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working towards the welfare of artists and artisans who have preserved the price-less heritage and diverse cultural traditions, the Lt Governor said.

It is also a centre of other creative traditions including Pashmina wool, which is matchless and unique due to production process, delicate weaving and embroidery work on finished products and reflects exemplary skill and artistry, he added.

The Lt Governor called upon the public representatives, local residents and all stakeholders to complement the government's efforts to promote tourism and other places of historical importance to tap the economic growth potential of Basohli.

Ramleela of Basohli must be publicized at a larger scale and regular fairs should be organized to attract more footfall in the area, he said.

Responding to the demands projected by public representatives, the Lt Governor said the administration is sensitive to the development needs of the people. He said the Water Sports Centre at Basohli is ready and will be inaugurated soon.

On the occasion, the Lt Governor released a Monograph on Vishwasthali and felicitated the local artists performing at Basohli Utsav.

He visited the stalls put up by the artisans, weavers, entrepreneurs and women folk to showcase the contemporary art, craft and culinary. He also interacted with artisans, craftspeople and students of Chudamani Sansthan.

Earlier, the Lt Governor planted a Rudraksha sapling at Model Higher Secondary School Basohli.

Col. Mahan Singh (Retd), DDC Chairman Kathua; Anand Jain, IGP Jammu; Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner, Jammu; Rakesh Minhas, Deputy Commissioner Kathua; Harbir Singh, Deputy Commissioner Pathankot; Shakti Pathak, DIG Jammu -Samba -Kathua Range; Bharat Singh Manhas, Secretary JKAACL; PRI representatives, senior officers and prominent citizens from all walks of life were present.

## No danger too...

Talking about the challenge of dealing with various forms of violence, Jaishankar said, "There is also the less formal version that is very pervasive. I am speaking about terrorism which has long been honed and practised as a tool of statecraft."

"The basic takeaway for all of us is that given the seamlessness of our existence, any expectation that conflicts and terrorism can be contained in their impact is no longer tenable," Jaishankar said.

"A big part of this is clearly economic, but do not underestimate the danger of metastasis when it comes to radicalism and extremism," he added.

No danger is too distant anymore, the external affairs minister noted.

## Engineers develop new...

have abandoned the site. But we decided to go ahead and employed a new tunnelling method," he said. Work was held up on this crucial tunnel for over three years since 2017 and engineers now plan to complete it by early next year.

The 111-km-long Katra-Banihal section predominantly involves tunnelling. There are 27 main tunnels (97 km) and eight escape tunnels (67 km). The section has 37 bridges, of which 26 are major and 11 minor ones.

## Urgent need to...

backlog of cases at all levels but there should be introspection by all the stakeholders to gear up to meet the aspirations of the litigant public who would only seek speedy justice and to curtail the methods adopted to delay the proceedings which may suit certain section or class of the litigant public.

"It is imperative to note that about six per cent of the population in India is affected by litigation, in such a scenario the courts would play an important role in the life of a nation governed by the rule of law.

Peace and tranquility in the society and harmonious relationships between the citizens are achieved on account of the effective administration of justice and its delivery system, even the economic growth of a country is dependent on the "robust justice delivery system which we have in our country", the bench said in its detailed order.

The top court said when efficiency has become the hallmark of modern civilization and in all spheres of life, there is an urgent need to hasten the pace of delivery of justice by reducing the time period.

The apex court directed all courts at district and taluka levels to ensure proper execution of the summons and in a time-bound manner as prescribed under Order V Rule (2) of the Code of Civil Procedure (CPC).

It said the same shall be monitored by principal district judges and after collating the statistics they shall forward the same to be placed before the committee constituted by the High Court for its consideration and monitoring.

"All courts at District and Taluka level shall ensure that written statement is filed within the prescribed limit namely as prescribed under Order VIII Rule 1 and preferably within 30 days and to assign reasons in writing as to why the time limit is being extended beyond 30 days as indicated under proviso to sub-Rule (1) of Order VIII of CPC.

"All courts at Districts and Talukas shall ensure after the pleadings are complete, the parties should be called upon to appear on the day fixed and record the admissions and denials and the court shall direct the parties to the suit to opt for either mode of the settlement outside the court," the bench said.

