

## DAILY NEWS MONITOR: 22 OCTOBER 2021

### **1. In PM Modi's billion job praise to 'new India', a message for detractors**

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

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 22 October said 100 crore vaccines against the coronavirus disease is not just a statistic, but a symbol of new India. Hitting out at his detractors, the PM said that while many spoke about 'taali, thaali' (initial campaigns in the fight against the virus), the latest accomplishment showed the country was united in the battle. Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said 100 crore vaccines against the coronavirus disease is not just a statistic, but a symbol of new India. Hitting out at his detractors, the PM said that while many spoke about 'taali, thaali' (initial campaigns in the fight against the virus), the latest accomplishment showed the country was united in the battle.

### **2. 7th Pay Commission (DA Hike Impact): Central Govt Employees to get 31% of Basic Pay as Dearness Allowance!**

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

Ahead of Diwali and other festivals, the Central Government has announced an increase in Dearness Allowance and Dearness Relief for Central Government Employees and Pensioners respectively. The rate of DA and DR for employees and pensioners have been increased by 3% of the Basic Pay/Pension. The DA hike is expected to help the employees and pensioners in facing the rising inflation. "The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, today has approved to release an additional instalment of Dearness Allowance to Central Government employees and Dearness Relief (DR) to pensioners w.e.f. 1.7.2021 representing an increase of 3% over the existing rate of 28% of the Basic Pay / Pension, to compensate for price rise," the Union Cabinet said in a statement on Thursday 9 October 21st, 2021).

### **3. Union Cabinet approves Rs 100 lakh-crore 'PM Gati Shakti Master Plan'**

**Source: Money Control ([Link](#))**

The Union Cabinet has approved the PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan, aimed at bringing down the logistics cost in the country by integrating the policymaking in the infrastructure space and bringing all stakeholders in India's infrastructure development together. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had on October 13 launched the PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan for multi-modal connectivity to expedite and bring infrastructure development on a common path. The Rs 100 lakh-crore Gati Shakti plan envisages a centralised portal comprising all existing and planned infrastructure initiatives of as many as 16 central

ministries and departments for integrated planning and coordinated implementation of infra connectivity projects. The plan was first announced at the Red Fort on August 15 on the occasion of the 75th Independence Day. The plan seeks to end bureaucratic entanglements and break inter-ministerial silos with respect to infrastructure projects.

#### **4. Foodpanda and Rebel Foods launch Asia's largest virtual brand partnership**

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

Foodpanda, Asia's largest food and grocery delivery platform, said it had formed a long-term, multi-market partnership with Rebel Foods to enable restaurant partners and cloud kitchen operators to grow additional revenue streams, at little or no start-up costs. Rebel Foods is the world's largest internet restaurant company headquartered in India. The new digital-first F&B (food and beverage) format sees foodpanda and Rebel Foods joining forces for the benefit of local and small players in the F&B industry. Through this partnership — for an initial five years — both companies will aim to launch more than 10 virtual brands in over 2,000 outlets across the region. This makes it the largest virtual brand partnership in Asia, and the first of its kind in the region at this scale.

#### **5. Govt finalising guidelines to export refurbished weapons: Rajnath**

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

The government is currently finalising guidelines to export refurbished weapons and equipment to friendly foreign countries, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh told a parliamentary committee meeting on 21 October. The old weapons and equipment of the Indian armed forces will be first refurbished by the defence industry and then exported to friendly foreign countries, the minister said in Bengaluru during a meeting of Parliamentary Consultative Committee on Defence, according to officials. They said that the minister told the committee during his speech that the "implementation guidelines" for export of refurbished of old defence items are being "finalised". According to the officials, Singh told the committee that the government has set a target of Rs 35,000 crore (USD 5 billion) exports in aerospace and defence goods and services by 2024-25.

#### **6. UK foreign secy begins India visit today; tech, infrastructure deals on cards**

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

The United Kingdom will announce a series of tech and infrastructure deals, including a £50.4 million investment to fund green tech infrastructure projects across India, during foreign secretary Liz Truss' visit beginning Friday. As part of the India-UK 10-year roadmap, Truss and her Indian counterpart S Jaishankar will announce the "Strategic Futures Forum",

bringing together leading figures from government, business and academia of both countries to drive closer links in key areas such as tech and security and to shape the long-term, strategic vision for the bilateral partnership. The tech and infrastructure deals to be finalised during Truss' two-day visit are aimed at boosting jobs and increasing green growth. She will unveil the £50.4-million (\$70 million) investment by the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office's investment arm CDC to fund green tech infrastructure projects across India through the joint Green Growth Equity Fund.