



September 01, 2021 – Wednesday

Key Developments

For 2nd time in 5 days, India administers over 10 mn Covid doses in a day

India's COVID-19 vaccination coverage touched the 65 crore mark on Tuesday with over 1 crore vaccine doses being administered in a single day in the country today, for the second time in five days, informed the Union health ministry.

As per data available on CoWIN portal, as many as 1,08,84,899 doses of the COVID-19 vaccine were administered in the country today. "The country has set a new record! PM @NarendraModi's #SabkoVaccineMuftVaccine campaign broke its previous record of more than 1.09 crore doses and created a new record today. Today, more vaccines have been administered in the country than this and this number is increasing continuously. Congratulations to all the countrymen!" said Union Health and Family Welfare Minister Mansukh L Mandaviya on Twitter today.

https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/for-2nd-time-in-5-days-india-administers-over-1-cr-covid-doses-in-a-day-121083101202_1.html

India to make it mandatory for auto makers to offer biofuel vehicles in 6 months, says Gadkari

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari on Tuesday said India will make it mandatory for auto manufacturers to offer vehicles running 100 per cent on bio-fuels in the next six months. Such a move will be cost-effective for consumers, who are hassled by the high petrol prices, the minister said, pointing out that a litre of bioethanol costs Rs 65 as against Rs 110 paid for petrol. The alternative fuel is also less polluting and saves forex. "We are committed to delivering vehicles with flex engine norms. We have taken a decision, we will make it mandatory by which there will be a flex-engine," Gadkari said at an event hosted by domestic brokerage Elara Capital.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/auto/auto-news/india-to-make-it-mandatory-for-auto-makers-to-offer-biofuel-vehicles-in-6-months-says-gadkari/articleshow/85797365.cms>

Sebi asks AMCs to disclose details of risk, performance of MF schemes

Markets regulator Sebi on Tuesday directed asset management companies (AMCs) to disclose details of risk and performance of mutual fund schemes in all disclosures, including promotional material.

In order to avoid overload of information on investors, Sebi in April had directed mutual funds to share details of risk, performance and portfolio with investors, only for the schemes in which they have invested. In addition, they were asked to disclose risk-o-meter of the scheme vis-a-vis benchmark while disclosing the performance of scheme in the fortnightly, monthly and half-yearly statement through e-mail.

In a circular on Tuesday, Sebi clarified that AMCs shall disclose "risk-o-meter of the scheme wherever the performance of the scheme is disclosed and risk-o-meter of the scheme and benchmark wherever the performance of the scheme vis-a-vis that of the benchmark is disclosed" in all disclosures, including promotional material.

https://www.business-standard.com/article/markets/sebi-asks-amcs-to-disclose-details-of-risk-performance-of-mf-schemes-121083101188_1.html

Economy

India's GDP growth accelerates to 20.1% in Q1FY22 on low base

Indian economic growth touched a record high in the quarter through June, reflecting a very weak base last year, a rebound in consumer spending, and improved manufacturing in spite of a devastating second wave of Covid cases, government data showed on Tuesday. Gross domestic product rose 20.1% in the three-month period, compared with a record contraction of 24.4% in the same quarter a year earlier. "GDP at Constant (2011-12) Prices in Q1 of 2021-22 is estimated at Rs 32.38 lakh crore, as against Rs 26.95 lakh crore in Q1 of 2020-21, showing a growth of 20.1 percent as compared to contraction of 24.4% in Q1 2020-21. Quarterly GVA at Basic Price at Constant (2011-12) Prices for Q1 of 2021-22 is estimated at Rs 30.48 lakh crore, as against Rs 25.66 lakh crore in Q1 of 2020-21, showing a growth of 18.8%," said Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation in a statement.

https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/india-s-gdp-growth-accelerates-to-20-1-in-q1fy22-on-low-base-121083100995_1.html

India's core sector output grows 9.4% in July on the back of low base

India's output of eight core industries grew 9.4 per cent year-on-year (YoY) in July on the back of a low base as all sectors, except crude oil, registered an increase in output. On a month-on-month basis, output rose 5.4 per cent in July, after growing 1.5 per cent in June. The data released by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade on Tuesday revealed that the output of core sectors had registered a 7.6-per cent decline in July 2020 due to Covid-19-related restrictions. The index grew 1.1 per cent, compared to July 2019, mainly on the back of a sharp jump in coal and cement production. Crude oil output, however, is yet to reach pre-pandemic levels.

