

INDIA STATES TIMES NEWS DESK

NATIONAL

- India has reported 9,309 new COVID-19 cases and 87 fatalities in the last 24 hours, as per the Union Health Ministry. With this, the total number of cases rose to 1,08,80,603 and the death toll reached 1,55,447.
- Local Crime Branch of Ahmedabad rural police on Thursday arrested a man and recovered over 24,000 litres of crude oil. The officials arrested Imran Yusuf with 43 iron barrels and 70 plastic barrels containing 24,860 litres of crude oil worth ₹4.97 lakh.
- About 11% of students in class 4 forgot to read the time correctly from a clock after COVID-19 pandemic as schools were shut, a study conducted by Azim Premji Foundation claimed.
- Union Health Minister addressed Chhattisgarh government's concerns regarding Bharat Biotech's Covaxin vaccine and said that approval was given "after due evaluation of pre-clinical and clinical trial data".
- Municipal Corporation of Gurugram (MCG) on Thursday issued a notification stating that using plastic from February 27 can invite penalties of up to ₹25,000.
- Chhattisgarh has asked the Centre to halt the supply of Bharat Biotech's coronavirus vaccine Covaxin to the state until its Phase 3 trials are complete and results are out.
- Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Thursday stated that a law is being drafted to take action against stone pelters.
- While responding to speculations of him joining the BJP in an interview, Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad said it will happen "when we have black snow in Kashmir".
- The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) has seized over 5 kg of foreign-origin gold worth ₹2.85 crore at the Coimbatore airport.
- Hyderabad Police have launched an operation to nab four men for kidnapping and attempting to gangrape a 19-year-old pharmacy student in Hyderabad .
- Enforcement Directorate has filed its first chargesheet against five office bearers and members of Popular Front of India and its students' wing on money laundering charges.
- India's biggest drugmaker Sun Pharmaceutical Industries will pay ₹2.36 crore to settle years-long whistleblower complaints that alleged the company of diverting funds through Aditya Medisales, its sole distributor in India.
- Mahindra Group Chairman Anand Mahindra praised PM Narendra Modi after he highlighted the private sector's vital role in India while addressing Lok Sabha.



- State-run RailTel has set a price band of ₹93-94 a share for its ₹819 crore initial public offering (IPO). The government will sell a 27.16% stake in the company through a three-day IPO opening on February 16.

INTERNATIONAL

- Enforcement Directorate has filed its first chargesheet against five office bearers and members of Popular Front of India and its students' wing on money laundering charges.
- Light pillars were spotted illuminating the night sky over US' Nebraska as floating ice particles created an optical illusion. Light pillars form in colder climates when ice particles near the ground are light enough to remain suspended in the air.
- five people were killed and dozens were injured after a crash on I-35W northbound near US' Fort Worth led to a massive pile-up of vehicles, including multiple 18-wheelers as well as police vehicles, officials said. Between 75 to 100 vehicles were involved in the roughly mile-long pile-up.
- A UK woman has been jailed for over two years for faking ovarian cancer and cheating people of money. The 42-year-old's GoFundMe page garnered more than £45,000 (₹45 lakh) in donations from over 600 people.
- Malaysia has said that it will extend its free COVID-19 vaccination programme to all foreigners residing in the country, including students, refugees and undocumented migrants.
- Portugal has extended its COVID-19 lockdown until March 1 as the pressure on its hospitals to tackle a surge in infections remained high.
- US President Joe Biden has said the COVID-19 vaccination program he had received from former President Donald Trump was in "much worse shape" than he had expected.
- The number of COVID-19-related deaths in Africa rose by 40% in January as the continent tackles the spread of highly contagious new virus strains, the World Health Organisation (WHO) has said.
- German Chancellor Angela Merkel, during her address to the country's parliament on Thursday, said her administration was "too hesitant" in handling the second COVID-19 wave.
- The US has imposed sanctions on 10 current and former Myanmar military officers, including Myanmar Army Chief General Min Aung Hlaing and his deputy Soe Win.
- Myanmar will repatriate 1,200 of its nationals currently detained at immigration detention centres in Malaysia, officials from both countries said.
- Bitcoin jumped to an all-time high of nearly \$49,000 on Thursday after Bank of New York (BNY) Mellon and Mastercard moved to support cryptocurrencies.

