

## DAILY NEWS MONITOR: 29 APRIL 2021

### **1. 1.32 crore apply for Covid vaccination on Day 1. When slots will be available?**

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

A little over 10 million people signed up on the Co-WIN platform after it began accepting registrations from those in the 18-44 age group on 28 April. "So we close Day 1 with 1.32 crore registrations on <http://COWIN.gov.in>. Kudos to Team CoWin for building a truly scalable and robust platform. Handling more than 50000 API calls per second is mammoth!," Aarogya Setu tweeted. Though these new signees are not likely to get coronavirus vaccines when they become eligible for the jabs on May 1 as appointments for 18-44 will be available when State Govts and Private Vaccination Centers schedule sessions.

### **2. RBI launches latest round of surveys to get inputs for monetary policy**

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

The Reserve Bank on 28 April announced the launch of the latest round of households' surveys to capture inflation expectations and consumer confidence, which provides useful inputs for its monetary policy. The central bank has been regularly conducting these surveys. Announcing the launch of the May 2021 round of Inflation Expectations Survey of Households (IESH), the RBI said it aims at capturing subjective assessments on price movements and inflation of approximately 6,000 based on their individual consumption baskets, across 18 cities. "The survey seeks qualitative responses from households on price changes (general prices as well as prices of specific product groups) in the three months ahead as well as in the one year ahead period and quantitative responses on current, three months ahead and one year ahead inflation rates," it said.

### **3. FinMin relaxes COVID-relief material import norms for Indian Red Cross**

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

The Finance Ministry has waived permissions required from any government departments for customs clearance of COVID-related relief material imported by the Indian Red Cross Society. In instruction to field offices, the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) said in the wake of the extraordinary situation arising out of the COVID pandemic, the issue of providing seamless clearance to such relief material received from foreign governments and imported by the Indian Red Cross Society was discussed in a meeting chaired by the Cabinet Secretary on April 27.

#### **4. Serum cuts Covishield price by 25% for states, no change for pvt hospitals**

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

Days after the Centre asked Covid-19 vaccine makers to cut prices for the universal immunisation drive, Pune-based Serum Institute of India (SII) has responded with a 25 per cent reduction in the rate card for state governments. Adar Poonawalla, CEO of SII, put out a message on his Twitter handle on Wednesday that Covishield would be available at Rs 300 per dose for state governments. Just a week ago, SII had fixed the price at Rs 400 a dose for states and Rs 600 for private hospitals, while continuing to offer it at Rs 150 to the Centre, setting off a row over differential pricing. The Covishield price for private hospitals remains the same at Rs 600 per dose, according to sources. The other vaccine maker Bharat Biotech is yet to announce any change in the prices of Covaxin. The company had priced Covaxin at Rs 600 per dose for states and Rs 1,200 per dose for private hospitals recently.

#### **5. Zomato eyes raising \$1.1 bn through initial public offering, files DRHP**

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

Food-delivery platform Zomato on 28 April took the first step towards public listing by filing its draft red herring prospectus (DRHP) with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi). The proposal to raise Rs 8,250 crore, or over \$1.1 billion, through its initial public offering (IPO) makes this one of the largest by a consumer internet company in India. The IPO offer includes a fresh issue of Rs 7,500 crore, and an offer for sale worth Rs 750 crore by Info Edge, the largest investor in Zomato with 18.55 per cent pre-offer equity share capital in the company. Zomato had said it might consider a pre-IPO placement worth Rs 1,500 crore (around \$200 million) prior to filing the DRHP with the registrar of companies.

#### **6. Cabinet approves India-UK deal on information sharing, Customs cooperation**

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

The Union Cabinet on 28 April approved the signing of a deal between India and the United Kingdom on information sharing and preventing Customs offences. The agreement is also expected to facilitate trade and ensure clearance of goods traded between the countries, an official statement said. The deal will be signed on behalf of the governments of the two countries after it is approved by the respective governments. “This Agreement shall enter into force from the first day of the month following signature by duly authorised representatives of both parties,” it said. The agreement will provide a legal framework for sharing of information and intelligence between the Customs authorities of India and the UK and help in the proper application of Customs laws, prevention and investigation of Customs offences

and the facilitation of legitimate trade. The draft text of the proposed agreement has been finalised with the concurrence of the two Customs administrations.

#### **7. India imposes anti-dumping duty on chemical from 4 regions**

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

India has imposed anti-dumping duty on imports of a chemical used in foam making from four regions, including the EU and Saudi Arabia, for five years to guard domestic players from cheap shipments. The duty was imposed following recommendation of the commerce ministry's investigation arm Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR), which conducted a probe into alleged dumping of 'Toluene Di-Isocynate' from the EU, Saudi Arabia, Chinese Taipei and the UAE. According to a notification of the Department of Revenue, "the anti-dumping duty imposed under this notification shall be levied for a period of five years (unless revoked, superseded or amended earlier) from the date of imposition of the provisional anti-dumping duty, that is, the 2nd December, 2020".