

LG flags off 'Run for Unity' to mark Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's birth anniversary

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday flagged off 'Run for Unity' to commemorate the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel in Srinagar.

Citizens from different age groups participated in the run to celebrate the spirit of unity.

The Lt Governor administered 'Rashtriya Ekta Diwas' Pledge to the assembled gathering at Bakshi Stadium and Raj Bhavan, and paid tributes to the Unifier of India Bharat Ratna Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

"Sardar Patel with his statesmanship, grit and courage unified the country and defended its territorial



Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha flagging off 'Run for Unity' at Srinagar.

integrity and sovereignty so that the future generations can live in honour, peace and prosperity," the Lt Governor.

He said the citizens of J&K UT must resolve today to work with great unity and single objective to make our nation a developed country

by 2047. "Let us reawaken the values and vision propagated by Sardar Patel and work for peace, harmony and prosperity in the society," the Lt Governor said.

Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Advisor to Lt Governor; Dr

Mandeep Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lt Governor, Administrative Secretaries; Divisional

Commissioner Kashmir and senior officers of Civil and Police Administration were present at Bakshi Stadium.

Jammu and Kashmir UT Foundation Day: Celebrating Unity and Diversity

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Directorate of Tourism, Jammu in collaboration with the District Administration, Samba and Government Polytechnic College Jammu, orchestrated an extraordinary celebration to mark the Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory Foundation Day. This remarkable event artfully blended adventure and cultural festivities, showcasing the region's rich heritage and the spirit of unity.

The centerpiece of the celebration was a one-day trekking expedition, commencing from the tranquil Tourist village Mohargarh and culminating at the picturesque Mansar Lake. About 70 enthusiastic trekkers, including students and faculty members from diverse disciplines at the Polytechnic College, embarked on this thrilling journey.

The flag-off ceremony, held at the prestigious Government Polytechnic College, Jammu, was graced by the presence of Sunaina Mehta Sharma Joint Director Tourism Jammu and the



Sunaina Mehta Sharma Joint Director Tourism Jammu flagging off trekkers.

Principal of Government Polytechnic College Bikram Chowk, Jammu. Also in attendance were faculty members of the Government Polytechnic College, as well as officers and officials of the Department.

In her address, Sharma emphasized the Directorate of Tourism Jammu's commitment to promoting adventure tourism in the region, guided by the able leadership of Secretary Tourism, Dr. Syed Abid Rashid, and Director Tourism, Vivekanand Rai.

She highlighted the enduring significance of this trek, a tradition championed by the department for several years. The goal is to transform Mansar and its surroundings into a winter hub for soft adventure activities, including trekking, adventure camps,

and hiking.

Sharma further accentuated the importance of proper trekking gear and the necessity of maintaining cleanliness in these areas. This initiative seeks to offer visitors a luxurious and adventurous experience by revealing the numerous trekking routes in Mansar.

The trek wove its way through the captivating Surinsar-Mansar Wildlife Sanctuary, offering trekkers picturesque views of the surrounding hills. Beginning at Mahoregarh Fort, with its historical roots as an Afghan outpost, the trail enthralled participants with an adventurous ascent. Reaching the summit, trekkers were rewarded with a breathtaking panoramic view of the entire Mansar Lake, adding

immeasurable delight to their journey.

Arun Bangotra, Principal Polytechnic College, shared his personal experiences, underscoring how such trails offer urban dwellers the unique chance to reconnect with nature.

He lauded the collaborative efforts of the Tourism Department and District Administration Samba, in making this event possible.

The trekkers were warmly welcomed at Nud, Samba, by a distinguished reception party, including Keshav Sharma, DDC Chairman of Samba, Abhishek Sharma, Deputy Commissioner of Samba, Benam Tsh, Senior Superintendent of Police in Samba, along with other esteemed officers.

The Deputy Commissioner,

in his address, underscored the significance of Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory Foundation Day. He added that this occasion serves as a tribute to the region's rich culture, heritage and the contributions of its people.

Additionally, this day aligns with Rashtriya Ekta Diwas, marking the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, India's Iron Man. It stands as a symbol of unity, emphasizing the shared principles that bind the diverse regions of India.

The festivities continued at historic Samba fort with an engaging cultural program, featuring Nukkad Natak, an open mic session, a live painting competition, a photo exhibition and departmental stalls, collectively creating an immersive and memorable celebration for the Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory Foundation Day.

This event is a testament to the successful blending of adventure and culture, underscoring the rich heritage of the Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory. It stands as a symbol of unity and the celebration of the region's extraordinary diversity.

DIPR Jammu celebrates 'Rashtriya Ekta Diwas'



Joint Director Information Atul Gupta paying tributes to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: To mark the Birth Anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel commemorated as Rashtriya Ekta Diwas, a simple but impressive function was organised in the Auditorium of Department of Information and Public Relations.

