

# National Unity Day celebrated with enthusiasm across J&K, Ladakh

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Oct 31: The birth anniversary of first Home Minister of India Late Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel was celebrated today as National Unity Day (Rashtriya Ekta Diwas) across Jammu and Kashmir as well as the union territory of Ladakh.

Chief Secretary, J&K, Arun Kumar Mehta, paid high tributes to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel on his birth anniversary. To commemorate the Day, the Chief Secretary administered unity pledge to the Administrative Secretaries besides officers and officials of Civil Secretariat. Similarly, pledge taking ceremonies were held in the offices of Divisional Commissioner Jammu and Kashmir and Deputy Commissioners of all districts of the Union Territory.

Bhartiya Janta Party (BJP) organized 'Run for Unity' to celebrate birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. BJP National general secretary and Prabhari J&K Tarun Chugh along with J&K BJP president Ravinder Raina, MP Jugal Kishore Sharma, Mayor JMC Chander Mohan Gupta, general secretary (Organization) Ashok Kaul, former Deputy CM Dr Nirmal Singh, former Deputy CM Kavinder Gupta, former Minister Sat Sharma, vice-president Yudhvir Sethi, general secretary Dr Devinder Manyal, spokesperson RS Pathania, former Minister Devender Rana, former Minister Surjit Salathia and other leaders led the "Run", which began from Dr Padma Sachdev Women's College, Gandhi Nagar and culminated at Central Park, Bahu Plaza.

To mark the occasion, a pledge ceremony and a cycling race was organized at MA Stadium Jammu and the position holders of the race were honoured with medals by chief guest Rajeev Sharma (president Hockey J&K) and Govind Sareen, an International Player of Athletic (Shotput) of UT J&K. Udayan Sharma, Kirtan Saini and Manav Sharma emerged winner in U-14 category whereas Abhay Choudhary, Ravinder Pal Singh and Samir Choudhary won in U-17 category. In Open category, Anish Dubey, Rohit Panjalia and Varun Singh Jamwal emerged winner.

The main function regarding Rashtriya Ekta Diwas was organized by Jammu & Kashmir Police at Armed Police Complex Zewan. DGP J&K took the salute of parade at Zeewan. Different contingents of Police, CAPFs took part in the Parade. ADGP Armed, J&K, SJM Gillani administered oath to the officers and Jawans of Police, CAPFs, Forest Protection Force and Fire & Emergency Services.

In Jammu Zone the main function was organized at Gulshan Ground Jammu where ADGP Jammu Zone Mukesh Singh was the chief guest. He inspected the Parade and took the salute of Parade. He administered oath to the officers, officials and contingents of Police and CRPF who presented march past on the tunes of J&K Police Pipe Band.

In Kashmir, J&K Police organized Run for Unity "Kashmir Half Marathon" to celebrate the Rashtriya Ekta Diwas. The people of all walks particularly the students and youth joined the celebration. Earlier, in the morning ADGP SJM Gillani, flanked by other senior officers flagged off the run for various categories from Lake View Police Golf Course on famous Dal banks. Director General of Police J&K Dilbag Singh was the chief guest on the occasion.

Similar events were also organized by J&K Police in Kishtwar, Doda, Kathua, Samba,

## BJP using money, muscle power to break Oppn parties: Harsh

Excelsior Correspondent

UDHAMPUR, Oct 31: While several leaders of opposition are falling in the lap of BJP one by one, it is only a handful of leaders who are putting up a brave fight against the dictatorial and anti people policies of the present authoritarian regime.

The BJP is resorting to coercion, threats, intimidation, offers and allurement to break the opposition parties in a bid to establish its monopoly in the political landscape of J&K. It is therefore time for the leadership not to allow the anti-Jammu and anti-people moves of BJP to go unopposed. The people being faced with one of the worst ever crisis due to stalled development, growing unemployment, rampant corruption, unmitigated corona pandemic, power and drinking water problems and raging inflation, it is astonishing to note the Jammu opposition leaders abandoning their respective parties on regular basis and embracing BJP which they termed as anti Jammu in the past." JK NPP Chairman, Harsh Dev Singh said.

Accusing the BJP of conspiring to break the opposition parties, Harsh Dev observed that the pred-

Ganderbal and Kulgam districts. The occasion was also celebrated at GRP Lines Jammu, where SSP Railways Jammu Arif Rishu while addressing the officers and Jawans, highlighted the importance of the Day.

