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Fight against corruption not one-off event but continuous process: CS

He announced that soon the administration is going to roll out the 'Digi Dost' scheme under which an IT person will visit homes of applicants with their devices and assist them in making requisite applications online on the nominal fee.

Dr Mehta added that J&K has truly undergone the 'digital transformation' in the last couple of years. He asserted that it has reduced the gap between the far-flung areas and urban centers of the UT. He elucidated that it is for the first time that any Chief Secretary has virtually visited more than 50 remote panchayats and listened to the grievances of people directly.

He further went on to say that digital J&K is part of preparation for the future-ready J&K. He said that J&K is well on track to steer its way ahead for making the necessary progress and become a role-model for others.

He also said that J&K is going to have single database for the whole UT which would greatly enhance the efficiency and availability of services to its citizens. He recalled that the auto-appeal feature of the online services is revolutionizing the service delivery as per the timelines set under the Public Services Guarantee Act (PSGA). He stated that more than 22000 cases had been auto-escalated and 800 officials had been fined for violating the timelines stipulated under the Act.

Dr Mehta pointed out that while there is need to bring every complaint by the citizens to its logical conclusion, it is equally important to protect the well-meaning officers who had acted in good faith with honesty and integrity. He remarked that any motivated and malafide complaint needs to be thoroughly investigated and the complainants taken to task as per law.

He called upon the Incharge Secretaries of each district to ensure that there is free discussion about 'Brashtachar' in their districts. He directed the 'Prabhari Officers' to make mention of the same in monthly panchayat convergence meetings in presence of people and Panchayat members so that the fight against corruption reaches the grassroots level. He asked them to turn this into a mass movement of people as this would ensure that this menace is totally eradicated from our soil.

He stated that people need to be sensitized about the benefits of online services, e-tendering, and

Janbhagadari portal and other IT enabled systems. He mentioned that nearly all the persons he talked to had something good to share about this phenomenal change witnessed in the working of Government offices. He called youth the agents of change and asked them all to focus on them to let them live free from the voices of corruption.

While giving the overall assessment of this week long campaign, the DCs and SSPs informed the meeting that people readily participated in the programme for all the days. It came to fore from their reports that around 15 lakh people have participated in nearly 46000 events held across the districts of the UT.

The details also entail that in Jammu district about 4.6 lakh people participated in some 8500 events. Similarly in Kathua, 1.3 lakh people took part in 2024 events. Rajouri had a participation of more than 145000 people in about 3800 events, Kulgam 94000 people in 2177 events, Baramulla 93000 people in 1204 events, Bandipora 91000 people in 1425 events, Budgam 55000 in 4800 events, Shopian 45500 in 1700 events, Pulwama more than 100000 people in 1100 events, Reasi 47000 people in 2100 events, Udhampur 42500 people in 2025 events held across different Government offices, Panchayats, Blocks, ULBs, Tehsils of these districts.

The Deputy Commissioners also gave insights about the nature and quantum of complaints received in each district. They made out that some 35000 complaints were received from public during this week. It was further apprised that most of the complaints were about the Revenue, Rural Development, Social Welfare, PDD and Jal Shakti Departments and many other beneficiary oriented schemes rolled out by the Government from time to time.

They further revealed that nearly 90% of grievances were resolved during the week itself and the remaining are under process of resolution. They also expressed that people including PRIs, students, youth clubs, CSC operators and other citizens were sensitized about the use of online services besides the ways and means to register their complaints for making the 'Brashtachar Mukta J&K' a reality.

Officers not loyal to politicians but to themselves: Omar

"Then we knew something big was to be expected. I stepped out and saw that I had been locked in. Then I saw the Home Minister on TV telling us what our future is going to be. Two State Government officers gave me my detention order."

Omar Abdullah said he initially thought their (political leaders) detention will be for a week or 10-day as Aug 15 (Independence Day celebration) was coming. He said when they were not released on Aug 15, they thought may be on Eid they will release them but even that didn't happen.

Omar said it's probably in the nature of the officers to please their political masters. Narrating an incident, Omar said he played cricket match for the ministry of External Affairs against the officers or other ministry when he was the MoS External Affairs in late PM Vajpayee's Government. He said when he went to bat, he was thrown a very soft ball as if the bowler was saying: Sir maariye, Sir maariye (sir pls hit it).

