

## DAILY NEWS MONITOR: 24 MAY 2021

### **1. India's Mylab aims to make 10 crore units of at-home covid test kits per week**

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

Mylab Discovery Solutions has the capacity to ramp up production of its at-home COVID-19 test kits to 100 million units per week over the next few months based on demand, the Indian diagnostics company told Reuters. Mylab Chief Executive Officer Rahul Patil told Reuters that the company had received interest from government agencies and companies for its test kits. "Any individual without any technical expertise can perform the test. And our objective is to make sure it reaches villages as well," Patil said.

### **2. Jaishankar in US next week on vaccine mission for India and neighbours**

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

Faced with a massive shortage of vaccines in a raging second wave of the Covid-19 epidemic, the Government is sending External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar to the US next week to meet top officials and vaccine manufacturers to firm up deals for supply. President Joe Biden announced five days ago that the US will begin shipping 20 million doses of Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna and Johnson & Johnson's Covid-vaccines to needy countries by June-end, in addition to 60 million shots of AstraZeneca. There is no clarity yet on the distribution details but India is likely to be one of the beneficiaries. AstraZeneca's vaccine, which is being manufactured and distributed in India as Covishield, has not yet been authorised for use in the US with several irregularities coming to the fore at the Baltimore plant where it is made along with the J&J vaccines.

### **3. HT Labs floats content discovery app**

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

HT Labs, HT Media's innovation hub, which is developing digital-first products for audiences based on their preferences, has launched OTTplay, a content discovery platform offering curated shows and movies on streaming platforms. The recommendations will be based on a user's preference, such as language, genre, actors and filmmakers, from a selection of 150,000 movies and 30,000 shows across 10 languages and 35-plus over-the-top (OTT) platforms. After the lockdowns were imposed, most people staying at home have increasingly turned to entertainment channels. This has led to a challenge of having too much to choose from and not really knowing what to watch.

#### **4. Nestlé India to setup oxygen plants in hospitals close to its factories**

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

Packaged consumer goods company Nestlé India is in the process of setting up oxygen plants in five hospitals close to its factories in Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Karnataka and Goa, the company said in a statement on 24 May. Hospitals across the country had reported an acute shortage of medical oxygen following a vicious surge in covid-19 cases increased in April and May. Several companies have stepped up efforts to improve availability, movement and accessibility of oxygen required by medical facilities. Nestlé India, maker of Maggi noodles and Kitkat chocolates, has been providing medical supplies to those in need.

#### **5. Covid treatment drug: Roche's antibody cocktail is now available in India**

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

Pharma companies Roche India and Cipla announced the availability of the first batch of the antibody cocktail (Casirivimab and Imdevimab) in India for the treatment of mild to moderate COVID-19 in patients who are at high risk. A second batch will be made available by mid-June, the companies said. The antibody cocktail drug (Casirivimab and Imdevimab) will be available through Cipla's distribution network across the country. The Central Drugs Standards Control Organisation (CDSCO) had recently provided an emergency use authorisation for the antibody cocktail (Casirivimab and Imdevimab) in India. The price for each patient dose (a combined dose of 1200 mg (600 mg of Casirivimab and 600 mg of Imdevimab) will be ₹59,750 inclusive of all taxes. The maximum retail price for the multidose pack (each pack can treat two patients) is ₹119,500 inclusive of all taxes.

#### **6. WTO's TRIPS Council to discuss revised proposal of IPR waiver to deal with COVID-19**

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

The TRIPS Council of the World Trade Organization will discuss a revised proposal submitted by 62 co-sponsors, including India, South Africa, and Indonesia, seeking patent waivers to manufacture COVID-19-related medical products, an official said. In October 2020, India and South Africa had submitted the first proposal suggesting a waiver for all World Trade Organization (WTO) members on the implementation of certain provisions of the TRIPS Agreement in relation to the prevention, containment or treatment of COVID-19. The agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights or TRIPS came into effect in January 1995. It is a multilateral agreement on intellectual property (IP) rights such

as copyright, industrial designs, patents and protection of undisclosed information or trade secrets.