zero Hour. He urged that the concerns and suggestions discussed in the House should translate into concrete action, ensuring meaningful outcomes for the public. MLA Waheed-ur-Rehman Para appreciated the Speaker for accommodating all voices in the House and thanked him for providing space for diverse opinions. He said that although institutions may be weak, the Assembly remains the forum where elected representatives can raise their voices on behalf of the people. MLA Farooq Shah observed that people expect their elected representatives to register their grievances in the House and thanked the Speaker for conducting the proceedings effectively. The legislators collectively appreciated the Assembly Secretariat, security personnel and media representatives for their cooperation throughout the session.

'Statehood no excuse...

about the promise made to the people of J-K in the Supreme Court and Parliament. "Why are these people so afraid of statehood? Why don't they want to let go of power?" the National Congress leader said, adding, of 90 MLAs elected to the assembly, barring one or two, everyone, irrespective of the party, sought votes in the name of statehood. "Tell us how long we should wait? We are told that it will be restored at the appropriate time. Alright, I will wait, but tell me what the scale is to assess the right time. How do we measure the appropriate time?" he asked.

Abdullah said the terms and conditions for restoration should be made clear so that his government would know what they ought to do for it. "As a CM, I should know that this is the milestone or goal we have to reach where J-K will get its statehood. We should at least come to know that this is the target," he said.

Govt elevates two...

issue of vacancies at higher levels within the Department.

Recognizing the critical need to strengthen the administrative and technical leadership of the Jal Shakti Department, the Minister undertook a comprehensive review and examination exercise within the Ministry.

Subsequently, a proposal for relaxation of promotion rules was prepared and approved by the Council of Ministers, headed by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah. Under this reform-oriented drive, all promotional posts in the Department have been filled within a span of ten months, marking a major step toward ensuring efficiency and accountability in the functioning of the Jal Shakti Department.

The promotion process has now been fully streamlined, paving the way for timely and merit-based career progression of engineers and other officers in the future.

The Department has expressed confidence that the appointment of Er. Manhas and Er. Gupta as In-charge Chief Engineers will bring renewed dynamism, professional excellence and stronger project execution capabilities to their respective organizations.

Assets worth Rs 86 lakhs of narcotic smuggler attached

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATHUA: In a major success against narcotic smuggling, J&K Police Kathua have achieved a significant breakthrough by attaching immovable and movable properties worth approximately ₹86 lakhs belonging to notorious drug peddler Mohd. Aslam S/o Teg Ali R/o Marheen, Rajbagh and his close relatives.

The attached properties include One double-storey residential house, One tractor trolley, One Mahindra pick-up vehicle,

Following a detailed financial investigation, the case was submitted to SAFEMA for confirmation under the NDPS Act, which has now been duly confirmed.

The accused drug peddler, Mohd. Aslam, has been involved in an interstate narcotics network and is currently in judicial custody. He has been arrested in the cases include FIR No. 99/2024 U/S 8/21/22/27(A) NDPS Act - PS Vijaypur; FIR No. 173/2022 U/S 8/21/22 NDPS Act - PS Vijaypur; FIR No. 73/2023 U/S 8/21/22/29 NDPS Act.

Investigations have revealed that the accused had amassed assets disproportionate to his known sources of income through illegal drug trade activities.

The operation was carried out by a police team of Police Station Rajbagh led by Insp. Ajay Singh Chib (SHO Rajbagh) under the supervision of SP Operations Kathua Mukund Tibrewal (IPS) and SDPO Border Dheeraj Katoch, with the overall supervision of SSP Kathua Mohita Sharma.

Medical shop sealed for illegal drug possession

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BILLAWAR: In a swift and coordinated action, District Police Kathua sealed a medical shop at Phinter Billawar for violation of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, following the recovery of an illicit drugs.

A telephonic message received by SHO Police Station Billawar alerted police about a suspected consignment of illicit drugs. Acting promptly on the information, a police party led by SHO Billawar Insp Zaheer Mushtaq under the supervision of Sp upper Kathua Sh Amair Iqbal and SDPO Billawar Sh Neeraj Padyar along with the Drug Inspector Sh. Vikram Singh intercepted the consignment. Upon inspection, the team recovered Pregabalin- 300 mg capsules from the possession of Ganpati Medicos Hall at Phinter Billawar. The recovered medicine was found to be without any supporting bills or vouchers, indicating a clear violation of the law. In light of the findings, the said medical shop was sealed under Section 22 (1) (d) of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 for the unauthorized sale and possession of habit-forming drugs.



Third major crackdown on illegal Khairwood: Forest Deptt seizes two vehicles laden with Illicit Timber



■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In yet another successful operation, Jammu Forest Range team of the J&K Forest Department has carried out its third major recovery in a row, dealing a significant blow to the illegal timber trade in the region.

Acting under the direct supervision of Anurag Arya, Divisional Forest Officer, Jammu, the team intercepted and seized two vehicles a Tata Safari (Reg. No. DL3CBB-2274) and a Mahindra Scorpio (Reg. No. JK02AL-6655) - both found loaded with substantial quantities of illegally felled Khairwood billets, a highly valued timber species.

