

## **INDIA STATES TIMES NEWS DESK**

### **NATIONAL**

- 3,86,452 coronavirus cases were confirmed in India in last 24 hours, marking the world's biggest one-day jump so far and taking the total number of cases to 1,87,62,976.
- Over 2.28 crore registrations took place on CoWin portal in two days till 9:30 pm for the phase-three vaccination drive, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare said.
- Delhi Police officers helped cremate the parents of a man, all three of whom were in quarantine, in Burari.
- Traders' body, Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) on Thursday urged Delhi Lieutenant Governor (L-G) Anil Baijal and Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal to extend the lockdown till May 15.
- Maharashtra may witness third wave of COVID-19 in July-August, state Health Minister Rajesh Tope has said. "Maharashtra is trying to be self-sufficient in terms of availability of medical oxygen by then.
- Madhya Pradesh CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Thursday evening said that the vaccination drive for 18+ category wouldn't start on May 1 in the state.
- Ex-Mumbai Police Commissioner Param Bir Singh moved the Bombay HC challenging the two preliminary enquiries initiated against him by the Maharashtra government.
- COVID-19 vaccination for the age group of 18-45 will not begin from May 1 in Bengaluru and rest of Karnataka as earlier announced, Health Minister Dr Sudhakar has confirmed.
- While reporting 41% higher net profit for the March quarter of the financial year 2020-21, Hindustan Unilever (HUL) said its health, hygiene and nutrition business grew in double-digits for the third consecutive quarter.
- Bharat Biotech on Thursday announced that its COVID-19 vaccine Covaxin will be made available to states at ₹400 per dose, down from ₹600 per dose price announced by the company earlier.
- Vedanta on Thursday said its Chairman Anil Agarwal has pledged ₹150 crore to help India in its fight against COVID-19.
- Goldman Sachs has announced an additional \$10 million (around ₹74 crore) commitment to help India amid the COVID-19 crisis.
- Insurance regulator IRDAI has directed health insurers to decide on requests for cashless treatment and final discharge from hospital within one hour of receipt of the request.
- SBI Chairman Dinesh Kumar Khara said that the bank has earmarked ₹30 crore to set up makeshift COVID-19 hospitals with ICU facilities.



- Paytm has placed an order for 21,000 oxygen concentrators (OCs) which will be made available from the first week of May in India, a spokesperson said.
- BSE Sensex fell over 300 points to trade at 49,462.56 and Nifty 50 was trading just above the 14,800-mark at 10:57 am on Friday, due to weak Asian cues.

## **INTERNATIONAL**

- Singapore has dethroned New Zealand in Bloomberg's Covid Resilience Ranking in April for controlling the virus spread and rolling vaccines at one of the fastest rates in Asia.
- China said its medical suppliers are working "overtime" to supply 25,000 oxygen concentrators ordered by COVID-hit India. "Cargo planes are under plan for medical supplies.
- Tainted batches of Russia's Sputnik V COVID-19 vaccine carried a live version of a common cold-causing virus, Brazil's health regulator said.
- Billionaire investor Mark Cuban has suggested that non-fungible tokens (NFTs) for digital collectibles, smart contracts and decentralised finance could increase demand for digital currencies.
- Around 57 lakh new cases of coronavirus were reported in the world in the last seven-day period, the WHO said..
- Saudi Arabia is considering to establish its own domestic electric car maker and has hired advisers, including BCG, Bloomberg reported.
- European Investment Bank (EIB), the lending arm of the European Union, has announced that it issued its first-ever bond on the Ethereum blockchain.
- UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said the world organisation stands ready to step up its support to India as it faces second wave of COVID-19.
- The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge marked their 10th wedding anniversary on Thursday by releasing photographs.
- Pakistan's capital city of Islamabad has been put on high alert amid intelligence reports that terrorists might strike in the city.
- China has said its military activities in the Taiwan Strait were targeted at "separatists" in Taiwan.
- Pakistan's senior media editors have objected to a new directive by Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA).
- Bulgaria on Thursday announced the expulsion of a Russian diplomat after prosecutors said they suspected Russian involvement in four explosions at arms depots in Bulgaria.

