

## **INDIA STATES TIMES NEWS DESK**

### **NATIONAL**

- India has reported 15,968 new COVID-19 cases and 202 more deaths in the last 24 hours, according to the Union Health Ministry.
- The government on Tuesday said that vaccine recipients will not be given a choice on which COVID-19 vaccine to take, Serum Institute of India's Covishield or Bharat Biotech's Covaxin.
- The Army has decided to induct women as pilots in its aviation wing and the first batch is likely to begin training in July.
- Air quality in the national capital deteriorated on Wednesday morning to 'very poor' category with the hourly average air quality index (AQI) at 7 am reaching 340.
- Amid the farmers' protests in India, Mathura BJP MP Hema Malini on Tuesday said, "The farmers don't even know what they want and what is the problem with the farm laws, which shows that they're doing this because someone asked them to do it."
- Noida-based entrepreneur Mohit Goel, who started the company Ringing Bells and offered 'Freedom 251' mobile phones for ₹251, has been arrested by Noida Police. Goel allegedly defrauded traders dealing in dry fruits to the tune of ₹200 crore.
- A 21-year-old Jammu and Kashmir woman has started driving an auto-rickshaw to support her father. "My father was a school bus driver, but he lost his job...due to COVID-19.
- The first consignment of Serum Institute of India's COVID-19 vaccine Covishield arrived in Mumbai on Wednesday morning.
- IndiGo's 42-year-old airport manager in Patna, Rupesh Kumar Singh, was shot dead by unidentified gunmen outside his home on Tuesday evening when he returned from work.
- Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik on Tuesday announced the state government will not charge any fee from students appearing for the Matriculation examination or Class 10 board exams conducted by the Board of Secondary Education. "
- Bharat Biotech on Tuesday said it has signed an agreement with Precisa Medicamentos for supplying its COVID-19 vaccine Covaxin to Brazil.
- Speaking about international cooperation in combating terrorism at UNSC, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said, "We, in India, have seen crime syndicate responsible for the 1993 Mumbai bomb blasts not just given state protection but enjoying five-star hospitality."
- Maharashtra has received 9.63 lakh Covishield vaccine doses from Pune's Serum Institute of India, state Immunisation Officer DN Patil said.



- Serum Institute of India (SII) is making 7-8 crore doses of Covishield vaccine every month, CEO Adar Poonawalla said.
- Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan on Tuesday said that Bharat Biotech is providing 16.5 lakh doses of Covaxin free of cost to the Central govt as a special gesture.

## INTERNATIONAL

- Congressional Democrats introduced their resolution to impeach him, US President Donald Trump said it's the "continuation of the greatest witch hunt in the history of politics".
- South Korean police are on the hunt for a female casino executive who disappeared after her employer discovered \$13 million (over ₹95 crore) in cash missing from the resort's coffers.
- US lawmaker Pramila Jayapal has said she tested positive for coronavirus after being locked down in a room with Republican lawmakers who refused to wear masks during last week's riot at the Capitol.
- Indonesian President Joko Widodo on Wednesday became the first person in the country to receive a coronavirus vaccine, thereby kickstarting the vaccination drive in Indonesia.
- Palestinian Authority has approved the emergency use of Russia's Sputnik V COVID-19 vaccine in Palestinian self-ruled territory, Russian Direct Investment Fund (RDIF) said.
- After the US Capitol violence, the use of facial recognition tools among local law enforcement has reportedly increased as they seek to identify the perpetrators.
- US President Donald Trump on Tuesday said that the Big Tech has committed a "terrible mistake" by banning him from social media platforms.
- German police have taken down a darknet marketplace, the DarkMarket, which is suspected to be the world's largest.
- Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu on Tuesday changed his Twitter cover photo with US President Donald Trump and replaced it with another picture showing him being vaccinated against COVID-19.
- Google, Facebook and Microsoft said that they are temporarily suspending all political donations to both the Democratic and Republican party in the US.
- Facebook COO Sheryl Sandberg has said that Facebook has no plans to lift the ban it has placed on US President Donald Trump's accounts for an indefinite period.
- A US-based programmer, Stefan Thomas, has two attempts left to guess the password of his hard drive, which contains private keys to his digital wallet with bitcoins worth ₹1,715 crore.

