

## Daily News Monitor: 11 September 2020

### **1. Reliance Industries becomes first Indian firm to top \$200 bn market cap**

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

Reliance Industries (RIL) on 10 September became the first Indian company to surpass \$200 billion in market capitalisation (m-cap). At 10 September's closing price, RIL had an m-cap of Rs 15.3 trillion (\$208 billion). Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) is a distant second, with an m-cap of Rs 8.75 trillion, (\$119 billion). Ambani has, meanwhile, cemented his place as Asia's richest, and the world's seventh richest. He has seen his wealth surge \$24.4 billion this year, to \$83 billion. RIL is now the 40th most valuable firm globally, ahead of US entities such as Exxon Mobil, PepsiCo, SAP, and Oracle. At the peak of Covid-driven sell-off in March, RIL's m-cap had plunged to \$73.4 billion. Since then, it has seen its m-cap soar 2.84x. It has added \$135 billion in m-cap over the 118 trading sessions since March 23 — translating to a \$1.14-billion addition every session.

### **2. Covid-19: Indian sites await DCGI nod to restart Oxford vaccine trial**

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

Even as late-stage trials for the UK arm of the Oxford-AstraZeneca Covid-19 vaccine have been suspended after a study participant suffered a 'potentially unexplained illness', India will wait until the country's drug regulator gives the go-ahead to restart the trials, observed investigators in Mumbai. The Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) V G Somani will take a call after he receives data from the Data and Safety Monitoring Board (DSMB) in the UK as well as India. According to sources close to the development, around 100 participants were administered the first shot of the vaccine (Covishield) here. The safety data is being analysed by the DSMB. Unless the DSMB gives its consent, the second shot of the vaccine will not be administered. A senior investigator of a public hospital, which is one of the 17 trial sites for the Covishield in Mumbai, said, "We will commence the trials once we get DCGI permission. The regulator will analyse the data collated from the UK and the Indian arms of the trial and then take a call," he said.

### **3. Modi, Abe re-affirm progress in bilateral ties, bullet train project**

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

India and Japan will continue the steady progress in bilateral economic cooperation, including the partnership in the ambitious bullet train project, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Japanese counterpart Shinzo Abe re-affirmed at their virtual meeting at the India-

Japan Summit on 10 September. “Both sides re-affirmed that the strengthening of bilateral relationship between the two countries will not be affected following the Japanese PM’s resignation to come into effect later this month. The basic policy being followed of prioritising Japan-India relationship will not change and economic cooperation and collaboration in projects, such as the High Speed Railways, will continue,” an official tracking the meeting told BusinessLine. The statements made at the summit is important as it helps set the tone for bilateral relationships going forward between the countries after the Japanese PM steps down.

#### **4. Working towards 5 crore PNG connections in country: Pradhan**

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

The Centre is working on a plan to significantly boost the footprint of Piped Natural Gas (PNG) connections in the country. “India is moving towards becoming a gas-based economy. There are at present 62.5 lakh PNG connections in the country and we are targeting to have 5 crore connections. Work has already begun to achieve this target,” said Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas, Dharmendra Pradhan. He was speaking at a ceremony to dedicate 56 Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) stations to the nation. “The number of CNG stations has gone up from 947 to over 2300 in the last six years. This will be increased to 10,000 in the coming 4-5 years,” he said.

#### **5. PM Modi launches projects worth over ₹20,000 cr in Bihar**

**Source: Livemint ([Link](#))**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 10 September launched fisheries and animal husbandry projects worth more than ₹20,000 crore in Bihar, which goes to polls later this year. The projects launched virtually by Modi, who gave the slogan Jai Kisan (farmers), Jai Vigyan (science), Jai Anusandhan (research), included the ₹20,050 crore scheme Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) and the e-Gopala mobile app. The PMMSY scheme, which is part of the ₹20 trillion stimulus package announced earlier this year, aims to improve availability of certified quality fish seed and feed, create critical infrastructure, including modernization and strengthening of value chains to create job opportunities for nearly 1.5 million. The e-Gopala App is a comprehensive breed improvement marketplace and will serve as an information portal for the direct use of farmers.

## **6. Reliance to use Future deal to get edge in FMCG space**

**Source: LiveMint ([Link](#))**

Reliance Retail is expected to drive hard bargains with fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG) companies for its brick-and-mortar stores and online retail, bolstered by funds from investors and the added scale from the takeover of Future Group, according to analysts and industry experts. The retail arm of Reliance Industries Ltd is also expected to aggressively push its private brands, the analysts said. The Future Group deal has given Reliance a 27% share of India's organized grocery retail market worth about \$544 billion. This could alter ways in which RIL will negotiate trade terms with FMCG firms as its influence over trade outlets, kirana stores, and e-commerce channels, will grow manifold. The combined network of Reliance Retail and Future Group's retail business could contribute as much as 8-10% of sales revenue for the top FMCG players, making Reliance Retail their largest customer based on FY20 revenues, according to estimates by financial services company Jefferies.

## **7. Japan' ORIX Corp set to invest \$980 million in Greenko Energy Holdings**

**Source: Livemint ([Link](#))**

In the single largest foreign investment in India's clean energy space, Japan' financial services firm ORIX Corp. is set to invest \$980 million in Greenko Energy Holdings for a 'significant minority stake', said a person aware of the development. The deal to be announced today will add 873 mega watt (MW) of Orix' operating wind assets to Hyderabad-based Greenko's portfolio, and will add \$100 million to Greenko's EBITDA in the first year. The deal will peg Greenko's equity and enterprise value at \$5.75 billion and \$10.2 billion respectively. EBITDA is earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortization. The addition of these wind projects that NYSE listed Orix had acquired from bankrupt Infrastructure Leasing and Financial Services (IL&FS), will take GIC Holdings Pte. Ltd and ADIA backed Greenko's portfolio near-term capacity to 6.5 gigawatt (GW). The two sovereign funds have so far infused \$2.2 billion into Greenko, which was founded by Mahesh Kolli and Anil Kumar Chalamalasetty.

## **8. India slips 26 spots on Global Economic Freedom Index 2020**

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

India reported marginal decrease in size of government (from 8.22 to 7.16), legal system and property rights (from 5.17 to 5.06), freedom to trade internationally (6.08 to 5.71) and regulation of credit, labour and business (6.63 to 6.53). India has fallen 26 spots to the 105th position on the Global Economic Freedom Index 2020, according to a report released on 10 September. The country was at the 79th spot in last year's rankings. The Economic Freedom

of the World: 2020 Annual Report by Canada's Fraser Institute has been released in India in conjunction with New Delhi-based think tank Centre For Civil Society. The report said prospects for increasing economic freedom in India depend on next generation reforms in factor markets and in greater openness to international trade. India reported marginal decrease in size of government (from 8.22 to 7.16), legal system and property rights (from 5.17 to 5.06), freedom to trade internationally (6.08 to 5.71) and regulation of credit, labour and business (6.63 to 6.53).

### **9. Zomato picks up \$104 million, to go public in 2021**

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

Goyal said the company had no immediate plans on how to spend the money. "We are treating this cash as a 'war-chest' for future M&A, and fighting off any mischief or price wars from our competition in various areas of our business." Food delivery player Zomato, which has raised \$104 million in a fresh round, plans to go public sometime in the first half of 2021, founder & CEO Deepinder Goyal said in an internal mail to employees on Thursday. "We have raised a lot of money, and today, our cash in the bank of around \$250 million is more than ever in our history. We estimate that our current round will end up with us at \$600 million in the bank very soon," Goyal wrote.