

## **INDIA STATES TIMES NEWS DESK**

### **NATIONAL**

- PM Narendra Modi on Monday announced an ex-gratia of ₹2 lakh from PM's National Relief Fund (PMNRF) for each of the next of kin of those who lost their lives in the hospital fire in Maharashtra's Bhandara.
- North Delhi Municipal Corporation (NDMC) Mayor Jai Prakash has said that ward public health inspectors will visit restaurants and request them not to sell roasted chicken amid bird flu scare.
- National High Speed Rail Corporation Limited (NHSRCL) has launched an aerial LiDAR (light detection and ranging) survey for the 865-km Delhi-Varanasi bullet train corridor from Uttar Pradesh's Greater Noida.
- A 31-year-old man last week succumbed to injuries he sustained after the bike he was riding fell into a pit dug up for an underpass that is being built along the border on the Gurugram-Delhi Expressway.
- Three trucks with the first doses of the Covishield vaccine left Serum Institute of India's facility in Pune to the airport for distribution on early Tuesday morning.
- Serum Institute of India (SII) has signed a contract with the Centre for supplying 1.1 crore doses of Covishield vaccine, Chairman of the Poonawalla group that includes SII.
- Maharashtra's Bhandara District General Hospital, where 10 newborns died in a fire, had been operating without the mandatory no-objection certificate (NOC) from the local fire department since its inception in 1981.
- One of the owners of Mumbai's famous 'Muchhad Paanwala', Ramkumar Tiwari, was arrested by NCB following questioning in connection with a drugs case.
- Bird flu has been confirmed in nine states and one Union Territory so far, with Uttarakhand being the latest state, the government said.
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- Renowned astrophysicist Professor Shashikumar Madhusudan Chitre passed away on January 11 aged 84. "He will be remembered for his work in astrophysics and subjects like solar physics, gravitational lensing and science education," PM said as he condoled Chitre's passing away.
- The Tamil Nadu State Transport Corporation (TNSTC) will operate 16,221 buses between January 11 and 13 across the state, to facilitate transportation for Pongal festival, according to a press release.



- Following the bird flu outbreak in several states, Goa government has banned the entry of poultry from neighbouring states as a precautionary measure.
- Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan on Monday announced that the cinema theatres in the state have been exempted from paying entertainment tax from January to March this year.
- Benchmark indices opened at record high levels on Monday with the Sensex crossing the 49,000-mark for the first time, on the back of favourable global cues.

## **INTERNATIONAL**

- Vogue magazine got involved in a "whitewashing" controversy after it tweeted pictures of its February cover star, US Vice President-elect Kamala Harris.
- Congressional Democrats have formally introduced their resolution to impeach US President Trump, charging him with "incitement of insurrection" for his role in last week's Capitol attack.
- Men wearing traditional loin clothes and women dressed in white robes took an ice water bath during the annual Shinto ritual at a Tokyo shrine 'to purify soul and pray for the end of COVID-19 pandemic'.
- US President-elect Joe Biden has nominated career diplomat William Burns as head of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).
- Indonesian navy shared an underwater footage of the debris of the Indonesian plane that crashed with 62 passengers onboard last week.
- Russia on Monday said that 15 lakh people across the world have received its Sputnik V coronavirus vaccine.
- Madrid residents took part in mass snowball fights over the weekend after Spain was hit by the worst snowstorm in 50 years on Friday.
- In wake of new contagious variants of COVID-19 virus, New Zealand will ask international travellers from most countries to show negative COVID-19 test results before boarding flights to the country.
- The San Francisco police department is preparing for a possible protest by US President Donald Trump's supporters at Twitter headquarters.
- Armed men on Sunday killed six rangers and injured another in Virunga National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage site located in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).
- The Reserve Bank of New Zealand on Sunday said it was responding with urgency to a breach of one of its data systems.