Rashtriya Ekta Diwas was also celebrated with great enthusiasm in the union territory of Ladakh. Sub-division Nubra and Khatlits of



J&K BJP president Ravinder Raina leading the 'Run for Unity' in Jammu on Sunday. —Excelsior/Rakesh

Leh district celebrated the occasion by paying tributes to Sardar Patel. At Nubra sub-division, all the Government employees took pledge and participated in the Unity rally in the presence of Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Nubra, Lakshay Singhal. A cultural programme was also organized by the students of Government Higher Secondary School, Diskit Nubra. A similar programme was also conducted at the Khatlits sub-division in which the Government employees took the Rashtriya Ekta Diwas pledge.

\* Watch video on [www.excelsiornews.com](http://www.excelsiornews.com)

A similar cycle/bike rally was also organized by the students of Government Higher Secondary School, Diskit Nubra. A similar programme was also conducted at the Khatlits sub-division in which the Government employees took the Rashtriya Ekta Diwas pledge. In Kargil district, a Pune-based NGO 'Sarhad' in collaboration with Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council Kargil and District Administration Kargil organized the 'run for unity' which saw the participation of around 300 people. Chairman and Chief Executive Councillor, LAHDC, Kargil Feroz Ahmad Khan was the chief guest at felicitation ceremony of the Sarhad Kargil International Marathon. Deputy Commissioner and CEO, LAHDC, Kargil Santosh Sukhadeve was also present on the occasion.

To mark the 146th birth anniversary of India's great freedom fighter and first Home Minister Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel, Government College of Education (GCOE) organised special event.

On the occasion Essay writing competition was organised online, which was coordinated by Programme Officer of NSS, Dr Shubhra Jamwal. The topic of competition was "Relevance of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel." The day not only commemorates the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the architect of national integration of independent India, but also reaffirms the inherent strength and resilience of our nation to withstand threats to the unity, integrity and security.

Principal Dr. Kulvinder Kour, in her address, stated that Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's will and determination, his excellent negotiation skills and various strategies enabled to unite the 565 self-governing princely states post-independence into a unified India.

Followed by this, there was a talk on the sagacious life and activities of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and recitation of Rashtriya Ekta Gaan by B.Ed Students.

The organizing Committee was comprised of Prof. Sarita Dogra, Prof. Shapia Shameem

Bhatti and Prof. Seema Kumari. To commemorate the birth anniversary of Sardar Patel, NSS unit of Government P G College for Women, Gandhinagar, Jammu organized a Quiz on life and achievements of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel where in 152 students participated. In another activity titled 'Inspiration al Quotes of Sardar Patel' wherein 42

bringing 562 princely states into the fold of the Union of India after the Independence. To celebrate the occasion, NSS Units GDC Kathua organized a Pledge Ceremony. NSS volunteers also threw light on the life and contribution of Sardar Patel. Later on a rally was also organized wherein volunteers raised slogans of National unity and integration.

On this occasion, members of EBSB Club of GDC Jindrah in collaboration with NSS Unit of the College organized pledge taking ceremony through digital mode under the leadership of Prof (Dr) Rajsheer Dhar, Principal of the College, who elaborated about capabilities, qualities and nature of the leadership of Sardar Patel.

To commemorate the Day, Rashtriya Ekta Diwas pledge was taken by staff and students of the GDC Thannamandi. The programme was conducted under the patronship of Prof (Dr) Javaid Ahmed Qazi, Principal of the College.

To mark the occasion, staff and students of GDC Ukhral took a pledge to work for unification of the Country. The patron of the College Dr Ranvijay Singh highlighted the contribution of Sardar Patel and saluted his grit and sacrifices for the nation. An essay competition on the topic "Life and achievements of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel" was also held. National Unity Day was also

volunteers showcased their talent. A motorcycle rally was organized by Department of Youth Services and Sports (DYSS) from its Gandhi Nagar (Jammu) office to celebrate the occasion. Around 80 motorcyclists took part in the rally. On the occasion, a National Integration Pledge was also taken by the field staff of Jammu district.

A similar cycle/bike rally was also organized by the DYSS Udhampur. The rally was flagged off by Mohd Syed Khan, Additional Deputy Commissioner Udhampur from Mini Stadium Udhampur and after passing through various areas it culminated back at Mini Stadium. Around 200 cycle/motorcycle riders took part in the rally.

