

## Daily News Monitor: 28 January 2021

### **1. Fresh Covid-19 rules: Swimming pools for all, more can watch films in halls**

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

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) on 27 January allowed cinema halls and theatres to operate with more people while swimming pools have been permitted for use by all in fresh COVID-19 reopening guidelines. According to these new guidelines, to be effective for February 1, there shall be no restriction on inter-state and intra-state movement of people and goods including those for cross land-border trade under treaties with neighbouring countries. No separate permission/ approval/ e-permit will be required for such movements, the MHA said. All activities have been permitted outside containment zones, except a few which will be subject to strict adherence of SOPs. Social, religious, sports, entertainment, educational, cultural, religious gatherings have already been permitted up to a maximum of 50 per cent of the hall capacity, with a ceiling of 200 people in closed spaces; and keeping of the size of the ground or space in view, in open spaces.

### **2. Affle (India) acquires Israel-based DiscoverTech for \$1.15 million**

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

Affle (India) Ltd, a mobile commerce and marketing solutions provider, has acquired Israel-registered DiscoverTech Ltd's business assets for \$1.15 million in cash. The deal also includes a maximum success fee (payments based on achieving certain milestones) of \$3.37 million to be paid over four years. The acquisition would fortify Affle's vernacular on-device consumer experiences and strengthen the ecosystem connect with advertisers, Original Equipment Manufacturers and Mobile Network Operators across India, global emerging markets in general and Africa in particular, the company said in a statement.

### **3. Now, a decentralised e-marketplace for local communities**

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

eSamudaay.com, a SaaS (software as a service) platform for local e-commerce entrepreneurs, has come out with a model to enable independent e-commerce marketplaces in tier-2 and 3 towns which will be wholly-owned by the local community. Speaking at the launch of 'Udupi eSamudaay Digital', a local commerce (LCommerce) company in Udupi on 27 January, Anup Pai, founder and CEO of eSamudaay, said that eSamudaay is building a network of digital entrepreneurs in small towns to run LCommerce platforms and empower small

businesses in their home towns. (Pai had founded the banking analytics firm Fintellix and sold it to the Nasdaq-listed Verisk Analytics in 2017).

#### **4. Cabinet clears policy on PSU privatisation ahead of Union Budget**

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

The Union Cabinet has paved the way for the much-awaited policy on the privatisation of public sector undertakings (PSUs), and its details are expected to be announced in the Union Budget. The policy, which will lay out a road map for the presence of government-owned entities in strategic and non-strategic sectors, was taken up at the Cabinet meeting held on 27 January and was approved, said two government officials in the know. The contours of the policy and the strategy to privatise PSUs will be announced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in the Union Budget, scheduled to be presented on February 1, said one of the two officials cited above.

#### **5. India dispatches Covishield vaccines to Bahrain, Sri Lanka**

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

After providing coronavirus vaccines to several countries including Bangladesh, Nepal and Maldives, India on 28 January established its position as a reliable partner in COVID-19 assistance by dispatching Covishield vaccines to Bahrain and Sri Lanka. A consignment of 50,400 doses of coronavirus vaccines will be provided by India to Sri Lanka under the Vaccine Maitri initiative, while Bahrain will receive get 10,800 doses. The Covishield vaccine developed by Serum Institute of India (SII) was loaded to the cargo aircraft at Mumbai and left as per schedule at 7:55 am for Manama. The vaccine consignment for Colombo was delayed for 15 minutes and is scheduled to leave at 9:00 am. Bahrain had earlier approved Covishield to support its efforts towards vaccinating members at risk of developing complications from COVID-19.

#### **6. PM Modi to address the World Economic Forum's Davos Summit at 5.30 pm today**

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

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will address the World Economic Forum's (WEF) Davos Dialogue today via video conferencing. The Prime Minister would be addressing the forum at 5:30 pm IST. In a tweet on 27 January, the Prime Minister said: "Will be addressing the @wef's Davos Agenda at 5:30 PM tomorrow, 28th January. Looking forward to speaking on a wide range (of) subjects relating to India's reform trajectory, increased usage of technology and other issues." The WEF annual meeting in Davos engages the world's top leaders to shape global, regional and industry agendas at the beginning of the year.

## **7. India's foreign direct investment inflows grew by 81 percent in November 2020 to \$10 billion**

**Sources** The Economic Times ([Link](#))

India's Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) saw a significant jump in November 2020. FDI data released by the Commerce Ministry shows that total FDI in the month of November 2020 grew by a whopping 81 % to \$ 10.15 billion against \$ 5.6 billion in November 2019. FDI equity has also jumped to \$ 8.5 billion as against \$ 2.8 billion in November 2019, registering a growth of 70 %. India has attracted total FDI inflow of \$ 58.37 billion during April to November 2020. It is the highest ever for the first eight months of a financial year (F.Y.) and 22 % higher as compared to the first eight months of 2019-20 (\$ 47.67 billion).