

NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL

Celebrations for 80th Independence Day held across District Courts of Kashmir



SRINAGAR, AUGUST 15: The celebrations for 80th Independence Day were today held across all the District Court Complexes of Kashmir, during which the respective Principal District and Session Judges (PD&SJs) hoisted the National flag and took salute at the march-past.

At Srinagar: District Judiciary Srinagar, in collaboration with the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Srinagar, celebrated the 80th Independence Day with grandeur and patriotic fervor at the District Court Complex, Moominabad, Srinagar.

The celebration not only marked the nation's historic journey of freedom but also the role of the judiciary and legal services institutions in safeguarding the constitutional values for which the freedom fighters had struggled.

The programme commenced with the playing of National Song followed by hoisting of the National Flag by Haq Nawaz Zargar, Principal District & Sessions Judge, Srinagar (Chairman, DLSA Srinagar), followed by the National Anthem.

On the occasion, the officers and officials of the District Judiciary and DLSA Srinagar paid tribute to the freedom fighters and recalled the values of liberty, justice, equality and fraternity enshrined in the Constitution of India.

As a gesture of appreciation and respect towards the personnel safeguarding the nation and maintaining law and order, sweets were distributed among the band police personnel.

The celebration was graced by Principal District & Sessions Judge, Srinagar with an address, extending warm greetings to all officers, officials, police personnel and members of the District Judiciary and commitment towards upholding the ideals of the Constitution, strengthening access to justice and serving the people with dedication and sincerity.

The celebration concluded

with the playing of National Song and National Anthem.

At Ganderbal: District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Ganderbal, in collaboration with the District Judiciary, celebrated the 80th Independence Day with patriotic fervor and enthusiasm at the District Court Complex, Ganderbal.

The National Flag was hoisted by Abdul Nasir, Principal District & Sessions Judge (PD&SJ), Ganderbal and Chairman, DLSA Ganderbal, in the presence of Learned Judicial Officers, Fozia Paul, Additional District and Sessions Judge, Ganderbal; Nusrat Ali Hakak, Chief Judicial Magistrate, Ganderbal; Sheikh Babar Hussain, Secretary, DLSA Ganderbal; Farah Bashir, Principal Magistrate, Juvenile Justice Board Ganderbal, Mahoor, Munsiff, Ganderbal; Syed Faheem, New Judicial Officer, officers and officials of the District Judiciary; Officers and Officials of Prosecution, staff members of DLSA Ganderbal, Legal Aid Defence Counsels, Panel Lawyers, Para Legal Volunteers and other staff members.

The flag hoisting was followed by the singing of the National Anthem, creating a solemn and dignified atmosphere marked by patriotism, unity and a deep sense of commitment to the constitutional values of justice, liberty, equality and fraternity.

The celebrations were held in the spirit of the theme "Honouring the courage of our freedom fighters, embracing the vision of a self-reliant, progressive and unified nation." The theme served as a reminder of the sacrifices made by the freedom fighters and the collective responsibility to carry forward the ideals of freedom, unity, progress and nation-building.

Speaking on the occasion, the PD&SJ highlighted the significance of Independence Day and underscored the collective responsibility of citizens, particularly institutions of justice, to uphold the rule of law, constitutional

values and the principles of access to justice for all.

The occasion also highlighted the pivotal role of the District Legal Services Authority in ensuring access to free and competent legal services, promoting legal awareness and extending legal assistance to weaker and marginalized sections of society.

The Independence Day celebrations were also held at Munsiff Court, Kangan, where the National Flag was unfurled by Moonis Wahid, Munsiff, Kangan (Chairman, Tehsil Legal Services Committee, Kangan) in the presence of staff members of Munsiff Court Kangan and TLSC Kangan, Advocates, Panel Lawyers and Para Legal Volunteers of the Tehsil Legal Services Committee, Kangan.

The celebrations at Kangan were marked by patriotic spirit and reaffirmed the commitment of the District Judiciary and Legal Services Institutions towards strengthening access to justice, legal awareness and effective public service delivery.

The celebrations at both the venues concluded with a revered commitment to uphold the Constitution, strengthen the rule of law and continue working towards a just, inclusive and equitable society.

At Anantnag: Independence Day was celebrated with great patriotic fervor and enthusiasm today at the District Court Complex Anantnag.

To mark the momentous occasion, the Principal District and Sessions Judge (PD&SJ) Anantnag, Tahir Khurshid Raina, hoisted the National Flag.

The ceremonial program commenced with the PD&SJ hoisting the tricolor, which was immediately followed by a proud and unison rendition of the National Anthem. As part of the official proceedings, a ceremonial Guard of Honor was presented to the PDJ, adding to the solemnity and dignity of the event.

In his inspiring speech, Tahir Khurshid Raina paid rich tributes to the nation's freedom fighters, deeply recalling their supreme sacrifices and unrelenting struggles that paved the way for the country's independence. He further emphasized that the Judiciary shall play its part by ensuring access to justice whereby the bar and the bench shall play the role of two faces of a coin. He added that both, the bar and the bench, shall ensure speedy disposal of cases.