NSS unit and NCC boys wing of GDC R S Pura celebrated "Rashtriya Ekta Diwas" (National Unity Day) on virtual mode under the patronage of Principal, Prof Sunil Uppal. The program started with a lecture on the life and teachings of Sardar Patel by Dr Chetan Sharma. A pledge ceremony was also organized.

On the occasion, an online symposium on the topic "Role of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel in the National Unification of India" was organized at GDC Bishnah. To begin with the unity pledge was taken by the Principal, teachers and students to uphold unity and integrity of the nation. In all, 7 students participated in the symposium.

National Unity Day was also celebrated at Government P G College Rajouri. Principal of the College, Prof Dr Shakeel Ahmed Raina along with NSS Programme Officers and other staff members took pledge to preserve and strengthen the unity, integrity, and security of our nation. NSS volunteers spoke about Sardar Patel's role in integration of the country.

To celebrate the Day, GDC Sidhra organized an intra-College activity in which students shared their thoughts on the life and achievements of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. "Rashtriya Ekta Diwas" Pledge was taken by the staff and NSS volunteers of the College.

The Day was also celebrated in GDC Kotranka. Staff and the students of the College took Rashtriya Ekta Diwas pledge. Some College students threw light on the life of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. Dr Mohd Mushtaq, gave a detailed and comprehensive lecture on the life and contributions made by Sardar Patel for the unification of the country.

GDC Kathua celebrates 146th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, which is popularly known as the "Iron Man of India", Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel accomplished the difficult task of

## Home for Aged & Infirm holds 56th Annual General Body meeting

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Oct 31: The 56th Annual General Body meeting of Home for the Aged and Infirm, Ambhalla was held today under the chairmanship of its President, ID Soni, Former State Commissioner, J&K Bharat Scouts and Guides.

During the meeting, the annual report and audited accounts for the year 2020-2021 and budget proposals for the year 2021-2022 presented by the Secretary, Vijay Bhagotra, were adopted by the House.

The House expressed satisfaction over sincere efforts put in by the Managing Committee for improvement in overall functioning of the Home and living conditions of its inmates. Male and female representatives of the inmates also expressed satisfaction with the amenities, facilities and medical care, etc being provided free to them by the Management.

ID Soni appealed to the general public for liberal donations in cash and in kind on regular basis for day to day needs of the inmates and further improvement in their

facilities and amenities as well as maintenance of requisite infrastructure and assets of the Home.

He also appealed to the public at large to visit the Home at their convenience and interact with the inmates so that they do not feel neglected by the society for whose welfare they had also contributed during their active past life as they are starving for emotional touch of their well wishers at advanced age of life.

Vijay Bhagotra, Secretary conducted the proceedings and urged the members to visit the Home at their convenience from time to time to favour the management with their valuable suggestions for further overall improvement in living conditions of the inmates as well as functioning of the Home.

Besides large number of members of its General Body, Prem Gupta Former IGP Patron, HS Manhas Vice President, Er Vijay Gupta Joint Secretary, Members of the Managing Committee Nirmala Zutshi, RC Vaid, Er Pankaj Gupta, Dinesh Gupta, Vinod Kumar and Vinod Malhotra were present in the meeting.

Life of Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel". GDC Bani celebrated Rashtriya Ekta Diwas with great fervour and enthusiasm. On the occasion, Rashtriya Ekta Diwas pledge was administered by Principal of the College, Dr Vishal Sharma to the staff and students present on the occasion. He also flagged off the "Run for Unity" march which commenced from the College to main park of the Bani town.

In GDC Batote, Dr Om Raj Katoch, Head Department of Economics, administered 'Rashtriya Ekta Diwas Pledge' to the students, faculty and other staff members. An essay writing competition on the life and contribution of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel was also organized for the students.

To observe Rashtriya Ekta Diwas, Reasi Police organized Parade and administered pledge in all police stations and police posts of the district. The main function was organized in District Police Lines Reasi and oath was administered to the troops of Police for preserving unity, integrity and security of the nation.

All Jammu based CRPF units and establishments celebrated birth anniversary of Sardar Patel as "National Unity Day with great enthusiasm". In Group Centre, Jammu, "Run & Walk" programme was organized in the

morning. On the occasion, "National Unity Pledge" was also administered to all by the chief guest, PS Ranpise, IGP Jammu Sector. A grand ceremonial "march past/parade" was also organized. BSF Jammu observed "Rashtriya Ekta Diwas" at Frontier Headquarter Paloura, Jammu. An impressive 'March Past' was conducted at BSF Hargobind Stadium, Paloura Camp, D K Boora, IG FTR BSF Jammu, took the salute in the presence of other officers, SOs and troops. 'March Past' parade was part of series of events which were organized to mark 'Rashtriya Ekta Diwas'. All the Battalions and Sector Headquarters also organized Rashtriya Ekta Diwas programmes at their respective locations.

