

!! Continuations from Page 1 !! Modi, Sonia among...

Congress workers will have the opportunity to offer their tributes between 8.30 am and 9.30 am. Dr Singh's final journey to the heavenly abode will commence from the AICC HQ to the cremation ground at 9.30 am tomorrow," Venugopal said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who was among the first ones to pay homage to Singh and lay a wreath on Friday, said his predecessor's death was a big loss and the nation has lost an eminent statesman, renowned economist and a distinguished leader.

Draped in the Tricolour, Singh's body was placed at his 3, Motilal Nehru Road, residence -- the sprawling bungalow in Lutyens' Delhi that served as his retirement abode for over 10 years, where people made a beeline to pay their last respects.

Singh, the architect of India's economic reforms and a consensus builder in the rough world of politics, died at AIIMS, Delhi, late on Thursday. He was 92. He is survived by his wife Gursharan Kaur and three daughters.

Singh's wife, his daughter and other family members were present besides the body. The government has announced a seven-day State mourning as a mark of respect to the former prime minister.

Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) leader Sukhbir Singh Badal expressed shock and disbelief over the Centre not acceding to the request of Singh's family for cremation at a place where an "appropriate and historic memorial" may be built to commemorate his "unparalleled services to the nation".

"It is inexplicable why the government is showing such disrespect to the great leader who was the only member of the Sikh community to rise to become the Prime Minister," Badal said in a post on X.

Hours after the Union cabinet condoled the death of Singh and hailed his contribution to the nation, the Congress Working Committee (CWC) met in the evening to mourn the loss of a "true statesman" and said his life and work profoundly shaped the destiny of India.

Despite the inclement weather, leaders from across party lines and common people made a beeline to have a glimpse of the departed leader who was respected the world over.

President Droupadi Murmu, Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar were among the top dignitaries who paid homage in the morning. Former president Ram Nath Kovind also paid his last respects in the evening.

Several other leaders -- Union ministers, chief ministers and Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi, Kharge and Rahul Gandhi -- also paid their tributes to the former two-term prime minister.

In a video message, Modi recalled Singh's life journey after his family migrated to India following Partition and said his life would always serve as a lesson for the future generations on how someone can rise above deprivation and struggles to attain the heights of success.

"As prime minister, his contribution to the country's development and progress will always be remembered," he added.

The Union cabinet also passed a resolution that said, "Dr Manmohan Singh has left his imprint on our national life. In his passing away, the Nation has lost an eminent statesman, renowned economist and a distinguished leader."

Describing Singh as a towering figure in India's political and economic landscape, the CWC resolution said his contributions transformed the country and earned him respect worldwide.

"Through his policies of deregulation, privatization, and the encouragement of foreign investment, he laid the foundation for India's rapid economic growth. Under his stewardship, India emerged as one of the world's fastest-growing economies, a testament to his brilliance and vision," the CWC said.

Sonia Gandhi termed Singh's demise as a "personal loss", saying he was her friend, philosopher and guide and that in his death, the party has lost a leader who was the epitome of wisdom, nobility and humility.

Union ministers Amit Shah, Rajnath Singh, Nirmala Sitharaman and BJP president J P Nadda were among those paid their tributes to Singh.

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvirinder Singh Sukhu and Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy also came to Delhi to pay their last respects to the former prime minister.

Delhi Chief Minister Atishi, former Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal and former Uttar Pradesh chief minister Akhilesh Yadav also paid their last respects to Singh.

Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat and general secretary Dattatreya Hosabale condoled his passing, saying his contributions to Bharat would always be remembered.

Born to Gurmukh Singh and Amrit Kaur on September 26, 1932 in Gah village of the Punjab province of undivided India (now Pakistan), Singh passed his matriculation examination in 1948. His family migrated to Amritsar after Partition in 1948 after living shortly in Haldwani.

