

## **INDIA STATES TIMES NEWS DESK**

### **NATIONAL**

- India's Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) has granted approval for the emergency use of Russia's Sputnik V vaccine in the country, said the Russian Direct Investment Fund.
- India has reported 1,61,736 new COVID-19 cases in the last 24 hours on Tuesday, the seventh consecutive day when the country recorded more than one lakh new cases.
- Delhi HC ruled that the number of entries to Nizamuddin Markaz cannot be capped when no such norm is imposed at other religious places.
- Out of 8,986 random COVID-19 tests at Delhi's IGI Airport, as many as 236 people have tested positive so far which is equivalent to a positivity rate of 2.6%.
- Amid the surge in COVID-19 cases, Maharashtra Tourism Minister Aaditya Thackeray virtually inaugurated two new COVID-19 centres with a collective capacity of 375 beds in Mumbai's Worli.
- Noida administration has capped the price of the RT-PCR test at ₹700, while ₹900 has been set for home collection service.
- Uber announced free rides worth ₹1 crore to and from vaccination centres for residents of Bengaluru who are eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine.
- After vaccinations at 62 private hospitals in Mumbai resumed on Monday after two days, 39,300 people received COVID-19 shots in the last 24 hours, according to BMC data.
- Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath said that the state government would neither impose a lockdown nor let the people suffer.
- Karnataka Health Minister Dr K Sudhakar said that the state is not in a position to take the extreme step of imposing lockdown amid rising COVID-19 cases.
- The Uttarakhand government has capped marriage gatherings outside containment zones to 200 people amid rising COVID-19 cases in the state. Uttarakhand Chief Secretary Om Prakash said the guests will need to abide by COVID-19 appropriate behaviour.
- Prabhat Dairy will be delisted from BSE Sensex and NSE on April 30 while trading in its shares will be discontinued from April 23, as per the exchanges.
- Partial lockdown measures in light of rising COVID-19 cases could impact the movement of labour and goods which would affect industrial production "significantly", a Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) survey showed.
- Inflation rather than the pandemic is the biggest worry for Indian equity investors, according to Chief Economist at DBS Bank, Taimur Baig.



- S&P Dow Jones Indices on Monday announced that it's removing Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone (APSEZ) from its sustainability indices, with effect from April 15, over the firm's alleged ties with Myanmar's military.
- The night curfew and the weekend restrictions put in place owing to the sharp rise in COVID-19 cases in several states impact the informal sector the most as they do "sizeable business" in the evening and on weekends, Arup Mitra, an economics professor at Delhi University, said.

## INTERNATIONAL

- WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus on Monday said, "Confusion, complacency and inconsistency in public health measures and their application are driving COVID-19 transmission and costing lives."
- China's top disease control official has said that the effectiveness of Chinese coronavirus vaccines is low and the government is considering mixing them to get a boost.
- The World Health Organization's technical lead on COVID-19 Maria Van Kerkhove on Monday said, "We are [at] a critical point of the (coronavirus) pandemic right now."
- Google Co-founders Larry Page and Sergey Brin are now worth over \$100 billion each,
- Alibaba Group's American depositary receipts climbed 9.3% in New York, their biggest jump in nearly four years, leading to an increase of \$2.3 billion in Co-founder Jack Ma's fortune.
- Microsoft is buying American AI speech tech firm Nuance Communications in an all-cash transaction valued at \$19.7 billion.
- Salesforce will allow vaccinated employees to return to some of its US offices, making it one of the first major US companies to give vaccinated workers preferential treatment.
- Facebook Chief Operating Officer (COO) Sheryl Sandberg received nearly \$1 million in bonus compensation in 2020.
- UN Secretary-General António Guterres has urged governments to consider a solidarity or wealth tax on those who profited during COVID-19 pandemic to "reduce extreme inequalities".
- Bhutan has vaccinated nearly 93% of its adult population against COVID-19 since March 27, just 16 days after vaccination began in the country. Overall, Bhutan has vaccinated 62% of its nearly 8,00,000 people.
- Taiwan said 25 Chinese air force aircraft, including fighter jets and nuclear-capable bombers, entered its air defence identification zone.

