

INDIA STATES TIMES NEWS DESK**NATIONAL**

- India has reported 36,401 new COVID-19 cases and 530 deaths in the last 24 hours.
- PM Narendra Modi will on Friday inaugurate and lay the foundation stone for several projects, including the Somnath Promenade, in Gujarat's Somnath through video conferencing.
- Four Indian teachers in Afghanistan's Kabul have appealed for immediate evacuation so they can return to their families back home.
- Uttar Pradesh government has decided to reopen schools for students of Classes 6 to 8 from August 23 and Classes 1 to 5 from September 1.
- The COVID-19 vaccination drive will remain suspended on August 19 and 20 at all government and civic body-run centres in Mumbai due to a shortage of doses, the BMC has announced.
- Bengaluru Police Commissioner Kamal Pant has announced that prohibitory orders issued under Section 144 (1) of Code of Criminal Procedure have been extended till August 30 amid a gradual increase in COVID-19 cases.
- All India Muslim Personal Law Board member Maulana Sajjad Nomani has released a video praising Taliban after it seized control over Afghanistan, saying, "This Hindi Muslim salutes you
- Kerala on Wednesday reported 21,427 new COVID-19 cases, according to the state government's data, taking the infection count to 37,45,457.
- Shiromani Akali Dal chief Sukhbir Singh Badal on Wednesday began his 100-day bike rally to expose "corruption" by the state government and take feedback from people about their expectations if his party comes to power.
- The Congress on Wednesday accused the Centre of being insensitive and distorting the budget of every household by increasing prices of LPG cylinders.
- Waste pickers working under contractors of the Pimpri-Chinchwad Municipal Corporation (PCMC) donated ₹1 lakh to the Chief Minister's Relief Fund for the flood-affected.
- Uttarakhand CM Pushkar Singh Dhami assured all possible help to bring back those from the state stranded in Afghanistan amid the Taliban takeover.
- The women of self-help groups (SHGs) in Bihar's Purnia have sent handmade rakhis made of mulberry silk to President Ram Nath Kovind and PM Narendra



- The price of a domestic LPG cylinder has been increased by ₹25, with effect .
- DMart's owner Radhakishan Damani has entered Bloomberg's list of the world's 100 richest people at 98th position with \$19.2 billion (₹1.42 lakh crore) wealth.
- An Indian arbitrator has asked Renault-Nissan to pay its 3,542 workers of the Chennai plant an average of more than ₹7,100 per month as additional wages.

INTERNATIONAL

- Blockchain-based platform Poly Network, which was a target of one of the biggest cryptocurrency thefts, has asked the hacker responsible to become its chief security adviser.
- France evacuated 21 Indian nationals on its first evacuation flight from Afghanistan, French ambassador Emmanuel Lenain said.
- At least three people were killed and another 12 were wounded after Taliban gunmen opened fire during protests against the group in Afghanistan's Jalalabad city on Wednesday.
- Over 1,000 people have been killed by security forces in Myanmar since the military coup on February 1, an official of the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners activist group said. "
- Hong Kong police have arrested four members of a university student union for "advocating terrorism" by paying tribute to a person who stabbed a police officer and then killed himself.
- Blockchain-based platform Poly Network, which was a target of one of the biggest cryptocurrency thefts, has asked the hacker responsible to become its chief security adviser.
- The Supreme Court has issued notice to the Centre over multiple petitions which sought a probe into alleged snooping of journalists, activists and politicians using the Pegasus spyware.
- Chinese electric-car maker Li Auto's CEO said the industry should limit using terms like autonomous and self-driving, considering no vehicle today is truly capable of that and its common usage might mislead consumers.
- The Income Tax (I-T) department on Monday raided the Gurugram-based offices of Chinese telecom equipment vendor ZTE. The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) said it is examining alleged bogus claims worth crores to evade taxes.