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Setting a record...

Modi Ji's birthday, till 1:30 pm, the country has crossed the mark of 1 crore vaccines, the fastest so far; and we are continuously moving forward. I believe that today we will all make a new record of vaccination and give it as a gift to the prime minister," he had said in a tweet in Hindi earlier along with the hashtags "VaccineSeva" and "HappyBdayModiji".

The daily COVID-19 vaccination in the country was over 1 crore on September 6, August 31 and August 27.

The WHO South-East Asia Regional Office (WHO SEARO) congratulated India for reaching the milestone of administering two crore doses of Covid vaccines in a single day.

WHO SEARO has tweeted, "Congratulations India for yet another milestone!"

Mandaviya on Thursday had called for a major push to the COVID-19 vaccination drive during Prime Minister Modi's birthday on Friday, saying it would be the perfect gift for him.

The BJP has asked its units across the country to help get a large number of people vaccinated on the occasion.

India took 85 days to touch the 10-crore vaccination mark, 45 more days to cross the 20-crore mark and 29 more days to reach the 30-crore mark, according to the ministry.

The country took 24 days to reach 40 crore from 30 crore doses and then 20 more days to cross the 50-crore vaccination mark on August 6, it said.

It took 19 more days to go past the 60-crore mark and took only 13 days to reach 70 crore from 60 crore on September 7, the ministry said.

The total number of doses administered crossed the 75-crore mark on September 13.

Today, the Union Ministry of Health is running the 'Vaccine Seva' campaign, official sources said.

As a part of this campaign, Mandaviya visited Saiflarpung Hospital to take stock of the ongoing vaccination there.

"When the Union Health Minister was taking stock of the vaccination campaign in the hospital, at the same time the country crossed the figure of 2 crore vaccinations in a day at 5 pm. Expressing happiness, Mandaviya raised his fist in the air and said that 'we did it,' an official source said.

The countrywide vaccination drive was rolled out on January 16 with healthcare workers (HCWs) getting inoculated in the first phase. The vaccination of frontline workers (FLWs) started from February 2.

The next phase of COVID-19 vaccination commenced from March 1 for people over 60 years of age and those aged 45 and above with specified co-morbid conditions.

The country launched vaccination for all people aged more than 45 years from April 1. The government then decided to expand its vaccination drive by allowing everyone above 18 to be vaccinated from May 1.

J&K records 155...

number of 96 cases, followed by 12 cases in Doda district. Srinagar has 752 active cases, which is the highest among the 20 districts in the UT.

There are 1,440 active cases in the union territory, while the number of recovered patients was 3,21,675, the officials said.

The death toll due to the pandemic reached 4,416 as one fresh fatality was reported in the past 24 hours, they said.

The officials said there were 46 confirmed cases of mucormycosis (black fungus) in the union territory and no fresh case was reported since Friday evening.

School closed in...

Residential Hostels in Leh District to remain closed for imparting in-person classes with immediate effect for 15 days i.e. from September 18 till October 2, 2021, thereafter, the situation to be reviewed again," reads an govt order.

However, it added, online classes shall be encouraged with COVID SOPs.

"Students leaving from the Residential Schools/Hostels for their homes to be mandatorily screened for RT-PCR test and to subsequently undergo home quarantine along with their family members for seven days irrespective of their results, it further stated.

Policeman martyred, non...

Lone also condemned the killing.

Strongly condemn the killing of a policeman in Kulgam. May Allah give patience to the family of Bantu Sharma to bear this loss. And May the killers rot in hell, Lone tweeted.

NC leader Wazir's...

that Harpreet had called his classmate Chaudhary to Delhi from Mumbai on August 14, assuring him of the job of a taxi driver here.

On the directions of Harpreet, he left Delhi on September 1 from Basai Darapur and went to Punjab and switched off his mobile number and started using another number in Jammu, they said.

On September 2, he collected Wazir's luggage from his house in Jammu and left for Delhi. He switched on his number again in Punjab and came to Basai Darapur on September 3 via a taxi, police said.

Chaudhary left the spot at around 11.30 am to collect his bag that was left in taxi (as per their planning) and returned from Kashmere Gate area at 5.30 pm, they said, adding that he remained at the spot with others co-accused Harpreet, Harmeet and Billa. He, along with Harpreet and Harmeet went to the terrace and planned to kill Wazir.

Harpreet handed over one pistol to Harmeet. They came back and Harmeet allegedly shot Wazir who was already unconscious due to sedative given by them, police said.

Chaudhary, with Harpreet and Harmeet, cleaned the blood from the spot and the body was shifted to the washroom. Thereafter, they planned to dump the body at a metro station or IGI Airport and visited the places but couldn't succeed in their plan, the police said.

The accused planned the murder over the past two-three months on the lines of Bollywood movie Drishyam and created false evidence to mislead the police, a senior police officer said.

The call detail records analysis revealed that Harpreet called several numbers in Jammu after September 3, and one of the numbers was found registered in the name of Chaudhary's mother, the officer said, adding that later, Rajinder was arrested from his in-law's house on Tuesday.

