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The management and staff of The Earth News greet all patrons and readers on the auspicious occasion of Holi.

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Heightened vigilance ordered: LG Sinha reviews security scenario at PCR Kashmir

Directs J&K officials to take all measure to maintain peace



■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: Ordering heightened vigilance while reviewing the law & order situation, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday chaired a high-level meeting of senior police and civil administration officials at the Police Control Room, Kashmir.

The Lieutenant Governor directed the officers to remain on heightened alert and take all necessary measures to ensure public peace and tranquillity.

The Lieutenant Governor

NAC reviews security situation in Kashmir

SRINAGAR: Northern Army Commander Lt Gen Pratik Sharma on Tuesday reviewed the evolving security situation in Kashmir. In a post on X, the Northern Command said Lt Gen Sharma engaged with Formation Commanders and representatives of sister agencies to deliberate on the ► P11

Edu institutions shut till March 7

SRINAGAR: Schools and colleges across Kashmir will remain closed till March 7 in the wake of protests against the killing of Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei in a joint air strike by the Israel and the US.

"All schools and colleges of Kashmir Division will remain closed ► P11

also appealed to the citizens and community leaders to uphold harmony and contribute to an atmosphere of calm and goodwill in society.

"Preserving peace and sustaining the progress of society is a shared responsibility that rests equally upon each one of us," he said.

The meeting was attended by Nalin Prabhat, DGP J&K; S.J.M Gillani, Special DG (Coordination); Anand Jain, ADGP Armed; Nitish Kumar, ADGP CID; V.K Birdi, IGP Kashmir; Anshul Garg, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; Rajiv Pandey, DIG, CKR, Akshay Labroo, Deputy Commissioner Srinagar and other senior officials.

The Lieutenant Governor Shared on X, "Chaired a meeting of senior police & civil administration officials at the Police Control Room, Kashmir, to review the law & order situation. Directed the officers to remain on heightened alert and take all necessary measures to ensure public peace and tranquillity.

Also appeal to the citizens and community leaders ► P11

WEST ASIA CONFLICT

Modi speaks to Sultan of Oman, Crown Prince; expresses concern

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke to Sultan Haitham bin Tarik of Oman, Crown Prince of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah and Amir of Qatar Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani on Tuesday, and expressed concern over attacks on their countries during the ongoing conflict in West Asia, officials said.

During his telephonic conversations, Modi also discussed with these leaders the welfare and security of the Indian community residing in their countries.

"The prime minister spoke to three important leaders from the Gulf region on Tuesday afternoon. He had separate phone calls with Sultan Haitham bin Tarik of Oman, Crown Prince of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah and Amir of Qatar Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani," an official said. During his talks with the leaders, Modi expressed concern over the attacks in their respective countries and dis-



pressed the welfare and security of the Indian community residing there.

The phone calls took place in the wake of a coordinated offensive launched against Iran by the United States and Israel, in which the Islamic country's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, was killed. In retaliation, Iran has fired drones and missiles at Israel and US military installations around the Gulf, as also at the

II of Jordan and conveyed deep concern over the evolving situation in the region.

Modi has also spoken to United Arab Emirates (UAE) President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Around 90 lakh Indians live in the Gulf and West Asia. About 10,000 Indian citizens live, study and work in Iran, while more than 40,000 live in Israel.

Currently, the airspace of West Asia is almost closed. With flight services disrupted due to the military escalation in West Asia, hundreds of Indians are stranded in Dubai, Doha and other key hub airports.

The Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS), which met on Tuesday, expressed concern over the safety and security of the large Indian-expatriate community in the region.

The CCS also directed all departments concerned to take necessary and feasible measures to assist Indian nationals affected by ► P11

Advocates bottom-up governance, technology-driven reforms

For 'Viksit Bharat' to succeed, no state or region can be left behind: CM Omar



■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Emphasizing that progress confined to select pockets would leave the na-

tional dream unfulfilled, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Tuesday asserted that the vision of Viksit Bharat can only be realized through inclusive

and equitable development across every state and region of the country.

He was addressing the day-long National Governance Conference on "Holistic Development of Districts: Transforming Governance for Viksit Bharat", organised by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances under the Ministry of Personnel Public Grievances and Pensions, Government of India, in collaboration with the Government of Jammu and Kashmir.

Union Minister ► P11

Pahalgam attack probe

Special NIA Court issues Letter Rogatory to China

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: A Special NIA Court in Jammu has issued a Letter Rogatory to the competent judicial authority in China for assistance in tracing the supply chain and end-user details of a mobile phone linked to the probe into last year's Pahalgam terror attack.

