

WB seeks higher unconditional borrowing limits for States

This will help meet GST compensation shortfall, decline in revenues: State FM Mitra

OUR BUREAU
New Delhi, June 4

States should be allowed to borrow up to 5 per cent of their Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) without any condition during FY22, West Bengal Finance Minister Amit Mitra urged the Centre on Friday.

He also pressed for borrowing ₹213-lakh crore to meet the GST Compensation shortfall during FY22 and not ₹158 lakh crore as discussed during GST Council meeting on May 28.

In a letter to Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Mitra recalled the decision taken by Centre during FY21 relaxing the borrowing limit of States to up to four per cent of GDP (unconditional) and up to five per cent (conditional) on certain achievements. However, the limit for the current year has

been fixed at 4 per cent, out of which 3.5 per cent is unconditional and the remaining linked to capital expenditure limit.

'Year of disaster'

"I am taken-back that after a year like 2020-21, where revenue plummeted in the entire nation and our State was hit with twin disasters of Covid-19 and Cyclone Anphani, it is being expected that our capital expenditure would not only be back on track, but increase by more than 100 per cent since 2019-20," he said, while urging to raise the unconditional borrowing limit of States to up to four per cent of GDP keeping in mind mind passes on account of pandemic and natural disasters and the anticipated 3rd wave.

Talking about GST com-



West Bengal Finance Minister Amit Mitra

penation shortfall, he said more than ₹63,000 crore is due to States for the 10-month period of April-January FY21. He reminded West Bengal alone has due of ₹4,91 crore. Raising the question on calculation of ₹158-lakh crore of borrowing to meet GST compensation shortfall, he suggested that it would be more realistic, if the notional revenue for FY22 is done considering the last nine months' average revenue of FY21. Accordingly, requirement for borrowing would be ₹213-

lakh crore. "Further, as GST revenue has not stabilised yet, the State Finances are reeling under numerous stresses of Covid-19 uncertainties and natural calamities. I would also urge you to extend the compensation period for another five year (beyond June 2022)," he said.

Backs Punjab FM's stance

Supporting the view of Punjab Finance Minister Manpreet Singh Badal stating decision of the GST Implementation Committee must be approved by the GST Council, Mitra said this is a fundamental issue and must be brought before the council for detailed discussion.

He expressed disappointment over high rates on Covid relief materials. He also surprised that none of State FMs was included in Group of Ministers (looking into need for exemption/condonation), who raised voice against the present duty regime.

'IR Code rules against ILO conventions'

Ignore unorganised sector, do not reflect present day problems, feel CTUs

AMJEEESH
New Delhi, June 4

As the deadline for feedback on the draft rules of Industrial Relations Code ended on Friday, two more trade unions, AITUC and TUCI, submitted separate responses that the proposed amendments do not reflect the present day problems of the workforce and will hamper the rights to form unions and to negotiate with the employers and the governments.

'Lockdown issue'

AITUC general secretary Amarjeet Kaur said that it is "unreasonable, unjust and unfair" to ask for suggestions and objections on such rules at a time when Covid-19 is surging at such high levels in the country. "Most trade union officers are required to be shut due to lockdown and the persons who are not in reach are not within reach. As such, this consultation is a mere farce

and a showpiece," she charged. She asked the Centre to re-evaluate the intent behind proposing section-based rules. "It may lead to disharmony and consequent hurdle in smooth running of the industrial establishments," she said.

Kaur said the government, as an equaliser between the powers of employer and workers, ought to have final say in matters relating to recognition of trade unions as a negotiating/collective bargaining agent. The proposed rules also overlook provisions of ILO Conventions 87 and 98. They leave out the unions in unorganised sector, where there may not be an 'establishment' defined in these rules, such as agricultural workers, domestic workers, scheme workers," she said.

She suggested that in an industrial establishment, where there is a negotiating union or negotiating council, the employer shall provide all the negotiating facilities to the negoti-

ating union or negotiating council to enable them to undertake defined roles, besides exempting them from duty for any work connected with an industrial dispute, including but not restricted to attending court, attending the lawyers office, preparing documents, discussing with the workers, etc. besides holding talks with the management.

