

Defiant scribes celebrate Independence



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Guwahatians on Friday came out into the open to hoist the National Tricolour in various localities dotting the city and sent a clear message to the militants that no amount of threat can deter them from celebrating the country's Independence Day.

Journalists, joined by other enthusiastic citizens, observed the day in the premises of Guwahati Press Club, where the highlight was a call by veteran journalist Dhirendra Nath Chakraborty to spread this message of defiance to every nook and corner of Assam. Hoisting the National Flag, Chakraborty presented a brief outline of the country's heroic struggle for freedom where thousands had sacrificed their lives and laid the edifice of a modern and ever-progressing India. He hoped the absurdities of a sovereign Assam would dawn on the "blockhead" militants taking shelter in a foreign country and they would join the mainstream and contribute to the development of the State.

"Celebrations of the Independence Day across the city are a further proof, if any proof is needed, that people can no longer be frightened into submission at the point of a gun. Let us spread this message across the State from Sadia to Dhubri and Kokrajhar to Namrup," he added.

Senior journalists Ajit Patowary and Rupam Baruah, in their speeches, said people's enthusiastic participation in the Independence Day programmes is a clear signal that they would not tolerate the gun-induced suffocation any more. "Today our conscience has undergone a catharsis of fear," they added.

Later, the participants took out a procession, which paraded through some thoroughfares of the city before returning to their starting point.

The Day was observed in various other localities of the city including Kumarpara Panch Ali, Ulubari, Lal Ganesh, Panjabari, Uzan Bazar,

Ganeshguri and Maligaon where hundreds of citizens paid their respects to the Tricolour and homage to the martyrs. Moreover, the Tricolour was hoisted atop innumerable houses across Guwahati.

By Ranen Kumar Goswami

editor

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