

INDIA STATES TIMES NEWS DESK

NATIONAL

- India recorded 59,118 new COVID-19 cases in the last 24 hours, according to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- PM Narendra Modi is scheduled to visit Bangladesh on March 26-27, his first foreign trip since the coronavirus pandemic.
- Delhi on Thursday reported 1,515 fresh coronavirus cases, making it the highest single-day rise this year. In the last 24 hours, the national capital has recorded 903 recoveries and five deaths, taking the death toll to 10,978, according to the health department data.
- Delhi's maximum temperature on Thursday settled at 29.6 °C, a notch below normal, and the air quality improved to the 'moderate' category due to favourable wind speed.
- Jammu and Kashmir Chief Secretary BVR Subrahmanyam has said that the Amarnath Yatra is likely to witness six lakh pilgrims this year.
- A CRPF Sub-Inspector was martyred and three jawans were injured in a militant attack in Lawaypora area on the outskirts of Jammu and Kashmir's Srinagar .
- Campaigning for the upcoming polls in West Bengal, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh accused CM Mamata Banerjee of "taking back Bengal to the 19th century, with no development work undertaken in the past 10 years".
- Travel time for passengers may rise as Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) on Thursday announced that it'll intensify its drive to ensure COVID-19 appropriate behaviour.
- Hundreds of students of Osmania University in Hyderabad and Kakatiya University in Warangal staged a protest against the Telangana government's decision to temporarily close educational institutions due to rising COVID-19 cases in the state.
- At least two persons died after a fire broke out at a COVID-19 care hospital in a Mumbai mall.
- President Ram Nath Kovind on Friday extended greetings to people of Bangladesh and his counterpart Md Abdul Hamid on their 50th Independence Day.
- After being questioned by the ED for over five hours in a money laundering case, Jammu and Kashmir Peoples Democratic Party chief Mehbooba Mufti said, "Dissent has been criminalised in this country.
- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) on Thursday approved relaxations to existing norms to make it easier for start-ups to list on the stock exchanges.
- The Gujarat government has informed the state Assembly that 345 fishermen from Gujarat are lodged in Pakistan jails as on December 2020.



- Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) in Bengaluru became the first airport in south India to have operational parallel runways.
- Reliance Industries Chairman Mukesh Ambani, while speaking at the EY Entrepreneur of the Year India 2020 awards, said that startups should be ready to work with limited resources but with unlimited determination.

INTERNATIONAL

- US Representative Cathy McMorris Rodgers criticised Google, Facebook and Twitter's platforms at the Congressional hearing on Thursday, saying they were her "biggest fear as a parent".
- Large crowds of visitors are flocking to have a closer look at the volcano in Iceland that erupted after 800 years
- People in China are burning their Nike shoes as the brand faces a boycott over its past comments about labour conditions in Xinjiang. People have been posting videos on social media.
- Brands like H&M and Nike are facing a boycott in China after Communist Party criticised H&M for its March 2020 statement about not buying cotton from Xinjiang over alleged human rights abuses.
- AstraZeneca has revised down the efficacy figure for its two-dose COVID-19 vaccine following a clinical trial held across the US, Peru and Chile.
- Four security force members were killed and one was injured in a blast in Afghanistan's Badghis .
- Democratic US lawmakers will introduce legislation on Friday that'd set new maximum levels of toxic heavy metals in baby food.
- Shoen Kisen, the Japanese owner of the container ship that is blocking all the traffic in Egypt's Suez Canal, has apologised for the disruption.
- The Japanese investing conglomerate SoftBank is reportedly under investigation by the US securities regulator Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).
- The US is planning to impose sanctions on two conglomerates controlled by Myanmar's military over the generals' February 1 coup and a deadly crackdown, sources said .
- New Zealand Parliament has approved legislation that would give couples the right to paid leave after suffering a miscarriage or stillbirth.
- America's 657 billionaires got \$1.3 trillion richer during the coronavirus pandemic, a study by Americans for Tax Fairness (ATF) and the Institute for Policy Studies (IPS) showed.

