



February 08, 2022 – Tuesday

### Key Developments

#### Sebi comes out with new disclosure format for abridged prospectus

To further simplify and provide greater clarity, markets regulator Sebi has come out with a new format for disclosures in abridged prospectus, whereby critical information will be provided in the front page of the offer document. Under the rules, every application form for the purchase of any securities of a company needs to be accompanied by an abridged prospectus. After reviewing the disclosure requirement, it was felt that due to the multitude of information which is required to be disclosed, the look and text on the front page appears to be crowded, Sebi said in a circular issued on Friday.

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/markets/sebi-comes-out-with-new-disclosure-format-for-abridged-prospectus-122020700884\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/markets/sebi-comes-out-with-new-disclosure-format-for-abridged-prospectus-122020700884_1.html)

#### DCGI gives nod to SII's proposal to manufacture vaccine against omicron for test, analysis

The Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) has approved Serum Institute of India's proposal to manufacture a vaccine against omicron variant of coronavirus for examination, test and analysis, official sources said on Monday. "With reference to your application, please find herewith the permission to manufacture SARS-CoV-2 rS Protein (COVID-19) recombinant spike protein nanoparticle vaccine (omicron variant) for examination, test and analysis under the provisions of New Drugs and Clinical Trials Rules, 2019 to manufacture the test batches of the drug/drugs mentioned therein," an approval order issued on February 4 stated.

[https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/healthcare/biotech/pharmaceuticals/dcgi-gives-nod-to-siis-proposal-to-manufacture-vaccine-against-omicron-for-test-analysis/articleshow/89410315.cms?utm\\_source=ETTopNews&utm\\_medium=HP&utm\\_campaign=TN&utm\\_content=23](https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/healthcare/biotech/pharmaceuticals/dcgi-gives-nod-to-siis-proposal-to-manufacture-vaccine-against-omicron-for-test-analysis/articleshow/89410315.cms?utm_source=ETTopNews&utm_medium=HP&utm_campaign=TN&utm_content=23)

### Economy

#### Higher deficit, lack of clarity on fiscal consolidation add risks to lowering debt: Report

Fitch Ratings on Monday said higher fiscal deficits and lack of clarity on consolidation plans in the Budget add risks to its projection of lowering of India's debt-to-gross domestic product (GDP) ratio. The degree to which planned higher capex (capital expenditure) supports GDP growth and offsets these risks is an important consideration for the sovereign rating, the global rating agency said in a statement.

Risks around the sustainability of the downward debt trajectory were a key factor behind Fitch's decision to maintain a 'negative' outlook on sovereign when it affirmed India's 'BBB-' rating in November 2021.

<https://www.financialexpress.com/economy/higher-deficit-lack-of-clarity-on-fiscal-consolidation-add-risks-to-lowering-debt-report/2427675/>

#### Economy recovers from Omicron impact: NIBRI

The Nomura India Business Resumption Index (NIBRI) rose to 113.2 for the week ending February 6, from 104.8 in the prior week (13.2 percentage points above the pre-pandemic levels). This is a 11.5 percentage points recovery in

the NIBRI from the nadir, which saw an 18 pp fall following the onset of the third wave. "Mobility has recently turned a corner. Google workplace and retail & recreation mobility rose by 9 pp and 6.7 pp, respectively, from the prior week, while the Apple driving index rose by 13.3 pp. The labour participation rate rose to 40.5 per cent from 39.3 per cent, while power demand rose by 13.3 per cent w-o-w from 0.3 per cent in the prior week," Nomura said in its weekly report.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/economy-recovers-from-omicron-impact-nibri/article64970668.ece>

