

03 Dr Jitendra inaugurates Science & Technology Ministry's new Central Headquarter complex

Metro Rail Project in J&K to be approved by next week: Puri

LPG pipeline for UT to get top priority

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Union Minister for Petroleum & Natural Gas and Housing & Urban Development, Hardeep Singh Puri on Thursday said that the Metro Rail Project in Jammu and Kashmir will be approved by next week and the demand of LPG pipeline for the Union Territory will also be given a top priority by the Government.

"After the abrogation of Article 370, the development projects that were languishing from years in J&K, have been taken up and many have been completed in these years", Puri said this while e-inaugurating and laying e-foundation stones of many development projects of Jammu city at Convention Centre, Jammu.

He said the development paradigms have now changed in J&K which is evident from the fact that the development works have achieved a pace



Union Minister for Petroleum & Natural Gas and Housing & Urban Development, Hardeep Singh Puri briefing media in Jammu on Thursday.

under the new administration and are now completed within a timeline in the UT. The Minister said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Development Model emphasises that the benefits of every centrally sponsored scheme should reach directly to the beneficiaries be that of the Ujjwala Yojana,

Ayushman Bharat, PM Awas Yojana or others.

Praising the Prime Minister for his steps taken vis-a-vis Swachhta Abhiyan in the country, Hardeep Singh Puri said that the PM had emphasised from the ramparts of Red Fort in 2014 that it would be a great tribute to the Father of

Nation if India becomes Open Defecation Free (ODF) on the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. The Minister mentioned that the same is happening today when the country has achieved almost all the physical targets under ODF by constructing the individual household toilets, public toilets, community toilets and J&K is one among those ODF States/UTs which is a matter of pride for us.

Puri also said that the success behind implementation of Swachhta Abhiyan in almost every part of the country is that the programme was not restricted to only government quarters but was made a 'Jan Andolan' under PM Narendra Modi.

Puri further said that there is no compromise on the development agenda and timelines are set before for the completion of

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Over 97 Cr COVID vaccine doses administered in India so far: Govt

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The cumulative COVID-19 vaccine doses administered in the country crossed 97 crore, with more than 27 lakh jabs given on Thursday, the Union Health Ministry said.

According to data updated till 7 pm, a total of 69,24,56,103 first doses have been administered while 27,86,64,302 second doses have been given. Cumulatively,

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Petrol, diesel prices hiked again

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: After two days of lull, petrol and diesel price on Thursday was again hiked by 35 paise per litre, sending retail pump prices to their highest ever level across the country.

The price of petrol in Delhi rose to its highest-ever level of Rs 104.79 a litre and Rs 110.75 per litre in Mumbai, according to a price notification of state-owned

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12 Toddlers' World celebrates Dussehra with religious fervour

J&K achieves 100 pc coverage of first dose of COVID vaccine

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday achieved 100 per cent coverage of the first dose of COVID-19 vaccines for the age group of 18 years and above, even as the Union territory recorded 93 fresh cases of coronavirus, taking the infected number of persons to 3,30,834.

As many as 82,229 doses of COVID vaccine were administered in the last 24 hours across the UT bringing the cumulative number of doses administered in the UT to 1,34,94,675, the official data said.

Meanwhile, the Union Territory has registered 93 new positive coronavirus cases on Thursday -- 21 from Jammu division and 72 from Kashmir division.

Srinagar reported the highest of 47 cases, followed by 12 in Baramulla.

The number of active cases was 935, while 3,25,473 patients have recovered from

the disease.

The total number of deaths due to the virus was 4,426 as no fresh death took place in the last 24 hours.

According to the daily Media Bulletin, out of 330834 positive cases, 935 are Active Positive (211 in Jammu Division and 724 in Kashmir Division), 325473 have recovered and 4426 have died; 2174 in Jammu division and 2252 in Kashmir division.

The Bulletin further said that out of 15541140 test results available, 330834 samples have tested positive and 15210306 samples have been tested as negative till date. Besides, 48,689 COVID tests have been conducted in last 24 hours.

Till date 3651095 persons have been enlisted for observation which included 7422 persons in home quarantine including facilities operated by government, 935 in isolation and 456239 in home surveillance. Besides,

3182073 persons have completed their surveillance period.

In Ladakh, COVID tally has climbed to 20,861 with detection of five fresh cases during the past 24 hours, while the number of active cases of the infection has gone up to 42 in the Union Territory, officials said.

No death due to the coronavirus infection was reported in Ladakh in a 24-hour period, they added.

The death toll due to the viral disease in Ladakh stands at 208 -- 150 in Leh and 58 in Kargil.

Nine coronavirus patients were cured and discharged from hospitals in Leh, thereby taking the tally of cured patients to 20,611 in the Union Territory, the officials said.

All the five fresh cases were reported from Leh, they added.

A total of 996 sample reports were found to

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Term-I board exams for Classes 10, 12 to be conducted offline; date-sheet on October 18: CBSE

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The first-term board examinations for Classes 10 and 12 will be conducted offline in November-December and the date-sheet for the same will be announced on October 18, the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) said on Thursday.

The board said the exams will be objective-type and the duration of the tests will be 90 minutes. The exams will start from 11.30 am instead of 10.30 am in view of the winter season.