Another incident he narrated during the interview is that when his father (Farooq Abdullah) was the Chief Minister, there was CM 11 Vs Chamber of Commerce 11 cricket match and Chamber 11 was playing very well.

"I had it on my good authority that captain or very senior in the chamber team was called by the Chief Secretary and told that your victory will not go down well and you have to rethink your strategy."

Omar said these instructions reached my father and he told the Chamber that if you lose you guys have had it, so they were torn between what Chief Secretary told them and what the CM was saying but ultimately Chamber 11 won the match.

Recounting the events leading up to Aug 5, 2019, when Art 370 was abrogated, Omar said he knew something was coming but what will happen they didn't know.

"The night before telephones went down and that is the first sign of trouble. Mobile internet went down on the night of Aug 4, 2019 but wifi at home was still working. I started to get messages on Whatsapp that my colleagues are being rounded up and taken to various police stations. When I woke up in the morning even fixed lines were not working."

Mayor, Deputy among bigwigs hit by proposed notification to reserve JMC Wards

"This is third time that ULB election is going to be held. It means till now each Ward would have been declared women reserved at least for once but this did not happen," he maintained adding: "The Wards like 9, 20, 33 and 68 were never declared reserved for Women. That means somewhere something is not going in the proper way while there are Wards like 40, 16 etc which have been declared women reserved for the second time. Where is rationalization?"

Deputy Mayor, Baldev Singh Billawaria, whose Ward 56 has been notified reserved for SC Women said that rotation is a process in democracy and all should be given a chance.

"We are BJP soldiers and will work hard to again have the ULB represented by BJP," he said.

Billawaria also said that they will go to the public to seek votes on the basis of works done by them.

Dwarka Chowdhary, Congress chief whip in the ULB claimed that pick and choose policy has been adopted in notifying reserved Wards.

"Why only Wards of some BJP leaders remained unreserved even for the third time and none of the Congress represented Ward got such a favourable treatment," he said adding: "We are not against reservation but the pick and choose policy adopted here is highly objectionable."

Congress Councillor, Rajni Bala of Ward 60, who continuously won for the second time from the Ward but this time her Ward has been reserved for ST, said there are many ST families in the Ward.

"No problem that some ST gets elected but earlier also the Ward was reserved for Women," she informed adding that Congress has filed objection with the election

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Besides Pawar and Banerjee, the coordination committee has K C Venugopal of the Congress, T R Baulu (DMK), Hemant Soren (JMM), Sanjay Raut (Shiv Sena-UBT), Tejashwi Yadav (BJD), Raghav Chadha (AAP), Javed Ali Khan (SP), Lalan Singh of the JD(U), D Raja (CPI), Omar Abdullah (National Conference), Mehbooba Mufti (PDP), and a leader of the CPI-M. (PTI)

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Terror, its ecosystem had given bad name to Kashmir: LG

"It is aimed to promote offbeat destinations. This place offers lifetime opportunities to visitors. Every effort is being ensured to help people earn livelihood. With growing home stays locals are able to earn livelihood," he said.

He said that the G20 meeting held in Srinagar has increased tourism footfall in Kashmir. "The successful event has helped to attract more tourists from across the globe," he added.

Sinha said that this year so far 1.58 crore tourists have visited J&K. "It is not just a number, but rather a new beginning of the region. There is a 350 per cent increased tourist footfall compared to last year. This year record number of 2.25 figure is expected to cross," he said.

The LG said that the Government is going to develop 300 new tourist destinations to provide variety of gateway options for domestic and foreign tourists.

"Around 300 new destinations are being developed to provide a variety of gateway options for domestic and foreign tourists filled with activities, festivals, natural scenery, shopping and B&B homestay in picturesque and calm villages," he said.

Sinha said several offbeat destinations of J&K are the ideal escape for travellers seeking leisurely

adventures and enchanting experiences. "From adventure, exquisite cuisine, pilgrimage, traditional handicrafts to serene mountains, Jammu Kashmir offers anything and everything to travellers," he said.

The LG said that Bangus Adventure Festival aims to further highlight rural and adventure tourism potential of Bangus valley. "The festival will promote tribal culture of this premier offbeat destination, provide a platform for local artisans to showcase traditional arts and crafts," he added.

"We have completely transformed the tourism industry and J&K has been positioned as most promising destination," he said and added "This sector will soon become engine of growth for the UT".