#### **Around 6.17 crore ITRs, 19 lakh audit reports filed on new I-T portal: CBDT**

The income tax department on Monday said around 6.17 crore I-T returns and about 19 lakh tax audit reports (TARs) have been filed on the new I-T e-filing portal in eight months since its launch. Out of 6.17 crore ITRs filed for the assessment year 2021-22 (FY2020-21), 48 per cent of these are ITR-1 (2.97 crore), nine per cent is ITR-2 (56 lakh), 13 per cent is ITR-3 (81.6 lakh), 27 per cent are ITR-4 (1.65 crore), ITR-5 (10.9 lakh), ITR-6 (4.84 lakh) and ITR-7 (1.32 lakh). "Around 6.17 crore income tax returns (ITRs) and about 19 lakh major tax audit reports (TARs) have been filed on the new e-filing portal of the income tax department as on February 6, 2022," the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) said in a statement.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/indicators/around-6-17-crore-itrs-19-lakh-audit-reports-filed-on-new-i-t-portal-cbdt/articleshow/89409049.cms>

### **Banking and Finance**

#### **Centre infuses Rs 20k cr in NaBFID; BBB invites applications for post of MD**

The Centre has infused Rs 20,000 crore in National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID) that will help the development finance institution start its operations to catalyse investment in the infrastructure sector. In a notification, the Department of Financial Services (DFS) notified February 7 as the date on which Rs 20,000 crore of share capital of the NaBFID has been allotted to the Centre. The DFI had to be set up with an initial paid-up capital of Rs 20,000 crore.

Separately, the Banks Board Bureau (BBB) has also sought applications for the position of managing director of the government-owned development finance institute. The DFI is preparing to commence its operations in the April-June quarter.

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/centre-infuses-rs-20k-cr-in-nabfid-bbb-invites-applications-for-post-of-md-122020701793\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/centre-infuses-rs-20k-cr-in-nabfid-bbb-invites-applications-for-post-of-md-122020701793_1.html)

#### **Finance Ministry eyes new ways to boost non-lapsable defence fund**

The finance ministry has rejected the funding pattern of the non-lapsable defence fund recommended by the Fifteenth Finance Commission (FFC). It is instead exploring new means of funding.

The ministry is of the opinion that putting money directly into a non-lapsable fund — as suggested by the FFC, bypassing annual Parliament scrutiny - is against good parliamentary practice. "The commission's recommendations on defence have not been accepted. The government is not likely to agree to put money from the Consolidated Fund of India into a non-lapsable fund.

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/finance-ministry-eyes-new-ways-to-boost-non-lapsable-defence-fund-122020700004\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/finance-ministry-eyes-new-ways-to-boost-non-lapsable-defence-fund-122020700004_1.html)

#### **RBI, NBFCs in early talks to open up credit card business in India**

The credit card business in the country may be in for a major shift. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and a few shadow banks are said to be in exploratory talks over the possibility of allowing the latter to issue credit cards on a standalone basis in a first-of-its-kind move.

So far, non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) can only issue co-branded credit cards with banks.

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/rbi-nbfc-in-early-talks-to-open-up-credit-card-business-in-india-122020700001\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/rbi-nbfc-in-early-talks-to-open-up-credit-card-business-in-india-122020700001_1.html)

#### **Govt yet to decide on banks to be privatised, say MoS Finance Karad**

The government has not yet decided on public sectors banks that are to be privatised, Minister of State for Finance Bhagwat Karad informed Parliament on Monday. The government had in Budget 2021-22 announced its intent to privatise two public sector banks (PSBs) during the year. "As per inputs received from Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM), the government has not yet decided on the banks that are to be privatised. The amendments to the relevant Acts are required to be done before initiating the process of privatisation," Karad said in a written reply to the Lok Sabha. The government has received representations from bank unions wherein they have expressed their views and concerns on the matter of privatisation of banks, the Minister of State for Finance said.

