

INDIA STATES TIMES NEWS DESK
NATIONAL

- The total number of coronavirus cases in India has reached 1,00,04,599 after a one-day jump of 25,153 cases.
- The Supreme Court on Friday said, "It is a world war against COVID-19. Therefore, there shall be Government Public Partnership to avoid world war against COVID-19."
- The government has said that in the initial phase, coronavirus vaccine would be provided to healthcare workers, frontline workers and people aged 50 and above.
- India has said that it deeply "respects and understands" sentiments expressed by Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina after she said Pakistan can't be forgiven for the atrocities it committed during the 1971 war.
- The ISRO on Thursday successfully launched India's 42nd communication satellite from Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) SHAR, Sriharikota.
- Punjab CM Captain Amarinder Singh has inaugurated a paddy straw-based briquetting plant in Patiala as part of an initiative to cut down on stubble burning and reduce air pollution.
- Congress leader Randeep Surjewala said on Friday that the party would soon start the procedure to elect a new President. He added that 99.9% of party members including him wanted Rahul Gandhi as the President of Congress.
- The Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE) has said that 69 students have tested positive for the coronavirus since returning to the campus in Karnataka's Udupi district last month.
- Railways on Friday said it's not possible to provide definite date for resumption of normal train services. "General managers have been in discussion with state governments and we'll resume services when and where we get go-ahead," Railway Board Chairman VK Yadav said.
- Chief Secretary of Bihar Deepak Kumar has announced that schools for the students of Class 9 to 12 and colleges for final year students will reopen in phases from January 4 in the state.
- Trinamool Congress MLA Banasri Maity from West Bengal's Kanthi Uttar on Friday tendered her resignation from the "primary membership and from each and every post" of the party.
- A GoAir flight that took off from Chennai with 160 passengers on Tuesday had to return mid-air after it was not allowed to land at Port Blair airport.
- Jubilant FoodWorks, which operates Domino's Pizza and Dunkin' Donuts in India, added ₹2,000 crore to its market cap on Thursday after it announced its entry into the Biryani business.

- The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology in a response to an RTI query by GEM Esports clarified that the government has given "no permission" for the relaunch of PUBG Mobile app in the country.

INTERNATIONAL

- Rail services between West Bengal's Haldibari and Bangladesh's Chilahati resumed in the Indian state's Cooch Behar district after a gap of 55 years.
- India will produce about 300 million doses of the Russian Sputnik V coronavirus vaccine in 2021, Head of the Russian Direct Investment Fund (RDIF) Kirill Dmitriev said.
- US Vice President Mike Pence received the coronavirus vaccine live on television on Friday. The White House said the aim of the move was to "promote the safety and efficacy of the vaccine and build confidence among the American people".
- World Health Organisation on Friday said that the coronavirus vaccine delivery to poorer countries, through its COVAX vaccine-sharing scheme, will begin in the first half of 2021.
- US' Atlantic City is auctioning off the chance to push the button on the controlled implosion of one of US President Donald Trump's former casinos.
- More than 1,000 vehicles in Japan were stranded in a traffic jam that stretched up to 16 kilometres. The jam began after a car got stuck in deep snow in the middle of a highway, said NEXCO, Japan's highway operator.
- A 58-year-old man has been rescued after his car was buried under four feet of snow in a severe storm in upstate New York.
- The US has warned that its Navy will adopt a more "assertive" approach to Chinese and Russian aggression. China and Russia are "determined rivals" of the US, with China presenting "the most pressing long-term strategic threat", according to US maritime forces' strategy document.
- Spain's lower house of parliament has voted in favour of a bill that will legalise euthanasia, despite strong opposition from religious groups.
- Tesla CEO Elon Musk is now only \$20 billion away from becoming the world's richest person overtaking Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos.
- Alibaba Cloud developed a facial recognition algorithm that can identify a person's ethnicity or whether a person is "Uighur", IPVM reported.
- A group of 38 US states filed an antitrust lawsuit against Google accusing it of abusing its market power and indulging in anti-competitive practices.