During investigation, it had surfaced that in 1983, a triple murder took place in Jammu area in which one Kuldeep alias Pappi, who was Harpreet's maternal uncle, was killed using swords.

Wazir was arrested in that incident and was lodged in jail for around three-and-a-half years, a senior police officer said.

The police said that facts are being verified, including whether Wazir's murder was related to that particular incident.

Govt moving towards...

added. It was also informed that the J&K Maintenance and Welfare for Parents and Senior Citizens rules 2021 have been prepared and will be notified in a few days.

The Lt Governor lauded the efforts of Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO) for providing assistance to divyangs of the UT and making it specially-abled inclusive and accessible.

The Social Welfare Department shall be holding Panchayat level assessment camps in association with ALIMCO to identify all those in need of any kind of prosthetic aid and the J&K government shall ensure that all eligible persons are provided with requisite prosthetic and other aids within this year.

The Lt Governor further said that the J&K Social Welfare Department has conducted a survey of those in need of motorized tricycles and all those who are eligible for Old age, Widow, and Divyang pensions. The UT government shall be attaining saturation in the distribution of these benefits within this year.

He said about 9 lakh people have received funds under different pension schemes. Another, 2 lakh 72 thousand additional people have been added to our pension schemes, and for the first time in the history of UT, pensions have been provided to transgenders.

He noted that in line with the vision of PM Narendra Modi calling for 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas', the UT government is determined to ensure welfare of all sections of the society.

In wake of COVID pandemic, SASCM/Saksham scheme has been started by the UT government to provide financial help to the families who have suffered due to Corona. Under this, the families who have lost their breadwinners will be given a monthly pension of Rs. 1000 and special scholarship has been arranged for the children who have become orphaned due to Covid, besides extending benefits of other social welfare schemes to them, the Lt Governor added.

The Social Welfare Department has constituted a special cell which will work properly for their help throughout their life, he added.

Those present on the occasion included Farooq Khan, Advisor to Lt Governor; Dr. AK Mehta, Chief Secretary; Sheetal Nanda, Secretary Social Welfare Department; Dr. Raghav Langer, Divisional Commissioner Jammu; Anshul Garg, Deputy Commissioner Jammu; Vivek Sharma, Director Social Welfare, besides senior officials of Social Welfare department.

BSF DG reviews...

the overall deployment of the BSF troops and also the domination plan of the force, he said. Singh also visited the critical areas of Aik Nallah, Phalku Nallah and other areas of R S Pura and Arnia border areas and held discussions with sector and unit commanders on the ground and reviewed the security situation, the spokesman said. During his two-day visit, the DG visited the entire area of the International Border (IB) of the BSF

Jammu frontier and concluded the tour in a cordial atmosphere, he said. The DG also interacted with jawans through sainik samelan' and was full of praise for their dedication towards safeguarding the borders.

Ladakh stand-off...

capital Dushanbe on Thursday, a Chinese Foreign Ministry statement on Friday said Minister Wang hoped India will meet China halfway to move the border situation towards stability and shift it from "urgent dispute settlement to regular management and control.

Jaishankar also asserted it is essential that China avoid viewing its ties with India through the "lens of a third country" to which Beijing said it "agrees". Observing that Sino-India relations have their own "intrinsic logic", China said the ties do not target any "third party and are not based on any third party."

In a statement, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said the two ministers exchanged views on the current situation along the Line of Actual Control(LAC) in eastern Ladakh as well as on global developments. The two sides agreed that military and diplomatic officials of India and China should meet again and continue their discussions to resolve the remaining issues at the earliest, it added.

The statement said Jaishankar underlined that it was necessary to ensure progress in the resolution of remaining issues so as to restore peace and tranquillity along the LAC in eastern Ladakh as such an atmosphere in the border areas has been an essential basis for progress in the bilateral relations.

Jaishankar also told Wang that India had never subscribed to any "clash of civilisations theory" and that Asian solidarity would depend on the example set by India-China relations, it added.

He also said the two sides need to establish a relationship based on "mutual respect" for which it was necessary that China avoid viewing the ties with India from the perspective of its relations with third countries, the statement said.

On Twitter, Jaishankar said: "It is also essential that China does not view its relations with India through the lens of a third country."

While Jaishankar mentioned "a third country", the statement by the MEA talked about "third countries".

It is learnt that the two sides also exchanged views on developments in Afghanistan after the Taliban's takeover of the country last month.

The MEA statement said Jaishankar recalled that Wang had in their last meeting on July 14 noted that the bilateral relations were at a low ebb.

It said both sides at the July 14 meeting had agreed that a prolongation of the existing situation was not in the interest of either side as it was impacting the relationship in a negative manner.

At that meeting, Jaishankar told Wang that any unilateral change in the status quo along the LAC was "not acceptable" to India and that the overall ties can only develop after full restoration of peace and tranquillity in eastern Ladakh.

"The EAM, therefore, emphasised that the two sides should work towards early resolution of the remaining issues along the LAC in eastern Ladakh while fully abiding by bilateral agreements and protocols," the MEA statement said.

"The external affairs minister noted that since their last meeting on July 14, the two sides had made some progress in the resolution of the remaining issues along the LAC in eastern Ladakh and had completed the disengagement in Gogra area.

