

INDIA STATES TIMES NEWS DESK

NATIONAL

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched the pan India rollout of COVID-19 vaccination drive, which is the world's largest vaccination programme.
- India's first coronavirus vaccine shot was administered to Manish Kumar, a sanitation worker, at AIIMS Delhi today in the presence of Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan.
- India reported 15,158 fresh COVID-19 cases in the last 24 hours, taking the total number of cases in the country to 1,05,42,841, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare stated.
- Tata Motors Electric Mobility, a division of Tata Motors, on Friday tweeted, "Aajkal tere mere pyaar ke charche har akhbaar mein, sabko malum hai aur sabko khabar ho gayi!", while tagging Elon Musk and Tesla, amid rumours of a joint venture between the two.
- Around 80 flights originating from and over 50 flights bound to Delhi airport have been delayed. Airport officials said that this is mainly due to dense fog and other operational reasons.
- Indian Army Chief General MM Naravane said on Friday that around 300-400 Pakistan-trained terrorists are waiting across Line of Control (LoC) to infiltrate into Jammu and Kashmir.
- Baldev Singh Sirsa, leader of a protesting farmers' union, has been summoned by National Investigation Agency regarding case against Gurpatwant Singh Pannu, a leader of outlawed Sikhs for Justice.
- India captain Virat Kohli took to Twitter to condole the demise of Himanshu Pandya, the father of Hardik Pandya and Krunal Pandya. The Ahmedabad Cyber Crime Cell on Friday arrested a 23-year-old resident of Vadodara for allegedly stealing 600 crore online chips of an online Poker mobile game player.
- Railways Ministry has quashed reports about extra fares being charged by Railways as "misleading and not based on all facts".
- Use of regional languages in Rajya Sabha proceedings has increased over five times between 2018 and 2020, the Upper House said on Saturday.
- Telecom operator Bharti Airtel has divested 6,824 equity shares in Seynse Technologies, that was held through its wholly-owned subsidiary Nettle Infrastructure Investments.
- Income Tax Department conducted searches on 19 premises in Hyderabad between January 7 and January 12 and found tax evasion to the tune of ₹160 crore by Telangana civil contractors.
- The lenders rejected the resolution plan submitted by Haldiram Snacks, National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) has ordered the liquidation of dairy and allied products firm Kwality Limited.

- The overall merchandise exports declined by nearly 18%, India's pharmaceutical exports jumped 16% year-on-year to \$15.3 billion during the first eight months of the ongoing fiscal, Commerce Ministry data showed.

INTERNATIONAL

- The world's fourth-richest person, Bill Gates, has become the largest owner of farmland in the US.
- A Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) plane has been impounded by Malaysian authorities due to a \$14 million dispute over its lease in a British court.
- US Secret Service has been paying \$3,000/month since 2017 for an apartment near Ivanka Trump and Jared Kushner's home in Washington to provide toilet facilities to agents protecting the couple.
- Netherlands PM Mark Rutte's government resigned on Friday after thousands of families were wrongly accused of child welfare fraud and told to repay the money.
- Michael Ryan, director of World Health Organization's health emergencies programme, on Friday said that WHO has not ruled out the possibility of introducing immunisation passports for international travel, if the situation with COVID-19 changes.
- The total cases of coronavirus in Germany crossed 20 lakh-mark as 22,368 people tested positive on Friday, Robert Koch Institute data showed.
- International students have urged Australian lawmakers in an official petition to exempt them from border closures citing "bad quality" online lessons and lack of schooling for some students.
- The death toll from coronavirus across the world rose to over 20 lakh, according to Johns Hopkins University tracker.
- UK PM Boris Johnson said that the country would close all travel corridors from Monday to "protect against the risk of as yet unidentified new strains".
- US Olympic swimming gold medallist Klete Keller, who was arrested after being charged for participating in the attack on US Capitol by President Donald Trump supporters, has been released from federal custody.
- Bitcoin payments worth more than \$500,000 were made to 22 different virtual wallets, most of them belonging to far-right activists and internet personalities in the US, before the US Capitol violence, cryptocurrency compliance startup Chainalysis said .
- The Saudi-led coalition fighting Houthis in Yemen said it had intercepted and destroyed three explosive-laden drones launched by Iran-aligned Houthi movement towards Saudi Arabia.