

Daily News Monitor: 21 January 2021

1. Government completes tripartite talks on labour codes

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

The government on 20 January completed tripartite consultations for four new labour codes, moving a step closer to finalising the rules and their subsequent implementation. Aimed at maintaining a balance between the rights of workers and the requirements of the industry to boost employment generation, three labour codes – on industrial relations, social security and occupational safety & health (OSH) – were passed in the last Monsoon session. Separately, the code on wage was passed in 2019 but its implementation was held back because the ministry wanted to enforce all the codes in one go.

2. Centre, states to take corrective action to reduce compliance burden by March 31

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

The centre and states will take corrective action by March 31 to reduce the compliance burden on businesses and citizens, Guruprasad Mohapatra, secretary, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) said on 20 January. He said 7,000 compliances have been identified by central ministries and states to reduce compliance burden. “In the 75th year of India’s Independence, we want to reduce the compliance burden, simplify further the citizen-government interface whether online or offline, and remove antiquated and obsolete acts which don’t add value,” Mohapatra said at the DPIIT-CII event on Make In India.

3. Innovation Index: K’taka is top state again, Delhi best among UTs

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

Delhi has remained the most innovative destination among Union Territories (UTs), while Karnataka has led the pack of major states in the Innovation Index for 2020 released by the NITI Aayog on 20 January. Maharashtra has overtaken Tamil Nadu to grab the second spot among key states. Himachal Pradesh remained the top performer among North-Eastern and hill states. Though the rankings are announced separately for the three categories, in terms of just the index score, Delhi tops the list, with a score of 46.6, followed by Karnataka (42.5). However, the average scores in innovation among major states and UTs are just 25.35 and 26.01, respectively, out of 100, suggesting a huge room for improvement.

4. Farmers protest: After marathon meeting, Centre comes out with key proposals; round 11 talks tomorrow

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

The Narendra Modi government took a step to end the nearly two-month-long impasse caused by farmers protesting on Delhi borders against the newly enacted farm laws. Yielding some ground for more negotiations after 20 January's marathon meeting, the government offered to suspend the three contentious farm laws for around 18 months, a proposal farmer unions didn't directly reject. The Centre also proposed to set up a joint committee to find a mutually agreed solution to the issue. The farmer union leaders have said that they will hold internal consultation to consider the government's new proposal. Talking to the media after the around five-hour-long meeting, Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar informed about the Centre's proposal.

5. Cabinet approves MoU with Uzbekistan for cooperation in solar energy

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

The Union Cabinet on 20 January gave ex-post facto approval to a memorandum of understanding (MoU) between India and Uzbekistan for cooperation in the field of solar energy. "The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi was apprised of signing of Memorandum of Understanding(MoU) between India and Uzbekistan for cooperation in the field of solar energy," an official statement said. According to statement, the main area of work under the MoU is to identify research/demonstration/pilot projects between the National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE), Ministry of New & Renewable Energy, India and the International Solar Energy Institute (ISEI), Uzbekistan in the mutually identified areas.

6. Southern states to lead India's renewable energy push, says report

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

The south Indian states are likely to drive the renewable energy push in the country with an excess power of the order of around 23 gigawatts (GW) and 51 GW, respectively, for 2022 and 2030 in case of peak solar and wind scenario, said a report by the Center for Study of Science, Technology and Policy (CSTEP). This can be achieved with all thermal generators operating at a technical minimum. India has an ambitious renewable energy target of 175 GW - solar: 100 GW; wind: 60 GW; biomass: 10 GW; and small hydro: 5 GW - by 2022. According to the CSTEP report, the four southern states (Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and united Andhra Pradesh) have 1,526 GW of solar energy potential and 1,124 GW of wind energy potential, making them the major contributors to India's renewable energy ambitions.

7. Commerce Ministry, urban affairs ministries to work on logistics planning in cities

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

The commerce ministry will work with its housing and urban affairs counterpart to focus on 50 cities for logistics planning, a move aimed at promoting ease of doing business in the country, an official statement said on 20 January. The decision was taken during the National Conference with States on Logistics on 19 January to initiate a consultative and collaborative framework for the central and state governments to work in a coordinated manner in the logistic sector. The commerce ministry said that an 18 point agenda was presented to the states to improve the logistics. The key areas for logistics improvements in the states were identified as city logistics, simplification of approvals for warehouses, facilitation for warehousing development, reducing the burden on truck movement and addressing the shortage of truck drivers.