In the event of the party's failure to opt for ADR namely resolution of the dispute as prescribed under Section 89(1), the court should frame the issues for its determination within one week preferably, in the open court, it said.

"Fixing of the date of trial shall be in consultation with the learned advocates appearing for the parties to enable them to adjust their calendar. Once the date of the trial is fixed, the trial should proceed accordingly to the extent possible, on a day-to-day basis.

"Trial judges of District and Taluka Courts shall as far as possible maintain the diary for ensuring that only such number of cases as can be handled on any given day for trial and complete the recording of evidence so as to avoid overcrowding of the cases and as a sequence of it would result in adjournment being sought and thereby preventing any inconvenience being caused to the stakeholders," the bench said.

The top court said the counsel representing the parties may be informed about the provisions of Order XI and Order XII so as to narrow down the scope of dispute and it would be also the onerous responsibility of the Bar Associations and Bar Councils to have periodical refresher courses and preferably by virtual mode.

"The trial courts shall scrupulously, meticulously and without fail comply with the provisions of Rule 1 of Order XVII and once the trial has commenced it shall proceed from day to day as contemplated under the proviso to Rule 2.

"The courts shall give meaningful effect to the provisions for payment of cost for ensuring that no adjournment is sought for procrastination of the litigation and the opposite party is suitably compensated in the event of such adjournment is being granted," the bench said.

After the trial, the oral arguments shall be heard immediately and continuously and judgment be pronounced within the period stipulated, it said.

"The statistics relating to the cases pending in each court beyond five years shall be forwarded by every presiding officer to the Principal District Judge once a month who (Principal District Judge/District Judge) shall collate the same and forward it to the review committee constituted by the respective High Courts for enabling it to take further steps.

"The Committee so constituted by the Hon'ble Chief Justice of the respective States shall meet at least once in two months and direct such corrective measures to be taken by the concerned court as deemed fit and shall also monitor the old cases (preferably which are pending for more than 05 years) constantly," it said.

The verdict came on a plea of Yashpal Jain who had moved the top court assailing a 2019 order of the Uttarakhand High Court in a civil dispute. The case, which began 43 years ago in a local court there, is still continuing.

The bench set aside the high court's order and asked the lower court to decide the plea of Jain in six months.

## India sends humanitarian...

C-17 transport aircraft of the Indian Air Force to El-Arish airport in Egypt. Various international aid agencies have described the situation in Gaza as "catastrophic". The Israeli military has been carrying out retaliatory air strikes on Gaza following the unprecedented attack on Israel on October 7 by Hamas.

External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said the relief materials were handed over to the Egyptian Red Crescent for onward transmission to Palestine.

"India sends Humanitarian aid to the people of Palestine. An IAF C-17 flight carrying nearly 6.5 tonnes of medical aid and 32 tonnes of disaster relief material for the people of Palestine departs for El-Arish airport in Egypt," Bagchi said on 'X'.

"The material includes essential life-saving medicines, surgical items, tents, sleeping bags, tarpaulins, sanitary utilities, water purification tablets among other necessary items," he said.

Hours later, Bagchi said Indian ambassador to Egypt Ajit Gupte handed over the relief materials to Egyptian Red Crescent for sending them to Palestine.

"India's humanitarian aid for the people of Palestine arrives in Egypt. Amb @indembauro @AjitVGupte handed over the relief material to Egyptian Red Crescent for onward transmission to Palestine," he said in another post.

The C-17 aircraft was sent from Hindon airbase near Delhi.

India sent the aid three days after Prime Minister Narendra Modi conveyed condolences to President of Palestinian Authority Mahmoud Abbas over the deaths of civilians at a hospital in Gaza and reiterated India's long-standing "principled position" on the Israel-Palestine issue.

In a phone conversation on Thursday, Modi told Abbas that New Delhi will continue to send humanitarian assistance for the Palestinian people.

The World Food Programme (WFP) and the World Health Organization (WHO) were among five agencies who described the situation in Gaza as "catastrophic" in a joint statement.

India has been supporting Palestine and Palestinian refugees through contributions to the UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA).