"However, there were still some outstanding issues that needed to be resolved," it added.

Centre very keen...

here. He said that people in Kashmir also want Kashmiri Pandits to return so that they can live peacefully together, and the transit camp is being set up as per the wishes of the people.

The union minister of ports, shipping, waterways and ayush expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah for the decision to set up the transit camp for Kashmiri Pandits.

"I am also thankful to the people of Baramulla and Kashmir for their cooperation in executing this project," he said.

Earlier, Sonowal said Kashmiri migrants constitute part and parcel of Kashmiri's composite culture, the Union Minister of AYUSH, and Ports, Shipping and Waterways said the Central government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi is very keen towards their welfare, according to a government release.

"Several concrete measures have been taken in order to ensure their rehabilitation so that they live in their homeland with peace and harmony," he said.

The minister said time has come when the people of different faiths and beliefs live with peace and prosperity.

The unity in diversity as envisaged in 'Azadi ka Amrit Mohotsav', the celebration of India's 75th year of independence, initiative is the only unifying factor for a strong nation, he said.

The Union minister, accompanied by top functionaries, was on a two-day visit to Baramulla district as part of Union government's special public outreach programme which also aims to collect feedbacks of different stakeholders after listening to their developmental aspirations and other concerns.

Sonowal met scores of delegations who apprised him about their demands and grievances.

Representatives of different political parties called on the minister and highlighted several demands and grievances pertaining to socioeconomic development of the society including the upgradation of basic infrastructure in AYUSH institutions, development of waterways wherever possible, amongst others.

Sonowal gave a patient hearing and expressed happiness over the meeting held with the delegations.

He said the Union government has a good dream for development of Jammu and Kashmir, adding that the present outreach programme has been initiated by the government to know the basic problems of the people at the ground.

He assured that the demands and grievances projected by the delegations have been taken note of and the same would be put up with government at Union level as well as with Lieutenant Governor for their timely redressal.

Impressed with the positive and cooperative attitude of the cross-sections of people, the minister said everyone has to play their part for boosting the development tempo.

He congratulated the Panchayati Raj Institutions for the successful establishment of three-tier system of governance. He said the three-tier system of government was available to the people of Jammu and Kashmir first time in the history of independence.

The transit camp, having the accommodation facility for about 337 families, shall be constructed at an estimated cost of Rs 4,032 lakh with a cost of Rs 12 lakh on each flat. About 50 kanals of land has been acquired for the purpose.

GST Council extends...

and others," Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said.

Revenue Secretary Tarun Bajaj added, "There is no extra tax, there is no new tax."

"The tax was payable by restaurants, now instead of restaurants, the tax will be payable by aggregators which will also... prevent revenue leakage," he said.

In other major decisions, the regime of paying compensation to states for revenue shortfall resulting from subsuming their taxes such as VAT in the uniform national tax GST, will end in June next year.

However, the cess which is currently levied on top of the GST rate on certain luxury and sin goods to fund the compensation amount for states will continue to be levied till March 2026. The collections will be used to pay off the borrowings that had to be done since 2020-21 to pay for state compensation.

Briefing reporters on the decisions taken by the Council at its meeting here, Sitharaman said COVID medicines such as Remdesivir and Tocilizumab will continue to be charged a concessional GST rate till December 31.

More COVID-19 treatment drugs such as Favipiravir will be charged a reduced rate of 5 per cent till December 31, she said.

However, the concessional tax for medical equipment will end on September 30.

The panel also decided to continue keeping petrol and diesel out of the GST purview as subsuming the current excise duty and VAT into one national rate would impact revenues.

Including petrol and diesel under GST would have resulted in a reduction in near record-high rates.

Sitharaman said the Council discussed the issue only because the Kerala High Court had asked it to do so but felt it was not the right time to include petroleum products under GST.

"It will be reported to the High Court of Kerala that it was discussed and the GST Council felt that it wasn't the time to bring the petroleum products into the GST," she said.

GST on import of muscular atrophy drugs like Zolgensma and Viltepso, which cost crores of rupees, has been exempt, she said.

The medicine Keytruda, used for the treatment of cancer, will now attract a lower 5 per cent tax as against 12 per cent previously.

Also, the Council cut GST rate on fortified rice kernels to 5 per cent from 18 per cent and on bio-diesel in diesel to 5 per cent from 12 per cent, while national permit fee for goods carriage has been exempt from GST.

GST on ores and concentrates of metals such as iron, copper, aluminum and zinc has been increased from 5 per cent to 18 per cent and that on specified renewable energy devices and parts from 5 per cent to 12 per cent.

Cartons, boxes, bags and packing containers of paper will now attract a uniform 18 per

cent tax in place of 12 per cent and 18 per cent rates. Waste and scrap of polyurethanes and other plastics will also see tax going up to 18 per cent from 5 per cent currently.

All kinds of pens will be charged 18 per cent rate, while miscellaneous goods of paper like cards, catalogue and printed material will see GST increasing to 18 per cent from 12 per cent.

Sitharaman said 12 per cent IGST on import of medicines Zolgensma for spinal muscular atrophy and Viltepso for Duch