

## !! Continuations from Page 1 !!

### J&K to become...

ceremony, the Lt Governor directed the officials to make dedicated efforts to establish Primary Agriculture Credit Societies (PACS) in every Panchayat. Cooperative sector holds immense capacity for agricultural growth and prosperity. The penetration of PACS and Farmer Producer Organizations at grassroots level will bring stability and sustainability to production, value addition in Agriculture and Allied Sector, he said.

Training and capacity building programmes are also playing an important role in increasing farm productivity. Leave no farmer behind. Officials should ensure all the farmers are registered on Daksh portal and all possible assistance, benefits provided to them, the Lt Governor said.

The Lt Governor inaugurated a Custom Hiring Centre and handed over sanction letters to the beneficiaries under various schemes. He also visited the stalls put up by farmers, agri-entrepreneurs and government departments.

On the occasion, progressive farmers also shared their success stories and expressed gratitude to the administration for extending support and assistance to them.

Dr Nazir Ahmed Ganai, Vice Chancellor SKUAST Kashmir; Shailender Kumar, Principal Secretary Agriculture Production Department; Dr Mandeep Kumar Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lt Governor; Vijay Bidhuri, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; Dr Syed Sehrish Asgar, Deputy Commissioner Baramulla; Chowdhary Mohammad Iqbal, Director Agriculture Kashmir; PRI members, senior officers, farmers and a large number of people were present.

### India to host...

countries are expected to attend the P20 Summit that will be held at the India International Convention and Expo Centre -- Yashobhoomi -- at Dwarka from October 12 to 14.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the G20 Parliamentary Speakers' Summit (P20) on October 13.

Canada will be represented at the P20 Summit by Speaker of the Senate Raymond Gagne. India's relations with Canada have been under severe strain after Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau linked Indian agents to the killing of Khalistani separatist leader Hardeep Singh Nijjar in British Columbia in June.

"We will discuss issues that have been listed for the summit. Other issues will be discussed informally," Birla said when asked whether the matter of using the Canadian Parliament to level allegations against India will be raised with the Canadian presiding officer.

More than 350 delegates are expected to attend the three-day summit that will see the participation of 50 members of Parliament, 14 general secretaries, 26 vice-presidents, the International Parliamentary Union president and the president of the Pan-African Parliament.

"The main theme of the 9th P20 is proposed to be 'Parliaments for One Earth, One Family, One Future'," Birla told a press conference here.

The P20 Summit will have four sessions on "Transformation in People's Lives through Public Digital Platforms", "Women-led Development", "Accelerating SDGs" and "Sustainable Energy Transition", he said.

"A pre-summit event, namely Parliamentary Forum on Lifestyle for Environment (LiFE), will be held on October 12 at Yashobhoomi. An exhibition titled 'Mother of Democracy' will also be organised to highlight India's ancient and participative democratic traditions," Birla said.

The P20 delegates will also be taken on a tour of the new Parliament house, followed by a cultural evening and dinner hosted by the speaker.

### 7 killed, over...

had no firefighting system.

As many as 30 residents were rescued from the terrace and various floors of the seven-storey structure, he said.

Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde condoled the loss of life in the fire and announced an ex gratia of Rs 5 lakh for the kin of each of the deceased. The CM said that those injured in the fire would be treated at government expense.

The blaze started around 3 am at Jay Bhavani SRA building' near Azad Maidan at Unnat Nagar in Goregaon West, said an official from the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC). It had a lot of old clothes on the ground floor, they said.

A total of 68 residents were rushed to various hospitals. While 42 were admitted to the civic-run HBT Trauma Care hospital at Jogeshwari and 15 to BMC-run Cooper Hospital at Juhu, 11 were taken to three private hospitals, civic officials said.

Of these, seven including two minors and as many women died six at Trauma Care and one at Cooper. The condition of five others is critical. Nine took discharge against medical advice, they said.

Ravindra Ambulgekar, chief fire officer of the Mumbai Fire Brigade, told PTI, "The Jay Bhavani SRA building in Goregaon was old and no firefighting system was available there."

