

## Daily News Monitor: 25 January 2021

### **1. Digital voter ID cards from today: 10 things to know**

**Source:** Livemint ([Link](#))

The Election Commission of India (ECI) will launch the e-EPIC (Electronic Electoral Photo Identity Card) today, which is the National Voter's Day. Union Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad will launch the e-EPIC programme and distribute digital voter ID cards to five new voters. This will be the first time that the government will issue voter identity cards in digital formats. Other identity proofs like the Aadhaar card, PAN card, driving licence are already available in the digital format.

### **2. Smaller Covaxin vials to reduce wastage**

**Source:** Livemint ([Link](#))

Bharat Biotech International Ltd, which supplied 20-dose vials of Covaxin in its initial shipment, will start shipping 10-dose vials in its upcoming deliveries to avoid wastage due to low uptake among healthcare workers. "Covaxin is available in 10 (dose) vials after the initial 20 (dose) vial shipment, and Bharat Biotech may also have smaller vials in later stage to manage better vial delivery options and wastage," a spokesperson said over the phone, adding later shipments will only have 10-dose vials

### **3. Govt to offer clarity on tax residence rules for fiscal 2021**

**Source:** Livemint ([Link](#))

The government is set to clarify on tax residence rules for FY21, giving relaxation to non-resident Indians (NRIs) and others who visited India and had to extend their stay due to the suspension of international flights. The idea is to provide guidance on what period could be excluded while computing tax residence, which determines a person's tax liability in India. As per our last communication, we had stated that a decision on this would be taken once international flights were resumed," said a government official, indicating that a circular will be issued in due course. The official, however, did not specify when it is expected.

### **4. Bangladesh to buy Indian Covid-19 vaccines after China asks to share vaccine trials' cost: Report**

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

Bangladesh looks up to India for the supply of its coronavirus vaccine -- Covishield -- developed by the Serum Institute of India. This comes on the heels of China asking Bangladesh to chip in the cost of clinical trials of its Sinovac developed CoronaVac vaccine,

Hindustan Times reported. While Dhaka refused to share the cost of the trials, the Chinese firm maintained that this is the condition that every country has to abide by in order to purchase the coronavirus vaccine and Bangladesh does not make an exception. While India has recently sent a gift of two million doses of coronavirus vaccine to Dhaka on January 21. Bangladesh further struck a deal with SII in order to purchase 30 million doses of the vaccine.

#### **5. Govt may announce formulation of policy for toys sector in Budget**

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

The government may in the Budget next week announce formulation of a dedicated policy for the toys sector to boost domestic manufacturing, sources said. They said the policy will help in creating a strong ecosystem for the industry in the country and also attract startups. The commerce and industry ministry is already taking steps to promote domestic manufacturing of toys. It has come out with a quality control order for the sector and had also increased import duty last year on toys. Quality control order is one of the ways to stop flow of cheap sub-standard toys into the domestic market. A source said that the country has low share in the international toys industry and India's exports account for less than 0.5 per cent of global demand, so there are immense opportunities in this segment.

#### **6. Reliance Industries spins off oil-to-chemical business into new unit**

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

Billionaire Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Industries Ltd has completed spin-off of the firm's oil-to-chemical business into a new unit that will help it pursue growth opportunities with strategic partnerships, the company has said. The oil-to-chemical (O2C) business unit holds Reliance's oil refinery and petrochemical assets and retail fuel business but not upstream oil and gas producing fields such as KG-D6 and textiles business. Reliance for the first time reported integrated earnings of the O2C business in its third quarter financial results. Previously, refining and petrochemical businesses were reported separately while fuel retailing revenue was part of the firm's overall retail business. In the October-December 2020 earnings statement, refining and petrochemical as well as fuel retailing businesses earnings were reported as one. As a result, it did not give refining margins - the most sought after number to assess the firm's oil refining business.