

!! Continuations from Page 1 !! G20 concludes; Modi...

Africa - during Brazil's presidency. "Ties between India and Brazil are very strong. We talked about ways to boost trade and cooperation in agriculture, technology and more. I also conveyed my best wishes for Brazil's upcoming G20 Presidency," Modi said on X.

A joint statement issued after the meeting, said the leaders reaffirmed commitment to bolstering the Brazil-India Strategic Partnership and to sustaining their distinctive roles in global affairs.

Modi and Lula also reiterated their mutual support for their countries' permanent membership in an expanded UN Security Council.

Modi welcomed Lula's announcement of Brazil's support to the Indian candidature for non-permanent seat of the UNSC for the 2028-2029 term.

The two leaders also highlighted their roles as major global food producers, and reaffirmed their resolve to increase cooperation in sustainable agriculture and rural development, including at the multilateral level, with the aim of safeguarding food and nutritional security of both countries and of the world, the joint statement said.

"They underscored the need for open, unimpeded and reliable food supply chains and called upon the international community to ensure that agricultural trade is not affected by unilateral restrictions and protectionist measures, duly taking into consideration the Multilateral trade rules," it said.

The leaders also welcomed the increased defence cooperation between India and Brazil including participation in military exercises, exchange of high-level defence delegations, and substantive industry presence in each other's defence expositions, it said. The leaders encouraged the defence industries from both sides to explore new collaboration avenues and commence joint projects to co-produce technologically advanced defence products and build supply chain resilience, the joint statement said.

PM pushes for...

and geo-political issues in the Declaration, which avoided mentioning the Russian invasion of Ukraine and made a general call to all states to follow the principle of respecting each other's territorial integrity and sovereignty.

Addressing the 'One Future' 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. "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.

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.

"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 a 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.

Years of terrorism...

exquisite cuisine, pilgrimage, traditional handicrafts to serene mountains, Jammu Kashmir offers anything and everything to travelers," the Lt Governor said.

He said the festival will further highlight the rural and adventure tourism potential of Bangus valley, promote its tribal culture and provide a platform for local artisans to showcase traditional arts and crafts.

The Lt Governor also highlighted the tourism potential of J&K and shared the efforts of the UT Administration to promote the tourism sector of the UT.

"We have completely transformed the tourism industry and Jammu Kashmir has been positioned as the most promising destination. The Tourism sector will soon become the engine of growth for the Union Territory," the Lt Governor said.

He said the aim of the UT Administration is to attract a greater share of tourists and provide lifetime experience to travelers, explorers and art lovers.

Around 300 new destinations including heritage sites, offbeat, adventure and spiritual destinations are being developed to provide variety of gateway options for domestic and foreign tourists filled with activities, festivals, natural scenery, shopping and B&B (Bed & Breakfast) home-stay in picturesque and calm villages, the Lt Governor added.

The Lt Governor said, India's G20 Presidency has made every citizen of the country proud. After the success of G20 summit in J&K, we are witnessing a multifold increase in the foreign tourists' arrival in Jammu Kashmir. Today, tourists in record numbers are visiting the UT is also a reflection of the new aspiration of Jammu Kashmir, he added.

The Lt Governor asked the citizens to discharge their responsibility in maintaining a peaceful environment to achieve sustainable socio-economic growth of the UT.

The Lt Governor also highlighted the role of private players, the local people and the youth in creating better facilities for the tourists.

On the occasion, the Lt Governor flagged off various rallies and activities as a part of the festival.

Bangus Adventure Festival offers a host of activities like Paragliding, Horse Riding, Hot Air Balloon, ATVs, cultural events, games etc. for tourists.

Irfan Sultan Panditpuri, 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 Parooq, Vice Chairman, DDC Kupwara; PRI members, senior officers, local residents and tourists in large numbers were present.

British PM Sunak...

amazed and awed by the beauty of this temple and its universal message of peace, harmony and becoming a better human being," the temple authorities quoted Sunak as saying in a statement.

"This is not only a place of worship but a landmark that also portrays India's values, culture and contributions to the world," he said.

The UK PM said these values and culture are seen in the "positive contributions the British-Indian community makes to the UK", he added.

A temple management official said the visit of Sunak and his wife is a matter of "great honour".

