

LG hosts Republic Day 'At Home'

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha hosted the 'At Home' reception at the Raj Bhavan on the occasion of the 74th Republic Day.

The Lt Governor interacted with the invitees from different walks of life and exchanged Republic Day greetings with them.

Family members of the martyrs of Jammu Kashmir Police, Security Forces, ex-servicemen and the changemakers of Jammu Kashmir were among the special invitees.



Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha meeting with veterans during 'At Home' reception.

The customary 'At Home' was attended by the Chief Justice (A) Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court; Chief Election Commissioner of Jammu & Kashmir; Vice Chancellors of the Universities; former legislators; PRI and ULB representatives; Heads and representatives of various social and political organizations; eminent citizens; National Awardees; prominent artists; sportspersons; media persons; besides senior Civil, Police and Army officers, and senior government officials.

Rahul Gandhi following diktat of anti-national, pro-Pakistan PAGD in Kashmir: Rana



Senior BJP leader Devender Singh Rana at a programme.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BILLAWAR: 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 on Friday 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", Devender 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 enterprise. 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.

Devender 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 hounding 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 said the Congress must understand that India is changing under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. An unprecedented era of progress and development is going on and the day is not far when India will emerge as Vishwaguru, he added. He advised Rahul 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. He said the people of India have not forgotten communal riots of Kanpur and other similar acts of violence under the Congress era. Indira Gandhi's emergency is still fresh as a nightmare in the public memory, he said, wondering what this yatra is binding at all.

Devender Rana also paid obeisance at Mata Sukrala Temple and prayed for peace and tranquility.

J&K Bank celebrates 74th Republic Day



J&K Bank MD & CEO Baldev Prakash and others after unfurling the National Flag.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: As part of nationwide celebrations on the 74th Republic Day, J&K Bank MD & CEO Baldev Prakash on Thursday unfurled the Tricolour in the Bank's major function held at Jammu Zonal Office in presence of General Managers Ashutosh Sareen, Narjay Gupta, Divisional Head (Jammu) Sunit Kumar, Zonal Head Jammu Rajesh Dubay, Dy General Managers amid large gathering of bank officials.

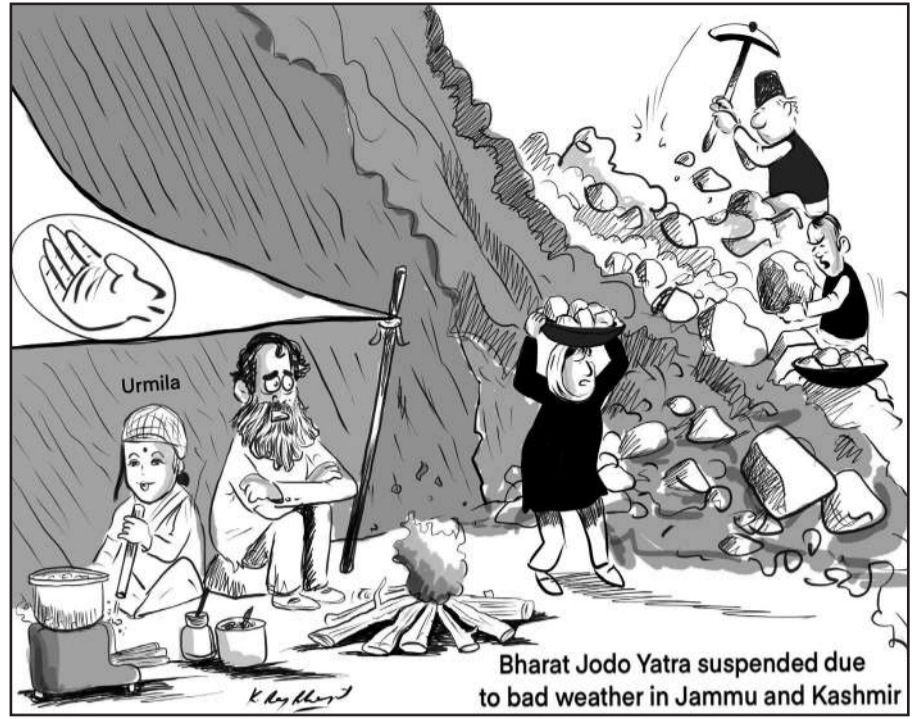
Speaking on the occasion, MD & CEO congratulated the staff and said, "This day is very significant in the history of our nation, as it was 74 years ago today, when one book of constitution united a country of numerous cultures, multiple religions, too many different languages and completely diverse geographies. And today we celebrate the 74th Republic day with great zeal under the ongoing Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav across the country."

