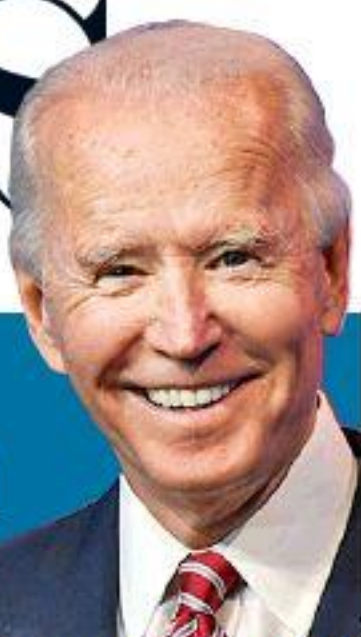




PM to Brainstorm with Economists on Budget

Economy Likely to Extend V-shaped Recovery: Finmin

Georgia Runoff Votes to Determine Senate Control



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Karnal, Chennai, Mumbai & Kolkata – locations of central depots – likely to receive the first lot of vaccines. In joint statement, SII and Bharat Biotech pledge to ensure a 'smooth rollout'

Vaccine Drive from Jan 13; SII, Bharat Bio Make Peace

New Delhi: India is set to begin its Covid-19 inoculation drive on January 13 with health secretary Rajesh Bhushan saying it will be launched 10 days from the date of emergency use authorisation of the two vaccines...

Date With the Job

SYSTEMS READY Vaccination to begin 10 days after Jan 3 emergency use authorisation Decision based on feedback from dry runs across country

AHEAD IN THE QUEUE...

10 m health-care workers | 20 m front-line workers ...FOLLOWED BY 270 m senior citizens and 50 & above with co-morbidities

No Call Yet on Indemnity Protection

The government is yet to firm up its view on indemnity protection to Covid vaccine makers against claims and lawsuits.

No Ban on Export of Covid Vaccine

India has not banned the export of Covid vaccines and none of the four ministries responsible for export regulation have put any curbs on the shipment of the recently approved vaccines...

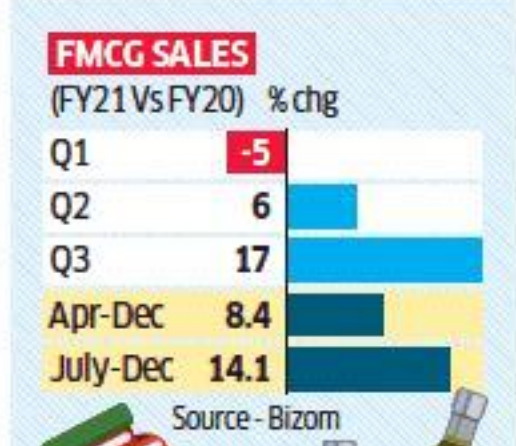
USFDA Against any Tweak in Dosage criteria

The US drug regulator has said it does not recommend any change in the dosage criteria for Covid vaccines even as several US states and countries such as the UK and Germany plan such a strategy to immunise more people...

BACK IN THE GAME?

Faster-Moving Consumer Goods: Sales up 17% in Q3

Higher demand for branded staples and commodities push sales in Dec quarter



Mumbai | New Delhi: India's fastmoving consumer goods market expanded in double digits in the quarter ended December from the year earlier, helped by higher sales of branded staples and commodities...

RBI PROBES FOR CHINKS Indian Internet Cos Under Cyberattack In the latest of a slew of cyberattacks on Indian internet companies in recent weeks, data of nine million card users was allegedly leaked in attacks on the servers of e-marketplace ClickIndia and neobank Chqbook...

