

Happy Rakhi

The management and staff of The Earth News greet all patrons and readers on the auspicious occasion of Raksha Bandhan

LG, CM extend greetings on Raksha Bandan

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has extended his heartfelt greetings to the people on the auspicious occasion of Raksha Bandhan, which is being celebrated tomorrow on August 28.

In a message, the Lieutenant Governor said: "Heartiest greetings and best wishes to all on the sacred occasion of Raksha Bandhan.

The joyful festival celebrates the timeless bond between brothers and sisters. The sacred thread of rakhi symbolizes unconditional love, affection, and trust. May the auspicious occasion further strengthen societal ties, deepen the spirit of unity and togetherness across all sections."

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has extended his warm greetings to the people of Jammu and Kashmir on the occasion of Raksha Bandhan.

In his message, the Chief Minister described **► P11**

Tanks are 'iron wall' on borders, boost soldiers' morale: Rajnath

■ DM calls for resilient supply chains



JABALPUR: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Thursday described tanks as an "iron wall" on India's borders that act as a death knell for the enemy and boost the morale of soldiers deployed in forward areas, asserting they remain vital to ground warfare despite the growing

world. T-72 and T-90 tanks are extremely important for ground warfare. They stand like an iron wall on our borders," he said.

"Tanks act as a death knell for the enemy and also boost the morale of our soldiers deployed on the borders," Singh added.

He said tanks, like other military equipment, require regular maintenance and periodic overhauling to ensure their operational readiness.

Under the upcoming project, the facility will overhaul 80 T-72 and T-90 tanks annually, Singh said.

The Indian Army requires the overhaul of around 230 such tanks every year, according to him.

The Heavy Vehicles Factory (HVF) at Avadi currently overhauls around 150 tanks annually, and the new **► P11**



Nepal-Tibet flash floods: Toll surges to 362; 290 Indians among 1,500 missing

■ UN allocates USD 2 million for relief ops

KATHMANDU/UNITED NATIONS: The death toll from the massive Nepal-Tibet flash floods rose to 362

on Thursday, including 359 in Nepal and three in neighbouring Tibet, as rescuers launched a desperate race against time to trace hundreds still missing, including 290 Indian nationals.

An ice-rock avalanche triggered by a glacial collapse near the Nepal-Tibet border

sent a torrent of water, mud and debris downstream through central Nepal on Wednesday, devastating towns and villages, washing away homes, vehicles, roads and bridges, and damaging hydropower projects.

A fresh flood threat persisted downstream **► P11**

Scientists explore 'glacial' collapse, ice-rock avalanche

KATHMANDU: Scientists are examining how a possible glacial collapse and ice-rock avalanche may have triggered the devastating flash floods along Nepal's Bhote Koshi River, with **► P11**

Minor's Rape-Murder Case: SIT widens probe, 3 fresh arrests take tally to five

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Kishtwar observed a complete Bandh on Thursday following a joint call by the Majlis-e-Shura and Sanatan Dharam Sabha over the alleged rape and death of a 15-year-old tribal girl in the district.

Shops and business establishments remained closed across the district, while public transport was also affected, officials said.

Meanwhile, the Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the rape and death of the tribal girl has arrested three more persons, including a health department



daily-wager, for their alleged role in a conspiracy to conceal the sexual assault and terminate the minor's pregnancy, taking the total number of arrests to five, police said.

Security forces and po-

lice were deployed in large numbers, particularly in Kishtwar and Chatroo towns, to maintain peace and ensure normalcy, they said.

The bandh reflected growing public anger over

the girl's death, with protesters demanding justice, stronger measures for the safety and protection of children and stringent action against the culprits.

The girl was allegedly repeatedly sexually **► P11**

Cong rules out Cabinet entry till J-K statehood is restored

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Congress president Tariq Hameed Karra on Thursday ruled out his party joining the Omar Abdullah-led government in the Union territory, saying the Congress will not join the Cabinet till statehood is restored to J-K.

Karra said the Congress could remain part of the government but would not accept a Cabinet position until the rights of the people of Jammu

and Kashmir, which were "unconstitutionally, undemocratically and unilaterally" taken away, are restored.

Addressing reporters after attending a joining programme organised by the district Congress committee here, Karra said, "Congress has taken a principled stand on the restoration of statehood and other constitutional rights taken away from the people, and there is no change in its position."

However, Karra clarified

that the Congress would continue to support the National Conference-led government whenever the BJP threatens its stability.

Karra also said that the party's support to the government will not prevent it from raising issues concerning governance and the fulfilment of the commitments made to the people.

