

**TIMES VERIFIED A SHOT OF HOPE**

# TOI fights wave of fake news pandemic, debunks 2,000 viral misleading messages

*TIMES NEWS NETWORK*

Are newborn cows being slaughtered in order to produce Covaxin vaccine?” This was among the 2,000 forwarded messages ranging from “Zydus to produce new injection wherein positive patient can be converted to negative in 7 days” to news about free emergency cab services provided for vaccination of senior citizens that **TOI** busted as fake through its new campaign ‘Times Verified’.

Since its launch on April 17, the initiative—that aims to break the chain of viral misinformation and disinformation—has received over 5,500 unverified or suspicious messages from readers for verification on the WhatsApp number 9819432222. And our expert panel—made up of reporters, editors and representatives from the BMC and the government—have been busy clearing the air by tapping into their credible bank of sources.

In the last few weeks, the panel has not only called out scams pertaining to adoption of children whose parents were badly affected during Covid but also dismissed absurdities such as “bulbs lighting up automatically at the vaccinated area” and “vaccinated people to die within two years claimed by world’s top virologist” with a bold red stamp that cried: “This message is fake”.

Stressing on the dangers of this parallel wave of false news, US-based physician Dr Seema Yasmin—whose new book speaks about how misinformation spreads faster than microbes in times of crisis—recently urged readers to identify red flags such as information that is packaged to be “very certain”.


Trust **TOI** to alert you to such red flags and vaccinate you with the truth. Forward all dubious, anxiety-causing messages to our expert panel, and let the green tick in the Times Verified logo counter the tyranny of the grey curved arrow of forwards.

# HOW TO USE TIMES VERIFIED

**Step 1:** Save the number  
**+91 9819432222**  
on your phone as 'Times  
Verified'

**Step 2:** In case of doubt,  
send your message to this  
number for verification by  
TOI expert panel

**Step 3:** TOI will let you  
know if the message is true  
or fake. Do call us for any  
further clarifications



The screenshot shows a WhatsApp message from a contact named 'Rishi'. The message contains a video of Nobel laureate Luc Montagnier speaking. Below the video is a text block that reads: 'All vaccinated people will die within 2 years. Nobel laureate Luc Montagnier has confirmed that there is no chance of survival for people who have received any form of the vaccine. In the shocking interview, the world's leading virologist stated bluntly: "There is no hope and no possible treatment for those who have already been vaccinated. We must be prepared to cremate the bodies." The scientific genius backed up the claims of other eminent virologists after studying the ingredients of the vaccine. "They will all die from antibody-dependent enhancement. That is all that ca'. A large red stamp with the word 'FAKE' is overlaid on the bottom right of the message content.