

Daily News Monitor: 12 March 2021

1. Vocal for locals: After Haryana's 75% diktat, more companies look to hire locals in India's manufacturing hubs

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

Even as the Haryana government's proposal to reserve 75 percent private jobs for locals has raised concerns among industries, human resource consultants are now increasingly being asked by companies to hire local youth from manufacturing hubs in other states. While the percentage may not be as high as 75 percent, there is a considerable uptick in local hiring, say human resource professionals. Human resource firms are receiving mandates to hire close to 25 percent from local areas since June 2020. This, they said, not just gives jobs to the youth of the region but also saves costs.

2. Government e-Marketplace eyes orders worth Rs 1 lakh crore in FY22

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

Government e-Marketplace (GeM) is eyeing an order book of Rs 1 lakh crore in FY22, nearly triple the number recorded in 2020-21. GeM is looking to achieve this target by merging its operations with the Integrated Material Management System and the Indian Railway Electronic Procurement System (IREPS), according to a Mint report. Orders on the online marketplace for public procurement increased to Rs 37,000 crore in FY21, from Rs 23,000 crore in FY20, as per the report. GeM has recorded a compounded annual growth rate (CAGR) of 93 percent since its launch in August 2016. "This shows acceptability of the buyers of both the state and central government organizations and their confidence in the usability of the portal," Talleen Kumar, chief executive officer, GeM, said as quoted by the paper.

3. Govt approves 33 API applications with over Rs 5,000 crore committed investment under PLI scheme

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

Parliament on 10 March approved a Bill to amend the arbitration law that would ensure all stakeholders get a chance to seek an unconditional stay on enforcement of arbitral awards where an agreement is "induced by fraud or corruption". The Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Bill, 2021, was passed by voice vote in the Rajya Sabha. The Bill was passed in the Lok Sabha on February 12. It will replace an Ordinance issued on November 4, 2020. Replying to a discussion on the Bill in the Upper House, Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad

said the changes in the Bill would avoid payment of tax payers' money as an award in cases where the agreement or contract is "induced by fraud or corruption". He said, "Section 36 of the Act provides that the arbitration award would be set aside if it is against the public policy. The contracts or agreements induced with corruptions and frauds would be considered 'against public policy'."

4. Govt to appoint metal recycling regulator by June

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

The government plans to set up a Metal Recycling Authority by June to promote organised recycling of key non-ferrous metals such as aluminium, copper, zinc and lead. The authority will oversee the formulation of quality standards, certification and process standards for recycling by December. The Ministry of Mines has issued the National Non-Ferrous Metal Scrap Recycling Framework with a focus on regulating scrap collection, segregation and dismantling units with a proper framework for registration, data collection and reporting mechanism. It will also set norms for registration of the recycling units, ranking and performance evaluation of these units, and develop metal recycling zones and urban mining facilities.

5. Centre kicks off privatisation drive; NITI Aayog submits list of 12 PSUs

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

Kicking off the privatisation drive, NITI Aayog has submitted its first list of around 12 PSUs (Public Sector Undertakings) to be privatised. The list submitted by the government's policy think tank includes PSUs in strategic sectors and will be reviewed by the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM), and the Core Group of Secretaries on Divestment (CGD), headed by the cabinet secretary, Business Standard reported citing sources. The list comprises public sector banks (PSBs) and insurance companies and will be its first following the government's ambitious drive to privatise PSUs, as announced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in Budget 2021. This would clear the way for the Centre to go ahead with its Rs 1.75 lakh crore disinvestment target for the next financial year.

6. India likely to block China's Huawei over security concerns: Officials

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

India is likely to block its mobile carriers from using telecom equipment made by China's Huawei, two government officials said, under procurement rules due to come into force in June. New Delhi is wary about awarding new technology business to Chinese firms both because of security fears and a desire to get Indian manufacturers to produce more telecoms

equipment. A US campaign to curb Huawei has triggered bans or limits on the use of its equipment around the world but the situation in India has been amplified by strained relations between New Delhi and Beijing over their shared border. India's telecoms department said on Wednesday that after June 15 carriers can only buy certain types of equipment from government-approved "trusted sources" and said New Delhi could also create a "no procurement" blacklist. Huawei is likely to feature on this embargoed list, the two officials, who declined to be named, told Reuters. "We cannot prioritise economic gains if an investment poses national security risk," one of the officials said.

7. I&B minister discusses new rules with digital news media organisations

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

The Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting Prakash Javadekar said 11 March that he held a meeting with The Digital News Publishers Association to discuss the newly notified rules for digital media. "In a follow up to meeting with OTT platforms, held an interaction with Digital News Publishers Association today. Discussed the new rules for digital media. They welcomed the new rules and offered few suggestions which I have noted," the minister tweeted. The association includes media organisations such as India Today, The Indian Express, Hindustan Times, The Times of India and so on. The new digital media rules have asked for a three-tier grievance redressal for addressing grievances of citizens. These would consist of digital news publishers and self-regulatory bodies constituted by them.