PURE POLITICS

No Infirmity in Central Vista and Parliament Project Approvals: SC

A three-judge bench of the Supreme Court, in a majority ruling on Tuesday, found "no infirmity" in clearances given to the central vista redevelopment plan, giving the go-ahead to the government project that includes construction of a new Parliament building. Samanwya Rautray reports. >> 2

Budget Session Likely from Jan 29; Union Budget on Feb 1

The Cabinet Committee on Parliamentary Affairs has recommended convening of the budget session of Parliament from January 29, with presentation of Union Budget on February 1. The Economic Survey may be tabled on the same day. The session will be held till February 15. >> 2

Govt Plans to Raise Smoking Age to 21, Ban Loose Cigarettes Sale

The government plans to increase the smoking age from 18 to 21 years, ban sale of loose cigarettes, do away with designated smoking rooms at airports and restaurants, and increase penalties for flouting public smoking rules, as per a bill drafted by the health ministry. Nidhi Sharma reports. >> 3

Indian Cos Raise a Record ₹7.67 Lcr Through Local Bond Sales in 2020

Indian companies, led by RIL, HDFC Ltd and L&T, raised a record ₹7.67 lakh crore in local bond sales last year, benefiting from the lowest cost of borrowing at home and helping Mint Road achieve its stated objective of steering debt-seeking corporates away from banks. Markets: Beating Volatility >> 5

MINUTES OF 3 MEETINGS SHOW HOW BHARAT BIO GOT NOD How SEC Changed Covaxin Stance

DEC 30: SEC asks Bharat Biotech to provide efficacy data, in addition to safety & immunogenicity data JAN 1: SEC notes that efficacy is yet to be demonstrated through clinical trials, asks co to expedite phase 3 trial recruitment. Says co could perform interim efficacy analysis to consider its application

Teena Thacker @timesgroup.com New Delhi: The members of the Subject Expert Committee (SEC) of the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI), responsible for recommending vaccines for approval, changed their minds about Bharat Biotech's Covaxin over the course of meetings on three days—December 30, January 1 and January 2. Experts have criticised the approval for Covaxin, saying that it was given without adequate data.

On December 30, the SEC had asked the firm to provide efficacy data, in addition to safety, efficacy and immunogenicity data, for further consideration of its application, according to the minutes, which ET has seen. Potential to Target Mutated Strains >> 6

Airtel Moves SC Over DoT's AGR Math 'Errors'

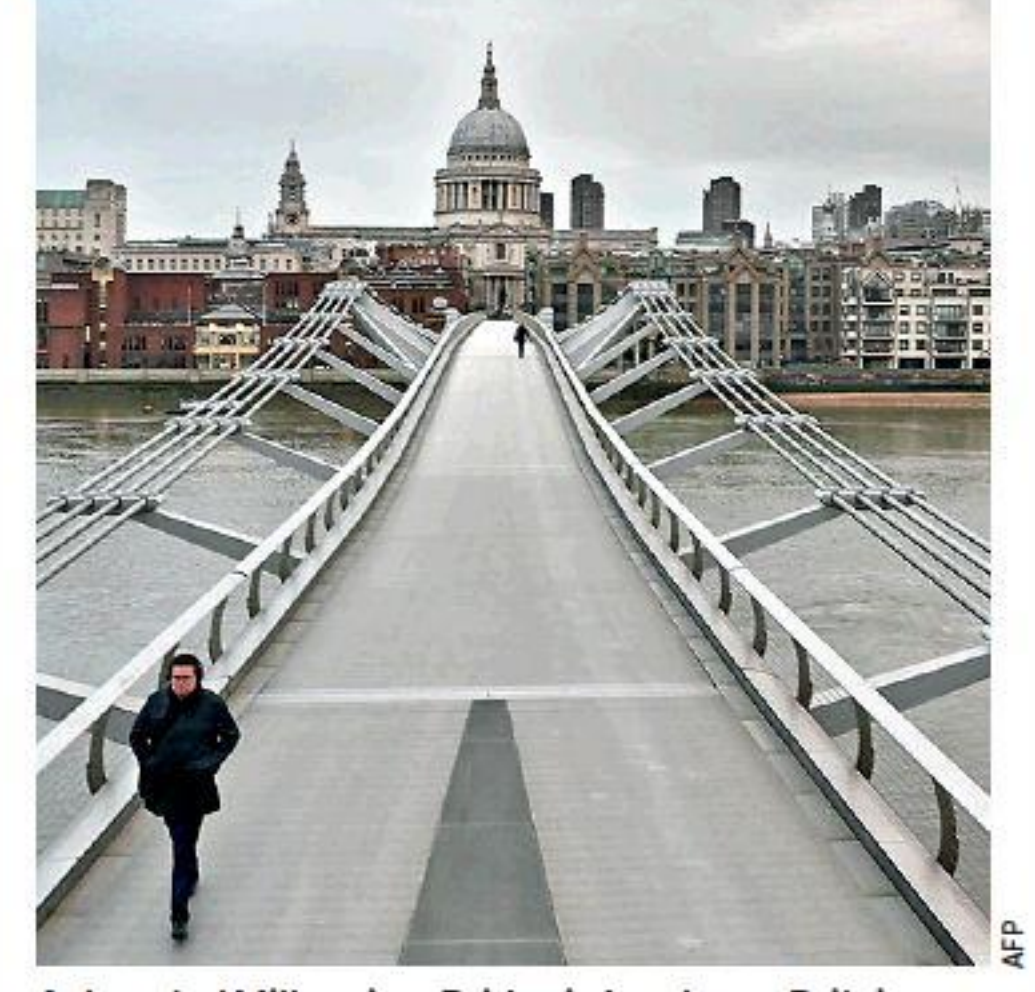
Vi may follow suit; no call taken on curative pleas yet but another legal tussle expected Devina.Sengupta@timesgroup.com

