

## **INDIA STATES TIMES NEWS DESK**

### **NATIONAL**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has now become the most followed active politician on Twitter after the micro-blogging platform permanently suspended outgoing US President Donald Trump's account.
- Seventeen more ducks were found dead at Delhi's Sanjay Lake, prompting authorities to declare it an 'alert zone' amid a bird flu scare in different parts of the country.
- A 30-year-old man was arrested in Delhi for his involvement in theft cases from Delhi, Punjab and other parts of the country.
- After Haryana CM ML Khattar's 'Kisan Mahapanchayat' was cancelled as farm law protesters vandalised the venue in Karnal, he said with such behaviour, the protesters had "defamed farmers".
- Centre paid ₹1,364 crore to 20.48 lakh undeserving beneficiaries under PM-KISAN scheme, a reply to an RTI query by the Union Agriculture Ministry reveals.
- DRDO has developed Himtapak, a space heating device for Indian Army personnel posted in eastern Ladakh, Siachen and other high altitude areas.
- Minister of Railways Piyush Goyal has shared a video of Indian Railways carrying out maintenance work to clear track amid heavy snowfall at Srinagar station.
- Union Minister Nitin Gadkari has said a cartel is operating cement and steel industry.
- The government on Sunday said that the digital platform CoWIN shall form the foundation of COVID-19 vaccination drive in India.
- Pune Police is going to provide security during transportation of Serum Institute of India's (SII's) Covishield vaccine to at least 40 government depots across the country, Pune Police Commissioner Amitabh Gupta said
- Traders' body CAIT has written to IT Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad demanding the government must "immediately restrict" WhatsApp from implementing its new policy or put a ban on WhatsApp and Facebook.
- DMK chief MK Stalin has asked Tamil Nadu government to blacklist a Chinese company for supplying substandard laptops that were meant for free distribution to students.
- Two Indian Air Force doctors who have specialised in aerospace medicine will soon fly to Russia to get hands-on experience in space medicine for the Gaganyaan mission.
- The Kerala government is setting up a Kalaripayattu Academy in order to give a boost to the martial art form. According to the state Tourism Department, the 3,500 square feet gallery, where Kalari Asans (gurus) will conduct classes, is expected to be completed in two months.



- India's petroleum consumption fell for first time in more than two decades in 2020 amid COVID-19. Total petroleum demand declined 10.8% last year from 2019, and was at a five-year low of 193.4 million tons.
- Seven of the top 10 most valued domestic firms together added nearly ₹1.4 lakh crore in market capitalisation last week.

## INTERNATIONAL

- A new coronavirus variant was detected in four travellers from Brazil, Japan's Health Ministry said.
- The UK's 94-year-old Queen Elizabeth II and her husband 99-year-old Prince Philip have been vaccinated against coronavirus, the Buckingham Palace said.
- After US Capitol riot, several major tech platforms acted against President Donald Trump, including Twitter which banned him permanently.
- China's bottled water tycoon Zhong Shanshan, who recently overtook Warren Buffett to become the world's sixth richest person, is only \$6 billion away from surpassing Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg's net worth of \$101 billion.
- Over 960 organisations and individuals, including Google, Microsoft, Qualcomm and Boeing, have donated more than \$200 for US President-elect Joe Biden's inauguration, the Presidential Inaugural Committee said.
- The UK is vaccinating over 2 lakh people a day against coronavirus, the country's Health Secretary Matt Hancock.
- Pakistan's total coronavirus cases rose to 5,02,416 after 2,899 new cases were reported on Sunday, the country's Health Ministry said.
- Myanmar has signed an MoU with India to purchase 30 million doses of COVID-19 vaccine Covishield from the Serum Institute of India.
- The Reserve Bank of New Zealand on Sunday said it was responding with urgency to a breach of one of its data systems.
- US Senator Mark Warner has written to Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg, asking him to "preserve any and all posts" that may be associated with Wednesday's attack on US Capitol.
- Twitter has removed a post by China's US embassy claiming that Uighur women have been "emancipated" from extremism and were no longer "baby-making machines".
- The security at Germany's Bundestag (lower house of parliament) has been increased after the violence at US Capitol by President Donald Trump supporters, a report said.