Irfan Sultan Panditpori, Chairman, District Development Council Kupwara; Major General Girish Kalia GOC Vajr Division; Vijay Bidhuri, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; Dr. Syed Abid Rasheed Shah, Secretary Tourism Department; Ayushi Sudan, Deputy Commissioner, Kupwara; Haji Farooq, Vice Chairman, DDC Kupwara; PRI members, senior officers, local residents and tourists in large numbers were present.

Biden hails Indo-US partnership

between our countries and for our shared planet. Thank you, Prime Minister for bringing us here today (sic)," Biden said in a post on platform X.

Biden, who is currently in Hanoi, Vietnam on an official visit, also posted a picture of him and the G20 leaders paying tributes to Mahatma Gandhi at his memorial.

At the memorial, Prime Minister Narendra Modi welcomed Biden and G20 leaders with an 'angvastram' or stole having in the background an image of Gandhi's Sabarmati Ashram in Gujarat, which was his home from 1917 to 1930 and served as one of the main centres of India's freedom struggle.

The G20 leaders later paid tribute to Gandhi by laying wreaths together at his samadhi. "It was an honor to visit the Raj Ghat Memorial today, and lay a wreath with my fellow G20 leaders. Mahatma Gandhi's message of non-violence, respect, and truth matters today more than ever - may it continue to inspire the world and be the basis of the bond between our countries," Biden said in another post. He also posted a 19-second video of the event.

Earlier, President Biden said this year's G20 summit has proven that the grouping can still drive solutions to its most pressing issues. "At a moment when the global economy is suffering from the overlapping shocks of the climate crisis, fragility, and conflict, this year's Summit proved that the G20 can still drive solutions to our most pressing issues," Biden said in a post on X as he left for Vietnam.

On his first visit to India as the US President, Biden arrived in New Delhi on Friday to attend the two-day G20 summit and held talks with Prime Minister Modi the same day.

In their over 50-minute talks, Modi and Biden on Friday vowed to "deepen and diversify" the bilateral major defence partnership while welcoming forward movement in India's procurement of 31 drones and joint development of jet engines.

Biden also participated in key sessions of the G20 Summit on Saturday. (PTI)

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov told reporters that the G20 Summit under India's presidency was a "breakthrough" conclave in many ways as its outcomes showed a path to the world to move forward on a range of challenges and demonstrated the strength and importance of the Global South.

After a luncheon meeting with Prime Minister Modi, French President Emmanuel Macron said considering the current fragmented environment, India has done well as G20 president.

India did its best to send across a message of unity and peace to the world while Russia was still waging its aggression against Ukraine, he told reporters. Macron also said a vast majority of G20 countries condemned the Russian invasion but G20 should not get stuck because of one issue.

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz said that at the summit the leaders have successfully engaged in a new interaction between the North and the South. (PTI)

Woman among 3 OGWs held

Recovered from the possession of the arrested individuals. As per detail available with the Excelsior, Lateef Ahmad Dar son of Mohammad Yousuf Dar of Najibut, Baramulla, Showkat Ahmad Lone son of Ghulam Rasool Lone of Pochanag (Chak Manhmunshi), Baramulla, and his sister Ishrat Rasool, were arrested by a joint team of SOG Kreeeri, 29 RR, and 52 RR during naka checking at Chak Tappara area of Baramulla District.

While a Chinese grenade has been recovered from the possession of Showkat Ahmad Lone, two grenades were seized from the possession of Lateef Ahmad Dar and 30 AK-47 rounds from the possession of Ishrat Rasool. The arrested OGWs had identified four youth in the general area of Kreeeri to further recruit them in different militant ranks. The accused individuals have been booked in case FIR number 116/2023 under Sections 13,18,20,23, UA(P) Act, 7/25 IA Act registered at Police Station Kreeeri and further investigation taken up.

PM makes renewed push for UNSC, proposes G20 virtual session in Nov

session at the summit, Modi said it is necessary the global bodies should reflect the "new realities" to lead the world towards a better future.

"In order to take the world towards a better future, it is necessary that the global systems are according to the present realities. Today, the United Nations Security Council" is also an example of this. When the UN was established, the world was completely different from what it is today. At that time there were 51 founding members in the UN. Today the number of countries included in the UN is around 200," Modi said.

"Despite this, the number of permanent members in the UNSC remains the same. The world has since changed a lot in every aspect. Be it transport, communication, health and education, every sector has been transformed. These new realities should reflect in our new global structure." The UNSC has five permanent members--the US, China, France, Britain and Russia.

