



September 07, 2021 – Tuesday

Key Developments

Govt to regulate coal supply to states amid low stock in many power plants

The government has decided to take strict action of regulating coal supply from Coal India NSE 0.44 % to states that do not raise captive coal production within a week or utilise their imported coal-based plants within a fortnight. Coal supply to such states will be “suitably reduced to improve supply to other power plants having higher generation or without captive mine or imported coal power purchase agreements”, a government official said on Monday. <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/energy/power/govt-to-regulate-coal-supply-to-states-amid-low-stock-in-many-power-plants/articleshow/85996400.cms>

India crosses 1-crore vaccine dose mark for 3rd time in 11 days

India administered more than one crore Covid-19 vaccine doses on Monday – the third time the country achieved this milestone in the last 11 days – taking the vaccination coverage close to the 70-crore mark. Till 9 pm, 1,08,36,984 vaccine doses were administered on Monday, data from the health ministry showed. The ministry expects the inoculation number to cross the August 27 mark of 1,08,99,699 doses by end of the day. The country had crossed the one-crore mark first on August 27 and then once again on August 31 when it administered 1,41,20,467 doses. Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Andhra Pradesh drove Monday’s mega inoculation. Uttar Pradesh administered 29.26 lakh vaccine doses, Bihar 15.74 lakh, Andhra Pradesh 6.78 lakh, West Bengal 6.49 lakh and Karnataka 6.08 lakh. <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/india/india-crosses-1-crore-vaccine-dose-mark-for-3rd-time-in-11-days/articleshow/85995732.cms>

Govt partnering pharma industry to develop multi-variant Covid-19 vax

India is working to develop an umbrella Covid-19 vaccine, just like the multi-variant flu shots in the market. Government institutions, along with the pharmaceutical industry, are examining if a 'cocktail' approach to making a multi-variant Covid-19 vaccine works against multiple strains of the ever-mutating virus, a senior government official told Business Standard. While the official did not divulge details about the institutions involved in the project, he said the government was partnering with the industry. https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/govt-partnering-pharma-industry-to-develop-multi-variant-covid-19-vax-121090601495_1.html

Crypto agencies go all in on lobbying as legislation on currency sees delays

India's cryptocurrency scene is set to see a sea change, with legislation in the works to regulate the sector and legitimise it. Plans have, however, hit a snag with the proposed legislation not making it through the latest Parliament session. The delay has pushed crypto exchanges to launch into large scale lobbying, approaching the government and the various agencies that will cover the sector. With many Indian crypto services already up and running, tensions are high over the delay in legislation, despite the Supreme Court lifting a ban imposed by the Reserve Bank of India. There are other concerns around crypto too, with many worried of the threat it poses as an instrument for money laundering and terror financing.

During the monsoon session, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said that the Bill has been sent for clearance by the Union Cabinet. With the last session cut short by protests, the Bill will possibly only be introduced in the coming session, which is at least two months away.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/crypto-agencies-go-all-in-on-lobbying-as-legislation-on-currency-sees-delays/articleshow/85968019.cms>

Economy

Recovery tracker: Slower growth recorded in rail freight, power generation

Many weekly economic indicators stayed off their recent peaks after a surge earlier in August. The number of people making retail and recreation visits was lower, showed anonymized mobility data from search engine giant Google. Shopping for essentials too showed a dip. The company tracks people's visits to various categories of places. The exercise is carried out across the world. It helps provide a picture of how people are moving during the Covid-19 pandemic. The latest data is as of August 28th.

https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/recovery-tracker-slower-growth-recorded-in-rail-freight-power-generation-121090601007_1.html

Business resumption falters but still above pre-pandemic levels: Nomura

The Nomura India Business Resumption Index (NIBRI) fell to 100.6 for the week ended September 5 from the record high of 102.8 the previous week but was still above the pre-pandemic level of 100, the Japanese financial holding company Nomura said on Monday. It said that mobility trends are mixed, with the Google workplace index up by 3.3 percentage points (pp) but the retail and recreation index down by 1pp and the Apple driving index down by a whopping 11.2pp. Power demand also fell by 4.3% week-on-week after a 0.1% rise last week. In contrast, the labor participation rate inched up to 41% from 40.8%. "August data have been mixed," Nomura said.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/indicators/business-resumption-falters-but-still-above-pre-pandemic-levels-nomura/articleshow/85976113.cms>