The Day was also observed at SKPA Udhampur. On the occasion, V K Jamwal Deputy Director (outdoor) SKPA Udhampur on the behalf of Dr S D Singh Jamwal Director SKPA Udhampur took salute on the ekta Diwas Parade and addressed the trainees and staff of the Academy. Lastly, Jamwal read the pledge which was jointly recited by all trainees, officers and staff.

To commemorate the birth anniversary of Sardar Patel, Chenab Valley Power Projects (P) Limited, took Rashtriya Ekta Diwas Pledge. Employees of the Company as well as the contract workers participated in event which was led by Dr Mani Sunita Lakra, General Manager (Medical Services), Sanjay Gupta, General Manager (Contracts), CVPPPL along with other senior officers.

District Poonch unit of Physical Education Foundation of India (PEFI) organized a 'Run for Unity' in collaboration with Poonch District Taekwondo Association. Hundreds of young budding players of Taekwondo took part in this event. The rally

## Wreath laying ceremony held for two martyred soldiers

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Oct 31: A wreath laying ceremony was held on Sunday for two Army personnel, including an officer, who lost their lives in a landmine explosion during patrolling in a forward area near the Line of Control (LoC) in Rajouri district.

After the ceremony held at a garrison in Rajouri town at around 2 pm, the mortal remains of Lieutenant Rishi Kumar and Sepoy Manjit Singh were dispatched to their home towns in Bihar and Punjab for last rites, they said.

The two soldiers were martyred and another critically injured when a landmine exploded near a forward post in Kalal area of Nowshera sector on Saturday. The officials said the bodies were brought to the Army camp

where a wreath laying ceremony was organised to pay homage to them.

Senior Army officials said the coffins wrapped in the tricolour were airlifted from Rajouri to Jammu in a helicopter.

Later, the body of Lt Kumar, a resident of Begusarai in Bihar, was moved to his hometown in a service aircraft.

Union Minister Giriraj Singh, who represents the Begusarai constituency in Parliament, is likely to receive the body at the airport and join the funeral prayers of the officer, officials said.

The body of Sepoy Manjit Singh was taken by road from Jammu to his village Khera Kotli in Hoshiarpur district of Punjab.

The last rites of both the personnel would be held with full honours, officials said.

People during 'Run for Unity' organized by J&K Police in Srinagar on Sunday. —Excelsior/Shakeel

Former MLA Devender Rana having glimpses of the items at PANS & POTS CO in Channi Himmat on Sunday. —Excelsior/Rakesh

## Devender Rana inaugurates PANS & POTS CO at Channi Himmat

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Oct 31: PANS & POTS. CO—a multi brand kitchen appliances and studio store was inaugurated here today.

This multi brand studio store of kitchen wares was inaugurated by Devender Rana former MLA at Channi Himmat main road.

A large number of prominent people from civil society were present on the opening of this studio store.

This unique concept studio store has multiple national and international brands under one roof and is one of its kinds in the JK UT.

Speaking on the occasion, Devender Rana said that he was very much impressed by the wide variety and collection of the brands in kitchen wares available in the store under one roof. He stated that the concept of this type of studio store is one of its kinds in JK UT.

"The quality of the products is excellent and some of the brands are from international markets that speak of their own class", Rana said and also desired that business com-

munity should come up with this type of concepts to upgrade their establishments as this will make them do more well in their businesses and fetch them good returns too.

Raman Gupta, Chairman Krishna Cookwares and MD PANS & POTS. Co said that he is in the field of kitchen wares since 1991. "As the time changed, the kitchen concept and experience also have changed and with the new generation there was a demand for new innovative kitchen products that can make kitchen work easy and healthy due to the time restrictions spent in the kitchen and this idea gave birth to this studio store", he added.

He added that the pricing of all the items is also very reasonable and competitive and is within the reach of the common man. The store contains a wide range of beautiful crockery too to select for personal use and gifting purposes. Raman Gupta has invited all the people of Jammu to visit and experience this concept on this festival season.



LG Ladakh R K Mathur unveiling the statue of Black Necked Crane at Eco Park Leh.

