

## Daily News Monitor: 1 February 2021

### **1. Budget 2021: Over 80 stocks that are in focus during the FM's speech**

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

Shares of healthcare, agriculture, MSMEs and some Covid-hit sectors are likely to be in focus during the Budget speech on 31 January. Economists are also expecting special focus on infrastructure and Make In India in this Budget. “Many of the key themes this Budget will revolve around Covid-19, either directly on health issues (vaccines), or regulatory support to sectors most affected (e.g., hospitality, retail, aviation). In addition, infrastructure, agriculture, social sectors, promotion of domestic manufacturing and incentives to boost construction and housing are likely to be the focus,” said Sonal Verma, Economist at Nomura.

### **2. Nirmala Sitharaman replaces Swadeshi 'bahi khata' with tablet as Union budget goes digital**

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

With the Union Budget 2021 set to be delivered in paperless form for the first time, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman replaced the Swadeshi 'bahi khata' and switched to a tablet. The Finance Minister was seen carrying a tablet kept inside a red coloured cover with a golden coloured national emblem embossed on it. Dressed in a red and cream colour saree, accompanied by MoS Finance Anurag Thakur and other officials from her ministry, Sitharaman is scheduled to meet President Ram Nath Kovind before presenting the budget at 11 am today.

### **3. Govt allows full occupancy in cinemas from Feb 1, issues new guidelines**

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

The central government has allowed full occupancy in cinema halls and multiplexes starting from February 1. In this regard, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has issued a set of standard operating procedures (SOPs) for cinema halls and theatres to prevent the spread of the ongoing novel coronavirus. Indian film critic and trade analyst Taran Adarsh shared the news on his Instagram handle. He wrote "BIGGG NEWS... 100% seating capacity allowed in cinemas/theatres/multiplexes. SOPs issued by Ministry of Information & Broadcasting." The SOPs also stated that no films shall be screened in containment zones. To ensure the safety of viewers, cinema halls have taken some other measures too apart from the mandatory wearing of masks and temperature checks. Theatres will have separated seats,

staggered show timings, and bookings, mandatory social distancing, and digital payments are being encouraged.

#### **4. Govt may give Cairn oil field instead of paying \$1.4 billion: Sources**

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

The government may give Cairn Energy one of the surrendered oil fields such as Ratna R-Series in lieu of the USD 1.4 billion it has pay to the British firm, helping prevent seizure of foreign assets in case of default as well as get a experienced operator in struggling E&P sector, sources said. Cairn Energy gave India its biggest onland oil discovery but exited the country after it was slapped with a Rs 10,247-crore tax demand using a legislation that gave the government the powers to tax companies retrospectively. The firm has now won an international arbitration against the tax demand and the government has been ordered to return the value of shares of Cairn it had sold, dividends it had seized and tax refund it had withheld to recover the tax demand. For a government struggling to find revenue to boost a COVID-19 battered economy, options of appeal against the arbitration award are limited and it may not have the financial bandwidth for such a payout, two sources with knowledge of the development said

#### **5. Government may announce new scheme for revival of discoms to achieve 24X7 power for all**

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

The Government may announce a new scheme for cash-strapped and loss-making electricity distribution utilities to reduce stress in the sector and achieve the goal of '24X7 Power for All', a source said. "The discoms are cash-strapped and need some revival package for maintaining 24X7 power supply. A new scheme for revival of discoms has been deliberated upon, which may be announced in the General Budget on Monday," a source said. The Centre in November 2015 introduced the UDAY (Ujjwal DISCOM Assurance Yojana) scheme for the revival of the debt-laden discoms. Under the scheme, discoms were envisaged to turn around financially within three years from signing agreements under it.