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NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) SAFETY MEASURES

Jan 01-8, 2022 : Annual Pilgrimage to Sabarimala, Melmaruvathur Adhiparasakthi Temple

Devotees performing rituals in isles demand chartered flight services to Mainland to pay reverence



Port Blair, Dec 02: No ship services between Port Blair and mainland and inflated fares of air travel between different sectors between the city and mainland is taking a toll on not just islanders, but has generated resentment among devotees. Every year, hundreds of devotees wait for the holy month of December to travel to Kerala and Tamil Nadu to worship Lord Ayyappa and bow their heads at Mel Melmaruvathur Adhiparasakthi temple in Chennai. While the COVID-19 pandemic didn't permit them to travel to the holy places last year, devotees were early waiting this year to travel to the places. But to their dismay, soaring airfares and lack of ship services to the Chennai has become an hindrance for them again this year.

As per reports, around 450 devotees of Lord Ayyappa performing rituals since the start of November this year and over 350 devotees of Melmaruvathur Adhiparasakthi temple in Chennai are eagerly waiting to book their tickets to travel to the places of worship in mainland. While inflated prices of air tickets to Chennai is deterring them to book tickets on airlines, lack of boat services to mainland has added to their woes. Devotees are now demanding resumption of chartered

flight services to Chennai atleast on some days in December this year to enable them pay reverence to their Lords.

"With increase in number of tourist footfalls to these islands and the month of December packed with festivals and New Year celebration, demand has been on the rise for resumption of chartered flight services from Port Blair to other connected cities in mainland. Not just islanders travelling for medical or other purpose to mainland, even devotees of Lord Ayyappa and Melmaruvathur Adhiparasakthi temple are upset over soaring prices of air tickets. Introduction of chartered flight between Port Blair, Chennai, Kolkata and Vizag had come as a huge respite for the islanders. But stoppage of the services after the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic is causing huge inconvenience to devotees. The administration has not even taken steps to resume ship services

between Port Blair - Chennai, Vizag and Kolkata," said a devotee.

"We perform rituals every year to seek entry in Sabarimala to worship Lord Ayyappa. Around 450 devotees have been trying to book their air tickets to Chennai since the start of the pilgrimage season, but have been unable due to the sharp rise in fares. Similar is the condition of devotees of Melmaruvathur Adhiparasakthi temple, who wait for this part of the month to travel to Chennai. The administration should consider deploying a special sailing between Port Blair to Chennai or charter flight service in the sector on January 6, 2022 considering the religious sentiments of devotees," said some others.

"Soaring airfares has made life miserable for the common man here. It cost about Rs 4000 to 5000/- to travel to Dubai or Malaysia. But for Port Blair, the fares have touched almost Rs 20,000/- for a one

way ticket. Promises made by the administration and elected political leaders have fallen flat on all counts. Our children studying in mainland are eagerly awaiting for the festive season to come back to Port Blair for vacations have been left dejected. So steep are the airfares that they are unable to avail the flight service this year. We're terribly disappointed as we won't be able to celebrate the festival with our children this year. The UT administration should take decisive steps and take up the issue with the Central Government to provide respite for the islanders from surging airfares as also ensure resumption of the chartered flight services. For the devotees particularly, the administration should urge the Central Government to arrange chartered flight services on Jan 6 to enable them visit their places of worship," a resident of



Thought for today
When you are angry, a great deal of energy is used up and wasted. Use energy wisely.

Vinod writes to LG, seeks Commendation for gallant Jet Ski operators

Port Blair, Dec 02: The State Vice President of BJP and Prabhari of Media Cell, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Mr M Vinod has requested the Lt. Governor to consider bestowing LG's Commendation Certificate to the three Jet Ski Operators of these islands, who saved three precious lives at sea on Wednesday. At around 4.30 on Dec 1, six fishermen were caught in the stormy weather at sea near Snake Island. The rescue operation was difficult, but the three Jet Ski Operator from Carbyn's Cove Beach namely Mr Naresh, Mr Dilip and Mr Sanjay Das showed exemplary bravery and reached out to the drowning fishermen and saved their lives. This act of bravery has earned laurels for the Jet Ski Operators of these islands, said Mr Vinod urging the Lt. Governor to award the Jet Ski Operators with LG Commendation for their bravery and boost their morale.

Isles fisherman, Forest staff awarded for SAR Operations



Port Blair, Dec 02: The Indian Coast Guard conducts the National Maritime Search and Rescue (NMSAR) Board meeting, every year, to discuss policy issues,

formulate guidelines & procedures, assess the efficacy of National Search and Rescue Plan and also recognise contributions towards SAR by merchant mariners,

government owned vessels, the UT of A & N, were conferred with Annual SAR (Search and Rescue) awards, at New Delhi, for exemplary contributions towards

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Paritosh Halder writes to Centre, seeks MSP for copra farmers

Port Blair, Dec 2: The former Member, A&N Pradesh Council and President of Andaman Nicobar Democratic Congress Mr. Paritosh Halder, has demanded implementation of Minimum Support Price (MSP) for Copra for farmers in the Nicobar group of islands. Farmers in the region are also not getting proper marketing facilities, rate of their produces, i.e. Copra

and are being exploited by private businessmen. Around 300 settlers are settled in Great Nicobar since the year 1969. Most of them have raised coconut plantations and dependent of the plantations for their livelihood, said Mr Halder.

In a letter to the Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Mr Halder said that ANCOFED was procuring the Copra from

farmers in these islands and the Government of India provided them marginal money/support price time to time. However, crores of rupees have still not been paid to the farmers. They met the management of ANCOFED on several occasions, but in vain. The responsibility of procuring of Copra under MSP scheme may be given to some other

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MV Bharat Seema's sailing deferred

Port Blair, Dec 02: Due to the prevailing adverse weather conditions, the scheduled sailing of MV Bharat Seema for Campbell Bay via Nancowry on 03.12.2021 at 0800 Hrs and return to Port Blair on 05.12.2021 at 2000 Hrs from Campbell Bay has been deferred, till further notice. Inconvenience caused to the passengers is regretted, a release from the Deputy Director of Shipping Services said.

