



April 09, 2021 – Friday

## Key Developments

### Govt notifies Copyright (Amendment) Rules, 2021

The government has notified Copyright (Amendment) Rules, 2021 and included a new provision that eliminates the requirement of publication in the Official Gazette. To encourage accountability and transparency, new provisions have been introduced to deal with the undistributed royalty amounts and use of electronic and traceable payment methods while collection and distribution of royalties. The compliance requirements for registration of software works have been reduced and the applicant can file the first 10 and last 10 pages of source code, or the entire source code if less than 20 pages, with no blocked out or redacted portions. "The amendments have been introduced with the objective of bringing the existing rules in parity with other relevant legislations," the commerce and industry ministry said in a statement.

[https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/govt-notifies-copyright-amendment-rules-2021/articleshow/81969237.cms?utm\\_source=ETTopNews&utm\\_medium=HPTN&utm\\_campaign=AL1&utm\\_content=23](https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/govt-notifies-copyright-amendment-rules-2021/articleshow/81969237.cms?utm_source=ETTopNews&utm_medium=HPTN&utm_campaign=AL1&utm_content=23)

### PM asks CMs to focus on micro-containment zones, observe 3-day 'Tika Utsav'

India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said people became more casual during the second wave of coronavirus that has spread across the country and urged chief ministers to strengthen their efforts for the next 2-3 weeks to check the spread of the virus on a "war-footing". In his virtual interaction with chief ministers to discuss the Covid-19 situation and the ongoing vaccination drive, Modi asserted that the country had much more resources to deal with the virus than before and the focus should be on micro-containment zones. "There is a need to improve the governance system. I understand that because of the one-year battle, the system can experience tiredness and there can be laxity, but we must tighten it for 2-3 weeks and strengthen the governance," he said. This time we should focus on micro containment zones, PM said after his meeting with all CMs to take stock of Covid situation in the country. "It's clear that we have a challenging situation. Need to have strict governance for 2 to 3 weeks. India has crossed peak of first wave of Covid-19 pandemic and situation is very grim in some states," said Modi.

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/covid-focus-should-be-on-micro-containment-zones-pm-modi-tells-cms-121040801445\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/covid-focus-should-be-on-micro-containment-zones-pm-modi-tells-cms-121040801445_1.html)

## Economy

### Hiring activities rise marginally in March, says Naukri JobSpeak Index

Hiring activities rose marginally with job listings rising to 2,436 in March compared to February this year, according to a report. The increase of three per cent in job listings on a month-on-month basis was mainly led by IT-software and retail sectors. In February, the job listings stood at 2,356. As per the latest Naukri JobSpeak Index, given the wave of digital transformation, the IT-software sector remains shielded and hiring continued to grow by 11 per cent in March. The retail sector, which was severely impacted by the pandemic, is also seeing robust revival, with sequential hiring activities seeing an uptick of 15 per cent last month, as per the report. The Naukri JobSpeak is a monthly Index that calculates and records hiring activity based on the job listings on Naukri.com website.

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/hiring-activities-rise-marginally-in-march-says-naukri-jobspeak-index-121040800901\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/hiring-activities-rise-marginally-in-march-says-naukri-jobspeak-index-121040800901_1.html)

#### **Indian consumers turn more glum about future, less likely to spend: Survey**

Indian consumers turned more pessimistic about the present and less gung-ho about the future, making them less likely to spend big in an economy that's driven by domestic consumption. The current situation index fell to 53.1 in March from 55.5 in January, according to the Reserve Bank of India's consumer confidence survey, where 100 is the dividing line between pessimism and optimism. Survey respondents were also less optimistic about the year ahead, with the future expectations index dipping to 108.8 from 117.1 in the period under review, the RBI said. The reasons for the pessimism were deteriorating sentiments on general economic situation, income and prices, the RBI said. The current situation index had hit a record low of 49.9 in September.

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/indian-consumers-turn-more-glum-about-future-less-likely-to-spend-survey-121040800420\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/indian-consumers-turn-more-glum-about-future-less-likely-to-spend-survey-121040800420_1.html)

#### **Higher income households to drive revival in consumer spending, says CMIE**

Higher income households, with higher savings and better sentiments, will drive the revival in consumer spending in India, the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy said. "India's revival in consumer spending is likely to be driven by households that earn more than a million rupees a year when the lockdown is lifted," CMIE said in its weekly analysis. The consumer sentiments data from CMIE's Consumer Pyramids Household Survey indicates that while all income groups are worse off than they were earlier, richer households are doing better than the rest on the sentiments front.