Expect real GDP growth of 7 to 8% in 2Q FY22, says Motilal Oswal

Motilal Oswal Financial Services on Monday projected a real gross value added (GVA) growth of 7 to 8 per cent year-on-year in the second quarter of current fiscal year versus 20.1 per cent growth in 1Q FY22. It said estimates suggest some moderation in economic activity index (EAI)-GVA growth in July, largely on account of weaker fiscal spending. On the other hand, private spending (consumption and investments) has grown decently. Motilal Oswal said although there is no one-to-one correlation between its EAIs and the official GDP/GVA due to the underlying differences, the composite indices move in sync with the official real GDP (ex-discrepancies) and real GVA estimates.

"Accordingly, we expect real GVA growth of 7 to 8 per cent year-on-year in 2Q FY22 versus 20.1 per cent year-on-year growth in 1Q FY22."

https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/expect-real-gdp-growth-of-7-to-8-in-2q-fy22-says-motilal-oswal-121090600658_1.html

CENVAT credit of lifts available, says indirect tax appellate tribunal

Indirect tax credit for lift cannot be denied, a bench of Central Excise and Services Tax Appellate Tribunal (CESTAT) has said.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/policy/cenvat-credit-of-lifts-available-says-indirect-tax-appellate-tribunal/article36317690.ece>

Banking and Finance

Quality of rated debt dips in August 2021: CARE Ratings

The reading on CARE Ratings Debt Quality Index (CDQI) dipped to 89.57 in August 2021 from 89.85 in July 2021 due to downgrades in rated debt of some entities. This was a second consecutive decline as CDQI print in June was 90.01. CDQI denotes the quality of debt that can be interpreted over time and juxtaposed with other developments in the financial sector. The CDQI captures, on a scale of 100 (index value for the base year FY12), whether the quality of debt is improving or declining. As the data is tabulated with minimum time lags, the health of the debt and credit

markets is encapsulated on a near-real-time basis. The dataset comprises 1,615 companies from CARE's portfolio of 2,980 companies as of March 2012, the rating agency said in a statement.

https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/quality-of-rated-debt-dips-in-august-2021-care-ratings-121090600700_1.html

Third-party apps turn on UPI autopay mode

The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) UPI Autopay service, which was launched last year, is gaining traction after a slow start with top merchants such as Netflix and Hotstar signing up. Unified Payments Interface (UPI) apps PhonePe and Google Pay are also in various stages of rollout and testing. The build-up in transaction momentum comes ahead of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) rules for card-based transactions through standing instructions that take effect next month.

Autopay allows users to make recurring transactions below Rs 5,000 through UPI apps. Most of these currently take place through card-based mandates that are more sophisticated, and settlements more expensive. Autopay's likely uses include loan repayments, rent payments, educational fees and subscriptions.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/tech/technology/third-party-apps-turn-on-upi-autopay-mode/articleshow/85995539.cms>

Industry

Diamond traders hit by shortage of rough diamonds

India's diamond trade is facing a shortage of rough diamonds worth \$350-500 million ahead of the upcoming holiday season sales in the overseas markets, said industry executives. Miners attributed the supply shortage to the Covid-19, which, they said, forced them to curtail operations at the mines. The shortage comes at a time when domestic diamond exporters were looking forward to the holiday season since the recently concluded jewellery show at Las Vegas signalled good demand. "The demand is very strong from the US and China. Even European nations are showing a revival in demand," Vipul Shah, vice chairman, Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Council, told ET. "Our only concern is the steady supply of rough diamonds. At present, there is a shortage of supply. But that is also helping to hold the prices of both rough and polished diamonds."

