

INDIA STATES TIMES NEWS DESK

NATIONAL

- India has reported 22,273 new COVID-19 cases and 251 more deaths in the last 24 hours, taking the total number of cases to 1,01,69,118 and the death toll to 1,47,343.
- The overall air quality in Delhi remained in the 'very poor' category on Saturday morning, with the overall Air Quality Index at 324, according to data from the Central Pollution Control Board.
- Reliance Industries, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), HDFC Bank, Hindustan Unilever and Infosys are set to end the year valued at more than ₹5 lakh crore each.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will virtually inaugurate the largest section of the Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor on December 29 in Uttar Pradesh, as per reports.
- A 45-year-old man died and two others were rescued after a fire broke out at a mask manufacturing factory in Delhi's Mayapuri area early Saturday morning, a Delhi Fire Service (DFS) official said.
- The Jammu and Kashmir police busted a terror module and recovered arms and ammunition from two suspects travelling in a car on Friday evening.
- Farmers protesting against three farm laws in Noida beat plates and rang bells at a demonstration yesterday, timed with PM Narendra Modi's PM-Kisan event speech to convey their dissatisfaction over government for not repealing the laws.
- Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Friday issued a warning to mafia elements, stating, "Leave Madhya Pradesh, otherwise, I will bury you 10 feet deep and no one will know your whereabouts."
- COVID-19 vaccine will be available to around 35,000 health workers of government and private hospitals in Gurugram, the district health department on Friday said.
- The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) on Thursday organised a farewell ceremony of eight canines, who retired after serving the force's Delhi Metro unit for 10 years.
- Nearly a dozen houses were gutted and 13 families were left homeless after a winter fire incident in Bagi village in Himachal Pradesh's Shimla on Friday.
- Inspector P Bikshapathi Rao of Rachakonda Police Commissionerate in Hyderabad was allegedly set ablaze following which he sustained 40% burn injuries.
- National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) on Friday said that the daily electronic toll collection through FASTags has crossed ₹80 crore.

- SEBI on Thursday imposed a ₹27 crore fine on NDTV promoters, Prannoy Roy, Radhika Roy, and RRPR Holding.
- The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare along with the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology has launched a challenge for startups and technology enthusiasts to scale up the COVID Vaccine Intelligence Network (CoWIN) portal.

INTERNATIONAL

- An American airline has gifted one of its employees who battled coronavirus for 115 days and her twin sister a first-class trip anywhere in the world.
- South Africa has rejected UK's claim that a new coronavirus variant found in the country is more contagious or dangerous than a similar one in UK.
- Credit card bill payment platform CRED announced its jackpot advent calendar for the last week of December in which CRED members will get gifts worth over ₹16 crore.
- China will overtake the US to become the world's biggest economy in 2028, five years earlier than previously estimated, the UK's Centre for Economics and Business Research said.
- With 39 Indian sailors stranded on two cargo ships at Chinese ports for several months, the country's foreign ministry has said that the vessels were stuck because of quarantine measures in place due to Covid-19 pandemic.
- A recreational vehicle that was broadcasting a recording that said a potential bomb would detonate within 15 minutes exploded in US' Nashville injuring three people.
- Kalashnikov, the maker of AK-47 assault rifles, has released a video as it successfully carried out a test of its new Strela-guided anti-aircraft missile.
- In 2009, Richard Heene and his wife Mayumi claimed their son had been carried away by a homemade helium balloon. It led to large-scale search operations as the balloon's flight was followed live by media.
- A monolith made of gingerbread has appeared in US' San Francisco. The origin of the structure which was discovered by visitors at San Francisco's Corona Heights Park is unclear.
- Australia, China and US collaborated to medically evacuate an Australian expeditioner from Antarctica in a 5-day mission involving ships, helicopters and planes.
- Turkey's Health Minister Fahrettin Koca has said the country would require all incoming passengers to test negative for coronavirus within 72 hours of departure.