TUCI leader MK Thankappan said in his response that the Registrar of Trade Unions at the Centre or in the respective States shall appoint an officer of Labour Ministry for verification of membership of the Trade Unions in the industrial establishment. He said such an amendment is essential to safeguard the sanctity of the referendum, the impartiality and transparency of the verification officer, to keep up the vigilance to maintain industrial peace devoid of unnecessary disputes and to ensure the strict and timely implementation of the provisions of the code.

One more panel will delay decision on minimum wages: CITU

OUR BUREAU
New Delhi, June 4

The CITU, has questioned the Union Labour Ministry's decision to constitute an expert group to provide technical inputs and recommendations on fixing Minimum Wages and National Floor Minimum Wages. CITU general secretary Tapan Sen said in a letter to the Labour Minister Santosh Kumar Gangwar that, a similar committee had submitted a voluminous report in January, 2018. But the Government had not acted on it. "Does it mean that fixation/revision of minimum/floor wages will have to wait for three years for its finalisation," he asked.

The Indian Labour Conference, he said, had unanimously recommended a 'Scientific criteria and methodology' for fixation of minimum wages. The job remains to be done in its tripartite Minimum Wage Advisory Board and precisely that is the mandate of the Code on Wages 2019," he added in the letter.

Chhattisgarh to auction 16 coal blocks by July

OUR BUREAU
New Delhi, June 3

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel has assured the Centre that the State will auction more than 16 coal blocks over the next two months, Minister of Coal and Mines Pralhad Joshi said on Friday, following a virtual meeting with Baghel. Joshi tweeted "These 16 blocks will be long standing blocked mines that have reserves of 1,192 million tonnes worth nearly ₹19 lakh crore." Joshi also urged him to expedite operationalising of recently auctioned commercial coal blocks.

CBSE forms panel for Class XII exam assessment

OUR BUREAU
New Delhi, June 4

The CBSE on Friday constituted a panel to formulate a well defined objective for Class XII Board Examination Assessment for 2020-21 following the cancellation of the exams due to Covid-19. An official statement said, the 12-member committee with Vinod Kumar, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Education will submit its report within 10 days. Education Minister also cancelled Class XII exam of the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) for the assessment of students will be announced.

Cong scrambles to resolve Punjab crisis; BJP takes a jab

OUR BUREAU
New Delhi, June 4

The Congress high command hasn't taken any decision yet on the complaints by a section led by cricket-turned-politician Navjot Singh Sidhu against the State Chief Minister Amarinder Singh. A panel headed by senior leader Mallikarjun Kharge met the Chief Minister on Friday in an effort to address the crisis within the State unit.

Sidhu apparently has laid claim to either the post of Deputy Chief Minister or PCC president, but Singh has refused to take him back into the Cabinet.

The panel which also includes AICC secretary general in-charge for Punjab Harish Rawat and former MP Jag Arora will also meet Sidhu, party MPs, MLAs and former PCC chiefs before meeting Singh.

While the Congress high command does not want to risk losing Sidhu from its fold, it also does not want to question Singh's authority ahead of the 2022 Assembly elections as he has consolidated his position after the disunity in the Opposition camp and his support to the farmers' protests against the Centre. Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka



Mallikarjun Kharge

Gandhi want Singh to be more considerate to the demands of the dissidents.

BJP criticism

The BJP took a swipe at the Congress. "Today, the entire Congress party and the government of Punjab are in Delhi. Who will look after Punjab? Ignoring Punjab for their internal fight. This is a big sin of Congress," Union minister Prakash Javadekar said. "I would suggest to Rahul that instead of giving lectures to others, he should first think how works can be done properly in his State," he added.

The State government is also not paying adequate attention to testing and other measures that need to be taken to contain the spread. For the last six months, an internal fight has been going on within the Congress in Punjab," he said.

'Punjab govt diverting Covid vaccines to pvt hospitals'

OUR BUREAU
New Delhi, June 4

The Opposition in Punjab has targeted the Amarinder Singh government over the reports of diversion of Covid vaccines meant for public hospitals to private facilities. The Government, however, has refuted the allegations and said a probe is on into the issue.

Punjab's Health Minister Balbir Singh Sidhu said in a statement on Friday that the probe has started. "What I have learnt through media, I have already ordered for a probe and we will order a proper inquiry. We will keep the issue before the chief minister," he said and added that he will first wait for the entire picture to emerge.

