**Operation Desert Storm** begins, with US-led coalition forces bombing Iraq, during the Gulf War

# t,' says first person vaccinated s massive COVID-19 campaign

ame the first person in India to to get the Covid-19 vaccine

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Sanitation worker Manish Kumar receives a dose COVID-19 vaccination

li had Harsh Vardhan.

from and hopes around 300,600 people will be fection rate has come down from a peak from vaccinated on the first day - a first step in in mid-September. of the administering around 300 million people odbye with two doses in the first six to eight ty/AstraZeneca vaccine and a governmonths of the year.

a and With a population of nearly 1.4 billion Bharat Biotech whose efficacy is not yet Modi,people, India is the world's most populous known. People will not be able to choose sence country after China. Some 10.5 million which of the vaccines - both of which are close monitoring required for its use will nister people in India have been infected with being produced locally - that they get.

the coronavirus, the highest number of COVAXIN. The government is calling its immuni- infections after the United States, and sation campaign the biggest in the world more than 151,000 have died, though in-cording to the Indian drug regulator, while

India is using the Oxford Universiment-backed vaccine developed by India's

The vaccine will give me strength and motivation to serve my hospital which has been at the forefront of taking care of coronavirus patients. Since I'm feeling relieved after taking the vaccine, I think everyone should go for it

MANISH KUMAR

First in line are some 30 million health and other frontline workers, such as those in sanitation and security, followed by about 270 million people older than 50 or deemed high-risk because of pre-existing medical conditions.

The government has already bought 11 million doses of the AstraZeneca COVISH-IELD shot, produced by the Serum Institute of India, and 5.5 million of Bharat Biotech's

COVISHIELD is 72 per cent effective, ac-Bharat Biotech says COVAXIN's last-stage trial results are expected by March.

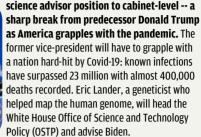
While nationalist politicians are cheering COVAXIN, some health experts consider it rushed, as the vaccine has only limited, "clinical-trial mode" approval.

In addition to efficacy concerns, the be a massive challenge.

## **News in brief**

#### Biden elevates science post to cabinet level

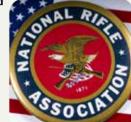
♦ US President-elect Joe Biden announced he is upgrading the White House



The National **Rifle Association** announced it was filing

#### **US National Rifle Association** files for bankruptcy

for bankruptcy protection from creditors and moving to Texas, in an apparent bid to dodge a corruption probe in New York. The powerful gun lobby group and one of its subsidiaries filed petitions for so-called Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection in a Dallas court. The NRA said its decision to reincorporate its non-profit status in Texas will ensure that in the future it is "free from the toxic political environment in New York." The NRA was set up in New York in 1871.



#### **UN peacekeeper killed in Central African Republic**

A Burundian peacekeeper was killed during an ambush by rebels

in the Central African Republic, the United Nations said, the fifth soldier killed since a rebel offensive began. The soldier died in an ambush by a coalition of rebels near Grimari, roughly 300 kilometres northeast of the capital Bangui, the UN said, during a security mission to the town with Burundian and Bangladeshi peacekeepers. MINUSCA -- the UN peacekeeping force in the region -- also said that two Bangladeshi soldiers were lightly wounded.

British Prime **Minister Boris** Johnson is taking

#### **UK's Johnson takes stand** against 'cruel' Japanese whaling

a stand against "cruel" Japanese whaling, The Telegraph newspaper said, after a minke whale became caught in fishing nets for 19 days before being killed by fishermen this **week.** Drone footage of the trapped whale in the port of Taiji captured the world's attention and received flak from animal rights activists and environmentalists across the world.



◆ The Guatemalan military has detained hundreds of migrants at its border as thousands of Hondurans, including many families with young children, continued to walk north as part of a caravan hoping to reach the **United States.** Guatemalan authorities returned 102 Honduran migrants back to Honduras, after the first groups in the caravan set off from San Pedro Sula

### Taliban kill 12 progovt militiamen in Afghanistan insider attack

**AFP** | Kabul

wo Taliban fighters who 1 had infiltrated a base of pro-government Afghan militiamen killed 12 of them, officials and the insurgent group said yesterday.

