

## Daily News Monitor: 10 September 2020

### **1. India, France, Australia hold trilateral dialogue on economic, strategic challenges in Indo-Pacific**

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

Senior officials from India, France and Australia met virtually for the first trilateral dialogue on 9 September on economic and geo-strategic challenges and strengthening of cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region. The meeting was held particularly in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic and domestic responses to it, according to an official release. Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla, France's Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs Secretary General François Delattre and Australian Secretary for Foreign Affairs and Trade Frances Adamson attended the meeting.

### **2. Covid-19: Serum Institute to halt trial of Oxford vaccine after DCGI notice**

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

In a major turn of events, the Indian drug regulator on 9 September issued a show cause notice to Serum Institute of India (SII), which had earlier said it would proceed with clinical trials of AZD1222, the vaccine candidate developed by the University of Oxford, despite a halt on the same by AstraZeneca in the UK. On 8 September, the British-Swedish drug major had decided to stop trials after a participant fell sick with an unexplained illness. Reacting to the show cause notice, a Serum spokesperson said: "We were going by the DCGI's direction, and so far had not been told to pause trials. If the DCGI has any safety concerns, we will follow their instructions and abide by the standard protocols." Earlier during the day, the company had said that as far as Indian trials were concerned, they would continue as SII had faced "no issues at all". Investigators here, however, had expressed concerns during the day.

### **3. Govt launches new Aatmanirbhar Bharat schemes to support MSMEs, start-ups**

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

The Centre on 9 September launched the Aatmanirbhar Bharat ARISE-Atal New India Challenges programme to support MSMEs and start-ups for making India innovative, resilient, tech-driven, and research and development (R&D)-oriented. The Niti Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), in collaboration with ISRO and four ministries, will focus on challenges in 15 sectors through the programme. "This support for MSMEs (micro, small and medium enterprises) and start-ups in product development would make India innovative, resilient, tech-driven and R&D-oriented," Niti Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant said at the launch

of the Aatmanirbhar Bharat ARISE-Atal New India Challenges programme. He added that the programme provides a great opportunity for the government to become the first buyer of indigenous Made in India technology solutions. Kant also expressed hope that the Atal Innovation Mission, through the ARISE-Atal New India Challenges, will help in breaking new ground and this will be a path-breaking approach for driving India in the field of innovation.

#### **4. Indian Oil gets funding support from USTDA for its green tech endeavour**

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

A US trade body has announced grant funding to the Indian Oil Corporation's (IOC) carbon capture, utilisation and storage capacity in the Koyali refinery in Gujarat. The US Trade and Development Agency's (USTDA) funding will support state-owned IOC's evaluation of technologies to capture and utilise carbon dioxide produced during refinery operations, presenting a novel and cost-effective environmental strategy that can be expanded to other refineries in India, according to a statement on 9 September. "This project is an ideal example of the groundbreaking work (the) USTDA supports and makes possible," said Chief Operating Officer, USTDA, Todd Abrajano. "This innovative solution, a first-of-its-kind in India, is how we are showing American technology will make a meaningful impact on India's refinery operations," said Abrajano.

#### **5. FM unveils doorstep banking services by PSBs**

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

Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on 9 September inaugurated 'Doorstep Banking' services by public sector banks (PSBs) Doorstep Banking, which is part of the EASE Banking Reforms, is envisaged to provide convenience of banking services to the customers at their door step through the universal touch points of Call Centre, Web Portal or Mobile App. Customers can also track their service request through these channels. The services would have to be rendered by the Doorstep Banking Agents deployed by the selected service providers at 100 centres across the country.

#### **6. Centre's push to ease environmental regulations for speedy clearances sparks a row**

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

Battered by the pandemic, India's government is making a renewed push to ease environmental laws that were formed as a result of the world's deadliest industrial disaster more than three decades ago. The government is proposing to reduce public participation, exempt some projects from rigorous appraisal and legalize others that are operating without

environmental approval, according to a draft posted by the Environment Ministry. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's administration argues that the rules are too onerous and deter investment in an economy that shrank almost 24% in the second quarter because of the virus. Environmentalists, lawmakers and citizen groups say the changes would only encourage more companies to ignore environmental rules in the belief that authorities don't take them seriously.

### **7. India begins anti-dumping probe on certain aluminium imports from China**

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

India has begun an anti-dumping probe in the imports of certain flat rolled products of aluminum originating in or exported from China based on a complaint by Hindalco Industries NSE -1.04 % alleging injury to the domestic industry due to the dumped goods. The Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR) will probe the dumping from FY17 to December 2019. "The applicant has also claimed that imports are causing threat of material injury, considering significant increase in imports as compared to base year, significant surplus capacities in subject country, high export orientation of producers in subject country, and ability to scale up production in short span," DGTR said in a notification. It added that all these factors go on to show that imports are causing threat of material injury to the domestic industry.

### **8. PM Modi to launch flagship fisheries scheme, app for farmers on Thursday**

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

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will digitally launch the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) on 10 September and also inaugurate the e-Gopala App, a comprehensive breed improvement marketplace and information portal for direct use of farmers. In a statement on 9 September, the Prime Minister's Office said that Modi will also launch several other initiatives in the fisheries and animal husbandry sectors in Bihar, a state which is heading for the assembly polls in October-November. The prime minister tweeted that the PMMSY will "transform" the fisheries sector and add strength to the efforts of building an 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat'.