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/govt-yet-to-decide-on-banks-to-be-privatised-say-mos-finance-karad-122020701643\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/govt-yet-to-decide-on-banks-to-be-privatised-say-mos-finance-karad-122020701643_1.html)

#### **Govt cancels auction of all securities scheduled for 11 Feb as yields spike**

India cancelled auctions of government securities to be held on Feb. 11, a government statement said on Monday, following a sharp rise in bond yields after the announcement of record borrowing program. The government said it had decided to cancel the auction post review of cash position.

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/govt-cancels-auction-of-all-securities-scheduled-for-february-11-report-122020701684\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/govt-cancels-auction-of-all-securities-scheduled-for-february-11-report-122020701684_1.html)

#### **Reserve Bank of India expected to hike repo rates in April by 25 bps: Poll**

Faced with relatively low inflation amid a global surge, the Reserve Bank of India will still wait at least a few more months before it joins other central banks in raising interest rates following the pandemic, a Reuters poll found. Among the hardest-hit emerging economies from shutdowns and disruptions to business by COVID-19, India has only recently begun to recover much of its lost ground and New Delhi's latest budget was modestly stimulative compared with expectations.

<https://www.financialexpress.com/india-news/reserve-bank-of-india-expected-to-hike-repo-rates-in-april-by-25-bps-poll/2427275/>

#### **Interest subsidy of Rs 41,415 cr disbursed so far under PMAY (Urban): Govt**

The government has disbursed interest subsidy of Rs 41,415 crore to 17.68 lakh beneficiaries so far under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban), the Rajya Sabha was informed on Monday. The PMAY (Urban), launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in June 2015, aims to ensure "housing for all by 2022" by providing financial assistance to beneficiaries. In a written reply, Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said subsidy of Rs 5,320 crore has been disbursed so far under the Credit Linked Subsidy Scheme (CLSS) in the current financial year. "During FY 2021-22, an amount of Rs 8,000.00 crore (including Rs 1,000.00 crore for CLSS component) was allocated for PMAY-U in Budget Estimates (BE) which has now been enhanced to Rs 27,000.00 crore (including Rs 12,000.00 crore for CLSS component) at Revised Estimates (RE) stage in consultation with Ministry of Finance," Puri said.

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/interest-subsidy-of-rs-41-415-cr-disbursed-so-far-under-pmay-urban-govt-122020701188\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/interest-subsidy-of-rs-41-415-cr-disbursed-so-far-under-pmay-urban-govt-122020701188_1.html)

### **Industry**

#### **Food Processing Ministry gives nod to 83 proposals for incentives under PLI scheme**

The Food Processing Ministry has given its nod to an additional 83 proposals to avail incentives under the Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme, which has been rolled out with an outlay of ₹10,900 crore. These companies have been selected to avail benefits for manufacturing innovative and organic products as well as to enable Indian brands gain global visibility in international markets.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/food-processing-ministry-gives-nod-to-83-proposals-for-incentives-under-pli-scheme/article64971364.ece>

#### **FMCG cos create stocks of sunflower oil due to Russia-Ukraine tension**

As the Russia-Ukraine tension intensifies, FMCG food companies have created stocks of sunflower oil to meet consumer demand till March end anticipating a supply shortage. They are now also looking to Argentina to import

sunflower oil if the supply line dries up in coming months due to an escalation in tension. "Before this tension between Russia and Ukraine, we would have stock in hand for 75 days. Now we have increased it to 100 days. As things stand today, we have stocks till March end. We are hoping that the Russia-Ukraine issue will be sorted out before the stock comes to an end," said Angshu Mallick, managing director, Adani Wilmar.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/cons-products/fmcbg/fmcbg-cos-create-stocks-of-sunflower-oil-due-to-russia-ukraine-tension/articleshow/89410956.cms>

#### **Passenger vehicle retail sales drop 10% in Jan due to chip shortage: FADA**

Passenger vehicle retail sales declined 10 per cent year-on-year in January 2022, as the companies continued to suffer production loss amid semiconductor shortage, automobile dealers' body FADA said on Monday. The passenger vehicle (PV) sales dropped to 2,58,329 units last month, down 10.12 per cent from 2,87,424 units in January 2021. "In spite of good demand, passenger vehicles continue to face the brunt of semiconductor shortage, resulting in the absence of a healthy inventory," FADA President Vinkesh Gulati said in a statement. Two-wheeler sales last month declined by 13.44 per cent to 10,17,785 units, compared to 11,75,832 units in January 2021. Gulati said that rural distress coupled with price rise and omicron wave led to a drop in the sales in the segment.