Do the Maths Airtel self-assessment ₹13,004 cr Vi's self-assessment ₹21,533 cr DOT demanding ₹44,000 cr DOT demanding ₹58,400 cr HOW MUCH MORE TO PAY? Airtel ₹25,976 cr Vi ₹50,400 cr Timeline: 10 annual instalments through March 31, 2031

Mumbai: Bharti Airtel has approached the Supreme Court, pointing out "arithmetical errors" made by the Department of Telecommunications in calculating the company's adjusted gross revenue (AGR) dues, people directly aware of the matter said.

Vodafone Idea (Vi) may follow suit in the coming days, the people said. The moves may lead to another legal tussle over an issue that had put a question mark over the viability of both telcos. "Airtel has moved the Supreme Court and Vi is expected to file a petition as well, highlighting calculation errors in AGR dues. They have raised this with the telecom department before but there has been no response from them," said one of the people.

Troubled Waters



A deserted Millennium Bridge in London as Britain enters a six-week national lockdown. >> PAGE 12 BORIS JOHNSON CANCELS R-DAY VISIT TO INDIA >> 3

Stars Ready to Light up Ad World after Covid Gloom

Bollywood celebs return to brand endorsements but fees down 25-30% from pre-Covid levels and campaigns are of shorter duration

New Delhi: Big-ticket endorsement deals are back in Bollywood with companies signing popular names after a gap of almost eight to 10 months as an improved consumption outlook and the Covid vaccine programme are fuelling positive sentiment, industry executives said. The industry appears to have overcome some of the negative perceptions in the wake of an actor's death that sparked investigations and TV which hunts, they added. Ceat Tyres has named Aamir Khan for an integrated marketing campaign created by ad agency O&M, while JSW Paints has roped in Alia Bhat and Ayushman Khurrana for its first marketing campaign. Hindustan Unilever Ltd (HUL) and Dabur both named Akshay Kumar as the face of their respective health brands, Horlicks and Chyawanprash, while Emami has picked Juhl Chawla for its hygiene brands. Husband-wife duo Saif Ali Khan and Kareena Kapoor Khan have been signed by health and fitness brand Naturamore. "While new endorsements had naturally slowed down during the lockdown due to the pandemic, there's been an upswing in deals pre-IPL (Indian Premier League)," said Yash Raj Films associate vice president, talent and brand partnerships, Jayesh Kishanchandani. "We see this trend continuing with positivity from the announcement of the vaccine coming in." YRF has locked in multiple deals for Ranveer Singh, Anushka Sharma and Ayushmann Khurrana for the new year. "Many brands had postponed their 2020 campaigns due to Covid-19 and they are also looking to come back strongly in 2021," Kishanchandani added. A talent management executive said fresh deals are in the process of being finalised for Deepika Padukone and Sara Ali Khan. Padukone, represented by Kwan, did not comment. Khan's management firm could not be reached for comment. Pull Factor of Bollywood >> 6

