

DDC Chairpersons hoist National Flag in districts across Jammu division on R-Day

*Impressive parade, scintillating cultural shows enthrall audience

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 27: Patriotic fervor and nationalistic spirit marked the celebration of 74th Republic Day across Jammu Division. The District Development Council (DDC) Chairpersons hoisted the National Flag at district level functions amid a huge presence of enthusiastic citizens.

KATHUA: The main function was held at Sports Stadium where DDC Chairman, Col Mahan Singh (Retd) unfurled the Tricolor and took salute at the March past. Contingents drawn from Police, PTS, CRPF, Home Guard, Scouts and Guide, NRLM, Boys and Girls wings of NCC battalions besides band squads of Army, Police and schools presented an impressive Parade.

The maiden participation of JKSRML Women Self Help Group (SHG) members in the Parade was the cynosure of all eyes. While congratulating people, Col Mahan Singh said the day has great significance as on this day India became a democratic republic by adopting the Constitution. He said India is marching shoulder to shoulder with fast developing economies of the world.

Highlighting the developmental initiatives taken in the district, the DDC Chairman said with the coming up of Government Medical College Kathua, Bio Tech Park and the upcoming mega projects viz Shahpur Kandi Multipurpose & Ujh Barrage Multipurpose Projects the development pace in Kathua has gained



DDC Chairperson Rajouri during March Past of Republic Day.

allowed to disrupt this peaceful atmosphere. The DDC Chairperson also paid tributes to the persons who lost their lives in cowardice militant attack at Dhangri and assured their families that the administration is with them in these hours of grief and best possible assistance would be provided to them on a priority.

POONCH: Chairperson District Development Council Poonch, Tazem Akhter hoisted the National Flag and took salute on the March Past consisting of contingents of Educational Institutions, NRLM, CRPF, JK, JKAP, Home Guard, JKQRT Commando, NCC Cadets, Police Band. DySP DAR, Mohd. Shafiq was the parade commander.

Addressing the mammoth gathering, the DDC Chairperson highlighted the importance of the day and the guarantees provided to citizens by the Constitution of independent India. Highlighting progress achieved on the development front in the district, she mentioned projects completed to aug-

ment road infrastructure, healthcare facilities, quality education, electricity and water supply besides provision of social security to aged, physically challenged and widows creation of self-employment avenues for unemployed youth in the district.

On the occasion, cultural groups presented scintillating and colorful programmes depicting the rich heritage of the country which enthralled a gleefully cheering audience. The program was graced by Vice Chairperson District Development Council, Ashfaq Ahmed, Deputy Commissioner, Inder Jeet, Senior Superintendent of Police, Rohit Baskotra, DDC Members, Bar Association members, ex-legislators, prominent and senior citizens, others senior officers from police and civil administration.

REASI: District Development Council Chairman, Reasi Saraf Singh Nag hoisted the National Flag at General Zorawar Singh Sports Stadium Reasi and took salute an impressive march past comprising contingents of CRPF, IRP, JK, JK Home Guard, College NCC cadets Boys/Girls, NCC cadets of Girls and Boys of Higher Secondary Schools, BHSS, GHSS, HSS Gurukul, HS Gran, HS Kambal Danga, TSN Reasi, Lawrence Public School, HS Gair Mari, KPS, BVM, Galaxy Academy, Self Help Group and Army Band took part in the March past.

Speaking on the occasion, DDC Chairperson recounted the rapid growth of India over 74 years of freedom. He also listed achievements recorded in Reasi district on the development front. Regarding the development of the district, he said that the Government is working hard to provide better road infrastructure, healthcare facilities, quality education; road connectivity, electricity and water supply to left out villages besides ensuring social security to aged, physically challenged, widows and self-employment avenues to unemployed youth. He appealed to the people of Reasi to work together for promoting National integration, communal harmony and peace in the district. He also listed numerous developmental projects and works undertaken in different sectors of the district and informed about various measures taken by the UT Govt and district administration for the overall development of the district.

On the occasion, District Administration also presented mementos and certificates of commendation to District Officers, who exhibited exemplary work ethics and professionalism, besides meritorious students were also conferred with awards.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chairperson DDC said that the day has great significance as on this day India became a Secular, Sovereign, Socialistic and

Democratic republic which enshrine the values of equality, fraternity and universal brotherhood for every citizen of the India irrespective of any discrimination. The DDC chairperson also listed the achievements under the flagship schemes, good governance initiatives taken by District Administration, particularly in the educational sector in the far flung areas of Dachhan, Marwah, Warwan, Bounjwah, Paddar and Chatroo Blocks.