The Special Judge passed the order in response to an application filed by the Deputy Inspector General, National Investigation Agency (NIA), Sandeep Choudhary, under Section

112 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS).

Terrorists affiliated with Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) outfit struck south Kashmir's Pahalgam hill resort on April 22, killing 25 tourists and a local guide.

According to the application, the NIA, during the course of the investigation into the case, seized various material objects and electronic devices connected with the conspiracy and execution of the terrorist attack.

One such crucial electronic device is a ► P11

LG Sinha, Omar extend greetings to people on Holi

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday extended their heartfelt greetings to the people on the eve of Holi, the festival of colours.

The L-G wished happiness and success for all, while Abdullah hoped the festival would further strengthen communal harmony, promote mutual respect and deepen the enduring bonds of brotherhood.

In his message, Sinha said, "On the festive ► P11

JK records 17 lakh kanals of state land encroached

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir has recorded encroachment of over 17 lakh kanals of state land, with corresponding entries expunged from revenue records, while more than 75,000 kanals have been transferred to various government departments and agencies since 2019, according to official data.

"There are 1,00,06,163.9 kanals of total state land in Jammu and Kashmir, of which 17,27,246.5 kanals of state land is under encroachment," the data revealed.

The government shared division-wise details of state,

government and JDA land under encroachment, the steps taken for retrieval and regularisation, and land allotted to institutions and government departments, including central agencies, after 2019.

In the Kashmir division, a total of 16,54,709.9 kanals of state land have been recorded, out of which 3,27,198.5 kanals were under encroachment, the data said. It said entries pertaining to 3,27,199 kanals have been expunged from revenue records.

Baramulla district accounts for the highest encroached land at 81,327.65 kanals, followed by ► P11

Leopards, bears dispatched for Chennai by train

JAMMU: In a first-of-its-kind initiative, the Jammu Division of Northern Railway has undertaken transportation of rare zoo animals from Jammu to Chennai by train, marking a significant milestone in long-distance wildlife transit.

Two leopard cats and two black bears were dispatched from Jammu Railway Station on Tuesday in a special parcel van attached to train 16032, railway officials said.

The consignment will cover nearly 2,800 km to reach MGR Chennai in Tamil Nadu in about 54 hours, a duration which officials said is shorter and safer ► P11

Indian embassy shifts majority of Indian students out of Tehran

NEW DELHI: India on Tuesday said its mission in Iran has relocated the majority of Indian students from Tehran in view of the precarious security situation in the Iranian capital city.

India's move came as the conflict in West Asia intensified with the US and Israel carrying out fresh attacks on Iran while Tehran continued to pound several Gulf countries in retaliation.

"Due to the heightened risk perception in Tehran city, the embassy of India has relocated most Indian students who were in Tehran," the Indian mission said.

The students were taken to locations outside of Tehran. The embassy said it has made

arrangements for the transportation, food, and accommodation of the students.

"Only a small number of students who declined the embassy's offer remain in Tehran," it said.

"For other Indian students and Indian nationals who still remain in Iran, the advisory issued earlier remains unchanged: stay where you are, remain indoors as far as possible, and stay away from windows," the embassy said.

In the fresh advisory, the embassy also urged the Indians to exercise caution at all times, avoid visiting areas of protests or demonstrations and remain in regular contact with the mission.

Around 9,000 Indians including students are learnt to be stuck in Iran. The exact number of Indian students in Iran is not immediately known.

The conflict in West Asia intensified with Iran carrying out fresh strikes targeting Israel and American military bases in the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Kuwait, Jordan, Bahrain and Saudi Arabia after the US and Israel attacked Iran on Saturday.

As part of its offensive, Iran has blocked the strategically located strait of Hormuz shipping route triggering surge in global oil prices.

The US military has said six of its personnel were killed in the conflict so far. ► P11

India has enough oil stock to weather crisis

NEW DELHI: India holds sufficient crude and fuel inventories to meet domestic demand for petrol, diesel, and other fuels for six to eight weeks, top government sources said, cushioning the country against any short-term supply disruption amid escalating military conflict in West Asia.

About half of India's crude and LPG imports transit the Strait of Hormuz — the key energy chokepoint that has seen disruptions following US and Israeli attacks on Iranian government, military and nuclear facilities. Iran warned shipping away from the strait, and insurers withdrew ► P11

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