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Full dress Independence...

The Independence day parade was comprised of contingents of SSB, CRPF, IRP Women Bn, IRP Men Bn, JKAP, DPL Jammu, fire & emergency services, Forests protection force, Sainik School, NCC boys, Girls, GGHSS Mubarak Mandi, GHSS Gandhi Nagar, SRML model HS, GGHSS Rehari, GHSS Paloura, JKP Public School Miran Sahib Girls, boys, GHS Janipur, GHSS Sarwal, GHSS Satwari, GHS Digiana,

Pipe and Brass bands of BSF, JKAP, Schools students including Army Public School Jammu Cantt, JK Police Public School Miran Sahib were also part of the March past.

School children and artists of J&K Academy of Art Culture and Languages presented a colorful cultural programme featuring themes of national unity, integration and patriotism. The cultural items depicted harmony and composite culture of Jammu Kashmir UT, folk music and dance.

Additional Director General of Police, Anand Jain; DIG Jammu Samba Kathua; Commissioner JMC, Deputy Commissioner, Jammu, besides Heads of different Departments and Senior civil and police officers were present.

In Srinagar, the full dress rehearsal was held at Bakshi Stadium Srinagar where Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri hoisted National Flag, inspected parade contingents and took salute at March Past from the Parade Commander and various Contingents.

The full dress rehearsal exhibited the overall preparation of the administration regarding the celebration of Independence Day at the main venue in Kashmir Division.

Addressing the gathering, the Div Com highlighted the meticulous arrangements made for the participants of I-Day at Bakshi Stadium including seating arrangements, facilities for drinking water, sanitation and toilets.

He also spoke about developmental achievements, increasing road connectivity, supply of electricity to Gurez through power grid, progress of Jal Shakti Schemes, online services and JK Samadhan Portal to monitor grievances.

Further, he said J&K is emerging as a leader on the developmental front in the nation as the GDP has doubled since the last few years.

On the occasion, the contingents of BSF Brass band, CRPF, SSB, ITBP, JKP, JKAP, IRP, Women Police, SDRF, Fire & Emergency, Forest Protection Force, Police Pipe Band, Brass Band participated in the parade. The contingents were led by Parade Commander SSP, Khalil Ahmad Poswal, Commandant JKAP 9th Bn.

While student contingents of Sainik School Manasbal, NCC Group Boys Srinagar, NCC Group Girls Srinagar, Government Girls High Secondary School Nishat, Police Public School Boys Srinagar, Govt Girls Higher Secondary School Kothibagh, Government Girls Higher Secondary School Nawakadal and Kashmir Harvard Higher Secondary School, Srinagar also participated in the parade of Full Dress Rehearsal.

In view of I-Day, various cultural programmes were presented by Academy of Art Culture & Languages, J&K Sports Council and Department of Social Welfare which showcased the spirit of Nationalism and Patriotism besides displaying the cultural diversity of the nation and Jammu & Kashmir to highlight the thriving democracy.

Besides, IGP Kashmir, VK Birdi; IGP Central Kashmir Range, Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Additional Commissioner Kashmir, SSP Srinagar, ADCs of Srinagar, Senior officers of CRPF, BSF, other security agencies and officers of Divisional and District Administration were present on the occasion.

In Anantnag, the full dress rehearsal was held at Shaheed Himayun Muzzamil Memorial Government Degree College Anantnag, where Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Anantnag, Abdul Aziz Sheikh took the salute at the march past.

The march past was presented by the contingents from CRPF, J&K Police, Home Guards, J&K Police Band, Fire & Emergency, NCC and various schools. On the occasion, colourful cultural programmes on patriotic themes were presented by the students from various educational institutions.

The full dress rehearsal was attended by senior officers of the district administration including the Additional Deputy Commissioners, Assistant Commissioners of Revenue, Development and Panchayats, District Information Officer, Assistant Regional Transport Officer, Executive Engineers of various engineering wing, Tehsildar Anantnag, officers from police and members of general public.

Addressing the gathering, the chief guest highlighted the achievements of the district under various priority areas including education, healthcare, social sector schemes, agriculture, women and youth empowerment, MGNREGA, water and electricity supply to Anganwadi Centres and schools, rural development, macadamization and road connectivity, Nasha Mukh Bharat, industries, self employment etc.

The importance of flagship programmes like Swachhata Pakhwada was also highlighted on the occasion.

In Baramulla, the full dress rehearsal was held at Showkat Ali Sports Stadium Baramulla, providing a preview of the grand festivities that will take place on the special day.

Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Baramulla, Syed Qamar Sajad, who was the chief guest on the occasion, ceremoniously hoisted the national flag and took salute at the March Past.

During the ceremony, the ADC inspected the parade, featuring contingents from the BSF, J&K Police, Sashasthra Seema Bal, Home Guards, J&K Police Band, as well as NCC cadets from Government Degree College Baramulla, Boys' Higher Secondary Baramulla, and various other schools and colleges.

Students from various schools from across the district took centre stage, showcasing a vibrant array of cultural performances rooted deeply in patriotic themes, celebrating India's rich heritage and diversity.

In Ganderbal, the full dress rehearsal was held at Qamriya Ground Ganderbal, where Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Ganderbal, Mushtaq Ahmad Simmani hoisted the tricolor, took the salute at the march-past and inspected the parade.

The march-past was presented by the contingents of JKP, CRPF, SSB, PTS Manigam, Home Guards, SPO Ganderbal, and students of various schools.

On the occasion, a colorful cultural show was presented by the students, who also presented patriotic songs and folk dance.

The event was witnessed by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Gulzar Ahmad, ASP Ganderbal, ACD, CEO, Executive Engineer R&B, besides other district and sectoral officers.

In Pulwama, A full dress rehearsal for Independence Day 2024 was held at District Police Lines (DPL) Pulwama. Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Pulwama hoisted the National Flag and took salute at the march past.

The parade was attended by senior officers and featured contingents from various security forces and schools. The participants showcased their marching skills and discipline, and the event was marked by patriotic fervor.

The rehearsal was followed by a colorful cultural program, which included performances by local artists and students. The program showcased the rich cultural heritage of the region and added to the festive atmosphere.

The rehearsal was held to ensure that all arrangements are in place for the smooth conduct of the Independence Day celebrations on August 15, 2024.

In Kulgam, the full dress rehearsal was held at District Police Lines Kulgam where Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Kulgam, Bashir Ahmad Wani hoisted the tricolor, took the salute at the march-past and inspected the parade.

The march-past was presented by the contingents of JKP, CRPF and students of various schools.

In his address, the ADC highlighted the historical background of the day and also listed the achievements and progress made in various schemes/ programmes by various departments in the district.

The full dress rehearsal also witnessed a colorful cultural show presented by the students, who also presented patriotic songs and folk dance.

The event was also attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Vikar Ahmad Giri; ACD, CEO, Dy-SPs, Executive Engineer R&B, besides other district and sectoral officers.

In Bandipora, the full dress rehearsal for the Independence Day celebrations-2024 was successfully conducted across the district, with meticulous arrangements and enthusiastic participation from all stakeholders.

The main function of the full dress rehearsal was held at SK Stadium Bandipora where Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Bandipora, Mohammad Ashraf Bhatt hoisted the National Flag, inspected the parade, and took the salute at the march-past.

The parade contingents included CRPF 3rd battalion, J&K Executive Police, J&K-IRP, JKP Women Platoon District Police Bandipora, J&K Fire and Emergency, SPOs, Home Guard, NCC, Army Goodwill School Bandipora, High School Bagh, Higher Secondary Quil Muqam, Gujjar & Bakewell Hostel, Space Age Model School, Higher Secondary Aloosa, Higher Secondary Aragam, Higher Secondary School Nadihal, HSS Arin, and IDPS, followed by the Police Band Group.

ADC Bandipora Umar Shafi Pandit, ACR Bandipora, ACD, DySP DAR, DIO and heads of various departments, district officers, along with senior officers were

present at the event.

A full dress rehearsal function was also held at the Mini Secretariat Bandipora, where Assistant Commissioner Revenue hoisted the National flag. All the panchayats and blocks of the district also witnessed full dress rehearsal functions, including Sub Division Sumbal and Gurez.

In Shopian, a full dress rehearsal in the run up to the 78th Independence Day celebrations was held with great enthusiasm amid vibrant participation of people at District Police Lines, Shopian.

Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC), Dr.Zakir Hussain Faaz hoisted the National Flag, inspected the parade and took salute at March Past from the contingents of Police, CRPF, Fire & Emergency, Forest, Homeguards, NCC and students from different schools of the district.

On the occasion, colourful cultural shows were presented by the students featuring varied art performances depicting the rich cultural norms of the society.

District heads of different departments and Police and Paramilitary forces were also present on the occasion, besides hundreds of employees, general public and students.

In Kupwara, the full dress rehearsal for celebration of Independence Day- 2024 was held at District Police Lines (DPL) Zangli Kupwara where Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Kupwara, Mohammad Rouf Rehman took salute at the march past.

