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03 J&K players, coaches stand in solidarity with Nuzhat Gul; hold protests against attack

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Setting a record, India administers over 2.26 Cr vaccine doses on Modi's birthday



■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: India on Friday administered a record number of over 2.26 crore COVID-19 vaccine doses taking the cumulative figure to over 79 crore, giving a major push to the inoculation drive on the occasion of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 71st birthday.

The numbers went up steadily through the day with the cumulative number of doses administered in the country crossing 79.25 crore at 10 pm, according to data

LG wishes PM on birthday

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday wished Prime Minister Narendra Modi on his 71st birthday, and said his efforts towards development of the country have been a source of inspiration.

"Warm Birthday wishes to Hon'ble PM Shri @narendramodi Ji.I pray for his long & healthy life.Your exceptional, tireless efforts towards development of New India have been a source of inspiration for all of us.May the nation continue to progress under your dynamic leadership & vision," Sinha tweeted.

The Kashmir unit of the BJP also wished the prime minister but said there would not be any gala celebrations or cake cutting.

"BJP is a party of poor. On the 71st birthday of PM Narendra Modi, no cake cutting, or gala celebrations, but to distribute food, fruit and edibles among needy, poor and destitute in Kashmir," party spokesman Altaf Thakur said.

He said 25,000 post cards filled with colourful birthday wishes from Kashmir have already been sent to the prime minister.

on the Co-WIN portal.

Officials said the final tally will be higher when data arrive from all centres late in the night.

Hailing the achievement, Prime Minister Modi tweeted, "Every Indian would be proud of today's record vacci-

nation numbers. I acknowledge our doctors, innovators, administrators, nurses, healthcare and all front-line workers who have toiled to make the vaccination drive a success. Let us keep boosting vaccination to defeat COVID-19."

Karnataka administered the highest number of over 26.9 lakh doses, followed by Bihar with more than 26.6 lakh doses, Uttar Pradesh with over 24.8 lakh doses, Madhya Pradesh with over 23.7 lakh doses and Gujarat with over 20.4 lakh doses.

"#VaccineSeva a gift to the prime minister on behalf of health workers and people of the country. On the birthday of Prime Minister Narendra Modi today, India has crossed the historic figure of administering 2 crore vaccine doses in a day, setting a new record. Well done India!" Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya tweeted in Hindi.

The daily vaccinations crossed the one-crore mark for the fourth time in less than a month.

Mandaviya said this is the fastest pace at which one crore doses have been administered.

"On PM @Narendra

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J&K records 155 new COVID cases, 1 death

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir recorded 155 fresh coronavirus cases on Friday, raising its tally to 3,27,621, while the death toll reached 4,416 with one more fatality, officials said.

Of the fresh cases, 22 were from the Jammu division and 133 from the Kashmir division of the union territory, they said.

They said Srinagar district recorded the highest

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School closed in Leh for 15 days

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

LEH: The Ladakh Union Territory administration on Friday decided to close all schools including Residential Hostels in Leh for 15 days from September 18 to October 2, 2021 across Leh district, after reporting of fresh COVID-19 cases in schools.

"In view of reporting of fresh COVID-19 cases in schools, all (Govt./Private) Schools including

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Policeman martyred, non-local labourer killed by terrorists in Kulgam



■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Terrorists martyred a policeman and killed a non-local labourer in a separate incident in Kulgam district on Friday, officials said.

At around 6.05 pm, terrorists opened fire at a police personnel, identified as Banto Sharma (Follower) of Wanpoh, and injured him, they said.

The officials said Sharma was shifted to a hospital but succumbed to injuries. The area has been cordoned off and a hunt launched to nab the attackers, they added.

Later, at around 8.50 pm, terrorists struck again and killed a non-local labourer, they said.

He was identified as Shankar Kumar Chowdhary (35), a resident of Preet Nagar Kathyar in Bihar, and was working as a labourer at a brick kiln in Nihama in D H Pora area of Kulgam, they added.

The officials said a hunt has been launched to nab the

attackers.

Political parties have widely condemned the terror act.

