

## Daily News Monitor: 21 April 2021

### **1. Govt approves subsidy policy for urea produced through coal gasification**

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

The Union Cabinet on 20 April approved an exclusive subsidy policy for urea produced through coal gasification by Talcher Fertilizers Limited. It would assist in reducing urea imports to the tune of 12.7 lakh tonne per annum leading to savings in foreign exchange, Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal told reporters after the Cabinet meeting. The estimated cost of this first of its kind project in India is about Rs 13,277 crore, he added. Urea is a widely used fertiliser in India.

### **2. Flipkart hyperlocal service goes to 6 new cities, promises 90-min delivery**

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

Flipkart said on 20 April it has expanded its hyperlocal service to six new cities, seeking customers for doorstep delivery of daily essentials during the coronavirus pandemic. Flipkart Quick is now available in Delhi, Gurgaon, Ghaziabad, Noida, Hyderabad and Pune and will go to other cities this year gradually, said the company. “Hyperlocal capabilities are invaluable in enhancing the online shopping experience for consumers and boosting supply chain operations for e-commerce companies,” said Sandeep Karwa, vice-president, Flipkart. “It is important to explore ecosystem partnerships to strengthen such capabilities and accelerate faster, reliable deliveries to customers.” He said Flipkart remains committed to creating solutions that will not only deliver greater value to the customers but also boost local farmers and suppliers apart from providing a fillip to entrepreneurship.

### **3. Cabinet gives ex-post facto approval for amendments to Finance Bill, 2021**

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

The Union Cabinet on 20 April gave ex-post facto approval to the official amendments to the Finance Bill, 2021, which were aimed at clarifying and rationalising tax proposals for 2021-22. The amendments were essential to clarify and rationalise the proposals further and address stakeholders’ concerns arising out of the proposals enumerated in the Finance Bill. The Finance Bill became the Finance Act, 2021 on March 28, 2021 after receiving the President’s nod. An official release said that the government’s amendments to the Finance Bill, 2021 tried to address the concerns of the stakeholders with regard to the tax proposals for the fiscal. The amendments to the Finance Bill, 2021 were primarily aimed at generating

timely revenue for the exchequer and addressing the issues flagged by taxpayers and other stakeholders.

#### **4. India elected to 3 bodies of UN Economic and Social Council**

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

India has been elected by acclamation to three bodies of the UN Economic and Social Council. India was elected by acclamation to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice for a three-year term beginning January 1, 2022. Austria, Bahrain, Belarus, Bulgaria, Canada, France, Ghana, Libya, Pakistan, Qatar, Thailand, Togo and the US were also elected by acclamation while Brazil, Dominican Republic, Paraguay, Chile, Cuba were elected by secret ballot. India was elected by acclamation to the Executive Board of the UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) for a three-year term beginning on January 1, 2022.

#### **5. Cabinet approves MoU between India, Bangladesh to increase cooperation in trade remedies**

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

The Union Cabinet on 20 April gave its ex post facto approval to a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India's Director General of Trade Remedies and the Bangladesh Trade and Tariff Commission to increase cooperation in the area of trade remedies, an official statement said. The MoU was signed on March 27 in Dhaka. The primary objective of the MoU is to promote cooperation between the two countries in the area of trade remedies, exchange of information, undertaking capacity building activities and activities in accordance with various provisions of World Trade Organization (WTO) in the area of anti-dumping, countervailing and safeguard measures in bilateral trade between the countries.

#### **6. India has administered over 130mn vaccine doses till now**

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

India had administered over 130 million coronavirus vaccine doses across the country by 20 April evening. Covid continued to wreak havoc with close to 300,000 new cases recorded across the country in the past 24 hours. In all, 130,027,370 vaccine doses have been given in the country till now. This includes 9,201,040 healthcare workers who have had their first dose and 5,816,538 who have got their second dose as well. As many as 1,1,559,218 frontline workers have had their first dose while 5,852,669 have got their second dose too. In the 45-59-year age group, 43,485,752 people have got their first dose and another 1,490,460 have

had their second dose as well. In the 60+ category, 47,331,326 people have been administered their first dose while 5,290,367 have had their second dose as well.