Farmers benefit from Kisan Gosthies at Rangat zone

Port Blair, Dec 2: Kisan Gosthies were organized by department of Agriculture, rangat in association with UTATMA in commemoration of 75 years of India Independence BHARAT KA AMRIT MAHOTSAV in various villages of rangat Agriculture zone. The programmes were organized in different villages of rangat zone from 25/10/2021 to 30/10/2021 (eight villages namely Deshrathpur, rangat, pamashala, sabari, dharmapur, long island, Nimbudala and sitapur) during the programmes the

farmers were briefed on various schemes available with the department of agriculture for the benefit of farmers.

During the programme farmers were briefed in detail about the importance of Kisan credit card and Kisan credit card scheme wherein PM Kisan beneficiaries actively participated in the programmes. The farmers were motivated to avail the facility of KCC so that they can take up new activities in their land and get increased returns. further

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32 farmwomen benefit from ICAR-CIARI twin training prog. on preparation of bakery products, plantation-based cropping system



Port Blair, Dec 02: The ICAR-Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Port Blair conducted twin training programme on "Empowerment of rural women through Preparation of Bakery Products" at KVK, Sippighat and "Plantation Based Cropping System" at Bridavan, from 29th November to 1st Dec. 2021 for farm women and rural youth. In the concluding function Shri Ramesh, Assistant Director, Department of Agriculture, South Andaman was the Chief Guest and informed to all the trainees to take as an opportunity and initiate own enterprises, he also appreciated KVK for organizing a need based and fruitful training programme for the rural women and asked them

to work together in SHG's for build up a successful enterprise. Dr L.B Singh explained the participants that women are key agents for achieving the economic and social changes required for development of our community. Dr. Pooja Kapoor, SMS (Home Science), Course facilitator briefed about the objectives of training programme and also spoke about the present demand and need for small scale bakery industry in the islands. Different bakery items like vanilla cake, pineapple cake, chocolate cake, muffins, truffles, cookies were exhibits in a participatory mode during the programme. Altogether, 32

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DLSA to conduct National Lok Adalat on Dec.11

Port Blair, Dec 02: The District Legal Services Authority, A&N Islands shall be holding National Lok Adalat in the Alternative Dispute Resolution Centre- 'PRAYAS', and District & Sessions Court, Port Blair on Dec.11, 2021 by adopting all COVID SOP issued by the MHA from time to time. Bank loan recovery cases involving State Bank of India, Indian Overseas Bank, A&N Co-operative Bank Ltd. and the disputes relating to telephone and mobile bills pending before the BSNL at the pre-litigation stage and Criminal Compoundable cases and MACT matters will be placed before the National Lok Adalat Benches for disposal upon consensual settlements between the parties. National Lok Adalat will also be held at Subdivisional Court Complex at Mayabunder on Dec.11 by adopting all COVID SOP issued by MHA from time to time. Meanwhile, the National Lok Adalat scheduled to be held on Dec. 11 at Circuit Court at Diglipur stands cancelled owing to administrative reasons.

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EDITORIAL

The Andaman EXPRESS

03 December 2021

Debate On Punjab

Union Home Minister Zail Singh expressed himself against any blanket ban on entry of police into places of worship and sought the cooperation of Opposition parties in handling the prevailing situation in Punjab. The Home Minister, who was replying to a five-hour debate in the Lok Sabha on the Khalistan and other secessionist agitations in the country, said such a ban on the entry of police will interfere with law enforcement. He also appealed to religious leaders to not drag religion into politics. He said that the Canadian government had been informed over the Indian government's unhappiness over grant of asylum in Canada to persons "carrying Khalistan passports". He said he had told Canada's Communications Minister that this was objectionable.

Assam Alliance Fails

The 11-party left and democratic front seems to have lost the first round in the bid to form a government. It is understood that the Governor of Assam and Meghalaya, Prakash Mehrotra has rejected their claim as unauthorised. It's learnt that when the alliance leaders called on the governor fortnight ago, the Governor had asked them to certify, amongst other things, that the major constituents of the alliance would participate in the government and not support it from outside. But until now, the alliance has been able to produce letters to this effect from five of the 11 constituents.

Chandy's Letter

The Cong-S working committee's rejection of its Kerala unit's plea to form a government may lead to a showdown between the two. The hard-hitting letter of Oommen Chandy to Sharad Pawar gave this impression. Chandy describes the working committee's decision as "undemocratic".

32 farmwomen benefit..

farmwomen from four different Panchayats of South Andaman benefited from the training.

On 29th December, 2021 training programme on "Plantation Based Cropping System" was inaugurated by Dr. Y. Ramakrishna, Head ICAR-KVK, Port Blair and highlighted the scope and importance of plantation based cropping system in Bay Islands and its opportunities for employment generation, earnings of foreign exchange and sustainable livelihood through this cropping system. Dr. N.

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Bommayasamy, SMS (Agronomy), Course Facilitator, emphasized on integrated pest and disease management in plantation crops and mass multiplication of bio-control agents for effective control of soil borne pathogens. Dr. B.K. Nanda, SMS (Agri. Engg) demonstrate about different water management systems during dry spell and used of small farm machineries in plantation based cropping system. Dr. Thanmai Paul, Farm manager shared his experience in nutrient management on plantations crops.

Isles fisherman..

saving precious lives at sea.. The awardees included Mr V Raja Rao, a fisherman from Campbell Bay, who was awarded the "SAR Award for Fisherman", for the year 2021, for saving three precious lives from a sinking fishing boat FB Manikanna, on 24 Jun 21 and the Forest Department of A&N, which was felicitated with the "SAR Award for Ashore Unit", for rescuing three precious lives of IFB Kokila, drifting off Swaraj Dweep, due to engine failure. These awards recognise the voluntary efforts for saving

precious lives at sea and the two awards for personnel from the UT of A&N, validate the collaborative structure of SAR in the islands. The Indian Coast Guard being the nodal agency for Maritime Search and Rescue has dedicated Maritime Rescue Coordination Centres (MRCCs) and Maritime Rescue Sub Centres (MRSCs), which are manned 24x7 to respond to distress messages received to coordinate Search and Rescue (SAR) missions. Till date, 10262 lives in distress at sea have been saved by the Coast Guard.

Farmers benefit ..

they were also explained about the Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maandhan Yojana scheme and asked the farmers to enroll themselves under scheme and get benefited.

Representatives of the dept of fisheries briefed about various schemes available with the department of fisheries from which farmers can get benefited urged the

from... Page 01

farmers to take up KCC. Representatives of Dept of Animal husbandry briefed about various schemes under the department of animal husbandry and asked the farmers to get maximum benefits out of the schemes. Altogether 240 farmers officials of agriculture veterinarian and fisheries attended the 08 programmes conducted at various village of rangat zone.

Paritosh Halder..

reputed agencies like ANIIDCO. Farmers also demand establishment of purchasing centers in various places which will be very helpful to the farmers' community. Presently just Rs. 8/- per coconut is being paid by the businessmen and

from... Page 01

farmers are facing countless problems. While the farmers are holding a peaceful protest at Campbell Bay, the administration needs to expedite implementation of procurement under MSP for the Copra farmers.

COVID-19 Vaccination going smoothly in isles

Port Blair, Dec 02: The vaccination drive is continuing smoothly in A&N Islands. As per data available, a total of 5,54,860 beneficiaries have been vaccinated so far in A&N Islands, out of the target beneficiaries of 2,81,603 (approx.). A total of 1,75,862 eligible people in the age group of 18 to 44 years have been vaccinated till date. A total of 1346 people were vaccinated in these islands on Wednesday. 1116 beneficiaries were vaccinated in South Andaman District, out of which 83 beneficiaries were in the age group of 18-44 years. Similarly, 210 beneficiaries were vaccinated in North & Middle Andaman District out of which 9 beneficiaries were in the age group of 18-44. 20 beneficiaries were vaccinated in Nicobar District.

EUROPE'S MIGRANT CRISIS DOMINATES POPE'S CYPRUS-GREECE TRIP

Pope Francis' trip to Cyprus and Greece is drawing new attention to the plight of migrants on Europe's borders and the disconnect between Francis' Gospel-driven call for countries to welcome and integrate them and front-line governments that are increasingly unwilling or unable to let them in.

The eastern Mediterranean island nation of Cyprus has seen such a spike in migrant arrivals this year - a 38 per cent increase in the first 10 months compared to all of last year - that it has formally asked the European Commission to let it stop processing asylum claims altogether.

Francis is expected to raise the migration question and Cyprus' nearly half-century division when he arrives in Nicosia on Thursday on the first leg of his five-day trip.

The visit will also take him back to Lesbos, where in 2016 he made headlines when he brought a dozen Syrian migrants home with him from a refugee camp on the Greek island.

In a sign of the importance of migrants for the trip, Francis met with a group of asylum-seekers at the Vatican and another group near Rome's airport before boarding the plane taking him to Cyprus.

The Vatican said some had been part of the group who accompanied Francis to Rome from Lesbos in 2016.

Francis is arranging a similar transfer this time around. Around 50 migrants in Cyprus have been

identified for transfer to Italy, though they won't join him on the plane home but will be resettled in coming weeks, Cypriot officials say. And the Vatican hasn't ruled out that some more migrants from Lesbos might be relocated to Italy as well following Francis' visit.

It was like a gift, said one of the Syrian migrants who come to Italy after Francis' 2016 visit to Lesbos, Malak Abo. Now, Abo works at a donation center run by the Catholic Sant'Egidio charity group in Rome that helped facilitate his 2016 transfer.

In divided Nicosia, Francis will immediately come face-to-face with the reality of the island's ethnic cleave, which is also helping to fuel its migration influx.

Francis will be staying in the Vatican nunciature, or embassy, which is located in the UN-controlled buffer zone that divides the island between the Greek Cypriot south and the breakaway Turkish Cypriot north.

Cyprus was split in 1974 when Turkey invaded following a coup by supporters of union with Greece.

Only Turkey recognises the Turkish Cypriot declaration of independence in the north. UN-led efforts to resume reunification talks are proceeding at a snail's pace amid a Greek Cypriot rejection of Turkish Cypriot call for a two-state deal.

Around 80 per cent of all migrants in Cyprus first arrive in the north and

then cross the porous UN green line to seek asylum in the internationally recognised south, which is a member of the European Union.

The Cypriot government claims that Turkey systematically sends asylum-seekers to the breakaway north so that they then pressure the island's southern government.

Among the possible candidates for transfer to Italy after the pope's visit are Grace Enjei and Daniel Ejuba, two Cameroonian asylum-seekers who crossed from the north about six months ago and got stuck in the buffer zone, where they have been living in a blue tent ever since.

If help can come from anywhere, I will grab it, Enjei said on the eve of Francis' arrival.

And if I'm given the opportunity to like, make a choice, of course, anywhere in Europe will be OK.

She and Ejuba paid hundreds of euros to someone in the north who showed them the way to cross through the UN line six months ago.

They would face deportation if they returned to the north, but have been blocked from crossing into the south amid Cyprus' crackdown on migrants, which has recently included a 27.5 million-euro (\$31.8 million) deal with Israel to install a camera system to monitor the 180-kilometer-long (110-mile-long) buffer zone.

Despite the precarious life they are living in a tent on the UN green

line, Grace says remaining in southern Cameroon wasn't an option: Her home was burned down and random shootings and violence made her flee for the bush seeking safety.

Francis has made the plight of migrants a hallmark of his papacy, making his first trip outside Rome as pope to the island of Lampedusa, the destination of choice for Libyan-based migrant smugglers. He has since prayed at the US-Mexican border, toured a refugee camp in Bethlehem and met with Rohingya refugees who fled Myanmar for Bangladesh.

In a message this week marking the International Organisation of Migration's 70th anniversary, Francis insisted that refugees are people deserving of dignity and denounced how their desperation is exploited, a message he has repeated in reference to the standoff at the EU's border with Belarus.

The debate on migration is not really about migrants, Francis said. Even more regrettable is the fact that migrants are increasingly being used as bargaining chips, as pawns on a chessboard, victims of political rivalries. Francis is also meeting with the Orthodox leaders in both Cyprus and Greece, as well as the small local Catholic communities in each country.

The visit comes amid new pandemic travel bans across much of



the world thanks to the omicron variant first detected in South Africa. The pope, who turns 85 this month and has only part of one lung, is fully vaccinated but generally eschews face masks. Asked what if any precautions had been taken to protect him and others during the trip, Vatican spokesman Matteo Brunetti said prudence as well as prevailing health pass requirements that are in place in most of Europe.

Asked if the pope and Vatican delegation had received booster shots, Brunetti said I would presume anyone travelling on the papal plane who wanted one could get one. Cyprus has in recent weeks seen a spike in daily COVID-19 infections at a rate hovering above 0.5 per cent which has prompted authorities to mandate mask-wearing and weekly testing for schoolkids over 6 as well as to cancel all school Christmas events.

Congress has lost more than 90% elections in last 10 years: Prashant Kishor

The fault lines between the Trinamool Congress and Congress appear to be widening over the issue of leadership of an opposition front against the BJP.

On Wednesday, Trinamool Congress chief Mamata Banerjee declared there was no UPA alliance in existence. In response, indignant Congress leaders claimed no front against the BJP would be possible without the involvement of the Congress.

On Thursday, poll strategist Prashant Kishor, whose profile as an adviser of Mamata has grown over the past year, spoke of the rift with the Congress. Kishor acknowledged the Congress occupied a vital space in the opposition, but claimed the party did not have a "divine right" of leadership given its poll record.

Kishor tweeted, "The IDEA

and SPACE that #Congress represents is vital for a strong opposition. But Congress' leadership is not the DIVINE RIGHT of an individual especially, when the party has lost more than 90% elections in last 10 years. Let



opposition leadership be decided Democratically."

There were reports after the assembly polls in May that Kishor could join the Congress and perhaps even take a leadership role. However, in recent weeks, as

Congress leaders in many parts of India joined the Trinamool Congress, the grand old party has become more critical of Kishor.

On Tuesday, Zakir Ahmed, media coordinator of the Maharashtra Congress, declared Mamata was "becoming a victim of misunderstanding of herself. She should get rid of the neo politicians like Prashant Kishor if she were to do real politics," Deccan Herald reported.

Ahmed's comments came after Mamata arrived in Mumbai to meet leaders of the Shiv Sena and NCP in an effort to find common ground against the BJP.

Last week, the Congress suffered a shock in Meghalaya when 12 of its 17 MLAs, including former chief minister Mukul Sangma, switched over to the TMC. The development made the TMC the main opposition party in Meghalaya. Sangma had claimed his "belief in TMC's potential was strengthened after meeting Kishor,"

Researchers develop coating to modify cloth masks for better Covid-19 protection

A team of researchers of Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati (IITG) has developed a coating to modify ordinary cloth or silk masks for better protection against aerosol-driven infections like COVID-19, the premier institute said.

According to World Health Organisation (WHO) guidelines, N95 masks or double masking protect people to a great extent from Coronavirus, but the drawback is that people undergo suffocation after wearing them for a long time.

Besides, the N95 masks are costly and thus unaffordable to a large section of the population.

"To address these challenges and to bring in a safer, economical, and comfortable alternative, the researchers of IIT-Guwahati have developed a coating material to modify the easily-available cloth mask into a hydrophobic mask to repel virus-laden droplets and avoid breathing difficulties even when worn for a longer period, a press release said.

Another advantage is that these masks are versatile and can be used with other additives such



as antibacterial nanomaterial for additional protection against viruses, it said.

The research team was led by Prof Arun Chattopadhyay, Department of Chemistry and Centre for Nanotechnology, and Dr. Partho S G Pattadar, Department of Chemical Engineering, it added.

Highlighting the unique aspects of this research, Chattopadhyay said, "We have worked on the principle of repulsion of the aerosol by the modified cloth while allowing the air to flow through the mask. A simple coating of the hydrophobic molecule on the silk

cloth worked well here."

The breathability was tested by measuring the oxygen permeation through the mask with the help of an instrument called Gas Chromatography. The penetration of oxygen reduces by only 22 per cent for the modified Eri silk mask compared to the natural Eri silk mask, whereas for N95 the reduction with respect to the natural Eri silk came out to be around 59 per cent. "Hence, the modified silk mask is way more breathable than the N95 mask but with almost similar protection against aerosol-driven infections," the release said.

Anju Bobby George wins 'Woman of the Year' award for grooming talent

Legendary Indian long jumper Anju Bobby George has been bestowed with the 'Woman of the Year' award by World Athletics for grooming talent in the country and advocating gender equality.

The 44-year-old Anju, the only Indian to have won a medal in the World Championships with a long jump bronze in the 2003 edition, was named for the award in the world body's annual awards night held virtually on Wednesday.

The award is given to recognise a woman who has dedicated her life to the sport of athletics. Anju is the second recipient of the prestigious award, which was started in 2019, after Ethiopia's double Olympic champion Derartu Tulu.

Sprint legend P.T. Usha was honoured by the world athletics body with the Veteran Pin in 2019, in recognition of her contribution to the growth of sport. From 2014 to 2018, a similar honour called 'Women in Athletics Award'—which recognised outstanding achievements and contributions made to develop, encourage and

strengthen the participation of women and girls at all levels of the sport—was given.

"The former international long jump star from India is still actively involved in the sport. In 2016, she opened a training academy for young girls, which has already helped to produce a world U-20 medallist," World Athletics said in a release. "A constant voice for gender equality in her role as senior vice president of the Indian Athletics Federation, Bobby George also mentors schoolgirls for future leadership positions within the sport," the release said. One of India's most illustrious track and field athletes, Anju said she was "truly humbled and honoured to be awarded Woman of the Year by World Athletics". "There is no better feeling than to wake up every day and give back to the sport, allowing it to enable and empower young girls! Thank you for recognising my efforts," she tweeted. World Athletics added that her efforts in advancing the sport in India as well as inspiring more women to follow in her footsteps make her "more

than a worthy recipient" of this year's award.

"I am really, really happy to learn that this year's Woman of the Year award is considering my name. As an athlete, it was a hard journey but I still believe I could reach the level which I deserve. And now it's my turn to give back to our sport," Anju said in a video uploaded on Twitter by World Athletics.

"I am serving as senior vice-president of Indian Athletic Federation (AFI) and my academy, Anju Bobby George Foundation, is nurturing 13 women athletes—small kids—and within a short span of three years, they will all have already started their journey to the world stage. I thank all my supporters, all my fellow athletes, coaches, my family, federation and everyone who stood with me during my journey. Thanks a lot once again for considering me," she said. Hailing from Kerala, Anju is India's only medallist at the World Athletics Championships (Paris, 2003) and a gold medallist in the IAAF World Athletics Finals (Monaco, 2005). She finished sixth in the 2004



Olympic Games in Athens with a personal best leap of 6.83m, but was elevated to fifth place in 2007 when Marion Jones of the US was disqualified for a doping offence.

Promising long jumper Shaili Singh, who was spotted and mentored by Anju and trained under her husband Robert Booby George, recently won a silver in the World U-20 Athletics Championships. Olympic champions Elaine Thompson-Herah of Jamaica and Karsten Warholm of Norway were named the World Athletics of the Year at the awards night.

The awards were earlier known as World Athletics Gala Awards.

Crypto firm CEOs to testify before US House banking panel

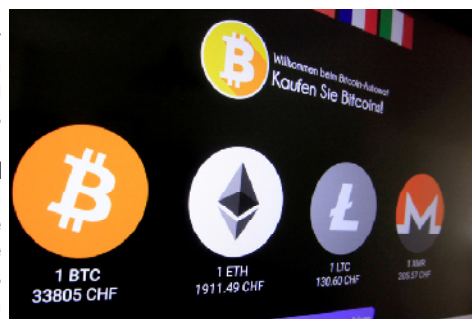
The top officials of eight major cryptocurrency firms like Coinbase Global Inc, Paxos and FTX trading will testify before the US House Financial Services Committee on Dec. 8, the panel announced on Wednesday.

This will be the first time that executives from the rapidly growing cryptocurrency markets will testify before lawmakers, discuss how to regularize the new financial product and grapple with its implications in the market. Jeremy Allaire, the CEO of Circle and Dannelle Dixon, CEO of the Stellar Development Foundation will be among those testifying.

Senator Elizabeth Warren, among others, has called for a governmental crackdown on the volatile sector, as some progressives have grown

increasingly sceptical of Bitcoin and the hazards it may offer. According to the committee statement, Alesia Haas, the CFO of Coinbase Global, will be one of the witnesses in the hearing, which will focus on "the difficulties and rewards of financial innovation." Circle's CEO, Jeremy Allaire, and Bitfury's CEO, Sam Bankman-Fried, who formerly served as a top financial regulator in the Trump administration.

Also testifying will be Brian Brooks, the current CEO of Bitfury, who proposed several reforms aimed at making it easier for banks to engage in bitcoin transactions.



TWO OMICRON CASES IN INDIA

Union Health Ministry on Thursday said that two cases of Omicron variant have been discovered in the country. According to Joint Secretary of the Union Home Ministry Lav Agarwal, both cases have been identified in Karnataka.

"No severe symptoms of the Omicron variant of Covid-19 reported so far," Agarwal

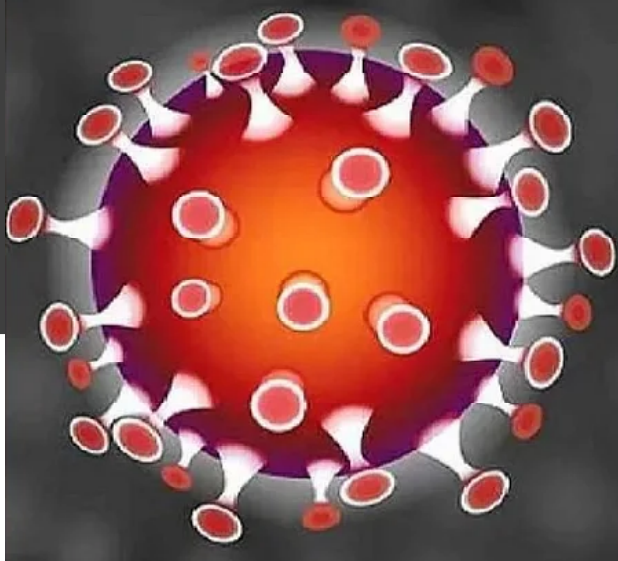
said during a media briefing. "All Omicron related cases are found to have mild symptoms so far... In all such cases in the country and across the world so far, no severe symptom has been noted. WHO has said that its emerging evidence is being studied," he added.

The potentially more contagious Omicron variant was first reported to the WHO from South Africa on November 24, and has been designated as a "Variant of Concern".

Meanwhile, Zydus Cadila's Covid-19 vaccine ZyCoV-D will

initially be used in seven states — Bihar, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal — which have been recommended to identify the districts with a high number of beneficiaries who have not received a single dose of a Covid vaccine for its introduction.

Omicron was first reported on Nov. 24 in southern Africa, where infections have risen steeply. It has since spread to more than a dozen countries, many of which have imposed travel restrictions to try to seal themselves off.



Earlier this week, the World Health Organization (WHO) warned on Monday that the heavily mutated Omicron coronavirus variant was likely to spread internationally and poses a very high risk of infection surges that could have "severe consequences" in some places.

On Tuesday, health officials in the Netherlands said the heavily mutated new coronavirus variant was in Europe several days earlier than previously known.

The Netherlands' National Institute for Public Health and the Environment said that samples taken on Nov. 19 and Nov. 23 — before the Nov. 24 announcement of omicron's existence — tested positive for the variant. Mutations in the omicron variant strongly suggest that it is more contagious than previous forms of the virus, scientists say. They caution that they cannot be sure without more testing and data, but the evidence so far is sobering. More information on the variant is likely to emerge in the coming week.

Southern Railway Recruitment 2021, Apply for Sports Quota Vacancies @ sr.indianrailways.gov.in

Southern Railway Recruitment 2021 | Sports Quota | 21 Vacancies | Last Dates: 30.11.2021 | Southern Railway Job Notification @ sr.indianrailways.gov.in

Southern Railway Recruitment 2021: Southern Railway has initiated the hiring process by releasing the notification for recruitment against Sports Quota for the year 2021-22. They are announced 21 vacancies the posts from Level 2 to Level 5 in 7th CPC Pay Matrix. Applicants who are searching for Central Govt jobs may apply for this Southern Railway vacancy. Eligible & willing candidates are advised to download the application & fill the form with correct details. Capable persons need to submit the Southern Railway application form on or before 30.11.2021, 17.00 Hrs.

