

INDIA STATES TIMES NEWS DESK

NATIONAL

- The air quality in Delhi deteriorated to the 'severe' category on Saturday morning with the overall Air Quality Index (AQI) at 451, according to data from the Central Pollution Control Board.
- Parts of Delhi, Haryana and Chandigarh could receive rainfall in next 48-72 hours, IMD predicted on Friday. Isolated pockets of UP and Rajasthan will experience cold wave to severe cold wave conditions within next 24 hours, it said.
- Farmers' unions protesting at Delhi borders said on Friday that they will hold a tractor march on January 6 if repealing of the farm laws is not decided upon in the next round of meeting on January 4.
- Delhi-based Shakti Bhog Foods Limited, which sells packaged wheat flour and other items, was booked by CBI for allegedly cheating a consortium of 10 banks led by SBI of ₹3,269 crore. CBI booked MD Kewal Krishan Kumar and other Directors Siddharth Kumar and Sunanda Kumar.
- The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) will on Saturday launch a housing scheme for the sale of 1,354 flats. Of the total number of flats, 230 are High-Income Group (HIG) category flats in Dwarka and Vasant Kunj, and 704 are Middle-Income Group (MIG) category flats in Jasola and Dwarka.
- Addressing the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) force at Joshimath border on New Year's Eve, ITBP Director General SS Deswal said that the entire nation is grateful for their commitment and dedication towards duty.
- The government has invited bids to develop a chatbot or voice assistance application for the government services-offering UMANG app, request document showed.
- IPS officer D Roopa, Karnataka's first woman Home Secretary, has been transferred to Karnataka State Handicrafts Development Corporation as its managing director.
- Cinema halls and theatres in Kerala will reopen from January 5 with 50% seating capacity, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan announced on Friday.
- A school student in Rudrapur told the police he took to robbery because his father was unable to deposit his school fees following a salary cut amid the pandemic, the Uttarakhand police said.
- International passengers arriving at Delhi's IGI Airport on Thursday were welcomed with a "Corona Kit" and a bouquet of flowers.
- WiFi facility has been introduced in AC tram coaches in Kolkata to make them attractive for the youth, a WBTC official said.
- US carmaker Ford on Thursday said it is calling off its automotive joint venture with Mahindra and Mahindra due to the challenges caused by the pandemic.

- The gross Goods and Services Tax (GST) revenue collected in the month of December 2020 touched ₹1,15,174 crore, making it the highest since the introduction of GST in July 2017.

INTERNATIONAL

- The flights between India and UK, which were suspended due to concerns over new coronavirus strain, will resume from January 8, Civil Aviation Minister Hardeep Singh Puri announced .
- Forty-two people were mistakenly injected with antibodies to fight COVID-19 instead of the Moderna vaccine in US.
- The flights between India and UK, which were suspended due to concerns over new coronavirus strain, will resume from January 8, Civil Aviation Minister Hardeep Singh Puri announced on Friday.
- A former prison chef has been arrested for giving a male prisoner a chocolate bar in exchange for a sexual act in 2019 in US' Las Vegas, police said.
- Ontario's Finance Minister Rod Phillips has resigned after public outrage over a Caribbean vacation he took while the Canadian province remained under lockdown. Phillips apologised and called the travel a "dumb mistake".
- The Philippines has announced that it will ban the entry of foreign travellers who have been to the US in the last 14 days from Sunday.
- Singapore's Health Ministry said that it'll stop allowing entry to visitors who have travelled to South Africa in the last 14 days over the new coronavirus variant found in the country.
- Ontario's Finance Minister Rod Phillips has resigned after public outrage over a Caribbean vacation he took while the Canadian province remained under lockdown.
- France has detected its first case of the new coronavirus variant that emerged in South Africa, the health ministry said .
- The UK and Spain have reached a preliminary agreement to keep Gibraltar, a British Overseas Territory, a part of European Union agreements such as the Schengen Area.
- Pakistan PM Imran Khan on Friday said, "If we can learn from any one country in the world, it's China. Their development model suits Pakistan the best."
- The US Congress has voted to override President Donald Trump's veto of a defence spending bill, the first time lawmakers have done so during his presidency.
- At least 30 vehicles were set ablaze across Strasbourg, France, on New Year's eve after groups of rioters flouted an 8 pm curfew order, French Interior Ministry has said.