The parade consisted of contingents drawn from JKP, JKAP, CRPF, BSF, and Forest Protection force and school students. Pipe and Brass bands of BSF JKP, JKAP and Army played tunes to the march past.

On the occasion, various cultural programmes were also presented by the school children. The cultural items depicted, national integration, unity in diversity, harmony and composite culture of Jammu Kashmir UT, Government initiatives besides featured patriotic songs, folk music and dance.

SSP Kupwara, Shobhit Saxena, ASP Kupwara, ACP, CMO, CEO and other District Officers were present on the occasion.

SSP Kupwara led the plantation drive in the premises of DPL Kupwara where he planted a tree sapling.

Meanwhile, full dress rehearsals were also held at District Police Lines Handwara, SDM office Tangdar and Degree College Sogam.

Misappropriation of Rs...

only recommended Departmental Action (DA) against them to the Government for committing some low profile violations of the guidelines and directed for further investigation.

Special Judge Anticorruption Jammu Tahir Khurshid Raina after gone through the closure report, observed that it was legally and ethically enjoined upon the IO to have taken note of these complaints during the course of investigation as the complaints were part of the record and the investigation in the case was with regard to misappropriation of the public money involved in the "Saubhagya". Therefore, IO ought to have summoned the said complainants and recorded their statements U/Sec 161, Cr.PC or got their statements recorded u/sec 164-A, Cr.PC and should have drawn his satisfaction, based on the investigation in this regard. However, IO, for the reasons best known to him, remained conveniently blind to these complaints on record and ignored the same.

Court further observed that while these complaints, which are part of the record remained un-noticed to the IO of the case, but on the other hand a complaint sent by a political leader, forwarded by the DO letter of the Advisor to the Governor, and sent to ACB against the investigation being done, alleged to have caused harassment to the PDD Engineers, who have executed the Saubhagya Scheme successfully, was given an extraordinary weight by the ACB that it got circulated among all the IOs of the case and the SSSP, ACB, of all the Wings of Jammu province, for according due consideration.

Court further observed that this is how the IO of the case came to the conclusion that if some violations had taken place, they were just low profile violations of the guidelines for which he finally recommended Departmental Action (DA) against the officers/officials of the PDD and this is how the investigation in the alleged fraud of huge public money coupled with criminality on the face of the record was culminated into the instant Closure Report.

Court further observed that the execution of the "Saubhagya Scheme" prima-facie seems to have not been carried out as envisioned, desired and designed by the Government of India (GOI). All the mandatory SOPs, as envisaged in the Saubhagya schemes and in various Circulars, issued from time to time by the Government of Jammu and Kashmir; prima-facie seem to have been observed, by all the relevant authorities, more in breach than in compliance. The Executing Agency (JKPDCI), the Project Monitoring Agency (PMA), and even the Government seem to be on same page so far as the shabby and illegal execution of Saubhagya scheme on ground is concerned. Rodie and the PDD officers and officials, through their criminal conspiracy, fabricated false evidence by way of creating Utility Certificates and bills, endorsed by the Rodies without its requisite authentication as per the actual work executed on the ground at the relevant time as was mandatorily required. These bills were uploaded and sustained on the PFMS portal, leading to the release of payments in favour of the beneficiaries. Such an illegal action could only have been orchestrated successfully if all these entities-Rodie, Executing Agency, and the Government were in collusion on account of some illegal considerations, which amounts to criminal misconduct under the PC, Act, 2006.

Therefore, in the light of glaring incriminating facts on the record, all the said Agencies are criminally liable for commission of offences like misappropriation of public money, creating and using of false evidence and criminal conspiracy read with the offence of criminal misconduct as defined under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 2006, Court said.

With these observations, Court rejects the instant closure report which has exonerated the concerned public servants, involved in the execution of Saubhagya Scheme in Jammu province, from any criminal liability and only recommended Departmental Action (DA) against them to the Government for committing some low profile violations of the guidelines. Court further said that let this message go to such Investigating Agencies which want to treat the court as the dumping ground of their sham and motivated investigations, to simply get a seal of endorsement on them, that though there is a symbolic band on the eyes of goddess of justice, but judge sitting in the court is not blind. He will see the material placed on record with open eyes and judicial mind to reach to his own conclusions.