Recent Brand Deals Akshay Kumar: Horlicks (HUL), Dabur Chyawanprash Aamir Khan: Ceat Tyres Saif Ali Khan, Kareena Kapoor Khan: Naturamore Alia Bhat, Ayushman Khurrana: JSW Paints Juhl Chawla: BoroPlus (Emami) Ananya Pandey: Skechers MS Dhoni and daughter Ziva: Oreo (Mondelez) Deepika Padukone, Ranveer Singh, Anushka Sharma, Ayushmann Khurrana, Sara Ali Khan: Deals in the Works

Buying Gold? Keep KYC Papers Ready

Jewellers have begun seeking KYC documents for gold purchases below ₹2 lakh too, anticipating KYC to be made mandatory for all cash transactions in the budget, reports Sutanuka Ghosal >> 5

Credit Demand Picks up Further

Credit demand in the third quarter improved to the highest in this fiscal, though at a lesser rate than the previous year, pre-results quarterly numbers released by banks and NBFCs show. Joel Rebello reports. >> 5

OPTIMISM IN THE NEW YEAR India Inc Takes First Steps Back to Office; T&C Apply

luntary and need basis—encouraging them to continue remote working as much as possible. Several companies in Mumbai, where top corporates had mostly kept offices shut since March due to high rates of infection, are also in the process of beginning a gradual return. Pharma and healthcare company Lupin soft-started its Mumbai office from Monday, with 25-30% workforce and strict safety protocols in place. "This is a sign of return to normalcy. The fear psychosis around infection is diminishing and people are eager to come back," said Yashwant Mahadik, president, global human resources, Lupin. "We will continue to review the situation on a weekly or fortnightly basis," he said. "Employees have to complete an online declaration of their health status before leaving home." Strict Safety Protocol >> 6

What They're Doing

Lupin started Mumbai office from Mon with 25-30% workforce M&M starts optional WFO this week Marico will slowly begin WFO in next few months HUL resumes some sales offices with 15-20% staff RPG Group starts process of voluntary WFO for up to 15% staff J&J, Deloitte give WFO option Tata Motors to take a call soon

Cos starting work from office, but in limited fashion and with safety protocols

Rica Bhattacharyya & Lijee Philip Mumbai: A falling new-infections rate, news on vaccine rollout and some employee complaints on work-from-home fatigue are prompting companies to allow work from office (WFO) again, albeit mostly in a limited manner and keeping attendance voluntary in many cases. There are also strict safety protocols to be followed. Some companies have started the process of resuming WFO with 15-30% staff strength in the New Year, while some have opened up offices but told staff members to come only on vo-

UP TO ₹1 CRORE-PLUS PAY PACKAGES FOR SENIOR POSTS New Startup Unicorns Now Hiring

Startups that graduated to being unicorns in 2020 are on the prowl to ramp up headcounts across teams in 2021, report Brinda Sarkar & Sreeradha D Basu. >> 8



UK BEGAN THIRD COVID-19 LOCKDOWN ON TUESDAY

Johnson Cancels Visit; R-Day Guest From Neighbourhood Likely



COVID-19 DERAILS PLANS FOR JOHNSON'S TRIP

UK Is looking east and India is emerging as the key pillar in that strategy

India, UK looking at closer collaboration and an Enhanced Trade Partnership

The two nations have decided to elevate their strategic partnership to the next level