Confiscation proceedings against the vehicles and seized timber have been initiated under the relevant provisions of the Indian Forest Act.

The well-coordinated operation was executed by a vigilant team led by Kailash Choudhary, Range Forest Officer, Jammu, along with Vikram Singh, Block Officer Manawar, Sugam Bral, Block Officer Paloura, and other alert forest personnel.

Officials confirmed that this marks the third consecutive recovery by the Jammu Forest Range in recent days, reflecting the department's intensified crackdown on timber smuggling networks.

The Forest Department has urged citizens to remain vigilant and report any suspicious movement of timber or illegal logging activities to help safeguard the region's rich forest resources.

SSP Nagpure gets addl charge of DIG U-R range

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The government on Friday assigned additional charge to IPS Officer and SSP Udhampur Amod Nagpure of DIG Udhampur-Reasi range.

"It is ordered that Amod Nagpure Ashok, IPS, SSP Udhampur, shall in addition of his own duties, look after the assignments of DIG Udhampur-Reasi Range, during the leave period of Sarah Rizvi, IPS," reads an order issued by Chandraker Bharti, Principal Secretary, Home department J&K.

J&K Bank gives warm send-off to GM Rajesh Gupta

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: J&K Bank today gave a warm send-off to General Manager Rajesh Gupta, who superannuated from the Bank after rendering 36 years of dedicated service. Joining the institution as a Probationary Officer in 1989, Rajesh Gupta rose through the ranks to become General Manager, serving in several key leadership roles including Zonal Head, Divisional Head, and most recently as Officer on Special Duty (OSD) at the Bank's Corporate Headquarters.

Held at the Bank's corporate headquarters, Executive Director Sudhir Gupta presided over the farewell function that was attended by CGMs Sunit Kumar and Imtiaz Ahmad Bhat, General Managers, DGMs and other senior officers.

In his message on the occasion, MD & CEO Amitava Chatterjee commended the affable personality, calm demeanour and people-friendly behaviour of the retiring officer. He said, "Rajesh Gupta's journey embodies dedication and humility. His professional approach and personal touch left a positive impact on everyone he worked with. I urge our younger executives to emulate such qualities as they take on leadership roles within the Bank."

Expressing his gratitude, Rajesh Gupta said, "Whatever I have achieved in life - every milestone and every recognition - I owe it to this great institution. I feel deeply satisfied today, having spent my entire career among such wonderful colleagues who have always been supportive and caring. I thank each one of you from the bottom of my heart."

Modi upholds Sardar Patel's ideals of unity, strength, and integrity in nation-building: Rekha Mahajan

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA: Vice President BJP J&K and Prabhari District Samba, Rekha Mahajan, paid rich tributes to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel on his 150th birth anniversary, praising Prime Minister Narendra Modi for upholding the Iron Man's ideals of unity,



strength, and integrity in nation-building.

Speaking on the occasion, Rekha Mahajan said that under the visionary leadership of PM Modi, India is witnessing a resurgence of nationalism and collective strength similar to that which Sardar Patel envisioned while uniting the princely states into one great nation.

She added that Modi's initiatives such as the "Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat" campaign and the celebration of Rashtriya Ekta Diwas have reawakened the spirit of national integration and solidarity among citizens.

To mark the occasion, a Unity Run was organized in Samba district under the leadership of State Vice President BJP Rashpal Varma, Rajeev Charak, State Secretary Arun Sharma, and District President Asha Rani ,DDC Chairman Keshav Dutt ,District General Secretaries Rakesh Sanayal pinta ,Amit. Dubey and large no of party Karyakartas .

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from party workers, youth, and local residents, who carried slogans promoting unity and patriotism.

Rekha Mahajan emphasized that Sardar Patel's life and sacrifices are a guiding light for every Indian. She praised the Modi government for not only recognizing Patel's monumental contributions but also ensuring that his legacy continues to inspire future generations through the construction of the Statue of Unity, the world's tallest statue.

She said, "Prime Minister Modi has transformed Patel's dream into a living reality - an India united in purpose, development, and determination."

State Vice President BJP Rashpal Varma said that Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's vision of national integration continues to guide India under Prime Minister Modi's leadership. The Unity Run symbolizes India's collective resolve to preserve unity and brotherhood. He urged citizens to work together for a strong, self-reliant, and harmonious nation. State Secretary Arun Sharma stated that the 150th birth anniversary of Sardar Patel reminds every Indian of the power of unity. He added that unity and discipline are essential pillars of national progress.

District President Asha Rani emphasized that women and youth have a vital role in sustaining the legacy of Sardar Patel. She said the Unity Run reflects the spirit of togetherness and India's unwavering faith in one nation, one identity.

The event concluded with the participants taking the National Unity Pledge, reaffirming their commitment to preserve the nation's integrity and to work collectively for the progress of Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat.