

INDIA STATES TIMES NEWS DESK**NATIONAL**

- India reported 2,64,202 new COVID-19 cases and 1,09,345 recoveries in the last 24 hours, according to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- A United Nations report said that the "deadly wave" of COVID-19 Delta variant "stole 2,40,000 lives in India between April and June" 2021 and disrupted economic recovery.
- Voters in COVID-19 containment zones will be able to cast their votes between 4-5 pm in the upcoming Municipal elections in West Bengal, the state Election Commission said.
- Parties in Jammu and Kashmir have objected to an order by the Union Territory's administration directing schools and colleges to ensure the participation of students and teachers in 'surya namaskar' events on the occasion of Makar Sankranti today.
- Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand are likely to witness a rise in high temperature for future time periods in 2030, 2050 and 2085, a report released by the government said.
- Four people were killed on the spot and three others were seriously injured after a 14-wheeler lorry carrying fish overturned in Andhra Pradesh's Tadepalligudem on Friday morning, police said.
- Two Indian Army soldiers were killed in accidental firing in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district
- The death toll in the Guwahati-Bikaner train derailment in West Bengal rose to four, while over 50 people were injured, National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) Director General Atul Karwal said.
- The Maharashtra government on Thursday demanded 40 lakh Covaxin and 50 lakh Covishield doses from the Centre to increase the vaccination coverage in the state.
- With the rise in Omicron and Covid cases in the country, Navi believes people need health plans that provide complete Covid coverage.
- IT companies TCS, Infosys and Wipro added a record 1.7 lakh employees in 2021, as compared to the 31,000 they had hired in 2020.



- Paytm CEO Vijay Shekhar Sharma said that the negative macro conditions affected Paytm's IPO.
- Billionaire Gautam Adani-led Adani Group and South Korea's largest steelmaker POSCO have signed a non-binding pact to explore business opportunities in India, including setting up of a green steel mill in Gujarat.
- India's retail inflation rose to 5.59% in the month of December from 4.91% in November, government data revealed.

INTERNATIONAL

- The Pakistan government and the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), Pakistan's central bank, are planning a complete ban on the use of all cryptocurrencies, according to reports.
- "shocking" surge in COVID-19 cases across the World Health Organization's Eastern Mediterranean region is probably due to Omicron variant, WHO regional director Ahmed Al-Mandhari said.
- White House said today that another 1,000 military health workers will be deployed to six US states to help hospitals overwhelmed by a surge in Omicron-related COVID-19 cases.
- South Korea will begin treating COVID-19 patients with Pfizer's antiviral pills, Paxlovid, on Friday, amid concerns over Omicron variant.
- A new ensemble forecast from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) predicted that over 62,000 more people could die from coronavirus over the next four weeks.
- According to a new parliamentary committee report, no river in England is free from pollution and can be given a clear bill on health.
- Kazakhstan's National Security Committee has reportedly said the red level of the terrorist threat has been suspended in Nur-Sultan and 13 other regions of the country.
- Ford Motor's market capitalisation soared to \$100 billion for the first time ever on Thursday as its stock hit a 20-year high after it announced plans to increase EV production.
- World's richest person Elon Musk has said that he's "still working through a lot of challenges" with the government for Tesla's launch in India.