Singh completed his intermediate and graduation in economics from the Hindu College here before moving out of the city to pursue higher studies in Panjab University's Hoshiarpur campus.

His academic career took him from Punjab to the University of Cambridge, UK, where he earned a First Class Honours degree in Economics. Singh followed this with a DPhil in Economics from Nuffield College of Oxford University.

Singh's half-brother Surjit Singh Kohli said the former prime minister had deep affection for his grandmother, who raised him following his mother's death when he was very young.

After migrating to India, the Singh family settled in a small rented house in Amritsar till he graduated.

Uttar Pradesh minister Asim Arun, who served as Singh's close protection officer for nearly three years during his tenure as a Special Protection Group (SPG) officer, shared his experiences and insights into Singh's personality, emphasising his simple lifestyle and connection with the common man. He also shared an anecdote of Singh's attachment to his Maruti Suzuki 800 personal car, reflecting his simplicity.

His UPA government introduced path-breaking initiatives such as the Right to Information Act, Right to Education Act and the MNREGA.

Meanwhile, across Jammu and Kashmir, leaders, organizations, and communities have come together to pay their heartfelt tributes to the former Prime Minister of India, Dr. Manmohan Singh.

Widely regarded as a visionary leader and a remarkable economist, Dr. Singh's contributions to India's economic and political landscape have left an indelible mark on the nation.

In a brief meeting, the Jammu Kashmir Sharmarathi Action Committee (JKSAC) President Gurdev Singh highlighted Dr. Singh's exceptional role in guiding India out of the financial crisis of 1991, as well as his instrumental efforts in making India economically self-sufficient. "It is due to his sincere efforts that India is now leading in various global spheres," Singh remarked.

Uday Bhamu Chib paid glowing tributes to Dr. Singh at his residence in New Delhi. Chib described Dr. Singh as a statesman whose leadership and vision were key in India's economic reforms. He acknowledged Dr. Singh's unwavering commitment to national progress, unity, and his contributions to the Congress party.

Subash Shastri, President of NMC, emphasized that Dr. Singh's economic policies, particularly his role as Finance Minister and Prime Minister, elevated India's global standing. He also highlighted Dr. Singh's pro-employee initiatives, including the establishment of the 7th Pay Commission, which he considered a monumental contribution to the welfare of Indian workers.

The Bawa Bhair Dev Sathan Trust, through a joint statement by Balwant Singh (President), Ramesh Sharma (General Secretary), and others, expressed sorrow over Dr. Singh's passing. The Trust members hailed Dr. Singh for his integrity, intellectual brilliance, and commitment to reforms.

At the University of Jammu, a condolence meeting was held to honor the late Prime Minister. Prof. Umesh Rai, Vice Chancellor, praised Dr. Singh's journey from humble beginnings to becoming one of India's most respected leaders. He described Dr. Singh as a beacon of wisdom whose remarkable intellect and unwavering commitment to public service had inspired generations. The Department of Economics also held a meeting to reflect on Dr. Singh's contributions, particularly his role in shaping India's economic transformation. Faculty and students fondly recalled his visits to the university, where his insights into global and domestic issues had left a lasting impression.

In a special meeting, Th. Gulehain Singh Charak, President of the Dogra Sadar Sabha, expressed deep sorrow over Dr. Singh's passing, especially as he had played a pivotal role in the Sabha's efforts to include the Dogri language in the 8th Schedule of the Indian Constitution. The Sabha decided to postpone its 120th General Council Meeting scheduled for December 28, 2024, as a mark of respect. Members of the Sabha, including Col. Karan Singh, Brig. M.S. Jamwal, and Adv. Ghamblir Dev Singh, joined in offering their condolences.

A condolence meeting was held at the Congress Headquarters in Jammu, where senior leaders, including Tara Chand (Former Dy. CM) and Raman Bhalla (Former Minister), paid floral tributes to Dr. Singh. They praised his contributions, particularly his introduction of social welfare programs like MNREGA, Right to Education, and the Forest Rights Act. Bhalla emphasized Dr. Singh's commitment to India's pluralistic nature and his role in fostering unity in diversity. A two-minute silence was observed to honor the departed leader.