Class 12th job seekers can apply for this Southern Railway Sports Quota recruitment 2021. Applicants should submit the filled form along with essential documents to apply for this Railway jobs. Southern Railway recruitment 2021 notification & application form are published at www.sr.indianrailways.gov.in/ www.rcmas.in. Selection process consists of trial & interview. Candidates need to pay a fee through prescribed mode on or before the last date. More details about this Southern Railway recruitment 2021, selection list, merit list, results will be uploaded at official website.

Eligibility Criteria for Southern Railway Sports Quota Vacancy 2021

Educational Qualification: Candidates should have passed Class 12th/ Graduate degree from recognized board/ university.

Check advertisement for more details.

Age Limit (As on 01.01.2022)

Age limit should be 18 years to 25 years.

Refer notification for age relaxation.

To get more details about Southern Railway, visit www.sr.indianrailways.gov.in. Here we have provided the educational qualification, age limit, selection process, apply mode & steps to apply. Keep checking at www.dailyrecruitment.in for latest & upcoming notices.

Indian Air Force Recruitment 2021, 83 Group C Civilian vacancies, Apply @ indianairforce.nic.in

Indian Air Force Recruitment 2021 | MTS, Cook, LDC & Other Posts | 83 Vacancies | Last Date: Within 30 days | Download IAF Bharti Application Form @ indianairforce.nic.in

Indian Air Force Recruitment 2021: Indian Air Force (IAF) invites application from eligible Indian nationals to fill up 83 vacancies in Group C Civilian posts. These vacancies are allocated for the post of Supdt (Store), Lower Division Clerk (LDC), Cook, Carpenter, Civilian Mechanical Transport Driver, Fireman & Multi-Tasking Staff posts in Various Air Force Stations/ Units. Candidates who had passed class 10th/ Class 12th are eligible to apply for Indian Air Force jobs. Aspirants need to submit the application within 30 days from the date of employment news.

Candidates may download the IAF recruitment 2021 notification and application form from www.indianairforce.nic.in. Selection of candidate will be based on written test/ skill test/ practical test/ physical test. Medium of exam should be English & Hindi. Selected candidates will be placed anywhere in India. Aspirants with a valid Civil Driving License are instructed to apply for this IAF vacancy. No TA/ Da will be provided to attend the selection process. More details about Indian Air Force vacancy, admit card, syllabus, merit list, selection list, results and upcoming recruitment will be updated at official website.

Please visit www.indianairforce.nic.in to know more career opportunity at Indian Air Force. Here you will get educational qualification, age limit, selection process, apply mode and steps to apply for posts. Keep looking at www.dailyrecruitment.in to obtain latest updates.

THDC Recruitment 2021, Apply 100 Apprentice Vacancies @ thdc.co.in

THDC Recruitment 2021 | ITI Trade Apprentice Posts | Total Vacancies 100 | Last Date 30.11.2021 | Download THDC Recruitment Notification @ thdc.co.in

THDC Recruitment 2021: THDC India Limited, A Mini Ratna Schedule 'A' Company, invites application from eligible candidates for the post of ITI Trade Apprentice in Tehri Unit. THDC India Limited has recently published the recruitment notification [Advt. No. 01/2021] for THDC Apprentice Recruitment 2021. There are 100 vacancies are filled by THDC India & Trade wise vacancy details are given in the official notification. Candidates who are searching 10th pass jobs in Central Govt kindly submit the application form via post on or before 30.11.2021. THDCIL recruitment 2021 Application Form and THDC Recruitment notification is available in THDCIL website (thdc.co.in). Candidates who are seeking ITI jobs must check their eligibility i.e. educational qualification, age limit, experience and etc. The selection process of candidates will be based on merit list and selected candidates will be undergo apprenticeship training at Uttarakhand. More details of thdc.co.in in recruitment, upcoming THDC India Limited notices, merit list, selection list, admit card, result, upcoming central govt notifications and etc. will be uploaded on official website. Applicants are advised to make sure that they are meeting the eligibility requirements as per the vacancy notification for the post before submitting the applications. Here you will get details of Apprentice posts like educational qualification, age limit, application mode, fee and how to apply. Keep check www.dailyrecruitment.in regularly to get latest updates & upcoming govt exams.

NALCO Recruitment 2021, Apply 86 Executive Vacancies @ www.nalcoindia.com

NALCO Recruitment 2021 | Manager, AGM & Other Posts | Total Vacancies 86 | Last Date 07.12.2021 | Download NALCO India Recruitment Notification @ www.nalcoindia.com

NALCO Recruitment 2021: National Aluminium Company Limited has issued new job notice [Advt No 10210112] for appointment of Executives in various disciplines. It is going to start the online registration process on 08.11.2021 to fill up 86 vacancies. There are 86 candidates will be hired for Dy. Manager, General Manager, Group General Manager, Manager, Assistant General Manager, Dy. General Manager & Sr. Manager posts and post wise vacancy details are given below. Candidates who are seeking central govt jobs kindly make the online registration up to 07.12.2021.

NALCO Executive Recruitment 2021 Notification & NALCO India Apply online link is available @ www.nalcoindia.com. Before apply to these openings candidates must check their eligibility i.e. educational qualification, age limit, experience and etc. NALCO India selection will be based on Test/ Interview and shortlisted aspirants will be posted at various units/ locations. More details of www.nalcoindia.com recruitment, NALCO new vacancy, upcoming notices, syllabus, answer key, merit list, selection list, admit card, result, upcoming central govt jobs notifications and etc. will be uploaded on official website.

How to apply National Aluminium Company Limited Recruitment 2021

Go to official website nalcoindia.com

Click "Career" find the advertisement, click on the advertisement

Notification will open read it and check Eligibility.

Back to the page, find apply link.

If you are new user, you have to make registration otherwise you may login to your account then start to apply.

Enter your details correctly and make the payment.

Finally click submit button and take the print of the application form.