At the outset, the officials paid floral tributes to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel which was followed by 'National Integrity' pledge committing to dedicate themselves and their services to preserve the unity, integrity and security of the nation and to strive hard to spread this message among the fellow countrymen.

The artists of the cultural unit of the department presented mesmerizing performances on the 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat' theme, filling the atmosphere with patriotic and nationalistic spirit.

Speaking on the occasion, the Joint Director Information Atul Gupta underscored the significance of observing the Rashtriya Ekta Diwas.

He highlighted the role of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel in fostering the Unity of the nation by bringing together different regions of the great Indian Nation. He said that the leader worked for national integration and

devoted his life to this cause.

The Joint Director appealed to everyone to follow the principles and teachings of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel to evolve a strong and united society.

Deputy Director Information (PR) Dr. Vikas Sharma, Deputy Director Central Sunil Kumar, Deputy Director (AV) Dharampal, Administrative Officer Renu Sharma along with Information Officers and other staff members attended the event.

Similar, functions were also held in District Information Centres of Jammu division.

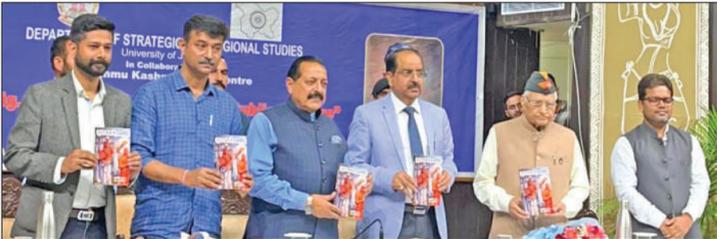
Dr Jitendra releases book titled 'Mudrarakshas Mein Rajneeti'

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh released a book "Mudrarakshasa Mein Rajneeti" during a grand function held at Brig. Rajinder Singh Auditorium, University of Jammu.

The book which was written over the course of a year has been authored by Rannek Sharma, who is a Ph.D. scholar from Department of Sanskrit University of Jammu and co-authored by Dr. Satyapriya, who is an Assistant Professor in the same department.

Vice Chancellor of Jammu University, Prof. Umesh Rai has penned the foreword of the book. Padma Shri and Rashtrapati Awardee Vedkumari Ghai and Rashtrapati Awardee Prof. Ram Pratap have written the introductory



Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh and others releasing a book "Mudrarakshasa Mein Rajneeti".

message of the book.

The book "Mudrarakshasa Mein Rajneeti" deals with the story of Amatyak Rakshasa and Chanakya during Chandragupta Maurya's reign and how Chanakya using his wit and diplomatic abilities compelled Amatyak Rakshasa to become one of Chandragupta's ministers.

The function's anchor, Dr. Monir Alam, called the book a remarkable

description of Chanakya's statecraft and its relevance to the present day.

Dr. Jitendra Singh offered congratulations to Rannek Sharma and bestowed upon him luck for his further pursuits. In addition, he urged the telling of such historical accounts of ancient Bharat that provide guidance for contemporary Bharat and also encouraged more aspiring authors and writers to engage in research.

Among the dignitaries present at the function were Prof. B.N. Tripathi, Vice Chancellor of SKAUST-Jammu, Prof. Virender Koundal, Director of Department of Strategic and Regional Studies and Major General (Retd.) Goverdhan Singh Jamwal.

The author of the book Rannek Sharma and co-author Dr. Satyapriya dedicated the book to the Late Smt. Vedkumari Ghai.

Karwa Chauth: The Tradition Converging Into Celebrations

MALU SHARMA

Karwa Chauth' the festival, the tradition, the ritual indeed commemorates women's unending love and immense sacrifice for her husband. Karwa Chauth is an annual one-day festival celebrated by married women in Hindu religion. Karwa Chauth fast is unique perhaps because nowhere in the world makes women go without food or water just to pray for longevity and well being of her husband. In modern times, with all the paraphernalia of marketing joints, Karwa Chauth, the big day turned into a strong event in itself. The event is becoming bigger with each passing day.

The women fast from sunrise to moonrise for the safety and longevity of their husbands. The festival is called Karwa Chauth as it falls on the fourth day after the full moon night before Diwali.



Women begin preparing for Karwa Chauth a few days in advance, by buying cosmetics, traditional ornaments or jewellery and puja items, such as the karwa lamps, matthi, meethi matthi, henna and the decorated puja thali.

After Navratri, crowds have started grooving in the markets for the purchase of Karwa Chauth items. The busy Raghunath Nath Bazar Market, Purani Mandi mar-

ket, Link Road market, Raj Tilak Road market, Fattu-Chaughan market, and other local markets are flooded with gift items and other related items. Women can be seen shopping.

Karwa Chauth celebrations seem incomplete without mehendi. Temporary stalls have been put up by mehendi designers in front of malls and in local markets where people can get beautiful mehendi

drawn on their hands at a cheaper price. Mehendi imprints are also becoming common.

