



June 22, 2021 – Tuesday

Key Developments

India vaccinates record 75 lakh people on Day 1 of new vaccine regime

India gave out a record 7.5 million vaccine doses on Monday under a federal campaign to inoculate all adults for free after weeks of criticism that a chaotic rollout had worsened a second wave that killed hundreds of thousands. Earlier this month, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the government would buy 75% of all vaccines from drug makers and distribute them for free to states, which along with private hospitals had earlier been buying shots for people aged 18-45.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/india/india-vaccinates-record-75-lakh-people-on-day-1-of-new-vaccine-regime/articleshow/83718606.cms>

Govt notifies Rs 18,100 cr-PLI scheme to promote ACC battery making

Production linked incentives for manufacturing advanced chemistry cell batteries will be offered only to those firms that have been allocated the production capacity under the national programme on ACC battery storage through a transparent mechanism. According to a notification issued by the Department of Heavy Industry, the incentives will not be offered to conventional battery pack segment of the industry as such manufacturing activities are already happening in the country. In May, the government approved the PLI (Production Linked Incentives) scheme for manufacturing ACC (Advanced Chemistry Cell) batteries at an estimated outlay of Rs 18,100 crore. ACCs are the new generation advanced energy storage technologies that can store electric energy either as electrochemical or as chemical energy and convert it back to electric energy as and when required.

https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/govt-notifies-rs-18-100-cr-pli-scheme-to-promote-acc-battery-making-121062101148_1.html

Transmission charges' waiver for renewable projects extended till 2025

In a major relief to the renewable energy project developers, the union ministry of power extended the exemption on transmission charges till 2025. The waiver also now includes battery storage, pump hydro projects along with solar and wind. In a public order, the ministry of power said, "extension of the waiver of Inter-state transmission system (ISTS) charges on transmission of electricity from solar and wind sources of projects to be commissioned upto 30th June, 2025." The order further said that waiver of charges would also be allowed for pump hydro and battery storage projects as well if 70 per cent of the electricity produced from these units is generated from solar and wind sources. ISTS charges would be levied gradually on pump hydro and battery storage projects. It would be aligned with the reduction in tariff and payment of debt.

https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/transmission-charges-waiver-for-renewable-projects-extended-till-2025-121062101174_1.html

Stricter e-commerce norms to come in, flash sales may be history

The government plans to revise the e-commerce regulations in the country and bring about stricter norms, wherein the much talked-about flash sales may be prohibited. As per the new draft regulations, no e-commerce entity shall allow any display or promotion of misleading advertisements, whether in the course of business on its platform or

otherwise. Further, if the norms come into effect, every e-commerce shall establish an adequate grievance redressal mechanism having regard to the number of grievances ordinarily received by such entity from India.

[https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/services/retail/stricter-e-commerce-norms-to-come-in-flash-sales-may-be-](https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/services/retail/stricter-e-commerce-norms-to-come-in-flash-sales-may-be-history/articleshow/83720596.cms?utm_source=ETTopNews&utm_medium=HP&utm_campaign=TN&utm_content=23)

[history/articleshow/83720596.cms?utm_source=ETTopNews&utm_medium=HP&utm_campaign=TN&utm_content=23](https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/services/retail/stricter-e-commerce-norms-to-come-in-flash-sales-may-be-history/articleshow/83720596.cms?utm_source=ETTopNews&utm_medium=HP&utm_campaign=TN&utm_content=23)

IT Ministry likely to issue FAQs on new social media rules in 1-2 weeks

The IT Ministry is likely to issue FAQs pertaining to the new intermediary rules in the next 1-2 weeks, a source said. The Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) would touch upon various aspects of the new rules, including the measures, how the norms would benefit users of social media platforms, and any other clarification that stakeholders may have. The FAQs are currently being worked on and are likely to be issued in 1-2 weeks, the source in the IT Ministry said, adding that the set of FAQs would address 10-20 questions.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/india/it-ministry-likely-to-issue-faqs-on-new-social-media-rules-in-1-2-weeks/articleshow/83735387.cms>