I unequivocally condemn the militant attack in Kulgam district of South Kashmir. My heartfelt condolences to the family & colleagues of Constable Bantoo Sharma of Railway Protection Force who was killed in the line of duty earlier this evening. May his soul rest in peace, National Conference vice president Omar Abdullah said in a

tweet.

Peoples Democratic Party president Mehbooba Mufti also took to Twitter to condemn the killing of the policeman.

Very sorry to hear about the terrorist attack in Kulgam today that claimed yet another innocent life. Deepest condolences & prayers with Bantoo Sharma ji's family. May his soul rest in peace. Peoples Conference (PC) chairman Sajad

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BSF DG reviews security situation, area domination along IB in Jammu

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Border Security Force Director General Pankaj Kumar Singh on Friday visited forward areas along the Indo-Pak border here and reviewed the security situation and area domination by the troops, officials said.

This is Singh's first visit to the Jammu frontier after taking over as the chief of the BSF on August 25.

Singh arrived at the frontier headquarters here on Thursday on a two-day visit to the International Border (IB).

On Thursday, he visited forward areas of Samba and

Kathua sectors and took stock of the security situation.

"Today, DG BSF visited R S Pura and Arnia Sectors of the International Border area and took stock of the situation," a BSF spokesman said.

The BSF DG was accompanied by IG BSF of Jammu Frontier N S Jammwal and other officers.

Jammwal briefed the BSF chief about the complexities of management of R S Pura and Arnia border areas under the prevailing security scenario, the spokesman said. The DG reviewed

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Senior Citizens National Helpline 'Elderline'-14567 launched in J&K Govt moving towards 100 pc saturation of all 55 central public welfare schemes: LG

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday said that Jammu and Kashmir is moving towards 100 per cent saturation of all 55 public welfare schemes of the Central government so that the benefits reach out to the last needy person in the society.

"J&K government has ensured provision for reservation in jobs for specially-abled persons in the UT", the Lieutenant Governor said while launching the Senior Citizens National Helpline



LG Manoj Sinha addressing gathering at the launch of Senior Citizens National Helpline 'Elderline-14567 in J&K.

"Elderline"-14567 in J&K, at Raj Bhavan here, adding that the Social Welfare Department has given reservation benefits to the needy at different levels and now 10

per cent reservation in government jobs has been extended to the people living below the poverty line.

On the occasion, the Lt Governor also distributed

Ladakh stand-off: Jaishankar calls for early resolution of remaining issues

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI/BEIJING: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has told his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi that the two sides should work for an early resolution of the remaining issues along the LAC in eastern Ladakh to restore peace and tranquillity in the border areas as this has been an essential basis for progress in Sino-India ties.

As Jaishankar conveyed his views at a meeting with Wang on the sidelines of the summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in Tajikistan

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Rs 40 Cr transit camp for KPs in Baramulla Centre very keen towards welfare of migrants: Sonowal



Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal interacting with delegation members at Baramulla.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BARAMULLA: A Rs 40-crore transit camp will be constructed for accommoda-

tion of 336 Kashmiri Pandit migrant families here as part of efforts to rehabilitate them in the Kashmir Valley, Union

Minister Sarbananda Sonowal said on Friday.

After laying the foundation stone for the transit camp, he said that it was a very significant step taken by the central government for Kashmiri Pandit migrant families who want to return and live in Kashmir peacefully.

"For the rehabilitation of the Kashmiri Pandits, a transit camp will be constructed at a cost of Rs 40 crore. A total of 336 families will be accommodated here," Sonowal told reporters

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Petrol, diesel prices may rise as international oil rates surge

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: A surge in international oil prices may translate into an increase in the retail selling price of petrol and diesel in India as oil companies face extreme margin squeeze, sources said.

Petrol and diesel prices have remained unchanged for 12 days but now the international rate surge is exerting pressure.

Current prices of petrol and diesel in the international market are higher by around USD 4-6 per barrel as compared to average prices during August. However, no increase in retail prices has been affected by oil companies so far, sources said.