RAMBAN: Chairperson, District Development Council, Ramban, Dr Shamshad Shan unfurled Tricolour followed by the National Anthem at District Police Lines, Ramban. Deputy Commissioner, Ramban, Mussarat Islam, President, MC, Ramban, Sunita Sumerbia, Senior Superintendent of Police, Mohita Sharma, DDC, Councillors, senior Civil, Police and Army officers, PRIs, prominent citizens, besides a large number of students and people from various educational institutions attended the function.

After inspecting the parade, the Chairperson took the salute from the parading contingents and gave a brief account of the main developmental activities registered in the district during the current year. She congratulated the District Administration for securing National Silver Award for e-Governance and implementing various developmental projects and flagship schemes. Dr Shamshad Shan prominently appreciated the public of Ramban for maintaining peace, communal harmony and brotherhood in the district in every situation.

Later, the Chief Guest along with other dignitaries distributed prizes among the participants. Some officers, officials, students, artists, and social workers were also awarded for their outstanding performance in their respective fields.

DODA: Chairman District Development Council (DDC), Dhananter Singh Kotwal unfurled the Tricolour and took salute at the march past comprising contingents drawn from JK, CRPF, SSB, JKAP, JK, PPF, NCC Jr, NCC Senior, Home Guard and scores of students from GDC Doda and government/private schools.

Vice Chairperson DDC, Sangetta Rani Bhagat, Deputy Commissioner Doda Vishesh Paul Mahajan, Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Doda Abdul Qayoom, President MC Doda Ved Prakash Gupta, DDC Chairpersons, DDC members, officers from civil and police administration, Army, CRPF, IRP, BSF, elected members of MC Doda, PRIs, prominent citizens, social workers, political activists and a large number of men, women and children were present on the occasion.

The DDC Chairman, in his address, highlighted the importance of the Republic Day, paid tributes to the freedom struggle heroes and listed the values enshrined in the Constitution for the welfare of the citizens. The Chairman listed prestigious projects and schemes being implemented to upgrade the socio-economic status of the people.

UDHAMPUR: The main function was held in the premises of Government PG College, Boys Udhampur whereat District Development Council Chairperson, Udhampur Lal Chand the chief guest hoisted the National Flag and took salute at an impressive march past of 28 contingents drawn from District Police, CRPF, Volunteers Home Guards, NCC and other civil troupes besides Police Band, took part in this national function.

DDC Vice Chairperson, Jui Manhas Pathania, Deputy Commissioner, Udhampur Kritika Jyotsna, DIG Udhampur-Reasi Range, Mohammad Suleman Choudhary, SSP, Dr Vinod Kumar, President MC Udhampur, Dr. Jogeswar Gupta were among prominent persons present on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, DDC Chairperson said that present Government under the guidance of Lieutenant Governor is trying its best to lead Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory on the glorious path of development and prosperity with the ideology of one nation, one vision and one identity. He reiterated that the administration is making earnest efforts to provide basic facilities such as electricity, water, health, employment, roads etc to all the people of our Union Territory which will enable them to live in a dignified manner.

Various scintillating cultural programmes reflecting patriotism and rich culture and theme based Skits were also presented by the students and Artists which were highly enthralled the audience.

India developed four vaccines within two years: Dr Jitendra

Excelsior Correspondent

NEW DELHI, Jan 27: Union Minister for Science & Technology, Dr Jitendra Singh today said that under the able guidance and leadership of Prime

Suraksha" was announced by Government of India, at a total cost of Rs. 900 Crore, under Atmanirbhar Bharat 3.0 package. The aim was to enable development of safe, efficacious, affordable, and indigenous COVID-19 vaccines in an accelerated manner, the Minister said.

He emphasised that "Mission COVID Suraksha" also supported augmentation of manufacturing facilities for enhancement of COVAXIN® production at Bharat Biotech's Malur facility and India Immunological Limited, Hyderabad.



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh, flanked by Suchitra Ella of Bharat Biotech, displaying the vial of newly launched Nasal Vaccine for COVID, on Friday.

Minister Narendra Modi, India has developed four indigenous vaccines within two years.

The Department of Biotechnology (DBT) in Ministry of Science & Technology has through "Mission COVID Suraksha", delivered four vaccines, augmented the manufacturing of Covaxin, and created necessary infrastructure for smooth development of future vaccines, so that our country is pandemic ready, he said.

