

**INDIA STATES TIMES NEWS DESK****NATIONAL**

- The Delhi Congress will observe Rahul Gandhi's 51st birthday on Saturday as "Sewa Diwas" and will distribute free essential items, medicine kits and cooked meals to people across the national capital.
- The Delhi Police issued 1,676 challans to people for not wearing masks and 172 for violating social distancing norms on Thursday, said an official.
- ADG NCC interacts with VC, Jammu university: Major General Ranjan Mahajan, Additional Director General, NCC Directorate Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh today interacted with Professor Manoj Kumar Dhar, Vice Chancellor, University of Jammu with regard to implementation of NCC as a General Elective Credit Course in Colleges under Jammu University.
- Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Friday announced a monthly pension of ₹4,000 to children who lost their parents due to COVID-19.
- Uttar Pradesh Anti Terrorist Squad on Friday arrested four Rohingyas living illegally in Meerut. The police busted a gang of agents who forged papers for the Rohingyas for their illegal stay in India.
- Legendary sprinter Milkha Singh has passed away at the age of 91, a month after contracting COVID-19. The three-time Olympian and 1958 Commonwealth Games gold medallist breathed his last at PGI in Chandigarh, two days after being shifted out of COVID-19 ICU.
- PMC has decided to re-impose weekend lockdown in Pune to check the spread of COVID-19. All stalls and shops selling non-essential items, malls, beauty parlours and wellness centres will remain shut on weekends.
- West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee has written to the Calcutta High Court appealing that her petition challenging the election of the BJP's Suvendu Adhikari from Nandigram be reassigned to a different judge.
- Maharashtra on Friday reported 9,798 new coronavirus cases, slightly less than Thursday when it logged 9,830 fresh cases. In the last 24 hours, 198 people died due to COVID-19 whereas 14,347 patients were discharged, showed government data.
- BJP may not come into power again if it failed to fulfil promise of extending reservation to the community, said Nishad Party national president Sanjay Kumar Nishad .
- Six people in Gujarat were booked in the first case registered under newly amended Gujarat Freedom of Religion (Amendment) Act, 2021 that penalises forced religious marriage conversion.



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- Biological E's COVID-19 vaccine is expected to have an efficacy that is similar to that of US-based Novavax's vaccine, which has 90.4% effectiveness, Dr NK Arora, chief of the Centre's Covid Working Group, said.
- Fashion brand Zara's parent company, Inditex, posted its first-ever loss in India as sales dipped by 28% to ₹1,126 crore during 2020-21 due to COVID-19 pandemic.
- Paytm's parent One97 Communications is planning to sell ₹12,000 crore (\$1.6 billion) in new shares as a part of the IPO.
- Grofers Co-founder Saurabh Kumar has decided to step away from his role at the online grocery delivery firm, CEO and Co-founder Albinder Dhindsa announced.
- Gold prices in India edged higher on Friday after having fallen in the previous session. Gold futures on Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX) were up 0.33% to ₹47,112 per 10 gram, following a ₹1,500 plunge in the previous session.

### INTERNATIONAL

- China's government summoned Meituan CEO Wang Xing recently and warned him to keep a low profile after the billionaire shared a 1,100-year-old Chinese poem on social media, a report said.
- World's third richest person Elon Musk's last remaining home, a 47-acre Bay Area estate, located in Hillsborough, California, has been put up for sale for \$37.5 million (over ₹277 crore).
- The World Health Organization's chief scientist said on Friday that the Delta variant of COVID-19 is well on its way to becoming the globally dominant variant of the disease.
- A 28-year-old Guinness World Record holder died while practicing for a world record motorcycle ramp jump in US.
- US Border Patrol agents found 33 illegal immigrants inside a truck in Texas after they received information about a human smuggling scheme
- Sri Lanka on Thursday said that it has detected the Delta variant of coronavirus in the community for the first time. A Sri Lankan official said the variant that was first found in India was detected in five samples collected from the capital Colombo.
- New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern on Friday received the first dose of the Pfizer coronavirus vaccine.
- The US embassy in Afghanistan has ordered a near-complete lockdown after a COVID-19 outbreak killed at least one staff member and infected 114 others, according to a notice to employees.
- Vietnam on Friday introduced a set of national guidelines on social media behaviour. It prohibits posts that violate the law and "affect the interests of the state".



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- Canadian PM Justin Trudeau has nominated Indian-origin Justice Mahmud Jamal to the Supreme Court of Canada, becoming the first person of colour to be named to the apex court of the country.
- The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) agency said that a record 8.2 crore people worldwide were forcibly displaced at the end of last year amid COVID-19 pandemic.
- The UN General Assembly on Friday reappointed António Guterres for a second five-year term as UN Secretary-General.