'Selling for profit'

Former Deputy Chief Minister and leader of Shiromani Akali Dal Sukhbir Singh Badal accused that the Punjab government is selling vaccines to private hospitals for ₹1,060 a dose that they bought for ₹400. "They have issued a notification. The private hospitals are imposing their own costs and different people are paying different costs that range from ₹1,200 to ₹1,500. People in the rural areas are not getting the vaccine



which should be administered free at the time of pandemic," he added.

Sidhu said in his statement that his department has no role in the vaccine programme. "The vaccine programme is not concerned with my Health Department and is under the control of Chief Secretary and Vikas Kaur, who is the State's nodal officer for the vaccination drive," Sidhu said and added: "As much as the supply of vaccines is made available to our department, we have been administering them free of cost in our hospitals and in the health camps which the department conducts."

Badal had alleged on Thursday that the State government's decision is costing ₹6,000 to ₹9,000 per family for a single dose. He had also alleged that in Mohali alone, 35,000 doses were sold to private institutions to "earn a profit" of nearly ₹2 crore in a single day.

Telangana: Ex-minister Eatala quits TRS

Eatala was ousted from the Cabinet early last month following allegations of land grab

OUR BUREAU
Hyderabad, June 4

Eatala Rajender, former Telangana Health Minister and a long-time associate of "Telangana" Rashtra Samithi Founder K Chandrababai Naidu, has resigned from the primary membership of the party.

Eatala, who was ousted



Eatala Rajender

from the Cabinet early last month following allegations of land grabbing, is likely to join the Bharatiya Janata Party in the next few days. The former minister announced

that he would also resign as a member of the Legislative Assembly.

Addressing a press conference here on Friday, Eatala Rajender said he had decided to quit the party because of the "dictatorial" attitude of Chandrababai Naidu.

Eatala Rajender was among the few leaders that joined Chandrababai Naidu when he started the TRS about two decades ago to fight for a separate statehood for Telangana region.

Early this week, Eatala went to Delhi to meet BJP President JP Nadda to discuss his entry into the party.

40,000 to be vaccinated at one go on June 6

OUR BUREAU
Hyderabad, June 4

Hyderabad will witness the biggest Covid-19 vaccination camp in the country so far with over 40,000 people getting vaccinated on June 6 at the sprawling Hites Exhibition Grounds at Madhapur.

The Society for Cyberabad Security Organisation (SCSO), an umbrella organisation comprising IT players, has teamed up with Cyberabad police and Medicovert group of hospitals to organise the camp. The camp, which will open at 8 am and close at 9 pm, will have 500 counters to administer Cov-

axin to people above the age of 18 years. CoWin registration is mandatory for a slot booking. A confirmation will be sent immediately on successful registration. The slot time will also be indicated by Medicovert subsequently.

"Such vaccination drive will help us control the surge as well as prevent a possible third wave," VC Sajjanar, Cyberabad Police Commissioner, said. "Vaccination has proven to be effective in combating the pandemic in many countries. Since we are hugely populated, it is necessary to conduct such mass vaccination drives to cover the

maximum number of people." Hari Krishnan, Executive Director of Medicovert Group of Hospitals India, says, said.

TO ADVERTISE PLEASE CONTACT

Hyderabad : 040 - 23403902
Visakhapatnam : 0891 - 2536159
Tiruvananthapuram : 0866 - 2553033
Jiyatangi : 0877 - 2255577

BusinessLine

Delhi HC to Centre: Pay ₹14-cr arbitral award to Panacea Biotech

Expresses anguish over govt 'failure' to spot infra to make vaccines

OUR BUREAU
New Delhi, June 4

The Delhi High Court on Friday directed the Centre to release an arbitral award of over ₹14 crore along with interest, to Panacea Biotech which is manufacturing Covid-19 vaccine - Sputnik V - in collaboration with Russian Direct Investment Fund (RDIF).

While ordering the release of the award, a bench of Justices Manmohan and Najmi Waziri expressed anguish over the vaccine shortage even as the Central government says the best way to fight the pandemic is to vaccinate the entire population.