Economy

Indication of revival in economic activity as states unlock: Survey

With states easing lockdown curbs due to declining number of COVID-19 cases, there are immediate indications of improvement in economic activity as companies are hopeful of better performance in the next 6 to 12 months, according to a survey. About 60 per cent of 212 companies, which participated in the survey conducted by FICCI and Dhruva Advisors, said there was a high impact on their businesses due to the state-level lockdowns. With different parts of the country under different sets of restrictions and consumer sentiment impacted due to the ferocity of the second wave of COVID-19, an evident dip in demand was witnessed by companies, it added. This time it was not just demand in urban areas that was constrained but even the rural areas saw a compression in demand, according to the survey. "While the impact of the second wave-induced lockdowns on businesses is clearly visible, there is a silver lining on the horizon...With different states getting into the unlock mode, there are immediate indications of improvement in economic activity," the survey said.

https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/indication-of-revival-in-economic-activity-as-states-unlock-survey-121062100984_1.html

Impact on Indian economy after the COVID-19 second wave

It has been more than a year and a half since the COVID-19 pandemic penetrated the deepest core of human civilization and made us realize the power of mother nature. In India, after the first wave, we thought that we had gained control of the situation but the second wave found us wanting for basic necessities such as oxygen and medical supplies. It might appear that the second wave is on its way out with daily cases coming down to under 60,000 from the peaks of nearly 4 lakh cases, but we have lost over 3.8 lakh precious lives to COVID-19 already. With the hope that the situation will significantly improve on the medical side, it is time to assess the impact of the second wave on macroeconomics. The government's approach in dealing with the two waves has been different. The response to the second wave has been localised and driven by the states while in the first wave we went for a national lockdown.

<https://www.financialexpress.com/economy/impact-on-indian-economy-after-the-covid-19-second-wave/2275353/>

FinMin, Infosys to meet on Tuesday, discuss glitches in new I-T portal

Two weeks since the much talked about new income tax return filing portal was launched, technical glitches continue to mar the site, an issue finance ministry officials will take up in a meeting with Infosys -- the vendor which provided the IT solution -- at a meeting on Tuesday. Several stakeholders have submitted written inputs highlighting the issues facing the portal as well as areas that need to be fixed. At the company's annual shareholder meeting, Infosys had on Saturday stated that it is working to resolve the issues and has already succeeded on some fronts.

Addressing shareholders' questions on the matter, Infosys said it is deeply concerned with the inconvenience caused by the technical glitches in the new income tax e-filing portal, and it is working to resolve all the issues at the earliest.

https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/finmin-infosys-to-meet-on-tuesday-discuss-glitches-in-new-it-portal-121062101060_1.html

Business uptick continues, Nomura Index rises to October levels

Uptick in business activity continued into June, reaching levels last seen in October, according to data from Japanese brokerage Nomura. The Nomura India Business Resumption Index (NIBRI) picked up to 81.3 for the week ended June 20, from 74.9 recorded a week earlier, the firm said in a note on Monday. This also represented a 21.1 percentage point (pp) gain from the nadir seen in Mayend, which felt the brunt of the impact of the second wave of Covid-19, the note said.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/indicators/business-uptick-continues-nomura-index-rises-to-october-levels/articleshow/83735818.cms>

Banking and Finance

Govt mulling ways to ease tax burden on foreign AIF investors

The government is evaluating ways to bring down the burden of higher taxes on foreign investors that pool money in alternative investment funds (AIFs) that are domiciled in India. Such investors have had to bear higher taxes on their investment because of the goods and services tax (GST) borne by such funds, which is ultimately passed on to the investors. In the past there have been requests for remission or reduction of rates applicable to such funds.

https://www.business-standard.com/article/markets/govt-mulling-ways-to-ease-tax-burden-on-foreign-aif-investors-121062101150_1.html

Industry must make pricing of financial products transparent: RBI Dy Guv

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Deputy Governor T Rabi Sankar on Monday urged the industry to make the pricing of financial products and services transparent to minimise chances of mis-selling. Speaking at an event organised by think-tank National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER), he said there is an amount of pricing even in the case of free services. Citing an example of such opaque arrangement, Sankar said bundling of products in the financial sector is one such arrangement. Bundling tends to favour a seller of such a product rather than consumer, he said, adding "when bundling and such issues come up, I think regulators need to be more alert to the possibilities of mis-selling and misuse".

https://www.business-standard.com/article/finance/industry-must-make-pricing-of-financial-products-transparent-rbi-dy-guv-121062100980_1.html

