

## **INDIA STATES TIMES NEWS DESK**

### **NATIONAL**

- BJP leader Kalsingh Bhabar on Tuesday asked Congress MLA Kantilal Bhuria to apologise for alleging that BJP leaders were drinking alcohol from the donation money for the Ram Temple construction.
- West Bengal Education Minister Partha Chatterjee on Tuesday announced that schools for classes 9 to 12 will reopen from February 12. Chatterjee said the consent of parents would be mandatory for attending physical classes.
- Residents of Dhulijan village in Assam's Tinsukia on Sunday wore white clothes and conducted 'shradh' ceremony for 36 vultures that had died last month due to poisoning.
- Delhi Police has asked Director Generals of Police (DGP) of Punjab and Haryana to stop farmers at their locations and prevent them from entering the national capital.
- As many as 340 people have died while cleaning sewers in the last five years, the Social Justice and Empowerment Ministry said.
- Karnataka government is considering to introduce a blanket ban on hookah bars in the state, Home Minister Basavaraj Bommai said in the state assembly .
- Uttarakhand's Devalsari region is likely to be declared as the state's first biodiversity heritage site, officials said .
- Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) spent only 48% of its allocated budget for 2020-21 on various development projects.
- Tata Consumer Products has signed a definitive agreement to acquire 100% stake in Kottaram Agro Foods for cash consideration of ₹155.8 crore, the company said.
- Future Retail on Tuesday rejected Delhi High Court's proposal for entering into talks with Amazon to find an amicable resolution.
- Indian equity benchmark Sensex rose by 1,197 points and closed at 49,797.72, a day after it soared over 1,600 points post FM Nirmala Sitharaman's Budget.
- India's largest mortgage financier HDFC's profit fell by 65% to ₹2,926 crore in the third quarter from ₹8,372 crore in the year-ago period.
- Minister of State for Finance Anurag Thakur on Tuesday said non-performing assets (NPAs) or bad loans of the banking sector came down from ₹10.36 lakh crore in March 2018 to ₹8.08 lakh crore in September 2020.

- The Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency has said pets including cats and dogs must be tested for COVID-19 if they show symptoms.
- The world's second-richest person Jeff Bezos has announced that he will step down as CEO of Amazon, the e-commerce and cloud services giant he founded 27 years ago.
- Captain Tom Moore, the British World War Two veteran who raised £38.9 million for health service workers on the frontline of the fight against coronavirus, has died aged 100.
- Breast cancer has overtaken lung cancer as the most common form of cancer, WHO said .
- A 41-year-old man has been arrested in Virginia for allegedly peeping into a women's changing room in a gym after he fell down from the ceiling of the room. Stafford County Sheriff's Office said he fell ten feet into the room and landed straight on a woman present in the room.
- Steven Brandenburg, the American pharmacist, who allegedly destroyed 570 doses of Moderna's coronavirus vaccine in Wisconsin, believes the Earth is flat and the sky is not real, according to court documents.
- A Moscow court has ordered Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny to nearly 3 years in prison on charges that he violated terms of his probation while recuperating in Germany from nerve-agent poisoning.
- More Americans have received at least one dose of a coronavirus vaccine than the total number of COVID-19 cases reported in the US.
- Over 80 suspected members of a criminal group have been arrested for manufacturing and selling fake COVID-19 vaccines in China and to other nations.
- South African President Cyril Ramaphosa said that South Africa will nominate "Cuban Medical Brigade" for this year's Nobel Peace Prize for their help in the fight against COVID-19 pandemic.
- Russia's Sputnik V coronavirus vaccine is 91.6% effective against COVID-19, according to results of a late-stage clinical trial published in The Lancet medical journal .
- A WHO-led team investigating the origins of COVID-19 on Wednesday visited a laboratory, the Institute of Virology, in China's Wuhan city that American officials suggested could've been the source of outbreak.
- Japan has extended the state of emergency covering Tokyo and 9 other areas until March 7.
- Iran has said that the crew of a South Korean tanker it seized last month for "causing environmental pollution" will be allowed to leave the country.