

## DAILY NEWS MONITOR: 30 APRIL 2021

### **1. Over 40 countries to assist India in its battle against second covid wave**

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

India will get assistance from over 40 countries, primarily oxygen-related equipment and drugs, to help in its fight against the “unprecedented second wave” of covid-19 infections, Indian foreign secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla said on 29 April. “We are facing an unprecedented second wave of the pandemic. As of now, we have over three million active cases. This has obviously put considerable pressure on our healthcare system, on capacities and resources that we have,” he added. Shringla said that two flights from Russia have landed with 20 oxygen production plants, ventilators and Favipiravir, while special flights were also expected from the US—two on Friday and one on Monday—with raw materials for the production of covid vaccines, oxygen-generating equipment and oxygen concentrators.

### **2. LIC has now become tenth-most-valuable insurance brand globally**

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

State-owned insurance behemoth — Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) — has emerged as the third strongest and the tenth most valuable insurance brand globally, according to a report by Brand Finance Insurance 100 2021, a London-based brand valuation consultancy firm Brand Finance. According to the report, the total value of the world’s top 100 most valuable insurance brands declined by 6 per cent from \$462.4 billion in 2020 to \$433.0 billion in 2021. However, LIC’s brand value increased by almost 7 per cent to \$8.65 billion. There are five Chinese insurance companies in the top 10 most valuable insurance brands globally, with Ping An Insurance emerging the world’s most valuable insurance brand, despite recording a 26 per cent drop in brand value. The US has two companies in the top 10, while France, Germany, and India have one insurance company each in the list. As far as the strongest insurance brands are concerned, Italy’s Poste Italiane leads the pack, followed by Mapfre of the US and LIC of India.

### **3. WHO to set up mobile hospitals to help India tackle covid-19 crisis**

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

In a bid to help India in tackling the swelling burden of covid-19 patients amidst shortage of hospital beds, testing equipment, oxygen and medicines, the World Health Organization (WHO) said that it is procuring mobile field hospitals with capacity of 20-30 beds, which could be set up in the most affected areas. The bed capacity at these field hospitals can be

increased to a maximum of 50, if needed, without impacting infection prevention and control protocols, and water and sanitation, the WHO said.

#### **4. MHA directs states to implement strict containment measures to limit coronavirus spread**

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

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) on 29 April issued an order asking states to implement stringent containment measures under the relevant provisions of the Disaster Management (DM) Act, 2005 to limit the coronavirus spread. Union Home secretary Ajay Bhalla in a letter to all states asked to consider the containment measures as per the advisory of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, for immediate implementation based on the assessment of the situation. The union health ministry had earlier this week asked the States and UTs to identify districts where either the tests positivity had been more than 10% or more in the last one week; or, where bed occupancy was more than 60%; districts fulfilling any of the above two criteria should be considered for taking intensive and local containment measures.

#### **5. Govt allows import of medical devices like oxygen canister for 3 months with riders**

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

The government on 29 April allowed import of 17 medical devices for three months with mandatory declarations immediately after custom clearance and before sale of such products in the domestic market. To meet rising demand in the ongoing pandemic, the government has allowed import of medical devices like nebulizer, oxygen concentrators, oxygen cannister, oxygen cylinders, oxygen generators and ventilators. Due to the prevalent pandemic situation of COVID-19, the ministry in its April 28 order said, there is a steep demand for medical devices in these critical conditions on an urgent basis in view of the emergent health concerns and immediate supply of the medical industry. Therefore, considering the pandemic situation of COVID-19 and to meet the demand of medical devices, the central government under the Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 2011 “hereby permits the importers of medical devices to import the... medical devices for three months from the date of this advisory...”

#### **6. Tatas deal to buy up to 64.3% stake in BigBasket gets CCI approval**

**Source: The Indian Express ([Link](#))**

Competition Commission of India has approved Tatas’ proposal to acquire up to 64.3 per cent stake in BigBasket, a deal that will provide the diversified group a strong foothold in the fast-growing online grocery market. Under the deal, Tata Digital Ltd (TDL) will purchase up to 64.3 per cent of the total share capital of Supermarket Grocery Supplies Pvt Ltd (SGS) as

well as SGS sole control over Innovative Retail Concepts Pvt Ltd. SGS is into B2B (business-to-business) sales through the portal [business.bigbasket.com](https://business.bigbasket.com).

### **7. Byju's to become India's most-valuable startup after \$150 million UBS funding**

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

Byju's, India's online education pioneer, is raising about \$150 million from UBS Group AG at a valuation of about \$16.5 billion, multiple people familiar with the deal said. The funding will make it India's most-valuable startup. An entity that is part of UBS Asset Management is making the investment. It is in discussions to invest additional money, which would take its total investment in Byju's to about \$300 million, the people said, who asked not be identified as the negotiations are private. The startup could rope in another backer to take the fresh funding to \$400 million, one of the people said.

### **8. Ford to decide on India investment plan in second half of this year**

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

Ford Motor Co expects to firm up capital allocation plans for India in the second half of 2021, a senior executive said in an email to staff, as the automaker overhauls its strategy in a loss-making market. Dearborn, Michigan-based Ford has tasked senior executive Steven Armstrong with evaluating investment plans for India in his new role as transformation officer, South America and India, the automaker said in a separate statement this week. "We have a lot of work to do as we continue to assess our capital allocations in the market," Dianne Craig, president of Ford's International Markets Group (IMG), said in an email to staff on Wednesday, referring to India. "While we expect to have an answer in the second half of this year, the appointment of Steven...will help focus our efforts and speed up the process," she said. IMG includes India, where the company employs more than 16,000, and 100 other markets.

### **9. IBM to acquire US-based enterprise software firm Turbonomic for up to \$2 bn**

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

Tech giant IBM has announced to acquire US-based enterprise software company Turbonomic, a deal that according to media reports could be worth up to \$2 billion. With the acquisition of Turbonomic, IBM will help companies overcome the high costs associated with managing performance and availability for multiple applications sharing an increasingly complex hybrid cloud environment. "IBM continues to reshape its future as a hybrid cloud and AI company," said Rob Thomas, Senior Vice President, IBM Cloud and Data Platform. "The Turbonomic acquisition is yet another example of our commitment to making the most

impactful investments to advance this strategy and ensure customers find the most innovative ways to fuel their digital transformations," he said in a statement on 29 April. Turbonomic provides businesses with its ARM software that simultaneously optimizes the performance, compliance, and cost of applications in real-time.