Kavinder Gupta, former Deputy Chief Minister, expressed his grief over Dr. Singh's passing, describing him as a visionary leader known for his economic policies and integrity. Gupta acknowledged Dr. Singh's role in shaping India's economic trajectory during his tenure as Finance Minister and Prime Minister, which significantly elevated India on the global stage.

Ajatshatru Singh, scion of the Dogra royal family, also extended his condolences, highlighting Dr. Singh's dedication to public service and his impact on India's progress.

Ranvijay Singh, great-grandson of Maharaja Hari Singh, also expressed his grief, calling Dr. Singh a true statesman whose leadership, economic vision, and integrity would be remembered for generations to come.

Dr. Singh's passing is a profound loss to the nation, but his legacy of humility, wisdom, and visionary leadership will continue to inspire future generations. Various organizations, political leaders, and citizens have expressed their deepest condolences to his family and to the nation,

as India bids farewell to one of its most respected leaders.

Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, in his condolence message, remembered Dr. Singh as an exemplary leader, distinguished economist, and visionary statesman whose contributions will remain unparalleled in the annals of history.

Javed Ahmad Dar, the Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development, and Panchayati Raj, also expressed his deep sorrow over the loss of Dr. Singh. He praised the former Prime Minister for his groundbreaking economic reforms and for paving the way for India's global economic standing.

Both leaders joined the nation in mourning the loss of one of India's most revered figures, whose legacy continues to inspire leaders and citizens alike.

Gaurav Gupta, Secretary of Jammu Club and former Secretary-General of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCI), Jammu, paid a heartfelt tribute, recalling Dr. Singh's leadership during the 2008 financial crisis. "Dr. Singh's calm approach and his understanding of economics kept India stable when the world was facing economic turmoil," Gupta said. He further highlighted the former PM's role in economic liberalization, which opened up India to globalization and accelerated its growth.

Six IAS officers...

Secretary, Information Department has been transferred and posted as Director, Jammu and Kashmir Institute of Management, Public Administration and Rural Development.

Rains in Jammu...

the minimum temperatures at most places in the valley, officials said.

A western disturbance hit Jammu and Kashmir on Friday, bringing light snowfall in many areas of the valley, the officials said.

Snowfall was recorded in the famous ski-resort of Gulmarg, tourist resorts of Sonamarg and Pahalgam, Gurez, Zojila axis, Sadhna Top, Mughal Road, and many areas in Bandipora, Baramulla, and Kupwara districts, the officials said.

They said the season's first snowfall was also recorded in the plains of Srinagar; Ganderbal, Anantnag, Kulgam, Shopian, and Pulwama districts. There are reports of fresh snowfall in other higher reaches of the valley as well.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) said under the influence of the western disturbance, light rain is possible in the plains of Jammu and light snowfall in the higher reaches of the Chenab valley and Pir Panjal range.

Light snowfall over middle and higher reaches, particularly over south and central Kashmir, is also most likely during the evening/night, it said.

The fresh snowfall led to the closure of the Srinagar-Leh Highway and the Mughal Road, the officials said.

Meanwhile, intense cold wave-like conditions prevailed across Kashmir as the minimum temperatures continued to settle several degrees below the freezing point, even as there was a light increase in the night temperatures at most places of the valley.

Both the minimum and maximum temperatures have been staying below normal for this time of the season.

The low temperature has led to the freezing of water supply lines and a thin layer of ice has covered the surface of several water bodies, including the Dal Lake.

Srinagar recorded a low of minus 7.3 degrees Celsius on Thursday night, slightly down from the previous night's minus 7 degrees Celsius, the MeT department said.

