

## DAILY NEWS MONITOR: 13 MAY 2021

### **1. Covaxin receives approval for clinical trials on children**

**Source: Livemint ([Link](#))**

Bharat Biotech's COVID-19 vaccine Covaxin was on 13 May recommended by an expert panel for phase II/III clinical trial on those aged between two to 18 years, an official statement said. The trial will take place in 525 subjects at various sites. The Subject Expert Committee (SEC) on COVID-19 of the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) on 11 May deliberated upon Hyderabad-based Bharat Biotech's application seeking permission to conduct phase II/III clinical trials to evaluate the safety, reactogenicity and immunogenicity of Covaxin jabs in children aged 2 to 18 years.

### **2. Increase Covishield doses gap to 12-16 weeks: Govt panel recommends new protocol**

**Source: Livemint ([Link](#))**

The protocol for the gap between two doses of Covid-19 vaccine Covishield may increase, news agency PTI reported citing the government. The advisory group on the Covid-19 vaccines - National Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (NTAGI) has recommended increasing the gap between two doses of Covishield to 12-16 weeks. The recommendations will be implemented after the approval of the Health Ministry. No change in dosage interval for Covaxin has been suggested by the panel. The recommendations of the NTAGI will be sent to the National Expert Group on Vaccine Administration for COVID-19. This is the second time in three months Covishield dosage intervals have been widened. Earlier in March states and UTs were told to increase the gap from 28 days to six-eight weeks "for better results".

### **3. Entire process of foreign aid to fight COVID-19 is transparent: Niti Aayog**

**Source: The Economic Times ([Link](#))**

The entire process of foreign aid to fight the second wave of COVID-19 is transparent, and so far 87 consignments from 28 countries have been received and delivered without delay to the states, the government think tank Niti Aayog said on Wednesday. The Aayog further said that distribution is based on a standard operating procedure and all states/UTs have been supported to date. "The entire process of foreign aid is transparent, digital & end-to-end. We have a system where donors can track their consignments. The very fact that 95 per cent of received items have been delivered to rightful beneficiaries, without delay, is testimony to this," the Niti Aayog said in a tweet.

#### **4. India received \$83 billion in remittances in 2020: World Bank report**

**Source: Livemint ([Link](#))**

India received over USD83 billion in remittances in 2020, a drop of just 0.2 per cent from the previous year, despite a pandemic that devastated the world economy, according to a World Bank report. China, which received USD59.5 billion in remittances in 2020 against USD68.3 billion the previous year, is a distant second in terms of global remittances for the year gone by, as per the latest World Bank data released on 12 May. In 2019, India had received USD83.3 billion in remittances. The report said India's remittances fell by just 0.2 per cent in 2020, with much of the decline due to a 17 per cent drop in remittances from the United Arab Emirates, which offset resilient flows from the United States and other host countries. India and China are followed by Mexico (USD42.8 billion), the Philippines (USD34.9 billion), Egypt (USD29.6 billion), Pakistan (USD26 billion), France (USD24.4 billion) and Bangladesh (USD21 billion), it showed.

#### **5. Cabinet clears MoU between ICAI, Qatar Financial Centre Authority**

**Source: The Economic Times ([Link](#))**

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved signing of a pact between the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) and the Qatar Financial Centre Authority (QFCA). The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) would enhance cooperation between the institutes to work together to strengthen the accounting profession and entrepreneurship base in Qatar, according to an official release. The Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved signing of the MoU. The MoU would provide an additional impetus to prospects of the ICAI members in the entire Middle East "to have better recognition, together with working to support Indian businesses desirous of doing business in Qatar", the release said.

#### **6. Sterlite Copper begins production of medical oxygen; dispatches first batch**

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

Copper has commenced production of medical oxygen at its facility in Tamil Nadu and the first batch of 'medical grade oxygen' was dispatched on 13 May, authorities said. The Sterlite copper smelter plant was given approval by the then AIADMK government on April 26 at an all-party meeting to produce medical oxygen at its facility for a period of four months at the facility in Tuticorin about 600 kms from here. The unit was sealed by the state government in May 2018, days after 13 agitators who were part of a protest against the company over environmental concerns were killed in police firing during a violent anti-Sterlite stir in the

southern district. Recently, Industries Minister Thangam Thennarasu had commented that the production of medical oxygen would commence this week.