According to Sudhakar Pujarey, an officer bearer of the housing society, they have two wings a Slum Rehabilitation Authority (SRA) building and a saleable portion (sold in the open market). The fire erupted in the SRA building, he said.

BMC Commissioner Iqbal Singh Chahal said not a single death was due to burns. All the deaths occurred due to suffocation, he told mediapersons.

Before firefighters arrived at the scene, the blaze had spread across the ground floor and started rising. It completely gutted the old clothes, shops and two-wheelers on the ground floor, said fire officials.

It took nearly four hours for the fire brigade to extinguish the blaze. More than eight fire engines and other firefighting equipment were used in the operation, a fire official said.

Chahal said some people from a particular community were rehabilitated in the building. They primarily deal in old clothes. They had stored old clothes in the parking area of the building, he said.

"After the fire broke out, it spread faster because of it (clothes)," Chahal said.

The BMC chief said the fire erupted at 3.01 am and the fire engines reached the spot by 3.10 am. Initially, the fire had spread up to the second floor.

Among the injured are two kids from a family and they have suffered up to nine per cent burns. "If plastic surgery is done, the kids won't have to live with the trauma for life. Hence we are shifting them to Kasturba Hospital, where we have specialised treatment of plastic surgery," Chahal said.

Apart from announcing ex gratia for the deceased victims, CM Shinde wrote on X that he had instructed Mumbai city guardian minister Deepak Kesarkar and suburban district guardian minister Mangal Prabhat Lodha to visit the site of the blaze.

"The incident is unfortunate and I am in touch with the Mumbai civic commissioner," said Shinde, who is in New Delhi.

Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis expressed grief over the incident. "Pained to know about loss of lives in the fire incident at #Goregaon, Mumbai. We are in touch with BMC & Mumbai Police officials & all the assistance is being provided. My deepest condolences to the families who lost their loved ones and wishing speedy recovery to the injured ones," he wrote on X.

Minister Lodha and Sena (UBT) leader Aaditya Thackeray and many other leaders visited the fire-ravaged building.

Speaking to media persons at the scene, Thackeray said he prayed for the speedy recovery of the injured.

"There should be no politics over the tragedy," he said, adding that they are a responsible opposition.

Local MLA Vidya Thakur most of the building residents are from the Waghari Samaj' and they deal in old clothes. Most families have many members, she said.

Bundles of old clothes, cars and two-wheelers had been kept on the ground floor and the fire spread from there, she said and demanded a probe into the incident.

"Norms for SRA buildings should be changed as these buildings have narrow escape routes. So measures like providing a staircase from outside should be considered," Thakur said. Manish Chaturvedi, a resident of the neighbouring wing, said he woke up due to an acrid smell around 3 am. He went down and saw the next building on fire.

### Srinagar corporator arrested...

law was later used to book militants, separatists and others.

It is a preventive detention law under which a person is taken into custody to prevent them from acting harmfully against "the security of the state or the maintenance of the public order" in the Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir (now a Union Territory). PSA, which applies only to Jammu and Kashmir, is similar to the National Security Act.

### Inter-state fraudster...

evading the arrest for the past four years. The culprit was brought to Jammu and was produced before the Court of law for seeking his police remand for further investigation of the case. Relevant record was seized, statements of witnesses recorded U/S 161. Cr.PC and 164 Cr.PC, scientific, circumstantial and other material evidence was gathered and the offences were proved against the accused. Moreover, during the investigation it also came to fore that the accused is also wanted in more than 7 FIRs for cheating and fraud in Rajasthan, as such after production of charge-sheet the custody of the accused was handed over to the Ajmer Police, Rajasthan in case FIR No. 4/2022 for facing the charges. Process for recovery is under progress as the Bank Account of the accused has been debit frozen of Rs. 18. 70 Lakhs. Further investigation of the case is going on for in-depth probe.