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/cons-products/fashion/-/cosmetics/-jewellery/diamond-traders-hit-by-shortage-of-rough-diamonds/articleshow/85996126.cms>

Listed private manufacturing firms' sales soar 75 pc in Q1 on low base: RBI data

Sales of 1,647 listed private manufacturing companies recorded "extraordinarily high" growth of 75 per cent in the first quarter of FY'22 mainly due to a very low base in the pandemic-hit year-ago period, showed RBI data released on Monday. Their sales had declined by 41.1 per cent in the April-June quarter of FY2020-21. In absolute terms, the sales of the manufacturing companies worked out at Rs 7,02,791 crore as against Rs 3,97,233 crore in the first quarter of FY2020-21. Sales growth (y-o-y) of information technology (IT) sector companies, which remained in the positive terrain throughout the pandemic, accelerated to 17.5 per cent in first three months period of 2021-22 from 6.4 per cent in the previous quarter. In absolute term, the sales were worth about Rs 1,13,807 crore.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/company/corporate-trends/listed-private-manufacturing-firms-sales-soar-75-pc-in-q1-on-low-base-rbi-data/articleshow/85981249.cms>

Agriculture

India's sugar production may decline to 30.5 million tonne next season

India's sugar production is likely to decline marginally to 30.5 million tonne in the next 2021-22 season as more sugarcane will be diverted for ethanol making, a senior government official said on Monday. Sugar production is estimated to have reached 31 million tonne in the 2020-21 season (October-September), he said. India is the world's second biggest sugar producer after Brazil.

"Sugarcane crop by and large is good this year. We are expecting diversion of more cane for ethanol making and as a result sugar production will be slightly lower at 30.5 million tonne during 2021-22 season," Joint Secretary in the Food Ministry Subodh Kumar Singh told PTI. In the current season, cane meant for production of 2 million tonne

sugar was diverted for ethanol making, while in the 2021-22 season cane meant for production of 3.5 million tonne of sugar will be diverted, he said.

https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/india-s-sugar-production-may-decline-to-30-5-million-tonne-next-season-121090600858_1.html

Govt procures record 890 lakh tonnes of paddy for Rs 1.68 lakh crore so far this marketing year

The government has so far procured nearly 890 lakh tonnes of paddy, an all-time high, at MSP in the current marketing year ending September for around Rs 1.68 lakh crore. This comes amid the ongoing farmers' protest at Delhi's borders. Thousands of farmers, mainly from Punjab, Haryana and western Uttar Pradesh, have been protesting for more than nine months over their demand for repeal of three new farm laws and a legal guarantee for minimum support price (MSP).

In a statement, the food ministry said the Centre has purchased 889.62 lakh tonnes of paddy till September 5 in the ongoing 2020-21 Kharif Marketing Season (KMS).

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/agriculture/govt-procures-record-890-lakh-tonnes-of-paddy-for-rs-1-68-lakh-crore-so-far-this-marketing-year/articleshow/85980772.cms>

FCI, CWC working on modern crop storage: Piyush Goyal

The Central Warehousing Corporation and Food Corporation of India are working on modern crop storage plans for the benefit of farmers, minister for consumer affairs, food and public distribution Piyush Goyal said. Cluster-based approach in agri produce marketing and exports will help bring cost of production down without affecting quality, the minister said. Rubber and niche products from different states have a huge potential, he said.

Under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India has changed its mindset to move from incremental changes to transformational changes, Goyal said. The works done in last seven years have laid a strong foundation to build a strong India of the future, he added.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/agriculture/fci-cwc-working-on-modern-crop-storage-goyal/articleshow/85986037.cms>

Infrastructure

Cargo traffic at major ports rises by 11.43 pc in August

Cargo traffic at the country's major ports rose by 11.43 per cent to 57.59 million tons in August over the year-ago period, according to an industry body. The country's 12 major ports had handled 51.68 million tons of cargo in August last fiscal, Indian Ports Association (IPA) said in a statement. India has 12 major ports under the control of the central government — Deendayal (erstwhile Kandla), Mumbai, JNPT, Mormugao, New Mangalore, Cochin, Chennai, Kamarajar (earlier Ennore), VO Chidambarnar, Visakhapatnam, Paradip and Kolkata (including Haldia). Mormugao Port registered the maximum cargo growth of 60.47 per cent followed by Kamarajar Port (53.73 per cent), JNPT (27.03 per cent) and Cochin Port (21.84 per cent). Mumbai Port logged 16.86 per cent growth while Paradip Port reported 14.34 per cent growth in cargo traffic during the month under review.

