



## **INDIA STATES TIMES NEWS DESK**

### **NATIONAL**

- India reported 23,285 new COVID-19 cases and 117 deaths in the last 24 hours, according to the Union Health Ministry.
- The certificates issued against COVID-19 vaccination in the poll-bound West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Assam, Kerala and Puducherry will no longer carry PM Narendra Modi's photo.
- The Delhi High Court has said that filing fake cases of sexual harassment "is becoming a trend".
- Delhi HC directed Delhi Police to provide protection to a 23-year-old lesbian woman who was forcibly married off by her family in 2019.
- Delhi received light showers today morning, thereby bringing respite from the recent rise in temperatures. Meanwhile, India Meteorological Department (IMD) has predicted isolated light to moderate rainfall over the national capital till today evening.
- BJP alleged a "scam" in the Delhi government's procurement of new DTC buses. AAP leader and Transport Minister Kailash Gahlot refuted it and said that the government saved ₹225 crore in the process.
- Three policemen have been suspended in UP's Kanpur for "laxity" following the death of an alleged 13-year-old gangrape victim's father a day after he filed a police complaint.
- Amid increasing COVID-19 cases, a night curfew has been imposed in Punjab's Patiala and Ludhiana districts from March 12 between 11 pm and 5 am.
- Punjab Finance Minister Manpreet Badal has tested positive for coronavirus. Badal, who presented the Budget on March 8, confirmed he had got tested before the Assembly session and then again immediately after it.
- Newly appointed Uttarakhand Chief Minister Tirath Singh Rawat ordered a flower shower on devotees at Har Ki Pauri in Haridwar on March 11.
- Navi Mumbai Municipal Corporation has declared 10 primary schools as unauthorised for functioning without Maharashtra government's permission.
- Twenty-one trainees at Central Public Works Department's (CPWD) national academy in Ghaziabad have tested coronavirus positive over the past three days, officials said.
- three members of the Hindu Mahasabha were held on Thursday for offering prayers to Lord Shiva inside the Taj Mahal compound in UP's Agra, police said.
- Mumbai-based Nazara Technologies, backed by billionaire investor Rakesh Jhunjhunwala, will open its ₹583-crore initial public offering (IPO) on March 17.



- IT services major Cognizant has announced that it will cover the COVID-19 vaccination cost for all its employees in India, including its contract, support staff, and security personnel.
- Nokia India's Head of Marketing and Corporate Affairs Amit Marwah said, "If we don't enable 5G very soon, we might be potentially missing the bus."

### **INTERNATIONAL**

- Former Pakistan Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi has accused Prime Minister Imran Khan of receiving PKR 700 million (₹32 crore) from a businessman to make him a Senator.
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- A 41-year-old unemployed Oxford graduate has sued his parents in a bid to force them to grant him financial support for life.
- UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) Executive Director Henrietta Fore has urged countries to contribute more money to help poor countries receive free COVID-19 vaccines.
- Bitcoin prices crossed \$57,000-mark for the first time in over two weeks on Thursday after the US House of Representatives passed a COVID-19 relief package worth \$1.9 trillion, including \$1,400 stimulus checks.
- Thailand has delayed the rollout of the Oxford-AstraZeneca coronavirus vaccine over reports of blood clots in some European nations, the Health Ministry said.
- The US Department of Defense (DoD) announced it has signed two contracts worth over \$159 million with Elon Musk-led space company SpaceX.
- Japan has observed a moment's silence on Thursday to mark the 10th anniversary of the March 2011 9.0-magnitude earthquake and tsunami that killed over 18,000 people and triggered a nuclear meltdown in Fukushima.
- The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) has asked the Health Ministry to recognise the kirana community and retail employees as 'frontline workers'.
- Toyota Motor President Akio Toyoda said Apple is welcome to the car industry but it should be prepared to deal with customers and various changes for 40 years after manufacturing a vehicle.
- The UK has overtaken India to claim the fourth spot among the top growth destinations after Brexit, according to PwC's annual global CEO survey.
- The News Broadcasters Association (NBA) has written to Google saying that the "present situation reflects the unfair distribution of advertising revenues and opaqueness of the advertising system".
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