Court feels anguished

The court says it is a bit anguished with the way things have transpired during the second wave. As a responsible citizen you also would be anguished. Vaccine shortage is hitting each and

everyone. Even today, vaccines are not available in Delhi. You have good products in India, a little hand holding will work," the bench said.

It added that someone from Russia has been able to locate infrastructure in Himachal Pradesh but the Centre has failed to do so. The High Court's remarks came on a plea by the Delhi-based Panacea Biotech seeking to modify a July 2020 order, by which the firm had undertaken not to prosecute further the proceedings instituted by them in relation to an arbitral award, running into crores of rupees in its favour against the Centre.

The company, in its fresh application, sought release of the arbitral award saying it needs funds at the earliest in the larger interest of humanity as it has already manufactured trial batches of Covid vaccine Sputnik V in collaboration with RDIF and the process of manufacturing scale-up batches is on.

The Court directed the Centre to release the arbitral award of over ₹14 crore along with interest from running into crores of rupees in its favour against the Centre.

The company, in its fresh application, sought release of the arbitral award saying it needs funds at the earliest in the larger interest of humanity as it has already manufactured trial batches of Covid vaccine Sputnik V in collaboration with RDIF and the process of manufacturing scale-up batches is on.

The Court directed the Centre to release the arbitral award of over ₹14 crore along with interest from running into crores of rupees in its favour against the Centre.

along with interest from running into crores of rupees in its favour against the Centre. The company, in its fresh application, sought release of the arbitral award saying it needs funds at the earliest in the larger interest of humanity as it has already manufactured trial batches of Covid vaccine Sputnik V in collaboration with RDIF and the process of manufacturing scale-up batches is on.

The Court directed the Centre to release the arbitral award of over ₹14 crore along with interest from running into crores of rupees in its favour against the Centre. The company, in its fresh application, sought release of the arbitral award saying it needs funds at the earliest in the larger interest of humanity as it has already manufactured trial batches of Covid vaccine Sputnik V in collaboration with RDIF and the process of manufacturing scale-up batches is on.

The Court directed the Centre to release the arbitral award of over ₹14 crore along with interest from running into crores of rupees in its favour against the Centre. The company, in its fresh application, sought release of the arbitral award saying it needs funds at the earliest in the larger interest of humanity as it has already manufactured trial batches of Covid vaccine Sputnik V in collaboration with RDIF and the process of manufacturing scale-up batches is on.

the animal could have died of comorbidities, samples have also been sent to the Indian Veterinary Research Institute in Bareilly and the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology, Hyderabad.

Under observation All the lions that have tested positive are under close observation and on prescribed treatment regimen. All animal keepers and helpers for these animal houses are vaccinated against Covid-19. Separate sets of animal keepers are engaged for each group of lions, the statement said.

Last month eight lions at the Hyderabad zoo tested positive.

Lion dies of Covid at Vandalur Zoo, 9 test positive

OUR BUREAU
Chennai, June 4

Nine lions at the Vandalur Zoo (Arignar Anna Zoological Park) on the outskirts of Chennai have tested positive for SARS-CoV-2. The lions are under close observation and treatment. A lioness aged nine died on June 3, said a statement issued by the zoo authorities.

On May 26, five lions housed in Animal House of the Safari Park of the zoo were reported to be showing anorexia (loss of appetite) and occasional coughing. While the in-house veterinary team took immediate action to investigate and treat the animals, a team of experts was deputed by Tamil Nadu



All the lions that have tested positive are under close observation and on prescribed treatment regimen (file photo)

to TANUVAS and nasal swab, rectal swab and faecal samples of 11 lions were taken to National Institute of High Security Diseases, Bhopal, which is one of the four designated institutes authorised to take up SARS-CoV-2 testing in captive animals.

One lioness (Neela - aged 9) housed in Animal House died on Thursday evening. She had been asymptomatic and showed some nasal discharge only the day before and had been treated immediately.

The lab results said that out of 11 samples, nine tested positive for SARS-CoV-2. To ascertain whether the reported findings are in the nature of false positive

the animal could have died of comorbidities, samples have also been sent to the Indian Veterinary Research Institute in Bareilly and the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology, Hyderabad.