<https://www.financialexpress.com/industry/cargo-traffic-at-major-ports-rises-by-11-43-pc-in-august/2325032/>

DMRC to undertake feasibility study on high-speed corridor between Airport Line and Greater Noida

Seeking to expand metro connectivity in the National Capital Region, the DMRC will conduct a feasibility study on setting up a high-speed corridor between Delhi Metro's Airport Line and Greater Noida, sources said on Monday. According to a memorandum of understanding signed between the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation and the Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (YEIDA), the DMRC will also prepare a detailed project report (DPR) for a high-speed corridor between Greater Noida and the upcoming Noida international airport, they said. At present, the over 22-km Airport Express Line or Orange Line spans between Dwarka Sector 21 and New Delhi stations, and authorities plan to eventually connect the Noida airport with the existing metro networks in Delhi and Noida.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/transportation/railways/dmrc-to-undertake-feasibility-study-on-high-speed-corridor-between-airport-line-and-greater-noida/articleshow/85979513.cms>

IT & Telecom

'Reengineer platforms' to ensure traceability, govt to social media

Facebook-owned WhatsApp has taken the government to court challenging the traceability mandate in the new Intermediary Guidelines. But in a recent meeting with social media platforms, the Ministry of Electronics and IT has stood its ground.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/tech/technology/reengineer-platforms-to-ensure-traceability-govt-to-social-media/articleshow/85995671.cms>

Trai's suggestion to waive RoW charges for 5 years to significantly reduce network rollout cost: COAI

Telecom regulator Trai's recommendation to waive right of way charges for the next five years will significantly reduce the overall cost of network rollout for companies, industry body COAI said on Monday. The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Trai) had on August 31 recommended to the government to coordinate with state governments to waive right of way (RoW) charges for next five years (2022-23 to 2027-28) for expeditious laying of common ducts and posts. Telecom operators and infrastructure providers need to take permission from various authorities for laying optical fibre, installing mobile towers, among others, for which the central government has framed a right of way policy and notified it in 2016 after consultation with states and union territories.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/telecom/telecom-policy/trais-suggestion-to-waive-row-charges-for-5-years-to-significantly-reduce-network-rollout-cost-coai/articleshow/85978755.cms>

Telecom tower companies to face up to 1.8 lakh tenancy losses if Vodafone Idea collapses : ICRA

The telecom tower industry is likely to take a serious hit by way of heavy tenancy losses, translating into sharp decline in revenue and operating income, if struggling Vodafone Idea (Vi) – weighed down by Rs 1.9 lakh-crore of debt – does not survive, said ratings agency, ICRA . “In a scenario of Vi’s collapse, tower companies will lose around 1,80,000 tenancies that the company occupies, and of these, only 40-50% of the tenancies (are likely) to be regained by tower firms while the balance would be lost owing to redundancies and network realignment,” Sabyasachi Majumdar, group head & senior VP, ICRA, said in a media statement.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/telecom/telecom-news/telecom-tower-companies-to-face-up-to-1-8-lakh-tenancy-losses-if-vodafone-idea-collapses-icra/articleshow/85973829.cms>

Energy

GSI delineates 100 geologically potential mineral blocks for auction, says government

In order to realise the vision of self-reliant India, the Geological Survey of India (GSI) has delineated 100 geologically potential mineral blocks for auction, the government said on Monday. Handing over of 100 mineral blocks' reports to state governments will ensure continuous supply of minerals in the country and more revenue to state governments by bringing more mineral blocks under auction, the mines ministry said in a statement. The function to hand over the above reports will be held in the national capital on Wednesday. Minister of Mines, Coal and Parliamentary Affairs Pralhad Joshi along with Minister of State for Mines, Coal and Railways Raosaheb Patil Danve will be the Chief Guest. With time, the frequency of major discoveries of an economically viable mineral deposit has decreased and this is a worldwide phenomenon despite tremendous technological advancements.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/indl-goods/svs/metals-mining/gsi-delineates-100-geologically-potential-mineral-blocks-for-auction-says-government/articleshow/85975930.cms>

ONGC's plan to merge refining subsidiary MRPL with HPCL gets delayed

State-run oil and gas explorers ONGC's plan to complete merger of its refining subsidiary MRPL with recently acquired HPCL to align its upstream and downstream operations into two verticals has got delayed. The process is now expected to be completed by FY24 as ONGC's plan to consolidate its refining and petrochemicals business around MRPL first itself is taking a lot of time, government sources privy to the development said. The proposed merger would only follow this consolidation exercise. Sources said that the process of merging ONGC's two oil refining subsidiaries, Hindustan Petroleum Corp Ltd. (HPCL) and Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Ltd. (MRPL), will be started only after the company completes merging ONGC Mangalore Petrochemical Ltd. (OMPL) with MRPL.