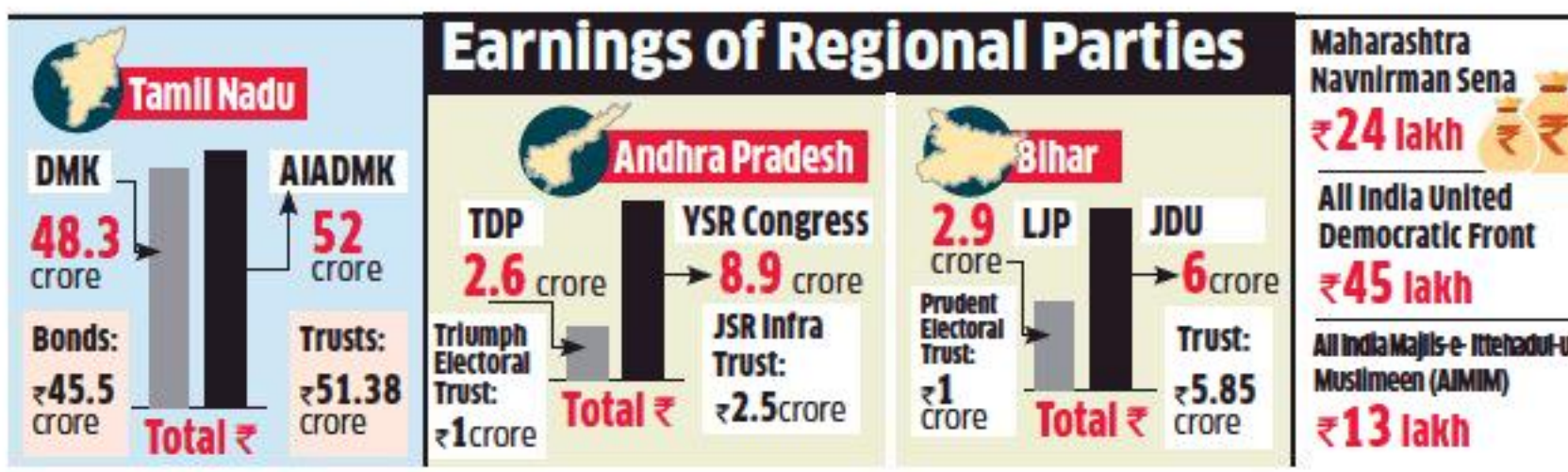
Dipjan Roy Chaudhury @timesgroup.com New Delhi: United Kingdom Prime Minister Boris Johnson cancelled his visit to India...

Johnson spoke to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to express his regret while indicating that he may visit India later in the first half of this year...

The statement came on a day when the UK began its third lockdown since the outbreak of the pandemic.

FUNDS COLLECTED BY REGIONAL PARTIES IN 2019-2020

DMK Gets 93% Funds from Bonds, Others Rely on Trusts



FUNDING PATTERN

AIADMK, SAD, LJP, BJD, SAD, JDU bank on electoral trust while DMK goes strong on bond funding

DISTRICT NETWORK

Kerala's IUML stands out for raising the highest funding ₹92.4 cr through district network

Its concerns over lack of transparency in the mode. Greater trust was reposed, across states and parties, in the other instrument of corporate funding, electoral trusts...