The eight sectors - coal, steel, cement, fertiliser, electricity, natural gas, refinery products, and crude oil - comprise nearly two-fifths of India's total industrial production.

https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/india-s-core-sector-output-grows-9-4-in-july-on-the-back-of-low-base-121083101341_1.html

Retail inflation for industrial workers eases marginally to 5.27% in July

Retail inflation for industrial workers eased marginally to 5.27 per cent in July, mainly due to lower prices of certain food items.

"Year-on-year inflation for the month stood at 5.27 per cent compared to 5.57 per cent for the previous month (June 2021) and 5.33 per cent during the corresponding month a year before (July 2020)," a labour ministry statement said. Food inflation stood at 4.91 per cent against 5.61 per cent in June 2021 and 6.38 per cent in July of last year.

The all-India CPI-IW (Consumer Price Index-Industrial Workers) for July 2021 increased by 1.1 points and stood at 122.8 points. It was 121.7 points in June 2021.

The maximum upward pressure on the index came from the 'miscellaneous group', contributing 0.42 percentage points to the total change.

<https://www.financialexpress.com/economy/retail-inflation-for-industrial-workers-eases-marginally-to-5-27-in-july/2321314/>

Apr-Jul fiscal deficit narrows to 9-year low, reaches 21.3% of FY22 target

High tax collections due to tighter rules for the goods and services tax (GST), and an economy on the recovery path coupled with expenditure compression resulted in the Centre's fiscal deficit narrowing to 21.3 per cent of the Budget Estimates (BE) in the first four months of the current financial year. In absolute terms, the fiscal deficit at Rs 3.3 trillion was the lowest for the first four months in nine years. The deficit had breached BE at this point of time in the previous year. That and transparency in food subsidies had led to fiscal deficit widening to 9.5 per cent of GDP against BE of 3.5 per cent during 2020-21. The government had budgeted the deficit to come at 6.8 per cent of GDP in the current financial year. Economists believed that it could be less than that, given the trend of the first four months.

"We expect FY'22 fiscal deficit to be lower than BE," India Ratings chief economist Devendra Pant said.

https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/apr-jul-fiscal-deficit-narrows-to-9-year-low-reaches-21-3-of-fy22-target-121083101408_1.html

Govt examining public comments on draft Consumer Protection (e-comm) Rules

The consumer affairs ministry is examining stakeholders' views on all provisions of the draft Consumer Protection (e-commerce) Rules, including definition of 'related party', a senior ministry official said on Tuesday. Ban on fraudulent flash sales and mis-selling, and appointment of chief compliance officer/grievance redressal officer are among key amendments proposed to the Consumer Protection (e-commerce) Rules, 2020, on which the government

had sought public comments by July 6. Later, acceding to the industry demands, the ministry extended the deadline to July 21 for stakeholders to send their views on the draft e-commerce rules. "We have received the comments. They are still under examination," Additional Secretary in the consumer affairs ministry Nidhi Khare told PTI. Khare further said all provisions, including definition of 'related party' will be examined properly before finalising the rules. https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/govt-examining-public-comments-on-draft-consumer-protection-e-comm-rules-121083100612_1.html