You may visit Career page to get more details about www.nalcoindia.com recruitment. Here you will get information like educational qualification, age limit application mode, fee and how to apply. Keep check www.dailyrecruitment.in regularly to get latest updates & upcoming govt exams.

JIPMER Recruitment 2021, Apply for Assistant Professor Vacancies @ jipmer.edu.in

JIPMER Recruitment 2021 | Assistant Professor Posts | 03 Vacancies | Last Date: 02.12.2021 | JIPMER Job Notification @ jipmer.edu.in

JIPMER Recruitment 2021: Jawaharlal Institute of Post Graduate Medical Education & Research (JIPMER) has released recruitment notification on 03.11.2021. As per JIPMER Puducherry recruitment 2021 notification, they expect application from eligible persons for the post of Assistant Professor posts in various discipline. Central Government job seekers may use this chance to join in JIPMER jobs. The Last date to submit the JIPMER application form for these 03 vacancies is 02.12.2021. JIPMER recruitment 2021 notification & application form are available at www.jipmer.edu.in.

JIPMER is going to recruit candidates on contract basis. Applicants should have attained the prescribed educational qualification & age limit. 1 year/ 3 years teaching & research experience in relevant field is required to apply for JIPMER recruitment 2021. Appointments will be at Puducherry. Contract period is 11 months. Aspirants need to pay a fee through prescribed mode on or before the last date. They are planned to hire candidates by conducting the interview. Information about the interview will be provided by the Institute. More details of JIPMER recruitment 2021, selection list, merit list, results & upcoming job notices will be uploaded at official website.

To get more job opportunity at JIPMER, check www.jipmer.edu.in. Here we have prescribed educational qualification, age limit, selection process, apply mode & steps to apply. Keep checking at www.dailyrecruitment.in for latest updates.

STAY HOME

STAY SAFE

Fight Against Covid-19
Corona Virus

CORONAVIRUS MUST KNOW FACTS

What Is 2019-nCov?

A new strain of the coronavirus that infects humans and causes lower respiratory tract illnesses.

Who Is At Risk?

Common in people with cardiopulmonary diseases, weakened immunity, infants, and older adults.

What Are The Symptoms?

Fever, Cough, Breathing difficulty, Sore Throat, Runny nose, Headache and General Debility.

What Are The Preventive Measures?

- Wash hands regularly using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer or soap and water
- Cover mouth and nose with tissue paper while sneezing
- Avoid touching face, nose or mouth with dirty hands
- Wear protective masks to avoid spreading onto others
- Stay at home if sick
- Disinfecting and cleaning surfaces that you frequently touch

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IN CONVERSATION

COVID INFECTIONS MORE SEVERE IN PEOPLE WITH WEAKER IMMUNE SYSTEM

COVID-19 infections in the fully vaccinated are rare but more common and severe in people with weaker immune systems, according to a Pfizer-led study involving nearly 1.2 million people.

The research, published in the Journal of Medical Economics, found that within a pool of 1,277,747 fully vaccinated people in the US only 0.08 percent experienced a breakthrough infection between December 10, 2020 and July 8, 2021.

However, although immunocompromised individuals represented just 18 percent of those studied, they accounted for over 38 percent of infections, nearly 60 percent of all hospitalisations, and 100 percent of deaths.

The proportion of people with breakthrough infections was three times higher among immunocompromised individuals (0.18 percent)

than among the reference group of non-immunocompromised individuals (0.06 percent).

"The results supplement other real-world studies, and support the introduction of a third dose of a COVID-19 vaccine to increase protection among the immunocompromised individuals," said Manuela Di Fusco, study lead author from the Pfizer Health Economics and Outcomes Research team.

"While COVID-19 mRNA vaccines help protect people from getting infected and severely ill, the risk of breakthrough infections in fully vaccinated people is not completely eliminated," Di Fusco said.

Identifying individuals in the US population who had received two doses of the Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 mRNA

vaccine, the study looked to examine breakthrough infections among those with and without a weakened immune system.

From a large collection of US healthcare administrative data, the team analysed healthcare records of 1,277,747 people aged 16 or over who had received two doses of the Pfizer COVID-19 mRNA vaccine.

Of this group, 225,796 (17.7 percent) were identified as immunocompromised – including people with advanced HIV/AIDS, cancer, kidney disease, rheumatologic or other inflammatory conditions, other immune conditions, and bone marrow or organ transplant recipients.

The study results showed a total of 978 (0.08 percent) breakthrough infections occurred among 1,176,907 fully vaccinated individuals who had at least two weeks of follow-up after the second dose.

As many as 124 (12.7 percent) of these breakthrough infections required hospital treatment. Of them, 74 (59.7 percent) were immunocompromised, and two people died (both immunocompromised), the researchers said.

Two percent of all breakthrough infections occurred in those who were immunocompromised, they said.

"While the study leveraged a large dataset that has been previously used for healthcare research in the US, the findings should be interpreted in the context of multiple limitations, including coding accuracy and data representativeness beyond the study period," Di Fusco added.



Jet Airways in talks for \$12 billion aircraft deal with Boeing: Report

As the aviation sector eyes the prospect of air traffic returning to pre-COVID levels, airlines have slowly started expanding their fleets. The newly-formed Adani-backed airline, Akasa, placed a \$9 billion order for 72 Boeing 737 Max jets in November. Now, Jet Airways is reported to be in talks for \$12 billion worth of aircraft from the same manufacturer.

Jet's new owners, the UAE-based business Murari Lal Jalan and UK investment firm Kalrock Capital, told Bloomberg News that the company was looking to buy at least 100

narrow-body aircraft.

The group looks to invest \$200 million through equity in Jet over the next six months.

It is an ambitious move forward for Jet. It was only in June that the Jalan-Kalrock consortium's resolution plan for the struggling airline had

been approved. Jet has not flown since April 2019 after it ran into a cash crunch.

In a statement in September, Kalan outlined the company's plans. "Jet Airways 2.0 aims at restarting domestic operations by Q1-2022, and short haul international

operations by Q3/Q4 2022. Our plan is to have 50+ aircraft in 3 years and 100+ in 5 years which also fits perfectly well with the short-term and long-term business plan of the Consortium." The airline proposes to fly its first service from New Delhi to Mumbai.

