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PM Narendra Modi to release 125 rupee coin

Nishitha Rachel

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be releasing a 125 rupees coin on Thursday, September 1, to mark the 125th birth anniversary of Acharya Bhaktivedanta Swami, the founder of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON).

Twitter was abuzz with wishes for the acharya-founder of ISKCON, on his 125th birth anniversary. Bhaktivedanta Swami, a Kolkata-born spiritual leader founded ISKCON which is also known as the "Hare Krishna movement" in 1965. Nearly 100 temples, ashrams, and farmhouses are believed to be established by him across many western countries. He also established New Vrindaban Temple in West Virginia, in 1968.

The Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi is said to be a part of the special tribute. He tweeted: "At 4:30 PM today, a special tribute shall be paid to Srila Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada Ji, who made pioneering contributions to popularise the teachings of Bhagwan Shri Krishna through ISKCON. To mark his 125th Jayanti, a special commemorative coin would be released." The Union minister of culture is also said to be present at the occasion.

US-Taliban hold a secret meeting

CJ Rahul

The U.S military negotiated a secret arrangement with the Taliban leader that resulted in members of the militant group escorting clusters of Americans to the gates of Hamid Karzai International Airport as they sought to escape the country.

Americans were notified to gather at pre-set assembly points close to the airport where the Taliban soldiers would check IDs and take them to a short distance gate manned by American forces who were awaiting departure, said the officials.

The US troops were able to see the American citizens approach with their Taliban escorts as they progressed



Representational Image

Getty images

through the crowds. The ISIS terror group claimed answerable for a suicide attack at the gate to Kabul airport last week that killed 13 American service members and more than 170 Afghans.

The officials expressed apprehensions regarding the

Taliban's militant reaction to publicity and the threat from ISIS-K or Daesh if they realized Americans were being escorted in groups.

The US had various military and diplomatic contacts with the Taliban for years through political meetings and deconfliction efforts. But the

secret evacuation arrangement between the militant group and the US forces reflects an unprecedented level of tactical coordination. While it's not known whether there is any connection, CIA Director William Burns paid a highly unusual visit last

week to Kabul, where he met with Taliban leader Abdul Ghani, as the Biden administration struggled to get airlift operations running smoothly.

Throughout the evacuation, Biden administration officials stressed that the Taliban were cooperating. Senior officials repeatedly emphasized that the militant group had committed to providing safe passage for Americans. As of Monday, when the US completed its withdrawal, more than 122,000 people in total had been airlifted from Hamid Karzai International Airport since July and more than 6,000 American civilians evacuated.

Special forces set up their own secret gate at the Hamid Karzai airport

Poshan month: Sep 2021

Ahana Bagchi

Nutri-fruit saplings were planted at Mahila Evam Bal Sashaktikaran Van, by the Women and Child Development (WCD) Ministers of all States and UTs to promote plantation of Poshan Vatikas / Nutri-gardens all over the country.

September will be observed as Poshan Maah (Nutrition Month). Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani, Union Minister for Women and Child Development urged all the



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State governments to participate wholeheartedly in it and decide on their own targets for developing Poshan Vatikas; carrying out drives for identification and follow-up treatment of children in consonance with streamlined guidelines of January 13, 2021.

"First week of #POSHANMaah2021 will be dedicated to augmenting plantation activity 'POSHAN Vatika' in convergence with Ministries including @moayush, @MoRD_GOI, @EduMinOfIndia, @AgriGoI." Irani tweeted on September 1.

Record high of 1.33 crore vaccine doses administered in India

Aamir Sohail

The country has registered a national record high of 1.33 crore COVID-19 vaccine doses administered on 31 August. The figure was announced by the Government of India as of 7 am today and was previously reported as 1.04 crore doses administered. This is the second time India has broken the record in the span of five days.

Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya lauded the achievement in a tweet along with Karnataka State Minister for Transport and Tribal Welfare B Sriramulu who tweeted, "This is the best performance of the drive in one single day. Let us all work with the union govt, led by Hon'ble @PMOIndia Sri @narendramodi ji, to increase

the figure, to rid the country of the pandemic."

The cumulative total has now reached more than 65 crore doses administered in more than 69 lakh sessions. The active caseload is presently 3,78,181. Active cases presently constitute 1.15% of the country's total positive cases. More than 16 lakh tests were conducted in the last 24 hours. India has so far conducted over 52.31 crore cumulative tests.

The daily positivity rate stands at 2.61%. The daily positivity rate has remained below 5% for 86 consecutive days.

In the last 24 hours, 33,964 patients recovered from COVID-19 which makes the cumulative tally of recovered patients to 3.19 crore. Consequently, India's recovery rate stands at 97.51%.

Free bus travel for students : TN government

Anjitha Eldho

As schools reopen, students from Tamil Nadu are elated with the Tamil Nadu Government's order that students can now travel in government buses for free by showing their identity cards from September 1 onwards. The same goes for students wearing uniforms until they receive free bus passes.

RS Rajakannappan, the state Transport Minister, announced this in a statement released earlier this week.

"My school is a bit far from my home, my parents are also working so I will have to



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go alone. Sometimes I won't even have time to eat breakfast since I have to leave early. But I am really glad that this new policy has

been formed. I can now use the money to buy me some snacks," said Catherin. A, an eighth-grader from Tamil Nadu.

While appreciating the TN government, Minnu Shaji, an engineering student from Mar Baselios Institute of Technology and Science in Kerala, said about the hapless students in Kerala. "I have to travel for almost one hour to my college. With the ongoing pandemic and bus rates increasing, it would be really helpful if such a decision is taken here in Kerala too," she added.

"It can be applicable for both school and college students in the state and thereby reduce financial burden," said Parvathi Ajith, another Kerala student.



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