"It rained but Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and his wife graciously offered prayers at our temple and it is a matter of great honour for us to have hosted them at this revered temple," the official told PTI.

"Prime Minister Sunak and his wife Akshata Murty walked barefoot in the temple premises even in rainy weather. From the reception area to the main temple complex, there is a distance of about 150 metres and both of them walked barefoot back and forth," he said.

They first offered flower petals (pushparpan) to the golden idol of Swaminarayan ji and then offered 'aarti', the official said.

"They also offered flower petals to idols of Sita-Ram, Radha-Krishna, Laxmi Narayana and Shiva-Parvati in the temple complex. The UK PM enquired about the architecture of the temple and its history," he said.

Sunak also saw some of the sanctified items that belonged to Swaminarayan ji, such as shoes and a garland, he said.

A senior temple management official told PTI, "Sunak and his wife spent about 45 minutes at the Akshardham temple and offered prayers. They were gifted a marble elephant and a marble peacock besides a special replica of Akshardham."

A trustee of the BAPS Swaminarayan Trust, UK and a volunteer from the Neasden temple in London accompanied Sunak and his wife during their visit, said another temple management official who was part of the reception team.

After the visit, Sunak joined the G20 leaders to pay tributes to Mahatma Gandhi at his memorial Rajghat.

Sunak and other world leaders have gathered in Delhi to attend the two-day G20 Summit that began on Saturday.

In a post on X, British High Commissioner to India Alex Ellis thanked Sunak and Murty for the visit.

India believes in...

carry forward its traditions, culture and heritage.

"The meaning of religion is to unite, it does not talk about disintegration," he said.

Satguru Uday Singh of Namdhari community was present on the occasion.

Earlier, the RSS chief reached Bhaini Sahib amid tight security and also had a closed door meeting with Satguru Uday Singh, sources said.

Bhagvat had reached Ludhiana Saturday by train from Delhi and stayed here at state RSS headquarters.

I.N.D.I.A bloc coordination...

T R Bалу (DMK), Hemant Soren (JMM), Sanjay Raut (Shiv Sena-UBT), Tejashwi Yadav (RJD), 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-ML.

Missing BSF jawan...

to his home in Bihar Sunday morning and further necessary action was being taken.

The officials said BSF has also started a departmental inquiry against the jawan for leaving his post without permission.

CS inaugurates workshop...

the Union Territory-Specific Action Plan (UTSAP). The session also underscored the significance of collaborative efforts for achieving desired objectives.

The workshop also delved into the roles of critical entities such as NIII, JK DEERS, SKUAST, IMD, CWC, CGWB, and others in the larger scheme of things. Addressing the workshop virtually, Shaleen Kabra elaborated on the critical requirements for the plan's implementation, steering, and monitoring committees, shedding light on the intricate details of the road ahead.

In his address, the Director of IIT Jammu, Dr. Manoj Gaur, emphasized the pivotal role of the institution in fostering innovation and research excellence in the field of water sustainability. Dr. Gaur highlighted the institute's commitment to collaborative efforts that will lead to the development of sustainable water management strategies for Jammu & Kashmir.

Dr. Sanjay Kumar from NIH on behalf of the NWM virtually elaborated the Terms of Reference (TOR) and the indispensable role of stakeholders in the successful completion of SSAP-Water.

Dr. Divyesh Varade gave a detailed presentation on meticulously planned Action Plan, encompassing status reports, climate change considerations, alternative interventions, and implementation strategies.

Chief Engineer of Jal Shakti and I&FC Department, Jammu, reiterated their commitment to provide essential data and support for analysis for a comprehensive development of the SSAP for the Water sector of the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir. Remarkably, the Inception Workshop on SSAP-Water in Jammu & Kashmir, at IIT Jammu, marks a pioneering step towards implementation of strategies for introducing/enhancing water sustainability in the region. The collaborative spirit, expert insights, and visionary discussions held during the event reaffirm the commitment of Jammu & Kashmir to secure its water future.

G20 leaders pay...

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. "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.

CRIMEREPORT

Eight notorious thieves arrested

STATE TIMES NEWS



SAMBA: Samba police, under the guidance of Senior Superintendent of Police Benam Tosh, on Sunday achieved a significant success by arresting eight notorious thieves, solving three theft cases, and recovering stolen property valued at over Rs. 6 lakhs approximately.

