DAILY NEWS MONITOR: 11 JUNE 2021

1. Paytm, MakeMyTrip, Infosys offer to help India with Covid-19 vaccine bookings Source: The Hindu Business Line (Link)

Paytm, Infosys and MakeMyTrip are among companies seeking approval in India to provide online Covid-19 vaccine bookings, the head of the government's tech platform said, as the country tries to make it easier for its huge population to book shots. The government relaxed rules last month to potentially allow third-party apps to offer vaccine bookings and has taken back control of procurement from states following delays and shortages. It also faced initial problems with its own vaccine booking platform. Around 15 state agencies and private companies, which also include Indian healthcare giants Apollo and Max, and online pharmacy 1mg, have asked to be allowed to offer vaccine bookings, RS Sharma, head of the government's panel managing the CoWIN vaccination registration platform, told Reuters.

2. National Telemedicine Service completes 60 lakh consultations Source: The Hindu Business Line (Link)

eSanjeevani, which is the National Telemedicine Service of Union Health has completed over 6 million consultations through more than 375 online OPDs, where over 40,000 patients consulted over 1600 doctors and specialists on a daily basis, the Ministry said in a statement on 10 June. The top ten States that lead in terms of number of consultations of eSanjeevani are Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Maharashtra, Kerala and Uttarakhand. The National Telemedicine Service is currently operational in 31 States/Union Territories. The Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare had conceptualised the platform in November 2019 for implementation at 1.55 lakh Health and Wellness Centres Ayushman Bharat Scheme in a Hub & Spokes model.

3. Online fashion industry clocks 51% growth order volume in FY21: Report Source: Business Standard (Link)

Online fashion industry witnessed an order volume growth of 51 per cent and gross merchant value (GMV) increase of 45 per cent in FY21 as compared to the previous financial year, a report by Unicommerce said on 10 June. The faster volume growth as compared to GMV has led to a marginal decline of 4 per cent in the average order value, the report titled 'Fashion E-commerce Report' said. Unicommerce, e-commerce focused SaaS (software as a service) platform, analysed fashion trends for the period of FY2021 and FY2020 with a sample size of over 70 million orders. "Fashion labels have been at the forefront of re-inventing, re-strategising, and re-aligning themselves to rapidly evolving business environments and

changing consumer needs. The industry has also observed multiple retail brands establishing their niche in the e-commerce industry," it said.

4. Indian government offers 32 areas in latest small oil, gas field auction Source: The Economic Times (Link)

The government will auction unmonetised large oil and gas fields of state-owned ONGC and OIL to boost the country's hydrocarbon production, Petroleum Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said on 10 June. Speaking on the launch of the third round of auction of small discovered fields, he said companies cannot indefinitely sit on resources they may have discovered. These resources actually belong to the nation and they will be monetised by bidding them out to interested entities, he said. As many as 32 oil and gas blocks with 75 discoveries have been offered in the Discovered Small Field (DSF) round-III. These small and marginal fields were discovered by state-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) and Oil India Ltd (OIL) but they were not economically viable to be developed due to the fiscal regime and their small size.

5. New scheme for services exports soon: Commerce secretary Anup Wadhawan Source: Financial Express (Link)

The government is in the process of formulating appropriate measures to boost services exports, which will be part of the upcoming foreign trade policy (FTP), commerce secretary Anup Wadhawan said on 10 June. The statement will likely reassure Covid-hit services exporters about continued policy support, albeit in different forms or structure, amid apprehension that the resource-strapped government may substantially reduce benefits for certain services. Exporters have been awaiting the notification of support for FY20 and FY21 under the Service Exports From India Scheme (SEIS).

6. RBI increases ATM interchange fee from ₹15 to ₹17 Source: Hindustan Times (Link)

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on 10 June increased the interchange fee on automated teller machine (ATM) transactions from ₹15 to ₹17. It has also hiked the fee on non-financial transactions from ₹5 to ₹6. This revised rate will come into effect from August 1, 2021. ATM interchange is the charge paid by the bank that issues the card (issuer) to the bank where the card is used to withdraw cash (acquirer).