Q1 GDP growth to set tone for economic revival in coming quarters, says Niti VC

India's growth rebound in the first quarter of this fiscal will be the foundation of sustained expansion in successive quarters, Niti Aayog Vice Chairman Rajiv Kumar said on Tuesday, adding that the country's GDP growth estimates may get revised upwards in the coming weeks. "Economic growth in the April- June quarter of 2021-22 (Q1) has come in at 20.1%, which is at the upper end of all estimates, making the apparent consensus redundant. This rebound in Q1 will be the foundation of sustained growth in successive quarters," Kumar tweeted. "With the Chief Scientist of the @WHO, Ms. Swaminathan, postulating a weakness in COVID-19 going forward, we could see GDP growth estimates being revised upwards in the coming weeks. The Government's focus on ramping up capital expenditure has set desired results," he added.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/q1-gdp-growth-to-set-tone-for-economic-revival-in-coming-quarters-says-niti-vc/articleshow/85806583.cms>

India to see stronger growth on structural reforms, govt's capex push: CEA

India's macroeconomic fundamentals are much stronger, and the country is all set for robust growth on the back of structural reforms, the government's capex push and rapid vaccination, Chief Economic Advisor KC Subramanian said on Tuesday. Briefing media on the growth number, he said the GDP data for the first quarter reaffirms the government's prediction of an imminent V-shaped recovery made last year.

https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/india-to-see-stronger-growth-on-structural-reforms-govt-capex-push-cea-121083101252_1.html

FM urges young tax officers to give ideas to amplify tech use in I-T dept

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday urged young tax officers to give new ideas to amplify use of technology in the functioning of the Income Tax Department. Sitharaman addressed the officers of the department in the national capital, which was followed by an interactive session, especially with young officers, on various aspects of the department's functioning. "Hon'ble FM urged young officers to give new ideas amplifying greater use of technology in the functioning of ITD esp in light of recent extensive changes. FM also exhorted the seniors to act as a "speaking bridge" to guide young officers as the ITD moves from paper to technology," the I-T Department tweeted after the meeting. Minister of State for Finance P P Chaudhary, who was also present during the meeting, appreciated the department's role in garnering revenue and complimented the officers of the department for their tireless work, despite the challenges faced during the difficult COVID times.

https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/fm-urges-young-tax-officers-to-give-ideas-to-amplify-tech-use-in-i-t-dept-121083101402_1.html

Economic activity picking pace, further upside to growth likely: Moody's

Moody's Investors Service on Tuesday said the economic activity in India is picking up with the gradual easing of COVID restrictions and there could be further upside to growth as economies around the world gradually reopen. In its August update to 'Global Macro Outlook 2021-22', Moody's retained India's growth forecast for the 2021 calendar year at 9.6 per cent and 7 per cent for 2022.

https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/economic-activity-picking-pace-further-upside-to-growth-likely-moody-s-121083100826_1.html

Banking and Finance

Non-food bank credit grows at 6.2 per cent in July: RBI data

The non-food credit bank credit grew at 6.2 per cent in July 2021, compared to 6.4 per cent growth a year ago, RBI data showed. Advances to agriculture and allied activities continued to perform well, registering an accelerated growth of 12.4 per cent in the reporting month, against 5.4 per cent in July 2020, according to RBI data on Sectoral Deployment of Bank Credit - July 2021 released on Tuesday. The growth in credit to industry remained subdued at one per cent in July 2021 compared to 0.9 per cent in the year-ago period, the data showed. Size-wise, credit to medium industries registered a robust growth of 71.6 per cent in July 2021, as compared to a contraction of 1.8 per cent a year ago.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/indicators/non-food-bank-credit-grows-at-6-2-per-cent-in-july-rbi-data/articleshow/85805948.cms>

All-India House Price Index slows to 2 per cent in Q1: RBI

The growth in all-India House Price Index (HPI) slowed to 2 per cent in the first quarter this fiscal against 2.8 per cent in the year-ago period, according to RBI data released on Tuesday. The Reserve Bank releases a quarterly house price index (HPI) based on transaction-level data received from housing registration authorities in ten major cities. The cities are Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Chennai, Delhi, Jaipur, Kanpur, Kochi, Kolkata, Lucknow, and Mumbai. "All-India HPI recorded 2.0 per cent annual growth (y-o-y) in Q1:2021-22 as compared with 2.7 per cent growth in the previous quarter and 2.8 per cent a year ago," the central bank said in a release. The HPI growth varied widely across the cities. It ranged from an expansion of 8.8 per cent (Ahmedabad) to a contraction of (-) 5.1 per cent (Chennai).

