

## Morning News Script

0730 hrs

19th July 2024.

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The government said that the UNICEF report which highlights that India has a high number of zero-dose children depicts an incomplete picture of the country's immunization data. In a statement, the Union Health Ministry yesterday said the media reports claiming India has a high number of 'zero-dose children'-children who did not receive any vaccine, do not factor in the population base and immunization coverage of the countries compared. The Ministry added that the reports present a flawed comparison with countries without considering India's population and high vaccination coverage. It emphasized that the accurate and complete narrative of the immunization efforts of the government can be gauged through a comprehensive understanding of the relative data and programmatic interventions. The Ministry highlighted that, as a percentage of the total population, zero-dose children account for 0.11 percent of the country's total population. It observed that due to India's large population size, it has the highest number of vaccinated children across countries.

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Union Minority Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju yesterday inaugurated the Lok Samvardhan Parv in New Delhi. The Lok Samvardhan Parv is being organized under the 100-day action plan of the Union government to showcase schemes, programs, and achievements of the Ministry from the 16th to the 31st of this month. The event promotes crafts, products, art, and India's rich cultural traditions from all over the country. Speaking on the occasion, Rijiju said the festival is organized to empower common people. He mentioned that the ministry is committed to the welfare of all minority communities and to integrating them into the mainstream.

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National Highways Authority of India, NHAI will charge double toll from vehicles with Non-affixed FASTag on front windshield. The authority said that deliberate non-affixation of FASTag on the windscreen leads to unnecessary delays at the toll plazas causing inconvenience to the National Highway users. It said, detailed Standard Operating Procedures have been issued to all User Fee Collection Agencies and Concessionaires to charge double user fees in case of non-affixation of FASTag on the front windshield. At present, the user fee is collected for approximately 45 thousand kilometres of National Highways and

Expressways at around one thousand Toll Plazas across the country. With a penetration rate of around 98 percent and over eight crore users, FASTag has revolutionized the Electronic Toll Collection system in the country.

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Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Minister Jitan Ram Manjhi has said that the empowerment of rural entrepreneurs is the key to ensuring holistic growth of the MSME Sector. Manjhi said this while inaugurating the New Skill Development Training Programme in New Delhi. These programmes are meticulously designed to equip entrepreneurs with the necessary skills and knowledge to thrive in their respective fields. The Minister said, the MSME Sector is the backbone of the Indian economy.

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The CBI has arrested all four students of AIIMS, Patna in connection with the NEET-UG entrance exam paper leak case. After marathon interrogation, the CBI has formally arrested four medical students identified as Karan Jain, Kumar Sanu, Rahul Anand and Chandan Singh. Three of them are students of MBBS third year and the fourth one is studying in the second year. According to CBI sources they had allegedly solved papers for the main accused Pankaj Singh who procured the papers ahead of examination through an organized criminal gang.

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A meeting of the District Tuberculosis (TB) forum, Longleng was held at DC conference hall yesterday. Deputy Commissioner and chairman District Health Society Longleng, Dharam Raj, in his short speech congratulated DTO and his team for the activities taken up by NTEP in the district, He encourage all the NGOs and Wards representative to give proper awareness and disseminate the information to the people in the far flung villagers to avail the service from the DOT center. The DC also requested the public to be aware that the medicines are provided free of cost for the complete full course. DTO, Longleng Dr. Temsusashi also spoke on the policy of the Government in implementing a national strategic plan to end Tuberculosis by 2025.

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