

DAILY NEWS MONITOR: 28 MARCH 2022

1. First direct flight between Gorakhpur-Varanasi under UDAN-RCS flagged-off

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

The first direct flight between Gorakhpur and Varanasi was flagged-off on 27 March. SpiceJet was awarded the route under the RCS-UDAN 4.1, as per a press release by the Ministry of Civil Aviation. The airline will be operating daily flights and will deploy its Q400, 78-seater turboprop aircraft designed for shorter-distance flights on the route. SpiceJet is India's largest regional carrier. The airline operates 63 daily flights under UDAN connecting 14 UDAN destinations to various parts of the country, stated the press release. At present SpiceJet is providing its services at Gorakhpur, Varanasi, Kanpur and Kushinagar airports in Uttar Pradesh. This new flight route is a part of nine new UDAN flights that SpiceJet will be launching today, out of which, six will be for Uttar Pradesh specially and three will be for other states of the country.

2. DLF to invest Rs 2,000 cr to build two shopping malls in Gurugram, Goa

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

Realty major DLF will invest around Rs 2,000 crore to construct two new shopping malls in Gurugram and Goa, as it sees huge growth potential in organised retail with opening up of the economy after significant reduction in COVID-19 cases. In an interview with PTI, Sriram Khattar, Managing Director, DLF Rental Business, sounded bullish on India's organised retail sector which was affected very badly in the last two years due to the pandemic. Khattar said the DLF is expanding its retail real estate portfolio, and will develop two new shopping malls, including 'Mall of India' Gurgaon and four neighbourhood shopping centres. At present, DLF has a retail footprint of 42 lakh square feet comprising eight properties, including malls and shopping centres, mainly across Delhi-NCR.

3. Two-day nationwide strike likely to hit essential services

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

Some of the essential services related to banking, transportation, railways and electricity are likely to be impacted during a two-day nationwide strike called by a joint forum of central trade unions beginning on 28 March. Talking to PTI, All Indian Trade Union Congress General Secretary Amarjeet Kaur said, "We are expecting participation of over 20 crore formal and informal workers with mass mobilisation of workers across the country during the strike on March 28 and 29 to protest against government policies." She said that the strike is expected to hit the rural parts also, where informal workers of farming and other sectors will

join the protest. The strike notices were given by workers' unions of various sectors such as coal, steel, oil, telecom, postal, income tax, copper, banks and insurance.

4. India-UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement: Dairy goods kept out of FTA

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

India has kept sensitive dairy products out of the purview of its free trade agreement (FTA) with the UAE and pledged phased reduction of tariffs on certain key farm and food items, mainly meat, to safeguard the interests of domestic players. The details of the India-UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) show New Delhi, which taxes bovine meat and chicken imports at 30%, will trim the duty to 27% in the first year of the FTA, followed by a phased reduction of 300 basis points each year until it reaches 15%.

5. Adani Total Gas to set up 1500 EV charging stations in India

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

Adani Total Gas, India's leading City Gas Distribution company, has forayed into electric mobility by launching its first electric vehicle charging station (EVCS) in Ahmedabad. The EVCS, located at ATGL's CNG station at Maninagar in Ahmedabad, will enable quick turnaround time for EV owners using digital platforms. The company aims to expand its network by setting up 1,500 EVCS across the country and has kept an expansion plan ready once demand for EV ecosystem picks up in India. "The commencement of EV business with setting up the first charging station in Ahmedabad is yet another milestone for Adani Total Gas to provide choice of newer green fuel to the larger consumer base in India while timely ceasing an emerging business opportunity aligned to our vision to offer sustainable fuelling solutions on across all major cities and towns in India." said Suresh P Manglani, CEO of Adani Total Gas.

6. ET Awards: Serum CEO Poonawalla voted Biz Leader of the Year while Infosys declared top company

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

Serum Institute of India CEO Adar Poonawalla was voted Business Leader of the Year at The Economic Times Awards for Corporate Excellence 2021, while software major Infosys was declared Company of the Year. An 11-member elite jury, led by Kotak Mahindra Bank MD & CEO Uday Kotak, picked finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman as the Business Reformer of the Year. With the Covid-19 pandemic having loomed large over the past two years, the pharma and technology sectors dominated nominations for India's premier business awards, which started in 1998. The Lifetime Achievement Award went to Dr Prathap Chandra Reddy,

founder of Apollo Hospitals, while HCL Technologies was chosen Corporate Citizen of the
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