The night-time attack at a post manned by the militiamen occurred in the district of Ghorian in the western Herat province, the governor for the district Farhad Khademi said.

"Twelve pro-government militiamen were killed in the Taliban attack in Ghorian district last night," he

Herat provincial council member Mohammad Sardar Bahaduri confirmed the attack and said it was carried out by two Taliban fighters who had infiltrated the base.

"The militiamen were dining when the attack happened." he said.

The Taliban also said two of its fighters had carried out the attack and then returned.

In a separate incident, a vehicle carrying policemen was struck by a roadside bomb in the centre of the Afghan capital Kabul, police spokesman Ferdaws Faramarz told reporters.

## Uganda's Museveni declared winner of presidential poll

AFP | Kampala

Jgandan President Yoweri Museveni won a decisive re-election victory yesterday, elections officials said, but his main rival Bobi Wine alleged widespread fraud and said citizens should reject the result.

Museveni won 5.85 million votes, or 58.6 per cent, while main opposition candidate Wine had 3.48 million votes Yoweri Museveni



(34.8pc), the Electoral Commission said at a news conference on the final results from Thursday's election.

Earlier, Wine accused Museveni of fabricating the results and called the poll "the most fraudulent election in the history of Uganda". In a phone interview before the final results were announced, he urged citizens to reject the

## Trump receives Morocco's highest award for Middle East work

Reuters | Washington

S President Donald Trump Ureceived Morocco's highest award for his work in advancing a normalization deal between Israel and Morocco, a senior administration official said.

In a private Oval Office ceremony, Princess Lalla Joumala Alaoui, who is Morocco's ambassador to the United States. gave Trump the Order of Muhammad, an award given only to heads of state. It was a gift from Morocco's King Mohammed VI. White House senior adviser Jared Kushner and Middle East envoy Avi Berkowitz received the Israel-Morocco deal, which was reached in December.



**White House senior** adviser Jared Kushner and Middle East envoy Avi Berkowitz received other awards for their work on the Israel-Morocco deal, which was reached in December

between Israel, the United Arab the Arab world. But time has Emirates, Bahrain, Sudan and run out and no more are expect-The United States in the last Morocco. The agreements are ed before Trump's departure.

aimed at normalizing relations and opening economic ties.

Trump, who leaves office on Wednesday, has drawn some criticism over the Morocco agreement because to seal the deal, he agreed that the United States would recognize Morocco's sovereignty over Western Sahara.

Western Sahara has been the site of a decades-old territorial dispute between Morocco and the Algeria-backed Polisario Front, a breakaway movement that seeks to establish an independent state in the territory.

The Kushner team had been working on reaching more other awards for their work on five months helped broker deals agreements between Israel and

#### COVID-19: Countries worst affected

	Country	Total cases	Total deaths	Global tally
1	USA	24,155,927	402,693	04642244
2	India	10,557,646	152,288	94,642,344
3	Brazil	8,413,413	208,542	Deaths
4	Russia	3,544,623	24,65,085	2024554
5	UK	3,357,361	88,590	2,024,554
6	France	2,872,941	69,949	Recovered:
7	Turkey	2,380,665	23,832	67,548,417
8	Italy	2,368,733	81,800	07,340,417
9	Spain	2,252,164	53,314	New cases
10	Germany	2,031,469	46,778	+250 222
11	Colombia	1,870,179	47,868	+358,233
12	Argentina	1,783,047	45,227	New deaths
13	Mexico	1,609,735	139,022	17927
14	Poland	1,429,612	33,213	+7,827

**Middle East** 

Figures as of closing

Country	Total cases	new cases	Total deaths	New Deaths	Total recovered	Active cases
Egypt	105,705		6,142		98,413	1,150
Saudi Arabia	364,753	+140	6,318	+5	356,541	1,894
UAE	249,808	+3,432	740	+7	222,106	26,962
Kuwait	118,531	+813	721	+7	109,916	7,894
Oman	131,264		1,509		123,593	6,162
Qatar	147,089	+204	246		143,612	3,231