"Today is also a day of reflection for us to see whether we are fulfilling our constitutional obligations as institutions

meant for economic welfare of the people through meaningful financial interventions. While maintaining our lead role in J&K, Ladakh as premier financial institution, we need to build further upon our mission of financial empowerment of people and work diligently to scale up our operations strategically in our rest of India geographies", he added.

The participants also reiterated that they remain committed towards attaining the goals of business growth besides institutional development. In Srinagar, the main function was held at Bank's Corporate Headquarters wherein General Manager Peer Masood Ahmad unfurled the national flag in presence of General Managers Syed Rais Maqbool, Sharesh Sharma, Tabassum Nazir, Syed Shujaat Hussain Andrabi and Intiyaz Ahmad Bhat besides DGMs and other senior officers of the Bank.

Notably, the Republic Day functions were organized at all the zonal offices of the Bank across the country wherein participants celebrated the day with patriotic fervor.



Jammu Newspapers Editors Guild celebrates 74th Republic Day, unfurls Tricolour



Jammu Newspapers Editors Guild members unfurling the National Flag during 74th Republic Day celebration at Hotel Lemon Tree Jammu.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Jammu Newspapers Editors Guild (JNEG) celebrated 74th Republic Day with its members unfurling the National Flag at the premises of Hotel Lemon Tree Jammu.

Chairman JNEG, Raj Daluja Editor-in-Chief State Times, President A.K Sawhney, Chief Patron Journey Line, Vice President Syed Iqbal Kazmi (Editor daily Urdu Udan), Vice President Ram Kumar Dubey (Editor Kattu Satya), Joint Secretary/ Spokesperson Vishal Chopra (Editor Jammu Metro), Vinod Kumar (Editor Truly Times), Amit Sawhney (Editor Daily Journey

Line) amongst others participated in the function. At the outset, Raj Daluja and A.K Sawhney congratulated all the citizens in general and the members of the Guild in particular on the auspicious occasion of Republic Day of the nation. Speaking on the occasion, Raj Daluja, Chairman JNEG said that the Guild is a national-spirited organisation of Editors fraternity of J&K and its all constituents are united on the issues related to national interest and are bound to fair reporting and promote whatever is in the national interest.

He highlighted importance of celebrating the Republic Day, the day when Constitution of India was

implemented and India was declared a democratic republic. Speaking on the occasion, A K Sawhney congratulated the people, participants on the occasion of Republic Day, spoke about the need to rededicate ourselves to work with sincerity and devotion to the welfare of society.

"Our Constitution provides as a number of basic rights as Citizen of the country, but there are some duties also which we all must fulfill religiously. It is duty of every citizen of India, especially youth, to contribute his or her bit in the nation building, so that the country can progress on the path of development. On this Republic Day, let us take pledge to re-dedicate ourselves for the country and work hard for making in a Vishwa Guru," he asserted.

Cancer cases in Jammu and Kashmir are constantly increasing: a matter of concern

■ SHAKEELA ANDRABI

SRINAGAR: Food colours, junk foods, unhygienic food, air pollution including poor life style and self-medication are responsible for the increasing in cancer cases.

