

DAILY NEWS MONITOR: 10 MAY 2021

1. Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Retail second-fastest growing retailer in world

Source: Business Standard ([Link](#))

Billionaire Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Retail Ltd has been ranked second fastest growing retailer in the world in the 2021 ranking of global retail power houses by Deloitte, down from top rank secured the previous years. It has been ranked 53rd in the list of Global Powers of Retailing, improvement from 56th earlier, according to the Deloitte report. The list is topped by US giant Walmart Inc, which retains its position as world's top retailer. Amazon.com Inc improved its position to rank second. Costco Wholesale Corporation of US slipped a rank to be placed third followed by Schwarz Group of Germany. The top 10 has seven US retailers and one from the UK (Tesco PLC at 10th position). Other US retailers in the top 10 include The Kroger Co (ranked 5th), Walgreens Boots Alliance, Inc (6th) and CVS Health Corporation (ranked 9th). Germany's Aldi Einkauf GmbH & Co. oHG and Aldi International Services GmbH & Co. oHG is placed at 8th position

2. GST exemption on domestic supplies, commercial imports of COVID drugs to make them costlier: FM Sitharaman

Source: Financial Express ([Link](#))

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on 9 May virtually ruled out exempting Covid vaccines, medicines and oxygen concentrators from GST, saying such an exemption will make the lifesaving items costlier for consumers as manufacturers will not be able to offset the taxes paid on inputs. Currently, domestic supplies and commercial imports of vaccines attract a 5 per cent Goods and Services Tax (GST), while COVID drugs and oxygen concentrators attract a 12 per cent levy. "In order to augment the availability of these items, the government has also provided full exemption from basic customs duty and health cess to their commercial imports," Sitharaman said.

3. Outpouring of support from US for India, COVID-19 help touches USD half a billion

Source: Financial Express ([Link](#))

Less than a fortnight after President Joe Biden in his conversation with Prime Minister Narendra Modi pledged his country's steadfast support for the people of India, America has responded with an unprecedented financial assistance worth nearly USD half a billion. Biden spoke at length with Modi last month and conveyed solidarity with India in its fight against the viral disease. He assured the prime minister that the US and India will work closely together in the fight against COVID-19. "Just as India sent assistance to the United States as

our hospitals were strained early in the pandemic, we are determined to help India in its time of need,” Biden had said in a tweet.

4. India, European Union to resume FTA negotiations after 8 years

Source: Financial Express ([Link](#))

India and European Union (EU) on 8 May agreed to enhance the bilateral trade and investment relationship through the resumption of negotiations for a balanced, ambitious, comprehensive and mutually beneficial trade agreement, eight years after its suspension, the external affairs ministry said. The two sides also agreed to launch negotiations for two key pacts on investment protection and geographical indications. These decisions were taken during a virtual summit between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the heads of state or governments of all the 27-member states of the European bloc with a focus on expanding overall cooperation in trade, investment and connectivity.

5. IIT Madras startup sets Guinness record for upskilling people in Python

Source: Business Standard ([Link](#))

Beating the previous record by 50 times, IIT Madras-incubated startup GUVI and All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has set the Guinness world record in upskilling Indians in Python programming language. They set the record for "most numbers of users to take a programming lesson in 24 hours" As many as 1,12,319 people participated in the 'AI-for-India' Initiative organized on April 24-25, 2021 by GUVI and AICTE which primary aim to reach out one million Indians and upskill them in the Python programme language. "More than six lakh users across 28 states registered for their highly anticipated AI-For-India event and around 1.12 lakh users completed building the face recognition app in the online workshop," SP Balamurugan, Co-Founder & CEO, GUVI told ANI. Participants from various backgrounds like school kids, high school students, college graduates, job seekers, and experienced IT and non-IT professionals took part in the event.

6. States to receive over 9 lakh fresh vaccine doses within next 3 days: Centre

Source: Livemint ([Link](#))

Over one crore COVID-19 vaccine doses are still available with the states and UTs, which will receive over 9 lakh additional doses within the next three days, the Union Health Ministry said on 10 May. The Centre has so far provided nearly 18 crore vaccine doses (17,93,57,860) to states and UTs free of cost. Of this, the total consumption including wastages is 16,89,27,797 doses, the ministry said. "More than 1 crore COVID vaccine doses (1,04,30,063) are still available with the states and UTs to be administered. States with

negative balance are showing more consumption (including wastage) than vaccine supplied as they have not reconciled the vaccine they have supplied to armed forces.

7. Ola partners with GiveIndia to give free oxygen concentrators

Source: Livemint ([Link](#))

Ola Foundation, the philanthropic arm of ride-hailing firm Ola, on 10 May said it has partnered with online donation platform GiveIndia to provide consumers with oxygen concentrators for free through its own app. The service will start rolling out in Bengaluru from this week with an initial set of 500 oxygen concentrators. Ola and GiveIndia will scale it up across cities with up to 10,000 concentrators in the coming weeks. Consumers will be able to log into the Ola app and request for an oxygen concentrator by providing a few basic details. Once submitted, the request will be validated, and Ola will then pick up the concentrator via one of its cabs with a specially trained driver and bring it to the consumer's doorstep.