

INDIA STATES TIMES NEWS DESK

NATIONAL

- Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan has said that six COVID-19 vaccine candidates are in different clinical trial stages in India while three COVID-19 vaccine candidates are in the pre-clinical stage.
- The weight of the school bag should be 10% of the body weight of the student carrying it, according to one of the suggestions of the School Bag Policy 2020 prepared by the Education Ministry.
- Over 90% beds in government-run COVID-19 hospitals in Telangana remain vacant as the number of infected people continued to decline, officials said. Of the 8,561 beds in 61 government hospitals treating COVID-19 patients, 7,803 beds were vacant .
- India has reported 32,080 new patients of coronavirus disease in the last 24 hours, taking the total number of cases to 97,35,850.
- Bhartiya Kisan Union's Spokesperson Rakesh Tikait has said that the meeting between Home Minister Amit Shah and farmer leaders on Tuesday evening was positive.
- Two unidentified terrorists were killed in an encounter that broke out at Tiken area of Pulwama on Wednesday, said Jammu and Kashmir Police. The encounter started in the wee hours of Wednesday in the Tiken area of Pulwama.
- Army Chief General MM Naravane on Tuesday left for a six-day tour of the UAE and Saudi Arabia. The Army stated that the visit "is historic in the sense that it will be the first time an Indian Army Chief is visiting the UAE and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.
- Tripura CM Biplab Deb on Tuesday asked people of the state to gather at Astabal Grounds in Agartala on December 13 and give their mandate on whether he should stay at the top post.
- Bengaluru Police have received seven portable cabins, complete with a meeting area, four bunker beds, a kitchen and a washroom, placed across strategic locations in the city.
- Following a meeting over COVID-19 vaccination, an 18-member task force has been formed to look into vaccination programme in Pune
- China's State Post Bureau has cancelled its plan to jointly launch commemorative stamps with India.
- Bharti Airtel CEO Gopal Vittal said that the idea to develop an India-specific 5G standard is an existential threat and will lock the country out of global ecosystem.
- Enforcement Directorate has told a PMLA court that cleaner, office boy and gardener were appointed as "dummy directors" of the firm used for alleged money laundering in ICICI-Videocon loan case.

INTERNATIONAL

- US President Donald Trump compared presidential election in the US to that of a "third world country", reiterating his claims about voter fraud.
- WHO spokesperson Dr Margaret Harris has said that vaccines are a great tool but the "effect of the vaccine in providing some kind of immune barrier is still far off".
- In 1954, the Survey of India had estimated Mount Everest's height to be 8,848 metres (29,028 feet) which was widely accepted. An Italian survey in 1987 determined 8,872 metres as its height.
- Thieves broke into Russia's Ilyushin Il-80 'doomsday plane' and stole 39 units of electronic equipment and five radio station boards, news agency Interfax reported citing a source.
- US President-elect Joe Biden on Tuesday pledged to distribute 100 million coronavirus vaccines during the first 100 days of his presidency.
- The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has said that Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine's efficacy and safety data met its expectations for emergency use authorisation.
- Dr Nick Hart, one of the doctors who treated UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson after the leader contracted coronavirus has himself tested positive for the virus, according to London's Guy's and St Thomas' Hospital.
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- US and Mexican authorities said the use of Bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies to launder money is particularly increasing among Mexican and Colombian drug gangs.
- Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg threatened to hold back investments in the UK over the government's "anti-tech" attitude in a 2018 meeting with UK's then digital minister Matt Hancock, documents obtained by The Bureau of Investigative Journalism revealed.
- India on Tuesday donated the fourth and final tranche of over ₹22 crore to complete the construction of Palestine-India Techno Park.
- Hundreds protested in Armenia on Tuesday after PM Nikol Pashinyan ignored a deadline set by the opposition to step down over a ceasefire deal struck with Azerbaijan last month.
- Elon Musk-led Tesla on Tuesday announced that it will be raising \$5 billion, marking its second capital raise in the last three months.