In case international prices remain at this level, oil marketing companies (OMCs) will have to increase retail prices of petrol and diesel, they said. Retail prices of petrol and diesel were

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WEATHER

Temperature (Jammu)

Max: 30.9°C Min: 23.8°C

Humidity

Max : 93 Min : 71

Temperature (Srinagar)

Max: 31.4°C Min: 16.4°C

Humidity

Max : 77 Min: 46

Sunset : 18:36 Hours

Sunrise : 06:18 Hours

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Union ministers on Friday continued their special public outreach programmes in different areas of Kashmir to take feedback from various stakeholders besides listening to their development aspirations and other concerns, officials said.

Union Minister of State for Communications Devusinh Chauhan visited Ganderbal where he launched a commemorative postal stamp in the honour of Rao Jaimal Rathore on his 515th birth anniversary.

Union Minister for Tribal Affairs Arjun Munda was in Bandipora district where he visited the district hospital.



Union Minister for Communications Devusinh Chauhan paying obeisance at Mata Kheer Bhawani Mandir at Tulumulla Ganderbal.

An official spokesman said in the run-up to the celebrations of the 75th Azadi ka Amrit Mohatsav, Chauhan on Friday launched a com-

memorative postal stamp in the honour of Rao Jaimal Rathore on his 515th birth anniversary at Sonamarg in central Kashmir's Ganderbal

district.

Rathore was a Rajput warrior general of Chittorgarh who put up a defiant resistance against the vast Mughal army during its siege in 1567-1568, he said.

On the occasion, the minister said he counts himself fortunate to get the chance of releasing a postage stamp commemorating such a brave soldier. He said the brave heart not only made the people of Rajasthan proud but the whole nation.

Chauhan said national heroes deserve to be recognised and remembered for the bravery and valour they depicted in safeguarding the land and its people.

Union Minister of Jal

Shakti Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, who participated virtually in the event, said the contribution of the warrior is such that even after the passing of more than 500 years, the memory is preserved in the human psyche.

Shekhawat, who was the guest of honour on the occasion, said the story has the power to inspire and motivate the youth towards national service.

MP Chittorgarh C P Joshi, who participated virtually during the launch event, said the brave soldier fought despite receiving a bullet in his foot. He said that his laying of life in protecting his land is worth writing in

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ACB nabs JKP constable red-handed while accepting bribe

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A policeman was arrested by sleuths of Anti Corruption Bureau (ACB) red-handed on Friday while accepting bribe from a person in connection with a case registered against members of his family in Poonch district, officials said.

The ACB received a written complaint alleging that Head Constable Bashir Ahmed, presently posted in Surankote Police Station, who was demanding a bribe of Rs 10,000 from the complainant, they said. The constable

was the investigating officer in FIR 311/21 registered at Police Station Surankote under sections 354, 341, 109 against father, brother and uncle of the complainant, they said.

Ahmed was threatening to prepare a strong case against father, brother and uncle of the complainant if he did not pay him the bribe, they alleged. On receipt of the complaint, FIR No. 04 of 2021, under section 7 of Prevention of Corruption Act 1988 was registered at Police Station ACB

Rajouri and investigation was taken up. Ahmed was caught red-handed while demanding and accepting bribe from the complainant as the ACB sleuths got hold of him, they said.

The bribe amount of Rs 8,000 was also recovered on the spot. He was arrested and taken into custody by the ACB team, they said. After the arrest, searches were also conducted in the premises of the accused. Further investigation is in progress, the officials said.

GST Council extends lower tax rate on COVID drugs till Dec 31



■ STATE TIMES NEWS

LUCKNOW: The GST Council on Friday extended concessional tax rates on COVID-19 medicines, cut tax on cancer drugs and waived GST on import of highly expensive medicines for muscular atrophy, but will continue to keep petrol and diesel out of the uniform national tax regime.

The Council, which is head-

ed by the union finance minister and includes representatives from all states and UTs, decided to charge services by cloud kitchens and food delivery platforms like Zomato and Swiggy a 5 per cent GST.

From January 1, food delivery apps will have to collect and deposit 5 per cent GST with the government, in place of restaurants, for deliveries made by them. There would be no extra tax burden on the end consumer. "Food delivery operators like Swiggy who collect orders from restaurants and deliver (to customers)... the place where the food is delivered will be the point on which tax will be collected by the gig groups Swiggy

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