

INDIA STATES TIMES NEWS DESK

NATIONAL

- India has reported 20,035 new COVID-19 cases and 256 more deaths in the last 24 hours, taking the total number of cases to 1,02,86,709 and the death toll to 1,48,994.
- On the occasion of New Year 2021, President Ram Nath Kovind tweeted, "Let us continue to work together for creating an inclusive society filled with the spirit of love and compassion."
- Delhi recorded a minimum temperature of 1.1°C on January 1, making it the lowest temperature so far this season.
- South Delhi Municipal Corporation has set up the national capital's first model COVID-19 vaccination centre at a maternity home in the Srinivaspuri area.
- At 7.1°C, the average minimum temperature in Delhi in December 2020 was the second-lowest in 15 years, according to India Meteorological Department.
- The India Meteorological Department has stated that cold wave to severe cold wave conditions are likely to persist in Delhi until January 2.
- Farmers protesting at Delhi's Singhu border against Centre's three farm laws celebrated New Year's Eve with multiple bonfires. Besides this, the day saw members of 'Kendri Punjabi Lekhak Sabha' leading a march to the centre stage with flags in their hands.
- The Pithoragarh administration in Uttarakhand has declared Gandhi Chowk Bazaar and Purn Naya Bazaar as micro containment zones for two days till January 3 amid rising COVID-19 cases.
- Among the 38 UK returnees who arrived in Delhi and tested positive for COVID-19, seven people have been found infected with the mutant UK COVID-19 strain.
- The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) has asked Punjab Chief Secretary Vini Mahajan to take immediate action against miscreants who vandalised telecom towers in the state.
- Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Thursday conducted raids at Trinamool Youth Congress (TMYC) General Secretary Vinay Kumar Mishra's premises in connection with alleged cattle smuggling case.
- The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) has passed a proposal to waive off over ₹9 crore payable by Hotel Taj Mahal Palace.
- India's largest telecom operator Reliance Jio on Thursday announced that all voice calls made from Jio to other networks in India will be free from January 1.
- Equity index Nifty 50 crossed the 14,000-mark for the first time on Thursday. The index surged 8.2% from 13,000 to hit 14,000 in 26 trading sessions.



INTERNATIONAL

- The New York Stock Exchange has said it will delist the three biggest Chinese telecom companies China Telecom, China Mobile Limited and China Unicom (Hong Kong).
- China on Wednesday warned Indian media against advocating playing 'Tibet card' and interfering in China's internal affairs.
- Several cities in New Zealand hosted firework displays to ring in 2021. Auckland's night sky was filled with colour as a five-minute fireworks display and light show lit up the city to mark New Year's Day.
- World Health Organization (WHO) has approved the emergency use of Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine, making it the first vaccine to receive emergency validation from the agency.
- US' top infectious disease expert Anthony Fauci on Thursday said that the COVID-19 vaccine rollout in the country hasn't gone as he expected, adding that it has been "disappointing".
- Pakistan on Thursday said it will buy 1.2 million doses of China's Sinopharm COVID-19 vaccine, the first official COVID-19 vaccine purchase of the country.
- China's health authorities on Thursday approved COVID-19 vaccine from state-owned Sinopharm for general public use, making it the country's first approved shot.
- After US states of California and Colorado, Florida on Thursday reported its first case of the new coronavirus variant that emerged in Britain.
- China on Wednesday reported its first case of the new coronavirus variant that emerged in the UK. A 23-year-old woman, who arrived from Britain on December 14, was hospitalised on arrival as she showed mild symptoms and further tests confirmed that it was the new variant.
- US Senator Mark Warner has said that the cyberattack that affected several US government agencies earlier in December may have begun before March or April.
- US President Donald Trump has extended bans that block many green card applicants and temporary foreign workers from coming into the country until March 31.
- A Chinese court on Thursday sentenced 29 people from Taiwan, who were deported from Spain, for up to 14 years for telecom fraud.
- US carmaker Ford on Thursday said it is calling off its automotive joint venture with Mahindra and Mahindra due to the challenges caused by the pandemic.
- Tesla CEO Elon Musk's net worth has quintupled to around \$167 billion in 2020, who is now also the world's second richest person, trailing only Amazon's Jeff Bezos.

