

## Daily News Monitor: 30 April 2020

### **1. Big infra push: ₹111 lakh-crore investment in the pipeline**

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

India's infrastructure investment goal for the next five years just got bigger with the final report of the Task Force on National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP) projecting investments to the tune of ₹111 lakh-crore during financial year 2020-25. This is higher than the ₹102 lakh-crore envisaged when the summary report was released in end December last year. The revised projection comes in the wake of additional data submitted by the Central Ministries and State Governments. In the final report, which was submitted to Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in New Delhi on 29 April, the task force has suggested ways and means of financing the NIP through deepening corporate bond markets, including those of municipal bonds, setting up development financial institutions for infrastructure sector, accelerating monetisation of infrastructure assets, land monetisation, etc.

### **2. Agriculture sector might be the sole bright spot in 2020-21, says govt**

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

Agriculture might be the sole bright spot in the overall gloomy economic outlook for the country due to the Covid-19 lockdown and might push up India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for 2020-21 by 0.5 to 1 percentage points, the government said on 29 April. Placing its optimism on projections of a 'normal' monsoon for 2020 which addresses 60-70 per cent of the sector's worries, healthy water level in the reservoirs and also over 38 per cent increase in sowing of summer crop despite the nationwide lockdown, the government on Wednesday said that growth in agriculture and allied activities is expected to be not much lower than the 3.7 per cent expected in real terms for 2019-20. "We are hopeful that agriculture growth won't get impacted by the Covid-19 lockdown in 2020-21 and won't be much below 3.7 per cent expected in 2019-20," agriculture and rural development minister Narendra Singh Tomar told reporters during a briefing on farm sector and Covid-19.

### **3. Mike Pompeo praises India for lifting export restrictions on critical medical supplies**

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

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on 29 April praised India for lifting export bans on critical medical supplies including pharmaceuticals used to treat COVID-19 patients, saying it was an example of working together with partner countries to tackle the challenges posed by the coronavirus pandemic. "We're working with our friends in Australia,, India and Japan, New

Zealand, the Republic of Korea, and Vietnam to share information and best practices as we begin to move the global economy forward,” Pompeo told reporters at a news conference.

#### **4. Covid-19 lockdown: Centre allows movement of stranded labourers, students; issues guidelines – Details**

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

The Centre on 29 April allowed the movement of migrant workers, pilgrimage, tourists, students and other persons stranded at different places in the country. In a notification issued today, the Home Ministry said that it has issued an order to state and Union Territories to facilitate inter-state movement of stranded people including migrant labourers in the country. The MHA said that all persons will be medically screened at source and destination and will be kept in home and institutional quarantine facilities on arrival as per the guidelines issued by the ministry.

#### **5. Govt's Aarogya Setu app to be installed on smartphones by default soon**

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

The Indian government’s covid-19 tracking app may soon be installed on smartphones by default, two sources from the smartphone industry — one a smartphone maker and the other from the Manufacturers Association for Information Technology (MAIT) confirmed. According to a source from the smartphone company, the government had asked companies to pre-install the app on phones earlier, but it wasn't possible so far since manufacturing had been halted. However, the same will begin now as manufacturing is expected to resume soon Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been urging citizens to use the Aarogya Setu app to prevent the spread of covid-19. Earlier this week, in his meeting with all state chief ministers, Modi spoke about popularizing the app and asked them to ensure downloads in greater numbers. He referred to how South Korea and Singapore got success in contact tracing.

#### **6. India maps out post-Covid export plan to take on China**

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

India has begun work on a continuity plan to kick-start exports once the country emerges from the shadows of the Covid-19 pandemic. The plan includes cutting down import dependence, especially from China, by focussing aggressively on substitution while improving safety compliance and quality goods to gain global market share. The commerce and industry ministry is mulling setting up groups to draw up strategies for sectors where China has vacated space and countries are looking to diversify suppliers. As per an analysis done by the commerce department, medical textiles, electronics, plastics and toys are some sectors whose exports can

be promoted in the next three months or phase one while phase two exports include gems and jewellery, pharmaceuticals and steel, in the next six months.

### **7. Central government to issue advisory for real estate stakeholders**

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

The central ministry for housing and urban affairs said that the impact of the lockdown on the real estate sector will be treated as an event of 'Force Majeure' under the provisions of the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016 (RERA). The government will soon issue an advisory to states about the special measures that need to be taken to save the interest of homebuyers, real estate industry stakeholders. The decisions were taken at the Central Advisory Council meeting under RERA which was chaired by minister of state for housing and urban affairs, Hardeep Singh Puri on Wednesday. The meeting saw different stakeholders of the real estate sector including state secretaries, RERA Chairpersons, representatives of home buyers, real estate associations and other stakeholders at a meeting of Central Advisory Council of RERA.

### **8. Here's how JioMart kirana e-commerce will work on WhatsApp: Mukesh Ambani's retail dream taking shape**

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

Mukesh Ambani's retail dream has started to take shape with his New Commerce plan finding roots, thanks to Reliance Jio's multi billion dollar deal with social media platform Facebook. While it is expected that the deal will help Jio leverage Facebook's reach in India via its WhatsApp platform, there are many other ways that RIL will benefit via this deal and give stiff competition to the likes of Amazon and Flipkart in the country. "At some stage, JioMart could be a mini-app within WhatsApp (a concept similar to WeChat mini-programs) which would avoid new 400 mn downloads of JioMart and give JioMart immediate access to 400 mn users of WhatsApp for grocery," Credit Suisse said in a note.

### **9. Airports prepare to handle 30% flights in first phase of ops after lockdown**

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

Indian airports are preparing to handle only 30 per cent of the normal flight schedule, in the first phase of operations, after lifting of the lockdown. Airlines and airports are devising their own standard operating procedures, with a limited number of flights being planned to enable social distancing on ground and inside aircraft. Flight operations have been suspended since March 23, with the date for resumption yet to be announced. "Once the lockdown is lifted, airports shall be facilitating limited domestic/ international flights in phases," Airport

Authority of India (AAI) said in its internal guidelines on resumption of operations. To begin with, this could mean around 30 per cent of flights, it said.