Gulmarg, a town known for skiing activities in north Kashmir, recorded a low of minus 6 degrees Celsius, the same as the previous night, the department added.

Pahalgam, the base camp for the annual Amarnath Yatra in south Kashmir, registered a minimum temperature of minus eight degrees Celsius, slightly up from the previous night's minus 8.6 degrees Celsius.

Qazigund, the gateway town to Kashmir, logged a minimum temperature of minus 6.9 degrees Celsius, while Konibal, a hamlet in the Pampore area, was the coldest recorded place in the valley at minus 9.5 degrees Celsius.

Kupwara, in north Kashmir, recorded a low of minus 6.4 degrees Celsius, while south Kashmir's Kokernag, registered minus 4.8 degrees Celsius.

The weather is expected to remain mainly dry from December 29-31 and light snowfall is possible at isolated places in Kashmir from January 1-5.

The MeT Office said there is a likelihood of some increase in temperatures till Monday. Kashmir is currently under the grip of 'Chillai-Kalan' -- considered the harshest period of winter -- which began on December 21.

During the 40 days of Chillai-Kalan, the chances of snowfall are the highest and the temperature drops considerably.

It ends on January 30 next year, but the cold wave continues even after that in the valley. The 40 days are followed by a 20-day 'Chillai-Khurd' (small cold) and a 10-day 'Chillai-Bachha' (baby cold).

Union Cabinet hails...

of international trade in the Delhi School of Economics, Delhi University. Singh became economic advisor in 1971 in the-then Ministry of Foreign Trade.

He was chief economic advisor in the Union Ministry of Finance (1972 to 1976), secretary in the Department of Economic Affairs (1976 to 1980), member secretary, Planning Commission (1980 to 1982), and Reserve Bank of India governor (1982 to 1985).

Among the many awards and honours conferred upon Singh in his career; the most prominent are India's second highest civilian honour, the Padma Vibhushan (1987), the Jawaharlal Nehru Birth Centenary Award of Indian's Science Congress (1995), the Euro Money Award for Finance Minister of the Year (1993), the Adam Smith Prize of the University of Cambridge (1956).

Meanwhile, a seven-day state mourning will be observed throughout the country as a mark of respect to former prime minister Manmohan Singh, who passed away last night, and during this period, the national flag will be flown at half-mast across India, the Union Home Ministry has announced.

In a communication to all chief secretaries of state and union territories on Thursday, the home ministry also said that a state funeral will be accorded to Singh and there will be no official entertainment during the period of state mourning.

"The government of India announces with profound sorrow the death of Manmohan Singh, former prime minister of India on December 26, 2024 at AIIMS hospital in New Delhi," the communication said. As a mark of respect to the departed dignitary, the home ministry said, it has been decided that a seven-day state mourning will be observed throughout India from December 26, 2024 to January 1, 2025. During this period, the national flag will be flown at half-mast throughout India where it is regularly flown and there will be no official entertainment during the period of state mourning. The national flag will also fly half-mast on the day of funeral in all Indian missions and high commissions abroad, the home ministry said.

JDA mandated to...

He enjoined upon the Housing Department to ascertain that the land is free from all encumbrances especially seeking NoC from the Forest Department.

He advised the Jammu Development Authority (JDA) to use this prized land as their equity in the project so that it would be a source of regular income for the authority. He asked them to invite EoI for creating a thematic Water Amusement Park at this site in a PPP mode as per the formulated plan. Dulloo also underscored the need of taking this matter to the respective Board of Directors (BoD) of JDA for the same is empowered to take decisions about further course of action. He observed that this park would be a new addition to the tourist attractions in Jammu along with Tawi Lake Front, Zoological Park and other amenities created here. He made out that such amusements together with creation of better infrastructure is going to increase the tourist footfall here besides making Jammu a tourist destination in its own right.