Court further observed that though, this court is well within its powers even to take cognizance of the offences seem to have been committed by the accused and proceed against them, based on the instant closure report filed by the ACB. However, on account of lack of some technical evidence on record, which the IO has conveniently not collected, this court just defers the cognizance and directs the Investigating Agency to place the following evidence on record by virtue of further investigation, to be done in the case as mandated U/Sec 156 (3) r/v Sec 173/8 Cr.PC, enabling this court to proceed against the accused on account of their criminality on record. The steps to be taken by the ACB during further investigation in this regard are Collect the specimen/admitted signatures of all the officers/officials of the JKPDD who have signed on the Utility Certificates and send it to FSL for the expert opinion and FSL is further directed to do the needful with all promptitude, Enlist all the concerned who have created and used these documents at all levels and got released the payments. Their full details be collected and placed on record with their specific roles they played, Collect the details of all the bills authenticated by the Rodie by attaching said UCs for payments based on the said bills. Also get the details of the representatives of the Rodie who have signed on such bills. Their specimen signatures be taken and sent to FSL for expert opinion. Also collect the details of bills which were not certified by the PMA and the payment made. The statements of all the complainants be recorded under section 161 Cr.PC and be placed on record. Also, if possible, investigate in context of their allegations. To investigate as to who were the people engaged by the Rodie in the field who monitored the execution, and record their statements in context of working of PMA and the Executing Agency on the ground. Record the statements of all the Engineers who remained associated with the ACB and are signatory to the reports on record. Also record the statements of the staff which was accompanying them during the spot visits of various Electric Divisions. Record the statements of the officials who were Incharge of the stores where the excess material were found lying and also of those who were associated in the execution of the scheme on ground.) Record the statements of said witnesses who will state about the process of tendering, quality of material procured and their utilization on the spot. Deliver a questionnaire to the concerned authorities of the Administrative Department of JKPDD who were posted there at the relevant time to know from them as to why they failed to check the violations/misappropriation at the very first instance and allowed to sustain them which has severely affected the execution of scheme on the ground and caused loss to the public money. That why the concerned authorities took the U-turn and did not take action as contemplated in the Government order dated 25-04-2019, against the executing authorities, responsible for lying of excess/unutilized material of huge cost in the store and sites and created false Utility Certificates for sustaining their claims. Why they started the scheme so late in the State as compared to other States and closed the same on 31st of March, 2019, when lot of excess and unutilized material was lying in the stores and sites in various Electric Divisions of the Jammu province. More so when the scheme was still in execution, material was lying unutilized, then on what basis they submitted their claim before the

Government of India that the Saubhagya Scheme has achieved its target of 100% electrification upto the last mile of the State of Jammu and Kashmir. Whether the Administrative Department got any documentary evidence in this regard from Executing Agency and PMA before submitting any such claim to the Government of India. If yes, who were the officers who were signatory to such certificates of successful completion of the scheme and based thereon they have set their claim before the GOI and got the first prize. If there is any such evidence, the same be seized through a seizure memo. Why the Government did not take Departmental Action against the errant officers/officials of the JKPDD as recommended by the IO of the case in the instant closure report. All these questions are just illustrative and not exhaustive in nature and IO is at liberty to frame any other question/questions to be put to said authorities who were then at the helm of affairs, as required for the fair investigation to be done. The role of all such officers at the administrative level be investigated and placed on record, along with the conclusions drawn of the same.

Court further observed that last but not the least, to address with all seriousness, the completely un-addressed allegation of double drawal in the earlier investigation which will also expose the execution of any work done under Saubhagya on the ground as per the DPR. Let it be done 'not' on the house to house basis, which will be a time taking exercise, rather on randomly basis, a sudden and surprise check of few areas of different Electric divisions of Jammu province, just to draw a fair conclusion as to whether Saubhagya Scheme was really executed on ground and to which extent the allegations of the double drawal sustains. Besides, the investigating agency will be at liberty to address all such issues which will help the court to navigate successfully in the quest of justice to prevail to its fullest in the case.

Court further ordered that let the further investigation, as directed, be conducted through a Special Investigation Team (SIT), to be headed by an officer of an impeccable integrity, of the level of an SSP. The SIT, constituted by the Director ACB J&K, forthwith and copy of the order regarding constitution of the SIT be submitted to the court instantly. Let the copy of this order be served to the Director ACB, J&K, for compliance, through APP of this court. The further investigation be completed within a period of two months. During the course of further investigation, SIT shall be at liberty to take any document from the record of the case already submitted by the ACB in this court on laying a special motion in this regard, Court said.

Court further ordered that the status reports of the further investigation be filed before the court on fortnightly basis.

Chugh assails Abdullah...

disgusting that Abdullah was trying to target the Security Forces who have done exceptionally commendable work to guard the nation.

The Modi government would not allow nefarious designs of Abdullahs and Muftis to succeed in any case, he added.