SBI gets central board's nod to raise Rs 14,000 crore via bonds

The country's largest lender SBI on Monday said its central board has approved a proposal to raise up to Rs 14,000 crore by issuing Basel-III compliant bonds. The bonds are proposed to be raised in Indian or US currency. "The central board of the bank at its meeting held today on June 21, 2021, accorded approval for raising capital by way of issuance of Basel III compliant debt instruments in USD and/or INR during FY22," SBI said in a regulatory filing. Under this, the bank plans to raise fresh additional tier I capital up to an amount of Rs 14,000 crore subject to the government of India concurrence, it added. Tier 1 capital refers to a bank's core capital. It includes disclosed reserves that are present on a bank's financial statements and equity capital. A lender uses tier I capital to function on a regular basis and it forms the basis of a financial institution's strength.

https://www.business-standard.com/article/finance/sbi-gets-central-board-s-nod-to-raise-rs-14-000-crore-via-bonds-121062101188_1.html

Govt mulling measures to bolster governance & HR practices in public sector banks

The government is considering measures to further strengthen corporate governance and human resource practices in nationalised banks through a diversified board structure, strengthening of board-level committees and a robust performance management system for employees. "The merger process is complete and now its high time to revamp the corporate governance and HR practices on the lines followed by banks such as State Bank of India," said an executive aware of the developments.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/govt-mulling-measures-to-bolster-governance-hr-practices-in-public-sector-banks/articleshow/83735541.cms>

State-owned banks likely to see lower gains in bond book in FY22: Icra

Public sector Banks, which reaped windfall treasury gains in FY21, are likely to see much lower gains in their bond portfolios in FY22 due to limited headroom for yields to decline further, according to Icra. The rating agency said public sector banks in India reported net profits in FY21 after five straight years of losses, supported by windfall treasury gains. PSBs booked profits of Rs 31,600 crore from this source compared to overall profit Before Tax (PBT) of Rs 45,900 crore in FY21. They recorded higher gains on the back of higher Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR) holdings than private banks. Notably, the trading gains for public banks in FY21 exceeded the capital infusion of Rs 20,000 crore received from the Government of India (GoI). The onset of Covid-19 resulted in windfall gains for public banks with trading profits on their bond portfolios rising sharply after the steep cut in policy rates by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in March 2020.

https://www.business-standard.com/article/finance/state-owned-banks-likely-to-see-lower-gains-in-bond-book-in-fy22-icra-121062100660_1.html

Industry

Recent changes in FAME II scheme to boost demand for e-vehicles: FICCI

Industry chamber FICCI on Monday said the recent changes in the FAME II scheme, including enhanced subsidies for electric two-wheelers, are expected to accelerate demand for electric vehicles in the two-wheelers, three-wheelers and bus segments. Yet, the chamber asked the government to also raise the demand incentive on electric three-wheelers like it has done for e-two-wheelers.

Earlier this month, the Department of Heavy Industry (DHI) had increased the demand incentive for electric two-wheelers to Rs 15,000 per KWh as compared to Rs 10,000 per KWh earlier, while capping incentives at 40 per cent of the cost of vehicles as against 20 per cent earlier. Also, Energy Efficiency Services Ltd (EESL), a Government of India procuring body, will aggregate demand for 3 lakh electric three-wheelers for multiple user segments.

https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/recent-changes-in-fame-ii-scheme-to-boost-demand-for-e-vehicles-ficci-121062101195_1.html

Net profit of big cement firms surges 29.6% in pandemic-hit FY21: Report

Pandemic-hit FY21 has turned out to be a good year for the big cement companies, as their net profits surged and market position strengthened, a report said. The net profits of 10 major listed cement companies surged by 29.6 per cent on an average in FY21, although aggregate revenues grew modestly by 3.8 per cent, according to an analysis undertaken by Acuite Ratings. The cement volume growth has been disrupted in the April-June quarter of FY22 after the second wave of COVID-19, but the sector is expected to see good a recovery post-monsoon led by the government's thrust on infrastructure activities and housing construction, it added. "FY21 has proved to be a good year for the Indian cement sector. While the disruption caused by the COVID pandemic led to operational and demand challenges in the first half of FY21, the recovery in the second half drove a strong improvement in the sector profitability for the whole year," Acuite Ratings said.

