

Daily News Monitor: 8 October 2020

1. Govt to launch covid awareness campaign

Source: Livemint ([Link](#))

The government is set to launch an awareness campaign from 8 October on containing the spread of covid-19, Prakash Javadekar, Union minister of environment, forest and climate change, said on 7 October. "Till the time a vaccine for covid-19 is available, the public needs to wear masks properly, follow social distancing, and hand and respiratory hygiene as part of the efforts to check the spread of the virus. These rules are a strong defence against covid-19," he said. The government has been urging people to follow the measures to stop the transmission of the virus, the minister said. "There will be posters, banners and stickers placed at public places, metros, trains, auto rickshaws and other public transportation modes to spread the message," he said.

2. Flipkart strengthens last-mile reach ahead of festive season with over 3,000 delivery hubs

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

Walmart-owned Flipkart on 7 October said it has increased its last-mile reach to more than 3,000 delivery hubs across the country ahead of the festive season to provide a fast and efficient e-commerce experience to consumers. This expansion will also help lakhs of sellers, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises and artisans from smaller towns to connect with a pan-India consumer base through Flipkart's supply chain, a statement said. Overall, Flipkart has added over 3.4 million square feet space across its supply chain assets including fulfilment centres, mother hubs and delivery centres throughout the country, the statement said. Fulfilment centres or FCs are large warehouses (up to 5 lakh square feet in size) where sellers can store their products that are then checked, packed and shipped to mother hubs or sortation centres. Here, the shipments are sorted based on their pin codes and sent to the respective delivery hubs that are closer to the customers.

3. Forbes India Rich List 2020: Ambani dominance continues; see full list

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

Ambani stands at Number 1 for the 13th year, added \$37.3 billion to his fortune—a rise of 73 per cent—to a net worth of \$88.7 billion. Gautam Adani maintains his position at Number 2 with a 61 per cent boost in his net worth to \$25.2 billion. Unfazed by the pandemic-induced travel slowdown, Adani acquired a 74 per cent stake in Mumbai airport, the country's

second-busiest. Tech tycoon Shiv Nadar, who ceded the post of chairman of HCL Technologies in July to his daughter Roshni Nadar Malhotra, jumped three places to Number 3 with \$20.4 billion. More than a third of the listees saw their wealth decline, notably those working in real estate, including Future Group founder Kishore Biyani, who sold the bulk of his debt-laden retail empire to Ambani's Reliance Retail in August.

4. Certification system for organic cotton planned: Smriti Irani

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

Textiles minister Smriti Zubin Irani on 7 October launched the 'Kasturi' brand name for Indian cotton and said the government is working on a phased introduction of a certification system for organic cotton across the entire value chain. "Ministry of textiles in pursuit of the agenda of cotton farmers and cotton product manufacturers...have pursued with the ministry of commerce and industry a certification system for organic cotton to be introduced in phases in the entire value chain," Irani said at a virtual event organised by the Confederation of Indian Textile Industries, Cotton Corporation of India and The Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council.

5. RBI's Monetary Policy Committee begins deliberations, to announce policy review on Friday

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

The newly-constituted Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the Reserve Bank began its three-day deliberations on 7 October, amid expectations that the central bank will maintain status quo on the benchmark lending rates in view of hardening inflation. At the end of the deliberations, the RBI will come out with its monetary policy review on 9 October. The meeting of the six-member MPC, earlier slated for September 29 to October 1, was rescheduled as the appointment of independent members was delayed. The MPC must have a quorum of four. The government has now appointed three eminent economists Ashima Goyal, Jayanth R Varma and Shashanka Bhide as members of the MPC headed by the RBI Governor.

6. Tata Motors launches more affordable Harrier Dark Edition XT

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

Tata Motors has recently introduced the Harrier Dark Edition XT variant at ₹16.50 lakh. The Harrier Dark Edition was originally launched in 2019 in top-spec XZ and XZ+ grades, but thanks to the latest mid-spec variant addition, Dark Edition has been made more accessible. It is also available in Dark Edition XT+ grade which costs ₹17.30 lakh. All prices are ex-showroom. Previously, the entry point for the Harrier Dark Edition trim stood at ₹17.85 lakh

for the Dark Edition XZ, now the Dark Edition range starts at ₹1.35 lakh lower than before. As seen on the range, special inclusion on the Dark Edition theme include the Atlas Black exterior paint, darkened elements (black faux skid plates and darkened headlamp inserts), a ‘#Dark’ front fender badge as well as black 17-inch alloys.

7. M Rajeshwar Rao appointed deputy governor of RBI

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

The government on 7 October appointed RBI’s senior-most executive director M Rajeshwar Rao as the deputy governor of the central bank. Rao was appointed to the post vacated by N S Vishwanathan, who stepped down three months ahead of his extended tenure on health grounds. “The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of M Rajeshwar Rao, Executive Director, Reserve Bank of India to the post of Deputy Governor Reserve Bank of India,” a notification by the Department of Personnel and Training said. According to the RBI Act, 1934, the central bank needs to have four deputy governors -- two from within the ranks, one commercial banker and another an economist to head the monetary policy department.

8. Kolkata East-West Metro Corridor gets cabinet nod

Source: Livemint ([Link](#))

The Union cabinet on 7 October approved the railway ministry’s proposal for a revised cost estimate for the construction of the Kolkata East-West Metro Corridor project at ₹8,575 crore. The project is expected to ease congestion, improve urban connectivity, and offer cleaner mobility solution for daily commuters in Kolkata. The 16.6km corridor will have 12 stations between Salt Lake Sector-V and Howrah Maidan. The project will be implemented by a special purpose vehicle, Kolkata Metro Rail Corp. Ltd, set up under the railway ministry. The project was approved 12 years ago, with a proposed investment of ₹4,000 crore, railway minister Piyush Goyal said. However, it was stuck due to delays in land acquisition, according to the minister.