With changing time, the rituals of Karwa Chauth has also changed a bit, as it is commonly being observed by unmarried women as well as husbands who wish to share the amazing and overwhelming experience with their wives.

Sargi is another crucial ritual of the festival, where the mother-in-law personally presents it to her daughter-in-law on Karwa Chauth. The Sargi plate includes a variety of items such as fruits, mathri (a kind of fried bread), sweets, dry fruits, and other edibles. Both the mother-in-law and the daughter-in-law partake in the Sargi before sunrise. This shared meal strengthens their bond and enhances the sense of togetherness during this special day.

Today is Sardar's Birthday who integrated India Union PVC Maj Som Nath & PVC NK Yadu Nath made extreme sacrifices to secure late integration of J&K

DAYA SAGAR

Today is 31st October, the birthday of Bharat Rattan Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and India celebrates the day as National Unity Day / Rastriya Ekta Diwas. Sardar was the architect of forming a big chunk out of 565 of Princely States of erstwhile British Indian Empire a part of India Democratic Republic in 1947.

J&K was also one of the such princely states which acceded after 14th August 1947 only on 26th Oct 1947 when the Pakistani raiders had already entered the territories of Princely state. Keeping in view situations in 1947 it will be fair enough to observe that the Indian forces played a very very nodal role after 27th Oct 1947 mobilization making extreme sacrifices but for which a large part of J&K State was saved from becoming 'Pakistan occupied area of J&K (POJK). Battle of Badgam (1947) & Battle of Nowshera (1948) where

1st and 2nd Param Vir Chakras of independent India were earned by Major Som Nath Sharma & NK Yadunath Singh who also could be named champions of Integration of India.

It has been on this (2023) 23rd January which is observed as Prakarman Divas and was the 126th birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has unveiled the model of a proposed memorial dedicated to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, to be set up in Andaman and Nicobar Islands and also named 21 islands of the UT Andaman and Nicobar after Param Vir Chakra awardees., Prime Minister Narendra Modi has always been taking leads over all other leaders and in this direction too he has been the first. The largest of the islands are named after the 1st PVC (Param Vir Chakra India's highest gallantry award) decorated soldier (Maj Som Nath Sharma) and the 2nd largest

after 2nd PVC decorated soldier (Nk J(Y)adu Nath Singh. Both Major Som Nath Sharma and Nk J(Y)adu Nath Singh had made the extreme sacrifice while defending the India borders in the State of Jammu & Kashmir in 1947-48 and both were non J&K state subjects.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi lead NDA Government has been the first in initiating some ventures and reforms. As regards affairs concerning the erstwhile State of J&K too the present government in centre has been first to take constitutional initiatives like Presidential Orders as issued under C.O 272 Dated 05-08-2019 and Presidential notifications as issued vide. C.O 273 06-08-2019 worth undoing a number of otherwise myths that



A Look through the Mist Part-I

relationships / constitutional provisions in relation to J&K were advocated / promoted by some political segments and that had not so far been rightfully & timely contested. True that the myths cultivated over decades had become the belief of some and hence the objective & intensions at the back of CO 272 & CO 273 may require some more time to reach the common man and government & those working for return of total peace & stability in J&K may have to work for more time with cool mind for carrying the spirits. One of myths reared was that Art 370 gave special status in the Constitution of India to Indian State of J&K & is a bridge

had taken roots since some wrong notions / explanations about 1947 Accession / Constitutional provisions in relation to J&K which totally wrong but had never been pointedly dismissed by any political government / political party till 2015. Before August 2019 it was only on 11-03-2015 that in reply to Rajay Sabha Question 138* Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Haribhai Parathibhai Chaudhary) Government of India had in a written reply said "(a): In the Constitution of India, there is no mention of 'Special Status to Jammu and Kashmir'. Article 370 provides for 'Temporary provisions with respect to the State of Jammu and Kashmir.'" Belief cultivated that Art370 provided special status to J&K State in Constitution of India and was a bridge between India & State was surely a myth. Of course Act 34 of Parliament of India as of August 2019 that split the erstwhile State of J&K into two UTs of J&K and Ladakh may have been questioned by some feeling hurt with the sta-

tus reduced from State to a UT, they may be right to some extent but since GOI has already said in the Parliament as well as outside the Parliament that it has been due some compulsive conditions and soon UT of J&K will be given the status of State. So that should not be taken otherwise.

It is not out of place to mention here 16 out of 21 PVC Decorated Indian soldiers who have shown exemplary sense of valour & sacrifice have done so while fighting the enemy in / along J&K territories and out of 16 PVC awardees fifteen have been non-state subjects / non permanent residents of J&K State. But J&K governments have not felt immediate concern for honouring these soldiers / expressing special gratitude to such souls or their families.

To be continued (The author is Sr Journalist & leading scribe J&K affairs dayasagr45@yahoo.com).