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/services/property/-cstruction/all-india-house-price-index-slows-to-2-per-cent-in-q1-rbi/articleshow/85809190.cms>

Finance Ministry releases Rs 13,386 crore to 25 states as grant to RLBs

The Finance Ministry on Tuesday said it has released about Rs 13,386 crore to 25 states for providing grants to rural local bodies (RLBs). Tied grants are released to the rural local bodies (RLBs) for improving two services -- Sanitation and maintenance of open-defecation free (ODF) status and supply of drinking water, rainwater harvesting and water recycling. "The Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance, has on Monday released an amount of Rs 13,385.70 crore to 25 States for providing grants to the Rural Local Bodies," the ministry said in a statement.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/finance/finance-ministry-releases-rs-13386-crore-to-25-states-as-grant-to-rlbs/articleshow/85794935.cms>

'RBI to conduct fine-tuning operations to manage one-off liquidity flows'

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will conduct fine-tuning operations to manage unanticipated and one-off liquidity flows, Governor Shaktikanta Das said on Tuesday. As the market settles down to regular operations, the RBI will conduct fine-tuning operations from time to time, as needed, to manage unanticipated and one-off liquidity flows so that liquid conditions in the system evolves in a balanced and evenly distributed manner, Das said. He was speaking at a conference organised by Fixed Income Money Market and Derivatives Association of India (FIMMDA) and Primary Dealers' Association of India (PDAI). The governor said government securities are distinct asset class, and it is important to appreciate the role of the g-sec market in the overall macro interest rate environment of the economy.

https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/rbi-to-conduct-fine-tuning-operations-to-manage-one-off-liquidity-flows-121083100975_1.html

Industry

Steel prices fall on cheaper iron ore, weak demand

Steel prices in the country have come down in the last week of August amid a marginal fall in domestic and international iron ore prices and slower demand, but steelmakers expect rates to firm up soon on increased demand. The benchmark hot-rolled coil (HRC) prices have come down by Rs 1,000, quoting around Rs 66,800-67,000 a tonne, down from Rs 68,000 in mid-August, industry watchers said. The prices had reached a peak of Rs 70,000-71,000 a tonne during July.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/indl-goods/svs/steel/steel-prices-fall-on-cheaper-iron-ore-weak-demand/articleshow/85812269.cms>

It will take at least a year for chip production to return to normal: IESA chief

The Indian automobile companies, which are facing chip shortage after the semiconductor foundries lowered capacities during the pandemic, will have to wait till at least a year before they get back to the normal lead times of 2-4 weeks.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/it-will-take-at-least-a-year-for-chip-production-to-return-to-normal-iesa-chief/article36209562.ece>

Auto dealers staring at 30% drop in sales this festival season

Auto dealerships are expecting a 30 per cent drop in sales during the upcoming festival season in case chip shortage persists. Generally, the festival season accounts for a third of yearly sales for most dealerships and dealers were betting on this period for recovery from the sales washout following the second wave. With OEMs facing supply chain issues, they have now gone on record telling dealers that they will not be able to supply enough passenger vehicles to facilitate stockpiles necessary to fulfil the surge in demand during the Diwali period.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/auto-dealers-staring-at-30-drop-in-sales-this-festival-season/article36209494.ece>

Covid therapy to kindness for burnout: E-commerce cos put staff care on top

At a time when India is facing various challenges on account of the Covid-19 pandemic, e-commerce firms including Flipkart are continuing to prioritise employee well-being with a range of measures. Walmart-owned Flipkart is extending its care and wellness initiatives to every single employee, including supply chain staff, across the country. It has recently announced updated policies, which are designed to not only address the needs of the present but also the future, for employees and their families.

https://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/covid-therapy-to-kindness-for-burnout-e-commerce-cos-put-staff-care-on-top-121083101417_1.html

Travel bodies mull approaching MHA and civil aviation ministry over ban on commercial flights