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/passenger-vehicle-retail-sales-drop-10-in-jan-due-to-chip-shortage-fada-122020700315\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/passenger-vehicle-retail-sales-drop-10-in-jan-due-to-chip-shortage-fada-122020700315_1.html)

#### **Hospitality sector improved in Q42021 on vaccination, eased curbs: JLL**

The Indian hospitality industry is on an upward trajectory with traveller confidence back, led by improved vaccination rates as well as ease in travel restrictions, real estate and investment management company JLL said on Monday. Revenue Per Available Room (RevPAR) witnessed a growth of 100.3 per cent year-on-year during October-December 2021. The quarterly RevPAR during the quarter was at 41.9 per cent.

"Whilst the latter part of Q4 started to witness some impact from the Omicron wave, last quarter (Q4, 2021) was largely the best performing period of the last year bolstered by long weekends, holidays during festivals, and social gatherings," the firm said.

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/hospitality-sector-improved-in-q42021-on-vaccination-eased-curbs-jll-122020701486\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/hospitality-sector-improved-in-q42021-on-vaccination-eased-curbs-jll-122020701486_1.html)

### **Agriculture**

#### **PMKSY scheme extended till FY'26 with Rs 4,600 crore outlay**

The food processing ministry on Monday said its flagship scheme 'Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY)' has been extended till March 2026 with an allocation of Rs 4,600 crore. In a tweet, the ministry said PMKSY has been extended for a period of 2021-22 to 2025-26. The Central government has allocated Rs 4,600 crore for the scheme, the ministry tweeted. PMKSY is a comprehensive package which will lead to creation of modern infrastructure with efficient supply chain management from farm gate to retail outlet.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/agriculture/pmksy-scheme-extended-till-fy26-with-rs-4600-crore-outlay/articleshow/89412985.cms>

#### **APEDA to undertake basmati rice survey, agency to be selected by March**

Basmati Export Development Foundation (BEDF) of government's agri export promotion body APEDA has invited bids by February 18 for crop survey to estimate acreage and assess crop health and expected yield of Basmati rice during 2022 and 2023.

However, it has kept out those firms who have experience only in yield estimation through crop cutting experiments, even as several agri tech companies have been enrolled by the government, some even without prior experience due to new areas opening up for the private sector in the crop insurance segment.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/agri-business/apeda-to-undertake-for-basmati-rice-survey-agency-to-be-selected-by-march/article64971334.ece>

### **Infrastructure**

#### **Relaxation on domestic flights fare caps will depend on coronavirus situation, demand: Singh**

The government on Monday said decisions regarding domestic scheduled flight operations and relaxation in fare capping are subject to prevailing coronavirus situation, status of operations and passenger demand for air travel. Fare bands are in force for airlines, while the capacity restriction on domestic flight operations was done away with from October 18, 2021. Minister of State for Civil Aviation V K Singh said that during the past two years, the coronavirus pandemic has adversely affected the revenue streams of businesses, including the aviation sector.