A total of USD 29.53 million has been contributed to UNRWA between 2002 and 2023, Bagchi said on Thursday.

"The Indian annual contribution to UNRWA was increased from USD 1.25 million to USD 5 million in 2018. India has pledged an annual contribution of USD 5 million for the next two years (FY 2023-24 and FY 2024-25)," he said.

## Israel strikes Gaza...

Israeli leaders have spoken of an undefined next stage in operations. A convoy of 17 aid trucks was allowed to enter Gaza from Egypt on Sunday, Egypt's state-run media reported, the second shipment into the territory since Israel imposed a complete siege two weeks ago.

On Saturday, 20 trucks entered. Associated Press journalists at the crossing saw seven fuel trucks enter Gaza on Sunday, but did not see any more deliveries.

Relief workers said far more was needed to address the spiraling humanitarian crisis in Gaza, where half the territory's 2.3 million people have fled their homes.

The UN humanitarian agency, known as OCHA, said Saturday's convoy carried about 4 per cent of an average day's imports before the war and "a fraction of what is needed after 13 days of complete siege."

The Israeli military said the humanitarian situation was "under control," as OCHA called for 100 trucks a day to enter.

Israel repeated its calls for people to leave northern Gaza, including by dropping leaflets from the air.

It says an estimated 700,000 have already fled, but hundreds of thousands remain. That would raise the risk of mass civilian casualties in any ground offensive.

Israeli military officials say Hamas' infrastructure and underground tunnel system are concentrated in Gaza City, in the north, and that the next stage of the offensive will include unprecedented force there.

Israel says it wants to crush Hamas, but officials have also spoken of carving out a possible buffer zone to keep Palestinians from approaching the border.

Hospitals packed with patients and displaced people are running low on medical supplies and fuel for generators, forcing doctors to perform surgeries with sewing needles, using vinegar as disinfectant, and without anaesthesia.

The World Health Organisation says at least 130 premature babies are at "grave risk" because of a shortage of generator fuel.

It said seven hospitals in northern Gaza have been forced to shut down due to damage from strikes, lack of power and supplies, or Israeli evacuation orders.

Shortages in critical supplies, including ventilators, are forcing doctors to ration treatment, said Dr. Mohammed Qandeel, who works in Khan Younis' Nasser Hospital.

Dozens of patients continue to arrive and are treated in crowded, darkened corridors, as hospitals preserve electricity for intensive care units.

"It's heartbreaking," Qandeel told the AP. "Everyday, if we receive 10 severely injured patients we have to manage with maybe three or five ICU beds available."

Palestinians sheltering in UN-run schools and tent camps are running low on food and drinking dirty water.

A power blackout has crippled water and sanitation systems. OCHA said cases of chickenpox, scabies and diarrhoea are on the rise because of the lack of clean water.

Heavy airstrikes were reported across Gaza, including in the southern part of the coastal strip, where Israel has told civilians to seek refuge.

At the Al-Aqsa hospital in Deir al-Balah, south of the evacuation line, several bodies wrapped in white shrouds were lined up outside on the ground.

Khalil al-Degran, a hospital official, said more than 90 bodies had been brought in since early Sunday, as the sound of nearby bombing echoed behind him.

He said 180 wounded people had arrived, mostly children, women and the elderly who had been displaced from other areas.

Israel's military has said it is striking Hamas members and installations, but does not target civilians.

Palestinian militants have fired over 7,000 rockets at Israel, according to the military, and Hamas says it targeted Tel Aviv early Sunday.

The military says it plans to step up airstrikes ahead of the "next stages of the war," without elaborating.

More than 1,400 people in Israel have been killed in the war mostly civilians slain during the initial Hamas attack.

At least 212 people were captured and dragged back to Gaza, including men, women, children and older adults. Two Americans were released on Friday in what Hamas said was a humanitarian gesture.

More than 4,300 people have been killed in Gaza, according to the Hamas-run Health Ministry.

That includes the disputed toll from a hospital explosion. Syrian state media meanwhile reported that Israeli airstrikes have targeted the international airports in the capital, Damascus, and the northern city of Aleppo.

The strikes killed one person and damaged the runways, putting them out of service, media reported.

