

INDIA STATES TIMES NEWS DESK

NATIONAL

- India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for the October-December quarter (Q3) grew by 0.4%, helping the economy out of recession, as per provisional estimates released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.
- India reported 16,488 new COVID-19 cases and 113 deaths in the last 24 hours, as per the Union Health Ministry. India's total tally reached 1,10,79,979 and the death toll reached 1,56,938.
- After WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus praised PM Narendra Modi for sharing COVID-19 vaccines with many countries under COVAX facility, Modi said, "Thank you Dr Tedros.
- Defamatory complaints against a spouse and damaging their reputation amount to mental cruelty, the Supreme Court said on Friday, while granting divorce to an Army officer.
- The Supreme Court refused to entertain a plea filed by a former Madhya Pradesh judge who challenged the disciplinary proceedings against him over sexual harassment allegations made by a junior judicial officer.
- Directorate General of Civil Aviation on Friday extended the ban on international commercial flights to and from India till March 31.
- A 17-year-old boy was beaten up and stabbed by three boys in Delhi, according to an ANI report. s that claimed Class 10 exams have been cancelled due to the surge in coronavirus cases in the state.
- A doctor in Ahmedabad was allegedly duped of ₹31.5 lakh on the promise of a post-graduation (PG) course seat at Lokmanya Tilak Medical College, also known as Sion Hospital, in Mumbai, police said.
- A 35-year-old make-up artist and production manager in the Telugu film industry was rescued by Hyderabad Police within hours of being kidnapped.
- Tamil Nadu CM Edappadi K Palaniswami announced gold loan waiver against up to six sovereigns given by cooperative banks to poor and farmers.
- Veteran singer Lata Mangeshkar on Friday took to social media to pay tribute to freedom fighter Vinayak Damodar Savarkar on the latter's 55th death anniversary.
- Pune City Police arrested a 39-year-old staffer for allegedly stealing gold ornaments from a jewellery shop in Pune's Narayan Peth.
- India's real GDP during 2020-21 is expected to contract by 8% as compared to the growth rate of 4.0% in 2019-20, said the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.



- Indian equity benchmark Sensex fell by more than 1,600 points to around 49,417 and the Nifty slipped below the 14,650-mark after Indian equities witnessed a sharp selloff in the intraday trade today.

INTERNATIONAL

- American space agency NASA has shared pictures of the planet Venus captured by its Parker Solar Probe. It captured the image during its close flyby of Venus in July 2020, NASA said.
- Debris from a Chinese rocket broke up over Australia's Queensland, lighting up the skies on Thursday night. Videos of the event were shared on social media, with some mistaking the debris for a meteorite.
- After an American Airlines pilot claimed he saw "a long, cylindrical" UFO, a spokesperson for the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) said the department is "aware" of the sighting.
- A US intelligence report has found that Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman approved the killing of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi in 2018.
- Australian police has said that campers have found the decomposed foot of missing businesswoman Melissa Caddick on a beach.
- US military has carried out an airstrike targeting Iran-backed militias in Syria, the Pentagon said. US President Joe Biden ordered the strike, 36 days after becoming President, in response to recent attacks against US and coalition personnel in Iraq, it added.
- UK's Queen Elizabeth II has urged people to "think about others rather than themselves" and get the COVID-19 vaccine when they're offered one.
- Mark Machin, head of Canada Pension Plan Investment Board (CPPIB), has resigned after he took a trip to UAE to get early access to COVID-19 vaccine.
- Nations in Africa and Latin America are facing a scarcity of medical oxygen supplies for COVID-19 patients.
- US President Joe Biden on Friday said that the US airstrike against Iranian-backed militia in eastern Syria, the first since he took office, should be seen as a warning by Iran.
- Haitian authorities have said that more than 400 inmates escaped while at least 25 people died in a prison breakout on Thursday in capital Port-au-Prince, making it the country's largest and the deadliest in a decade.
- The Caribbean Community (CARICOM), an organisation of 15 countries, has asked wealthy nations to share their supply of COVID-19 vaccines, stating that their economies won't be able to recover from the pandemic without them.

