

Daily News Monitor: 12 May 2020

1. Share your post-17 May lockdown strategy by Friday: PM Modi asks CMs

Source: Livemint ([Link](#))

In his fifth virtual conference meet with states' chief ministers on 11 May, Prime Minister Narendra Modi touched upon various issues related to the pandemic. While referring to the resumption of train services, Prime Minister Modi said, this is needed to rev up the economic activity, but said that all the routes will not be resumed. Prime Minister said only a limited number of trains would ply in the near future. "We must all plan for new-world reality," PM Narendra Modi was said to have told CMs, according to a statement from PMO. At the virtual meet with CMs, PM Modi said new way of life would be on principle of "from an individual to whole of humanity", the PMO statement said.

2. Health Ministry issues revised discharge guidelines for Covid-19 patients

Source: Livemint ([Link](#))

The Ministry of health and Family Welfare on 11 May issued a revised discharge policy of the Covid-19 patients in order to combat the spread of novel coronavirus cases in the country. According to the new policy, a person having mild infection can be discharged after 10 days of symptom onset and if there is no fever for three days. "As per the revised policy, mild, very mild, pre-symptomatic cases admitted to COVID care facility can be discharged after 10 days of symptom onset and if there is no fever for three days," said Lav Agarwal, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, during a press briefing here on Monday. According to the guidelines, the government said that the cases which are clinically classified as "moderate cases" will undergo monitoring of body temperature and oxygen saturation.

3. PM Modi interacts with CMs on Covid-19 containment strategy

Source: The Print ([Link](#))

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 11 May chaired a fresh round of consultation with chief ministers on ways to strengthen the COVID-19 containment strategy and stepping up of economic activities in a calibrated manner as the 54-day nationwide lockdown nears an end. Large-scale movement of migrant workers from urban to rural India and the problems their return to home states may cause in restarting the economy will also be among the focus areas during the fifth virtual interaction between the prime minister and chief ministers since the outbreak of the deadly virus in the country. There will be an effort to ensure that all participating chief ministers get an opportunity to air their views during the interaction, as some

of the CMs had complaint that they were not allowed to put forth their views during the last interaction on April 27.

4. Amazon India extends work from home plan till Oct amid Covid-19 spread

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

With Covid-19 cases continuing to rise in the country, e-commerce major Amazon India has allowed its employees to work from home till October. “We will continue to prioritise the health of our employees and follow local government guidance. Employees who work in a role that can effectively be done from home are welcome to do so until at least October 2,” said Deepti Varma, Director, HR, Amazon India. The company however did not clarify employees under which roles would have to report to work. On the other side, its e-commerce rival [Flipkart](#) will be resuming work at its office campus in Bengaluru, in phases.

5. Odisha to tweak industrial policy, pitch for fresh investments post Covid19

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

Odisha plans to recast its Industrial Policy Resolution (IPR) before it lapses in August, aiming to get investments when the coronavirus outbreak has been brought under control. While the state government had drafted a fresh IPR for 2020, the policy statement needs revision to keep in sync with a changed geopolitical and business environment. The policy is expected to have tax concessions and employment-linked incentives. The state government has begun negotiations with willing investors in Japan and South Korea. Both Japanese and Korean firms gravitate to states or regions that offer a cluster ecosystem where they can operate, Odisha has identified two such exclusive enclaves. Separately, the state government has scheduled a video conference with interested US-based companies on May 12.

6. Business team from Thailand to explore investment opportunities in UP: Minister

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

A delegation of entrepreneurs from Thailand is likely to visit Uttar Pradesh in October to explore the “immense possibilities of investment” in the state, Uttar Pradesh Minister Sidharth Nath Singh said 11 May. After a video-conference with former deputy prime minister of Thailand Korn Dabbaransi, the minister for MSME and export promotion told PTI that he evinced keen interest in setting up food processing clusters in the state. “In October, a delegation of entrepreneurs will come from Thailand to visit UP,” Dabbaransi told Singh when he spoke of the immense possibilities of investment in the state. The interaction is part of the efforts of the Yogi Adityanath government to bring maximum investment in the state and to

provide employment opportunities to migrant workers by constantly communicating with ambassadors and entrepreneurs of different countries.

7. Apple may take a bigger bite of India's manufacturing pie

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

Several meetings between Apple's senior executives and top ranking government officials over the last few months have paved the way for the iPhone maker examining the possibility of shifting nearly a fifth of its production capacity from China to India and scaling up its local manufacturing revenues, through its contract manufacturers, to around \$40 billion over the next five years, say officials familiar with the matter. If this happens, iPhone maker could become India's largest export say experts. "We expect Apple to produce up to \$40 billion worth of smartphones, mostly for exports through its contract manufacturers Wistron and Foxconn, availing the benefits under the production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme," a senior government official told ET.

8. Bengaluru airport voted as best regional airport in India & Central Asia

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

Bengaluru's Kempegowda International Airport said on 11 May it was voted by customers as the best regional airport in India & Central Asia for the third time in four years at the 2020 World Airport Awards. For an 11-year old airport, it's a remarkable achievement, said MD and CEO of BIAL (Bangalore International Airport Limited), Hari K Marar. "This award reaffirms our commitment to provide a world-class experience for our travelers at BLR Airport with a slew of pioneering technology and sustainability initiatives," he was quoted as saying in a BIAL statement. "At a time like this, when our industry is facing such challenges, this award has rejuvenated the morale of the team at BLR Airport," Marar added.

9. Finance Ministry releases Rs 6,195 crore to 14 states

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

The government released Rs 6,195.08 crore to 14 states as the second equated monthly installment of the Post Devolution Revenue Deficit Grant on Monday. "This would provide them additional resources during the Corona crisis," the finance ministry said in a statement Monday. The grant was recommended by the 15th Finance Commission, and an equal first installment of the grant was issued by the Centre to states on March 14. On Monday, the Centre released advance payments of over Rs 1,276 crore to Kerala, followed by over Rs 952 crore to Himachal Pradesh and over Rs 638 crore to Punjab. Assam received Rs 631 crore, Andhra Pradesh Rs 491 crore, Uttarakhand Rs 423 crore, and West Bengal got Rs 417 crore.

10. Centre to resume trade with Bangladesh via rail route

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

The Centre has decided to resume trade of essential items with Bangladesh via the rail route after the West Bengal government refused to allow goods vehicles through the India-Bangladesh land borders amid the Covid-19 pandemic. ET has learnt that the first consignment of over 2,000 tonnes of onions is on its way to Bangladesh, which will help bring down onion prices in that country during the ongoing Muslim holy month of Ramadan. The consignment, from Maharashtra, will reach Bangladesh in about 56 hours, sources said, adding that India will send additional consignments also via rail. The means to trade with Bangladesh for food items will not only keep inflation down but also enable items to reach Bangladesh in better condition than via road, sources pointed out.