### Govt issues notices...

content moderation algorithms and reporting mechanisms, to prevent the dissemination of CSAM in the future.

"We have sent notices to X, YouTube and Telegram to ensure there are no Child Sexual Abuse Material that exist on their platforms. The government is determined to build a safe and trusted internet under the IT rules.

"If they do not act swiftly, their safe harbour under section 79 of the IT Act would be withdrawn and consequences under the Indian law will follow," Chandrasekhar said. The Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000, provides the legal framework for addressing pornographic content, including CSAM. Sections 66E, 67, 67A, and 67B of the IT Act impose stringent penalties and fines for the online transmission of obscene or pornographic content, the statement said.

### SC to constitute...

piece of legislation which can be introduced only in the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha cannot amend or reject it. The Upper House can only make recommendations which may or may not be accepted by the Lower House.

A bench headed by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud said all pending seven-judge bench matters will be listed on October 12 for procedural directions.

The matter was mentioned before the bench, also comprising Justices J B

Pardiwala and Manoj Misra, for urgent listing.

In November 2019, a five-judge bench of the apex court had referred to a larger bench the issue of examining the validity of the passage of the Finance Act, 2017 as Money Bill. "The issue and question of Money Bill, as defined under Article 110(1) of the Constitution, and certification accorded by the Speaker of the Lok Sabha in respect of Part-XIV of the Finance Act, 2017 is referred to a larger Bench," it had said. The five-judge bench had then struck down in entirety the rules governing the appointment and service conditions of members of various tribunals that formed part of the Finance Act.

### Be visible, accessible...

said the polls should not only be fair but also seen to be fair. He instructed the observers to keep an eye on social media and ensure corrective actions.

Election Commissioner Arun Goel asked observers to ensure their work is carried out in letter and spirit and ensure the rule of law.

He reminded the gathering that observers are eyes and ears of the EC and should deal with complaints promptly.

Officers drawn from IAS, IPS, IRS and other accounts services from across the country are deployed as general, police and expenditure observers.

The assembly polls are likely to be held in November-December.

The term of the Mizoram assembly ends on December 17. The Mizo National Front is in power in the northeastern state.

The terms of the legislative assemblies of Telangana, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan end on different dates in January next year.

While the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) rules Telangana, Madhya Pradesh is ruled by the BJP. Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan have Congress governments.

### 76 applications received...

Using the Right to Information Act, activist Commodore Lokesh Batra (retired) had sought to know from the government the list of people who have applied for the post of Chief Information Commissioner in response to the advertisement dated August 7.

In its response on Friday, the Central Public Information Officer of the Department of Personnel and Training said 76 applications had been received. Four late applications have also been received.

According to the list provided in the response, three sitting Information Commissioners -- Heeralal Samariya, Saroj Punhani and Uday Mahurkar -- and former Information Commissioner Anita Pandove have also applied for the position.

"This is the fifth time that the position of the Chief Information Commission has become vacant, leaving the Commission headless after 2014. Not one Chief Information Commission has been appointed after August 22, 2014 before the position became vacant," Batra said.

Unlike courts, where acting chief justices are invariably appointed, there no provision in the RTI Act, 2005 for designating an 'acting chief information commissioner', he said.

Thus, the vacant position of the chief information commissioner means several administrative and financial decisions remain in limbo till the next incumbent is positioned, Batra said.

For the vacant position of Information Commissioners, the government issued an advertisement in December last year.

In a separate response to Batra, the DoPT said 256 applications had been received against the December 20, 2022, advertisement for the posts of information commissioners (not exceeding six). The tenure of all the sitting information commissioners Suresh Chandra, Uday Mahurkar, Heeralal Samariya and Saroj Punhani will end in November, officials said.

### Rs 3.43 lakh...

getting them deposited or exchanged.

"thereafter (from October 8) it can be, you know, deposited in or exchanged in the Reserve Bank in the issue offices of the Reserve Bank, which is there in almost every state capital we have presence. So there are 19 of them," Das told reporters on Friday. He added that the original objective of withdrawing the notes, which was also driven by the need to take care of old notes, has been "largely met".