The Union Health Ministry data reveals that J&K reported an estimated 51,577 cases of cancer, with 12,396 cases being reported in 2019, 12,726 cases in 2020, 13,060 cases in 2021, and 13,395 cases in 2022. A quick glance at the statistics reveals that cancer cases are constantly rising. According to the ministry, the Indian Council of Medical Research gathered the information for the 'National Cancer Registry Programme Report'.

Cancer is a multifactorial illness, with ageing populations, sedentary lifestyles, cigarette use, poor diet, and air pollution among the risk factors. The statement from the ministry

states that "the number of cancer cases related to industrial and water pollution is not accessible". People, healthcare professionals and the government share the concern over the rising trend in cancer cases in J&K. Recently Director SKIMS Dr ParvaizKoul said around ten thousand deaths in Jammu and Kashmir attributed to air pollution every year. "Our aim is to aware doctors and this message will reach to masses as people treat advice of doctors as words of God and people will get information how to decrease air pollution and how they can contribute in it.

In the past, several studies have been conducted to identify the factors that may be contributing to the rise in these cases. A 2012 study of Sher-e-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS) attributed the rising cancer incidence to "dietary practises and lifestyle

choices" as well as the intake of foods with high salt content. Numerous dyes are suspected to cause cancer in humans and are frequently used in food industry. Additionally, some of these dyes like carmoisine and tartrazine have been found to be used in Kashmir as colouring agents in certain foods, spices, and sauces. Food adulteration and contamination have grown in importance as a problem in Kashmir in the recent years. Some of the food products produced by large business companies have even been found to contain hazardous substances. As a result of this, the High Court in 2014 was compelled to impose severe restrictions on them. Kashmir's first Population-based Cancer Registry (PbCR), the two-year data under the project, brought to fore many unknown facts about how various cancers afflict the region. In 2017, 507

lung cancer patients were registered at Regional Cancer Center, SKIMS, Soura, the only institute to have a hospital-based cancer registry. As per the registry, lung cancer was at the top among all cancers that year, replacing oesophageal cancer, which was recorded as afflicting the highest number of patients prior to this. However, since 2018, when the registration of cancers was expanded and taken into the community, lung cancer was pushed to number three. As per PbCR and Hospital-based Cancer Registry (HBCR) combined together, 2098 patients with cancers of the stomach and stomach junction were recorded in 2018 and 2019 together. This was the highest for any cancer with both genders together. It was followed by another gastrointestinal (GI) tract malignancy - esophagus cancer with 966 patients.

Dr Darakhshan unfurls Tricolour at at Waqf Headquarters Jammu

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: J&K Waqf Board organised Republic Day Function for the first time at Waqf Central Office Complex in Jammu where Chairperson of the Board Dr Darakhshan Andrabi unfurled the National Flag. CEO Dr Syed Majid Jahangir & the Administrator Mudassir Iqbal were also present.

Dr Andrabi said, "We are proud to be born as Indians. We have strong inclusive cultural foundations at the base of our vibrant democracy and we celebrate unity in diversity; thus teach the world the mantra of peace and coexistence".

Dr Andrabi said that now majority of the J&K residents proudly hold the Tricolour in their hands but celebrate the national festivals with fervour & this is a



Chairperson JKWB, Dr Darakhshan Andrabi unfurling the National Flag.

slap on the face of those politicians who used to threaten us insulting the Tricolour.

"Now Art 370 is gone, dynastic rule had gone, separatism support system has gone and citizens of J&K have proved that complete

integration of the UT with India has happened in reality after seven decades of separatist rule in J&K", said Andrabi.

She awarded some employees of Waqf for their exemplary contribution during the past one year.

Former Minister, acclaimed Painter call on LG

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Sunil Sharma, former Minister called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha here on Friday.

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

KK Gandhi, acclaimed Artist & 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.

Advisor Bhatnagar unfurls National Flag at SK Stadium, Srinagar

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, on Thursday unfurled the National Flag to mark 74th Republic Day celebration at Sher-e-Kashmir (SK) Stadium.

He inspected the parade and took salute from the contingents of JKP, BSF, CRPF, JKAP, SSB, ITBP, IRP, Women contingent, Forest Protection Force and NCC.

