INDIA STATES TIMES NEWS DESK
NATIONAL

- India has reported 3,62,727 new COVID-19 cases and 4,120 deaths in the last 24 hours, as the country witnessed rise in daily cases for the second day.
- Some unidentified persons allegedly burgled the house of an auto-rickshaw driver and stole jewellery and around ₹25 lakh in cash when he and his wife went for COVID-19 vaccination in Delhi, police said.
- Delhi evening had 4,682 ward beds and 98 ICU beds meant for COVID-19 patients vacant for the first time in four weeks, as per the government's COVID-19 app.
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- A Delhi court dismissed the anticipatory bail plea of Delhi businessman Navneet Kalra, who owns Khan Chacha restaurant, in connection with the alleged oxygen concentrators hoarding case.
- The Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC) has decided to set up a state-of-the-art Children COVID-19 Care hospital and recruit at least 15 paediatricians to treat children who could be infected with COVID-19.
- Serum Institute of India CEO Adar Poonawalla has promised Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray to deliver 1.5 crore doses of COVID-19 vaccine Covishield to Maharashtra after May 20, state Health Minister Rajesh Tope .
- Uttarakhand government will distribute Ivermectin tablets among the residents of the state as a preventive medicine against the spread of COVID-19, a senior official said.
- A 52-year-old woman from Bihar's Muzaffarpur has been diagnosed with (black) fungus post-COVID-19, according to the Director of IGIMS Hospital in Patna, Dr N R Biswas.
- A mechanical engineer was held in Mumbai for allegedly hacking the bank account of a YouTuber and diverting ₹23.5 lakh from it, an official said.
- The country's retail inflation eased to 4.29% in the month of April from 5.52% in March due to a decline in food prices.
- Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Wednesday said that there is a need for a quick consensus at the WTO on the proposal for patent waiver on COVID-19 vaccines.
- India can have four crore 5G users in the first year when the service is made available to them, a report released by Ericsson said.
- Uber has been using around 50 Dutch shell companies to avoid paying taxes, research from Australian NGO CICTAR revealed.

- The Indian FMCG industry recorded a 9.4% growth in the January-March quarter of 2021. Data analytics firm Nielsen showed that the rural markets grew by 14.6% during the period and the metro markets registered positive growth after two quarters.
- The Union Cabinet has approved a ₹18,100-crore production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme for promoting battery storage. "It will help in the production of 50-gigawatt hour of battery storage.

INTERNATIONAL

- Bitcoin plunged as much as 17% in under two hours after Tesla CEO Elon Musk tweeted that Tesla suspended vehicle purchases using the cryptocurrency.
- European Union's second-highest court has overturned a 2017 decision from the European Commission that ordered Amazon to pay 250 million euro ($303 million) in taxes to Luxembourg.
- Wavel Ramkalawan, the President of the world's most vaccinated nation of Seychelles, has said that COVID-19 vaccines that have been administered to the nation's population are working.
- US' Ohio will award five vaccinated residents $1 million (over ₹7 crore) each in an effort to raise vaccination percentage, Governor Mike DeWine announced.
- Israel's 'Iron Dome' missile defence system is intercepting barrages of hundreds of rockets fired by Gaza's Hamas rulers and other militant groups.
- A 29-year-old man was killed after an underground World War II bomb exploded in Solomon Islands' capital Honiara.
- A former beauty queen has joined ethnic groups in the fight against Myanmar military over the coup in the country.
- A total of 57 US Congressmen have written to President Joe Biden urging him to increase America's COVID-19 support to India, which's battling second COVID-19 wave.
- The number of fatalities due to COVID-19 in US fell to an average of around 600 per day, the lowest level since July 2020.
- German Ambassador to India Walter J Lindner on Wednesday inaugurated an oxygen plant in Delhi's Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel DRDO COVID-19 Hospital.
- UK PM Boris Johnson said the coronavirus variant first detected in India is of "increasing concern" and that the country's health authorities are looking for "all potential solutions" to tackle the variant surge.
- Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan on Wednesday said the government is in touch with the Indian Embassy in Israel to ensure that the mortal remains of Soumya Santhosh are brought back and handed over to her family.