

## No back-log of contract payments at Treasuries: DGAT

**JAMMU, MAR 13:** Directorate of Accounts and Treasuries (DGAT) has completely negated the recent media reports regarding delay in contract payments, terming them false and inaccurate. In a statement issued here, the DGAT (Cont. on P-8)

## Consignment dropped by Pakistani drone recovered near IB

**JAMMU, MAR 13:** A suspicious consignment allegedly dropped by a Pakistani drone was recovered by security forces near the International Border (IB) in the outskirts of Jammu city on Friday, officials said. The yellow (Cont. on P-8)

## Let's hope this war ends soon: Farooq Abdullah on West Asia conflict

**SRINAGAR, MAR 13:** National Conference president Farooq Abdullah on Friday wished a swift end to the war in West Asia, ascribing the shortage of fuel in Indian markets to the conflict that has led to the closing of the Strait of Hormuz, a key oil route. "The shortage of fuel and gas is due to a war that is going on. (Cont. on P-8)

## Curbs imposed in parts of Kashmir; protests break out in Shia dominated areas

**SRINAGAR, MAR 13:** Protests broke out on Friday in some Shia-dominated areas of Kashmir, including Magam and Budgam, against the US-Israel strikes on Iran, officials said. Apprehending the protests on the last Friday of Ramzan, restrictions were imposed this morning in Srinagar and other parts of (Cont. on P-8)

## BJP ensured lasting peace, Cong signed various accords for 'selfish political interests': PM

**GUWAHATI, MAR 13:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said that sounds of bombs and gunfire are a thing of the past in the Northeast, and asserted that the BJP ensured long-lasting peace in the region, while the Congress, during its tenure, signed various accords for "selfish political interests". Addressing a public meeting in Assam's Kokrajhar district virtually from Guwahati after rain disrupted his travel schedule, Modi said the state was writing a new chapter of peace and development under the "double-engine" government. Modi alleged that the Congress endangered national security by handing over the land of indigenous people to infiltrators. "Punish the Congress in the upcoming elections and send



a clear message that there is no place for infiltrators in this country," he asked the people. The elections for the 126-member Assam Assembly are likely to be held in April. Modi alleged that the Congress was always

in league with the infiltrators and never legally granted land rights to the state's indigenous population. The Congress handed over Adivasi land to the infiltrators, and in districts like Dhubri and Goalpara, the situation was grim, affecting Kokrajhar's demography, he said. "I am happy that Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma is leading a big drive to clear land from encroachment, and the BJP government has handed rights to the indigenous people. I am also grateful to people from the tribal communities for extending their cooperation in this regard," the PM said. Modi alleged that Kokrajhar has witnessed the betrayal of the Congress for decades, as the opposition Congress had made false promises. "The Congress signed peace accords just for show and for selfish interests, but the BJP worked for permanent peace, and ensured the development of Bodoland," Modi said. (Cont. on P-8)

## J&K Govt issues instructions for proper utilization of CDF Funds

**JAMMU, MAR 13:** The Jammu and Kashmir Government has issued fresh instructions to ensure proper utilisation and management of funds under the Constituency Development Fund (CDF) Scheme. In a circular, the Finance (Cont. on P-8)

## Juma'atul Vida in Kashmir: About 80,000 offer prayers at Hazratbal

**SRINAGAR, MAR 13:** Juma'atul Vida, the last Friday of the Muslim fasting month of Ramzan, was observed across Jammu and Kashmir as thousands of devotees thronged mosques and shrines for congregational prayers. (Cont. on P-8)

## NC MPs meet President Murmu, seek J&K statehood restoration and job safeguards

**NEW DELHI, MAR 13:** National Conference MPs in the Rajya Sabha on Friday met Droupadi Murmu here and submitted a memorandum, seeking early restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir, and flagging issues such as land and job rights, hydropower projects and unemployment. MPs Chowdry Mohammad Ramzan, Sajjad Ahmed Kichloo and Shammi Oberoi called on the president at the Rashtrapati Bhavan and submitted a memorandum raising a range of issues concerning Jammu and Kashmir. (Cont. on P-8)