Israel has carried out several strikes in Syria, including on the airports, since the war began.

Israel rarely acknowledges individual strikes, but says it acts to prevent Hezbollah and other militant groups from bringing in arms from their patron, Iran, which also supports Hamas.

In Lebanon, Hezbollah said six of its fighters were killed Saturday, and the group's deputy leader, Sheikh Naim Kassem, warned that Israel would pay a high price if it starts a ground offensive in Gaza.

Israel struck Hezbollah targets Sunday in response to rocket fire, the military said. Israel also announced evacuation plans for another 14 communities near the Lebanon border. Kiryat Shmona's 20,000 people were told to evacuate last week.

In the Israeli-occupied West Bank, 90 Palestinians have been killed in clashes with Israeli troops, arrest raids and attacks by Jewish settlers since the Hamas attacks, according to the Palestinian Health Ministry.

Israeli forces have closed crossings into the territory and checkpoints between cities, measures they say are aimed at preventing attacks.

Israel says it has arrested more than 700 Palestinians since October 7, including 480 suspected Hamas members.

Israeli forces killed at least five people there early Sunday, according to the Health Ministry.

Two were killed in an airstrike on a mosque in the town of Jenin, which has seen heavy gunbattles over the past year.

The Israeli military said the mosque compound belonged to Hamas and Islamic Jihad militants who had carried out several attacks in recent months and were planning another one.

The internationally recognised Palestinian Authority administers parts of the West Bank and cooperates with Israel on security, but it is deeply unpopular and has been the target of violent Palestinian protests. (AP)

## Congress releases third...

from Congress, 33 are from ST, 29 from OBC, 10 from SC and 15 from general categories, while three are minorities.

The party has denied tickets to 22 of 71 sitting Congress MLAs this time. The BJP has so far announced candidates for 86 seats.

The Congress registered a landslide victory in the 2018 polls winning 68 seats, and comfortably formed the government. The BJP was reduced to 15 seats, while the JCC (J) and the BSP bagged 5 and 2 seats, respectively. The current strength of the Congress is 71. The Congress has set a target of winning 75 seats this time, according to party leaders.

## LG pays obeisance...

pilgrims to plan their visit in advance. It also features relaying of video/audio content for pilgrim awareness and the latest updates at the Holy Shrine.

Anshul Garg, Chief Executive Officer, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board briefed the Lt Governor on special arrangements put in place for the devotees during the Navratri.

Padma Shri Prof. Vishwa Murti Shastri and senior officers of the Shrine Board were also present.

## KPs pray for...

the government to look after the temples in the valley and undertake renovation works.

He also asked the government to work for the return of Kashmiri Pandits to the valley.

## Farmers made aware on organic farming



SMS Arun Jaral educating farmers during the camp.

### STATE TIMES NEWS

R S PURA: Department of Agriculture Production and Farmers Welfare Jammu Sub Div R S Pura conducted a training programme at village Skinderpur and Biaspur Parlah, Sub Div R S Pura on organic farming under Pramparaghat Krishni Vikas Yojna with a motive to promote Organic farming in the area specific on the direction of SDAO R S Pura Ashwani Kumar Sharma.

Moreover Arun Jaral and Gurmeet Singh both SMSs Sub Div R S Pura made the farmers aware on organic farming which is the need of the hour.

Besides less dependence on chemical fertilizer and PP chemicals. Farmers were asked to make habit of using biostimulants and other organic inputs like PROM, NPK Consortia, vermicompost and other plant growth regulator in the field.

The use and application of panchgavya, bejomrit and jeevamrit was also discussed in detail with cluster farmers. Moreover Sarpanch and other PRI members along with progressive farmers besides AEO Arnia Anil Salgotra, JAEO Manjeet Kour, AEAs Suman Kumari, Tarsem Choudhary and Rahul Gupta were present in the camp.

## POJKLF takes out Mashaal rally to pay homage to Martyrs 22 Oct 1947

"Implement PSC recommendation, Parliament resolution of 1994"

### STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Pakistan Occupied Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (POJKLF) organized an impressive 'Mashaal Rally' to observe 'Remembrance Day of Martyrs' and paid rich tributes and homage to over 70,000 martyrs including men, women and children who attained martyrdom in the tribal attack of Oct 22, 1947 on J&K including areas of Muzaffarabad, Mirpur, Poonch, Bagh, Kotli etc.