Speaking on the occasion, Advisor Bhatnagar extended warm greetings to the people of Jammu and Kashmir as well as members of Armed Forces, Paramilitary Forces, Central and UT level police forces for their contribution in maintaining the security and integrity of our nation.

Advisor, in his address, remarked that formation of the Republic on 26th January 1950 was the first milestone in our march towards realizing the dreams

of our people in the aftermath of Independence. He said, "The Constitution gave expression to the goals, ideals and values that guided our freedom struggle and laid the foundations for the structure of governance and committed to secure for all citizens; justice, liberty and equality as well as dignity".

Advisor observed that this day marks the celebration of empowerment of Indian citizens to select their own government. He added that this day reminds us about the duties of every citizen for propelling the growth of our nation.

Highlighting about the ongoing development process occurring across Jammu and Kashmir, Advisor Bhatnagar said that from past three years, J&K is witnessing a new dawn, a dawn which promises hope, a dawn which reflects prosperity, progress and development. He added that our UT is poised to



Advisor to LG, Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar taking salute of march past during R-Day celebration at Sher-e-Kashmir (SK) Stadium, Srinagar.

become the latest success story among Indian states. He added that the government is committed to build a strong Jammu and Kashmir and continuing its march ahead with Mantra of 4 P's - Peace, Progress, Prosperity and People first. He asserted that the present government is determined to ensure that every single citizen of UT enjoys prosperous and peaceful life.

Advisor Bhatnagar

observed that J&K is predominantly an agrarian economy with 70% of its population dependent on agricultural activities. He added that the progress of Jammu and Kashmir is directly associated with the development of farmers.

Advisor further said that the welfare of farmers is close to the heart of Prime Minister, Narendra Modi. He highlighted that like other states across the coun-

try, the central government is focusing on developing agriculture sector in J&K.

Speaking on rapid industrial development, Advisor Bhatnagar said that the present LG led administration has also taken some reformative measures in industrial sector and for seamless establishment of business enterprises, various steps have been taken to minimize compliance burden for the investors while estab-

lishing business. "The J&K Single Window (Industrial Investment and Business Facilitation) Act 2018 has been made operational. Single Window Portal is the single point of contact for an investor for end to end facilitation of business establishment. More than 166 services made online and available on the Single Window Portal", he said.

Advisor further said that several other reformative interventions have also been initiated for boosting Investments and till date J&K has received investment proposals of more than Rs 66000 crore, with a direct employment potential of more than 2.93 lakh.

Besides domestic, marked interest has been shown by foreign investors in the region and recently an MoU with Government of Dubai has been entered into for making investment in the region.

With regard to empowerment of youth, Advisor remarked that present LG led administration is working tirelessly for catering the needs of youth of Jammu and Kashmir and several interventions have been made for channelizing the enormous potential of our youth and ensuring their participation in the process of governance. "4,500 youth clubs have been set up covering all Panchayats and Urban Local Bodies in the UT through which 63,000 youths have been connected. Playfields have been set up in 4000 Panchayats", he said.

Advisor, on the occasion, also applauded J&K police, Central Paramilitary Forces and the brave soldiers of our military, who offer their ultimate sacrifices to ensure the integrity and security of our nation, and ensure that the citizens of the country live a peaceful and secure life.

On the occasion, colourful cultural programme was also presented by the artists of J&K Academy of Art Culture and Languages in the form of traditional Roof, Bandpather and Dambali which mesmerised the audiences.

Also, awards were presented to winners of Best March Past and Best cultural programme. The winners of online competition in the categories of Best Paintings, Best essay and Best seminars were also awarded on the occasion.

Mayor SMC, Junaid Azim Mattu; Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, P.K Pole; ADGP Kashmir, Vijay Kumar; Administrative Secretaries, DC Srinagar, senior officers of police and civil administration, heads of various departments, government officials and large number of people and school children were present on the occasion.