The Commissioner Secretary, H&UDD, Mandeep Kaur while presenting details apprised the meeting that a chunk of land measuring 92 Kanal and 3 Marlas at village Dwara (Sidhra area, adjacent to Golf Course) along the river Tawi has been identified by JDA for development of this Water Park. She added that the proposed site is approximately 04 Kms from the National Highway and is suitable for this project.

The "Land Use" status as per Master Plan 2032 is 'Recreation Use' and cost of the land is estimated at Rs.129.36 Crores, the meeting was informed. It was further given out that in response to the EOI floated earlier, an offer was received which is under consideration for appointment of transaction advisor for framing RFP.

About the proposed footfall, it was revealed that as per preliminary estimates the Park is going to attract around 20 lakh visitors annually taking the percentage of pilgrims coming for Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine or Amarnathji Yatra including the locals and those coming to visit other tourist places.

CM directs officials...

arrangements for overnight shelter will be made. The DC is accompanied by an ambulance in case of any medical emergency," he added.

Earlier, the chief minister drove via the highway from Jammu and said the road conditions were quite treacherous. "I drove from Jammu to Srinagar today. It snowed continuously from Banihal to Srinagar. The conditions were quite treacherous. I understand there are around 2000 vehicles stuck between the tunnel & Qazigund.

"My office has been in touch with the administration in South Kashmir. While snow clearance has been done the road is very icy. Heavy vehicles are being allowed to move & efforts are on to clear the rest of the stranded vehicles," he said.

Preservation work initiated...

and Museums, J&K, Kuldeep Krishan Sidha who said, "We are committed to preserving the rich cultural heritage of J&K, and after the shifting of records from Mubarak Mandi to Kala Kendra, this preservation project is an important step in that direction."

He added, "The preservation work, which is currently underway, aims to protect the fragile and sensitive records from damage, deterioration and loss. The project involves careful cleaning, conservation, change of clothes of records to ensure their longevity and accessibility."

Cyber Unit of Doda Police recovers online defrauded amount of Rs 2.1 lakh

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

DODA: In a statement issued by J&K Police District Doda it was told that, CCIU (Cyber Crime Investigation Unit) of J&K Police District Doda has exhibited highest level of professionalism and commitment in combating against cyber-crime by successfully solving and recovering online defrauded money amounting Rs. 2,16,400 .

While giving details J&K Police of District Doda said that the unit received complaints from complainants namely Fozia Banoo, daughter of Mohd Rafi, resident of Khellani Doda; Zaheer Abbas son of Abdul Rashid Wani, resident of Jathi Assar and Shafika Begum, wife of Talib Hussain, resident of Kako Tehsil Gandoh Doda. (4) Chanchla Devi W/O Lt. Mulkh Raj R/O Puniyalla Doda.

During the course of investigation, CCIU team, exhibited hectic efforts and advanced technical skills which ultimately led to the successful recovery of defrauded amount of Rs. 2,16,400/-.

Mentionable here that CCIU Doda came to be established on 07-02-2024 and since then the unit has successfully recovered huge de -frauded money amount Rs.30,01,384 /- so far. SSP Doda Sandeep Mehta reiterated in his appeal to the general public to remain extra vigilant and report promptly to the National Helpline number 1930 or lodge cyber complaints online at www.cybercrime.gov.in and in case of Lost/Stolen Mobile report on www.ceir.gov.in.

Properties of three terrorists operating across border attached

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a significant action against anti-national elements, properties of three terrorists involved in unlawful activities and operating from across the border have been attached under Section 88 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) in connection with FIR No. 14/2011 U/S 2/3 EMICO registered at Police Station Kandi. The properties were of Khadim Hussain, son of Dil Mohd, resident of Kandi, Tehsil Kotranka, District Rajouri - 03 Kanals, 04 Marlas, and 31 Sq Feet; Muneer Hussain, son of Said Mohd, resident of Gakhrote, Tehsil Kotranka, District Rajouri - 02 Kanals and 08 Marlas and Mohd Shabir, son of Faqir Mohd, resident of Panjnara, Tehsil Kotranka, District Rajouri - 02 Kanals, 02 Marlas, and 253 Sq Feet. Total Property Attached was 7 Kanals and 15 Marlas of approximate Value Rs 18.5 Lakhs



The attachment was carried out following the orders of the Hon'ble Court of Judicial Magistrate 1st Class (JM1C), Kotranka. This decisive action was executed by a joint team of Police and civil administration.