Bifurcating the academic session, holding two term-end exams and rationalising

the syllabus were part of the special assessment scheme for Classes 10 and 12 board exams in 2021-22 announced by the CBSE in July in view of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"After the conduct of the term-I exams, the results in the form of the marks scored will be declared. No student will be placed in the pass, compartment and essential repeat categories after the first term. The final results will be announced after the first and the second-term examinations," CBSE Examination Controller Sanyam Bhardwaj said.

"Practical exams or

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JCO, soldier critically injured in Mendhar encounter

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Two army personnel, including a Junior Commissioned Officer (JCO), were critically injured in an encounter with terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district on Thursday night, officials said.

"In an ongoing counter terrorist operation in general area Nar Khas forest in Mendhar sub-division there has been exchange of fire between army troops and terrorists during evening hours today", PRO defence said.

During the ensuing exchange of fire, one JCO



and one soldier have been critically injured, he said. The operations are under progress, PRO said.

On October 12, five army

personnel, including a Junior Commissioned Officer (JCO), were martyred in an encounter in Dera Ki Gali (DKG) in Surankote area of

Poonch district.

On September 12, an unidentified terrorist was killed in an encounter with security forces following a search operation in the upper reaches of Manjakote in Rajouri district.

On August 19, a Junior Commissioned Officer (JCO) of the Army was martyred in an encounter with terrorists in Thanamandi area of Rajouri district.

Two Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terrorists were killed in an encounter with security forces in Thanamandi belt on August 6.

Aryan Khan is regular consumer of drugs, says NCB

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

MUMBAI: Aryan Khan, son of Bollywood actor Shah Rukh Khan, was a regular consumer of drugs, the NCB on Thursday told a special NDPS court here while opposing his bail plea in a case of alleged seizure of banned drugs from a cruise ship.

Aryan (23), arrested by the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) on October 3, will have to remain in jail for at least six more days as the court, after hearing arguments, posted the matter for orders on October 20.

Khan and two others -- Arbaaz Merchant and Mumun Dhamecha -- have sought bail from the court of V V Patil, special judge for cases under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act.

Appearing for the NCB, Additional Solicitor General (ASG) Anil Singh claimed that there was evidence

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J&K will be power surplus in coming times: Union Minister

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KISHTWAR: Union Minister for Power, New & Renewable Energy, R. K. Singh who was on a visit to Kishtwar on Thursday inspected Dul Hasti Hydroelectric Power Project besides took stock of the construction of other power projects with a total generation capacity of 2554 megawatts in Kishtwar.

He was accompanied by Principal Secretary PDD, Rohit Kansal; CMD NHPC, Abhay Kumar Singh; Union Additional Secretary Power, S K G Rahate.

During his visit at 390 MW Dul-Hasti Dam site at Dool, the Minister reviewed the



Union Minister for Power, New & Renewable Energy, R. K. Singh inspecting Dul Hasti Hydroelectric Power Project.

generation capacity of the power project besides assessing other related aspects of the project.

Speaking on the occasion,

the Power Minister said that the government has taken commendable initiatives to harness the Hydroelectric

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Chairs review meeting on power issues in J&K

SRINAGAR: Union Minister for Power and New and Renewable Energy R K Singh on Thursday chaired a meeting on power issues in Jammu and Kashmir. The Minister is on a two day visit to the Union Territory as part of the Central Government's Public Outreach Initiative.

Singh mentioned during the meeting that the Central Government is committed to improve the power scenario of Jammu and Kashmir as the development of the

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Anti-drone technology developed, transferred to industries: DRDO Chief

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: DRDO has developed counter-drone technology and transferred it to industries, which have taken orders from the armed forces and security forces of the country, a senior official of the organisation said on Thursday.

"DRDO has developed anti-drone technology. It has all the necessary elements required to counter drones, whether it is detection, tracking or surveillance and even a process called software and hardware," Defence Research and Development



DRDO Chief G Satheesh Reddy during visit to Central University of Jammu at Samba.

Organisation (DRDO) chief G Satheesh Reddy said.

He was speaking

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Huge quantity of contraband seized in Kashmir; four held

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Four drug peddlers were arrested and a huge quantity of contraband was seized in Pulwama and Shopian districts on Thursday, police said.

Police station Zainapora received specific information that two persons -- Abdul Hameed Sheikh and Bilal Hameed Sheikh, both residents of Chillipora in Shopian -- were indulged in drug peddling and have hoarded a huge quantity of narcotic substance in their residential houses, a police spokesperson said.

Following this, a police party, along with an executive magistrate, raided the specific locations, he added.

The spokesman said during the searches, police was able

to recover 189 kilogram of charas grinded leaves, 1.5 kilogram of charas powder and 30 kilogram of poppy straw from the two houses.

Four accused persons have been arrested so far, he said. In another incident in Pulwama, Kakapora police station received information that Gulzar Ahmad alias Beta and Mohammad Rafiq - both residents of Mohanviji Kakapora -- have hoarded a huge quantity of narcotic substances in their houses, the spokesman said.

A police team raided the specific locations and during searches recovered 27 kilogram of cannabis leaves and 28 kilogram of poppy straw, he said. However, the accused managed to

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WEATHER

Temperature (Jammu)

Max: 33.8°C Min: 18.3°C

Humidity

Max : 64 Min : 52

Temperature (Srinagar)

Max: 24.4°C Min: 7.6°C

Humidity

Max : 90 Min: 54

Sunset : 18:01 Hours

Sunrise : 06:36 Hours