

Beating the Retreat

January 29, 2023

A novel drone show was one of the major attractions of this year's 'Beating the Retreat' ceremony, which will be graced by the President and Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces Smt. Droupadi Murmu, at the historic Vijay Chowk in the heart of New Delhi, on January 29th, 2023. Other dignitaries, including Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh, witnessed the show, which was conceptualized, designed, produced and choreographed under the 'Make in India' initiative.



A total of 31 Martial musical tunes enthralled the spectators with foot-tapping music played by the bands of Indian Army, Navy, Air Force and Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF).

The event will come to a close with the ever-popular tune of '*Sare Jahan se Acha*'.



A view of the illuminated Rashtrapati Bhavan, South and North Block

The drone show was organized by a startup 'Botlab Dynamics' and supported by Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi and Department of Science & Technology. The show involving more than 2000 drones was synchronized with background music.

Another attraction was a projection mapping show to commemorate 75 years of independence. The show was showcased on the walls of North and South Block before the end of the ceremony.

'Beating the Retreat' is a centuries-old military tradition dating from the days when troops disengaged from battle at sunset. As soon as the buglers sounded the retreat, the troops ceased fighting, sheathed their arms and withdrew from the battlefield. It is for this reason that the custom of standing still during the sounding of retreat has been retained to this day. Colours and standards are cased and flags lowered at retreats.

Drumbeats recall the days when troops, billeted in towns and cities, were recalled to their quarters at an appointed time in the evening. Based on these military traditions, 'Beating the Retreat' ceremony creates a mood of nostalgia of the times gone by.