

INBRIEF

PM, others
pay homage
to Vajpayee

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi and senior BJP leaders paid glowing tributes to former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee on the anniversary of his death, emphasising his unparalleled role in India's progress.

The leaders, including Modi and BJP president Nitin Nabin, visited Vajpayee's memorial, 'Sadaiv Atal,' located on the banks of the Yamuna in the national capital, to pay their floral tributes.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah unveiled a statue of Vajpayee in the Chittorgarh district of Rajasthan. The Delhi government launched 25 new 'Atal Canteens' to provide hygienic, subsidised meals to low-income families.

Vajpayee, the first BJP leader to become prime minister, was born on **P11**

BJP demands
Sonia's apology;
protest lodged

KOLKATA: The controversy over the singing of the full version of 'Vande Mataram' at the Congress headquarters in New Delhi has taken a political turn in West Bengal, with the BJP demanding an apology from Sonia Gandhi and threatening protests across the state.

West Bengal Chief Minister Suvenud Adhikari on Sunday alleged that Sonia Gandhi had objected to the singing of the complete version of the national song during the Independence Day function and said the incident had deeply offended people in the state, where Bankim Chandra is revered as 'Sahitya Samrat'.

Adhikari **P11**

CM hoists Tricolour on 80th Independence Day
Will take J&K to new heights, fulfil dreams
of those who sacrificed for its future: Omar

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah the other day hoisted the National Flag at the 80th Independence Day function at Bakshi Stadium, Srinagar, and took the salute at the ceremonial parade and march-past.

Opening his speech with the famous patriotic verse, "Sare Jahan Se Achha, Hindustan Hamara; Hum Bul-bulein Hain Iski, Yeh Gulistan Hamara," the Chief Minister said the words beautifully capture the love, pride and emotional bond that people **P11**

Suspicious
movement
erupts CASO
in Ramnagar

JAMMU: Security forces in Jammu and Kashmir on Sunday launched a joint cordon-and-search operation (CASO) in the Ramnagar forest area of Udhampur district after receiving inputs about the suspicious movement of two unidentified persons there, officials said.

A joint team comprising the Jammu and Kashmir Police, Special Operations Group (SOG), Army and other security agencies has cordoned off the Jophar area and launched an intensive search operation to track down the suspected **P11**

80TH INDEPENDENCE DAY



PM announces free online coaching for youth
Modi invokes Dimagi Naxals, seeks
Oppn's support on women's quota

NEW DELHI: Maoist extremism is breathing its last in the country, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Saturday, as he called for "identifying and isolating" the "Dimagi NAXALS". Addressing the nation on the 80th Independence Day, the prime minister said Naxalism and Maoism destroyed the future of several youths.

"For four decades, huge areas and people were in their clutches under the fear of guns. Over 3,500 security personnel died protecting people; the number is higher than those who die in war," he said.

"When we came to power in 2014, we swore to rid the country of Naxals. I am happy Maoist violence is taking its last breath," he said, adding that several areas have become free of Naxalites and are becoming developed. Modi added, "For years, those with Naxal mental-

HIGHLIGHTS

- AI push for one crore youth
- Civil Defence for Modern Warfare
- 5 to 8 Semiconductor Plants
- 100 GW Nuclear Power by 2047
- Roadmap for Viksit Bharat 2047
- Women's quota in LS, Assemblies
- Target of create 6 Cr Lakhpati Didis

ity had their place in the power corridors. They were in government committees as advisors. Maoist **P11**

Modi sports
tie-and-dye
'red turban'

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi marked the 80th Independence Day with his signature flair, sporting a traditional tie-and-dye red turban for his 13th consecutive address to the nation from the historic ramparts of the Red Fort here.

Modi paired his white kurta and chocolate brown vest with the **P11**



In a 1st, Vande Mataram with full 6 stanzas rendered from Red Fort

NEW DELHI: In a first for Independence Day celebrations, 'Vande Mataram', with the full six stanzas, was rendered at the Red Fort complex during the 79th anniversary of the historic occasion on August 15, followed by the recitation of the national anthem at the grand event. The mega function commemorates 150 years of the **P11**

CM pays tributes
at Balidan Stambh

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah the other day paid floral tributes at the Balidan Stambh in Srinagar to honour the supreme sacrifices of the martyrs as the nation celebrated its 80th Independence Day.

The Chief Minister laid a wreath at the memorial and **P11**

Unfortunate that CM wants to create
atmosphere of 'confusion': LoP Sunil

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: Leader of Opposition in Jammu and Kashmir Assembly Sunil Sharma on Saturday said Chief Minister Omar Abdullah's Independence Day speech was "irresponsible" and it was "unfortunate" that he wants to create an atmosphere of confusion in the Valley.

He also said it was after the abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019 that the federal structure was strengthened in Kashmir.

Referring to the chief minister's speech at the 80th Independence Day celebration at Bakshi Stadium here, Sharma told PTI Videos, "The chief minister's speech was a bit regrettable. I would say

this was an unfortunate and irresponsible speech because this is not a political stage. From this stage, there should be a speech for the unity, integrity and sovereignty of the country, a tribute to the soldiers, a tribute to the martyrs, and especially for the pride and honour of the Tricolour."

He said Abdullah should have talked about his government's performance or its future planning, but those were "totally missing".

Sharma, the BJP MLA from Padder-Nagseni constituency in Jammu region, alleged that Abdullah wanted to raise questions on the strength of the country's federal structure.

