

INDIA STATES TIMES NEWS DESK**NATIONAL**

- The central government has said that no cases of the 'Mu' variant of COVID-19 have been detected from over 51,000 samples analysed in India.
- CBI booked a private firm on charges of attempting to manipulate the ongoing JEE (Mains) exam and conducted searches at 19 locations across the country.
- The Delhi Assembly will open the recently discovered British-era tunnel and a renovated execution room for the public from next year, said Speaker Ram Niwas Goel .
- Punjab Congress in-charge Harish Rawat was seen sweeping the floor and cleaning shoes at a Gurdwara near Uttarakhand's Khatima to repent his 'Panj Pyare' remark.
- Supreme Court on Friday said the prospective Amrapali homebuyers in Uttar Pradesh's Noida and Greater Noida will have to strictly follow payment plans or their unit will be cancelled.
- The officials of Salugarah forest range in West Bengal's Siliguri on Friday arrested two persons for allegedly smuggling 55 parrots.
- The KEM Hospital Research Centre (KEMHRC) at Pune's Vadu will start enrolling children for the phase II and III clinical trials of COVID-19 vaccine Covovax.
- Kerala High Court has asked state police chief to issue a circular advising all officers in the state to be polite while interacting with the public.
- Kerala Chief Minister's Office has confirmed that CM Pinarayi Vijayan will not impose a state-wide lockdown as it will create a huge crisis for the economy and livelihoods.
- Police have arrested a person in Hyderabad on charges of cheating people after promising them jobs in the Indian Railways, State Bank of India and other government departments.
- Amazon is planning to hire over 8,000 direct workforce across 35 cities in India this year across corporate, technology, customer service and operations roles.



- SpaceX CEO Elon Musk on Wednesday said Blue Origin Founder Jeff Bezos "should consider spending some money on actual lunar lander hardware, instead of shady lobbyists".
- Three IIM alumni, who co-founded BillDesk in 2000, will make around half-a-billion dollars each from their combined 31% stake in BillDesk after Prosus' \$4.7-billion acquisition.
- The Hyderabad Police has arrested the chief operating officer and chief financial officer of Karvy Stock Broking for alleged involvement in the ₹137 crore loan default case.

INTERNATIONAL

- Facebook users who recently saw a British tabloid video featuring black men received an auto-generated prompt asking if they'd like to "keep seeing videos about primates", NYT reported.
- Hamed Ahmadi, a 28-year-old Afghan blogger, who's living as a refugee at Fort Bliss in El Paso, Texas, took to Twitter to share a picture of food given at the camp.
- Lithuania on Friday said it has recalled its ambassador from China for consultations amid tensions between both countries.
- India will reconstruct 14 cultural heritage and 103 health sector projects damaged by the 2015 earthquake in Nepal, the Indian Embassy announced.
- A leak of industrial waste from an Angolan diamond mine into a tributary of the Congo River killed 12 people and left 4,400 ill in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).
- The US and the international community expect Taliban to form a real inclusive government in Afghanistan with representations from different communities and interests, State Secretary Antony Blinken said.
- Investment banking company UBS Group AG employees who don't wish to receive a vaccine against COVID-19 can apply to work from home, CEO Ralph Hamers has said.
- Alibaba said it will invest 100 billion yuan (\$15.5 billion) over five years in support of Chinese President Xi Jinping's "common prosperity" vision.
- During a meeting this week, North Korea's leader Kim Jong-un said that the "danger" of climate change had become higher in recent years, adding that "urgent action" needed to be taken.