[https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/indicators/higher-income-households-to-drive-revival-in-consumer-spending-says-cmie/articleshow/81969963.cms?utm\\_source=ETTopNews&utm\\_medium=HPTN&utm\\_campaign=AL1&utm\\_content=23](https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/indicators/higher-income-households-to-drive-revival-in-consumer-spending-says-cmie/articleshow/81969963.cms?utm_source=ETTopNews&utm_medium=HPTN&utm_campaign=AL1&utm_content=23)

#### **I-T dept starts issuing reassessment notices for time-barred FYs**

Income tax department has started issuing notices of reassessment of tax liability for FYs 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2015-16, said people aware of the development. In several cases the notices have been issued basis objections raised in audit reports while in others the grounds are related to escapement of income that is liable to be taxed. Sources added that a significant number of notices have been issued as the tax department has only a month before these become time-barred. The finance ministry has changed the law for reassessment proceedings from this year onwards in the Union Budget 2021. In general, an assessing officer cannot issue a notice if three years have elapsed from the end of the relevant assessment year. The time-limit was earlier six years.

[https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/i-t-dept-starts-issuing-reassessment-notices-for-time-barred-fys/articleshow/81965947.cms?utm\\_source=ETTopNews&utm\\_medium=HPTN&utm\\_campaign=AL1&utm\\_content=23](https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/i-t-dept-starts-issuing-reassessment-notices-for-time-barred-fys/articleshow/81965947.cms?utm_source=ETTopNews&utm_medium=HPTN&utm_campaign=AL1&utm_content=23)

### **Banking and Finance**

#### **First purchase of G-secs worth Rs 25,000 cr under G-SAP 1.0 on Apr 15: RBI**

The Reserve Bank on Thursday said the first purchase of government securities worth Rs 25,000 crore under the G-sec Acquisition Programme (G-SAP 1.0) will be done on April 15 with a view to enabling a stable and orderly evolution of the yield curve. After the Monetary Policy Committee meeting on Wednesday, Governor Shaktikanta Das announced that the RBI will conduct open market purchase of government securities (G-secs) of Rs 1 lakh crore under the G-SAP 1.0 in the first quarter of this financial year. "The first purchase of government securities for an aggregate amount of Rs 25,000 crore under G-SAP 1.0 will be conducted on April 15, 2021," the central bank said in a statement. On April 15, the RBI will purchase five government securities of different maturities amounting to Rs 25,000 crore. There will be no security-wise notified amount.

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/finance/first-purchase-of-g-secs-worth-rs-25-000-cr-under-g-sap-1-0-on-apr-15-rbi-121040801256\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/finance/first-purchase-of-g-secs-worth-rs-25-000-cr-under-g-sap-1-0-on-apr-15-rbi-121040801256_1.html)

### **Negative real interest rate for savers behind RBI's govt bond buying plan**

The announcement of government securities acquisition programme (G-SAP) by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) during Wednesday's monetary policy announcement is akin to the quantitative easing (QE) by the central banks of developed countries. Quantitative easing is large scale buying of financial assets like corporate and government bonds or even stocks. Such a move increases the money supply and brings down long term interest rates. Lower cost of borrowing then stimulates economic growth.

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/negative-real-interest-rate-for-savers-behind-rbi-s-govt-bond-buying-plan-121040800471\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/negative-real-interest-rate-for-savers-behind-rbi-s-govt-bond-buying-plan-121040800471_1.html)

### **Covid-19 resurgence may derail recovery in Indian NBFC sector: Agencies**

Rating agencies Icria, Fitch and its domestic affiliate India Ratings (Ind-Ra), said today that the recent spike in Covid-19 cases and associated lockdowns, though localised, could adversely impact non-banking companies (NBFCs). It could also act as a dampener for the securitisation market, affecting fund-raising for NBFCs in the near term and may delay recovery in the sector. India's non-bank financial institutions (NBFI) face renewed asset quality and liquidity risks amid a second wave of coronavirus infections. This may postpone the recovery in the sector, according to Fitch Ratings. The challenges are likely to increase if recent restrictions to contain the pandemic are expanded or prolonged, leading to greater economic and operational disruption. Expanded curbs could derail the fragile recovery in India's NBFC sector.

