

INDIA STATES TIMES NEWS DESK

NATIONAL

- PM Narendra Modi will chair NITI Aayog's sixth Governing Council meeting on February 20 via video conferencing.
- Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal met the kin of two frontline workers who died of COVID-19 while on duty and gave a cheque of ₹1 crore each to their families.
- PM Narendra Modi blamed the previous governments for not cutting India's energy import dependence after petrol price crossed ₹100/litre in Rajasthan.
- Uttar Pradesh Police on Thursday filed a case of murder in connection with the deaths of two minor girls whose bodies were found in a field in Unnao.
- National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Wednesday arrested a Jammu and Kashmir man, identified as Taraq Hussain Giri, for harbouring and providing logistical support to two Hizbul Mujahideen terrorists in March 2019.
- Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) issued fresh guidelines in Mumbai amid rising COVID-19 cases.
- Maharashtra Health Minister Rajesh Tope on Thursday said he has tested positive for COVID-19. "With everyone's blessings, I will be soon back in your service."
- A Mumbai court hearing a case registered under the POCSO Act said that posterior is a "private part" of a human's body.
- Lawyers across Telangana protested after a lawyer couple, Gattu Vaman Rao and PV Nagamani, was murdered in broad daylight.
- Nagaland Legislative Assembly on Thursday adopted a four-point resolution on Naga political issue to work unitedly in facilitating ongoing negotiations for final solution between Centre and Naga political groups.
- Amid a surge in COVID-19 cases in the city, the Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC) on Thursday issued guidelines for the birth anniversary celebrations of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj on February 19.
- Maharashtra on Thursday reported 5,427 fresh COVID-19 cases, the highest single-day spike recorded in the state in nearly 70 days.
- Petrol price crossed ₹100 per litre in Madhya Pradesh on Thursday after fuel rates were increased for tenth day in a row.
- Reliance is set to acquire the subscription-based milk delivery startup Milkbasket in a \$40-43 million deal, Entrackr reported.





- India's public finances, which have weakened as a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic, are balanced well against the economy's strengthening growth prospects, S&P Global Ratings has said..

INTERNATIONAL

- India, Japan, Australia and the US on Thursday called for democracy to be restored quickly in Myanmar following the military coup there.
- China has admitted that at least four of its soldiers died during the clash with Indian troops in Galwan Valley last year. China said the soldiers were posthumously awarded honorary titles and first-class merit citations.
- NASA's next-generation Mars rover 'Perseverance' has landed on the red planet after a 203-day journey traversing 472 million kilometres.
- German Prince Ernst August, head of the House of Hanover, is suing his son for selling a 135-room family castle he inherited to the government for €1 (₹87).
- Commenting on West's criticism over COVID-19 data sharing, China said that it's "another case in point of political interference in science".
- Life expectancy in US dropped to 77.8 years in first half of 2020 from 78.8 years in 2019, the biggest drop since World War II, according to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).
- Canada's main opposition party has called for the House of Commons to vote to formally declare that China is committing genocide again.
- Internet services in Pakistan have been disrupted after one of its six international undersea cables developed a fault near Egypt's Abu Talat, the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) said.
- A group called Myanmar Hackers targeted government websites on Thursday to protest against the military coup in the country.
- Spanish Police arrested over 50 people during the second night of protests demanding the release of jailed rapper Pablo Hasél, who was arrested on charges of glorifying terrorism and insulting royalty
- Spanish Police arrested over 50 people during the second night of protests demanding the release of jailed rapper Pablo Hasél, who was arrested on charges of glorifying terrorism and insulting royalty.
- The world's biggest holder of Dogecoin owns 28% of the cryptocurrency in circulation and his position is worth \$2.1 billion, according to a Wall Street Journal report.
- Ethereum, the second-largest cryptocurrency in terms of market capitalisation, hit a record high of \$1,918.52 in early trade on Thursday, according to CoinDesk data.