The arrested individuals have been identified as Sanjeev Kumar alias Sanju alias Sandeep, son of Sulvinder Massih; Abinash Kumar alias Suraj, son of Satpal; Shiva Kumar, son of Radhe Shyam; Harsh, son of Pammi; Rahul Chopra, son of Bachan Lal, all residents of Vijaypur, Samba; Sunil Kumar, son of Om Parkash, resident of Kadhal, Bari Brahmana, Samba; Mohd Sher Khan, son of Mohd Hanief, resident of Philan Mandal tehsil, Satwari, Jammu; and Sher Ali, son of Mohd Sadiq, resident of Dhama tehsil, Majalta, Udhampur.

Out of these eight individuals, seven were arrested by the Police team of PS Vijaypur, led by SHO Vijaypur Sandeep Charak. They were involved in two theft cases registered at Police Station Vijaypur under FIR No. 126/2023 and FIR No. 122/2023, both under section 379 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC).

One notorious thief, Sunil Kumar, was apprehended by the Police team of PS Bari Brahmana, led by SHO Police Station Bari Brahmana Sumit Sharma, for his involvement in a theft case registered under FIR No. 218/2023 under sections 454/380 IPC PS Bari Brahmana.

The investigation of these cases is being supervised by SDPO Vijaypur Rohit Kumar, SDPO Bari Brahmana Rahul Nagar, and Additional SP Samba Surinder Choudhary.

The arrested accuseds have a history of involvement in several thefts in the jurisdiction of Police Station Vijaypur and Bari Brahmana.

During the operation, the police recovered several stolen items, including a Mahindra Bolero Pickup vehicle valued at over Rs. 5,00,000 approximately, one motorcycle valued at over Rs. 78,000 approximately, and sanitary items worth Rs. 22,000 approximately. The interrogation of the accused is currently underway.

Senior Superintendent of Police Samba, Benam Tosh, mentioned that the police have been actively pursuing thieves in Samba district.

"In the past eight months, they have arrested 128 thieves and solved 65 theft

cases. The police are committed to apprehending all notorious thieves involved in theft cases in the district," he said.

Two drug peddlers arrested, contraband substances recovered

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Continuing its efforts to eradicate the menace of drugs from the society, police have arrested two drug peddlers in Kulgam and Pulwama and recovered contraband substances from their possession.

A police party headed by SHO Police Station Qazigund at a checkpoint established near Khatana Petrol Pump Qazigund intercepted a suspicious person who tried to flee but was apprehended tactfully. During search, 3Kgs of Ganja like contraband substance concealed in Nylon bag was recovered from his possession. He has been identified as Rameez Raja son of Reyaz Ahmad Sheikh resident of Hiller Shahbad, Anantnag.

Meanwhile a police party led by SHO Police Station Pulwama during naka checking at Ureherso Pulwama intercepted a vehicle bearing registration No. JK13D-8809 driven by one person identified as Mukhtar Ahmad Sheikh son of Bashir Ahmad resident of Norpora Tral. During search, huge quantity of Poppy Straw was recovered from his possession.

Both the accused persons have been arrested and shifted to respective police stations where they remain in custody. Vehicle used in the commission of crime has also been seized.

Accordingly, cases under relevant sections of law have been registered at respective police stations and further investigation has been initiated.

Police freezes property worth lakhs of notorious drug smugglers

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Continuing its action against the drug peddlers/smugglers, police have frozen property and other assets of two notorious drug smugglers in Bandipora.

Police in Bandipora have frozen property worth 56 lakh and 60 thousand rupees belonging to two notorious drug smugglers namely Khurshid Ahmad Waza son of G.H Ahmad Waza and his wife (name withheld) resident of Bandipora. The frozen property included land measuring 1 Kanal and 1.5 Marlas, 01 Mahindra Scorpio bearing registration No JKO1T-6266 and one Tata Minibus bearing registration No JK05-7707. The said property was frozen under section 68F(2) of NDPS Act by the Competent Authority and Administrator SAFEM (New Delhi).

All these assets were illegally acquired through the sale of narcotic drugs. The duo are presently booked under PIT NDPS and lodged at Kot Balwal Jammu and Central Jail Srinagar respectively.

Moreover, Bank savings and other financial assets to the tune of Rs18 lakh and 36 thousand, six hundred eleven rupees were already frozen belonging to said accused lady and her family.