"The merger (HPCL and MRPL) under conservative assumptions could happen by FY24-end as MRPL-OMPL merger has to happen first and that business should continue for five years with FY19-end to be the effective date of their merger at the least. This process itself is taking time," company officials privy to the process said.

https://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/ongc-s-plan-to-merge-refining-subsidiary-mrpl-with-hpcl-gets-delayed-121090600500_1.html

India needs to judiciously use land for renewable energy expansion targets

Whether or not India commits to net-zero emission by 2050, its huge renewable energy (RE) capacity expansion over next few decades will require large quantum of land, for which India needs to judiciously plan its solar and wind energy footprints, a report said on Monday. A maximum of 2.5 per cent of India's total landmass would be needed for solar, it said. Only judicious planning of land use for solar and wind generation will help India achieve its renewable energy ambitions, according to a new report by the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis' (IEEFA) that has examined how much land could be needed for the country to reach net-zero emissions by 2050. Net zero carbon emissions can be achieved either by removal of or as much elimination as possible of emission from a given unit, such as a city or a country.

https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/india-needs-to-judiciously-use-land-for-renewable-energy-expansion-targets-121090600838_1.html

Negligible subsidy regime widens doors for pvt firms to expand domestic LPG

With negligible subsidy being borne by the government on domestic Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) cylinders, private players are looking to expand their domestic LPG business. This opens the doors further for companies, like Reliance Gas, GoGas and Puregas, that are already in the business. These private players were focussing more on commercial LPG since cooking gas subsidy was never available to them but only the government-owned oil marketing companies (OMCs).

https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/negligible-subsidy-regime-widens-doors-for-pvt-firms-to-expand-domestic-lpg-121090600796_1.html

Unnecessary coal plants could waste India's 247,421 cr, says report

A total of 27 GW of pre-permit and permitted new coal power plant proposals in India are now superfluous to its electricity requirements. These coal project proposals could jeopardise the achievement of India's widely-praised renewable energy target of 450 GW by 2030, a new report said on Tuesday.

These surplus 'zombie' plants, assets that would be neither dead nor alive, would require Rs 247,421 crore (\$33 billion) of investment, yet are projected to lie idle or operate at uneconomic capacity factors due to surplus generation capacity in the system.

According to the analysis by Ember and Climate Risk Horizons, the private sector's unnecessary investment on 'zombie' coal plants will be Rs 62,912 crore. Of this, JSW Energy, which publicly stated it will not build any new coal plants, is proposing a Rs 10,130 crore Barmer coal expansion project.

https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/unnecessary-coal-plants-could-waste-india-s-247-421-cr-says-report-121090700139_1.html

States

ADB approves \$150 mn loan to improve urban housing in Tamil Nadu

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a 150 million dollar (about Rs 1,095 crore) loan to provide access to inclusive, resilient and sustainable housing for the urban poor in Tamil Nadu. The state is vital to India's economic growth, contributing 8.54 per cent to the country's gross domestic product. Economic opportunities have increased rural-urban migration in the state, which already has one of the highest urbanisation rates in India.

Tamil Nadu has a population of more than 72 million, nearly half of which are living in urban areas. The rapid urbanisation and growth in the urban population will require adequate urban infrastructure and services, including housing. "Tamil Nadu's housing shortfall accounts for 6.66 per cent of the national deficit and when mapped against income levels, low-income households bear most of the shortage," said ADB Principal Safeguards Specialist for South Asia Ricardo Carlos Barba.

https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/adb-approves-150-mn-loan-to-improve-urban-housing-in-tamil-nadu-121090600916_1.html

Goa's debt rising in excess of Rs 20,000 cr because of mining ban in state

The mining community of Goa -- mining workers, people employed in the logistics industry, barges, ports, etc., is appealing to the Supreme Court, Central and State governments to restart mining in the state before the fourth consecutive mining season is gone for a toss in the state.

