

## Daily News Monitor: 11 May 2020

### **1. Covid-19 lockdown: Passenger trains to be back on tracks from Tuesday**

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

The Indian Railways will run fully air conditioned passenger trains from Tuesday (May 12) after about a month and a half of shutting the service in its 167-year history. Initially 15 set of trains will be started and online bookings for these will begin from 4 pm on Monday (May 11) on the website of the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC), the government said in a statement on Sunday. “Indian Railways plans to gradually restart passenger train operations from May 12 with 15 pairs of trains (30 return journeys),” the government said. These special trains will be run from New Delhi, and connect Dibrugarh, Agartala, Howrah, Patna, Bilaspur, Bhubaneswar, Secunderabad, Bengaluru, Chennai, Ranchi, Thiruvananthapuram, Madgaon, Mumbai Central, Ahmedabad, and Jammu Tawi. Fares will be equivalent to that of Rajdhani trains.

### **2. Covid-19 impact: DRDO develops devices to sanitise phones, currency notes**

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

The RCI, a premier laboratory of DRDO based at Hyderabad, has developed an automated contactless UVC sanitising cabinet to sanitise mobile phones, iPads, laptops, currency notes, cheque leafs, challans, passbooks, and paper. Research Centre Imarat (RCI), a part of Defence Research Development Organisation (DRDO), developed the Defence Research Ultraviolet Sanitiser (DRUVS), news agency IANS reported. DRDO said on Sunday that DRUVS Cabinet has a contactless operation which is very important to contain the spread of virus. The proximity sensor switches clubbed with drawer opening and closing mechanism makes its operation automatic and contactless.

### **3. Air India ready to fly Indian seafarers overseas to join ships**

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

Air India said it is agreeable to take Indian seafarers to USA, UK and Singapore to help them join ships on work, while flying to various overseas destinations to bring back Indian nationals stranded abroad. But, thousands of Indian seafarers stranded in various ports/locations across the globe are yet to be allowed to fly on the inbound repatriation flights. “Seafarers with valid CDCs (continuous discharge certificates) and an employers’ letters indicating the name and details of the holder, and the port of commencement of duty (USA, UK and Singapore only) may also purchase tickets on outbound flights,” Air India said in a notice on the eligibility

criteria for purchase of tickets for outbound repatriation flights by Air India and Air India Express under the Vande Bharat Mission

#### **4. Airlines ready for contactless flying, post Covid**

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

While airlines are not keen on leaving a seat vacant in between rows to ensure social distancing, they are readying alternative plans for starting post-covid flying operations once the lockdown is lifted. This includes health check-up prior to boarding for fever symptoms, minimising touchpoints of contact between customers and crew, reducing meal choices and withdrawing onboard reading material. “We intend to minimise touchpoints of contact between our customers and crew by up to 80 per cent. On domestic flights, the service alterations include a reduction in meal choices and withdrawal of services such as onboard sales. Airline crew are expected to wear PPE at all times and customers will be requested to wear masks as well. Aircraft will also be equipped with surgical masks, gloves, sanitiser wipes, and contactless infrared thermometers, in case needed. Any passenger showing symptoms of Covid-19 will undergo a precautionary check-up with the Airport Medical Support Team

#### **5. 7,740 dedicated Covid-19 health facilities in 483 districts identified: Health Ministry**

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

A total of 7,740 dedicated Covid-19 facilities in 483 districts have been identified, the Union health ministry said on 10 May, asserting that adequate health infrastructure is in place to fight the pandemic. The public health facilities dedicated to Covid-19 management are categorised into three categories -- Dedicated Covid Hospital (DCH), Dedicated Covid Health Centre (DCHC) and Dedicated Covid Care Centre (DCCC). As on Sunday, 7,740 facilities in 483 districts have been identified in all States/Union Territories that include hospitals and facilities of the State/UT governments as well as the central government, a health ministry statement said.

#### **6. Govt working on several initiatives to attract investors**

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

The government is working on several initiatives, such as preparation of huge land pools, to attract potential investors to India amid the coronavirus-triggered turbulence, a senior official said. Due to disruptions in the global supply chain on account of the COVID-19 crisis, many foreign companies are looking to reduce their dependency on China and set up manufacturing facilities in other countries. "We are working on a lot of initiatives. When it comes to land,

states prepare their land inventory and we aggregate those and make available to all potential investors," the government official said.

### **7. Mukesh Ambani's Jio Platforms may soon see General Atlantic, Saudi Arabia as investors**

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

The Saudi sovereign wealth fund and General Atlantic are among firms exploring investments in billionaire Mukesh Ambani's digital business, as Asia's richest man seeks to expand his operations outside oil and petrochemicals, people with knowledge of the matter said. Saudi Arabia's \$320 billion Public Investment Fund is considering buying a minority stake in Reliance Industries Ltd.'s Jio Platforms unit, according to the people, who asked not to be identified as the information is private. General Atlantic, the U.S. investment firm that helped fund Airbnb Inc. and Uber Technologies Inc., is discussing a potential investment of about \$850 million to \$950 million in Jio Platforms, the people said. The deal could be completed as soon as this month, though no agreement has been finalized and plans may change, the people said.