Das also said that the postal department's services can be availed in case someone cannot travel to the RBI offices.

### Anantnag killing: Teenage...

not respond," Bashir said.

When the duo tried to open the door of their house, Bashir's mother started shouting that thieves were at their house.

Hearing the commotion, Dar, who was in the kitchen, came out.

When Bashir came down, she said, she saw Dar had caught hold of one of the men. "I kept telling my brother to let the man go but he said they were thieves and wanted to rob our house," she said.

Soon after, the man whom Dar was holding onto started hitting Bashir with his elbow while she tried to pull her brother in.

Then one of the men pulled out a pistol and shot at Dar, recalled Bashir, choked with emotion. "I cried for help but no one came. While the two attackers were fleeing, they fired two shots in air," she said. After some time, some youths from the neighbourhood came and took Dar to the hospital, while the distraught sister rushed to inform her father. Dar succumbed to his injuries at a hospital here on Thursday.

# Kranti Teerth programme celebrated under Div Com discusses activity plan, arrangements Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav for maiden Basohli Navratra Festival

#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

UDHAMPUR: As part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, the Kranti Teerth programme was celebrated today at various educational institutions, including HSS Kud, HS Mada, and MS Bain. This event was organized under the guidance of the Centre for Advanced Research on Development and Change, New Delhi, in collaboration with the Union Ministry of Culture. One of the highlights of the event was the Tiranga Yatra organized at HSS Kud in the presence of Kuldeep Sharma, the Sarpanch of Kud, and Bimla Mam, Principal of HSS Kud, along with the dedicated staff and local community members.

At Govt Middle School Bain, a cultural program was organized to honor the memory of the martyrs of



A Tiranga Yatra being taken out at Udhampur.

the Indian freedom struggle. The program was inaugurated by Nishat Bano, the Sarpanch of the area, who also served as the Chief Guest. Students from Govt Middle School Bain presented a cultural program dedicated to the Krantiveers (freedom fighters). A rally was also conducted, starting from Govt Middle School Bain and traversing the entire Panchayat. The program was marked by its impressive and colorful per-

formances, earning applause from dignitaries and spectators alike. The highlight of the rally was a student portraying Rani Lakshmi Bai, riding a horse in front of the enthusiastic audience.

As a token of appreciation, refreshments were distributed to all the students and dignitaries present. Trophies were also awarded to the winners of the Cultural Program by the Chief Guest and other dignitaries in attendance.

Sanjeev Chand, the In-Charge Headmaster of GMS Bain, delivered the formal vote of thanks, providing an overview of various school activities. The event was witnessed by school children and local residents from the vicinity.

The cultural program was organized by Surekha Rani, Incharge of the Cultural Cell, with the full support of other staff members, including Shriya Gupta, Nermal, and Barkat Ali. At HS Mada, the Sarpanch served as the Chief Guest, and students presented a cultural program dedicated to the martyrs of the Indian struggle for independence. The event was a fitting tribute to the sacrifices made by freedom fighters and served as a reminder of their significant contributions to the nation's history.

#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATHUA: Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar on Friday visited Basohli and chaired a meeting of the stakeholder departments and civil society members to discuss activity plan and arrangements for Mega Navratra Festival being hosted in Basohli from Oct 15 to Oct 23.

The meeting, held at TRC Basohli, brought together key representatives from the administration, local communities, cultural organizations and tourism department and PRIs.

The purpose of this productive gathering was to collaborate and devise community-centric strategies to curate an enchanting Navratra Festival experience, which would attract visitors from far and wide.

