

INBRIEF

200 operatives
of ISI-backed
terror group
arrested: Shah

NEW DELHI: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday said that over 200 operatives of the ISI-backed terror group, Shahzad Bhatti Network, were arrested ahead of Independence Day, thwarting plans of the group to launch subversive attacks.

He said coordinated operations were held across different locations in 14 states, reflecting the country's zero tolerance towards terrorism.

Substantial recoveries, including IEDs, grenades bearing Pakistan Ordnance Factory markings, pistols, live cartridges, and CCTV cameras used for espionage, were made from the ISI-funded group, he said.

In a message on 'X', the Home Minister said, "Modi government destroyed the ISI-backed terror group Shahzad Bhatti ► P11

SC asks J&K admin to
compensate for land
forcibly taken in 1953

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Monday asked the Jammu and Kashmir administration to pay compensation and rentals to one of the descendants of farmers whose land was forcibly taken more than 73 years ago for setting up a police station at Kangan in Ganderbal without any acquisition proceedings.

Land measuring seven kanals and 18 marlas at Kangan was forcibly taken over for constructing a police station way back in 1953 without acquiring it and without paying the compensation.

A bench comprising Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justices Joyimalya Bagchi and V Mohana took note of the plea

Omar: People may take time to
adjust to singing national song

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday said people will take time to get used to singing the national song as it has been added to official functions only this year.

Commenting on the controversy surrounding Congress leaders' alleged disrespect to Vande Mataram, Abdullah said there should be no controversy as all verses of the national song were sung.

"Congress also gave a clarification from its side. It said, look at the video, all three verses of Vande Mataram

J&K Bank teams up with HDFC Life
We believe greater choice, creates
greater values: Amitava Chatterjee

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: Reinforcing its customer-centric approach to expand access to financial protection, J&K Bank has entered into a Corporate Agency Agreement (CAA) with HDFC Life - one of India's leading life insurance companies. The strategic partnership will enable the Bank's customers to access HDFC Life's comprehensive suite of products designed for various life stages, ranging from Protection, Savings and Investment, Retirement Planning, etc.

The partnership was formally announced in the presence of the Bank's MD & CEO Amitava Chatterjee, HDFC Life's MD & CEO

Shri Budha Amarnathji Yatra commences
amid tight security, LG flags off 1st batch

■ Sinha visits Shri Ramakrishna Mahasammelan Ashram in Anantnag
■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU/SRINAGAR: The annual pilgrimage to the ancient Shri Budha Amarnathji shrine in Poonch district commenced on Monday, with Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha flagging off the first batch of pilgrims from Jammu amid religious fervour and tight security arrangements.

After performing a Pooja, Sinha flagged off the pilgrims from Bhagwati Nagar Yatri Niwas around 6.30 am for the 230-km journey to Poonch, officials said.

The 12-day Yatra to the Shri Baba Budha Amarnathji temple in Rajpura, Mandi tehsil, will continue until August 28 and culminate on Raksha Bandhan.

"Blessed to flag off the sacred Shri Budha Amarnath Ji yatra today. This divine pilgrimage is a transformative



experience for devotees", the LG said on X.

He further said, "Praying to Lord Shiva for a smooth,

safe, and spiritually fulfilling journey for all pilgrims arriving from every corner of the country. May Mahadev bless

every step of your sacred yatra. Har Har Mahadev!"

The pilgrim convoys will travel under police escort, with additional central armed police forces deployed along the Jammu-Rajouri-Poonch route, they said.

Multi-tier security and surveillance have been put in place across Rajouri and Poonch, while special operations group personnel are conducting search and verification operations at several locations, including lodging sites such as Dashnami Akhara, officials said.

Security forces have also been deployed along the Jammu-Rajouri-Poonch highway, with search operations conducted at various locations as part of the security arrangements.

Sinha, who attended the inaugural function on Sunday, said the yatra was "not merely a physical ► P11

Policeenquire
into complaint
against Gandhis

NEW DELHI: Delhi Police on Monday said it was enquiring into a complaint alleging an incident during the singing of 'Vande Mataram' at the Independence Day function held at the Congress headquarters here on August 15.

The complaint was filed at the IP Estate Police Station on August 16 by an advocate, seeking registration of an FIR against Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi.

"The complaint regarding the alleged incident during the singing of Vande Mataram at the Independence Day function held at AICC ► P11

Pension reforms to design admin
system more efficient: Dr Jitendra



NEW DELHI: Union Minister Jitendra Singh on Monday said the government's pension reforms are aimed not only at providing ease of living to pensioners but also at making the administrative system more efficient.

Addressing the 9th Na-

PM applauds newly-appointed office bearers

Ram Madhav, Smriti Irani
in BJP's new national team

“ Out of 65 names, 51 are new; 6 are below 40 years, 15 are in 40-49 years age group; 21 are in the 50-59 years age group; and 10 women office bearers



NEW DELHI: The BJP on Monday overhauled its national team under party president Nitin Nabin, bringing in many new faces and some prominent leaders like former Union minister Smriti Irani as general secretary and former RSS functionary Ram Madhav as vice president.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi also congratulated the newly-appointed national office bearers of the BJP and said the team brings together organisational experience, energy and grassroots connect. The party, which said it

has maintained the right balance between youth and experience, retained a few veterans including former chief minister of Rajasthan Vasundhara Raje Scindia, who was named one of its 13 vice-presidents.

