

## Daily News Monitor: 25 September 2020

### **1. Hero MotoCorp's Pawan Munjal, DCM Shriram's chief invests in ShareChat's TikTok alternative Moj**

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

Hero MotoCorp Chairman Pawan Munjal and DCM Shriram Chairman Ajay Shridhar Shriram along with a clutch of existing investors of social networking app ShareChat have put \$40 million in the company. The investment is raised to aid growth of ShareChat's alternative to TikTok — Moj that had cropped up along with over a dozen similar apps in the short video segment to tap into the Chinese apps ban by the Indian government on June 29, 2020. ShareChat, announcing the investment, said that large parts of the fund have been earmarked for “doubling down on investments made towards product development, growing its creator ecosystem and establishing partnerships with music labels.”

### **2. National Medical Commission to come into force; BoG, MCI to be dissolved**

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

The National Medical Commission (NMC), in place of the Medical Council of India (MCI), for development and regulation of all aspects of medical education and profession, has been constituted and will come into existence from 25 September, a gazette notification said. With the NMC coming into being, the Board of Governors (BoG), which superseded the Medical Council of India (MCI) on September 26, 2018, to perform its functions, will get dissolved and the nearly 64-year-old Indian Medical Council Act will stand abolished. Former head of Delhi All India Institute of Medical Sciences ENT department, Dr Suresh Chandra Sharma has been appointed for a period of three years with effect from September 25 while Rakesh Kumar Vats, the Secretary General in the Board of Governors of the MCI, presently, would be the secretary of the commission.

### **3. Pradhan invites US cos to engage in developing gas infrastructure in India**

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

Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas and Minister of Steel Dharmendra Pradhan on Thursday discussed 'Strategic Energy Partnership' during video conferencing with Kenneth Juster, the US Ambassador to India, and invited the US companies to engage more intensely in developing the gas infrastructure in India. Informing about the same in series of tweets, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas said that, the Minister also reviewed the strategic petroleum reserves' cooperation initiated in June this year. "Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas and Minister of Steel Dharmendra Pradhan had a discussion through VC with Kenneth

Juster, the U.S. Ambassador to India on India-U.S Strategic Energy Partnership. The U.S. Ambassador to India recognized that the energy component is emerging as a key constituent of the India-US strategic partnership," tweeted the Ministry.

#### **4. Ahmedabad-Mumbai Bullet Train Project: Tata, L&T among bidders for one of the biggest tenders**

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

Ahmedabad-Mumbai bullet train project: Indian Railways is gearing up for the country's first bullet train project! For the design and construction of 237 km length of mainline for the upcoming high speed rail corridor project, connecting Mumbai and Ahmedabad, technical bids (C4 package) were opened recently, on 23 September 2020 by NHRCL. This entire section of the bullet train corridor falls in the state of Gujarat. In the competitive bidding, a total of three bidders involving seven big firms participated- IRCON International Limited – Afcons Infrastructure Limited – JMC Projects India Limited Consortium; Larsen and Toubro Limited; Tata Project Limited – J. Kumar Infra Projects Limited – NCC Limited – HSR Consortium.

#### **5. Narendra Singh Tomar launches portal for testing performance of farm machinery**

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

Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar on 24 September launched a portal where manufacturers can online apply for testing and evaluation their farm machineries. The minister launched the 'Centralized Farm Machinery Performance Testing Portal' to improve services of farm machinery testing institutions and bring out transparency in the entire process of testing and evaluation of machines, an official statement said. Ministers of State for Agriculture Parshottam Rupala and Kailash Choudhary as well as Agriculture Secretary Sanjay Agarwal were present on the occasion. Tomar said the government is fully committed to the welfare of farmers and development of the agriculture sector and accordingly the budget allocation of the agriculture sector has also been considerably increased.

#### **6. AYUSH Ministry inks MoU with herbal industry bodies for plants cultivation**

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

In a historic event on Thursday, the National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB), Ministry of AYUSH signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the major AYUSH and herbal industry bodies covering a set of measures to promote medicinal plant cultivation. The MoU was signed during a virtual meeting. The industry bodies which signed the MoU Ayurvedic Drug Manufacturer's Association, Mumbai; Association for Manufactures of Ayurvedic Medicines, New Delhi; Ayurvedic Medicines Manufacturers Organisation of India, Thrissur; Association for Herbal and Nutraceutical Manufacturers of India, Mumbai; Federation of

Indian Industries, New Delhi and Confederation of Indian Industry, New Delhi. The signing ceremony was graced by the presence of Vd. Rajesh Kotecha, Secretary AYUSH who assured that his ministry would provide necessary support to resolve the issues related to the industry provided they form a combined team and approach with solutions to the respective problems faced by them. He further assured that the present government is committed to the development of AYUSH systems.

### **7. Harley-Davidson exits India as losses mount**

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

Iconic American motorcycle maker Harley-Davidson Motor Co. has decided to exit India, its departure dropping the curtain on a troubled stint in a lucrative market for two-wheelers. After 11 years of operations in India, the cult bike maker told employees on Thursday that it is discontinuing sales and production operations in India as part of a global restructuring plan. Last month, the company had hinted at exiting some tough markets as part of its strategic plan, which entails pulling out of loss-making markets and focusing on the US, Europe and parts of Asia Pacific. The company has seen its losses mount and market shares shrink in premium motorcycle segments across continents as it struggles to keep pace with the changing preferences of young riders.

### **8. Saudi Arabia allows repatriation flights to India**

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

Saudi Arabia has resumed some flights to India, days after it said that flight services to and from the South Asian country remains suspended due to rising number of covid-19 cases. Air India Express, the no-frills subsidiary of the national carrier Air India, on 24 September night tweeted that the airline would continue carrying passengers from Saudi Arabia to India but would not carry passengers from India to Saudi Arabia. "Air India Express Vande Bharat Mission flights would continue to carry passengers on its flights from Saudi Arabia to India," it said. "The Airline would not carry passengers from India to Saudi Arabia," the airline added.

### **9. India's covid vaccine: Phase-3 trial of Covaxin to soon begin in UP's Lucknow**

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

The Uttar Pradesh government on Thursday announced that phase-3 trial of the coronavirus vaccine 'COVAXIN' will start in Lucknow and Gorakhpur from October. "The phase-3 trial of COVAXIN being developed by Bharat Biotech will start in Lucknow and Gorakhpur from October," said Uttar Pradesh Principal Health Secretary Amit Mohan Prasad here in a press conference. The Indian Council for Medical Research (ICMR) is collaborating with Bharat

Biotech for the development of the COVAXIN. Meanwhile, Congress leader Deepak Singh on 24 September wrote a letter to Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and requested to increase testing for COVID-19 in Uttar Pradesh. According to the Union Health Ministry as of 23 September, there are 61,698 active cases in the state with 3,02,689 recovered people and 5,299 deaths.

#### **10. DLF plans to launch mid-income housing projects**

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

DLF Ltd, India's largest real estate developer by market value, is firming up plans to launch mid-income projects, in the ₹60-80 lakh price category, as demand for homes in the affordable category remains relatively better in a tepid residential market, said two people familiar with the plans. Over the past few years, DLF had adopted the strategy to hold back on selling under-construction housing projects and sell only when a project is near completion, as buyers' preference had visibly moved towards ready-to-move in homes. Affordable housing has got several government incentives in recent times, and coupled with better demand for such homes, many developers have been focusing on building budget homes in the metro cities and their extended suburbs.