

## DAILY NEWS MONITOR: 30 JUNE 2021

### **1. India to set rules for encouraging companies' shift to green energy**

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

India is making rules that will encourage companies to switch entirely to renewable power, a key step toward decarbonizing the nation's fossil fuel-dominated economy. The new regulations will allow companies to purchase renewable electricity from state distributors at "green tariffs," Power Minister Raj Kumar Singh said at the virtual Bloomberg NEF summit on 29 June. Hurdles for businesses seeking to buy clean power directly from generators will also be eased, he said. Accelerating use of clean energy in offices and factories, the largest power consuming segment in the country, will be key to achieving targets to cut emissions per unit of the GDP. It will also help the companies improve their environment, social and governance -- or ESG -- scores by reducing their carbon footprint.

### **2. Sebi opens up Reits, tightens rules for mutual funds**

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

The markets regulator on 29 June tightened norms for mutual funds, hiring of independent directors and opened investments in real-estate investment trusts to small investors and in private equity and venture capital funds to so-called accredited investors. To ensure fund managers allocate investors' money with prudence, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) made it mandatory for asset management companies (AMCs) to put in a minimum investment from their own account every time a mutual fund scheme is launched. The markets regulator said AMCs will have to invest in the schemes to ensure "skin in the game" in proportion to the risks associated with the scheme, meaning a riskier investment portfolio will require a higher proprietary investment contribution. AMCs are currently required to invest a maximum of ₹50 lakh per scheme.

### **3. FM Nirmala Sitharaman, US Treasury Secretary Yellen discuss global minimum tax**

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

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and US Treasury Secretary Janet L Yellen spoke over phone on 29 June and discussed global minimum tax. "Yellen discussed that the US and India have a shared interest in implementing a robust global minimum tax," said the Department of Treasury. During the call, Yellen stressed on the importance of partnership with India in the G20 and OECD to seize a once-in-a-generation opportunity to remake the international tax system to help the global economy thrive, the treasury said.

#### **4. Cipla gets DCGI nod to import Moderna vaccine; no commercial deal yet**

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

India on 29 June approved a fourth Covid-19 vaccine--Moderna's mRNA-1273. With this, the government has cleared the path for importing Covid vaccines approved by international regulators, without bridging clinical studies. The vaccine will be made available through a tie-up with Mumbai-headquartered Cipla. Cipla is supporting Moderna with the regulatory approval for import the vaccines to be donated to India, a company spokesperson said. "At this stage, there is no definitive agreement on commercial supplies," the spokesperson added. The vaccine developed by Cambridge (Massachusetts)-based Moderna Inc has demonstrated 94.1 per cent efficacy. This will be the first mRNA vaccine to get an emergency approval in India. Unlike other types of vaccines which put inactivated germ into a body to trigger an immune response, mRNA teaches cells to make protein for the purpose.

#### **5. ADNOC and Reliance Industries to set up petrochemical project in Abu Dhabi**

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

Reliance Industries (RIL) and Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) have signed an agreement to set up a new petrochemical complex in Ruwais, Abu Dhabi, to produce chlor-alkali, ethylene dichloride, and polyvinyl chloride (PVC). Under the terms of the agreement, this integrated plant will have a capacity to produce 940,000 tonnes of chlor-alkali, 1.1 million tonnes of ethylene dichloride, and 360,000 tonnes of PVC annually, RIL said in a statement on 29 June. According to oil sector executives, it would cost upwards of Rs 30,000 crore to set up the petrochemical facility. Chlor-alkali is used in water treatment and in the manufacture of textiles and metals. Ethylene dichloride is typically used to produce PVC. This has a wide range of applications across housing, infrastructure and consumer goods. Chlor-alkali can also enable production of caustic soda, essential for the production of aluminum.

#### **6. India cuts crude palm oil import tax, potentially boosting imports**

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

India cut the base import tax on crude palm oil to 10% from 15% for three months, the government said in a statement, as the world's biggest vegetable oil buyer tries to dampen near record high prices. The tax cut could make palm oil more attractive than rival soybean and sunflower oil for Indian refiners and boost imports of the tropical oil in the next three months, supporting benchmark Malaysian prices. The lower tax rate will apply from June 30 to September 30, the government said. The duty cut would provide a necessary respite to consumers from the high edible oil prices, said Sudhakar Desai, president of the Indian

Vegetable Oil Producers' Association (IVPA). Domestic soyoil and palm oil prices have more than doubled in the past year, hitting consumers already stung by record fuel prices and reduced incomes amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

## **7. India's draft space transportation policy gives green push to Isro**

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

The Indian government, while encouraging the private players to play a good part in the space sector with policy reforms, will continue to focus on research and development (R&D) on green fuel, robotic space exploration and reusable rockets, states the draft National Space Transportation Policy. The draft policy states focused research is essential on new propulsion systems based on semi-cryogenic, liquid oxygen-methane and green propellants. The Department of Space (DOS) under Government of India has recently come out with its draft National Space Transportation Policy. Its space arm -- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)-- is working on green fuel (for rockets and satellites), human space missions and others. Similarly, private rocket makers are also for green fuel.

## **8. Fabindia lines up IPO, eyes \$2 billion value**

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

Fabindia Overseas Pvt. Ltd plans to go public as early as the end of this year, with the retailer of ethnic wear to furniture targeting to raise about ₹3,000 crore, said two people familiar with the matter. Fabindia is in the process of hiring bankers for the initial public offering (IPO) that is expected to value the company at around \$1.5-2 billion, the people said on condition of anonymity. The share sale is aimed more at giving exits to investors, including private equity firm PremjiInvest, than raising funds for the company, the people said. The IPO will likely see the full exit of PremjiInvest, which owns nearly 25% of the company, said one of the two people cited above. "The company doesn't need immediate cash, so the IPO is intended to facilitate exits for early backers," this person said.