

Daily News Monitor: 1 October 2020

1. India's Covid-19 tally crosses 6.3 million mark with 86,821 fresh cases, 1,181 fatalities **Source: Hindustan Times ([Link](#))**

India on 1 October reported 86,821 fresh cases of the coronavirus disease (Covid-19), taking the case tally to 6,312,584, according to Union health ministry. The country also reported 1,181 new fatalities due to the virus in last 24 hours, taking the death toll to 98,678. India has 9,40,705 active cases in the country, whereas a total of 52,73,201 people have been cured of the disease so far. While the country's infection rate is at 15.11%, India's recovery rate currently stands at 83.33%. A total of 7,56,19,781 samples have been tested for Covid-19 till September 30. Of these, 14,23,052 samples were tested on Wednesday, according to Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR).

2. Unlock 5.0: Govt allows most activities; cinemas to reopen on October 15 **Source: Business Standard ([Link](#))**

India took a decisive step towards unlocking almost everything, with the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) on 30 September lifting restrictions on cinema halls, schools, and swimming pools as part of its fifth tranche of guidelines to revive business and other activities. Cinema halls, theaters, and multiplexes have been permitted to reopen from October 15, the MHA said, with up to 50 per cent of their seating capacity, for which standard operating procedures (SOPs) would be issued by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. Entertainment parks and similar places have also been allowed. The MHA said states and Union Territories had been given the flexibility to take a decision on the reopening of schools and coaching institutions in a graded manner after October 15. Swimming pools would be allowed to open for training of sportspeople, it said.

3. New motor vehicle rules come into effect from today: All you need to know **Source: Business Standard ([Link](#))**

The amendments to the Motor Vehicles Act will come into force from 1 October. Under certain provisions of the Act, states have the right to specify the amount for compounding of certain offences and accordingly some states, including Gujarat, have reduced such penalties. During the process of finalisation of the Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Act, 2019, numerous consultations were held with stakeholders. Further, the Bill was deliberated on in detail in many meetings held by department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture, and the Select Committee of the Rajya Sabha.

4. Oberoi Group, Mandarin Oriental in strategic tie-up to expand global reach

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

Mandarin Oriental Hotel Group, the London Stock Exchange-listed hospitality firm and The Oberoi Group have got into a long-term strategic alliance, Oberoi Hotels and Resorts said in a statement. As part of the alliance, the two groups will be collaborating jointly across a range of initiatives. The partnership creates a platform for the two to collaborate while retaining their brands' unique identity and heritage. The alliance enhances the global reach of both groups, providing guests with increased choice in breadth across the globe as well as depth in India. Members of Mandarin Oriental and Oberoi One, the brands' respective recognition programmes, will have privileged access to over 50 luxury hotels in sought-after destinations, where they will receive superior recognition, exclusive experiences and offers, as well as invitations to bespoke event, the company said.

5. Startup founders bat for an Indian app store

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

A number of leading technology entrepreneurs are joining hands to petition the government seeking support to create an overarching Indian digital app ecosystem to counter what they view as the dominance of US technology giants Google and Apple. At a meeting on 29 September, the group discussed ways to establish a large-scale platform that will host local apps and break the duopoly of Google's Play Store and Apple's App Store, as well as a national-level lobby group to represent their interests, people privy to discussions told ET. The founders, including Paytm's Vijay Shekhar Sharma, Yashish Dahiya of Policybazaar and Murugavel Janakiraman of Matrimony.com, also plan to approach the country's banking regulator as well as the finance ministry seeking redressal for Google's recent move to increase commission on purchases made on its app store.

6. Google ties up with platforms to help small biz go digital

Source: Livemint ([Link](#))

Google India on 30 September said it has partnered with third-party online platforms such as Instamojo, Zoho, Swiggy and Dunzo to help small and medium businesses (SMBs) build their digital presence as more and more consumers turn to online purchases amid the pandemic. "We are partnering with the industry leaders to offer more support to help small businesses go digital. The most pressing need though is on the consumer demand side, and to aid that we have launched a nation-wide campaign Make Small Strong...", said Shalini Girish, customer solutions director at Google India.

7. ITR filing: Deadline for assessment year 2019-20 extended to November 30

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

For the fourth time, the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has now extended the last date for filing income tax returns for assessment year 2019-20, which is financial year 2018-19. The last date for filing the ITR of the year concerned was September 30. The department has postponed the last date to November 30. The deadline for filing ITR for assessment year 2020-21, which is financial year 2019-20, is November 30. This is the fourth time that the date has been revised amid the Covid-19 pandemic. It was first revised till June 30, then July 31, then September 30 and now till November 30.

8. Govt to borrow Rs 4.34 lakh cr in second half of 2020-21

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

The Finance Ministry on 30 September said the government will borrow Rs 4.34 lakh crore in the second half of the current fiscal to meet its expenditure requirement amid COVID-19 crisis afflicting the country's economy. The government is sticking to Rs 12 lakh crore borrowing target for the current fiscal, Economic Affairs Secretary Tarun Bajaj said. In the first half ended September, the government has done borrowing of Rs 7.66 lakh crore and remaining Rs 4.34 lakh crore will be mobilised during the second half of the current fiscal, he said. The government had envisaged to raise 58 per cent of the total borrowing target of Rs 6.98 lakh crore from the dated securities in the first half of the current fiscal. Against this, the government has borrowed Rs 7.66 lakh crore during April-September.

9. GST return due date: Centre extends deadline for FY19 filing to October 31

Source: Money Control ([Link](#))

The Centre has extended the deadline for furnishing annual returns under the goods and services tax (GST) for FY19 by a month till October 31, 2020. The move has been done after permission from the Election Commission (EC) as model code of conduct is in place due to the upcoming Bihar elections, the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) said. In a tweet on its official handle on September 30, CBIC said that due date for submission of annual return in GSTR-19 and GSTR-9C for 2018-19 has been extended from September 30, 2020 to October 31, 2020; and that a notification to this effect will be issued by the Finance Ministry soon.