"Jammu and Kashmir has already ushered in a new era of development and progress where the youth is finding new opportunities of employment and growth", Chugh said, adding that undoubtedly the people would teach Abdullahs a befitting lesson in days to come.

Revenue officer booked...

allegations that Kumar, then Naib Tehsildar of Gharota, Jammu, had allegedly acquired substantial assets exceeding to his known sources of income, they added.

The verification revealed that the accused public servant allegedly accumulated various movable and immovable properties in his name and in the names of his family members. These include a palatial duplex house in Akhnoor worth crores, a luxury car, two-wheelers, and other assets, along with significant bank account balances and expenditures made through these accounts.

The ACB found that the suspect spent a large sum of money on his daughter's marriage, and his family maintained a luxurious lifestyle.

According to the investigation, the expenditure incurred and the value of assets acquired by the suspect have been found to be disproportionate to the income earned by him from all known sources, they said.

Kumar was arrested by the ACB in 2022, along with his associate Raman Gupta, for allegedly demanding and accepting a bribe of Rs 1.5 lakh for issuing a forged document. Subsequently, a case was registered against him, they said.

Seven PDD SEs placed as CEs

JAMMU: The government on Tuesday ordered placement of seven Incharge (I/e) Superintending Engineers (SEs) (Electrical) as I/e Chief Engineers (CEs) (Electrical)

According to the order issued by Jammu and Kashmir Power Development Department, sanction is accorded to the placement of the seven I/e Superintending Engineers (Electrical) as I/e Chief Engineers (Electrical) in their own pay and grade with immediate effect. They include Muntaz Ahmad, Habib Choudhary, Kamal Kishore Thappa, Neeraj Sharma, Bishan dass, Muzaffar Lone and Vikas Anand.

Army launches operation after making contact with terrorists near Patnitop

UDHAMPUR: The Army launched a search operation on Tuesday night after establishing contact with a group of terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir's Udhampur district, officials said.

Acting on specific intelligence inputs, a joint operation involving the Indian Army and police was launched in the Akar forest near Patnitop, they said.

A contact has been established with the terrorists, and the operation is currently underway, the officials said.

Security forces have been monitoring a group of terrorists in the Udhampur district, particularly in the Basantgarh area, for the past week.

On Sunday, two encounters occurred between security forces and terrorists in remote forest areas of Nownatta in Kishtwar and the Basantgarh area of Udhampur district. Following these encounters, the terrorists managed to flee the scene.

Purnima leads Tiranga Rally in Jammu's East Constituency

JAMMU: Adv. Purnima Sharma, BJP J&K Spokesperson and former Deputy Mayor, led a Tiranga Rally in Jammu's East Constituency, celebrating the "Har Ghar Tiranga" campaign, which has become a national festival. She highlighted the campaign's role in promoting patriotism and urged citizens to hoist the National Flag from August 13 to 15 as India prepares to celebrate its 78th Independence Day. Sharma commended PM Modi for making the campaign a widespread movement, particularly impactful in Jammu and Kashmir.



She emphasized that Independence Day honors the sacrifices of freedom fighters and represents India's unity in diversity. Sharma called for national unity and collective efforts to keep the National Flag flying high, as a tribute to those who defended the nation. She encouraged people to support PM Modi's vision and make the campaign a resounding success.

BSF on high alert along IB

JAMMU: With the induction of state-of-the-art patrol boats, BSF troops have been put on high alert to maintain a "24x7 guard" along the riverine belt of the International Border (IB) in Jammu in light of potential terrorist infiltration attempts. Recently inducted women troops are patrolling the Indo-Pak border shoulder-to-shoulder with their male counterparts in the Jammu sector, maintaining a vigilant watch on the movements along the border with Pakistan ahead of Independence Day. "We are ready 24x7 to patrol this border area along the Chenab river and keep a close watch on every movement," a Border Security force (BSF) officer armed with modern weaponry told PTL. There is always a threat of Pakistan-based terrorists infiltrating the waterways or land routes, and ferrying weapons via drones. "We cannot afford to let our guard down even for a moment in this border belt," he added. Using specialised boats inducted a few months ago, the BSF personnel are tasked with ensuring security and vigilance in the riverine areas at all costs is one of the directives of their commanders, keeping in view the easy route to terrorists to infiltrate into Jammu. "In preparation for Independence Day, the Border Security Force's specially trained Water Wing personnel are on high alert, conducting extensive boat patrols along the Chenab river," the officer said.

The BSF troops guarding the waterways are undergoing special training to handle the challenges posed by the strong currents of the Chenab river which can make patrolling difficult at times.