

DAILY NEWS MONITOR: 26 OCTOBER 2022

1. CAG set to conduct comprehensive audit of country's health sector

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

The Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) is in the process of doing a comprehensive audit of the country's health sector, and is adopting an approach different from its earlier exercises, whose remit was relatively narrow. "Earlier we were auditing on the basis of some research and state-specific issues. This time we are doing it comprehensively and will audit it (the health sector) on common parameters, common objectives, and common risk analyses so that the entire country's picture is accounted for," a senior official told Business Standard. Earlier, state-level auditors general (AGs) would choose a subject such as health management, procurement, or vacancies, and audit particular aspects of that. For instance, a CAG report had shown earlier this year the health sector in Bihar was far from optimum because there was a significant shortfall of facilities and staff.

2. UK's political stability may give momentum to ongoing India-Britain trade pact talks

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

With Rishi Sunak becoming the UK's Prime Minister, the country has now achieved political stability and this, in turn, is likely to give much-needed momentum to ongoing negotiations for the proposed free trade agreement between India and Britain, as per the trade experts. The countries have already missed the Diwali deadline for concluding the negotiations because of political developments in the UK. According to the experts, the stability (in terms of politics) in the UK now would help fast-track the negotiations for the pact, which would give a boost to the bilateral trade and investments between the countries.

3. Sprite now a \$1 billion brand in India: Coca-Cola CEO James Quincey

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

Global soft drinks major Coca-Cola Company on 25 October said its lemon and lime-flavoured soft drink Sprite has become a \$1-billion brand in the Indian market. The company attributed the success of the brand to locally-adapted occasion-based global marketing campaigns. James Quincey, chairman and chief executive officer of Coca-Cola, told investors after an earnings call, "In India, we continue to strengthen the first half of the year as we gained share in sparkling soft drinks. Trademark Coke delivered strong growth with effective execution and occasion-based marketing." In February, the company informed investors that its brand Thums Up became a \$1-billion brand in India. India is the fifth-largest market for Coca-Cola globally.

4. DLF to launch new properties worth Rs 3,500 crore in second half of FY23

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

Realty major DLF plans to launch new projects worth Rs 3,500 crore during the second half of this fiscal, mainly in Gurugram and Panchkula as it seeks to tap a rising demand. In an investors presentation, DLF informed that the company plans to launch residential projects across Gurugram and Panchkula by March 2023 after getting requisite approvals from authorities. The company plans to launch around 3 million square feet area across residential projects. That apart, DLF has completed inventories worth Rs 3,222 crore and properties worth Rs 5,622 crore in the under-construction projects that have been launched. "Product potential (near term) ~Rs 12,350 crore," DLF said in the presentation, after taking into account the inventories available for sales currently and projects to be launched in the second half of this fiscal year.