



VP HARRIS TO DELIVER MESSAGE OF SOLIDARITY WITH INDIA

Washington: Vice-President Kamala Harris on Friday will deliver a message of solidarity with the people of India, as the US partners with the country to save lives and hasten the end of the coronavirus pandemic, the State Department has said

SRI LANKA ROLLS OUT RUSSIA'S SPUTNIK V VACCINE

Colombo: Sri Lanka on Thursday started administering Sputnik V vaccine after it received the first batch of 15,000 doses of the Russian jab, an health official said. A particularly vulnerable Colombo north suburb had been chosen for the rollout.

Support for vaccine patent rules easing grows, but hurdles remain



GENEVA

FRANCE joined the United States on Thursday in supporting an easing of patent and other protections on Covid-19 vaccines that could help poorer countries get more doses and speed the end of the pandemic. While the backing from two countries with major drug makers is important, many obstacles remain.

The move to support waiving intellectual property protections on vaccines under World Trade Organization rules marked a dramatic shift for the United States — and drew cheers from activists, complaints from Big Pharma, and a lot of questions about what comes next. Washington had previously lined up with many other developed nations opposed to the idea floated by India and South Africa in October.

Attention is now turning to those richer nations, notably in the European Union — and France was the first to voice its support.

"I completely favor this opening up of the intellectual property," French President Emmanuel Macron said Thursday on a visit to a vaccine center.

But he also expressed doubt — as the pharmaceutical companies have — that the measure would be the panacea some hope. Even if patents are waived, he said, drug makers in places like Africa currently are not equipped to make Covid-19 vaccines — so donations of doses should be prioritized instead.

Another key hurdle remains: Any single country could block a decision at the WTO, a Geneva-based trade body of 164 member states, to agree to a waiver.

China rejects 'groundless' G-7 criticism on human rights

BEIJING

CHINA'S government on Thursday rejected criticism of its human rights and economic record by foreign ministers of the Group of Seven major economies and accused them of meddling in its affairs.

A statement Wednesday by G-7 diplomats in London 'made groundless accusations' against China, said a Foreign Ministry spokesperson, Wang Wenbin. He accused them of 'blatantly meddling' in China's affairs.

"China strongly condemns it," Wang said at a press briefing. Wednesday's statement added to diplomatic pressure on Beijing over its treatment of Uyghur and other minorities and reports of mass detentions, forced labour and forced sterilisation.

The officials from the United States, Britain, Japan, Germany, France, Italy and Canada said they were 'deeply concerned' but announced no formal action.

The Biden administration wants to assemble a coalition to respond to China's economic and strategic assertiveness. But some European governments are more cautious about dealing with the government of an important export market. Beijing rejects complaints that it mistreats minorities and says camps in Xinjiang are for job training to promote economic development and combat radicalism among the western region's Muslim population.

"Attempts to disregard the basic norms of international relations and to create various excuses to interfere in China's internal affairs, undermine China's sovereignty and smear China's image will never succeed," he said.

GOLD AUCTION NOTICE

The pledges, in specific and the public, in general, are hereby notified that public auction of the gold ornaments pledged in the below auctions is proposed to be conducted at the following branches on 22/05/2021 from 10.00 am onwards. We are auctioning gold ornaments defaulted customers who have failed to make payment of his/her loan amount despite being notified by registered letters. Unauctioned items shall be conducted on any other days without further notice. Changes in venue or date (if any) will be displayed at auction centre and on website without any further notice.

List of pledged items including names like PRAKASHAM BAZAR, NIZAMABAD, ARMUR, etc., and their respective item details and auction locations.

Persons wishing to participate in the above auction shall comply with the following:- Interested Bidders should submit Rs. 10,000/- as EMD (refundable to unsuccessful bidders) by way of Cash on the same day of auction. Bidders should carry valid ID card/PAN card. For more details please contact: 9388404174

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