

DAILY NEWS MONITOR: 23 JUNE 2021

1. Govt expert panel accepts Covaxin Phase-3 trials data

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

Bharat Biotech is slated to hold its pre-submission meeting with the WHO on 23 June, as part of the process to get an approval for the emergency use listing of the vaccine. The Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) on 22 June accepted the 77.8% efficacy of Bharat Biotech's Covaxin in the Phase-3 trials, reports the Bureau in Pune. BB had submitted the data to the DCGI over the weekend and the Subject Expert Committee (SEC) reviewed the data at a meeting held on 22 June. With the SEC making its recommendation, the final approval from DCGI is awaited. However, BB has not confirmed the developments. BB is slated to hold its pre-submission meeting with the WHO on 23 June, as part of the process to get an approval for the emergency use listing of the vaccine.

2. How India's new e-commerce rules could jolt foreign, local players

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

India's proposed changes to consumer rules for the e-commerce sector could be hugely disruptive for some of the country's biggest online shopping websites, including US-based Amazon and Walmart's Flipkart. The rules come as US firms battle allegations from traders for working around foreign investment regulations for the sector, and could further complicate the operating environment for Amazon and Flipkart even as the companies fight antitrust allegations in courts. The companies deny any wrongdoing. India's e-commerce market is projected to grow 30% annually to \$200 billion by 2026. It also counts Reliance Industries' JioMart, Tata's BigBasket, Softbank-backed Snapdeal and Future Retail among major players. Here are some of the new proposals, which are open for public consultation until July 6: affiliates as sellers, flash sales ban, private labels, imported products, misleading ads, liability, search results, compliance needs

3. Soon, industrial units can buy 100% renewable power

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

Announcing a 'green tariff mechanism' towards this end on 22 June, Union power minister RK Singh said the necessary guidelines would be issued shortly. Currently, in most parts of the country, discoms supply power to industries from a common pool created out of purchases that include thermal and hydel power too, besides RE. Industrial units and businesses across the country will soon be able to meet their entire power requirement via renewable energy (RE) sources, a move that could boost their goodwill image and help

reduce their carbon footprint. Announcing a ‘green tariff mechanism’ towards this end on 22 June, Union power minister RK Singh said the necessary guidelines would be issued shortly. Currently, in most parts of the country, discoms supply power to industries from a common pool created out of purchases that include thermal and hydel power too, besides RE.

4. Malaysia surpasses Indonesia to become India's top palm oil supplier

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

Malaysia has surpassed Indonesia to become the biggest crude palm oil (CPO) exporter to top consumer India in 2020/21, after Indonesia imposed heavy taxes on exports of the edible oil last year, industry officials told Reuters. Malaysia's palm oil exports to India surged 238% to 2.42 million tonnes in the first seven months of 2020/21 marketing year started on Nov. 1, according to data compiled by The Solvent Extractors' Association of India (SEA), a trade body of Indian vegetable oil refiners and traders. During the period, Indonesia's palm oil shipments to India fell 32% to 2 million tonnes in the first seven months of 2020/21 marketing year started on Nov. 1, according to data compiled by The Solvent Extractors' Association of India (SEA), a trade body of Indian vegetable oil refiners and traders.

5. India, Fiji sign MoU for cooperation in agriculture

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

Union Minister for Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Narendra Singh Tomar and Fiji's Minister of Agriculture, Waterways & Environment, Dr. Mahendra Reddy signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for cooperation in the field of Agriculture and allied sectors between India and Fiji in a virtual meeting held on 22 June. The MoU provides for cooperation in the fields of dairy industry development, rice industry development, root crop diversification, water resources management, coconut industry development, food processing industry development, agriculture mechanization, horticulture industry development, agricultural research, animal husbandry, pest and disease, cultivation, value addition and marketing, post-harvest and milling, breeding and agronomy.

6. Ease of Doing Business: Centre to embark on bigger exercise to choose best states

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

The government is embarking on an exercise much bigger in scale in 2021 to determine which states emerge as the best in the ‘Ease of Doing Business’ index, with both the parameters and the feedback exercise being more expansive, News18 has learnt from government officials. Up to 1.62 lakh private sector users could be surveyed in July by an agency appointed by the government to determine whether these users felt on the ground the

impact of the business reforms implemented by the states. The exercise will cover 301 reform actions spelt out by the Centre in 2020 in as many as 45 regulatory areas & sub-areas. The agency would be contacting at least two percent of total private sector users who have dealt with the states between November 2020 and April 2021, which could mean a range between 32,400 and 1.62 lakh users.