"Under normal circumstances, airfares are neither established nor regulated by the government. However, due to the unprecedented circumstances, fare bands with upper and lower limits were introduced by the government as a special measure.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/transportation/airlines/-aviation/relaxation-on-domestic-flights-fare-caps-will-depend-on-coronavirus-situation-demand-singh/articleshow/89409035.cms>

## Telecom

### Telcos may log rising demand for 4G, data by second quarter

India's telecom operators are likely to reverse the recent trend of sluggish data consumption growth and slowdown in 4G user additions by the quarter to September this year, said analysts and industry executives. The chip shortage is expected to ease by then, spurring smartphone sales, they said. A more affordable JioPhone Next – Reliance Jio Infocomm's budget 4G smartphone developed with Google – expected in the coming months would also hasten smartphone conversions to 4G from 2G and boost data usage, they said.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/telecom/news/telcos-may-log-rising-demand-for-4g-data-by-second-quarter/articleshow/89394315.cms>

## Energy

### Dependence on import to meet thermal coal demand sharply reduced: Joshi

The government on Monday said the country's dependence on imports to meet thermal coal demand has sharply reduced and stressed that in the next financial year, this demand will be met from Coal India, Singareni Collieries Company Ltd and captive mines. The power ministry has projected a requirement of 727 million tonnes (MT) of domestic coal for coal-based power generation for 2022-23, Coal Minister Pralhad Joshi said in a reply to a query in the Rajya Sabha. "India's dependence on imports for meeting thermal coal demand has sharply reduced. In FY23, this demand shall be met from CIL, SCCL and coal production from captive coal blocks," Joshi said.

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/dependence-on-import-to-meet-thermal-coal-demand-sharply-reduced-joshi-122020701022\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/dependence-on-import-to-meet-thermal-coal-demand-sharply-reduced-joshi-122020701022_1.html)

## Healthcare

### Cumulative COVID-19 doses given in India crosses 170 crore on Monday

The cumulative COVID-19 vaccine doses administered in the country crossed 170 crore landmark on Monday, the Union Health Ministry said. Over 50 lakh (50,48,778) vaccine doses were given till 7 pm on Monday. More than 1.52 crore (1,52,95,149) precaution doses have been administered to healthcare workers, frontline workers and those aged 60 and above with comorbidities.

[https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/india/india-crosses-170-crore-vaccination-mark/articleshow/89409293.cms?utm\\_source=ETTopNews&utm\\_medium=HP&utm\\_campaign=TN&utm\\_content=23](https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/india/india-crosses-170-crore-vaccination-mark/articleshow/89409293.cms?utm_source=ETTopNews&utm_medium=HP&utm_campaign=TN&utm_content=23)

## External

### India, ASEAN can develop entire ecosystem for renewable energy: R K Singh

Union Power and New & Renewable Energy Minister R K Singh on Monday said India and ASEAN together can develop the entire ecosystem for renewable energy (RE) and explore the joint initiative for building RE manufacturing hubs in the region. At the ASEAN-India High-Level Conference on Renewable Energy, in his keynote address, Singh said India and ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) can work together to develop an entire ecosystem

for renewables that promotes knowledge sharing, capacity building and technical assistance; and also explore joint initiatives for the development of renewable energy manufacturing hubs in the region.

The ASEAN-India High-Level Conference on Renewable Energy, being organised by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy and the Ministry of External Affairs of Government of India on February 7-8, 2022, commenced on Monday.

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/india-asean-can-develop-entire-ecosystem-for-renewable-energy-r-k-singh-122020701619\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/india-asean-can-develop-entire-ecosystem-for-renewable-energy-r-k-singh-122020701619_1.html)

#### **India exports 30.68 lakh tonne sugar in October-January: AISTA**

Sugar mills exported 30.68 lakh tonne sugar till January of the ongoing 2021-22 marketing year that started from October 1, trade body AISTA said on Monday. About 6.32 lakh tonne sugar is in transit, All India Sugar Trade Association (AISTA) said in a statement. Mills have contracted to export 46 lakh tonne sugar without the government subsidy so far in the 2021-22 marketing year, it added. Sugar marketing year runs from October to September. Sugar exports this year are being undertaken without the government subsidy.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/india-exports-30-68-lakh-tonne-sugar-in-october-january-aista/articleshow/89413135.cms>