The Indian Association of Tour Operators (IATO) and other travel industry associations are planning to approach the Ministry of Civil Aviation, and the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) after the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) extended the ban for scheduled commercial international passenger services till the end of this month.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/services/travel/travel-bodies-mull-approaching-mha-and-civil-aviation-ministry-over-ban-on-commercial-flights/articleshow/85800705.cms>

Agriculture

Low cane supplies hit TN sugar mills this season

A lesser number of sugar mills have functioned in Tamil Nadu during the current season on account of lower availability of cane.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/agri-business/low-cane-supplies-hit-tn-sugar-mills-this-season/article36208606.ece>

CIFT to conduct international online training for fisheries sector

Central Institute of Fisheries Technology (ICAR-CIFT) is to conduct a series of online international training for a selected group of foreign government officials from AARDO member countries of Africa and Asia working in the agricultural/fisheries sector.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/agri-business/cift-to-conduct-international-online-training-for-fisheries-sector/article36196682.ece>

Infrastructure

World's highest motorable road at 18,600 ft inaugurated in Ladakh

A strategically important road, which connects Leh to the Pangong Lake, was inaugurated here on Tuesday by Ladakh MP Jamyang Tsering Namgyal, who said that the stretch passing through the Kela Pass at 18,600 feet will be world's highest motorable way. The road, constructed by the 58 Engineer Regiment of the Indian Army, will reduce 41-km

of travel from Leh (Zingral to Tangtse) to the picturesque Pangong Lake crossing the Kela Pass, the Lok Sabha member said. "The road, which was inaugurated today, will be the world's highest motorable road for the general public at a height of 18,600 feet. Up till now, the Khardungla Pass was the world's highest motorable road for the general public at a height of 18,380 feet," Namgyal told PTI.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/india/worlds-highest-motorable-road-at-18600-ft-inaugurated-in-ladakh/articleshow/85800082.cms>

Ministry of Railways seeks suggestion on new guideline for station redevelopment

Private companies bidding for the redevelopment of railway stations will get compensation if the department delays the payment of station development fee by more than a week. The ministry of railways has come up with draft guidelines for developers selected to redevelop the railway station, wherein the developers will also offer rebate in case the railway makes the payment within three days of the deadline.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/transportation/railways/ministry-of-railways-seeks-suggestion-on-new-guideline-for-station-redevelopment/articleshow/85801663.cms>

Revising UAE air service pact will hurt Indian airlines, spike fares: CAPA

The Indian government's plan to revise air service agreement with UAE will constrain growth of Indian carriers and could lead to an aeropolitical dispute, aviation consultancy CAPA said today.

India-West Asia segment accounted for half of India's international air traffic in pre-Covid times. UAE is the largest market within West Asia, with around 60 per cent of traffic flow to and from the region. India has separate air service agreements with Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Ras Al Khaimah and Sharjah. A media report today said the civil aviation ministry is planning to merge it into a single agreement and cap the number of seats available to Indian and UAE carriers. This would lead to a reduction of flights being offered by UAE-based airlines and would increase fares, the report said. A decision to revise the agreement has to be mutually agreed upon by both parties. In a tweet, CAPA said it would be a bold step if the government is indeed considering a revision in the air service agreement. However, the policy is unlikely to be implemented, the consultancy said.

https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/revising-uae-air-service-pact-will-hurt-indian-airlines-spike-fares-cap-121083100706_1.html

Indian aviation industry may incur losses worth Rs 26,000 cr in FY22: ICRA

Pandemic-hit Indian aviation industry is expected to report a net loss of Rs 25,000-26,000 crore while its debt level may increase to Rs 1.2 lakh crore in the ongoing fiscal year, credit ratings agency ICRA said on Tuesday.

