

## Daily News Monitor: 17 February 2021

### **1. India set to clear some new investment proposals from China in coming weeks:**

#### **Sources**

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

India is poised to clear some new investment proposals from China in the coming weeks as frosty relations between the two neighbouring countries thawed amid an easing in border tensions, said three government officials with knowledge of the matter. Last week, India and China began disengagement from the Pangong Tso area, in the Ladakh region of the western Himalayas, following a nearly nine-month-long standoff after the worst clash between the neighbouring countries since 1962.

### **2. Budget plan to privatise two PSBs: Centre may have to tweak the ‘nationalisation’ laws**

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

The Centre may have to amend at least two banking laws to take forward its Budget announcement of privatisation of two public sector lenders. While the Centre is yet to decide on the two public sector banks it will privatise in 2021-22, multiple sources said it is clear that the government will have to bring changes to what are popularly known as bank nationalisation laws — the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1970 and the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1980. Although the Finance Minister had said the legislative changes will happen in the ongoing Budget session itself, indications are that the amendments will be brought only in the monsoon session of Parliament given the crowded legislative agenda for the second part of the Budget session beginning March 8 and ending on April 8.

### **3. Tata Consumer Products gains 3% on report Group could buy Big Basket**

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

Tata Consumer Products rose 2.7 per cent in a weak market to Rs 645.5 on the BSE on Wednesday on report that the Tata Group is in the final stages of acquiring a majority stake of 68 per cent in Supermarket Grocery Supplies, which runs and operates online grocery brand BigBasket. The deal, which is expected to close in the next four to five weeks, will give exit to investors Alibaba, Abraaj Group and IFC. The top management, including co-founder and CEO Hari Menon, will continue to stay on board, the report added. "The deal worth Rs 9,300-9,500 crore — biggest in the online grocery space so far—values BigBasket

at Rs 13,500 crore (around \$1.85 billion). This comes about 20 months after the Hari Menon-led Bengaluru company had entered the unicorn club (companies with valuation of at least \$1 billion)," it said

#### **4. Nirmala Sitharaman addresses RBI board, explains priorities of government**

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

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on 16 February explained the government's priorities to the Reserve Bank of India's central board during their first meeting after presentation of the Union Budget 2021-22. As per the tradition, the finance minister holds customary meeting with the board members of the RBI and the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) after Budget presentation every year. The finance minister addressed the 587th RBI central board meeting and informed the members about the key initiatives in the Budget and the priorities of the government, RBI said in a statement.

#### **5. Hyundai India's top focus is low-cost EV**

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

Hyundai Motor India Ltd is studying the feasibility of launching a low-cost electric vehicle (EV) for consumers, treating the project as its "No. 1 priority" for the future, managing director S.S. Kim said. "We have the product and the technology, and we are reviewing the Indian market condition and the infrastructure situation here. We will come up with some options, which will be the best for the Indian market. It's a No.1 priority in our future strategy," Kim said.

#### **6. FM Sitharaman, RBI discuss ways to exit from stimulus**

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

Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman and the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI's) board of directors on 16 February discussed ways to exit the stimulus measures introduced to combat the economic impact of the covid pandemic in a post-budget review. Sitharaman addressed the RBI board of directors on the thinking behind her budget for 2021-22 and the priorities of the government. The meeting which was held via videoconferencing also included minister of state for finance and corporate affairs Anurag Singh Thakur, finance secretary Ajay Bhushan Pandey and secretary, department of investment and public asset management Tuhin Kanta Pandey.

## **7. Cess introduced in budget will boost states' agri infra: Govt**

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

The agri cess introduced in the Union Budget 2021-22 will finally go towards boosting APMC mandis and related farming infrastructure, all of which are governed by states, a top government functionary said on 16 February, rejecting criticism that the cess deprives states of revenue as its receipt entirely falls in the Centre's kitty. Official sources also justified the introduction of tax on EPF's interests in accounts where employees' share is more than Rs 2.5 lakh per annum, noting that many people parked money in crores to get an assured return of over 8.5 per cent. They asserted that the measure will impact only one per cent of total account holders.

## **8. 'Atmanirbhar' Amazon announces first device manufacturing line in India**

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

E-commerce giant Amazon has announced its plans to begin manufacturing devices in India. This is the first Amazon manufacturing line in India and reiterates the firm's commitment to the government's "Make in India" for an Aatmanirbhar Bharat. Amazon will commence manufacturing with contract manufacturer Cloud Network Technology, a subsidiary of Foxconn, in Chennai, and start production later this year. The programme will churn out hundreds of thousands of Fire TV Stick devices every year. Amazon will evaluate scaling capacity to additional marketplaces and cities, depending on the domestic demand. "Amazon is committed to partner the government to advance the vision of an Aatmanirbhar Bharat," said Amit Agarwal, global senior vice-president and country leader for Amazon India. "We have pledged to invest \$1 billion to digitise 10 million small and medium businesses and help Indian businesses sell worldwide, thereby enabling \$10 billion in cumulative exports and creating an additional 1 million jobs by 2025."