## Leh celebrates dPal rNgam

Excelsior Correspondent

LEH, Oct 31: The Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC) Leh celebrated the fifth 'Ladakh dPal rNgam Duston' on the occasion of UT Ladakh foundation day in Leh today.

The programme commenced with the offering of the white scarf (Khataks) to the Royal Shrine at the Leh Palace (Leh-Chen Spal Khar). The Chairman/CEC, LAHDC Leh was the chief guest whereas Thiksey Khanpo Rinpoche and MP Ladakh, Jamyang Tsering Namgyal were guests of honour. Other dignitaries present during the occasion were Dy Chairman, LAHDC Leh, Executive Councillors and Councillors of LAHDC Leh, Administrative Secretaries of UT Ladakh, DC Leh, SSP Leh and Head of religious and political organisations of Leh district.

The event at Leh Palace was followed by a heritage walk from the Leh Palace to Eco Park at the main market Leh via old town. The statue Black-Necked crane, the state bird of UT Ladakh, was unveiled at the Eco Park Leh in the presence of LG Ladakh,

Thiksey Rinpoche, CEC Leh, MP Ladakh and other dignitaries. A procession was also conducted from the Eco Park to the historic Polo Ground.

Thiksey Khanpo Rinpoche was honoured with the 5th 'Ladakh dPal rNgam' award for his contribution to the Ladakhi society. Addressing the gathering, CEC Tashi Gyalson stated that Ladakh was granted the status of Union Territory due to the contribution of its able leaders, including the veteran and current political and spiritual leaders. He added that the dream became a reality two years ago due to the support from the Union Government led by PM Narendra Modi.

He urged the people of Ladakh to respect the status and assist the government elected by them in developing Ladakh at par with the rest of the world. He congratulated H.E Skyabje Thiksey Khanpo Rinpoche for receiving the prestigious 'Ladakh dPal rNgam' award for the year 2021 and cited Rinpoche's tremendous contribution to the entire Ladakhi society, especially for the cause of UT status for Ladakh.



Former MLA Devender Rana having glimpses of the items at PANS & POTS CO in Channi Himmat on Sunday. —Excelsior/Rakesh

## Dr K L Chowdhury passes away

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Oct 31: Dr Kundan Lal Chowdhury, a renowned physician, writer, founder member of Panun Kashmir (PK) and Shriya Bhat Medical mission breathed his last in USA today. He was 80. He is survived by his wife Dr Leela Chowdhury and two daughters.

Born in Srinagar, Kashmir in 1941 a medical graduate (MBBS) from Punjab University and postgraduate (MD) from Delhi University he did his fellowship in Neurology from London. He was son of J.L. Chowdhury an eminent criminal lawyer of his times.

He started his career as a faculty member in Medical College, Srinagar, as a clinician, teacher and researcher, rose to become a professor, and pioneered Neurology as a specialty in the Medical College.

In 1990 he moved to Jammu along with his community, and started charitable work by organizing the displaced doctors of KP Community and provided free medical care to thousands in the migrant camps. Thereafter he started Shriya Bhat Mission Hospital and Research Centre which provides free multi-specialty consultation and treatment to the poor and indigent patients and conducts medical camps, surveys and research. He conducted pioneering work on the Health Trauma of the displaced populations and coined new syndromes like "Stress Diabetes", "Psychological

Syndromes of exiles", "The 10-12 Syndrome", "The metabolic syndrome in 'migrant camp inmates' etc. and highlighted the adverse effects of stress of environmental and lifestyle changes on a displaced population. He held 123 Medical camps from 1990 to 2020 on different diseases in migrant camps and other areas of Jammu province where he provided free medical care. Even just before five days of his death he was providing the online consultation to the people.

Dr. Chowdhury was engaged in multifarious activities as a medical professional, social scientist, journalist, poet and writer. Besides, he was a political thinker who wrote "Why Homeland". He also gave the concept of City State for Kashmiri Pandits in the Valley. He was a staunch believer of Homeland for KPs and was also the vice president of PK for 15 years. Besides, he was chairman of Global Kashmiri Pandit Diaspora and KMECT.

Union Minister, Dr Jitendra Singh has expressed profound grief and sorrow over the demise of Dr Chowdhury and termed his death a great loss to medical fraternity and people. In his condolence message to his family, he said Dr Chowdhury was a well known Physician, an author who also led for the cause of his community after his displacement in 1990. All KP organizations have also expressed profound grief over his demise.

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