

## DAILY NEWS MONITOR: 8 JUNE 2021

### **1. PM Modi announces free vaccine for all above 18 yrs from June 21**

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

Prime Minister Modi announced on 7 June that the Central government will provide free coronavirus vaccine to states for inoculation of all above the age of 18 from June 21, and asserted that vaccine supply would be increased significantly in the country in coming days. The Centre has decided to buy 75 per cent of jabs from vaccine makers, including 25 per cent of the state quota, and give it for free to state governments, the prime minister said in an address to the nation. He also announced the government will distribute free foodgrains to around 80 crore people till Diwali under the PMGKAY.

### **2. Govt to distribute free foodgrains to 80 crore people till Diwali: PM Modi**

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

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 7 June announced that the government will distribute free foodgrains to around 80 crore people till Diwali for providing relief to the poor amid the second wave of COVID-19. In April, the Centre had announced distribution of free foodgrains for the months of May and June under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY). In his address to the nation, the Prime Minister announced the government's decision to extend the scheme till Diwali. Last year when the lockdown was imposed due to coronavirus, free ration was provided to more than 80 crore people for eight months under the PMGKAY, Modi said.

### **3. Skoda Auto India commences production of its upcoming SUV Kushaq**

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

Skoda Auto India on 7 June said it has commenced production of its upcoming SUV KUSHAQ, the deliveries of which will commence in July. The model, which is the first production car as part of the company's India 2.0 project, is being rolled out from the Skoda Auto Volkswagen India Pvt Ltd (SAVWIPL) plant in Chakan, Pune. Based on the MQB-A0-IN platform, a variant of the modular MQB-A0 platform, the KUSHAQ is specially adapted by Skoda for the Indian market, the company said in a statement. The model was unveiled in March this year and the company is yet to announce its prices but it is slated to take on the likes of Hyundai Creta and Kia Seltos, which are priced between Rs 9.95 lakh and Rs 17.7 lakh, in the fastest growing mid-sized SUV segment in the domestic market. Skoda Auto Volkswagen India Pvt Ltd, Managing Director Gurpratap Boparai said the production roll out

of the first car under the India 2.0 project stands testament to a great collaboration between teams of the Skoda Auto and Volkswagen Group across the globe and here in India.

#### **4. Tata Digital to invest up to \$75 mn in fitness startup CureFit**

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

Continuing its foray into the digital consumer ecosystem, Tata Digital, a 100 per cent subsidiary of Tata Sons, has signed a deal for investing of up to \$75 million in CureFit Healthcare. This is subject to completion of diligence process and other approvals. As part of the deal, CureFit Founder & CEO Mukesh Bansal will join Tata Digital in an executive role as President. He will continue in his leadership role at CureFit. “The CureFit partnership with its industry leading platform in fitness and wellness aligns very well with our overall healthcare proposition where fitness is increasingly becoming an integral part of a consumers’ life,” said N Chandrasekaran, Chairman, Tata Sons. “We are delighted to have Mukesh Bansal as a part of the key leadership team of Tata Digital. With his deep consumer experience and an entrepreneurial mindset of having incubated and grown two very successful businesses, his expertise will bring immense value to us,” he added.

#### **5. Pfizer supports deployment of oxygen and ICU beds in Delhi, Mumbai**

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

US pharma major Pfizer said on 7 June that it was helping to create around 400 oxygen-supported beds in Delhi and equipping a 30-bed ICU facility in Mumbai. Besides this, the company is sponsoring essential Covid medicines valued at Rs 510 crore for government hospitals in India. Pfizer has partnered Doctors For You, a non-governmental organisation, to help create oxygen bed capacity at Delhi’s Yamuna Covid Care Centre with a grant of around Rs 4.5 crore. Doctors For You has procured and deployed 400 beds with oxygen support and other medically necessary equipment including ventilators, oxygen cylinders, oxygen concentrators, laboratory equipment, consumables and services of medical and paramedical staff to maintain operations at the facility with the help of the Pfizer grant. Around 10 per cent of these beds have been set up to meet the requirements of Covid-19 paediatric patients. The Yamuna Covid care facility primarily caters to mild and moderate cases, more broadly meeting the needs of lower-income patients, migrant labourers, paediatric patients, and others. Partly funded by the Delhi government, the facility is being run jointly by the Delhi government and Doctors For You.

## **6. Covishield: Ministry issues new norms, people travelling abroad can take second dose after 28 days**

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

People seeking to undertake foreign travel for educational purposes, for employment opportunities or who are on India's contingent to the Tokyo Olympic Games, can now get their second jab of Covishield vaccination after 28 days as compared with the earlier mandated gap of 84 days, according to guidelines issued by the Health Ministry on 7 June. This facility is available to those who need to travel abroad for the above-mentioned purposes up to August 31. Also, vaccination certificates of such travellers will be linked to their passports. According to the government, the second dose of vaccine may be availed of on producing one's passport, which is one of the permissible ID documents for inoculation, so that the passport number can be printed on the vaccination certificate.

## **7. India elected to UN Economic and Social Council for 2022-24 term**

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

India has been elected to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), one of the six main organs of the United Nations, for the 2022-24 term. The 54-member ECOSOC is at the heart of the United Nations system to advance the three dimensions of sustainable development – economic, social and environmental. It is the central platform for fostering debate and innovative thinking, forging consensus on ways forward, and coordinating efforts to achieve internationally agreed goals. It is also responsible for the follow-up to major UN conferences and summits. India was elected in the Asia-Pacific States category along with Afghanistan, Kazakhstan and Oman in the elections held on Monday. Also read: UN team in India supporting authorities to safely reopen schools, continue remote education: UN spokesperson From the African states, Côte d'Ivoire, Eswatini, Mauritius, Tunisia and the United Republic of Tanzania were elected while from the eastern European states, Croatia and the Czech Republic and from the Latin American and Caribbean states, Belize, Chile and Peru were elected.