Led by Convener POJKLF, Pritam Lal Sharma - the Mashaal Rally was taken out from Rohi Morh-Gadigarh to Airport Chowk, Rani Bagh, Jammu wherein displaced persons from POJK participated in large numbers. The rally paid tributes to their ancestors who attained Martyrdom on the fateful date of Oct 22, 1947.

"We the successors of the families of those martyrs of 1947, salute all our elders who fought so bravely like true patriots and preferred to die rather than surrender. We bow our heads with deep humility and sorrow for



POJKLF members taking out Mashaal rally in Jammu.

those who were killed in the genocide of 1947 in the Districts of Muzaffarabad, Poonch, Mirpur, Rajouri, Nowshera, Devabatala parts of valley Uri, Baramulla, Kupwara, Shopian, Teethwal and other areas of Princely state of J&K, they said.

Prominent among those participated include Vikas Sharma Co-convener (POJKLF), Surjeet Singh, Pt. Deputy Nath Sharma, Ex. Sarpanch Vijay Sharma, Suraj Parkash Bakshi, Pushak Sharma, Inder Parkash Khajuria, B R Sharma, Lekh Raj Sharma, Ashok Sharad, Kaushal

Kumar, Pushap Khajuria, Romesh Kumar Sharma, Shanti Saroop Sharma and Makhnan Singh, Ashok Ranyal, Neelam Kumari, Meenu Raina, Geetu Sharma, Kiran Khajuria, Sunita Devi, Khema Devi, Deputy Nath, Punnu Ram Sharma (Lecturer), Surinder Singh and Maheswar Nath.

While addressing the rally, Convener POJKLF urged the Prime Minister Narendra Modi led Union Government for the in-toto implementation of 183rd Report of the Department related Parliamentary Standing Committee on

Home Affairs with regard to the welfare and rehabilitation of the displaced persons of Pakistan occupied Jammu and Kashmir besides fulfilling the unanimously adopted Parliament resolution of 22nd February 1994.

Sharma further appealed to the Union as well as State government taking necessary actions to expedite the release and distribution of the pending amount of the relief and rehabilitation package announced for the POJK DPs.

He said that the displaced community from the parts of POJK have suffered immensely under successive regimes but they have high hopes from the Narendra Modi led NDA government for granting due rights and socio-politic representation to the displaced population.

He demanded that out of the 24 seats kept for the PoJK area, 12 seats be allotted to the DPs from PoJK in the J&K Assembly besides one Member of Parliament seat in the Parliament of India be reserved for the POJK displaced community.

## Take action against Ex -Dy CM before questions on Cong veteran

### STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Take action against the then BJP Dy Chief Minister, in PDP BJP government, who had regretted the killing of dreaded terrorist Burhan Wani, before raising questions upon veteran leader Prof Saifuddin Soz, said Senior Congress Leader & PCC Media coordinator Neeraj Gupta.

Gupta said before raising fingers on veteran leader Prof Saifuddin Soz for his out of box opinions of dialogue for improving the overall situation in Kashmir, that too on beaten tracks and modes already adopted by the BJP governments in the past, BJP should introspect on her sharing power with separatist leaders and their outfits.

Reacting to the BJP remarks on Prof Soz for his induction as member of PCC executive being a veteran leader of the party, Neeraj Gupta asked BJP to take action against then Dy Chief Minister Dr Nirmal Singh, who regretted the killing of dreaded terrorist Burhan Wani to toe the



line of coalition partner. He said BJP should not forget that it entered into dialogue with pro pak separatist leaders during Vajpayee government and the Prime Minister Atal behari Vajpayee ji took bus yatra to Lahore, when Kargil intrusion took place.

Again prime minister Narendra Modi went to Pakistan without disclosing the nation but whenever someone else suggests the course of dialogue, BJP raise hue & cry adopting extreme position of vote bank politics but before that it should explain its positions on above stated facts, he added.