<https://www.financialexpress.com/industry/net-profit-of-big-cement-firms-surges-29-6-in-pandemic-hit-fy21-report/2275662/>

Unlock 2.0 sparks 15% growth in FMCG sales

India's fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG) market has recovered sharply after several states eased restrictions as the second Covid-19 wave abated, helping the market expand 15% in the first two weeks of June from the month earlier. Sales were also boosted by a 28% increase in the number of kirana outlets that reopened this month, a contrast from the last two months, when the local grocer count fell sharply, according to the latest study by Bizom, which tracks sales of 7.5 million retail stores across the country.

https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/cons-products/fmcg/sharp-recovery-unlock-2-0-sparks-15-growth-in-fmcg-sales/articleshow/83735111.cms?utm_source=ETTopNews&utm_medium=HP&utm_campaign=TN&utm_content=23

Automakers initiate production ramp-up to recoup lockdown losses

India's passenger vehicle makers are ramping up production to recoup the output lost during the lockdowns since April, with market leader Maruti Suzuki expected to record its highest ever volume for a month in July. Maruti Suzuki is scheduled to produce 198,000 units next month, industry insiders with knowledge of its plans said. They projected the July production volume of Hyundai Motor at 60,000 vehicles and Tata Motors at 30,000 units, taking the total expected output of the top three automakers alone to close to 300,000 units.

https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/auto/auto-news/automakers-initiate-production-ramp-up-to-recoup-lockdown-losses/articleshow/83735328.cms?utm_source=ETTopNews&utm_medium=HP&utm_campaign=TN&utm_content=23

Chennai auto hub lets car plants run at full capacity despite few vaccinations

Car factories, including those of Renault-Nissan, Hyundai and Ford, can operate with full workforces in India's automaking hub from Monday, even though 75 per cent of workers at the global carmakers' plants have not been vaccinated against Covid-19.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/logistics/chennai-auto-hub-lets-car-plants-run-at-full-capacity-despite-few-vaccinations/article34876201.ece>

Traceability system a must for drugs: GS1 chief

Barcoding medicines sold in the country offers immense potential in tracking the availability as well as in fighting counterfeiting, said S Swaminathan, CEO of GS1 India, the standards organisation in the country.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/national/traceability-system-a-must-for-drugs-gs1-chief/article34887861.ece>

Hiring of gig workers rises, but companies delay long-term contracts

Hiring for temporary jobs is bouncing back, and short-term roles are particularly in high demand. Business sentiment is picking up due to falling Covid-19 cases and increasing vaccinations, but companies are uncertain about long-term demand and are delaying hiring of permanent staff. They are instead engaging temporary, or gig, workers to meet immediate demand, according to staffing companies and gig platforms.

https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/company/corporate-trends/hiring-of-gig-workers-rises-but-cos-delay-long-term-contracts/articleshow/83729590.cms?utm_source=ETTopNews&utm_medium=HP&utm_campaign=TN&utm_content=23

Agriculture

Central Tuber Crop Research Institute bets on cassava as feedstock for bioethanol production

As the search for alternate feedstock sources for ethanol production gathers pace, ICAR-Central Tuber Crops Research Institute (CTCRI) finds cassava (tapioca) as a promising raw material for bioethanol production to meet India's Ethanol Blending Petrol (EBP) programme target of 2025.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/national/central-tuber-crop-research-institute-bets-on-cassava-as-feedstock-for-bioethanol-production/article34878887.ece>

Another illegal Bt cotton gains root in Gujarat

An indigenously developed genetically modified cotton is being cultivated in Gujarat's Saurashtra region illegally, adding to the Centre woes arising from the planting of unauthorised HTBt cotton in various parts of the country.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/agri-business/another-illegal-bt-cotton-gains-root-in-gujarat/article34888778.ece>

Banned HTBt cotton acreage may double in Maharashtra

About 50 per cent of the total cotton cultivated in Maharashtra this Kharif is likely to be herbicide-tolerant Bt (HTBt) cotton as estimated 5-7 lakh cotton farmers in the State might prefer the banned HTBt seeds over other varieties available in the market.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/agri-business/banned-htbt-cotton-acreage-may-double-in-maharashtra/article34889164.ece>

Infrastructure

As cities unlock, Indian Railways helps to bring back migrants; Nearly 32.56 lakh passengers travel in 7 days

As cities gradually unlock from COVID-19 lockdown, Indian Railways is helping to bring back workers. Within a span of seven days from 11 June 2021 to 17 June 21, around 32.56 lakh travellers including migrant workers as well as other passengers traveled by long-distance mail express trains from areas like Eastern Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Bihar, West Bengal and Odisha to various destinations including Mumbai, Pune, Delhi, Ahmedabad, Surat and Chennai areas. According to Railway Ministry, the national transporter recorded an average occupancy of trains being 110.2 per cent. To facilitate the movement of migrant labourers from Bihar, UP, West Bengal, Odisha to the metros like Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Chennai, etc. Indian Railways is running several Express/Mail Specials, Summer Specials and Holiday Special trains. As of 18 June 2021, as many as 983 Mail/Express and Holiday Special trains (56 per cent of the pre-Covid level) are being operated by the national transporter. In addition to these trains, around 1309 Summer Special trains have been operated as well to facilitate the movement of workers wanting to return to the place of work.