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/finance/covid-19-resurgence-may-derail-recovery-in-indian-nbfc-sector-agencies-121040801035\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/finance/covid-19-resurgence-may-derail-recovery-in-indian-nbfc-sector-agencies-121040801035_1.html)

### **As Covid cases surge, microfinance industry wary of the impact on its collection efficiency**

The microfinance industry, which has been inching towards pre-Covid levels – both in terms of disbursements as well as quality of portfolio – now seems a little wary of the impact of the sudden surge in Covid-19 cases on its collection efficiency.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/money-and-banking/as-covid-cases-surges-microfinance-industry-wary-of-the-impact-on-its-collection-efficiency/article34272812.ece>

## **Industry**

### **Vehicle registration fall 28.64% YoY in March despite low base: FADA**

Cumulative vehicle registrations across all categories fell year-on-year by 28.64 per cent in March, Federation of Automobile Dealers Association (FADA) said on Thursday. The fall comes despite last year's low base. Auto sales had come to a standstill owing to a seven-day lockdown last March. The registration volumes are in stark contrast to the wholesale (dispatches to dealers) volumes reported by manufacturers on April 1. Owing to the low base of last year which came on back of a lockdown and a transition from BS-IV to BS-VI, quite a few auto firms including Maruti, Hyundai, Tata Motors, Mahindra and Mahindra, reported a more than 100 per cent year-on-year jump in their March sales. The dealer body warned that the lockdown in Maharashtra will have a "catastrophic impact" on April sales, as dealers will not be able to realise the potential of festivities like Ugadi, Gudi Padwa, Baisakhi and Poila Boishakh.

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/vehicle-registration-fall-28-64-y-o-y-in-march-despite-low-base-fada-121040800495\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/vehicle-registration-fall-28-64-y-o-y-in-march-despite-low-base-fada-121040800495_1.html)

### **PLI scheme for textile almost ready: Irani**

The Textile Ministry is working towards reducing the industry's dependence on imported machine tools and is reaching out to engineering organisations to step in to meet the gap in domestic machinery production and demand, Textiles Minister Smriti Irani has said.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/policy/pli-scheme-for-textile-almost-ready-irani/article34271939.ece>

### **PLI scheme for ACs to boost production, value addition: ICEA**

The production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme for air conditioners can help increase domestic value addition from current 25% to 75% and generate 24 million units annually in the next seven years, industry executives say. "Since

last twenty years, AC industry has travelled a journey from few thousands units to 7.0 millions air conditioners being sold as of last year, unfortunately component Ecosystem did not get developed,” said Jasbir Singh Chairman Amber Enterprises & Co-Chairman of ICEA’s Consumer Electronics and Appliances Committee. “Today we continue to import critical components like Compressors, Aluminium, Copper Tubes, Motors, PCB, and Valves in majority. Out of 7.0 mill AC, approximately 5.0 mill AC were getting produced in India with only 25% local value addition. PLI is expected to have compounding impact of 25% value add on 5 mill ACs to go to 75% value add on 24 mill ACs in next 7 years time,” he added.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/cons-products/durables/pli-scheme-for-acs-to-boost-production-value-addition-icea/articleshow/81971712.cms>

#### **India Inc must build digital ethics into its business model: Deloitte, BCIC**

Indian companies must consider a “digital ethics framework” in order to ensure a holistic view of ethics, and govern the digitalisation journey of their business, a paper by Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu India LLP (DTTILLP) and Bangalore Chamber of Commerce (BCIC) said. An accelerated pace of digital transition, consumption of goods and services via app-based interface, and proliferation of data bring numerous risks such as biased decision-making processes being transferred to machines or algorithms. These biases can be a threat to the reputation and trust towards stakeholders, as well as cause operational risks. Explaining ethical grey areas with an example, the paper “Digital Ethics: Ethical ‘now’ for a resilient ‘next’,” points to cab aggregator services.

