

Daily News Monitor: 27 May 2020

1. Wonderful step! Indian Railways develops Rail Milk Tank Van with big capacity; details

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

Big step by Indian Railways! With the entire country still battling the COVID-19 pandemic, the movement of essential supplies and goods has become a big challenge. However, to enable better transportation of milk, Piyush Goyal-led Indian Railways has developed a new Rail Milk Tank Van! According to the Railway Minister, the newly developed Rail Milk Tank Van has a carrying capacity of 44,660 litres of milk, which is almost 12 per cent more than the earlier van. It has been indigenously manufactured to run at speeds of up to 110 km per hour and has a special stainless steel interior. The new Rail Milk Tank will facilitate safe, economic as well as quick transportation of milk, the minister said.

2. Government opens up source code of Aarogya Setu app

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

The government has made the code of Aarogya Setu Covid app open source, in a bid to allay fears around privacy of citizens. Making the code open source means that anyone like a developer can inspect the source code and flag off any potential security risks. Earlier, the access of developers to the source code was limited as it was not open leading to concerns around privacy and accountability of the government. As the app was developed as a public-private partnership, it was demanded that the source code should be open source allowing everyone to inspect it and flag off any possible issues.

3. India's TikTok rival app 'Mitron' clocks five million downloads within one month of launch

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

The ongoing 'YouTube vs TikTok' internet war and the anti-Chinese sentiment owing to the coronavirus pandemic have led to the rise of a new app called 'Mitron'. The Indian short video-sharing app has reportedly gained the Number Two spot on the Google Play Store within a month of its release. Mitron has, so far, been downloaded over 5 million times from the Google Play Store. The Indian video-sharing app has been getting over 5 lakh downloads per day on an average, according to Deepak Abbot from mobile marketing and data analytics company Growth Bug. The app's naming, coupled with its short video format, is said to be the prime reason for the quick growth. 'Mitron', which translates to friends in Hindi, is a

common term used by PM Modi in several of his speeches and addresses to Indians across the world.

4. Indian Railways' Tirupati railway station set to be world-class! GMR, Oberoi attend online pre-bid meeting

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

Indian Railways' Tirupati railway station set to be world-class! Work on the re-development of Tirupati Railway Station in Andhra Pradesh is about to start! The Rail Land Development Authority (RLDA) recently successfully conducted an online pre-bid meeting for the Tirupati Railway Station, which was attended by several prospective developers including GMR, Oberoi and Ambience. The station is estimated to be re-developed at a cost of Rs 510 crore and it would be built through the public-private partnership (PPP) mode on the Design, Build, Finance, Operate, Transfer (Model).

5. India to continue use of HCQ among frontline workers, says ICMR, even as WHO suspends trial

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

While the World Health Organization (WHO) has suspended testing of malaria drug hydroxychloroquine in COVID-19 patients due to safety concerns, ICMR said that India will continue to use it as a preventive measure among frontline healthcare workers. Director General of Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), Dr Balram Bhargava, said that hydroxychloroquine (HCQ) was recommended based on in-vitro studies which showed it had antiviral properties, News18 reported. Bhargava also said that observational studies and case-control studies have not shown many side effects of HCQ. ICMR had first recommended the use of the anti-malarial drug in March and expanded its use last week.

6. Centre to target repatriation of 1 lakh Indians under Vande Bharat Mission phase-2

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

The government plans to bring back 1,00,000 Indian nationals stranded in as many as 60 countries in the on-going second phase of the Vande Bharat Mission (VBM), said Minister of External Affairs S Jaishankar. Air India will shortly shift to direct ticketing to facilitate bookings abroad, the Minister said in his tweet after a review meeting of the VBM on Tuesday. The meeting was attended by representatives from the ministries of External Affairs, Civil Aviation, Home Affairs and the Bureau of Immigration. "Focus of the meeting was to ramp up the scale of VBM and enhance its efficiency," the tweet said. An expansion in feeder flights and an increase in entry points were being planned by the Centre as it made preparations for the third phase, he added.

7. Ola begins airport operations in 22 cities as air travel resumes

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

Mumbai, May 26 Ola has resumed its airport operations across 22 Indian cities as domestic air travel slowly resumes across the country. Domestic air travel in India began from Monday with certain precautions amid relaxed restrictions within lockdown 4.0. The cab-hailing company has thus begun operating cabs to and from airports “with enhanced safety protocols.” “Ola will place specially trained staff to perform car fumigation, temperature checks for driver-partners, and a car audit before every pick-up so customers can have peace of mind before they step into the car. Across all other cities, Ola will be regularly sanitising cars and monitoring the driver’s health status as part of its ‘10 steps to a safer ride’ initiative,” the company said.

8. India's textile industry is crafting a future in global fashion mask market

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

The Covid-19 pandemic has cut the Indian textile and fashion industry into bits and pieces. While the export orders from the key markets- the US and UK started to dwindle since the beginning of the year, domestic sales were also badly hit by demand sluggishness and closure of retail showrooms across the country due to the lockdown. But disruption is not something new to the fashion industry which needs to keep itself abreast with ever changing consumers tastes and preferences. With face masks becoming an inseparable accessory, the textile industry is crafting a special place for itself in the global fashion mask industry.

9. New laws on agriculture trade and contract farming in the works

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

The Centre is creating a new law that will help farmers in physical and electronic trade across the country, involving a major role for Farmer Producer Organizations (FPO) but without dislodging existing mandis that dominate the wholesale business in farm output. The government is simultaneously working on a new law on contract farming, a piece of legislation that seeks to supplement and complement this proposed agri-trade law. Rules are being drafted for the agri-trade law. It will not abolish state mandis, rather would promote inclusive development of agricultural trade,” a senior agriculture ministry official told ET. “There will be a major role of FPOs, registered farmer unions and cooperatives in bringing alternative trading channels for farmers outside the mandi premises. The bill would be first placed before the cabinet for approval soon,”