

## Daily News Monitor: 25 November 2020

### **1. Govt of India blocks 43 more mobile apps including AliExpress over privacy concerns**

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

The government of India on 24 November banned 43 more mobile apps, majority of them with links to China including the likes of AliExpress over privacy concerns. The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology said the action was taken based on the inputs regarding these apps for engaging in activities prejudicial to sovereignty and integrity of India, defence of India, security of state and public order. The government had banned 59 Chinese apps on June 29 and 118 more on September 2 over similar concerns. The biggest names on the list were PUBG Mobile, PUBG Mobile Lite and TikTok. Additionally, 47 other apps were banned for allegedly operating as “clones” of the previously banned apps in July. With the fresh ban, the number of apps banned in India now stands at 267.

### **2. Indian whiskys make a mark on the global map**

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

Indian-made whiskys have come of age and the world is noticing. Amrut Fusion Single Malt and Paul John’s Mithuna have won top awards from Jim Murray and his ‘Whisky Bible’, in addition to awards from the San Francisco World Spirits Competition and the World Whiskies Award. Premium products such as Amrut, Paul John and Rampur are now being exported to over 60 countries and being noticed for their distinctive flavours and full-bodied palate, said Vinod Giri, director-general of the Confederation of Indian Alcoholic Beverage Companies (CIABC), the representative body of leading Indian alcohol beverage companies.

### **3. India’s Ease of Doing Business score slips on an investor-oriented parameter, says FinMin official**

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

India’s score on protection of minority investors compiled by the World Bank as part of the Ease of Doing Business rankings has slipped recently and there is a need for stakeholders to improve on this aspect, a senior finance ministry official said on 24 November. Brokers need to look beyond the short-term benefits and look at long-term strategies focused on attracting, retaining and motivating investors in the capital markets, which are very important tool for nation building, Additional Secretary Anand Mohan Bajaj said. The comments come at a time when there have been some defaults by brokerages in which small investors have been

impacted. India's ranking on protecting minority investors slipped from 7th last year to 13th in World Bank's Doing Business 2020 report.

#### **4. India Announces 100 High-Impact Projects for Afghanistan, Worth \$80 Million**

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

India on 24 November announced a new phase of over 100 high-impact community projects in Afghanistan worth US \$ 80 million (Rs 592 crore) as the country's development portfolio in the war-ravaged nation has reached over US \$ 3 billion (Rs 22,200 crore) so far. The announcement about the new development package was made by External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar during his virtual address at a global conference on Afghanistan during which he also called for an immediate and comprehensive ceasefire to stop violence in that country. "India's development portfolio in Afghanistan has to-date amounted to over US \$ 3 billion. The minister highlighted that no part of Afghanistan today is untouched by the 400 plus projects that India has undertaken in all 34 of Afghanistan's provinces. More than 65,000 Afghan students have also studied in India," the MEA said in a release.

#### **5. Niti Aayog forms panel to study feasibility of ultrahigh-speed travel in India using hyperloop tech**

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

Government think-tank Niti Aayog has formed a high-level panel to explore the technological and commercial viability of the Virgin Hyperloop technology for ultrahigh speed travel in India, weeks after its first test was completed with humans on board. The Virgin Hyperloop test run was conducted on a 500-meter track in Las Vegas in the USA with a pod, as the hyperloop vehicles are called, travelling with passengers, including an Indian, inside an enclosed tube at more than 100 mph or 16 kmph. A Niti Aayog document, accessed by the , says that in view of the emerging transport technology and for gaining the first-mover advantage, it is essential to look into the technological and commercial viability of the Virgin Hyperloop technology.

#### **6. Mercedes Benz ties up with SBI for car finance**

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

Luxury car manufacturer Mercedes-Benz on 24 November said it has partnered with State Bank of India (SBI) for car finance at 'attractive' interest rate besides many other benefits. The collaboration will give Mercedes-Benz India access to the unparalleled market penetration of SBI's HNI customer base, while the bank's customers will enjoy exclusive benefits on booking its luxury cars, the company said in a release. The tie-up guarantees many financial benefits including an attractive rate of interest. Besides, all customers booking a Mercedes-Benz car

online through SBI's digital platform YONO will get an additional benefit of Rs 25,000 at the dealerships, it said.