

INDIA STATES TIMES NEWS DESK

NATIONAL

- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said that the government will draft 2021-22 Budget like "never before" and help India emerge as the engine for global growth.
- India experienced its third wettest monsoon in 25 years in 2020, clocking in 109% of its Long Period Average, according to a post-monsoon analysis by the India Meteorological Department (IMD).
- The Indian economy is expected to rebound to a double-digit growth at 10% in financial year 2021-22 after contracting the previous year, according to a Deloitte report.
- The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has proposed setting up a 16-member committee for conservation, protection and restoration of the Yamuna floodplains in the national capital.
- Central Railway is using robots and robotic devices designed and created in-house for the thermal screening of passengers, helping the frontline staff in dealing with passengers and treating coronavirus cases.
- Kashmir IGP Vijay Kumar has stated that 12 terrorists have surrendered during live encounters with security forces so far in 2020.
- Madhya Pradesh on Monday reported 1,035 new COVID-19 cases and nine deaths. The state has also reported 1,290 recoveries in the last 24 hours.
- The Madhya Pradesh government has invoked the National Security Act (NSA) against 11 adulterators of consumable items and registered FIRs against 60 others.
- India achieved their highest-ever T20I total by scoring 260/5 against Sri Lanka at the Holkar Stadium in Indore on December 22, 2017.
- Karnataka government has made it compulsory for people who arrived from the UK, Denmark and Netherlands in the last 14 days to undergo RT-PCR tests for COVID-19 in the view of new coronavirus strain.
- Two persons were arrested in Pune for possessing 32kg of charas, worth ₹1.20 crore.
- Trade body National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM) said that India should be "ready with a funding of around ₹80,000 crore for the next one year for distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine."
- The Delhi High Court on Monday dismissed Kishore Biyani-led Future Retail's plea asking to restrain Amazon from writing to SEBI, CCI and other statutory authorities and interfering in its asset sale to Reliance Retail.

- The Ministry of Civil Aviation has announced that all the flights originating from UK to India will be temporarily suspended till 11:59 pm, December 31.

INTERNATIONAL

- US President Donald Trump has presented the 'Legion of Merit' to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his "leadership in elevating the US-India strategic partnership".
- Mahindra & Mahindra's South Korean subsidiary SsangYong Motor Company has filed for bankruptcy after it defaulted on loan repayment of about ₹400 crore.
- The new coronavirus strain discovered in the UK with a higher transmission rate is not out of control and can be contained using existing measures, the WHO said.
- After the European Medicines Agency approved the Pfizer-BioNTech coronavirus vaccine on Monday, it said, "At this moment there is no evidence to suggest this vaccine will not work against the new variant (of coronavirus)."
- The UK government is reportedly monitoring social media for conspiracy theorists who say that the new coronavirus strain found in the UK is "artificial".
- US' Department of Justice has warned that scammers are setting up fake websites posing as pharmaceutical companies involved in the manufacturing of COVID-19 vaccine to trick people into sharing their personal information.
- US lawmakers will back \$1.9 billion to fund a program to replace telecom network equipment from companies which have been identified as national security threats by the US government, Reuters reported.
- Civil Aviation Minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Monday said that passengers from all transit flights from UK scheduled to reach India before December 22 will be subjected to mandatory RT-PCR tests on arrival.
- The US has announced charges against a Libyan suspected of making the bomb that blew up Pan Am Flight 103 over Scotland's Lockerbie in 1988 that killed 270 people.
- The world's oldest panda in captivity has died of multiple organ failure at the age of 38 years and four months, a Chinese zoo has announced. Panda Xin Xing was more than 130 in human years when she died on December 8 at the Chongqing Zoo.
- The Kilauea volcano on Hawaii's Big Island erupted and was followed by a 4.4 magnitude earthquake that struck at the volcano's south flank, according to an advisory from the United States Geological Survey (USGS).