



INDIA STATES TIMES NEWS DESK

NATIONAL

- India reported 15,388 fresh cases of COVID-19 and 77 deaths in the last 24 hours, according to Union Health Ministry .
- The Indian High Commission in London has criticised the debate held in British Parliament on the farmers' protest in India.
- PM Narendra Modi has approved an ex-gratia of ₹2 lakh each from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund (PMNRF) for the next of kin of those who have lost their lives due to the tragic fire in Kolkata, his office said.
- Average levels of various pollutants in Delhi in 2020 were the lowest since 2014, according to Delhi Economic Survey's report.
- Six boys have scored 100 percentile in the JEE (Main) 2021 held in February and the results of which were declared .
- Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, while talking on the occasion of International Women's Day at an event in Lucknow, said, "When we formed the government, there was a lack of awareness regarding crimes against women.
- 10,113 firms were shut down voluntarily in the country from April 2020 till February this year amid the COVID-19 pandemic, as per government data.
- A memorial will be built in the UK's Southampton in memory of all Indians who fought in World Wars and it'll have a sculpture of 20th-century Sikh fighter pilot Hardit Singh Malik.
- At least six labourers were killed and three were injured after a wall of a school building in Bihar's Khagaria collapsed on Monday. As many as 12 labourers were buried under the debris.
- Gita Gopinath, the Chief Economist of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), has said that India has been at the forefront in fighting the COVID-19 pandemic and "really stands out" in terms of its vaccine policy.
- The Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC) has sealed three private labs over incomplete COVID-19 test reports that were being presented by them.
- Farmers in Maharashtra will be allowed to repay their farm loans of up to ₹3,00,000 with 0% interest, the state's Deputy CM Ajit Pawar.
- Tesla's market capitalisation has fallen by around \$300 billion since its January 26 record high to \$540 billion.



- Google CEO Sundar Pichai addressed Google for India's 'Women Will' event on Women's Day and announced that Google will provide \$25 million in overall funding to bring economic equality for women and girls.
- Ola CEO Bhavish Aggarwal shared Ola's vision of the world's largest two-wheeler factory the ride-hailing startup is building in an area of 500 acres in Tamil Nadu.
- Thane Municipal Corporation has announced to impose lockdown in COVID-19 hotspot areas from March 9 to March 31, 2021.
- At least seven people have died in a fire that broke out on the 13th floor of an Eastern Railway office building in central Kolkata's Strand Road, state Fire Minister Sujit Bose said.

INTERNATIONAL

- Twenty-three Grand Slam champion Serena Williams took to Instagram to defend Meghan Markle after her interview with Oprah Winfrey.
- Five countries, including India, account for about half of the world's girls and women who were married before the age of 18, according to a new analysis released by UNICEF on International Women's Day.
- Niger's President Mahamadou Issoufou has won a \$5 million (over ₹36.6 crore) cash prize after being announced the winner of 2020 Ibrahim Prize for Achievement in African Leadership, the world's biggest leadership prize.
- The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) said that Americans vaccinated against coronavirus can gather indoors without wearing a mask or social distancing.
- New Zealand said that it'll only use the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine to inoculate its population against coronavirus.
- US officials have said Russian intelligence agencies have been running a false online campaign to undermine confidence in Pfizer vaccine and other Western vaccines using four websites, The WSJ reported.
- Thailand Health Minister Anutin Charnvirakul has said that the country will reduce its mandatory quarantine from 14 days to 7 days for international travellers who have been vaccinated against coronavirus.
- Syria's President Bashar al-Assad and his wife Asma have tested positive for COVID-19 after showing minor symptoms.
- Organisers of Mobile World Congress, the world's biggest mobile industry event, unveiled a health plan on Monday that they said would enable the gathering to go ahead in Barcelona this June.
- Two people protesting against the military coup were shot dead by the security forces on Monday, local media reported.