

## DAILY NEWS MONITOR: 14 SEPTEMBER 2021

### **1. WHO congratulates India for administering over 75 crore Covid-19 vaccine doses**

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

India's cumulative vaccination coverage against the coronavirus disease (Covid-19) on 13 September surpassed the 75 crore-mark, an official statement by the Union ministry of health and family welfare read. World Health Organisation's (WHO) South-East Asia regional director Dr Poonam Khetrpal Singh congratulated India for achieving the feat at an 'unprecedented pace.' Union health minister Mansukh Mandaviya also took to the micro-blogging site to "congratulate India." He further wrote that with the help of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Prayas' mantra of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the "world's largest vaccination drive is constantly creating new dimensions." The health minister's message added that the feat of inoculating 75 crore of Covid-19 vaccines was achieved at the time the country celebrates 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' on the occasion of 75th year of India's independence.

### **2. Amazon India launches its largest fulfilment centre in Bengaluru**

**Source: The Indian Express ([Link](#))**

E-commerce giant Amazon India announced on Monday the launch of its largest fulfilment centre in the country, with a storage capacity of more than 2.4 million cubic feet, in Bengaluru. Amazon India, in a statement, said, "Ahead of the festive season, this significant expansion in infrastructure will give over 42,000 sellers in Karnataka greater than before access to a larger customer base across the country." The move is a part of the company's plans to expand its pan-India fulfilment network to provide a total storage capacity of 43 million cubic feet to its sellers across the country. The company now has more than 6.5 million cubic feet of storage space spread across its five fulfilment centres.

### **3. IRDAI allows insurers to offer, renew Covid-specific health policies till March 2022**

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

Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) on September 13 extended the time line for insurers to offer Covid-related health policies till March 31, 2022. "Corona Kavach" and "Corona Rakshak" are two short term Covid-specific health policies. Corona Kavach is an indemnity-based policy where sum insured range is from Rs 50,000 to Rs 250,000 with a hospitalisation period of 24 hours. Corona Rakshak is a standard benefit plan offering sum insured of Rs 50,000 to Rs 5,00,000 for hospitalisation of at least 72 hours post-diagnosing coronavirus. All insurers, except Agriculture Insurance Company of India (AIC) and ECGC are allowed to offer Covid specific health policies.

#### **4. India Inc sees 219 deals in August worth \$8.4 billion: Report**

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

Deal activity witnessed a handsome growth in August at USD 8.4 billion, on the back of a healthy jump both in volumes and sizes, a report said on 13 September. There were 219 deals during the month, which was the highest since 2005, and double that of the year-ago August 2020 period when the country was coming out of a national lockdown, consultancy firm Grant Thornton Bharat said. However, when compared with the preceding month of July, the transaction activity shows mixed results. Deals were up 21 per cent by volume, but lower by 36 per cent in values on the back of a six-times drop in merger and acquisition (M&A) activity, the report said. A bulk of the deals in August came from private equity and venture capital funds, who invested USD 7.6 billion across 182 deals driven mainly by high-value investments in Indian companies and unicorns, supported by confidence in recovery, lucrative opportunities in the start-up space and promising entrepreneurial talent, it said.

#### **5. Jobless rate lowest in 7 weeks**

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

The employment scenario has been rather volatile in recent weeks. Unlike the reporting week when urban unemployment rate increased and rural rate declined over the previous week; in the week ended September 5, urban unemployment rate fell, but rural unemployment rate inched up, though only a trifle. The unemployment rate fell to its lowest in seven weeks to 7.35% on a 211 basis points decline in rural joblessness to 6.51% for the week ended September 12, 2021, over the previous week, data compiled by the CMIE showed. Urban joblessness, however, rose a bit to 9.2% for the week ended September 12 from 8.92% a week earlier. The employment scenario has been rather volatile in recent weeks. Unlike the reporting week when urban unemployment rate increased and rural rate declined over the previous week; in the week ended September 5, urban unemployment rate fell, but rural unemployment rate inched up, though only a trifle.

#### **6. CPI inflation hits 4-month low of 5.30% in August**

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

In the monetary policy statement last month, the central bank said the revival of the south-west monsoon and pick-up in kharif sowing, buffered by adequate food stocks, should help in containing cereal price pressures in the months ahead. Retail inflation eased to a four-month low of 5.30% in August, having remained within the central bank's target band (2-6%) for a second straight month, as food inflation moderated further and base effect remained conducive, showed official data released on 13 September. The fall will likely ease pressure

on the central bank for any calibrated liquidity normalisation early, and its accommodative stance may continue for a longer time, despite external headwinds. The global commodity prices, especially of oil, have been on the rise and the US Federal Reserve has signalled its intent to start scaling back its \$120 billion-a-month quantitative easing later this year.

### **7. India's retail inflation eases to four-month low of 5.3% in August**

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

Retail inflation cooled to a four-month low of 5.3 per cent in August from 5.59 per cent in the previous month, led by subdued prices of food articles and a high base effect. Inflation based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) remained within the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)'s tolerance band for the second consecutive month, according to the data released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, on 13 September. While economists estimate inflation to ease further in the coming months, they believe that the RBI will continue with its accommodative monetary policy stance and begin interest rate hikes only in the next fiscal year, amid risks to the growth outlook