

## Daily News Monitor: 9 July 2021

### **1. Covaxin to get WHO nod soon? Chief scientist says Covid-19 vaccine trial data 'looks good'**

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

WHO chief scientist Soumya Swaminathan said even as Covaxin's efficacy against the Delta variant of Covid-19 is a bit low the overall efficacy of the vaccine is "quite high." In what potentially comes as a piece of good news for Hyderabad-based vaccine manufacturer Bharat Biotech, the World Health Organization (WHO) has indicated that it might just provide its much-awaited approval to Covaxin, the company's indigenous jab against the coronavirus disease (Covid-19). Soumya Swaminathan, the chief scientist at WHO, told a Mumbai-based news organisation that the final phase trial data for Covaxin "looks good" and meets the safety profile of the international public health agency so far.

### **2. Zomato to join India's 100 most-valued club**

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

Zomato Ltd's much-awaited initial share sale could propel the 13-year-old food delivery firm into the ranks of India's 80 most valuable companies. At ₹76 per share, the upper end of the price band of ₹72-76 announced on 8 July by Zomato, the country's largest food delivery platform will have a post-money valuation of ₹59,623 crore, giving it the 78th position among listed firms in India by market value. The share sale will open for subscription on July 14. Zomato's valuation will outrank long-established and well-known names such as Hero MotoCorp Ltd, India's biggest two-wheeler maker; drugmaker Aurobindo Pharma; Piramal Enterprises; Apollo Hospitals, Biocon Ltd and Bandhan Bank.

### **3. Labour codes, jobs top priority: New Labour Minister Bhupender Yadav**

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

The roll out of the four labour codes at the earliest to enhance ease of doing business in the country and a big push to job creation will be the top priority of the new labour and employment minister Bhupender Yadav, who took charge from Santosh Kumar Gangwar on 8 July. "The minister, after taking over charge on Thursday, took stock of ongoing, pending and burning issues in the labour ministry," a labour ministry statement said soon after Yadav took charge. The Centre is ready with the rules for the four codes, passed by the Parliament last year, but is waiting for states to finalise those in their domain to avoid any legal void once the codes are fully implemented.

#### **4. Sanofi, GSK get nod for first global clinical trial with Indian population**

**Source: The Indian Express ([Link](#))**

Sanofi and GlaxoSmithKline have received the drug regulator's permission to include participants here in late-stage global human trials of their protein-based Covid-19 vaccine candidates. This is the first global clinical trial for a Covid-19 vaccine that will include the Indian population. The global trial will include 37,430 volunteers above the age of 18 years across 13 sites in the US, Asia, Africa and Latin America, according to Sanofi's latest submission to the Clinical Trials Registry of India. Of this, India will account for 3,000 participants, according to the submission dated June 25. Three sites have been selected to conduct the Indian arm of the trial — Aartham Multi Super Specialty Hospital in Ahmedabad, Maharaja Agrasen Super Specialty Hospital in Jaipur and Nizam's Institute of Medical Sciences (NIMS) in Hyderabad.

#### **5. PM Modi's new Cabinet clears ₹23,132 crore package for Covid management**

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

All state governments will be consulted to chart out a future roadmap so that oxygen, beds, crucial medicines do not pose a challenge in future. Out of this ₹23,000 crore, the Centre will give ₹15,000 crore and the state will give ₹8,000 crore, the minister said. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's new Cabinet met on Thursday and took a slew of measures regarding the health infrastructure of the country, amid the ongoing 2nd phase of the Covid-19 pandemic. In April 2020, the Cabinet had approved ₹15,000 crore package for Covid-19 emergency response, which was utilised to the maximum to upgrade the health infrastructure of the country, health minister Mansukh Mandaviya said.

#### **6. Cabinet nod: Modified Rs 1-lakh-crore Agriculture Infrastructure Fund to help mandis upgrade**

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

The Cabinet on 8 July approved modifications in the guidelines of the Rs 1-lakh-crore Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF), a move which will expand the beneficiary institutions, including Agricultural Produce Market Committees (APMCs), to avail credit of up to Rs 2 crore from the Fund to set up cold storage, sorting, grading and assaying units. So far, the government has sanctioned projects worth Rs 4,300 crore from AIF. There has been apprehension among a section of farmers that mandis will be closed down, whereas the government has been doing everything to strengthen the APMCs, said agriculture minister Narendra Singh Tomar after the Cabinet meeting. The repayment period has been increased

from 4 years to 6 years up to 2025-26 and overall period of the scheme has been extended from 10 years to 13 years up to 2032-33.