The patriotic event witnessed the attendance of a large gathering from the legal fraternity. The ceremony took place in the presence of all Judicial Officers posted at the District Court Complex, Anantnag. Furthermore, Prosecuting Officers, members of the Bar, court staff, Para legal Volunteers and Legal Aid Defence Counsels were also present to jointly celebrate the spirit of freedom and democracy.

The event concluded with an exchange of greetings among the attendees, reflecting a shared sense of national pride and unity.

At Shopian: The 80th Independence Day was celebrated with great enthusiasm at the District Court Complex in Shopian, where Principal District & Sessions Judge (PD&SJ) (Chairman District Legal Services Authority), Mehmood Ahmad Chowdhary, hoisted the National Flag.

The ceremony was attended by key judicial officers including Chief Judicial Magistrate Rayaz Ahmad Chowdhary, Secretary DLSA Mudasar Farooq, Principal Magistrate JJB Shopian Bazila Bashir, Munsiff/JMIC Mohd Waseem Mirza, and Additional Special Mobile Magistrate Rameen Rashid Khan.

The event also saw participation from Public Prosecutors, LADC Advocates, Bar Association members, DLSA, court staff, and Para-Legal Volunteers (PLVs).

In his address, Chairman DLSA extended warm greetings to all attendees and dis-

tributed sweets to police personnel and school children who took part in the Independence Day parade.

As a special highlight, appreciation certificates were presented to the best-performing employees in recognition of their dedication, exemplary work, and valuable contribution to the institution.

At Kupwara: In connection with the celebration of 80th Independence Day, Principal District & Sessions Judge Kupwara, Manjeet Singh Manhas hoisted the National Flag at District Court Complex Kupwara and took salute on the march past.

On the occasion, Sub Judge Kupwara, Moneer Ahmad, Munsiff Kupwara, Iram Irtiza, Bar Members, officials of Judiciary, DLSA and Prosecution and members of Traders Federation Kupwara were present.

The Principal District & Sessions Judge distributed sweets among the participants.

Similarly, Independence day celebration functions were also organized at Court Complexes of Handwara, Sogam and Tangdar.

At Budgam: In a splendid display of patriotism and unity, the 80th Independence Day was celebrated with great enthusiasm at the District Court Complex, Budgam.

The event began with the hoisting of the National Flag by the Principal District & Sessions Judge and Chairman, DLSA Budgam, O.P. Bhagat, who also took the salute of the ceremonial guard.

The celebration vividly reflected the shared commitment to justice, freedom, and national unity. As the Tricolour soared high, it symbolised the hopes, aspirations, and collective dreams of the nation.

The occasion was graced by the presence of Yahya Firdous, Additional District Judge Budgam; Abdul Bari, Chief Judicial Magistrate, Budgam; Easir-ul-Nabi, Special Mobile Magistrate,

Budgam; Shabbar Ayaz, Principal Magistrate Juvenile Justice Board, Budgam; and Tasneem Kawoosa, Munsiff, Budgam, along with officers from the Prosecution Department, members of the legal fraternity including Bar Association lawyers, court staff, officers and staff of DLSA Budgam, Legal Aid Defence Counsels, Panel Lawyers and (PLVs) of DLSA Budgam.

In his address, O.P. Bhagat highlighted the historic significance of 15th August, marking the end of British colonial rule and the birth of India as a sovereign nation. He paid heartfelt tribute to the sacrifices and contributions of national heroes, freedom fighters, and revolutionaries, emphasising that the day stands as a symbol of national unity, integrity, and solidarity.

He further remarked that August 15, 2026, is a momentous occasion for Indians worldwide to celebrate the nation's independence and cultural diversity.

Similar flag-hoisting ceremony was held at Juvenile Justice Board Budgam wherein Shabbar Ayaz, Principal Magistrate Juvenile Justice Board hoisted the National Flag. Besides, Chairpersons of Tehsil Legal Service Committees hoist the National Flag at Taluka Courts of District Budgam.

At Bandipora: District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Bandipora in collaboration with District Judiciary Bandipora, celebrated the 80th Independence Day with patriotic fervour and enthusiasm at New District Court Complex at Kaloosa, Bandipora.

On this occasion the National Flag was hoisted by Jeema Bashir, Principal District & Sessions Judge, Bandipora (Chairman, DLSA Bandipora), in presence of Indu Kanwal Chib, Deputy Commissioner, Bandipora; Aijaz Ahmad Zargar, Senior Superintendent, of Police Bandipora; Iqbal Ahmad Akhoun, Chief Judicial Magistrate, Bandipora; Amandeep Singh,

Munsiff, Bandipora, officers and officials of the District Judiciary, Prosecution Department, staff members of DLSA Bandipora, Legal Aid Defence Counsels, Panel Lawyers, Para Legal Volunteers.

The flag hoisting was followed by the singing of the National Anthem, creating a solemn and dignified atmosphere marked by patriotism, unity and a deep sense of commitment to the constitutional values of justice, liberty, equality and fraternity.

