

## Daily News Monitor: 15 April 2021

### **1. Airtel unveils new corporate structure, telecom now to become a unit of digital business**

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

Bharti Airtel 14 April unveiled a new corporate structure that is expected to sharpen the focus of the company in driving the rapidly unfolding digital opportunity in India while enabling it to unlock value. “The new structure envisages Airtel Digital Limited folding into the listed entity, Bharti Airtel. This will now house all of the digital assets spanning Wynk Music, Airtel X stream, Airtel Thanks, Mitra Payments platform used by a million retailers, Airtel Ads, Airtel IQ, Airtel Secure, Airtel Cloud and all future digital products and services,” Bharti Airtel said in a statement on 14 April.

### **2. India allows additional 3,675 tonnes of sugar export to UK under concessional duty quota**

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

The government has permitted export of an additional 3,675 tonnes of raw/refined sugar under tariff-rate quota to the United Kingdom. TRQ (Tariff-Rate Quota) is for a volume of exports that enter the UK at relatively low tariffs. After the quota is reached, a higher tariff applies to the exports. “The additional quantity of 3,675.13 tonne of raw/refined sugar to be exported to UK under TRQ up to September 30 this year is notified,” Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) said in a public notice. It said the quota will be operated by Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) as the implementing agency for the export.

### **3. Monsoon session: Govt to amend key PSB privatisation laws**

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

The government has started inter-ministerial consultations to draft the legislative changes required for privatisation of public sector banks (PSBs). The plan, according to official sources, is to opt for amending the relevant laws in one go, so that the process of PSB privatisation is not hindered by legal hurdles. Deliberations are taking place within the government on whether to repeal the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Acts of 1970 and 1980 (nationalisation Acts). The voting rights cap of 10% for a non-government shareholder irrespective of his/her shareholding is among the key constraints identified, the sources say.

#### **4. Apollo Tyres forays into truck and bus tyre segment in US, Canada**

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

Apollo Tyres on 14 April announced its foray into the truck and bus tyre segment in the US and Canada, following the launch of its passenger vehicle range in the two markets. The commercial vehicle range has been introduced under the Apollo brand although the PV (passenger vehicle) range was launched under the premium European brand, Vredestein last September, the company said in a statement. The north American range of truck and bus tyres will be produced at the company's manufacturing units in Hungary and Chennai, India. The tyre line-up will encompass a full range of regional, super-regional, coach/urban and mixed-use applications with fitments for rims ranging from 17.5 inches to 24.5 inches, it added. Apollo Tyres Assistant Vice President (Americas) Abhishek Bisht said, "Our market entry in North America is preceded by decades of global commercial vehicle tyre manufacturing and distribution expertise. We come to market positioned to make an immediate impact by offering a tier I value proposition at a more attractive price, while setting new industry standards for service and support."

#### **5. Dr Reddy's to also use govt cold chain infra for Sputnik V distribution**

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

Hyderabad-based Dr Reddy's Laboratories (DRL), the Indian partner for Russia's Sputnik V, will use the government's vaccination cold chain infrastructure, along with its own cold chain capabilities, for last-mile distribution of the vaccine in India. Further, 60-70 per cent of Sputnik V's global production is set to take place in India, said DRL. Sputnik V, a vaccine with 91.6 per cent efficacy — the highest among Covid vaccines available in India — requires a temperature range of -18 degrees C to -22 degrees C to remain stable. Deepak Sapra, CEO (API and Pharmaceutical Services), DRL, said they have already tested the cold chain infrastructure in India through simulations. "We have tested the cold chain in simulation scenarios — from Hyderabad to as far as Manipur in the north-east, Ladakh in the north, and Tamil Nadu in south," Sapra told reporters on 14 April.

#### **6. Govt inks MoU with Microsoft to provide post-harvest solutions to farmers**

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

Microsoft Corp will provide Indian farmers post harvest management solutions with an aim to improve efficiency and productivity across the entire farm sector value chain. The government has entered into a pact with the technology major, Union agriculture minister Narendra Singh Tomar said, adding that such technology-driven initiatives are a step towards doubling the income of farmers. He said the government will partner with other technology

players too to create a vibrant digital ecosystem for farmers. As per the memorandum of understanding (MoU), Microsoft through its local partner CropData will leverage master database of farmers to address challenges of individual or group of farmers. “The government has a verified database of more than 50 million farmers along with their land records,” a senior agriculture ministry official said.

**7. Coronavirus update: India reports record 2 lakh cases in 24 hours, over 1000 deaths**  
**Source: Livemint ([Link](#))**

India reported over 2 lakh new COVID-19 cases and more than 1,000 deaths in the last 24 hours, according to the Union Health Ministry on 15 April. In the last 24 hours, 1,038 COVID-related deaths were reported in the country taking the death toll to 1,73,123. As many as 2,00,739 new COVID-19 cases have been reported in India in the last 24 hours. With this, the total number of cases has gone up to 1,40,74,564. The cumulative number of COVID-19 vaccine doses administered in the country stands at 11,44,93,238 till today. Delhi recorded 17,282 fresh cases of COVID-19 on 14 April, the highest single-day surge in the national capital since the onset of the pandemic, while over 100 fatalities were reported, according to data shared by the health department. As per the latest bulletin, 104 new fatalities were recorded, pushing the death toll to 11,540.

**8. Billionaire Gautam Adani may win three more slots on MSCI India Index: Analysts**  
**Source: Livemint ([Link](#))**

Billionaire Gautam Adani is likely to see three more companies from his coal mining-to-data centers conglomerate join the MSCI India Index after shares in each one of them more than doubled this year, according to analysts. The group’s flagship Adani Enterprises Ltd., gas supplier Adani Total Gas Ltd. and power distributor Adani Transmission Ltd. may get included in MSCI Inc.’s country benchmark after the index provider’s semi-annual review of its gauges in May, according to broker Edelweiss Financial Services Ltd. and independent research provider Smartkarma. Adani Green Energy Ltd. and Adani Ports & Special Economic Zone Ltd. are already there. The potential inclusions are seen further boosting wealth for Adani, who has added \$20.2 billion to his net worth this year, the second-biggest increase among the world’s billionaires. The tycoon -- who started out as a commodities trader in the late 1980s -- has diversified from mines, ports and power plants into airports, data centers and defense.