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/india-inc-must-build-digital-ethics-into-its-business-model-deloitte-bcic-121040801141\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/india-inc-must-build-digital-ethics-into-its-business-model-deloitte-bcic-121040801141_1.html)

#### **Second lockdown if imposed to be detrimental for economy: Nippon Paint India**

Amid rising COVID-19 cases, Nippon Paint India on Thursday said a second lockdown, if imposed, will be detrimental not only for the industry but for the economy as well. Stating that the manufacturing sector is still reeling under the effects of the last lockdown, the company said labourers are skeptical and anticipating a second lockdown they have started planning their return journeys as the memories of the last lockdown are still fresh in their minds.

“With India in the middle of a second wave of coronavirus, second lockdown, if imposed, will be detrimental not only for the industry but for the economy as well,” Nippon Paint India President (Automotive Refinishes and Wood Coatings) Sharad Malhotra said in a statement.

<https://www.financialexpress.com/economy/second-lockdown-if-imposed-to-be-detrimental-for-economy-nippon-paint-india/2229409/>

#### **Amazon India’s MSME sellers so far: 2.5M cumulatively digitised, \$3B worth exports, 1M jobs created**

Even as e-commerce marketplaces continue to be on the regulatory radar for alleged unfair treatment with their sellers and business malpractices, Amazon has shared the progress it has made in India so far since its inception in June 2013. The company on Thursday said that it has cumulatively digitised 2.5 million MSMEs in India so far. Moreover, the cumulative e-commerce exports by over 70,000 MSMEs via Amazon Global Selling stood at over \$3 billion that helped churn out close to 1 million direct and indirect jobs in India till date. “As the world around us is more digital than ever with the internet and technology becoming an integral part of our lives, we see a massive opportunity to empower millions of SMBs across the country,” said Amit Agarwal, Global Senior Vice President and Country Head of Amazon India. The digitized 2.5 million MSMEs are sellers including artisans and weavers, and delivery, logistics service partners, etc.

<https://www.financialexpress.com/industry/sme/msme-eodb-amazon-indias-msme-sellers-so-far-2-5m-cumulatively-digitised-3b-worth-exports-1m-jobs-created/2229542/>

#### **Bar private labels, treat e-marketplaces and inventory same: FISME to government**

The Federation of Indian Micro and Small & Medium Enterprises (FISME) has suggested the government to bar all physical retail stores and e-commerce platforms from selling private labels and that 30% of their goods sold by value be procured from MSMEs from the first year of procurement, to be increased gradually. In its representation to the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) on foreign direct investment (FDI) in e-commerce, the federation proposed that any policy distinction should look at two segments only: small stand-alone stores (kirana shops) and multibrand chain of stores (whether market based or inventory based or physical or virtual or Indian or foreign).

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/services/retail/bar-private-labels-treat-e-marketplaces-and-inventory-same-fisme-to-government/articleshow/81972154.cms>

#### **Next victim of chip shortage will be your home internet router**

Broadband providers are seeing delays of more than a year when ordering internet routers, becoming yet another victim of chip shortages choking global supply chains and adding challenges for millions still working from home.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/info-tech/other-gadgets/next-victim-of-chip-shortage-will-be-your-home-internet-router/article34269237.ece?homepage=true>

### **Agriculture**

#### **Wheat procurement in Delhi in full swing; 15.8 tonnes procured so far: FCI**

Terming 'baseless' the Delhi government's claim that wheat procurement centres are not operational in the national capital, the Centre's Food Corporation of India (FCI) on Thursday said buying centres are fully functional and so far purchased 15.8 tonnes of wheat at MSP directly from farmers. Normally, wheat procurement is undertaken from three centres in Delhi: Mayapuri, Narela and APMC Najafgarh Mandi. Last year, 27.6 tonnes of wheat was procured from farmers here. Wheat is a major rabi (winter-sown) crop. Harvesting starts from end of March but picks up pace from April. Wheat is procured at minimum support price (MSP). "It is a baseless allegation by the Delhi government that procurement centres are not operational. The state government had requested for opening of wheat procurement centres. We accepted their request and made operational all three centres from April 1," FCI Delhi Region General Manager Sudhir Kumar told PTI.