The four vaccines are ZCoV-D-World's 1st and India's indigenously developed DNA Vaccine, CORBEVAXTM-India's first protein subunit vaccine, GEMCOVACTM-19-World's 1st and India's indigenously developed mRNA vaccine and iNCOVACC-World's 1st and India's indigenously developed intranasal COVID-19 Vaccine.

Speaking after a high-level meeting with Secretary DBT Rajesh Gokhale and other senior officials of the Department, following the formal launch of Intranasal Covid Vaccine, Dr Jitendra Singh pointed out that financial support for vaccine development, as well as, expert scientific and technical oversight and monitoring for various COVID-19 vaccine development activities, were provided under this Mission.

Dr Singh underlined that in the wake of the pandemic crisis, vaccine development for COVID-19 was accorded the highest priority by the Modi Government and accordingly, "Mission COVID

Singh informed that "Mission COVID Suraksha" required a strong public-private partnership (PPP) model to deliver the vaccine on an urgent basis. He said, DBT had the required strength and infrastructure to develop such a model and work with the scientific community, as well as, vaccine manufacturers to deliver vaccines in a short span of time, which was needed by our country and also the global community.

The Minister added that DBT with its more than three decades long experience in vaccine research and development already had basic scientific strength through its Autonomous Institutes and also an industry-academia interface agency. Dr Jitendra Singh said, the COVID-19 pandemic brought intense challenges to the global scientific community, both in terms of managing the infection and preventing it. The Government of India, has been praised globally by the international community for its leadership at the highest levels and its vision to manage the pandemic.

Secretary, DBT, Gokhale informed that the clinical trial sites supported under Mission COVID Suraksha have facilitated clinical trials for ZCoV-D, Covovax, GEMCOVACTM-19, CORBEVAXTM, Covaxin Booster, rBCG (Serum Institute) and J&J's COVID vaccine. An electronic volunteer database of nearly 1.5 lakh subjects has also been prepared.

Fire breaks out in SDM Office

Excelsior Correspondent

POONCH, Jan 27: A fire incident was reported in Sub Divisional Magistrate Surankote Office in Poonch due to electric short circuit.

Official sources said that soon after receiving the information in the morning, Police, Fire and Emergency Services teams reached the spot but fire extinguished itself, while the panelling table and some chairs were fomented and partially burnt in this incident.

Sub Divisional Magistrate Surankote, Rizwan Qureshi while confirming the incident said that there was no loss to the record kept in the office.

A senior Police Officer when contacted said that it was due to electric short circuit, while there is not much loss in the incident.



JKPCC contractors addressing media in Jammu on Friday.

-Excelsior/Rakesh

'Clear pending dues': Contractors to Govt

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 27: A joint press conference was organised here on Friday by the JKPCC Contractors Associations of Jammu as well as Kashmir Division, wherein the contractors demanded that their pending dues are cleared at the earliest.

Addressing the media persons, the departmental contractors claimed that they have also brought in the matter of non-clearance of the payments and other grievances to the notice of the Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta, who has assured to look into their issues on a priority basis.

According to Rakesh Jalali, the Jammu Division President of the Association, the contractors' liabilities of the departmental works have not been cleared for the past 11 years while the liability of the recent e-tender works have also not been cleared throughout the UT of J&K.

"These payments must be released at the earliest," he said. Jalali also demanded that the

700 cameras put in place at Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 27: The cave shrine of Vaishno Devi atop Trikuta hills in Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi district has put in place e-surveillance through a dedicated CCTV network of over 700 cameras, officials said today.

A record of over 91.25 lakh devotees paid obeisance at the shrine in 2022, the highest in the past nine years, they said.

"Safety and security of pilgrims is the top priority of shrine board," Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB), Anshul Garg said.

For the purpose of real-time tracking of pilgrims on the track, ensure proper crowd management and manage registration of



Lt Governor Manoj Sinha during meeting with K K Gandhi, acclaimed artist and painter in Jammu.

Ex-minister, acclaimed painter call on LG

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 27: Sunil Sharma, former Minister called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha at the Raj Bhavan today.

The former minister apprised the Lt Governor about various issues of public importance.

KK Gandhi, acclaimed artist

and painter also called on the Lt Governor and discussed important matters related to the promotion of art and culture in Jammu Kashmir.

The Lt Governor while interacting with Sunil Sharma and KK Gandhi assured them of due consideration of all the genuine suggestions and issues put forth by them.



