

DAILY NEWS MONITOR: 10 JANUARY 2022

1. Omicron spread: Vaccinate teens in mission mode, says PM Narendra Modi

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

Amid the Omicron-spurred third Covid wave, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, chairing a high-level review meeting on 9 January, called for accelerating vaccination in the 15-18 age group in mission mode and ensuring adequate health infrastructure in districts. The review meeting, held to take stock of the country's Covid preparedness, came on the day India registered around 160,000 cases and the daily positivity rate crossed 10 per cent. India has given the first dose of the Covid vaccine to 31 per cent the adolescents aged 15-18 years so far within seven days. The prime minister said even as Covid cases were rising, non-Covid health services should not be disrupted. "Leverage telemedicine to ensure availability of health-related guidance to people in remote and rural areas," he said. "Ensure effective usage of masks and physical distancing measures as a new normal to control the spread," Modi said.

2. Mango, pomegranate exports from India to US to start from Jan-Feb 2022

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

Exports of mango and pomegranate from India to the US will start from January-February to boost the country's outbound shipments of agri-products, the commerce ministry said on Saturday. Exports of pomegranate aril to the US and imports of Alfalfa hay and cherries from America would also begin from April this year, it added. In pursuant to the 12th India - USA trade policy forum meeting held on November 23, 2021, the Department of Agriculture and farmer's welfare and the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) have signed a framework agreement for implementing the "2 Vs 2 agri-market access issues", it said. This access concept includes inspection and oversight transfer for Indian mangoes, pomegranate and pomegranate arils, and market access for US cherries and Alfalfa hay in India. "Mango and pomegranate exports will start from January February 2022 and pomegranate aril from Apr 2022," the ministry said.

3. Delhi govt looking at minimum restrictions so that livelihoods are protected: CM Kejriwal

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

The Delhi government on 9 January assuaged fears of migrant workers and businessmen, saying to protect livelihoods, its attempt is to impose minimum Covid restrictions and not a lockdown. The national capital in the past few days has seen a massive spike in daily cases,

with migrants workers fearing a lockdown, like those imposed during the 2020 and last year Covid waves, could further dent their earnings, landing them into a severe financial crisis. Addressing a virtual press conference, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal stressed that the hospitalisation rate is low and that there will be no need of a lockdown if everyone wears a mask.

4. Govt not to impose anti-dumping duty on certain steel products

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

The government has decided not to impose anti-dumping duty on certain steel products being imported from countries like China, Japan, and Korea, as the finance ministry has not accepted the recommendations of the directorate general of trade remedies (DGTR). The commerce ministry's investigation arm DGTR had conducted a probe against imports of 'Cold Rolled/cold reduced flat steel products of iron or Non-Alloy Steel, or other Alloy Steel of all width and thickness – not clad, plated or coated' and 'Hot Rolled flat products of alloy or non-alloy steel', following complaints filed by domestic manufacturers of the respective products.

5. Assam govt partners with NDDDB to set up Rs 2,000-cr dairy joint venture

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

The Assam government and National Dairy Development Board on Friday signed an agreement to create a Rs 2,000-crore joint venture for holistic development of the sector in the state. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed in Guwahati in the presence of Union Animal Husbandry & Dairying Minister Parshottam Rupala, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, state Agriculture Minister Atul Bora and other senior officials. As per the MoU, a joint venture company will be set up for Rs 2,000 crore with a target of processing 10 lakh litres of milk through six new units in seven years. Milk from more than 4,100 dairy cooperative societies will be processed, packed and marketed. This will benefit more than 1,75,000 farmers associated with dairy farms in Assam and increase their earnings, Sarma said. Two cattle feed and organic manure manufacturing units will also be set up as per the agreement. The chief minister said milk producers will be provided subsidies for market price fluctuation of their produce and urged all the cooperatives to engage in healthy competition for the economic

6. UK trade minister Trevelyan to launch FTA talks in Delhi next week

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

Britain's Secretary of State for International Trade Anne-Marie Trevelyan will launch free trade agreement (FTA) negotiations during a visit to New Delhi starting on Wednesday, the UK government said on Sunday. The Department for International Trade (DIT) said the schedule for the two-day visit to India will include bilateral talks between Trevelyan and Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Thursday, when they are expected to discuss a range of issues including green trade and the removal of market access barriers for both UK and Indian businesses. Both ministers are then expected to confirm the launch of official negotiations on a new UK-India FTA. "The UK and India are already close friends and trading partners, and building on that strong relationship is a priority for 2022, said Trevelyan. "I will be using my visit to drive forward an ambitious trade agenda which represents the UK's Indo-Pacific tilt in action and shows how we are seizing global opportunities as an independent trading nation," she said.

7. DLF launches luxury housing project in Delhi, starting price ₹3 crore

Source: Livemint ([Link](#))

Realty major DLF launched its luxury housing project, comprising 913 units, in the national capital with a starting price of ₹3 crore. The company has launched a project 'ONE Midtown', comprising 913 luxury flats. DLF is developing this project in partnership with Singapore sovereign wealth fund GIC. In a statement, DLF said the company has launched its luxury residential project 'ONE Midtown' located at Shivaji Marg in Moti Nagar. Aakash Ohri, group executive director and chief business officer of DLF Home Developers, said the company has officially launched sales in the new residential project. The construction work on this project had started a few years ago.

8. iPhone maker Foxconn's Tamil Nadu plant to reopen on Wednesday

Source: Livemint ([Link](#))

Apple Inc supplier Foxconn will reopen an iPhone manufacturing facility in southern India on Wednesday with 500 workers, government officials and a legislator in the region where the plant is located told Reuters. The Foxconn plant, in the town of Sriperumbudur near the Tamil Nadu state capital of Chennai, employed about 17,000 people but was closed on Dec. 18 after protests over 250 of its workers who fell sick with food poisoning. Apple has since placed the factory on probation after discovering that some dormitories and dining rooms did not meet required standards. Foxconn and Apple did not immediately respond to a request for comment. K Selvaperunthagai, a member of the state assembly for the area, said the Tamil

Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin told the assembly late on Friday the plant would reopen on Wednesday with 500 workers.