<https://www.financialexpress.com/economy/wheat-procurement-in-delhi-in-full-swing-15-8-tonnes-procured-so-far-fci/2229429/>

#### **Farm input cost set to rise with increase in fertiliser prices**

The farm input cost is set to rise sharply with a steep increase in fertiliser prices on account of spike in international prices of the raw material. The country's largest fertiliser seller – Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative (IFFCO) – has raised the prices of non urea fertilisers by upto 58%. A 50 kg bag of most popular nutrient DAP will now cost Rs 1900 as against Rs 1200 a bag. Similarly, the price of NPK will range from Rs 1500-1800 a bag - a rise of almost 50% from earlier price tag. Other companies have also announced rise in fertiliser prices. IFFCO, however, clarified that the company will not sell fertiliser immediately at the increased prices.

[https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/agriculture/farm-input-cost-set-to-rise-with-increase-in-fertiliser-prices/articleshow/81971698.cms?utm\\_source=ETTopNews&utm\\_medium=HPTN&utm\\_campaign=AL1&utm\\_content=23](https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/agriculture/farm-input-cost-set-to-rise-with-increase-in-fertiliser-prices/articleshow/81971698.cms?utm_source=ETTopNews&utm_medium=HPTN&utm_campaign=AL1&utm_content=23)

#### **Poultry prices up by more than 50% in a year as animal feed drives up costs**

A sharp increase in soya meal cost has driven up poultry prices by more than 50% over the past one year. While the price of the key ingredient in poultry feed has increased 82% in a year, the jump has been sharper in the past one month, when it has risen 28%. Poultry has become costlier by 32% in a month. Soya meal, which is obtained after crushing the soyabean, is used in animal feed. High-protein soya meal is now selling at Rs 67 per kg, compared with around Rs 52 at the beginning of March.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/agriculture/poultry-prices-up-by-more-than-50-in-a-year-as-animal-feed-drives-up-costs/articleshow/81971801.cms>

#### **MoU signed to introduce 'ayurveda' disciplines in veterinary science: Govt**

The concept of ayurveda and its allied disciplines will soon be introduced in veterinary sciences with the ministries concerned signing an initial pact to this effect. The MoU between Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying (DAHD), Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying and Ministry of AYUSH was signed on April 7, an official statement said. This cooperation will definitely help in developing a regulatory mechanism for the use of ayurveda in the veterinary sector for the benefit of animal health, livestock owners' community and the society at large, it said. The initiative involves capacity building in related areas through training, exploring marketing possibilities for

herbal veterinary medicines on a sustainable basis and providing for services including cultivation, preservation and conservation of medicinal plants. < ..

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/healthcare/biotech/healthcare/mou-signed-to-introduce-ayurveda-disciplines-in-veterinary-science-govt/articleshow/81970607.cms>

## Infrastructure

### Centre approves Rs 1,210 cr highway projects in Uttarakhand

The Centre has approved 28 highway projects worth Rs 1,210.17 crore in Uttarakhand, union Minister Nitin Gadkari said on Thursday. These projects are for building 231.04 kms of highways. "Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has sanctioned 28 Projects of 231.04 Km worth 1210.17 Cr for the state of Uttarakhand," the road transport and highways minister said. These include strengthening work of National Highway-309B on EPC (engineering, construction and procurement) mode in Uttarakhand under State Public Works Department (PWD) with a budget of Rs 48.19 crore.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/infrastructure/centre-approves-rs-1210-cr-highway-projects-in-uttarakhand/articleshow/81973066.cms>

### Net absorption of office space plunges 33% in Q1 of Calendar 2021: JLL

With many companies opting for prolonged work from home and the pandemic spreading faster, net absorption in the office space market dropped 33 per cent in January-March over the previous quarter. A recent report from JLL Research shows, while the level of net absorption continues to remain much lower than a year ago, the vacancy level in the Grade-A office space market has been growing steadily for the past few quarters. Economists at JLL indicate that the growing fear of the pandemic of late has hampered the recovery that was visible on the horizon at the end of 2020.

