

Daily News Monitor: 11 January 2021

1. Covid-19: Budget documents will not be printed this year

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

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman last month promised 'Budget like never before' and now the first indication is already out here. Budget documents will not be printed this year. A Finance Ministry official confirmed this development. Not much effort is required to guess the reason, it is the pandemic. As good number of people are required to stay together for weeks inside the dedicated press, housed in the North Block at Raisina Hill, New Delhi. This press and boarding-lodging area is a closed one and thus there will always be fear of spread of Covid.

2. India set to expand ties with Taiwan; focus on trade and investments, says envoy

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

India has signalled widening of ties with Taiwan amid the ongoing border crisis with China with its envoy indicating expanding scope of trade and investments ties and people-to-people contacts. India's representative to Taiwan recently told local media that his office will focus on enhancing bilateral investments, people-to-people exchanges and technical cooperation between Delhi and Taipei.

3. Labour ministry likely to give shape to National Employment Policy by December

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

The Ministry of Labour and Employment is likely to give a shape to the National Employment Policy (NEP) by December this year following the implementation of four labour codes and completion of four major surveys, including one on migrant workers. The NEP will draw a broad road map for improving job opportunities in the country, mainly by various initiatives like skill development, bringing investment in employment intensive segments and other policy interventions.

4. Income tax returns cross 58 million hours before deadline, shows data

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

Income tax returns (ITRs) crossed 58 million on 10 January, the last day for individuals to file returns for financial year 2019-20, with close to 2 million returns filed during the day. As on January 9, 56.4 million returns were filed compared to 56.6 million filed by September 9 in 2019-20, when the due date was August 31. In view of the pandemic, the government had extended the deadline for filing returns multiple times in the past. The original deadline for

filing ITRs was June 31, 2020, which was extended to November 30 and then to December 31. With several industry representations seeking more time, a 10-day extension was provided until January 10 for ITR filings for individuals and for companies till February 15. "1,797,625 ITRs have been filed up to 6 pm today & 239,013 ITRs filed in the past 1 hour," it tweeted on 10 January.

5. Narendra Singh Tomar, Nitin Gadkari, Smriti Irani to participate in online Davos Agenda summit

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

Several union ministers including Narendra Singh Tomar, Nitin Gadkari, Smriti Irani, Piyush Goyal and Dharmendra Pradhan along with top business leaders such as Mukesh Ambani and Anand Mahindra will participate in a five-day online Davos Agenda summit of the World Economic Forum this month. While the WEF will host its physical annual meeting in May in Singapore, as against the regular venue of Swiss ski resort town of Davos, the Geneva-based organisation is hosting an online event, named 'Davos Agenda' around the same time it generally hosts its yearly congregation of the rich and powerful of the world.

6. PM Modi urges youngsters to join Startup India international summit

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

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has called upon youngsters to attend 'Prarambh', the Startup India international summit on January 15 and 16, saying it seeks to bring together top minds from industry, academia, investment, banking and finance besides young start up leaders. He also shared his LinkedIn post in which he noted that virtual interactions have become the new normal during the COVID-19 pandemic and said a big advantage of this is that people can be a part of programmes sitting at home. "With most events being held virtually, it has given a great opportunity for youngsters to be a part of many interesting domestic & global forums. One such opportunity is coming up in the form of Prarambh on 15-16 Jan. I urge our youth to be a part of it," Modi tweeted on Monday.

7. First direct San Francisco-Bengaluru flight lands in India

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

Air India's inaugural San Francisco-Bengaluru flight, with an all-women cockpit crew at the helm, landed in India on January 11. The 17-hour flight is the national carrier's longest direct route. The first flight on this route had a crew comprising of Capt Zoya Aggarwal, Capt Papagari Thanmai, Capt Akansha Sonaware, and Capt Shivani Manhas. "In a moment to cherish & celebrate, women professionals of Indian civil aviation create history. Heartiest Congratulations to Capt Zoya Aggarwal, Capt Papagari Thanmai, Capt Akansha Sonaware &

Capt Shivani for flying over the North Pole to land in Bengaluru from San Francisco," Puri said.