

INDIA STATES TIMES NEWS DESK**NATIONAL**

- India has reported 42,982 new COVID-19 cases and 533 deaths in the last 24 hours. Kerala accounted for over 52% of the new cases in India as the state reported 22,414 cases
- PM Narendra Modi on Thursday said that since the abrogation of Article 370, there has been unprecedented peace and progress in J&K. August 5 marks the second anniversary of the abrogation of Article 370.
- Delhi High Court on Wednesday said the target set to vaccinate the entire adult population against COVID-19 by December 31 was unlikely to be met.
- A Delhi court has framed charges against a man who was allegedly a part of a mob that set a Muslim woman's house on fire in the 2020 Delhi riots.
- All healthcare and frontline workers will be given COVID-19 vaccines by August 15 in Gurugram, district civil surgeon Dr Virender Yadav said.
- Over 51,600 cases of rape and POCSO offences have been disposed through 660 fast track special courts (FTSCs) in 26 states, Union Minister Smriti Irani said
- 2,300 people have been booked under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act in J&K since 2019 and nearly half of them are still in jail, police data revealed.
- A labourer died while 11 others were injured after the vehicle they were travelling in was blown up by Maoists with an improvised explosive device (IED) in Chhattisgarh's Dantewada district police said.
- Three tourists from Mumbai, including two women, are feared drowned as they were swept away in swift currents of swollen Ganga in Rishikesh on Wednesday.
- A 35-year-old man was killed and his friend was injured after at least seven people opened fire at them in Greater Noida's Jewar .
- The Supreme Court has begun hearing petitions seeking a court-monitored probe into the reports which claimed the government used Israeli software Pegasus to spy on politicians and journalists.
- The COVID-19 vaccination drive, which was suspended for a day due to a shortage of vaccines, will resume across Mumbai at all the 314 civic and government-run centres.
- Madhya Pradesh Home Minister Narottam Mishra was rescued by an IAF helicopter after he got stuck at a flood-affected village where he had gone .

- **Vodafone Idea (now Vi) Board of Director accepted the request of Kumar Mangalam Birla to step down as the Non-Executive Director and Non-Executive Chairman of the Board.**
- **The ED has reportedly asked Walmart-owned Flipkart and its Founders Sachin and Binny Bansal to explain why they shouldn't face a penalty of \$1.35 billion (over ₹10,000 crore) for alleged violation of foreign investment laws.**
- **Indian benchmark indices opened at fresh record highs on Thursday after closing at a record high on the previous day.**

INTERNATIONAL

- **US Justice Department has found that FBI agents used photographs of female staff as bait in undercover operations to catch sexual predators.**
- **Three Disney World employees are among 17 people arrested in a child sex sting operation called 'Operation Child Protector' in US' Florida, Polk County Sheriff Grady Judd said.**
- **China reported 71 new domestically transmitted coronavirus cases for August 3, the highest daily tally since January 30. The number of cases in China has increased for five consecutive days since July 30.**
- **The US' Centers for Disease Control and Prevention issued a new eviction moratorium effective across most of the country until October 3.**
- **Forbes on Wednesday declared 33-year-old Barbadian singer Rihanna a "billionaire" and the "wealthiest female musician in the world" with a \$1.7 billion fortune.**
- **Australia's consumer watchdog filed a court case against Mercedes-Benz for allegedly downplaying the severity of risks associated with using Takata airbags.**
- **Nicaraguan authorities have detained a former beauty queen, Berenice Quezada, bidding to contest the November Presidential elections, her party said.**
- **New York Governor Andrew Cuomo groped, kissed or made suggestive remarks to 11 women, including employees, state's Attorney General Letitia James said announcing the findings of an independent investigation into allegations against him.**
- **Israel fired artillery into Lebanese territory after rockets launched from Lebanon struck Israel on Wednesday, the country's military said.**