<https://www.financialexpress.com/infrastructure/railways/as-cities-unlock-indian-railways-helps-to-bring-back-migrants-nearly-32-56-lakh-passengers-travel-in-7-days/2275668/>

DFC Project: Indian Railways conducts trial of first double stack container from Gujarat to Rajasthan

Dedicated Freight Corridor Project: Now, all ports of Gujarat including Pipavav, Kandla, Mundra, Hazira and Dahej will have faster connectivity with north and northeast India. Recently, the first Double Stack Container train trial run was done from Mundra port in Gujarat to CONCOR Kathuwas MMLP National Capital Region after completion of track linking between New Palanpur to New Kishanganj. According to the Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India Limited (DFCCIL)- the company implementing Indian Railways' DFC project, the rake contained 178 containers with five of them destined for New Kathuwas in Rajasthan (NCR); 78 containers for Dhandari Kalan railway station in Ludhiana, Punjab; 90 containers for Dadri (NCR) in the state of Uttar Pradesh and five for Panitola railway station in Assam. DFCCIL is constructing the Western Dedicated Freight Corridor (WDFC) of 1506 Route km and Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor (EDFC) of 1875 Route km including Sonnagar-Dankuni Public-private partnership (PPP) section.

<https://www.financialexpress.com/infrastructure/railways/dfc-project-indian-railways-conducts-trial-of-first-double-stack-container-from-gujarat-to-rajasthan/2275630/>

Telecom

Telcos tweak plans to push up ARPU as near-term headline rate increase tough

India's top telcos Reliance Jio Infocomm (Jio), Bharti Airtel and Vodafone Idea (Vi) are resorting to tweaking their tariff plans with lower data limits at higher prices but with additional validity in a bid to push average revenue per user (ARPU), given that a blanket price hike during the pandemic and amid stiff competition is difficult. "We have indicated previously that an outright across-the-board price increase may not be easy and operators will have to widen the variety of pricing plans to effectively raise ARPU from heavy data users," brokerage UBS said in a recent report.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/telecom/telecom-news/telcos-tweak-plans-to-push-up-arpus-as-near-term-headline-rate-increase-tough/articleshow/83713131.cms>

States

'Level 3' curbs to continue in Mumbai till June 27

Mumbai will continue to follow level 3 restrictions till June 27, according to an official order issued by Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) on Monday, as per reports.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/covid-19-level-3-curbs-to-continue-in-mumbai-till-june-27/article34884159.ece>

Bihar eases lockdown; government, private offices to function at full capacity from June 23

In wake of decline in COVID infections, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Monday announced partial relaxations of lockdown curbs, allowing offices -- both government and private -- to function with full attendance from June 23 to July 6. The decision was announced after holding a COVID-19 review meeting on Monday. In a series of tweets, Kumar said that all essential and non-essential shops can operate in Bihar till 7 pm, while public parks and gardens will remain open from 6 am to 12 pm.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/india/bihar-eases-lockdown-government-private-offices-to-function-at-full-capacity-from-june-23/articleshow/83718288.cms>

Raghuram Rajan, Arvind Subramanian, Esther Dufflo and Jean Dreze appointed to join TN Eco Advisory Committee

Tamil Nadu Governor, Banwarilal Purohit during his address on the first day of the newly constituted Tamil Nadu assembly, said that the government is constituting an Economic Advisory Council to the chief minister with Noble Laureate Esther Duflo of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), as a member. Duflo is a French-American economist who is a professor of Poverty Alleviation and Development Economics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. She is the co-founder and co-director of the Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab, which was established in 2003. She is the wife of Nobel Laureate Abhijit Banerjee. The other members of the advisory committee are former Reserve Bank of India Governor, Raghuram Rajan, former Chief Economic Advisor to the Government of India, Arvind Subramanian, Development Economist Jean Dreze and former union finance secretary S. Narayan.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/india/nobel-laureate-esther-duflo-to-join-tn-eco-advisory-committee/articleshow/83712501.cms>

Hotels begin service, metro & buses start operations and gyms open in 17 districts of Karnataka