The celebrations were held in the spirit of the theme, "Honouring the courage of our freedom fighters, embracing the vision of a self-reliant, progressive and unified nation." The theme served as a reminder of the sacrifices made by the freedom fighters and the collective responsibility to carry forward the ideals of freedom, unity, progress and nation-building.

Speaking on the occasion, the Principal District & Sessions Judge highlighted the significance of Independence Day and underscored the collective responsibility of citizens, particularly institutions of justice, to uphold the rule of law, constitutional values and the principles of access to justice for all.

The occasion also highlighted the pivotal role of the District Legal Services Authority in ensuring access to free and competent legal services, promoting legal awareness and extending legal assistance to weaker and marginalised sections of society.

Independence Day celebrations were also held at both Taluka courts Sumbal and Gurez.

The celebrations concluded with a revered commitment to uphold the Constitution and its values, strengthen the rule of law, promote access to justice and continue working towards a just, inclusive and equitable society.

At Kulgam: The District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Kulgam, in collaboration with the District Judi-

ciary Kulgam, celebrated Independence Day at the District Court Complex, Kulgam, under the chairmanship of Aijaz Ahmed Khan, Chairman, District Legal Services Authority (Principal District & Sessions Judge), Kulgam.

On the occasion, the Principal District & Sessions Judge, Kulgam, hoisted the National Flag in the presence of all Judicial Officers, Prosecuting Officers, members of the Bar Association Kulgam, officials of the District Judiciary, staff of DLSA Kulgam, Legal Aid Defense Counsels (LADCs), Para-Legal Volunteers (PLVs), supporting staff of LADC and other prosecuting officials.

The celebration reflected the spirit of patriotism and reaffirmed the commitment of the District Judiciary and Legal Services Authority towards strengthening access to justice and serving the community.

On the occasion, the Principal District & Sessions Judge, also distributed appreciation certificates among the judicial employees in recognition of their dedicated services.

Similarly, the Tehsil Legal Services Committees, D.H. Pora and Qazigund, also celebrated Independence Day at their respective Court Complexes with patriotic fervour and enthusiasm. The National Flag was hoisted in the presence of Judicial Officers, staff members, legal aid functionaries and other officials, marking the occasion with a strong message of unity, justice, patriotism and national pride.

At Baramulla: Independence Day 2026 was celebrated with patriotic fervour at the District Court Complex, Baramulla.

Principal District and Sessions Judge, Baramulla, hoisted the National Flag at the court complex, marking the 80th Independence Day of the nation.

The ceremony was attended by judicial officers, court staff, members of the Bar and other officials.

CJP demands immediate arrest after Bengal volunteer's father dies following 'assault'

NEW DELHI, AUG 16: The Cockroach Janta Party on Sunday demanded the immediate arrest of those responsible for the alleged assault that led to the death of Janab Mafik, the father of CJP volunteer Shaik Abdul Hafeez, in West Bengal.

Hafeez (25) and his family were allegedly attacked after he visited a government school to assess it as part of the CJP's "School Thik Karo" campaign.

Mafik died on Saturday from severe head injuries sustained during the alleged assault at the family's residence, according to a statement from the CJP.

Reacting to the incident, CJP chief spokesperson Saurav Das said, "This is an extremely condemnable act. We are running a campaign focused on improving government schools, something that people of all political ideologies should



support. Yet, these BJP goons engage in such incidents to intimidate and threaten people."

The incident took place in the Karisunda area of Bankura district after Hafeez participated in the nationwide "School Thik Karo" Abhiyan at the

local government school in his village on August 13 to assess the condition of its infrastructure, it said.

The CJP alleged that armed individuals identified as local BJP workers forcibly entered Hafeez's residence later that evening.

According to the statement, Hafeez alleged in a video recorded from the hospital that a school teacher had informed the political workers about his civic inspection, which prompted the subsequent attack.

The alleged assailants demanded that Hafeez record a video apologising for highlighting the condition of the school and claiming that he had done so under external influence, the CJP said.

"When Hafeez refused to comply, the individuals allegedly launched a violent assault on his family," it said.

HP Governor hosts 'At Home' at Lok Bhavan

SHIMLA, AUGUST 16: Governor Shri Kavinder Gupta hosted 'At Home' on the occasion of Independence Day at Lok Bhavan today. Chief Justice of Himachal Pradesh High Court Justice Gurmeet Singh Sandhawalia, Leader of Opposition and former Chief Minister Shri Jai Ram Thakur and Shri Rohit Thakur, Education Minister were present on the occasion. Lady Governor Smt. Bindu Gupta was also present on the occasion.

Judges of Himachal Pradesh High Court, Shri Anup Kumar Rattan, Advocate General, MLA Balbir Singh Verma, Chairman and



Vice-Chairman of various Commissions, Boards, Corporations, Mayor MC Shimla Shri Surinder Chauhan and

Deputy Mayor Smt. Uma Kaushal, Vice Chancellors, senior Centre & State Civil, Police and Military officers,

prominent citizens of the town and ex-servicemen were also present on the occasion among others.