Under observation All the lions that have tested positive are under close observation and on prescribed treatment regimen. All animal keepers and helpers for these animal houses are vaccinated against Covid-19. Separate sets of animal keepers are engaged for each group of lions, the statement said.

Last month eight lions at the Hyderabad zoo tested positive.

AMARA RAJA BATTERIES LIMITED
 CN, L31402AP186P1C00002
 Registered office: Rengutta - Guddebad Road, Kankarabadi, Tirupur - 617520, Andhra Pradesh
 Corporate Operations Office: Terminal A, 1-18/1 AMRNR, Nallakurugudi, Gachibowli, Hyderabad - 500032
 E-mail: id.investor@amrarajabatteries.com | Website: www.amrarajabatteries.com | Tel: 91 (40) 23159000 Fax: 91 (40) 23159001

NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS
Sub: Transfer of shares of the Company to Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority
 Notice is hereby given to the shareholders of the Company pursuant to the provisions of Section 124(6) of the Companies Act, 2013 (the Act) read with **Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (Accounting, Audit, Transfer and Refund) Rules, 2016** including any statutory modifications or amendments for the time being in force (the Rules) as under:

The Act and Rules, amongst other matters, contains provisions for transfer of all shares in respect of which dividend has not been paid or claimed by the shareholders for a period of seven (7) consecutive years or more to the **INVESTOR EDUCATION AND PROTECTION FUND AUTHORITY (IEPFA)**. Accordingly, the shares, in respect of the final dividend declared for the financial year 2013-14 by the Company and remain unpaid for a period of Seven (7) consecutive years or more will be transferred to IEPFA, the due date for transfer of shares is **September 11, 2021**.

The Company has sent individual notices to the concerned shareholders whose dividends are lying unpaid or unclaimed for the financial year 2013-14 advising them to claim the dividends on or before **September 5, 2021**.

A list containing the details of such shareholders i.e Name, Folio No., DP ID and Client ID and no. of shares for transfer to IEPFA is available on the website of the Company i.e. www.amrarajabatteries.com for information and necessary action by the Shareholders.

Keeping view of pandemic and restrictions due to lockdown across the Country, there may be delay in receiving the communication by the shareholders. The shareholders who have not claimed their dividend from the financial year 2013-14 onwards are requested to immediately claim by sending a letter to Cameo Corporate Services Limited (RTA), attaching the following documents so as to reach them on or before **September 5, 2021**.

- Letter duly filled in and signed
- Self-attested copy of PAN Card and Address proof
- Copy of cancelled Cheque
- Client master report (in case shares held in demat mode)

In the event, valid claim is not received on or before September 5, 2021, the Company will proceed to transfer the Equity Shares to IEPFA without any further notice as detailed below:

In case you hold shares in physical form: New Share Certificate(s) will be issued and transferred to IEPFA. The original share certificate(s) which stand registered in your name and by you, will stand automatically cancelled.

In case you hold shares in electronic form: Your Demat account will be debited for the shares liable for transfer to the IEPFA.

Please note that upon transfer, the concerned shareholder can claim both, the unclaimed dividend amount and the shares from the IEPFA by making application in the prescribed web Form IEPF-5 available on the website <http://www.epf.gov.in/IEPFA/compares.html> and sending the physical copy of the same, duly signed (as per the specimen signature recorded with the Company), along with the requisite documents enumerated in the web Form IEPF-5 to the Nodal Officer at its Corporate Office address of the Company.

Please feel free to contact the Company / Cameo Corporate Services Limited in case you have any queries at their following address / email / telephone number:

Amara Raja Batteries Limited
 Terminal A, 1-18/1 AMRNR
 Subramanian Building, 5th Floor No. 1, Club House Road, Chennai - 600 002
 Phone: 91 40 2313 9000, Fax: 91 40 2313 9001
 e-mail: investor@amrarajabatteries.com

M/s. Cameo Corporate Services Limited
 Subramanian Building, 5th Floor No. 1, Club House Road, Chennai - 600 002
 Phone: 044 - 28466300, Fax: 044 - 28460129
 e-mail: investor@cameoindia.com

For Amara Raja Batteries Limited

Sd/-
Vikas Sabharwal
 Company Secretary

Place : Hyderabad
 Date : June 04, 2021