Hotels have begun services, gyms have reopened and public transport buses and Metro have resumed operations with riders on Monday as the state government's guidelines further relaxing Covid-19 curbs in 17 districts of Karnataka, including Bengaluru city have come into effect. The new guidelines popularly called "unlock 2" have come into effect from 6 AM and will be in force up to 5 AM on July 5. In the 17 districts, where the Covid-19 positivity rate is below 5 per cent shops will be open from 6 AM to 5 PM beginning Monday and public transport including bus and metro began operations with 50 per cent capacity.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/india/hotels-begin-service-metro-buses-start-operations-and-gyms-open-in-17-districts-of-karnataka/articleshow/83708180.cms>

Healthcare

India in talks to find 'middle ground' with Pfizer, others for vaccine imports-Government official

India's government is in talks with Pfizer and other vaccine manufacturers for import of their COVID-19 vaccines in accordance with local laws, a senior government official said on Monday. "We have to find the middle ground," government advisor Vinod Kumar Paul told the news channel CNBC TV-18, when asked about the progress of talks with Pfizer and Moderna. Any final decision on vaccine imports has to be compatible with Indian laws and the government was hopeful that these vaccines would be available in the country before the end of this year, Paul said.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/healthcare/biotech/pharmaceuticals/india-in-talks-to-find-middle-ground-with-pfizer-others-for-vaccine-imports-government-official/articleshow/83715826.cms>

Bharat Biotech submits Covaxin phase 3 data; DCGI panel to take it up today

Bharat Biotech has submitted phase 3 data for its indigenous Covid-19 vaccine, Covaxin, to the Drug Controller General of India (DCGI), Niti Aayog member VK Paul told ET. The Subject Expert Committee under the drug regulator will discuss the issue on Tuesday, a senior official said. "Phase 3 data has been submitted to the drug regulator over the weekend. Covaxin follow-up studies should be available, too, in peer-reviewed journals soon," Paul said. The Hyderabad-based vaccine maker has released an interim analysis of its phase 3 data but has not yet published full trial results in an internationally recognised journal.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/healthcare/biotech/pharmaceuticals/bharat-biotech-submits-covaxin-ph-3-data-dcgi-panel-to-take-it-up->

[today/articleshow/83729783.cms?utm_source=ETTopNews&utm_medium=HP&utm_campaign=TN&utm_content=23](https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/healthcare/biotech/pharmaceuticals/private-hospitals-may-get-vax-based-on-jabs-given/articleshow/83729577.cms)

Private hospitals may get vaccines based on jabs administered

Private hospitals will have to project their monthly demand for vaccine doses and share it with state governments from now on, as the ministry of health's new vaccine guidelines came into force from Monday. Senior executives say that there have been no specific guidelines on the procurement process, but as per discussions with state government officials, hospitals will have to place orders on the National Health Authority (NHA) portal.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/healthcare/biotech/pharmaceuticals/private-hospitals-may-get-vax-based-on-jabs-given/articleshow/83729577.cms>

External

India receives \$64 bn FDI in 2020, fifth largest recipient of inflows: UN

India received USD 64 billion in Foreign Direct Investment in 2020, the fifth largest recipient of inflows in the world, according to a UN report which said the COVID-19 second wave in the country weighs heavily on the country's overall economic activities but its strong fundamentals provide optimism for the medium term. The World Investment Report 2021 by the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), released Monday, said global FDI flows have been severely hit by the pandemic and they plunged by 35 per cent in 2020 to USD 1 trillion from USD 1.5 trillion the previous year. Lockdowns caused by COVID-19 around the world slowed down existing investment projects, and prospects of a recession led multinational enterprises (MNEs) to reassess new projects. The report said in India, FDI increased 27 per cent to USD 64 billion in 2020 from USD 51 billion in 2019, pushed up by acquisitions in the information and communication technology (ICT) industry, making the country the fifth largest FDI recipient in the world.

https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/india-receives-64-bn-fdi-in-2020-fifth-largest-recipient-of-inflows-un-121062100305_1.html

India's cereal exports rise sharply in pandemic year as new markets are tapped

India's exports of cereals posted a sharp increase in 2020-21 with commodities such as non-basmati rice, wheat and other cereals including millets, maize and other coarse grains, posting record growths.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/agri-business/indias-cereal-exports-rise-sharply-in-pandemic-year-as-new-markets-are-tapped/article34889058.ece>

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