Acknowledging the immense

potential of the Navratra festival to bolster the local economy and preserve cultural traditions, the Divisional Commissioner emphasized the need for a comprehensive event plan. Key government functionaries present in the meeting were DIG Jammu-Samba-Kathua range, Shakti Pathak, DC Kathua, Rakesh Minhas; SSP Kathua, Shivdeep Singh Jamwal; CEO, BBDA, Des Raj Bhagat; Director ULB Jammu, Puneet Sharma; ADC, Basohli Ajit Singh; Joint Director Tourism, Sunaina Mehta; Joint Director Youth Services and Sports, Suram Chand Sharma; Joint Director H&H, Tilak Raj Thapa and other District & Sectoral officers. At the Outset, the Div Com threw light on the glorious past and rich history of Basohli town known for its

cultural significance. Basohli, affectionately known as "Vishwasthali," has a history that dates back centuries, boasting a tapestry of traditions and legacies that have shaped its identity.

The objective of the meeting was to plan and execute a series of events that will showcase and promote the rich heritage, cultural diversity, exquisite cuisine, Basohli paintings, Basohli Pashmina handicrafts and the traditional Ram Leela performances.

The festival aims to celebrate the amalgamation of music, art, dance, spirituality and culinary delights, capturing the essence of Dogra vibrant culture. Besides, a Food Festival featuring local cuisines exhibiting culinary skills and gastronomic extravaganza offering a delectable array of local delicacies has been planned for the event to

give visitors an opportunity to savor popular traditional dishes.

Another key attraction of the Navratra festival will be the 112th edition of the world acclaimed Ram Leela presentation of Basohli. The Traditional Ram Leela performances will be staged, keeping alive the age-old tradition of portraying the epic tale of Lord Rama and his triumph over evil forces. The Divisional Commissioner expressed gratitude towards the stakeholders for their active participation and their commitment to making the Navratra festival a vibrant and memorable experience for all attendees. Their collective efforts will ensure that the cultural heritage of Jammu is appropriately showcased and visitors leave with a deeper understanding and appreciation for the region.

## LG interacts with Artisans & Craftspeople

#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha interacted with Artisans and Craftspeople led by Padma Shri Dr Rajani Kant at Raj Bhawan on Friday. The craftspersons shared their experience at GI Mahotsav where a diverse range of GI products from across the country are on display to give a boost to unique creative traditions and to exploit their export potential. The Lt Governor expressed his deep appreciation to gifted artists for their exceptional contributions to preserving and enriching country's cultural and artistic heritage.

Later, a delegation of Wadie's Hindi Shiksha Samiti Srinagar called on



LG Manoj Sinha interacting with Artisans & Craftspeople at Raj Bhawan.

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhavan. The members of the delegation apprised the Lt Governor about the endeavours of their organisation in

promoting Hindi language and literature in the valley. Zahoor Ahmad Malik from Shahabad Development Forum also called on the Lt Governor.

#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: All India Backward Classes Union (AIBCU) while reacting over the statement of Dr Farooq Abdullah which he made in all parties meet on 3rd of October 2023, have asked him as to which kind of constitutional rights of state people have been snatched. His ( Dr Farooq) statement given in papers is " Dr Abdullah, while criticising the Government of snatching Constitutional rights of the people in J&K asked what is the rationale

behind for not holding the elections in the UT" ?

AIBCU questioned Dr Farooq that under art 370 , all political parties including yours one looted the constitutional rights of major population belonging to OBCs which form about 60% of the JK population. None of JK political parties honoured the apex court's judgment of 1992 on Mandal report and till date Dr Farooq has not made any statement even after the abrogation of art 370, then how the JK political

parties justify that constitutional rights of the state people have been snatched.

All parties meet has not discussed the constitutional rights of OBCs which means parties do not consider OBCs as JK people.

During NC regime and even thereafter no political party used Art 243( D) under which reservation for OBCs is required in panchayats and Municipal Corporations and left the whole OBCs in the air.

All parties want to hold a peaceful protest on 10th of

October but who will support them is a big question. AIBCU asked whether OBCs would support your protest and on what grounds.

All parties need OBC votes but their constitutional rights would only be digested by these parties which are hell bent not to allow them their constitutional rights.

Senior executive members have rejected the outcome of the all parties meet which has not shown any concern with the OBCs of JK- UT.