Six stranded passengers rescued at Chattapani Mughal Road

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

POONCH: Police rescued six passengers stranded at Chattapani, Mughal road due to heavy snowfall. The incident occurred when two vehicles traveling from Shopian towards Surankote got stuck into snow leaving its occupants stranded in challenging weather conditions.

A Police team, led by the SDPO Surankote and SHO Surankote along with ICPP Behramgala rushed to the spot to assist in the efforts. Thanks to the coordinated and swift action of the rescue team, all six passengers, were successfully evacuated to safety.

Notorious drug peddler booked under PIT-NDPS Act

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Acting tough against drug peddlers and to eradicate the menace of drugs from the society, Jammu Police today booked the wanted, notorious drug peddler from the jurisdiction of Police Station Miran Sahib,Sub Division R.S.Pura under PIT-NDPS Act and lodged him in Central Jail Kot Bhalwal,Jammu.

The notorious drug peddler namely Mohd. Mushtaq @ Chani S/o. Mohd.Buta R/o. Kothey Sheikh,Miran Sahib District Jammu has been booked under PIT NDPS Act after obtaining formal detention orders from the Divisional Commissioner, Jammu. The booked drug smuggler has been subsequently lodged in Central Jail Kot Bhalwal,Jammu.

It is pertinent to mention here that multiple FIR's under NDPS are already registered against the above mentioned drug peddler; who was involved in promoting drug trade by supplying drugs to local youths of the area.

Despite his arrest in NDPS cases,he did not mend his activities and was again involved in promoting drug abuse trade by supplying drugs to local youth, in order to achieve monetary gains by illegal,wrongful methods.

The above said notorious drug peddler; criminal has remained successful every time in securing the bails from the Hon'ble Courts and in order to refrain the subject from indulging in criminal activities, a dossier under stringent PIT NDPS Act was recommended against the subject, upon which, the Divisional Commissioner, Jammu, after getting satisfied issued a PIT NDPS warrant against him.

Narco smuggler nabbed with heroin

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

RAMNAGAR: Police team from Police Station Ramnagar while performing vehicle checking duty near SDPO Office Ramnagar apprehended one person namely Ravi Kumar S/O Suram Chand R/O W.No 09, Ramnagar, who turned to be suspicious as he tried to fled away from the spot on seeing police team.

Upon conducting thorough frisking, 3.38 grams of heroin like substance was recovered from his possession who has been arrested on spot.

On this, a case FIR No. 130/2024 under relevant sections of law stands registered at PS Ramnagar. Further investigation of the case is underway.

Three die in Kishtwar accident

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KISHTWAR: Tragedy struck the Padder-Sohal road in Kishtwar on Friday as three people lost their lives in a horrific road accident.

According to a police officer, the incident occurred when the driver of a Tata Mobile vehicle (registration number JK17-8554) lost control of the vehicle.

The vehicle, traveling along the winding and hilly Sohal-Padder route, skidded off the road and plunged into a deep gorge. The force of the crash resulted in the instant death of all three occupants in the vehicle.

The police confirmed that all the victims died at the scene of the accident. Emergency rescue teams were promptly dispatched to the accident site, and they worked swiftly to recover the bodies from the gorge.

The identities of the deceased have not yet been disclosed, pending notification of their families.

Police are investigating the cause of the accident, although weather conditions and the difficult terrain may have contributed to the mishap.