

INDIA STATES TIMES NEWS DESK**NATIONAL**

- India saw a slight dip in new COVID-19 cases as 3,37,704 people tested positive in the last 24 hours, according to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- The Omicron variant sub-lineage known as BA.2 has been designated a variant under investigation by the UK Health Security Agency.
- BJP on Friday released its second list having 85 candidates for the upcoming UP polls and fielded former Congress leader and Rae Bareilly Sadar MLA Aditi Singh from Rae Bareilly.
- Supreme Court Judge Justice L Nageswara Rao has recused himself from hearing the appeal of former Tehelka editor Tarun Tejpal's plea seeking in-camera hearing of proceedings challenging his acquittal in the 2013 rape case.
- Delhi Airport Metro Express (DAMEPL) has filed an application requesting the Delhi High Court to direct Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) to deposit ₹6,208 crore available in its various bank accounts into project escrow account.
- BharatPe's Co-founder Ashneer Grover praised Kotak Mahindra Bank's CEO Uday Kotak in a comment on a LinkedIn post about Kotak.
- India's largest energy conglomerate NTPC Ltd asked the Indian Railways to rename the Non-Technical Popular Categories (NTPC) tests organised by the Railway Recruitment Board.
- The team that helped Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman prepare the Union Budget includes Finance Secretary TV Somanathan, Revenue Secretary Tarun Bajaj and Economic Affairs Secretary Ajay Seth.
- SBI on Saturday withdrew its earlier issued circular which declared women pregnant over three months "temporarily unfit" for service at the bank.
- Asia's 20 richest families led by Mukesh Ambani's family jointly control \$495 billion wealth, more than the gross domestic product of Hong Kong or Singapore.
- Shark Tank India's Namita Thapar, the executive director of Emcure Pharmaceuticals, has revealed that everyone on the set of the show calls her 'Basanti' as she is a chatterbox
- Telecom regulator TRAI has directed telecom companies to offer at least one plan voucher, one special tariff voucher and one combo voucher with 30-day validity.



- Parliament's Budget session will not have 'Zero Hour' and 'Question Hour' on January 31 and February 1 due to the address of President Ram Nath Kovind and presentation of Union Budget 2022.
- India's exports to China have surged about 34% to \$22.9 billion in 2021 from \$17.1 billion in 2019, according to Commerce Ministry data.
- The RBI announced that it has imposed several restrictions on Lucknow-based Indian Mercantile Co-operative Bank including a cap of ₹1 lakh on withdrawals.

INTERNATIONAL

- Bhutan's PM Dr Lotay Tshering has shared an open letter to mourn the country's fourth COVID-19 death and said it was a "bitter reminder we need to do more".
- Belgium has launched its new passport that has comic characters as its design theme. The European nation seeks to honour its heritage by referencing comic books like The Adventures of Tintin, The Smurfs, Willy and Wanda and others in its passport.
- Qatar approved the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine for children aged 5 to 11 years, the Qatari Health Ministry said .
- Ten members of the outlawed Muslim Brotherhood group were sentenced to death by an Egyptian court for planning attacks on the police, the state media reporte.
- The UAE on Monday said that it intercepted a ballistic missile, the third in recent weeks, fired by Houthi rebels of Yemen. This comes amid Israel President Isaac Herzog's first visit to the UAE.
- Turkish Health Ministry said that the country reported 94,783 new daily COVID-19 cases including 174 deaths on Saturday, highest since the pandemic began.
- Amid tensions between Russia and the West over Ukraine, NATO chief Jens Stoltenburg said that Europe needs to diversify its energy supplies.
- The Taliban has told Pakistan's National Security Advisor (NSA) Moeed Yusuf that it will not allow anyone to use the Afghan soil against Afghanistan's neighbours.
- German authorities on Sunday warned of hurricane-force winds and floods as storm Nadia killed four across Northern Europe.
- Hong Kong government on Sunday said making "general remarks" about its COVID-19 strategy is not illegal and doesn't violate the national security law.
- About 1,300 flights were cancelled early Sunday in the US after a winter storm hit the northeastern part of the country, according to a flight-tracking website.

