

Report on Honouring the Legacy of Freedom: Independence Day Celebrations at Government Degree College Kupwara

On the auspicious morning of 15th August 2024, the Government Degree College Kupwara was a vibrant tableau of patriotism and unity as it hosted a grand celebration to commemorate the 78th anniversary of India's independence. This event, orchestrated with meticulous care by the college administration, reflected the deep reverence for the nation's freedom struggle and the enduring spirit of sacrifice and resilience that brought India to this milestone.

At precisely 9:00 AM, the Independence Day ceremony began with the hoisting of the national flag by the esteemed Principal of the college, Prof. (Dr.) Abdul Rashid Malik. The sight of the Tricolor ascending the flagpole against the clear morning sky was a poignant reminder of the countless sacrifices made by the nation's forebears, whose courage and determination culminated in India's independence on this very day in 1947. As the flag fluttered majestically, the college grounds echoed with the strains of the national anthem, stirring a profound sense of pride and unity among all present.

The college campus, meticulously adorned with an array of flags—ranging from large, imposing banners to smaller, handheld ones—was teeming with a diverse gathering that included the entire teaching faculty, non-teaching staff, and students, alongside National Service Scheme (NSS) volunteers and National Cadet Corps (NCC) cadets. The atmosphere was charged with patriotic fervour, with every corner of the campus reflecting the colours of the nation. The staff, holding flags in their hands, added to the visual grandeur of the occasion, symbolizing their collective commitment to the ideals of independence and nation-building.

Following the flag ceremony, the Principal, Prof. (Dr.) Abdul Rashid Malik, addressed the assembled gathering. In his eloquent speech, Prof. (Dr.) Abdul Rashid Malik revisited the monumental struggle for India's independence, highlighting the unwavering resolve and indomitable spirit of the freedom fighters. He spoke at length about the pivotal role of revolutionary leaders such as Mahatma Gandhi, who championed the cause of non-violent resistance; Subhas Chandra Bose, whose call for armed struggle galvanized millions; and Bhagat Singh, whose martyrdom became a symbol of youthful defiance against colonial oppression. Prof. (Dr.) Abdul Rashid Malik emphasized that the freedom we enjoy today is the fruit of the collective effort of countless unsung heroes who laid down their lives for the nation.

The Principal's address was followed by speeches from other distinguished faculty members. Dr. Mohammad Iqbal Darzi, the Staff Secretary, took the podium to further explore the historical significance of Independence Day. He drew parallels between the sacrifices made by the revolutionaries of the past and the responsibilities that lie upon the shoulders of the current generation. Dr. Mohammad Iqbal Darzi reminded the audience that the ideals of freedom and equality, which form the bedrock of the Indian Republic, must be upheld with the same fervor and dedication that characterized the independence movement.

Dr. Irshad Ahmad Lone, a Senior Faculty member, and Dr. Khalid Bashir, Senior Assistant Professor of History, also delivered compelling speeches that echoed the themes of patriotism and sacrifice. Dr. Irshad Ahmad Lone, in his address, focused on the scientific and educational advancements that India has achieved post-independence, urging the students and faculty to contribute towards the nation's progress with the same zeal that drove the freedom fighters. Dr. Khalid Bashir, on the other hand, provided a historical perspective,

recounting the numerous revolts and uprisings that eventually culminated in the freedom movement. He spoke of the bravery of figures like Bahadur Shah Zaffar-II, Rani Lakshmi Bai, Mangal Pandey, Chandrasekhar Azad and Baghat Singh whose relentless efforts against the British Raj have been etched in the annals of Indian history. Dr. Khalid Bashir's narrative served as a stark reminder that the liberty we cherish today was hard-won through centuries of struggle.

The event was a seamless blend of historical reflection and patriotic fervour, underscored by the active participation of NSS volunteers and NCC cadets. The NSS units, under the expert supervision of Dr. Khalid Bashir and Dr. Irshad Ahmad Lone, played a crucial role in organizing and overseeing the event. The NCC cadets, with their impeccable discipline, presented the Guard of Honour, adding a solemn and dignified touch to the proceedings. Their participation was not only a tribute to the military forces that safeguard the nation's sovereignty but also a demonstration of the values of service and sacrifice that are central to the ethos of the Indian armed forces.

Following the formal speeches, the event concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by Dr. Farooq Ahmad Ganaie, who also served as the anchor throughout the day's proceedings. In his closing remarks, Dr. Farooq Ahmad Ganaie extended his heartfelt gratitude to all participants for their dedication and enthusiasm, which played a crucial role in the event's success. He specifically commended the efforts of the NSS volunteers and NCC cadets, whose contributions were instrumental in ensuring the smooth and seamless execution of the ceremony.

The celebration of Independence Day at Government Degree College Kupwara was not merely an event but a solemn tribute to the indomitable spirit of India's freedom fighters and a reaffirmation of the values they fought for. The day served as a reminder to all present that the freedom and democracy we enjoy today are legacies of a struggle marked by immense sacrifices. As the college community dispersed, the lessons of the day lingered, with each individual carrying a renewed sense of responsibility towards preserving the hard-won independence and contributing to the nation's continued progress.

This event, rich in symbolism and historical significance, stands as a testament to the enduring relevance of the ideals that shaped India's freedom struggle. It is through such commemorations that the spirit of independence is kept alive, inspiring future generations to honour the sacrifices of the past and to work tirelessly for a prosperous and harmonious future.





Principal