In the interest of revival of the state economy and protecting the livelihoods of mining dependents, immediate resurrection of mining is of utmost importance. The average debt of a nuclear family in Goa is estimated to be Rs 5 lakh and the debt of the state is roughly calculated to be over Rs 20,000 crore since all the mining activities in the state have been banned.

https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/goa-s-debt-rising-in-excess-of-rs-20-000-cr-because-of-mining-ban-in-state-121090600533_1.html

Tripura launches CM helpline with short code to receive and fast track redressal of citizens grievances

Tripura has launched the Chief Minister's (CM) Helpline with short code to receive and fast track redressal of citizens Grievances. The CM Helpline is a dedicated call center, where citizen will be able to make a call to 1905 and the call taker at CM Helpline will receive the call and record the grievance of the citizen and then the helpline will transfer the citizen grievance to concerned Department(s) through integrated Task Monitoring System.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/india/tripura-launches-cm-helpline-with-short-code-to-receive-and-fast-track-redressal-of-citizens-grievances/articleshow/85977667.cms>

Uttar Pradesh ranks second across country in ease of doing business: CM Yogi Adityanath

Uttar Pradesh ranks second across the country in ease of doing business, said Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Sunday. "Within 3-4 years, from the fourth rank, Uttar Pradesh rose up to second in position in ease of doing business in the country," said the Chief Minister while addressing the Prabudh Sammelan at Banaras Hindu University's Chanakya hall today.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/india/uttar-pradesh-ranks-second-across-country-in-ease-of-doing-business-cm-yogi-adityanath/articleshow/85970530.cms>

Healthcare

India plans 50% increase in oxygen production before third Covid wave

India aims to ramp up its medical oxygen production capacity to 15,000 tonnes per day before a potential third wave of coronavirus infections that is expected to hit the country as soon as mid-September, an industry executive said. The target implies a 50% jump from the maximum output of almost 10,000 tonnes reached earlier this year during the peak of the second COVID-19 wave, when hospitals ran short of the gas and relatives of patients had to search out oxygen cylinders. Linde India supplied nearly one-third of the total oxygen demand during the peak.

Moloy Banerjee, head of Linde South Asia, said that while the government is targeting 15,000 tonnes of medical oxygen per day, Linde and other manufacturers were hoping to hit production of at least 13,500 tonnes per day ahead of the third wave.

https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/india-plans-50-increase-in-oxygen-production-before-third-covid-wave-121090601074_1.html

Allow second Covishield dose after 4 weeks from first: Kerala HC to Centre

The Kerala High Court has directed the Centre to allow scheduling, on CoWIN portal, of second COVISHIELD dose after four weeks from the first for those who want to take it earlier than the present suggested gap of 84 days. Justice P B Suresh Kumar said that if the central and state governments can permit persons traveling abroad to choose between early and better protection from COVID-19, there is no reason why the same privilege cannot be extended to those here who want early protection in connection with their employment or education.

The high court, in its order dated September 3 which was made available on Monday, said that even according to the Union Health Ministry's policy the people shall have the choice to get early vaccination, for the implementation of which vaccine is being distributed on payment basis through private hospitals as well.

https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/allow-second-covishield-dose-after-4-weeks-from-first-kerala-hc-to-centre-121090600911_1.html

Over 16,000 COVID-19 samples sent for whole genome sequencing in July, August: Centre

The Centre said on Monday that over 16,000 COVID-19 samples by sentinel sites were sent in July and August for Whole Genome Sequencing (WGS) to check for variants of SARS-COV-2. The Union Health Ministry said there have been some media reports alleging that genome sequencing and analysis of COVID-19 declined sharply in India even as cases of the disease continued to rise. Since July onwards, for accurate sharing of sample particulars and timely communication of WGS results, data for samples for WGS by sentinel sites is being shared through Integrated Health Information Platform (IHIP) portal, it said.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/healthcare/biotech/healthcare/over-16000-covid-19-samples-sent-for-whole-genome-sequencing-in-july-august-centre/articleshow/85971215.cms>

