

## Daily News Monitor: 27 October 2020

### **1. Cadila scouts partners to ramp up Covid vaccine production by 50 to 70 mn**

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

Cadila Healthcare Ltd., one of two Indian drugmakers racing to develop an indigenous Covid-19 vaccine, is in talks with potential partners to ramp up production capacity if its candidate passes human clinical trials. The Ahmedabad-based firm is looking to hire contract manufacturers for an additional 50 million to 70 million doses of its plasmid DNA vaccine, on top of the 100 million that will come from its own capacity, according to Managing Director Sharvil Patel. He declined to name the companies and the amount Cadila has invested in developing the vaccine.

### **2. Govt decides to extend validity of licence for tur import till Dec 31**

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

The government on 26 October said it has decided to extend the validity of licence for import of tur till December 31 this year. The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) in a public notice said the cut-off date for ICLC (Irrevocable Commercial Letter of Credit ) for the import shall accordingly be December 1, 2020. It said eligible and verified applicants who have been issued licences will have to ensure that their import consignments of tur reach the Indian ports on or before December 31. "It has now been decided to extend the validity of licence for import of tur from November 15, 2020, till December 31 this year," it added.

### **3. Central law in works to curb air pollution**

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

The Union government will bring in a new law for a permanent authority to oversee matters relating to air pollution in the National Capital Region (NCR), the Centre told the Supreme Court on 26 October, prompting the judges to suspend an order that authorised former top court judge Madan Lokur to tackle the issue. Solicitor general Tushar Mehta said the new authority will have a statutory role and have members from all states that contribute to the pollution problem in NCR, assuring the bench that a draft of the law will be shared in four days.

### **4. PM to inaugurate three-day conference on vigilance, anti-corruption today**

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

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate a three-day national conference on vigilance and anti-corruption, on the theme Satark Bharat, Samriddh Bharat (Vigilant India, Prosperous India) on 27 October evening via a video-conference link. The Central Bureau of Investigation

(CBI) organises the national conference coinciding with the Vigilance Awareness Week, which is observed every year from October 27 until November 2. People familiar with the development said the activities in the conference would be focused on vigilance issues aimed at creating awareness and reaffirming the country's commitment to promotion of integrity and probity in public life through citizen participation.

#### **5. PM Modi to interact with street vendors today**

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

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will communicate with beneficiaries of the 'Pradhan Mantri Swanidhi Yojana' in Uttar Pradesh on 27 October through video conferencing. Taking to Twitter, PM Modi said, "Will interact with my brothers and sisters from Uttar Pradesh who sell goods on roads. It will be an opportunity to know how Pradhan Mantri Swanidhi Yojana gave new strength to them." The Pradhan Mantri Street Vendors' Self-Reliance Fund (PM Swanidhi) scheme was launched on June 1, 2020 for poor people selling goods on roads and tracks, who were affected due to COVID-19.

#### **6. Nitin Gadkari to lay foundation stone of 9 highway projects in Tripura today**

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

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari will lay the foundation stones of nine highway projects in Tripura today. These highway projects will be built at over ₹2,752 crore, the government said. The projects will enhance socio-economic conditions of the locality, it said. The projects, on completion, will provide faster and hassle-free inter-state and international connectivity to Bangladesh, and will be a major stride towards strengthening the tourism sector of the state, the statement said. The new projects will provide better connectivity, fast and safe movement of traffic to various tourist places, historical places and religious places in the entire state, it added.

#### **7. India points out to the US need for greater data sensitivity**

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

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, in his meeting with US Secretary of State Michael R Pompeo on 26 October, stressed on the importance of greater data sensitivity for effective collaboration in the area of the knowledge economy. "The External Affairs Minister stressed the uniqueness of our technology and talent flow connects and underlined that a knowledge economy with greater data sensitivity makes an even stronger case for collaboration. He also said that an innovation partnership is central to our future and our policies must be accordingly supportive," a source tracking the meeting told BusinessLine. Pompeo and the US Secretary of

Defense Mark Esper landed in New Delhi on 26 October to attend the third India-US 2+2 Dialogue scheduled on 27 October. Pompeo and Jaishankar met for bilateral on 26 October, soon after Pompeo's arrival.

#### **8. Industry seeks easier Income Tax rules for foreign nationals**

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

Industry bodies including CII, FICCI, Assocham and US India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF) have sought exemption from personal tax for foreign domiciled individuals working or living in India but have not been citizens of India for at least three years. The proposal has been mooted to make India an attractive residency option for foreign nationals managing foreign direct investment (FDI) in India, amid investors looking for alternatives to China for shifting their supply chains. Industry bodies are seeking that India taxes only the local income of foreign nationals or expats staying in India for extended periods for investing or monitoring large amounts of FDI or for bringing in technical and management expertise.