

## DAILY NEWS MONITOR: 11 MAY 2021

### **1. India-EU leaders' meeting gives new momentum to ties**

**Source: Money Control ([Link](#))**

The India-European Union (EU) leaders' meeting hosted from Porto, in Portugal, confirms that bilateral ties have come a long way since the first EU-India summit in 2000. Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually met all the 27 EU leaders as well as presidents of the European Council and the European Commission. Apart from outcomes, the symbolic value of such meeting cannot be underestimated. The EU rarely meets foreign leaders in this format. Ursula von der Leyen, President of the Commission described it not only a historic and landmark summit, but also a remarkable, outstanding and extraordinary meeting. Apart from reaffirming broader issues agreed during earlier summits and announced under Roadmap 2025 last year, the major outcomes include resumption of FTA negotiations, connectivity partnership, artificial intelligence task force and a joint working group on resilient supply chains.

### **2. Cipla, Lupin, Sun Pharma sign deals to make Lilly's Covid drug**

**Source: Hindustan Times ([Link](#))**

US drugmaker Eli Lilly and Co. on 10 May said it has issued royalty-free, non-exclusive voluntary licences to Cipla, Lupin and Sun Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd to produce its baricitinib drug in India to help combat the deadly second wave of Covid-19 in India. The firm is also in talks with other pharmaceutical firms in India to grant similar voluntary licences in an effort to expand the availability of the drug. Eli Lilly recently received permission from the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) for restricted emergency use of baricitinib to be used in combination with remdesivir for the treatment of suspected or laboratory-confirmed Covid-19 in hospitalised adults requiring supplemental oxygen, invasive mechanical ventilation, or extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO).

### **3. Twitter donates USD 15 million for Covid relief in India**

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

Microblogging giant Twitter has donated USD 15 million to help address the COVID-19 crisis in India which is battling the unprecedented second wave of the deadly pandemic. Twitter CEO Jack Patrick Dorsey on 10 May tweeted that the amount has been donated to three non-governmental organisations – Care, Aid India and Sewa International USA. While CARE has been given USD 10 million, Aid India and Sewa International USA have received USD 2.5 million each.

#### **4. Bharat Biotech commences direct supply of 'Covaxin' to 14 states**

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

Hyderabad-based vaccine manufacturer Bharat Biotech has been supplying Covaxin — its Covid-19 vaccine — directly to 14 states beginning May 1. According to a tweet by the company's joint managing director Suchitra Ella, Bharat Biotech has been supplying Covaxin to Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. Ella said in the tweet, "Glad to announce that Bharat Biotech confirms direct supplies of COVAXIN to the following state govt's since 1/5/21, based on the allocations received by the GoI. Requests have been received from other states, and will be processed for distribution based on availability of stocks 24x7." The company is now getting requests from other state governments as well, and will be processing them for distribution based on availability of the vaccine. Bharat Biotech had earlier announced a price cut in Covaxin for states to Rs 400 per dose in the last week of April, from the earlier announced price of Rs 600 per dose. The Centre had announced expansion of the Covid-19 vaccination drive by allowing everyone above 18 years of age to get a jab.

#### **5. Ola to start doorstep delivery of oxygen concentrators to consumers**

**Source: Hindustan Times ([Link](#))**

Ola Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Ola, on 10 May said it has partnered with donation platform GiveIndia to provide consumers with oxygen concentrators, joining the growing roster of companies contributing towards relief efforts amid the deadly second wave of the COVID pandemic. The service, which will be provided for free through the Ola app, 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 the country with up to 10,000 concentrators in the coming weeks, a statement said.

#### **6. Give India resources to make vaccines, says Fauci**

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

Antony Fauci, the top US expert on Covid-19, has called on countries to provide India with resources to make its own vaccines or donate vaccines. "India is the largest vaccine-producing country in the world. They've got to get their resources -- not only from within but also from without and that's the reason why other countries need to chip in to be able to get either supplies for the Indians to make their own vaccines or to get vaccines donated," he told a TV interviewer on Sunday. "One of the ways to do that is to have the big companies that have the capability of making vaccines to really scale up in a great way to get literally

hundreds of millions of doses to be able to get to them," he said. He said that the "endgame" in fighting the pandemic is vaccinating everyone. At the same time, he said that all of India should "shut down", as some states have done.