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/net-absorption-of-office-space-plunges-33-in-q1-of-calendar-2021-jll-121040801150\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/net-absorption-of-office-space-plunges-33-in-q1-of-calendar-2021-jll-121040801150_1.html)

### Housing sale in 8 major markets reaches pre-Covid level

Home sales in India's eight prime residential markets has increased by 12% in the January-March quarter compared to Oct-Dec quarter of 2020, according to a report by online property brokerage firm PropTiger.com. According to Real Insight – Q1CY21, builders sold a total of 66,176 homes in the primary market in the January-March quarter of 2021, a time marked with several state governments, including Maharashtra and Delhi, announcing stamp duty and circle rate reductions to boost buyer sentiment and by effect housing sales.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/services/property/-/cstruction/housing-sale-in-8-major-markets-reaches-pre-covid-level/articleshow/81965067.cms>

## Telecom

### Airtel refused to pay Videocon AGR dues: DoT

The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has told India's apex court that telecom major Bharti Airtel has refused to pay the adjusted gross revenue (AGR)-related dues of defunct telco Videocon Telecommunications (VTL), whose spectrum was acquired by the Sunil Mittal-led carrier in 2016. In an affidavit filed in the Supreme Court on Wednesday, DoT said that in line with its order of September 1, 2020 on AGR dues, it had raised a demand to recover Rs 1,376 crore worth of Videocon's dues from Airtel, which the latter has declined to pay.

[https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/telecom/telecom-news/airtel-refused-to-pay-videocon-agr-dues-dot/articleshow/81971362.cms?utm\\_source=ETTopNews&utm\\_medium=HPTN&utm\\_campaign=AL1&utm\\_content=23](https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/telecom/telecom-news/airtel-refused-to-pay-videocon-agr-dues-dot/articleshow/81971362.cms?utm_source=ETTopNews&utm_medium=HPTN&utm_campaign=AL1&utm_content=23)

## Energy

### Coal India records all-time high capex of Rs 13,115 crore in FY'21

Coal India on Thursday said its capital expenditure (capex) grew more than two-folds to hit an all-time high of Rs 13,115 crore in the just concluded fiscal. CIL's original sanctioned capex budget was Rs 10,000 crore for FY'21. "Coal

India Ltd (CIL) more than doubled its capital expenditure to an unprecedented high of Rs 13,115 crore in FY'21.... Against the capex of Rs 6,270 crore in FY'20, the company clocked 109 per cent growth amid the Covid slump," the company said in a statement. This comes at a time when the Centre had advised CPSEs of the country to scale up their expenditure to boost the economy. The entire capital expenditure was funded through internal resources. Capex growth during all the four quarters of FY'21 was significantly higher compared to previous year....," CIL said in a statement.

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/coal-india-records-all-time-high-capex-of-rs-13-115-crore-in-fy-21-121040800812\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/coal-india-records-all-time-high-capex-of-rs-13-115-crore-in-fy-21-121040800812_1.html)

### **India's renewable energy growth stalled by delay in signing PSAs**

Delays in signing power sale agreements (PSAs) are a bottleneck in the growth of India's renewable energy capacity, jeopardising the Government's target of 175 gigawatts (GW) by 2022, dampening investor confidence and threatening the viability of projects.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/indias-renewable-energy-growth-stalled-by-delay-in-signing-psas/article34269439.ece?homepage=true>

## **States**

### **Hotels and restaurants across Maharashtra hold silent protests over closure of operations**

Hospitality associations across Maharashtra including the Federation of Hotel and Restaurant Associations of India (FHRAI), Hotel and Restaurant Association of Western India (HRAWI), National Restaurant Association of India (NRAI) and Indian Hotel and Restaurant Association (AHAR) and other local associations organized statewide silent protests on Thursday against the Maharashtra government's recent 'Break the chain' order. Organized under the United Hospitality Forum of Maharashtra (UHF), the associations initiated campaign #MissionRoziRoti to highlight the hospitality industry's 'bid for survival'. HRAWI said lakhs of restaurants participated in the silent protest with their employees standing outside the establishments holding placards.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/services/hotels-/restaurants/hotels-and-restaurants-across-maharashtra-hold-silent-protests-over-closure-of-operations/articleshow/81970108.cms>

