

DAILY NEWS MONITOR: 22 NOVEMBER 2021

1. Union Cabinet likely to approve bills for withdrawal of farm laws on Wednesday

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

The Union Cabinet is likely to take up for approval on 24 November the bills for withdrawal of the three farm laws, sources in the government said. These bills shall then be introduced in the forthcoming session of Parliament, they added. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had on Friday announced on the occasion of Gurupurab the government's intention to withdraw the laws in the interest of the nation. The winter session of Parliament would commence from November 29. Demanding the withdrawal of the laws, agitating farmers sitting at three sites on Delhi's borders since November last year have said they will stay put till Parliament repeals them. The government will now bring bills for the withdrawal of the three farm laws in Parliament following the prime minister's announcement.

2. Govt allows Serum Institute to export 50 lakh Covishield doses under COVAX to 4 nations

Source: Money Control ([Link](#))

The Union government has allowed the Serum Institute of India to export 50 lakh doses of COVID-19 vaccine Covishield under the UN-backed COVAX global vaccine programme to Nepal, Tajikistan and Mozambique, official sources said. In addition to these three countries, the SII will also export Covishield to Bangladesh under COVAX, they said. The SII will commence Covid vaccine export under the COVAX programme from November 23 and Nepal will receive the first lot of Covishield on November 24. The government, earlier in October, had permitted the SII to export 10 lakh Covishield doses each to Nepal, Myanmar and Bangladesh under the 'Vaccine Maitri' programme.

3. Global venture capital funds flock to India as China's appeal dims: Report

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

India is receiving investment from venture capital firms from around the world, suggesting a breakout moment for the country's startups, Nikkei Asia reported on Sunday. It based the report on data from Tracxn, a startup tracker. Nikkei credited the development to loss in China's sheen, which is proving beneficial for India. The Nikkei report said that 211 funds made debut investments in India this year, 64 more than last year. Andreessen Horowitz, TCV, Vitruvian Partners and GSV Ventures are among them, the report further said. Kleiner Perkins, the Silicon Valley fund that quit India in 2014, is back in the fray, it added. Citing

the overall data from Tracxn, Nikkei Asia said that 597 venture capital firms have made 2,284 deals so far this year.

4. USTR Katherine Tai India visit: Trade policy forum, Indo-Pacific on agenda

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

With US Trade Representative (USTR) Katherine Tai (pictured), along with her deputy Sarah Bianchi, set to reach the national capital on 22 November, issues related to market access, including tariffs, are likely to be discussed by reconvening the India-US Trade Policy Forum (TPF). Established in 2005, the India-US TPF met last in October 2017. It was then replaced by negotiations between the two sides on a trade deal. With the Biden administration now insisting on resolving irritants first, rather than going for a mini deal, the focus on TPF has again emerged. There could also be discussions to promote both nations' shared interests in the Indo-Pacific region, people aware of the matter said. "Since the US government has made it clear that a (mini) trade deal with India will not be possible, at least for now, another focus area is likely to sort out market access issues and matters on the Indo-Pacific region," one of the persons, cited above, said.

5. Will make effort so that Manipur gets full advantage of FTAs: Union Minister Piyush Goyal

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

The Centre will make every possible effort so that Manipur gets full advantage of free-trade agreement (FTA) as the state is a gateway to Myanmar and ASEAN countries, Union Minister Piyush Goyal has said. The minister stated this on Saturday during an interaction with industry bodies of Manipur. India and the 10-nation ASEAN bloc implemented an FTA in January 2010. Under a free-trade agreement, two trading partners reduce or eliminate customs duties on the maximum number of goods traded between them. Besides, they liberalise norms to enhance trade in services and boost investments. The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) members are Indonesia, Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, the Philippines, Vietnam, Myanmar, Cambodia, Brunei and Laos.

6. UK recognises Covaxin as valid Covid-19 vaccine for travel from today

Source: Livemint ([Link](#))

Travellers, vaccinated with Bharat Biotech's Covaxin, will now be able to travel any part of the United Kingdom as the country has included the vaccine in its approved list today, November 22. This means those inoculated with the Covaxin, one of the two major Covid-19 vaccines used in India, will not have to self-isolate after arrival in England. In October, the UK had added India's Covishield, the India-manufactured Oxford-AstraZeneca Covid-19

vaccine on its approved list. Earlier this month, British High Commissioner Alex Ellis had tweeted that the UK would recognise Covaxin as a valid Covid-19 vaccine for travel from November 22. Ellis wrote, "More good news for Indian travellers to Great Britain. From 22 November travellers fully vaccinated with a Covid-19 vaccine recognised by the WHO for Emergency Use Listing, including Covaxin, will not have to self-isolate; so joining those fully vaccinated with Covishield".