Out of the total 65 names of office bearers announced on Monday, 51 are new. Six are below 40 years, 15 are in the 40-49 years age group, and 21 are in the 50-59 years age group. The office bearers also include 10 women and six leaders from minority communities, party sources

said. They stressed that the revamp was done keeping in mind the BJP's preparations for the assembly polls up to 2029 and the next general elections.

Union Minister Piyush Goyal has been named national treasurer. Incidentally, his father Ved Prakash Goyal, who served as a Union minister in the Atal Bihari Vajpayee government, had also served as the party's national treasurer for a long time.

Goyal is the only Union minister who has been brought into the ► P11

Army Cmdr visits forward
areas along LoC in Poonch

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Army's Northern Commander Lt Gen Pratik Sharma on Monday visited forward areas along the Line of Control in the Poonch district, underscoring the need for continued vigilance and adopting innovative approaches to address emerging security challenges.

The General Officer Commanding-in-Chief reviewed the operational preparedness of the formations and also interacted with the troops guarding the borders, the Army said.

"Lt Gen Sharma visited forward locations in Poonch and reviewed the operational preparedness of the formation. During the visit, he was briefed on the prevailing security situation, operational readiness and the challenges of deployment in the rugged terrain," the Army's Udhampur-based Northern Command said in a post on X.

The Army said the Northern Commander interacted with troops serving in forward areas and appreciated their resilience in maintaining mission-readiness despite the demanding terrain and weather conditions. He emphasised the need to remain vigilant and foster synergy.

Meanwhile, in another post, the northern command said students of the Higher Defence Management course visited the command headquarters at Udhampur. "The scholar-warriors were briefed on the ► P11

CBI detains
Sub-Inspector
in bribery case

JAMMU: The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has arrested a Sub-Inspector of the Jammu and Kashmir Police in connection with a bribery case here, officials said on Monday.

"The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has arrested a Sub-Inspector of Police Station Janipur in Jammu, identified as SI Danish Habib, a 2024-batch officer, in a bribery case," the CBI statement said.

The CBI said the accused allegedly demanded a bribe of Rs 20,000 from a complainant for not ► P11

BJP mounts massive attack on NC
Govt, slams it for ‘false promises’
LoP Sunil accuses Govt for large-scale corruption

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Hundreds of BJP workers, led by Jammu and Kashmir party president Sat Sharma, took to the streets here on Monday to protest against the National Conference-led government, accusing it of failing to fulfil its election promises and address unemployment and development issues.

Carrying placards and party flags, the BJP activists gathered at Dogra Chowk, Maheshpura, and Panjirthi before marching separately toward the Civil Secretariat



via Shalimar Road under the leadership of Sharma, Member of Parliament Jugal Kishore Sharma, and Leader of Opposition in the J-K Assembly Sunil Sharma, raising slogans against the NC-Congress alliance.

Several senior party leaders demanded the resignation of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, alleging large-scale corruption and complete failure of governance.

Protesters also set ablaze effigies of the NC-Congress government, while police and paramilitary personnel were deployed in large ► P11

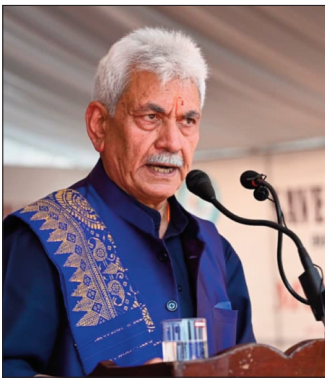
LG Sinha bats for dialogue at
interfaith event in Pulwama

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: The Lieutenant Governor, Shri Manoj Sinha today attended the Mulaqat programme in Pulwama, an initiative of Save Youth, Save Future Foundation, dedicated to fostering interfaith dialogue, harmony, and the preservation of India's shared heritage.

In his address, the Lieutenant Governor emphasized that dialogue is not merely an exchange of words but a bridge between hearts, a means of nurturing trust and a path to peace and prosperity.

Quoting ancient wisdom from the Rig Veda- "Sangachchadhvam Samvadadhvam, Sam Vo Manamsi Janatam", the Lieutenant Governor reminded the gathering that walking together,



conversing together and making space for one another in our hearts is the essence of India's civilizational ethos. He noted that diversity is not a weakness but the nation's greatest strength, a heritage

safeguarded through mutual trust and respect. Mutual trust and beliefs was an integral part of our way of life. The civilisation of our beloved Bharat gave us a profoundly beautiful message 6,000 years ago to walk together, converse together and make space for one another in our hearts," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor said that India's soil has, for centuries, welcomed faiths, cultures, and traditions from across the world, weaving them into the fabric of the country. He highlighted that this confluence of traditions is visible today in the philosophy of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam-the world is one family-and in the ethos of Kashmiriyat, which teaches that true identity lies in ► P11

4 years on run,
‘Narco-Terror’
operative held

SRINAGAR: The State Investigation Agency (SIA) Kashmir on Monday said it has arrested an absconding narco-terror operative in the Jammu region.

Manoj Kumar Bhat alias Pintu was arrested during a special operation.

A spokesperson of the agency claimed that the arrest marks an important development in the investigation of a wider narco-terror conspiracy allegedly backed by Pakistan or Pakistan-occupied-Kashmir-based operatives of Hizbul Mujahideen.

"SIA Kashmir has ► P11