Also, the industry will be requiring an additional funding of Rs 45,000-47,000 crore over FY2022 to FY2024, it said. According to ICRA, in the near term, the balance sheets of Indian carriers will remain stressed until they are able to reduce their debt burden through a combination of improvement in operating performance and / or through equity infusion.

https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/indian-aviation-industry-may-incur-losses-worth-rs-26-000-cr-in-fy22-icra-121083101030_1.html

Registration of homes in Mumbai municipal region jumps 2.5 times to 6,784 units in August

Registration of housing properties in Mumbai municipal region more than doubled to 6,784 units in August compared with the year-ago period, driven by fresh sales during the current month, according to Knight Frank India. Mumbai BMC region (Churchgate to Dahisar and Colaba to Mulund) recorded property registrations of 6,784 units in August 2021, registering a growth of 157 per cent Year-on-Year (YoY) compared to August 2020, the consultant said in a statement. The registrations for August 2021 were also 16 per cent higher compared to the pre-pandemic period of August 2019. "Overwhelmingly, 92 per cent of the registered homes were fresh sales amounting to 6,241 units that were sold in the month of August 2021.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/services/property/-cstruction/registration-of-homes-in-mumbai-municipal-region-jumps-2-5-times-to-6784-units-in-august/articleshow/85801324.cms>

Telecom

Trai ups min wired broadband speeds to 2 Mbps; suggests license fee exemption to expand connectivity

Wired broadband consumers in India can hope for better broadband speeds in future. The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Trai) has revised the minimum download speed of wired broadband to 2 Mbps from the present 512 Kbps, and suggested incentives such as license fee exemption to companies providing internet connectivity to push high speed fixed line internet connectivity across the country.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/telecom/telecom-news/trai-ups-min-wired-broadband-speeds-to-2-mbps-suggests-license-fee-exemption-to-expand-connectivity/articleshow/85810608.cms>

Energy

Coal firms asked to give priority supply to plants with critical stock

The government on Tuesday said specific instructions have been given to coal companies to give priority supplies to thermal power plants having critical stock level, and the dry fuel stock at the plants is expected to stabilise in the next few days. The development comes in the wake of reports of thermal power generation units across the country grappling with coal shortage. "Secretary (Coal) has given specific instructions to the coal companies to give priority supplies to all the TPPs having critical stock level and to focus on stock liquidation from the mines having high stock level," the coal ministry said in a statement. The ministry said it is all geared up to address the issue of stock build up at the end of the thermal power plants (TPPs) during the monsoon season. It is notable that coal stocks with Coal India Ltd (CIL) are adequate to meet the upsurge in power demand being witnessed in the country since July this year.

https://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/coal-firms-asked-to-give-priority-supply-to-plants-with-critical-stock-121083101295_1.html

India adds 2,488 MW solar capacity in April-June 2021; highest in 3 years: Report

Solar capacity addition in India jumped over 12-fold to 2,488 megawatt (MW) during April-June period of 2021 as compared to the year-ago period, according to Mercom India Research. The solar capacity addition in the quarter under review was 19 per cent higher when compared to 2,090 MW installed in January-March (Q1) 2021, the research firm said in its report titled 'Q2 2021 India Solar Market Update'. "India added 2,488 MW of solar in the second quarter or Q2 of the calendar year 2021. The installations were up 1,114 per cent year-over-year compared to 205 MW added in Q2 2020 when COVID crippled the sector," it said. Solar capacity addition in the period under review is the highest in a quarter since Q2 of 2018, the report said.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/renewables/india-adds-2488-mw-solar-capacity-in-april-june-2021-highest-in-3-years-report/articleshow/85800158.cms>

States

No entry of commercial vehicles in Delhi without RFID tag from today

The South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) mandated commercial vehicles to carry Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) tag to enter the national capital from today. RFID tags for commercial vehicles are again being made mandatory in Delhi. From Tuesday, no commercial vehicle will be allowed to enter Delhi without RFID tag. Speaking to ANI, an SDMC official said, "In case of no RFID tag on any commercial vehicle, now a provision has been made to cancel its permit. This radio frequency identification system has been installed at 13 toll plazas in Delhi. Last month also an order was issued regarding this and our team was working on these 13 toll plazas. So far, we were letting those without RFID tags leave with a warning, but from August 31, it is being strictly implemented."

