

## Daily News Monitor: 7 December 2020

### 1. PM Modi to inaugurate India Mobile Congress

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

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the 4th India Mobile Congress which is scheduled to start from December 8, according to industry body COAI. The 4th edition of the three-day telecom industry event will be held online for the first time due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI) DG Lt Gen SP Kochhar confirmed the programme schedule. According to Kochhar, Reliance Industries Limited Chairman Mukesh Ambani, Bharti Group founder and Chairman Sunil Bharti Mittal besides Telecom Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad, Minister of State for Communications and IT Sanjay Dhotre will be present during the inaugural session. “It’s an absolute one of the kind memorable event that is going to extend the diversity and open a plethora of opportunities in the telecom world. We are extremely ecstatic about the active participation of the Hon’ble Prime Minister, at the IMC 2020 Virtual event, that is going to accentuate the importance of the Telecom Sector,” Kochhar told PTI.

### 2. A \$69 mn India quant fund returns over 19%, trounces BSE in pandemic year

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

A \$69 million Indian quant fund has delivered more than double the returns of the nation’s benchmark stock index this year by avoiding volatile shares and focusing on sector diversification. The DSP Quant Fund has returned more than 19% in 2020, compared with a 9.3% gain in the S&P BSE Sensex Index, which surged to an all-time high on Friday. It is the largest among a handful of quant funds in India’s \$364 billion asset management industry. “The fund generally was overweight on the sectors which did relatively better such as IT and pharma,” said Aparna Karnik, head of risk and quantitative analysis at DSP Investment Managers Pvt. in Mumbai. “Remaining diversified across sectors and factors, not chasing momentum and staying low volatility has helped keep up a consistent performance.”

### 3. Serum seeks emergency use nod for Oxford's Covid-19 vaccine in India

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

The Serum Institute of India on Sunday became the first indigenous company to apply to the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) seeking emergency use authorisation for the Oxford Covid-19 vaccine in the country citing unmet medical needs due to the pandemic and in the interest of the public at large, official sources said. A day earlier, the Indian arm of US

pharmaceutical giant Pfizer became the first to seek a similar approval from India's drug regulator for its own Covid-19 vaccine in the country, after securing such clearance in the UK and Bahrain. The phase-three clinical trial of the Oxford Covid-19 vaccine, Covishield, is being conducted by the Pune-based Serum Institute of India on Sunday (SII), co-sponsored by Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), in various parts of the country in addition to clinical studies being carried out by Oxford-AstraZeneca in the UK and Brazil.

#### **4. AYUSH Export Promotion Council on anvil by Commerce, AYUSH ministries to boost sector's exports**

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

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry and the Ministry of Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (AYUSH) on Sunday said that the two have decided to work together to set up an AYUSH Export Promotion Council (AEPC) to boost AYUSH exports. The decision was taken recently in a joint review on December 4 by the Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal and AYUSH Minister Shripad Naik. The latter, in a statement, said that the trade and commerce in the AYUSH sector are required to upscale quickly in order to meet the growing demands from India and abroad and also to serve the larger number of people looking up to these systems for maintaining their health. The export value of India's ayurvedic and herbal products increased from \$354.68 million in FY15 to \$446.13 million in FY19, as per statistics portal Statista.

#### **5. Agra Metro's 1st phase: PM Modi to inaugurate construction, travelling across city of Taj to get easier!**

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

Agra Metro Rail Project: Soon, travelling across the city of Taj Mahal to get easier! Today, the construction of the first phase of the Agra Metro Rail Project (AMRP) is set to be virtually inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The total cost of the Agra Metro Rail Project is Rs 8,379.62 crore and the Sikandra – Taj East Gate corridor will be constructed in the first phase, according to officials quoted in a PTI report. The project AMRP is being monitored by Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath himself and the traffic on this corridor is expected to start in December 2022, they further said. There will be six stations on the Sikandra – Taj East Gate corridor namely, Basai, Taj East Gate and Fatehabad Road (elevated stations) and the Agra Fort, Taj Mahal, and Jama Masjid (underground stations).

## **6. Experts to consider Pfizer's India application this week**

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

A committee of experts is likely to meet this week to consider Pfizer Inc's application seeking emergency use authorisation for its COVID-19 vaccine in India, which the US drug maker said would only be supplied through government contracts during the pandemic phase. "The matter has been referred to the Subject Expert Committee (SEC), the panel that advises the Drug Controller General of India on new drugs and vaccine approvals," a senior government official told ET. Pfizer was the first pharma company to seek emergency use authorisation for its vaccine in India, soon after it secured a similar approval in the UK. While Pfizer hasn't undertaken trials in the country, the SEC will examine if it needs to undergo bridging studies on Indian population. Keeping in view the emergency situation, the company stands a chance to get an approval without undertaking trials, another official said.