

## DAILY NEWS MONITOR: 25 MAY 2021

### **1. Covid vaccination: Walk-ins allowed for 18-44 age bracket at govt centres**

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

The government has allowed walk-ins through on-site registration and appointments for vaccination of the 18-44 age group, on CoWIN. This feature has been enabled only for government vaccination centres. Private centres have to continue publishing their vaccination schedule in advance for online appointments. So far, only those with prior appointments were allowed to get the jab, in the 18-44 age group. In case of sessions exclusively organised with online slots, some doses may still be left unutilised towards the end of the day. The government said that in such cases, on-site registration of a few beneficiaries may be necessary to minimise wastage.

### **2. New income tax e-filing portal to be launched on June 7: Check benefits and features**

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

The Income Tax Department is expected to launch a new e-filing web portal for taxpayers, that can be used to file routine ITRs and perform other tax-related works, early next month. The existing web portal will be shut for six days between June 1-6, the Department said in an order. The new portal is expected to be made more user-friendly. An order issued by the systems wing of the department on Wednesday said the "transition" from the old portal -- [www.incometaxindiaefiling.gov.in](http://www.incometaxindiaefiling.gov.in) -- to the new -- [www.incometaxgov.in](http://www.incometaxgov.in) -- will be completed and made operational from June 7. "In preparation of this launch and for migration activities, the existing portal of the department at [www.incometaxindiaefiling.gov.in](http://www.incometaxindiaefiling.gov.in) would not be available for a brief period of six days from June 1 to 6," the order said.

### **3. FDI jumps 19 pc to \$59.64 billion in 2020-21: Govt data**

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

Foreign direct investments (FDI) into the country grew 19 per cent to USD 59.64 billion during 2020-21 on account of measures taken by the government on the fronts of policy reforms, investment facilitation and ease of doing business, the commerce and industry ministry said on 24 May. Total FDI, including equity, re-invested earnings and capital, rose 10 per cent to the "highest ever" of USD 81.72 billion during 2020-21 as against USD 74.39 billion in 2019-20. "FDI equity inflow grew by 19 per cent in 2020-21 (USD 59.64 billion), compared to 2019-20 (USD 49.98 billion)," the ministry said in a statement. In terms of top investor countries, Singapore is at the top with 29 per cent share. It was followed by the US (23 per cent) and Mauritius (9 per cent) during the last fiscal.

#### **4. First consignment of GI certified Shahi Litchi from Bihar exported to UK: Commerce ministry**

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

India exported the season's first consignment of Shahi Litchi from Bihar to the United Kingdom by air route on 24 May, the commerce ministry said. It was a GI-certified product. The GI tag helps growers get premium price of the product as no other producer can misuse the name to market similar goods. A geographical indication (GI) tag is used for an agricultural, natural or a manufactured product (handicraft and industrial goods) originating from a definite geographical territory. Typically, such a name conveys an assurance of quality and distinctiveness, which is essentially attributable to the place of its origin. Darjeeling tea, Tirupathi laddu, Kangra paintings, Nagpur orange and Kashmir pashmina are among the registered GIs in India.

#### **5. India pips Germany into the \$3-trillion market capitalisation club**

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

India has piped European powerhouse Germany into the \$3-trillion market capitalisation club. The Indian domestic market on 24 May joined the UK, France and Canada in the \$3-trillion m-cap club. India currently ranks eighth on the table of most-valued equity markets, ahead of Germany which has a market cap of \$2.8 trillion. In the past, Germany and India had tussled for the eighth position. Given the outperformance in European equities, Germany too could join the club soon. The DAX, a gauge for the performance of the largest companies listed on the Frankfurt stock exchange, is up 13% this year outperforming the Sensex which is up 6%.

#### **6. Centre steps in after foreign Covid-19 vaccine makers say no to state govts**

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

The Union government is in direct talks with global vaccine manufacturers to facilitate regulatory clearance and procurement of doses, the health ministry said on 24 May. This follows the stand taken by foreign vaccine makers such as Moderna and Pfizer that they would only deal with the Centre and not individual states. The Centre had last month announced a "liberalised" vaccination policy with effect from May 1. The revised policy, made public on April 19, empowered states to procure vaccine doses directly from manufacturers. The move had prompted many states to float global tenders to procure vaccines from international firms. But, on Sunday Punjab said US-based vaccine maker Moderna had declined its request for direct supply of doses and that the company had indicated it would only deal with the government of India.