### **Maharashtra's vaccine stocks may last only for a couple of days**

The Covid-19 vaccine stocks in Maharashtra have reached a critical low, and will not last more than a couple of days. The Centre needs to immediately release at least 40 lakh vaccines so that it can take care of vaccination for at least one week, said State Health Minister, Rajesh Tope on Thursday.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/maharashtras-vaccine-stocks-may-last-only-for-a-couple-of-days/article34270994.ece>

### **Delhi's daily covid-19 tally breaches 7000-mark for first time this year**

Delhi recorded 7,437 fresh COVID-19 cases Thursday, the highest single-day surge this year, while 24 more people died due to the coronavirus infection, taking the death toll to 11,157, according to the city's Health Department. The positivity rate also mounted to 8.1 per cent from 6.1 per cent the previous day, as the massive spike in cases witnessed over the past few weeks continues. This is also the first time that over 7,000 cases have been reported in a day this year. The daily case count for the past two days was also above 5,000. The highest single-day spike in Delhi till date -- 8,593 cases -- was reported on November 11, while on November 19, the city recorded 131 COVID-19 deaths, the highest single-day fatality since the pandemic began.

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/delhi-s-daily-covid-19-tally-breaches-7000-mark-for-first-time-this-year-121040801355\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/delhi-s-daily-covid-19-tally-breaches-7000-mark-for-first-time-this-year-121040801355_1.html)

### **60-hour weekend lockdown in all Madhya Pradesh cities**

A lockdown will be enforced in all cities of Madhya Pradesh from 6 pm on Friday to 6 am on Monday to check the spread of the coronavirus infection, Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said on Thursday. Talking to reporters here after chairing a meeting to review the COVID-19 situation in MP, Chouhan said his government aims to increase the number of beds for COVID-19 patients in the state to one lakh. "A lockdown will be enforced in all cities of the state from 6 pm on Friday to 6 am on Monday," Chouhan said.

[https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/india/60-hour-weekend-lockdown-in-all-madhya-pradesh-cities/articleshow/81966435.cms?utm\\_source=ETTopNews&utm\\_medium=HPTN&utm\\_campaign=AL1&utm\\_content=23](https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/india/60-hour-weekend-lockdown-in-all-madhya-pradesh-cities/articleshow/81966435.cms?utm_source=ETTopNews&utm_medium=HPTN&utm_campaign=AL1&utm_content=23)

#### **Night curfew in Bengaluru and Karnataka's six other cities from April 10**

Karnataka on Thursday, announced night curfew in state capital Bengaluru as well as six other cities, in view of rising number of Covid cases over the last few weeks. The night curfew will be imposed from 10 pm to 5 am starting from April 10 and will be in force until April 20. Chief minister BS Yediyurappa made the announcement soon after the virtual meeting with prime minister Narendra Modi to discuss the Covid situation. Restrictions will be in place in Bengaluru, Mangaluru, Udipi-Manipal, Mysuru, Kalaburgi, Bidar and Tumakuru cities that are reporting a surge in cases. "There is absolutely no restriction on movement of essential services, bus and other forms of transportation," Yediyurappa said.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/india/night-curfew-in-bengaluru-and-karnatakas-six-other-cities-from-april-10/articleshow/81974171.cms>

#### **Curbs again from April 10, says Tamil Nadu govt as Covid-19 cases rise**

As fresh COVID-19 cases continued to increase, the Tamil Nadu government on Thursday announced reintroduction of curbs like permission only for 50 per cent seating capacity in cinemas and ban on select activities effective April 10, to help prevent the spread of the virus. All those above 45 years of age should get vaccinated within two weeks in either government or recognised private facilities to help prevent the virus spread, the government advised. Retail outlets in big vegetable markets like the sprawling Koyambedu complex here and similar large facilities in districts shall not be allowed to operate, an official release said. Intake of passengers in buses in Chennai and for intra and inter-state travel shall be confined to seating capacity of vehicles and no passenger shall be allowed to travel by standing. In taxis and autorickshaws, only three and two passengers would be allowed respectively.

