

DAILY NEWS MONITOR: 17 MAY 2021

1. Amazon, sellers tie up to supply 9,000 oxygen concentrators to Indian users

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

Amazon India is working with sellers on its marketplace to help them bring in about 9,000 oxygen concentrators for customers in India. The aim is to address the growing customer demand and shortage of critical medical equipment, Amazon's global procurement teams are helping interested sellers from India connect with leading global suppliers to enable them to procure oxygen concentrators for customers in need. It is also simplifying supply chain complexities and facilitating the overall process. Amazon's global supply chain network is helping urgently airlift these oxygen concentrators to India for these sellers. The first batch of 1,000 oxygen concentrators has already landed in India. They are now available for purchase for consumers and business customers. The rest are expected to come through in the second

2. Cipla open to forge a partnership to distribute Covid-19 vaccines in India

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

Cipla, which has a strong portfolio of Covid-19 drugs, says it is now open to forge a partnership to distribute Covid vaccines in India. "We are open to having a vaccine partnership. A company that will be able to do vaccine distribution successfully in India will have significant distribution muscle – like large warehouses, cold chain capabilities, footprint throughout India. We fit the bill well. We are open to it, but as of now nothing to report," said Kedar Upadhye, global CFO of Cipla. Cipla does not want to get into vaccine manufacturing. It is augmenting its Covid-19 therapy portfolio too. Analysts felt the Covid portfolio may contribute Rs 2,000 crore in sales in FY22. The company already makes and markets antiviral drugs like remdesivir, favipiravir in India apart from importing and distributing Roche's tocilizumab (Actemra). Covid-19 portfolio roughly accounted for 5 percent of Cipla's domestic turnover in 2020-21.

3. 30 lakh MSMEs register in 10 months on govt's new Udyam portal; India's registered MSME base at over 1 cr

Source: The Hindu Business Line ([Link](#))

The Modi government's new portal for MSME registration, which was launched amid Covid on July 1, 2020, along with the revised MSME definition, has topped the 30-lakh registration mark. As of May 16, 2021, 30,00,822 MSMEs were registered on the Udyam Registration portal, which replaced the erstwhile process of filing for Udyog Aadhaar Memorandum (UAM), as per the online data available with the MSME Ministry. Importantly, nearly 28

lakh registered enterprises were micro units followed by close to 1.78 lakh small enterprises and 24,657 mid-sized enterprises. The Reserve Bank of India had last year mandated businesses registered under Entrepreneur Memorandum (EM) part II and UAM till June 30, 2020, to file for new registrations on the Udyam Registration portal. However, it wasn't clear that how many of these 30 lakh MSMEs were new entities and those that had migrated from EM II and UAM.

4. Indian firms to import jabs to inoculate staff

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

India's biggest conglomerates, including the Tata group and Reliance Industries Ltd, are exploring options to import vaccines directly from manufacturers to inoculate their workforce and ensure business continuity following two waves of the deadly pandemic and with vaccine shortages in India expected to persist in the near future. The Tata group, which has more than 700,000 employees, is likely to float a global tender to procure vaccines, said two people directly aware of the matter. "Group companies are in talks with various service providers in the vaccine importing chain. This would involve obtaining a licence and setting up back-end infrastructure for storing vaccines, etc. The company is doing the groundwork, and once all is in place, it may formally decide to import vaccines," a senior Tata group official said, requesting anonymity.

5. Adani Green in advanced talks for SoftBank-backed SB Energy: Report

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

Adani Green Energy Ltd., majority-owned by Indian billionaire Gautam Adani, is in advanced talks to acquire privately-held SB Energy Holdings Ltd., according to people familiar with the matter. A deal could value SB Energy, owned by SoftBank Group Corp. and Bharti Enterprises Ltd., at more than \$650 million, said one of the people, who asked not to be identified as the information is private. Adani Green is exploring a buyout of the renewable energy company through an all-stock deal, another person said. An announcement could come in coming weeks, the people said. Discussions could still be delayed or fall apart, they added. A representative for SoftBank declined to comment, while representatives for Adani Green and Bharti Enterprises didn't immediately respond to requests for comment.

6. India to seek US support on global patent waivers for more Covid gear

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

India will seek support for patent waivers on a wider range of Covid-19-related medical products from the US, which has backed such exemptions only for vaccines. While the US

has supported the waiver only for vaccines – after having opposed the main proposal since last October – most developing countries favour the inclusion of vaccines, treatments, diagnostic kits, protective gear, ventilators and therapeutics. India and South Africa proposed in October that all World Trade Organization members agree to a temporary waiver of certain provisions of the Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) Agreement in relation to the prevention, containment or treatment of Covid-19.