Zydus jab likely to cost more than Covishield, pricing to be out soon

Zydus Cadila's Covid vaccine, which is likely to be launched next month, may cost more than Covishield but will be comparable with those already approved, people aware of the matter told ET. The company and the government are currently in discussions on ZyCoV-D, the world's first DNA vaccine, and a decision on pricing is likely to be made soon, they said.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/india/zydus-jab-likely-to-cost-more-than-covishield-pricing-to-be-out-soon/articleshow/85988308.cms>

External

13th BRICS summit to take place on September 9: Report

The 13th BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa) Summit under the chairmanship of India will take place on September 9, as per the sources. This is the third time that India will be hosting the BRICS Summit after 2012 and 2016. The 2020 BRICS summit was held virtually amid the covid pandemic under the chairmanship of Russia. The summit took place in November and it was the first time that Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Chinese President Xi Jinping were on the same platform after the Galwan valley episode. Earlier, the 11th BRICS Trade Ministers Meeting saw new areas of co-operation gaining traction on Trade in Professional Services, Genetic Resources and Consumer Protection under e-commerce.

https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/13th-brics-summit-to-take-place-on-september-9-report-121090600608_1.html

Shipping industry proposes levy to speed up zero carbon future

Leading shipping associations have proposed creating a global levy on carbon emissions from ships to help speed up the industry's efforts to go greener. With about 90% of world trade transported by sea, global shipping accounts for nearly 3% of the world's CO2 emissions and the sector is under growing pressure to get cleaner.

For the first time, the International Chamber of Shipping (ICS) and Intercargo jointly proposed a levy based on mandatory contributions for each tonne of CO2 emitted from ships exceeding 5,000 gross tonnes and trading globally.

"What shipping needs is a truly global market-based measure like this that will reduce the price gap between zero-carbon fuels and conventional fuels," ICS Secretary General Guy Platten said.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/small-biz/trade/exports/insights/shipping-industry-proposes-levy-to-speed-up-zero-carbon-future/articleshow/85997754.cms>

Afghan scenario to spice up PM Modi-Biden September 23 bilateral meet

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to embark later this month on his maiden visit to USA since the Biden administration came to power and is likely to discuss bilateral ties, the security situation in Afghanistan, counter-terrorism and the Indo-Pacific region with the US President during his visit to Washington DC on September 23. This is expected to be followed by the first ever physical summit of Quad on September 24 also in DC, and Modi's address at the UN General Assembly in New York on September 25, ET has learnt.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/india/afghan-scenario-to-spice-up-modi-biden-sept-23-bilateral/articleshow/85988472.cms>

Miscellaneous

ISRO releases Chandrayaan-2 data as it completes 2 years in lunar orbit

The Chairman of Indian Space Research Organisation K Sivan on Monday inaugurated a Lunar Science Workshop 2021, to commemorate the completion of two years of operation of Chandrayaan-2 spacecraft around the lunar orbit. Chandrayaan-2 data product and science documents were released by Sivan, also Secretary in the Department of Space (DoS), along with data from Chandrayaan-2 orbiter payloads, Bengaluru-headquartered ISRO said in a statement. The eight payloads onboard Chandrayaan-2 are conducting scientific observations of the Moon by remote sensing and in-situ techniques, it said.

"The science data are being made available for analysis by academia and institutes, for a greater participation to bring out more science from Chandrayaan-2 mission," ISRO said.

https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/isro-releases-chandrayaan-2-data-as-it-completes-2-years-in-lunar-orbit-121090600648_1.html

Govt issues SOPs for police officers to seek prior approval before probing corrupt public servants

The Centre has issued standard operating procedures (SOPs) for police officers to seek mandatory prior approval before conducting any investigation against allegedly corrupt public servants, according to a Personnel Ministry order. An amendment carried out in the over 30-year-old Prevention of Corruption (PC) Act, 1988 in July 2018 bars a police officer from conducting "any enquiry or inquiry or investigation into any offence alleged to have been committed by a public servant" without "the previous approval" of the authorities. The SOPs were issued "to standardize and operationalise procedures with a view to achieving uniform and effective implementation for prior approval processes", more than three years after the amendments came into force.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/india/govt-issues-sops-for-police-officers-to-seek-prior-approval-before-probing-corrupt-public-servants/articleshow/85978277.cms>



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