

## Daily News Monitor: 19 October 2020

### **1. Living standard, not income, key to fixing poverty line: Govt paper**

**Source: The Times of India ([Link](#))**

The future definition of poverty line cannot be the subsistence level income required by an individual but will have to factor in living standards that encompass facilities like housing, education and sanitation among others, a working paper on poverty released by Union rural development ministry notes. Besides, the paper says that the coronavirus pandemic has “underscored the criticality of certain essentials — access to quality healthcare, education and awareness, water and sanitation among others, a working paper on poverty released by Union rural development ministry notes. Besides, the paper says that the coronavirus pandemic has “underscored the criticality of certain essentials — access to quality healthcare, education and awareness, water and sanitation facilities, adequate nutrition and the need for living spaces where social distancing can be practiced.”

### **2. Go ‘swadeshi’, end imports and increase exports: Nitin Gadkari**

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

Union minister Nitin Gadkari on 18 October made a pitch for ‘swadeshi’ (indigenous) production and said imports need to end, while exports should increase. He also suggested setting up of an “import substitute and export-oriented department” with separate funds earmarked for it. The senior BJP leader said the department should work on the principles of ‘swadeshi’ and ‘swavalamban’ (self-reliance) and guide the economy. He was speaking at a virtual programme organised by the Swadeshi Jagran Manch, in which firms that did not retrench workers during the coronavirus-induced lockdown were felicitated.

### **3. Jio planning to sell 5G smartphones for Rs 2,500-3,000 apiece: Company official**

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

Reliance Jio is planning to launch a 5G smartphone for less than Rs 5,000 and gradually reduce the price to Rs 2,500-3,000 a unit when it scales up the operation, according to a company official. The company will target 20-30 crore mobile phone users who use 2G connection at present. “Jio wants to bring the device for less than Rs 5,000. When we scale up the sales, it can be priced in the range of Rs 2,500-3,000,” a company official said on the condition of anonymity. An email query sent to Reliance Jio did not elicit any response. At present, 5G smartphones are available in India in the price range starting from Rs 27,000. Jio

was the first company that launched 4G mobile phones in India free for consumers where they were required to pay a refundable deposit of Rs 1,500 for a Jio Phone.

#### **4. ReNew Power looks at listing overseas**

**Source: Hindustan Times ([Link](#))**

ReNew Power Ventures Pvt. Ltd, one of India's largest clean energy firms, is exploring an overseas listing, said two people aware of the plan that signals rising global interest in Indian green ventures. This initial public offering (IPO) plan comes against the backdrop of Thailand's PTT Group looking to acquire a stake from Goldman Sachs Group in ReNew Power and follows the shelving of an earlier plan for an Indian IPO. With investors such as Canada Pension Plan Investment Board (CPPIB), Japan's JERA Co. Inc., Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA) and GEF SACEF India, the overseas IPO may serve as a benchmark for others companies in India's clean energy space. "The potential PTT transaction may be a precursor to the ReNew IPO and a stepping stone to it," said one of the people cited above seeking anonymity.

#### **5. Govt issues notices to Amazon, Flipkart over country of origin**

**Source: Hindustan Times ([Link](#))**

The Central government has warned Amazon.com's local unit and Walmart's Flipkart that sellers on their platforms are not complying with a rule requiring that a product's country of origin be specified. The push for strict enforcement of the rule has come amid tensions between India and China following a border skirmish which began in June, and is part of India's efforts to cut down on Chinese imports. The two e-commerce firms have been given 15 days to explain the lapses or action will be taken against them, according to an October 16 letter addressed to the companies from the Union ministry of consumer affairs. The letter did not specify what action may be taken, referring only to a legal act that has provisions for fines.

#### **6. Tatas look for foothold in cut-throat online grocery retail market**

**Source: Hindustan Times ([Link](#))**

While competition in the Indian online grocery retailing market has been growing for some time, 2020 has brought with it a renewed intensity. First, Reliance Retail launched its JioMart venture. Now, news reports suggest the Tata group is in talks to buy a stake in online grocer BigBasket. The salt-to-software conglomerate's rush to place a bet on India's vast online market is understandable. Reliance's moves in this space, coupled with its superapp ambitions, have helped it raise billions of dollars from overseas investors. The Tata group,

too, has superapp ambitions, and online grocery will be an important piece in this puzzle. Having said that, on a standalone basis, the online grocery business may prove to be a tough nut to crack, given the stiff competition and the fact that profit margins are wafer-thin. “A lot of times, companies look at the competition and want to emulate them.

### **7. Kalrock-Jalan consortium plans to get Jet back in air by April**

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

Jet Airways could be flying again by April next year if the plan submitted by the financial advisory firm Kalrock Capital and Murari Lal Jalan gets all the regulatory approvals quickly. On Saturday, the Committee of Creditors of Jet Airways voted in favour of the Kalrock -Jalan consortium. According to sources, the plan submitted by the winners includes a cash amount of ₹1,000 crore. Banks also get 9.5 per cent of equity in Jet Airways and 7.5 per cent equity in loyalty rewards company InterMiles (formerly Jet Privilege). Speaking to BusinessLine, Manoj Madnani, Board Member of Kalrock Capital, said. “We are very grateful that the lenders chose our plan. We are very overwhelmed with the brand loyalty that Jet has.

### **8. Foreign direct investment proposals with even the smallest Chinese holding will need government nod**

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

Foreign direct investment (FDI) proposals with even minuscule Chinese holding will need government approval, with the Centre abandoning its earlier plan to set a floor for “significant beneficial ownership”. In April, when the Cabinet approved the plan for screening of FDI proposals from countries bordering India, the government had discussed the option to set the threshold at either 10%, the provision in the Companies Act, or 25%, the prescription in the Prevention of Money Laundering Act. But six months later, after multiple rounds of discussions, the view seems to have changed. “The (Cabinet) decision did not mention a minimum or maximum limit. So, even it is a small fraction, it will be covered,” a government official told TOI.