

DAILY NEWS MONITOR: 4 JANUARY 2022

1. Red alert in Delhi? More curbs as Covid cases surge? DDMA crucial meeting today

Source: Livemint ([Link](#))

The Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) will hold a crucial meeting today to discuss the need for more curbs in view of the alarming spike in Covid cases in the national capital. In the wake of rising COVID cases, the Delhi government imposed a night curfew (from 10 pm to 5 am) effective from December 27, 2021. Meanwhile, Delhi in the last 24 hours logged 4,099 new COVID cases taking the positivity rate to 6.46 per cent. The active cases have gone up to 10,986 in Delhi. Delhi health minister Satyendar Jain told reporters on Monday that 84% of the coronavirus cases logged in the city in the last two days are due to the Omicron variant.

2. India and UK may start formal negotiations for FTA this month

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

India and the UK are likely to launch formal negotiations for a free trade agreement (FTA) in the second week of this month followed by the first round of talks after a week, people aware of the development said. "The idea is to launch the negotiations and the first round of talks this month," an official told ET. While a delegation comprising representatives of the UK's trade ministry and businesses is to visit India to launch the negotiations, the two sides may consider doing a virtual launch amid rising Covid-19 cases, sources said. The two sides plan to put in place an interim agreement by March 2022 followed by a comprehensive agreement.

3. Industrial and logistics sector top investment chart in 2021, touch new highs

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

The industrial and logistics sector was the most sought-after, and investments rose to a five-year high of \$1.1 billion, a five-fold increase from 2020. The sector has been drawing strong operator and investor interest due to increased demand from e-commerce and 3PL players post-pandemic. This growth momentum is likely to continue in 2022, as major global investors and developers continue to expand their footprint in proximity to high consumption areas across Tier I and II cities said Colliers.

4. 39 more MoUs inked ahead of Vibrant Gujarat summit

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

In the run-up to the 10th edition of the Vibrant Gujarat Global Investor Summit (VGGIS), the Gujarat government signed 39 more memorandums of understanding (MoUs) on Monday. The MoUs are in the areas of ports, renewable energy, green renewable hydrogen, pesticides,

synthetic chemicals, training and research, and education. This is the sixth and final tranche of MoUs ahead of VGGIS 2022, to be held from January 10 to 12. The Gujarat government has signed 135 pre-VGGIS MoUs worth over Rs 60,000 crore on the last six Mondays. For the last two tranches, the state has not divulged financial details of the MoUs.

5. FCRA licences of 79 NGOs restored by Home Ministry

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

Financial services and payments startup Razorpay has set a target of \$90 billion in Total Payment Volumes for 2022, ahead of its annual event Razorpay FTX. This will be a 50 percent growth over its current TPV of \$60 billion which the company clocked in by early December 2021. TPV refers to the total value of payments and reversals executed on a payments platform, in this case across Razorpay's payment gateway, neobank and other products. Moneycontrol spoke with Razorpay co-founders Harshil Mathur and Shashank Kumar who said their optimism is driven by the growth in the neobanking business RazorpayX, increased onboarding of startups as clients for its various products and further product launches. Mathur, the CEO of the startup said, “We had set a goal of \$50 billion in TPV for 2021, we have crossed that. A lot of growth for us happens because of the pace at which new businesses are growing today. Of the 43 unicorns that emerged in 2021, we power 34.”