By targeting and freezing the illegal assets of drug peddlers/smugglers involved in the organized illegal narco trade, Police have dealt a severe blow to their criminal activities. Depriving these criminals of the proceeds derived from drug trafficking is an essential step in curbing their influence and crippling the drug trade in the valley. General public have appreciated the action taken by police in safeguarding them from the devastating effects of drug abuse and trafficking.

Masterpieces from Gujarat to Braj grab eyeballs at Jammu's 'Sama-Vaya' art retreat

STATE TIMES NEWS

PATNITOP: The ancient intricate art form of 'Mata Ni Pachedi' from Gujarat along with the timeless allure of Braj's Sanjhi art were the highlights of the 'Sama-Vaya' national art camp held amid the picturesque landscapes of Sanget Valley in Jammu.

Jammu's first art retreat Sama-Vaya concluded on Sunday after five days of fruitful collaborations at Skyview Empyrean in the cherished Patnitop tourist destination. Six artists and craftsmen showcased their individual and collective masterpiece works.

One of the artists at the camp-cum-exhibition was National Award recipient Sanjay Manubhai Chitara, whose 'Mata Ni Pachedi' painting depicting goddess Durga was recently presented by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to his UK counterpart Rishi Sunak.

This art form, passed down through generations, holds great cultural significance. The Vaghari community from Gujarat, when barred from temples, created their own shrines on cloth with natural colours and named them "Mata Ni Pachedi".

"I have come from Ahmedabad in Gujarat to take part in this painting enclave. Mata Ni Pachedi is a traditional art of Gujarat which is

three hundred years old. It is made from natural colours and bamboo sticks. The paintings depict Wanwati Mata. It is a full-fledged story on canvas", Chitara, who was awarded by former president Abdul Kalam in 2000, told PTI.

Sanjhi art, from the culturally rich land of Braj in Uttar Pradesh, was also showcased at the camp. Award-winning artist Mohan Kumar Verma displayed his fifth-generation tradition through Braj art, which focuses on Lord Krishna.

Verma, who is a Sanjhi paper-cutting artist, said, "We have come here from Mathura to showcase our traditional art in this beautiful valley of Kashmir. Sanjhi paper cutting is ancient Braj art. It is usually made in front of Krishna idols in temples for a fortnight. However, we are making such paintings throughout the year to survive this art", Verma told PTI.

The Sama-Vaya art retreat, curated by Anupa Mehta and Anuradha Sorabjee, brought together award-winning artisans and craftsmen like Mohan Kumar Verma, Ramesh Hengadi, and Sanjay Chitara, along with contemporary artists Sarika Mehta, Bhairavi Modi, and Kanchan Chander. Painter Sarika Mehta of Gujarat said she was grateful for the wonderful environment provided to artists by the organisers.

Five JKAS officers transferred

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Government on Sunday transferred five JKAS officers.

According to the order issued by Sanjeev Verma, Commissioner/Secretary, General Administration Department, Masood Ahmad Bichoo, JKAS, General Manager, DIC, Reasi, has been transferred and posted as Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Thathri. He shall also hold the charge of the post of Sub-Registrar, Thathri, in addition to his own duties, till further orders.

Further, Mohammad Anwar Bandy, JKAS, Programme Officer, ICDS Project, Reasi, shall hold the charge of the post of General Manager, DIC, Reasi, in addition to his Own duties, till further orders.

As per another order, Shivana Akhter, Jr. Scale JKAS, BDO, Budgam, has been transferred and

posted as Administrative Officer; Government Medical College, Udhampur, on ex-cadre basis; Bibi Rehana Kazmi, Jr. Scale JKAS, Functional Manager, DIC, Baramulla, shall also hold the charge of the post of Administrative Officer; Government Medical College, Baramulla, in addition to her own duties, till further orders; and Mohammad Arif Shah, Jr. Scale JKAS, Deputy Registrar, Cooperatives, Baramulla, shall also hold the charge of the post of Administrative Officer; Government Medical College, Handwara, in addition to his own duties, till further orders.

Nowshad Anjum Mir, Jr. Scale JKAS, Assistant Director, District Employment and Counselling Centre, Anantnag, shall also hold the charge of the post of Administrative Officer; Government Medical College, Anantnag, in addition to his own duties, till further orders.