Captain Sudhir Gaur, the acting CEO of Jet Airways, explained the plans for the airline's main operating hubs. "Jet Airways will continue to have strong and significant presence in Mumbai where it will work from its 'Global One' office in Kurla. Jet Airways also has a state-of-the-art training centre located at Global One, which will be retained and used for in-house training for the Jet Airways team," Gaur said in the statement.



VACUUM TOO ABHORS NATURE

OPEN SECRET



Sports Ministry adds seven former athletes to Mission Olympics Cell

NEW DELHI: Football icon Bhaichung Bhutia and long jumper Anju Bobby George were among seven former athletes who were included in the Mission Olympic Cell on Thursday as India looked to build on the successes of Tokyo Olympics for a stronger show in Paris 2024 edition.

MOC drives India's Olympics preparation through Target Olympics Podium Scheme (TOPS), an initiative of the ministry.

Former India hockey captain Sardara Singh, rifle shooting legend Anjali Bhagwat, former hockey captain and CEO Olympic Gold Quest Viren Rasquinha, table tennis star Monalisa Mehta and badminton ace Trupti Murgunde were the other athletes added to revamped MOC.

Sports Minister Anurag Thakur said the decision was driven by the experience gained in the last Olympic cycle.

"The inputs by former athletes in the incumbent MOC played a significant role in supporting the



training and competition of the athletes who competed in Tokyo 2020 and won 7 medals & 19 in Para Olympics," Thakur said.

Olympian sailor and sports science specialist Malav Shroff will continue to be in the MOC, which will be chaired by Director General, SAI, Sandip Pradhan.

Athletics Federation of India (AFI) president Adile Sumariwalla and CEO TOPS Cmde

Pushpendra Garg are other former players in the MOC.

Union minister Arjun Munda, Ajay Singh and Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh by virtue of president of Archery Association of India, Boxing Federation of India and Wrestling Federation of India will be part of the MOC.

MOC is a body set up by the Sports Authority of India (SAI) to select athletes for financial

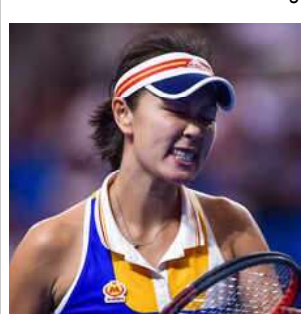
assistance under the Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS).

The MOC also focuses on selection, exclusion and retention of athletes, coaches, training institutes that can receive TOPS assistance.

The Indian contingent returned with a record seven medals, including a historic athletics gold, from the Tokyo Olympics, which was followed by the para athletes stellar show at the ensuing Paralympics in the Japanese capital. Mission Olympic Cell: Baichung Bhutia, Anju Bobby George, Anjali Bhagwat, Trupti Murgunde, Sardara Singh, Viren Rasquinha, Malav Shroff, Monalisa Mehta, Presidents of Indian Olympic Association, Wrestling Federation of India, Archery Association of India and Boxing Federation of India, Executive Director (TEAMS), SAI; Director (Sports), MYAS; CEO, TOPS (Convenor) and Joint CEO, TOPS (Co-convenor).

IOC says it has held second video call with Peng Shuai

BERLIN: The International Olympic Committee has held a second video call with doubles former world number one Peng



Shuai amid concerns about the Chinese tennis player's wellbeing, the IOC said in a statement on Thursday.

The IOC said it held the call, after having first talked to the player on Nov 21, on Wednesday evening Swiss time, just before the Women's Tennis Association (WTA) announced an immediate suspension of all tournaments in China due to concerns about the player's wellbeing. We share the same concern as many other people and organisations about the wellbeing and safety of Peng Shuai.

This is why, just yesterday, an IOC team held another video call with her," said the IOC.

"We have offered her wide-ranging support, will stay in regular touch with her, and have already agreed on a personal meeting in January," it said, adding Peng appeared to be "safe and well given the difficult situation she is in."

The whereabouts of Peng, a three-time Olympian, became a matter of international concern following a nearly three-week public absence after she posted a message on social media in early November

alleging that China's former Vice-Premier Zhang Gaoli had sexually assaulted her. Neither Zhang, who retired in 2018, nor the Chinese government have commented on Peng's allegation and the topic has been blocked from direct discussion on China's heavily censored internet. The decision by the U.S.-headquartered WTA to walk away from one of its biggest markets was applauded by many leading figures in the tennis world, though it could cost hundreds of millions of dollars in broadcasting and sponsorship revenue.

Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19)

Symptoms: fever, runny nose, cough and sore throat. For some, it can be more severe leading to pneumonia or breathing difficulties. Symptoms may develop within 14 days after exposure.

Protect yourself from getting COVID-19

- Washing your hands frequently with soap and water or use an alcohol-based hand rub.
- Avoiding touching eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hand.
- Avoiding close contact with people who have fever and coughing.

When coughing and sneezing cover your mouth and nose with flexed elbow or tissue.

Throw tissue into closed bin immediately after use.

If you suspect you may have COVID-19, contact +855 20 9606 6777 (Lao and English, contactable 24/7).

For more information, please contact the hotline 1666.

10 TIPS TO PROTECT YOURSELF AND OTHERS DO NOT RISK YOUR LIFE

- Physical distancing can help protect you from COVID-19. Stay home with members of your household if you are asked to, meet up virtually with friends or other family members.
- Wash your hands often and well with soap and water or alcohol-based gel.
- Disinfect surfaces you touch a lot, like cell phones, computers, door knobs, etc.
- The COVID-19 situation is a stressful time for everyone, including young people. Chat with or video call friends and family to stay connected.
- Limit how much social media and news you consume. Avoid rumors and misinformation by getting news from trusted sources.
- Exercise or meditate at home.
- Maintain a familiar routine – while still practicing physical distancing – to help you feel calmer and more in control.
- Reach out to a trusted adult or professional if you need help or are feeling sad or stressed.
- Do not leave your house if you are sick. Follow guidance from your health authorities on how to contact health services if you need medical care.
- Listen to your local authorities for advice and directions on how to stay safe.

Young people can also help their communities, friends, and family by staying safe and healthy, and not spreading rumors or misinformation. Stay safe and healthy!

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