

Daily News Monitor: 18 February 2021

1. Govt invites suggestions on blue economy policy

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

The Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) has rolled out the draft blue economy policy in the public domain, inviting suggestions and inputs from various stakeholders, including industry, NGOs, academia and citizens. The draft policy document outlines the vision and strategy that can be adopted by the government to utilise the plethora of oceanic resources available in the country. The document has recognised seven thematic areas: national accounting framework for the blue economy and ocean governance; coastal marine spatial planning and tourism; marine fisheries, aquaculture, and fish processing; manufacturing, emerging industries, trade, technology, services, and skill development; logistics, infrastructure and shipping, including trans-shipments; coastal and deep-sea mining and offshore energy and security, strategic dimensions and international engagement.

2. India's commerce minister Piyush Goyal says will work with USTR on 'fresh' trade package

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

Indian Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal said on 17 February he will engage with the new U.S. Trade Representative's office on a trade deal after a previous attempt to seal a limited accord failed. Negotiators from both countries struggled to conclude a 'mini' trade package for months as both New Delhi and Washington sparred over a range of issues, including tariffs. Goyal said he would make a new start with the new U.S. administration. "I will also engage with the new USTR to try and put together a fresh package. I think the old one is now off the table," Goyal said at a U.S.-India Business Council event. Goyal said India had taken series of measures to liberalise its economy and hoped for new investments from U.S. firms.

3. Labour minister to launch software for 5 surveys

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

about Minister Santosh Gangwar will launch software applications for five all India surveys, including on migrant and domestic workers on February 18, the labour ministry said on 17 February. Gangwar will also release instruction manuals with questionnaire for five All India Surveys being conducted by the Labour Bureau, the ministry said. These five surveys being undertaken by Labour Bureau are All India Survey on Migrant workers, All India Survey on Domestic Workers, All India Survey on Employment Generated by Professionals, All India

Survey on Employment Generated in Transport Sector, and All-India Quarterly Establishment based Employment Survey.

4. India recorded \$1422 mn FDI inflow from UK in 2019-20: Grant Thornton report
Source: The Economic Times ([Link](#))

The Central Government has issued new guidelines for international travellers amid the spread of the new mutant strains of coronavirus emerging from different countries. The new Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) will come into effect from 23.59 hours on 22 February till further orders. As part of the civil aviation ministry's updated guidelines for international passengers coming to India, all international fliers except the ones coming on flights originating from the United Kingdom, Europe and the Middle East will have to submit a self-declaration form on the Air Suvidha portal before their scheduled travel.

5. India brings new guidelines for international fliers as new Covid strains emerge: 10 points
Source: Livemint ([Link](#))

Hyundai Motor India Ltd is studying the feasibility of launching a low-cost electric vehicle (EV) for consumers, treating the project as its "No. 1 priority" for the future, managing director S.S. Kim said. "We have the product and the technology, and we are reviewing the Indian market condition and the infrastructure situation here. We will come up with some options, which will be the best for the Indian market. It's a No.1 priority in our future strategy," Kim said.

6. Twitter introduces Voice Messages to DMs in India, Brazil, and Japan
Source: Livemint ([Link](#))

American social network company Twitter has introduced voice messages to direct messages as a new feature for users in India, Brazil, and Japan. The new feature allows users to send a voice DM (Direct Message) or a voice clip to the Twitter contact, according to The Verge. As per a Twitter report, this feature will be launched in an organized way, so it is conceivable that some of the users won't see the feature appear immediately. The micro-blogging users can send as long as 140 seconds in length voice messages in private talks. This component is as of now being tested in India, Brazil, and Japan and will be accessible for both iOS and Android users. The Verge reported that to utilize this new feature, a user has to simply open the chatbox of the concerned contact, tap on the voice icon placed in the bottom right corner and begin recording. Once a user has recorded the voice message, he should next tap on the stop icon to wrap up.

7. Hyundai to invest \$200 mn to build localised EVs for mass market in India

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

South Korean auto major will invest a major share of its investment to strategise and produce an affordable electric vehicle for the Indian market. The company is in talks with battery makers and suppliers to localise a large portion of manufacturing in order to bring the cost down and has earmarked \$200 million investment for the purpose. “We have the product and the technology, and we are reviewing the Indian market condition and the infrastructure situation here. We will come up with some options, which will be the best for the Indian market. It’s a No.1 priority in our future strategy,” Hyundai India’s managing director S S Kim said. The carmaker’s understanding comes from its experience with its electric SUV Kona, which was launched in 2019. “We had launched the Kona but we understand that it was for the super-premium buyer. To have meaningful volume, we need to be present in the mass segment and we are working towards that,” said Tarun Garg, director, marketing and sales at Hyundai India. Garg refused to give a timeline for the launch.

8. Cabinet okays trade deal with Mauritius, the first with an African nation

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

The Cabinet has approved the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Partnership Agreement (CECPA) between India and Mauritius to encourage and improve trade between the two countries. The Agreement is a limited agreement, which will cover trade in goods, rules of origin, trade in services, technical barriers to trade (TBT), sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) measures, dispute settlement, movement of persons, telecom, financial services, customs procedures and cooperation in other areas. The CECPA will be the first trade agreement to be signed by India with a country in Africa, information and broadcasting minister Prakash Javadekar said. The agreement covers 310 export items for the former, including foodstuff and beverages (80 lines), agricultural products (25 lines), textile and textile articles (27 lines), base metals and articles thereof (32 lines), electrical and electronic item (13 lines), plastics and chemicals (20 lines), wood and articles thereof (15 lines), and others.