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/curbs-again-from-april-10-says-tamil-nadu-govt-as-covid-19-cases-rise-121040801012\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/curbs-again-from-april-10-says-tamil-nadu-govt-as-covid-19-cases-rise-121040801012_1.html)

### **Healthcare**

#### **FinMin requests home, health ministries to vaccinate bank staff on priority**

Following repeated appeals from bankers for vaccination since the shots were rolled out in January, the finance ministry has now requested the home ministry and the health ministry for vaccination of all the 1.35 million staff in the banking sector irrespective of age, and also employees of National Payments Corporation of India. The finance ministry has requested the ministry of home affairs and the ministry of health and family welfare to consider issuing instructions enabling Covid vaccine on a priority basis for bank and NPCI employees who are on the frontline.

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/finmin-asks-home-health-ministries-to-vaccinate-all-bank-staff-on-priority-121040800778\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/finmin-asks-home-health-ministries-to-vaccinate-all-bank-staff-on-priority-121040800778_1.html)

#### **Covid-19: India leads globally with average of more than 34 lakh doses given per day**

With an average of 34,30,502 anti-coronavirus doses being given per day, India has topped globally in terms of the number of jabs administered daily, the Union Health Ministry said on Thursday. Cumulatively, 9,01,98,673 vaccine doses have been given so far through 13,77,304 sessions, according to a provisional report till 7 am. These include 89,68,151 healthcare workers (HCWs) and 97,67,538 frontline workers (FLWs) who have taken the first dose and 54,18,084 HCWs and 44,11,609 FLWs who have taken the second dose. Besides, 3,63,32,851 and 11,39,291 beneficiaries above 60 years have been administered the first and second dose respectively.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/healthcare/biotech/healthcare/covid-19-india-leads-globally-with-average-of-more-than-34-lakh-doses-given-per-day/articleshow/81966970.cms>

#### **One in ten suffer long-term effects 8 months following mild COVID-19: Study**

Eight months after mild COVID-19, one in ten people experience at least one moderate to severe symptom that is perceived to have a negative impact on their work, social or personal life, according to a study. The study, published in the journal JAMA, found that the most common long-term symptoms are loss of smell and taste, and fatigue. Researchers at Danderyd Hospital and Karolinska Institutet in Sweden have been conducting the so-called



COMMUNITY study since spring last year, with the main purpose of examining immunity after COVID-19. "We investigated the presence of long-term symptoms after mild COVID-19 in a relatively young and healthy group of working individuals, and we found that the predominant long-term symptoms are loss of smell and taste," said Charlotte Thalin, lead researcher for the COMMUNITY study at Danderyd Hospital and Karolinska Institutet.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/healthcare/biotech/healthcare/one-in-ten-suffer-long-term-effects-8-months-following-mild-covid-19-study/articleshow/81965364.cms>

#### **Covid: AstraZeneca clot worries complicate bid to vaccinate the world**

Growing worries that AstraZeneca Plc's Covid-19 vaccine causes rare blood clots could hinder immunisation campaigns across the world, from London to Seoul.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/world/covid-astrazeneca-clot-worries-complicate-bid-to-vaccinate-the-world/article34269245.ece?homepage=true>

#### **External**

#### **India to resume buying oil from Iran once US sanctions ease**

India will look to resume buying crude oil from Iran the moment US sanctions are eased, helping it diversify its import basket, a senior government official said. India stopped importing oil from Iran in mid-2019 following sanctions on the Persian Gulf nation by the Trump administration. The US and other world powers are meeting in Vienna to revive the Iran nuclear deal. "Once the sanctions are lifted, we can look to resume oil imports from Iran," the official, who did not wish to be identified, said. Indian refiners have begun preparatory work and can swiftly enter into contracts once the sanctions are lifted, he said.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/energy/oil-gas/india-to-resume-buying-oil-from-iran-once-us-sanctions-ease/articleshow/81968926.cms>

#### **India, Seychelles inaugurate several development projects**

India's belief in a human-centric approach to development cooperation is reflected in the 10 high impact community development projects inaugurated on Thursday to bring positive change in the lives of communities spread across Seychelles, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/india-seychelles-inaugurate-several-development-projects/article34273457.ece>

#### **New Zealand suspends entry for travellers from India due to high Covid-19 cases**

New Zealand on Thursday temporarily suspended entry for all travellers from India, including its own citizens, for about two weeks following a high number of positive coronavirus cases arriving from the South Asian country.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/world/new-zealand-suspends-entry-for-travellers-from-india-due-to-high-covid-19-cases/article34269386.ece?homepage=true>



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