Pitching for reforms, Modi said this was why a historic initiative was made on Saturday by granting the 55-nation African Union(AU) permanent membership of the G20.

"Similarly, we also need to expand the mandate of multilateral development banks. Our decisions in this direction should be immediate and effective," said Modi, who also led G20 leaders in a symbolic tree plantation ceremony at the swanky convention centre Bharat Mandapam to mark the 18th summit of the grouping which was established after the 1999 Asian financial crisis.

With India's G20 presidency ensuring several tangible outcomes, world leaders hailed Prime Minister Modi for his "decisive leadership" and for championing the voice of the Global South, sources said.

US President Joe Biden said the New Delhi summit has proven that the grouping can still drive solutions to its most pressing issues.

He made the remarks in a post on X as he left for Vietnam after he and several other G20 leaders paid homage at Mahatma Gandhi's memorial Rajghat in the morning.

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PM makes renewed push for UNSC, proposes G20 virtual session in Nov

Under India's leadership, we have demonstrated that we can come together, at a time when it really matters," a source quoted British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak as saying at one of the summit meetings.

During the summit, while Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida hailed PM Modi for providing "great leadership" of the G20, Lavrov called for strengthening G20 cooperation based on "the foundation created by the Indian presidency," sources said.

Turkiye President Erdogan hoped that the summit will be a blessing for "the only world we have".

Several leaders praised the prime minister for "championing the voice of the Global South" and hailed, in a unanimous voice, the key decision to make the African Union(AU) a member of the G20 grouping, according to sources. The AU being granted permanent membership was a milestone for India's presidency.

Hailing Modi, President Biden was quoted as saying, "The African Union is a critical partner. You (Modi) are bringing us together, keeping us together, reminding us that we have the capacity to tackle challenges together."

At his press briefing, Lavrov said India played an important role in "preventing the West" from taking forward their approach on many issues, including Ukraine.

"It is a breakthrough summit in many ways. It provides us a way forward to move ahead in many issues."

Lavrov also noted that the Delhi summit provided a direction towards fairness in global governance and global finance as well.

"I want to express my gratitude to India for preventing attempts to politicise the G20," he said, adding the West will not be able to remain a "hegemony" as we see new centres of power coming up in the world.

During the G20 sessions an bilateral meetings, several leaders also lauded Prime Minister Modi's efforts to tackle climate change and extended support to his initiatives, sources said.

Addressing the closing ceremony, President Lula said geopolitical issues should not hijack the discussions at G20 and that the bloc was not interested in a "divided G20" and the challenges of the day could be faced only through joint action.

"We need peace and cooperation instead of conflict."

The next summit will be held in Rio de Janeiro in Brazil in November 2024.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi today held a series of bilateral meetings with world leaders, including French President Emmanuel Macron, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz and Canadian PM Justin Trudeau, and discussed issues of mutual interests.

On the sidelines of the G20 Summit, he met South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol, Turkiye President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and African Union President Azali Assoumani.

After his meeting with Scholz, Modi said he thanked the German leader for enriching the G20 Summit with his views. "Also discussed how India and Germany can continue working together in clean energy, innovation and work towards a better planet," PM Modi wrote on X.

Scholz said that at the summit the leaders have successfully engaged in a new interaction between the North and the South. (PTI)

WEATHER

JAMMU: Partly cloudy

TEMPERATURE

Max: 31.0 Degree C
Min: 23.2 Degree C

RELATIVE HUMIDITY

RH-I (Morning): 93.0 per cent
RH-II (Evening): 78.0 per cent
Sunset on Monday: 06.45 p.m
Sunrise on Tuesday: 06.13 a.m

SRINAGAR: Mainly dry

TEMPERATURE

Max: 32.9 Degree C
Min: 16.6 Degree C

RELATIVE HUMIDITY

RH-I (Morning): 69.0 per cent
RH-II (Evening): 30.0 per cent

LEH:

