

## DAILY NEWS MONITOR: 1 JUNE 2021

### **1. Daily COVID-19 count in India lowest in 54 days**

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

India reported 1,27,510 fresh COVID-19 cases, the lowest in 54 days, while the daily positivity rate dropped to 6.62 per cent, according to the Union Health Ministry data updated on 1 June. With the fresh cases, India's tally of coronavirus cases rose to 2,81,75,044. The COVID-19 death toll climbed to 3,31,895 with 2,795 fresh fatalities, the lowest reported in 35 days, and the active cases were recorded below 20 lakh after 43 days, the data updated at 8 am showed. The daily positivity was recorded at 6.62 per cent . It has been less than 10 per cent for eight consecutive days, the ministry said. The weekly positivity rate has declined to 8.64 per cent. The active cases were recorded below 20 lakh after 43 days. They have reduced to 18,95,520 comprising 6.73 per cent of the total infections, while the national COVID-19 recovery rate has improved to 92.09 per cent.

### **2. Wise launches foreign exchange services from India**

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

Wise (formerly TransferWise), a London based fintech firm, built on the principle of peer-to-peer forex transfers has announced its entry into India. Wise has tied up with RBL Bank enabling Indians to send money abroad through the Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS). With this launch, Indians will be able to send money from the country to 44 countries globally, including the UK, US, Singapore, Malaysia, UAE and countries in the Eurozone, a press release issued by the firm said. The company serves over 10 million customers worldwide, processing GBP 5 billion in cross-border transactions per month, a spokesperson for Wise added.

### **3. Coronavirus | Variant found in India to be called 'Delta' in new WHO system**

**Source: The Hindu ([Link](#))**

The new names would only be to aid public discussion using labels that were "non stigmatising" to the countries where they were first identified. The World Health Organisation (WHO) has recommended a set of names to label emerging coronavirus variants that are deemed to be of global concern. The variant first identified in India, technically known as B.1.617.2, can now be described as 'Delta' and the so called 'UK variant' as 'Alpha' according to a note from the organization late on 31 May. The existing scientific nomenclature system will continue and the new names would only be to aid public discussion using labels that were "non stigmatising" to the countries where they were first identified.

#### **4. Producers Guild of India launches vaccination drive**

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

The Producers Guild of India, the association of film, television, and digital content producers, has launched a vaccination drive for its members and production crews starting 1 June. Through these camps, production personnel will be vaccinated over a multi-day drive being held at Mehboob Studios in Mumbai, the Guild said in a statement. As far as the film business goes, multiplex chain PVR Cinemas has also announced free vaccination of all its employees across the country as it grapples with the indefinite shutdown of movie theatres as part of the second covid-19 wave. The company said 29% of its employees and their dependents have already been vaccinated.

#### **5. Paytm to raise \$1.5 bn via primary issue of shares ahead of IPO: Source**

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

Paytm will look to raise up to \$1.5 billion as part of primary share sale, leading up to its initial public offering (IPO), which is planned for November, a person familiar with the developments said. The company is looking to file its draft red herring prospectus (DRHP) by July, according to sources. According to this person, though the details of the listing are being worked out, Paytm may take the qualified institutional buyer (QIB) route to list and issue fresh equity to raise funds. The company will evaluate a secondary share sale, but none of its large investors has shown an interest in exiting so far, the source said.

#### **6. Dr. Reddy's in talks with government to bring Russia's Sputnik Light COVID-19 vaccine**

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

India's Dr. Reddy's Laboratories is in talks with the government to bring Russia's Sputnik Light COVID-19 vaccine into the country, a company spokesperson told Reuters on 31 May. Dr. Reddy's is also in talks with the Indian government and the private sector to supply the two-dose Sputnik V vaccine, which the company expects to commercially launch in the country in the middle of next month.

#### **7. Pay more for flight tickets in India: What's changing from today**

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

Travelling in India will become expensive from today as the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) has decided to raise the lower limit on domestic airfares starting today, 1 June 2021. So, if you have travel plans, be ready to shell out more for flights within the country will become costlier. For instance, if a Delhi-Mumbai flight that was costing you ₹3,500 earlier, will now cost ₹700 more than the current fare after the new rule kicks in. The Ministry of

Civil Aviation has reduced the capacity that can be deployed by airlines on domestic routes to 50 per cent of pre-Covid levels from June 1 onward.

**8. COVID vaccine | States and UTs to have nearly 12 crore doses in June, will release buffer stock: Centre**

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

Nearly 12 crore COVID vaccine doses will be available to states and union territories in June 2021 enabling them to ramp up inoculation, the Centre informed them on 31 May. In a review meeting held through video conferencing, the states and UTs were also exhorted to proactively increase engagement with private hospitals on COVID vaccinations and take up non-health facility based settings and nearer to home vaccination centres for the elderly and differently-abled. They were advised to constitute a dedicated team of 2-3 members to regularly coordinate with vaccine manufacturers and private hospitals for timely supplies of vaccine, a health ministry statement said.