On the issue of the proposed power tariff hike in J-K, he said the Congress has already opposed **► P11**

Army Cmdr takes stock of 'security' in south Kashmir

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: Northern Army Commander Lt Gen Pratik Sharma on Thursday reviewed security scenario and operational preparedness of the troops in south Kashmir, and directed them to remain proactive and mission-ready to sustain operational dominance.

During his interaction with the troops, the Army commander admired them for their professionalism and indomitable spirit.

"Lt Gen Pratik Sharma, #ArmyCdrNC, visited South #Kashmir to review the security environment and op-

erational preparedness of deployed troops. He was briefed on evolving security dynamics, operational challenges and measures undertaken to strengthen the security grid," the Army's Northern Command said in a post on X.

It said deliberations focused on technology integration for enhancing surveillance, intelligence and operational awareness to render a swift and decisive response to emerging threats.

"In a motivational interaction with the troops, the Army Commander commended them for **► P11**

Govt working to move youth beyond 'Sarkari Naukri' mindset: Dr Jitendra

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology and Earth Sciences and MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr. Jitendra Singh said on Thursday that one of the greatest contributions of this government is that there has been a conscious effort to change the 'Sarkari Naukri' mindset and provide alternative means of livelihood.

PM Narendra Modi said "StartUp India Stand up India" from ramparts of Red Fort, launched StartUp policy



when the concept hardly existed and today India ranks globally rank third with over 2,30,000 registered Start-Ups, he said.

Similarly, Dr Jitendra Singh said, during these twelve years, several youth-centric schemes like Midra Yojana, SVANidhi **► P11**

IFFJK: DIPR announces eminent jury

SRINAGAR: The Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR), Government of Jammu and Kashmir, today announced the eminent five-member Jury for the 1st International Film Festival of Jammu and Kashmir (IFFJK), scheduled to be held from 7th to 10th September 2026.

The maiden edition of IFFJK is being organised with the objective of establishing Jammu and Kashmir as an important destination for cinema, creative expression, cultural exchange and meaningful dialogue. The festival will provide a platform for diverse cinematic voices while showcasing the rich cultural heritage, stories and creative potential of Jammu **► P11**

CM Suvendu warns of arrest over "Kashmir Maange Azaadi" slogan

KOLKATA: West Bengal Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari on Thursday warned that those raising slogans such as "Kashmir Maange Azaadi" would be arrested and said Palestinian flags would not be allowed in processions in the state.

Hinting at Left activists, Adhikari said political protests and slogans such as "Inquilab Zindabad" were permissible, and people are free to protest against him or the ruling BJP if they believe the government or its organisations had done something wrong.

However, he said, the party would not compromise on two issues -- "nation first" and the ideological legacy of BJP leaders Syama Prasad Mookerjee and Deendayal



Upadhyaya.

"You can protest, you can say Inquilab Zindabad. You can protest against me, you can protest if ABVP has done something wrong," he said while addressing a private vernacular news channel event.

Adhikari said the govern-

ment had no intention of interfering in religious practices and people were free to carry religious flags, but questioned the use of Palestinian flags during processions.

"Keep as many religious flags as you want. There is no problem. If someone comes out carrying the Indian flag, they are welcome. But why the Palestinian flag? Who are you trying to provoke?" he said.

He said such activities would not be allowed in West Bengal and referred to the alleged recovery of Palestinian flags from an Islamic procession on Wednesday, saying arrests had been made in connection with the incident.

The chief minister also issued a specific **► P11**

Providing quality healthcare to citizens is our obligation: Omar

CM attends valedictory event of Quaternary Healthcare Summit

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday called for a balanced and integrated healthcare strategy that combines the development of advanced quaternary care with strengthening of primary and secondary healthcare services across Jammu and Kashmir.

Addressing the valedictory function of the Quaternary Healthcare & Research Summit: 4th J&K Medical Conference-2026 at the Sher-i-Kashmir International Convention Centre (SKICC), the Chief Minister said that while scaling tertiary



healthcare into the fourth tier would enhance the capacity to provide highly specialised treatment, it must be accompanied by focused efforts to strengthen healthcare delivery at the grass-roots.

The three-day summit,

held from August 25 to 27, was organised by the Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS), Soura, under the aegis of NITI Aayog, Government of India, in strategic collaboration with AIIMS New Delhi and PGIMER Chandigarh, **► P11**

CM audits drainage sector of Srinagar

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday chaired a high-level meeting to review the drainage sector of Srinagar city, with a focus on addressing waterlogging, strengthening stormwater infrastructure and putting in place **► P11**