

## Daily News Monitor: 28 October 2020

### **1. VOC Port rolls out Direct Port Entry facility 24x7 for factory-stuffed containers**

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

A Direct Port Entry (DPE) facility was inaugurated at the VO Chidambaranar (VOC) port in Thoothukudi to help reduce logistics cost. The VOC Port Trust has developed the DPE facility to enable the export clearance of factory stuffed e-sealed containers on a 24x7 basis resulting in faster and cost-effective export admittance. The port trust has entered into an MoU with Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) to operate the facility for 30 years and the Customs department has also approved operating the DPE facility in the port, says a press release. Union Minister of State for Shipping (I/C) Minister Mansukh Mandaviya inaugurated the DPE facility through a video-conference.

### **2. Working with states to make licences for biz easier, says Piyush Goyal**

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

The Commerce and Industry Ministry is working with states and local bodies to make it easier for businesses to get licences, permissions and approvals, Union Minister Piyush Goyal said on 27 October. The Commerce and Industry Minister also said that the government is looking at addressing problems of quality so that domestic products can be recognised for high quality. He said the government, academia, and private sector are working together for it. The government is addressing the challenges of each sector, he said, adding that "we are studying all the laws and regulations around the industry in India to kind of demystify the business environment, bring in more simple and predictable regulatory practices." Goyal was speaking at the India Energy Forum of CERAWEEK.

### **3. Union Minister Piyush Goyal launches SCO Start-up Forum**

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

Union minister for commerce and industry and railways Piyush Goyal on 27 October called for a strong India-Shanghai Cooperation Organisation partnership to "nurture innovation and move towards the establishment of a transparent, fair and rational new international political and economic order". Inaugurating the 1st SCO Start-up Forum, a maiden initiative by the commerce and industry ministry in collaboration with Confederation of Indian Industry, the minister said: "The SCO has been a key regional cooperation effort in the Eurasian region in the past two decades and SCO member states have huge amount of untapped potential and talent.

#### **4. Fresh to home raises \$121 million in Series C funding**

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

FreshToHome said on 27 October it has raised \$121 million in series C funding led by the Investment Corporation of Dubai (ICD), Ascent Capital, The United States International Development Finance Corporation (DFC) and the Allana Group. Existing investor Iron Pillar also participated in the round. The Bengaluru-based e-commerce firm, which sells fresh fish, meat and seafood products, will use the funds to expand in India and West Asia, co-founder and CEO Shan Kadavil said in a statement. The company aims to achieve sales worth \$200 million collectively from the markets in 2021.

#### **5. Harley-Davidson ties up with Hero for India market**

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

Hero MotoCorp Ltd, India's top two-wheeler maker, will sell Harley-Davidson, Inc. motorcycles in the country as the US automaker renews its stint in this potential growth market for premium motorcycles. Under a distribution and licensing agreement between the two companies, New Delhi-based Hero will develop, sell and service Harley motorcycles in the country. The pact breathes fresh life into Harley's operations in India as the company had last month announced its decision to close manufacturing operations in India due to sluggish volumes. "Per a distribution agreement, Hero MotoCorp will sell and service Harley-Davidson motorcycles, and sell parts and accessories and general merchandise riding gear and apparel through a network of brand-exclusive Harley-Davidson dealers and Hero's existing dealership network in India," the companies said in a joint statement.

#### **6. Uber to offer 12,000 free rides in 8 Indian cities**

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

Ride hailing major Uber on 28 October said it has partnered with the National Association for the Blind (NAB), Delhi to facilitate 12,000 free rides (worth over ₹25 lakhs) to blind, low-vision and other disabled persons, as well as their caregivers and teachers. The association, which will be valid from October to December 2020, will enable their safe access to educational and training institutes as well as work places in eight cities, a statement said. These cities include Delhi, Bengaluru, Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Lucknow, Jaipur, Chennai, and Kolkata. In each of these cities, Uber's partnership with NAB will be implemented in collaboration with its local chapter - NAB Delhi in New Delhi.

## **7. PM Modi to inaugurate first seaplane service in Gujarat on 31 October**

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

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the first seaplane service in Gujarat to the people from October 31, ANI reports quoting sources in the Shipping Ministry Sources. The Prime Minister will take the official inaugural flight on October 31. The first flight will take off from Sabarmati Riverfront in Ahmedabad to the Statue of Unity in Kevadia Colony in the Narmada district. According to a release from the Defence wing, the seaplane, which will be operated by SpiceJet, is a Twin Otter 300 and registered in the name of Spicejet Technic. The major difference between an airplane and the seaplane is between their methods and capacities of takeoff and landing.

## **8. Cochin Shipyard and Italy's Fincantieri sign MoU**

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

Cochin Shipyard Limited has signed a memorandum of understanding with Italy's Fincantieri S.p.A, to collaborate on design, shipbuilding, ship repair, marine equipment manufacturing, training and skill development. Fincantieri is one of the world's largest shipbuilding groups operating 18 shipyards in four continents. Fincantieri is a leader in cruise ship design and construction and a reference player in all high-tech shipbuilding industry sectors, from naval to offshore vessels, from high-complexity special vessels and mega yachts, as well as in ship repairs and conversions, production of systems and mechanical and electrical component equipment and after-sales services.

## **9. Tata eyes majority stake in e-grocer BigBasket**

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

The Tata group is in active discussions to take a controlling stake in BigBasket by buying out several existing investors of the online grocer, three people directly aware of the talks said. If the talks are successful, Tata group could pay around \$500-700 million in cash to a clutch of financial investors, mainly private equity funds and China's Alibaba group, BigBasket's largest investor, the people said, requesting anonymity "The talks are currently hinged on the extent of say Tata group will have in the company post the deal," said one of the three people. The deal, if struck, will give Tata group an immediate head-start to take on the three big players in India's thriving online grocery marketplace: Reliance Industries Ltd, Walmart-owned Flipkart and Amazon.