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/india/no-entry-of-commercial-vehicles-in-delhi-without-rfid-tag-from-today/articleshow/85792251.cms>

Amit Shah launches web portal for industrial investments in Jammu and Kashmir

The new industrial policy for Jammu and Kashmir will "attract investments of more than Rs 50,000 crore and under this, there will be all-inclusive, all-round development" of the region, Union home minister Amit Shah said as he launched a portal for the registration of units for the industrial development of Jammu & Kashmir. Shah encouraged industry leaders to invest in Jammu and Kashmir to help develop the union territory. The portal was launched under the 'New Central sector scheme for industrial development of Jammu and Kashmir' which is applicable for any

eligible manufacturing entity or eligible service sector enterprise which is registered as a business enterprise under the Goods and Service Tax, according to the ministry of commerce and industry.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/india/shah-launches-web-portal-for-industrial-investments-in-jk/articleshow/85811269.cms>

Tamil Nadu govt to announce revised EV policy

The DMK government will announce a revised electric vehicle (EV) policy with special features that will help in the multi-fold increase in production; infrastructure development for EV production and meet the needs of users, according to a release on Industry Demand for Grants tabled in the Assembly on Tuesday. The previous AIADMK government announced an EV policy in September 2019.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/tamil-nadu-govt-to-announce-revised-ev-policy/article36204988.ece>

Nagaland plans to attain 100 per cent literacy by 2030

The Nagaland government has made an ambitious plan of attaining 100 per cent literacy by 2030 through strengthening anganwadi centres and early childhood education besides improving infrastructure, according to a vision document of the state administration. The current literacy rate of the North-eastern state is 79.55 per cent. Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio recently unveiled the "Nagaland SDG Vision 2030 - Leaving no one behind". It provides short, medium and long term strategies to achieve 17 sustainable development goals (SDG), including quality education. The objective of the state is to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all and eliminate gender and other disparities at all levels of education, the document stated.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/india/nagaland-plans-to-attain-100-per-cent-literacy-by-2030/articleshow/85803213.cms>

Rajasthan schools to reopen for classes 9 to 12 on September 1; SOP issued

Schools in Rajasthan will reopen for classes 9 to 12 from September 1, and a detailed standard operating procedure (SOP) issued on Tuesday will have to be strictly followed, the state's Education department said. The department has also decided to reduce school curriculum by 30 per cent, and students will be evaluated every month now, School Education Minister Govind Singh Dotasra said here. "Due to COVID-19, classes in schools could not resume in the last three months, which led to disruptions in studies. Also, there is a need to reduce the curriculum by 30 per cent in all schools of the state. The decision has been made," he said.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/india/rajasthan-schools-to-reopen-for-classes-9-to-12-on-september-1-sop-issued/articleshow/85802986.cms>

Himachal Pradesh achieves distinction of cent per cent Covid vaccination: CM

Every adult resident of Himachal Pradesh has got the first dose of his Covid vaccine and to commemorate this achievement, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will address the people of the hill state on September 6. The state has attained the unique distinction of achieving the cent per cent target of the first dose of Covid vaccination for all residents of 18 years and above, Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur said here in a statement on Tuesday. Prime Minister Modi has congratulated the state government and agreed to digitally address the people of the state on September 6 and interact with some frontline workers, who have done exceptional work in achieving this target, he added.

Chief Minister Ram Thakur made the remark while presiding over a video meet in Shimla with all senior government officials across the state.