## Fake currency racket busted in Shopian, three held

**JAMMU BULLETIN BUREAU SRINAGAR, MAR 13:** The police in Jammu and Kashmir's Shopian district said on Friday that it has cracked a fake currency racket and three persons have been detained in this connection. A police statement said, "The police in Shopian district have busted a fake currency circulation racket and recovered counterfeit notes worth Rs 79,000 following a complaint lodged by a local shopkeeper." "The action led to the arrest of three persons involved in circulating fake currency notes in the area as (Cont. on P-8)

## Omar chairs Cabinet meeting in Jammu; key decisions on governance taken

**JAMMU BULLETIN BUREAU JAMMU, MAR 13:** Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Friday chaired a Cabinet meeting here, paving the way for key decisions aimed at strengthening governance and accelerating development across the Union Territory. The decisions were taken with a focus on improving administrative (Cont. on P-8)



## LG Sinha urges writers, artists to preserve Jammu's cultural heritage

**JAMMU BULLETIN BUREAU JAMMU, MAR 13:** Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha on Friday urged the practitioners of literature and arts to preserve Jammu division's rich heritage, promote its legacy, and connect the new generation to their roots. "Jammu's traditions in literature, culture, and spirituality have taught us to rise above divisions of caste, (Cont. on P-8)



Lieutenant Governor inaugurates literary-cultural conclave at University of Jammu, says Jammu's traditions in literature, culture, and spirituality have taught us to rise above divisions of caste, creed, and artificial boundaries. The values embedded in our culture embody an ideology that places humanity above all. I urge everyone to reflect in this festival of literature and culture on the true identity that binds us and instills a profound sense of belonging. True confluence of culture and literature means engaging with the soil through diverse art forms, infusing new resonance into society's soul. LG Calls for preserving languages and local traditions to keep cultural heritage alive (Cont. on P-8)

## SOP issued for contingency expenditure in DPR Projects

**JAMMU BULLETIN BUREAU JAMMU, MAR 13:** The Finance Department, through Circular No. A/51/(2016)-B-927/3 dated 08-01-2021, has issued Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for incurring expenditure out of contingencies provided in the administratively approved DPRs of projects, subject to a maximum of 3% of the project cost. Under the circular, expenditure on items such as founda-

tion stone laying/inauguration (up to Rs 20,000 per case as per PMGSY, GoI guidelines), signages, quality control, vehicle hiring for project supervision, GIS tagging, videography, stationery, hardware/software, hiring of consultants, preparation of e-books, road clearance, and third-party inspections was permitted under contingencies. It was emphasized that contingency expenditure must meet several key conditions. Firstly, it should be provided for in the administratively approved DPR of the project. Secondly, the expenditure can be incurred only after all codal formalities have been fulfilled. Thirdly, it must be incidental and directly related to the project work. Importantly, contingency funds cannot be used for hiring casual labor or for payment of work-charged wages. Additionally, the expenditure should be commensurate with (Cont. on P-8)

## Northern Army Commander visits Basantgarh, reviews counter-terror ops

**JAMMU, MAR 13:** The Northern Army Commander, Lieutenant General Pratik Sharma, on Friday visited the Basantgarh hills in Jammu and Kashmir's Udhampur district to review the prevailing security situation and ongoing counter-terrorist operations in the militancy-affected mountainous belt. During the visit, the Army (Cont. on P-8)

## Jammu DM issues order regulating courier services to check transport of narcotics

**JAMMU BULLETIN BUREAU JAMMU, MAR 13:** Jammu and Kashmir government has issued an order regulating the functioning of courier companies, parcel services and logistics operators to prevent the transport of contraband substances in Jammu district. Jammu District Magistrate (DM) Rakesh Minhas directed that no such entity shall accept, book or transport any prohib-

ited substance unless it possesses a valid transport permit under the NDPS rules, 1985, and complies with regulations under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940. All courier and parcel operators have been instructed to strictly verify the identity and credentials of consignors and consignees through valid government-issued identity proof, the order issued by the DM said. They must maintain detailed records of consignments, including sender and receiver details, parcel description, weight, booking receipt, date of booking and mode of payment, along with transaction details wherever applicable, it added. The order further mandates that all employees engaged in courier and parcel operations - including delivery staff, loaders, booking clerks and (Cont. on P-8)



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