"I would like to tell the chief minister that it was af-

ter August 5, 2019, that this federal structure was strengthened. That is the reason why today every Kashmiri is humming Vande Mataram," the LoP said, adding that the chief minister's speech raises the question about what he wants to convey by "misusing this stage".

"I am very hurt by this because today the people, especially the unemployed youth, had hoped that he would say something big for them and for all sections," Sharma added.

Referring to Abdullah raising constitutional guarantees revoked by the Centre in 2019, Sharma said the chief minister wanted to create an atmosphere of **P11**

Two killed,
5 injured in
road mishap

JAMMU: Two people were killed and five others injured when an Ecoo vehicle plunged into a deep gorge in Rajouri district on Sunday evening, officials said.

The condition of the injured remained critical, with one of them reported to be in a very critical condition.

The accident occurred when the vehicle was travelling on the Kandi Mohra road and skidded off the road before plunging into the gorge in the Kotranka sub-division, leaving all seven occupants injured, they said. The injured were initially shifted to **P11**

Tricolour proudly flies on former Naxal
stronghold of Kurregutta Hills, J-K: Shah
'PM's speech will be a milestone for Viksit Bharat'

NEW DELHI: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday said the Tricolour now proudly flies on the hill of Kurregutta, once a stronghold of Naxal terror, and in Jammu and Kashmir, where hoisting it used to invite threats.

In an X post, Shah said the festival of Independence is being celebrated with great pomp on the hill.

"Where once guns roared, now patriotism echoes. The Tricolour waving over the red soil is a symbol of the strength, progress and self-confidence of a Naxal-free new Bastar," he said.

The three-day Bastar Tiranga Yatra, which covered nearly 600 kilometres through areas once considered Maoist strongholds, culminated on Friday with the hoisting of the national flag at Kurregutta hills in Bijapur district, adding a new chapter in the region's history.

Chhattisgarh Deputy Chief Minister Vijay Sharma and Forest Minister Kedar



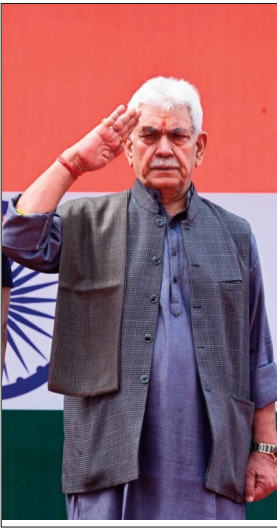
Kashyap led the motorcycle procession, joined by several public representatives, locals and community leaders. The final destination was Kurregutta, a hill range that

Lt Guv hoists National Flag at Lok Bhavan
Truest tribute to Martyrs is
to safeguard freedom: Sinha

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: The Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Saturday hoisted the National Flag at Lok Bhavan on the occasion of the Nation's 80th Independence Day. A ceremonial police contingent presented the National Salute.

Paying homage to the countless freedom fighters who sacrificed their lives for the nation, the Lieutenant Governor emphasized the difficult journey, struggle and sacrifice for independence. He also paid tribute to the civilians who tragically lost their lives in unfortunate nat-



ural calamities this year.

"On this historic day, I join all citizens in paying heartfelt tributes to our founding fathers and the valiant sons and daughters of Mother India who sacrificed their lives for country's freedom. Let us strive to realize their cherished dreams of building a peaceful, prosperous Jammu Kashmir and a great nation. The truest tribute we can pay to our martyrs and freedom fighters is to resolve to work with integrity and safeguard our hard-earned freedom," the Lieutenant Governor said.

While acknowledging the challenges ahead, **P11**

Sinha attends inaugural event of Baba Budha Amarnathji Yatra
Worship of 'Lord Shiva' permeates
cultural, spiritual fabric of India: LG

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: On the auspicious occasion of the commencement of the sacred Shri Baba Budha Amarnath Ji Yatra, the Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Sunday graced the inaugural function.

In his address, the Lieutenant Governor said that the yatra is not merely a physical journey but a profound inward journey towards self-realisation and the eternal consciousness of Lord Shiva. He emphasised that the pilgrimage to Baba Budha Amarnath Ji is a sacred path of devotion, discipline, and unity.



The Lieutenant Governor reminded the gathering of the eternal teachings of Lord Shiva—truth,

duty, discipline, and compassion. He recalled the spiritual significance of the shrine, where Mahar-

espato
Good Food

Perfect
WEEKEND
BREAKFAST!

START YOUR
WEEKEND RIGHT,
THE HEALTHY WAY!

Say No to
Maida Bathura,
Say Yes to
Healthy Whole
Wheat Khameera

NATURALLY FERMENTED
Light, Fluffy & Easy to Digest

GOOD FOR
GUT HEALTH
MADE WITH
WHOLE WHEAT
NATURALLY
FERMENTED
NO MAIDA
NO PALM OIL

Why Khameera?
Made with naturally fermented whole wheat
Light on the stomach & easy to digest
Keeps you full for longer
Perfect balance of taste & health

Healthy
Food for a
Happy You!

WHOLESDOME FOOD,
HAPPIER WEEKENDS!

JOIN US THIS WEEKEND
WITH FAMILY & FRIENDS
FOR A WHOLESDOME START
TO YOUR DAY!

EXCHANGE ROAD
JAMMU

SEC 2
CHANNI HIMMAT

NH
DHAMMI NAGROTA

NH
KARTHOLI
BARI BRAHMANA

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Good Mood,
Good Life.

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