<https://www.financialexpress.com/lifestyle/health/himachal-pradesh-achieves-distinction-of-cent-per-cent-covid-vaccination-cm/2321329/>

Healthcare

Sputnik V's production set to begin next month

The availability of Russian Covid-19 vaccine, Sputnik V, will get a boost with the local production of the vaccine set to commence in September.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/national/sputnik-vs-production-set-to-begin-next-month/article36209340.ece>

Ayush Ministry prepares 5-minute yoga protocol for professionals, develops 'Y-Break' app

The Ayush Ministry has developed a yoga protocol that can integrate seamlessly with work routine and help professionals de-stress and refocus. The five-minute protocol encompassing asanas, pranayama and dhyana will be available through an app, which will be launched by Ayush Minister Sarbananda Sonowal on Wednesday. The yoga protocol can integrate with work routine seamlessly and effortlessly and help professionals refresh, de-stress and refocus, a ministry official said. "The protocol has been prepared on the basis of a deep and evaluative research and several studies.... Several yoga experts and researchers have effectively used modern technology to bring yoga to corporate employees...and within five minutes, one can have the benefit of many years," the official said.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/india/ayush-ministry-prepares-5-minute-yoga-protocol-for-professionals-develops-y-break-app/articleshow/85796461.cms>

Breakthrough COVID-19 infections found in 25 per cent healthcare staff in Delhi: Study

A little more than 25 per cent of healthcare workers were infected with coronavirus despite getting fully jabbed, a recent study has revealed, giving an insight on the breakthrough infections due to the Delta variant.

The study, jointly conducted by the Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology (IGIB) and Max hospitals in Delhi-NCR, found that vaccination breakthroughs were far more common during the Delta-outbreak in Delhi than previously reported. However, the severity of the infection was low and vaccination is crucial to avoid severe illnesses, said Shantanu Sengupta, senior scientist with the IGIB and one of the lead researchers of the study.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/healthcare/biotech/healthcare/breakthrough-covid-19-infections-found-in-25-per-cent-healthcare-staff-in-delhi-study/articleshow/85797936.cms>

Education

Delhi University approves implementation of NEP from 2022-23 session

The Delhi University on Tuesday approved the implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP), and four-year undergraduate programme at its executive council meeting, according to a senior official. Registrar Vikas Gupta said that NEP will be implemented from the 2022-23 academic session. He said three members dissented against the implementation. The implementation of the NEP and four-year undergraduate programme were approved by the Standing Committee on Academic Matters and the Academic Council last week. The multiple entry/exit scheme (MEES), where students will be able to enter and exit the programme at various stages, and the Academic Bank of Credit (ABC) were also approved at the meeting.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/services/education/delhi-university-approves-implementation-of-nep-from-2022-23-session/articleshow/85813233.cms>

External

Centre strengthening import monitoring system to strategise on lowering inflows

In line with the Centre's policy to check non-essential imports, the Commerce Ministry is strengthening its import monitoring system to identify and act on import surges by coordinating with other Ministries and Departments.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/policy/centre-strengthening-import-monitoring-system-to-strategise-on-lowering-inflows/article36201668.ece>

India, EU to expand their dialogue and coordination over Afghan crisis

India and European Union will be expanding their dialogue and coordination over Afghanistan. On Tuesday PM Narendra Modi discussed the pressing issue with a top EU official ahead of Foreign Minister S Jaishankar's meeting with EU Foreign Ministers in Slovenia on Friday coinciding with the 16th edition of Bled Strategic Forum. "Spoke with @eucopresident Charles Michel, President of the European Council, about the evolving situation in Afghanistan. Also reiterated our commitment to further strengthening India-EU relations," Modi tweeted. Slovenia holds the rotating presidency of Council of the European Union for the period July to December 2021.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/india/india-eu-to-expand-their-dialogue-and-coordination-over-afghan-crisis/articleshow/85806202.cms>

India extends \$ 100 million loan to Africa to spur post pandemic growth

Africa Finance Corporation (AFC), the leading infrastructure solutions provider on the continent, has received a US\$100 million credit line from the Export-Import Bank of India (India Exim Bank) to develop critical infrastructure required for the revival of Africa's economies in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/finance/india-extends-100-million-loan-to-africa-to-spur-post-pandemic-growth/articleshow/85801946.cms>

Indian wheat exports gain as global prices surge

Wheat exports from India have increased sharply and are bound to do well this fiscal as global supplies have been affected by lower production in the US, Russia and Canada, industry and trade officials said.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/agri-business/indian-wheat-exports-gain-as-global-prices-surge/article36197790.ece>



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