HEALTH MIN MOVES A DRAFT AMENDMENT BILL

Govt Proposes to Raise Smoking Age to 21, Ban Loose Cigarettes Sale

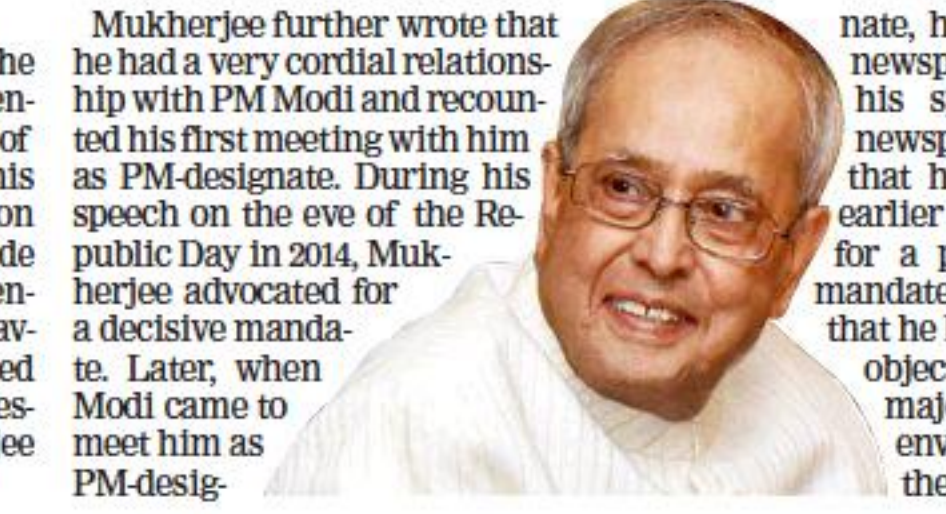
Nidhi.Sharma@timesgroup.com New Delhi: The government moves to increase the smoking age from 18 to 21 years, ban sale of loose cigarettes...

Smoking areas in public places like airport lounges, hotels and restaurants to go and fine for smoking in public increased to ₹2,000

Modi Must Spend More Time in Parliament: Pranab in Memoir

Kumar.Anshuman @timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Former President Pranab Mukherjee has written in his memoir 'The Presidential Years'...



Mukherjee further wrote that he had a very cordial relationship with PM Modi and recounted his first meeting with him as PM-designate...

On GST, Mukherjee said that it has happened for the good and is the most effective economic legislation since the Constitution was enacted...

AIMING FOR A STRONG ANTI-TMC, ANTI-BJP PLATFORM

Talking Not Only to MIM, But Also CPM, Congress, says Cleric Siddiqui

TMC had rejected the cleric's demand that 44 seats be given to candidates of his choice

Vasudha.Venugopal@timesgroup.com

Future Sharif, Hooghly: Pirzada Abbas Siddiqui of the influential Furtura Darbar Sharif has said that he is in talks with the CPM, Congress...



TARGETING TMC In the last six months, Siddiqui has held over 1,000 events and rallies, speaking against the TMC.

is welcome... We don't want the votes to split. We need at least 10-20% Hindu votes in every seat. We are reaching out to social organisations of Dalits, Matuas, STs and Christians...

Ahead of BJP Chief's Visit, Another TMC Min Quits

Sports minister Shukla, 39, is a sitting MLA from Howrah (Uttar) constituency

Our Political Bureau

Kolkata: Laxmi Ratan Shukla stepped down from his post of minister of state for sports in the Mamata Banerjee government...

NEXT IN QUEUE? Another minister, Rajib Banerjee, has also been airing his grievances against TMC

Uttar) constituency. He had joined the TMC in the run-up to the 2016 assembly election. Chief minister and TMC chief Mamata Banerjee said, "He (Shukla) has written that he will continue as MLA till his term. But he wants to quit politics. I welcome his decision and I wish him all the best..."

NSA Invoked Against Officials, Contractor in UP Roof Collapse case

Lucknow: Uttar Pradesh chief minister Yogi Adityanath has called for the stringent National Security Act to be imposed on the engineer and contractor who have been found guilty of negligence...

70 ACRES FARM LAND FOR SALE/ CONTRACT FARMING ON NH-6 (50 Kms/ 40 mins Drive From Nagpur on Amravati/ Mumbai National Highway)

GJEPC INDIA logo, Shri Narendra Modi photo, Indian Gem & Jewellery Industry expresses its gratitude to the visionary leadership of the Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi for bringing in prompt proactive measures during the testing times of COVID-19.























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