TEMPERATURE

Max: 24.8 Degree C
Min: 8.0 Degree C

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CINEMA

APSR A AUDI 1: 1. JAWAN - 09.30 AM, 12.35 PM, 03.45 PM, 06.55 PM, 10.00 PM.
APSR A AUDI 2: 1. MASTANEY (PUNJABI) - 10.00 AM, 12.45 PM, 9.40 PM, 2. GADAR 2 - 03.20 PM, 06.30 PM
HARI THEATRE: 1. DABANG IPS - 10.00 AM, 12.30 PM, 3.30 PM, 6.30 PM.
PVR KC AUDI 1: 1. DREAM GIRL 2 (HINDI) ADOS - 02.45 AM, 2. GADAR 2, THE KATHA CONTINUES (HINDI) - 12.45 PM, 3. DREAM GIRL 2 (HINDI) ATMOS 4.20 PM, 4. MASTANEY (PUNJ) 7.20 PM, 10.25 PM.
PVR KC AUDI 2: 1. MASTANEY (PUNJ) - 12.35 PM, 2. OMG 2 (HINDI) - 3.40 PM, 3. GADAR 2 THE KATHA CONTINUES (HINDI) - 7.00 PM, 4. DREAM GIRL 2 (HINDI) - 10.35 PM.
WAVE CINEMA AUDI 1: 1. JAWAN (U/A) 09.00 AM, 12.20 PM, 3.40 PM, 6.00 PM, 10.20 PM.
WAVE CINEMA AUDI 2: 1. JAWAN (U/A) 10.00 AM, 1.20 PM, 4.40 PM, 8.00 PM, 11.20 PM.
WAVE CINEMA AUDI 3: 1. MASTANEY (PUNJABI) (U/A) - 09.05 AM, 2. DREAM GIRL 2 (U/A) - 11.55 AM, 3. MASTANEY - PUNJABI (U/A) 2.30PM, 4. GADAR 2 (U/A) 5.20 PM, 5. THE NUN II (ENG) (A) 8.35 PM, 5. GADAR 2(U/A) 10.55 PM.
PLATINUM CINEMA AUDI 1: 1. JAWAN (HINDI) - 10.00 AM, 1.00 PM, 4.00 PM, 2. THE NUN 2 (ENGLISH) - 7.00 PM, 3. JAWAN 9.00 PM
PLATINUM CINEMA AUDI 2: 1. THE NUN 2 (ENGLISH) - 10.00 AM, 2. JAWAN (HINDI) - 12.00 PM, 3.00 PM, 6.00 PM, 3. THE NUN 2 (HINDI) - 9.00 PM, 4. GADAR 2 - 10.55 PM
PLATINUM CINEMA AUDI 3: 1. JAWAN (HINDI) - 11.00 AM, 2.00 PM, 5.00 PM, 8.00 PM, 11.00 PM
INDRA AUDI 1: 1. JAWAN (HINDI) 8.00 AM, GADAR 2 (HINDI) 11.20 AM, MASTANEY (PUNJ) 2.35 PM, THE NUN 2 (HINDI) 5.10 PM, JAWAN (HINDI) 7.30 PM, THE NUN 2 (HINDI) 10.45 PM
INDRA AUDI 2: JAWAN (HINDI) 9.00 AM, 12.20 PM, 3.40 PM, 7.00 PM, 10.20 PM
INDRA AUDI 3: 1. JAWAN (HINDI) - 10.20 AM, 1: 40 PM, 5.00 PM, 2. DREAM GIRL 2 (HINDI) 8.20 PM, 4. JAWAN (HINDI) 10.55 PM.
MOONLIGHT CINEPLEX (KATHUA) : JAWAN (HINDI) - 9.45 AM, 12.50 PM, 04.00 PM, 07.15 PM
NEELAM PALACE (BILLAWAR): 1. JAWAN - 10.00 AM, 01.05 PM, 04.00 PM, 07.00 PM

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Kathua family narrating their woes before police after being thrashed by Punjab cops on Sunday.

-Excelsior/Pardeep

locked one ASI in their room. The other two cops fled away leaving one mobile, one torch and one turban in the house. He said "I informed PCR Kathua and two police personnel from Police Post Nagri reached the spot. "Later I along with other family members reached at residence of SSP Kathua to narrate whole episode to him".

SSP Kathua, Shivdev Singh said that the issue has been settled as it was outcome of a miscommunication. He said as the village is near the Punjab border and cops from neighbouring State mistakenly took it as the jurisdiction of Punjab. They had received information regarding the sale of illicit liquor in their area and hence they trooped in the house to conduct search.

But the issue was settled after the intervention of Kathua police as the whole matter was outcome of misconception and nothing else, he added.

Woman among 3 OGWs held