Senior Cong leader Devender Rana at a function in Billawar on Friday.

Rahul Gandhi following diktat of anti-national, pro-Pak PAGD: Rana

Excelsior Correspondent

BILLAWAR, Jan 27: Invoking

conscience of the Jammu and Kashmir based Congress leaders and workers over Rahul Gandhi following diktat of anti-national and pro-Pakistan Peoples' Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD), senior BJP leader Devender Singh Rana today regretted that were they allowing themselves to get tagged to a sectarian, separatist and communal amalgam.

"How can the J&K Congress leaders rally behind a leader who plays second fiddle to the PAGD, which took no time in pleading for dialogue with Pakistan after the recent carnage and mayhem in Rajouri", Rana said while talking to reporters here at the sidelines of the inaugural function of Hotel Heritage in the Billawar town by young entrepreneur siblings Bharat Khajuria and Ananant

Khajuria besides their father Romy Khajuria for their enterprising.

He said the PAGD is working on the directions of Pakistan and therefore it is astonishing for the 137 year old Congress to follow the diktat of the three year old divisive alliance.

Rana said the former Congress president owes an unconditional apology to the nation for the shocking and brazen comments of three times chief minister, a Union Minister and senior leader Digvijaya Singh over the Balakote surgical strike and Pulwama attack, adding mere maintaining distance is not enough as the anti-national remarks are too sweeping and demoralizing for the country's brave and valiant armed forces. He said Digvijay has been aligned to the yatra from day one and his criticism of the army, which is a steel frame for the integrity and sovereignty of the nation, is disgusting and shameful.

Rana also sought apology from Rahul Gandhi for the Congress being responsible for the mess in Kashmir. The Congress remained mute to the unleashing of terror, destruction and devastation for decades and the haunting out of Kashmiri Pandits from their homes and hearths because of the grand old party's inherent contradictions and policy of appeasement. The Congress has been solely responsible for the division of India and weakening of the country, he added.

He advised Gandhi to understand the ethos of this great country. Indian history is 5000 year old and it does not start from 1947 or the beginning of his yatra. India has been an abode of diverse cultures and races from times immemorial.

Prominent among those present on the occasion included Satish Sharma, Prem Sagar Aziz, Som Nath Khajuria, Ravinder Slathia, Surinder Singh Bunty, Sanjay Gupta, Ajay Sharma, Narayan Dutt, DDC Gujroo Nagrota, Vikram Singh, DDC Billawar, Omkant Basotra, Municipal Chairman, Billawar, Ashok Kumar, BDC, Billawar, Darshan Singh.



DDC Kathua chairperson inspecting R-Day parade.

great momentum. He said projects like National Seed Plant, Water Sports Centre at Basohli, Bamboo Craft Centres, and Agriculture Potato farm besides two new national highways will catapult the development profile of the district. A colorful cultural programme showcasing India's Rich Cultural heritage was presented by students of participating institutions. DDC also presented trophies, certificates to the best performers in the field of Health and participating parade contingents and cultural performances.

Among others DC Kathua Rahul Pandey, DDC Vice Chairman, Raghunandan Singh, SSP Kathua Shivdeep Singh Jammwal, BDC Chairpersons, DDC members, ULB members, District Officers, prominent civil society members citizens and a large number of people and students were present on the occasion.

RAJOURI: The main function was organized at District Police Lines Ground Rajouri where the chief guest, District Development Council Chairman, Naseem Liyaqat unfurled the National Flag and took the salute.

The contingents of JKAP, JK Executive Police, JK police band, CRPF, JK PPF, and SPO, NCC senior Boys and girls, NCC JUO Boys and contingents of different schools, EMRs and NRLM also participated in March past, while DySP, Zaheer Abbas commanded the parade.

Deputy Commissioner, Vikas Kundal; DIG Rajouri Poonch, Haseeb Mughal, senior officers from CRPF and district administration; and thousands of people thronged the venue to witness the grand celebrations of the national event.

Referring to ongoing activities in the district, the DDC Chairman said that like other districts of UT, Rajouri is also marching on the path of development. He listed numerous projects taken up to upgrade road infrastructure, healthcare facilities, quality education; power and water supply, besides provision for providing social security to aged, physically challenged and widows and providing self-employment avenues to unemployed youth in the district.

The DDC Chairman said that the Rajouri district is known all over the UT and country for its rich cultural heritage and communal harmony among people of different faiths. He also added that no divisive force should ever be

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