

## DAILY NEWS MONITOR: 1 JULY 2021

### **1. New rules to place vaccine orders, monthly cap for private hospitals from today**

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

Private hospitals can no longer procure Covid-19 vaccines directly from the manufacturers and will have to place orders on the central government's CoWIN platform, starting 1 July. The government has also imposed a maximum limit that a private hospital is allowed to order in a month to manage the limited supply and wastage issue. All private hospitals are now required to register on CoWIN as a Private Covid Vaccination Centre (PCVC) to participate in the aggregation mechanism. The approval for the same will be granted on CoWIN as well and payment for vaccines will have to be made electronically through the National Health Authority Portal (NHA), after which the order will be processed.

### **2. BharatNet project to be rolled out in 16 states via PPP**

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

The Union Cabinet on 30 June approved a revised implementation strategy for the BharatNet project by opting for public-private partnership mode in 16 states to cover around 3,60,000 villages at a total cost of Rs 29,430 crore. Of this, the government will provide Rs 19,041 crore as viability gap funding. Communications minister Ravi Shankar Prasad said that the revised strategy for implementation of the BharatNet project, which aims to connect all the gram panchayats of the country through optic fibre for providing broadband services, will have two new components. The first will be that BharatNet will now extend up to all inhabited villages beyond the gram panchayats (GPs) in the said states. Second, the revised strategy includes creation, upgradation, operation, maintenance and utilisation of BharatNet by the concessionaire who will be selected by a competitive international bidding process.

### **3. Finmin reimposes spending curbs on ministries, depts for Q2 of FY22**

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

The finance ministry on 30 June reimposed expenditure curbs on ministries and government departments for July-September quarter. There will be no spending restrictions on the ministries of health, rural development, agriculture, MSME (micro, small and medium enterprises) and railways as part of a two-pronged strategy. "The existing guidelines for expenditure control have been reviewed. Keeping in view the evolving situation arising out of Covid-19 and anticipated cash position of the government, it is felt essential to regulate Quarterly Expenditure Plan (QEP)/Monthly Expenditure Plan (MEP) of specific ministries/departments for July-September, 2021," the Department of Economic Affairs in

the finance ministry said in a notification. Spending curbs were imposed on ministries and departments last April following a nationwide lockdown to contain the first wave of the pandemic and the subsequent hit to the economy. These were relaxed later and then removed in December.

#### **4. Google publishes report under new IT rules, removes 59K pieces of content**

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

Google India has published its first transparency report under the new IT rules which includes details of complaints received from users in the country and the action taken across Google's platforms that are classified as "significant social media intermediaries (SSMIs)" under the rules. The report currently covers complaints received and actioned between April 1 and April 30 this year. Google said there will be a two-month lag on reporting in a bid to allow sufficient time for data processing and validation. The report is significant because Google is the first technology company, which qualifies as an SSMI, to have published the report under the Information Technology (Guidelines for Intermediaries and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021. Other countries for which Google provides granular information on action taken on specific kinds of content are Turkey and South Korea.

#### **5. World Bank approves \$500 million loan to support India's informal working class amid pandemic**

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

World Bank on 30 June said it has approved a USD 500 million (about Rs 3,717.28 crore) loan programme to support India's informal working class to overcome the current pandemic distress. The loan will create greater flexibility for states to cope with the ongoing pandemic, future climate and disaster shocks, World Bank said in a statement. Of the USD 500 million commitment, USD 112.50 million will be financed by its concessionary lending arm International Development Association and USD 387.50 million will be a loan from International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD). The loan has a maturity period of 18.5 years including a grace period of five years. World Bank said its total funding towards strengthening India's social protection programmes to help the poor and vulnerable households since the start of the pandemic stands at USD 1.65 billion (about Rs 12,264.54 crore).

#### **6. Foreign exchange reserves up USD 99.2 billion in FY 2020-21: RBI data**

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

The country's foreign exchange reserves in nominal terms, including the valuation effects, increased by USD 99.2 billion during the financial year 2020-21, compared to USD 64.9

billion in the preceding year, RBI data showed. The valuation gain, reflecting the depreciation of the US dollar against major currencies and increase in gold prices, amounted to USD 11.9 billion during 2020-21, compared to USD 5.4 billion during 2019-20, RBI said. The Reserve Bank of India on 30 June released the Sources of Variation in Foreign Exchange Reserves in India during 2020-21.

### **7. Zydus Cadila seeks emergency use nod for covid vaccine, also tested in 12-18 year-olds**

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

Zydus Cadila 1 July announced that the company has applied for Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) to the office of Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) for ZyCoV-D - its Plasmid DNA vaccine against COVID-19. The company conducted the largest clinical trial for its COVID-19 vaccine in India so far in over 50 centers. This was also the first time that any COVID-19 vaccine has been tested in adolescent population in the 12-18 years age group in India. "Around 1000 subjects were enrolled in this age group and the vaccine was found to be safe and very well tolerated. The tolerability profile was similar to that seen in the adult population. Primary efficacy of 66.6% has been attained for symptomatic RT-PCR positive cases in the interim analysis. Whereas, no moderate case of COVID-19 disease was observed in the vaccine arm post administration of the third dose suggesting 100% efficacy for moderate disease. No severe cases or deaths due to COVID-19 occurred in the vaccine arm after administration of the second dose of the vaccine," the company said in a statement.