

Daily News Monitor: 25 June 2020

1. Govt decides to allow participation by pvt firms in space sector

Source: Livemint ([Link](#))

The Union cabinet on 25 June decided to open up the space sector for private sector participation, and cleared the creation of a new entity, Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACe), to encourage private companies to use India's space infrastructure. The cabinet also cleared a ₹15,000-crore package for animal husbandry, which was announced by finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman in March as part of the ₹20-trillion economic package. According to Union minister Prakash Javadekar, the cabinet also cleared an additional ₹909 crore investment by state-run ONGC Videsh Ltd for developing two gas blocks in Myanmar, besides signing off on a proposal to build an international airport at Uttar Pradesh's Kushinagar, which is a Buddhist pilgrimage site. ONGC Videsh has so far invested ₹3,949 crore in the Shwe gas project.

2. NTPC to help Mali develop 500 MW solar park

Source: Livemint ([Link](#))

NTPC Ltd will help Mali develop a 500 MW solar power park, a statement by the state-owned power generator said 25 June. India's largest power generation utility has been awarded the project management consultancy contract by the West African nation, making it the second country after Togo to do so. This comes in the backdrop of Indian state-owned firms including Solar Energy Corporation of India's plan to land overseas business under the aegis of International Solar Alliance (ISA), as China continues to co-opt countries into its ambitious One Belt One Road initiative. According to information reviewed by Mint, of the 500 MW solar park capacity, 450 MW will be connected to Mali's national power grid.

3. Draft e-commerce policy soon, to be stricter on data norms and discount

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

The government is set to release the second draft of the proposed e-commerce policy soon, which would focus on domestic traders and have more scrutiny on predatory pricing, multiple people in the know said. While no decision has been taken on the deadline for the final policy, sources said Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) Secretary Guruprasad Mohapatra is set to hold a review with his team in the next few days to take stock of the draft policy and submit it to the commerce minister. Sources add that the DPIIT is planning its own set of recommendations on data localisation and non-personal data,

independent of those laid out in the Personal Data Protection Bill 2019. “Data localisation remains a big concern and despite there being broad government norms on the issue, it would have to be tailor fit for the e-commerce sector,” an official said.

4. All Chinese cargo being checked following nationwide risk alert

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

All shipments coming from China are being physically checked at ports and airports following a nationwide alert regarding enhanced risk weightage ascribed to consignments from that country, said people with knowledge of the matter. Some Indian exporters said retaliatory action is being taken against shipments to Hong Kong. The India-wide 100% physical inspection of Chinese imports, which has been leading to delays in the release of cargo, was sparked by an IT system-based alert, said the people cited above. All ports, including Nhava Sheva, Mumbai and Kolkata, as well as airports have initiated physical checks since Monday midnight, customs sources said. Chennai port was the first to start inspecting all Chinese cargo and other ports followed suit.

5. Nitin Gadkari launches scheme to provide Rs 20,000 crore guarantee cover to MSMEs

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

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari on 25 June launched the Credit Guarantee Scheme for Sub-ordinate Debt to provide Rs 20,000 crore of guarantee cover to two lakh micro, small and medium enterprises. The funding scheme to help the distressed MSME sector entails a sub-debt facility to the promoters of those operational MSMEs that are distressed or non-performing assets (NPAs). It is also called the 'Distressed Assets Fund — Sub-ordinate Debt for MSMEs'. According to the scheme, the guarantee cover worth Rs 20,000 crore will be provided to the promoters who can take debt from the banks to further invest in their stressed MSME units as equity.

6. Railways to generate 8 lakh mandays of work for migrants in rail projects; identifies work under MGNREGS

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

The railways said it will generate eight lakh mandays of employment opportunity for migrant workers and others in infrastructure projects worth Rs 1,800 crore in the next 125 days till October 31. Officials said this will be part of the government's 'Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyaan' scheme being implemented in 116 districts in six states. Railway Board Chairman Vinod Kumar Yadav on 25 June held a meeting through video conference with General Managers

(GMs), Divisional Railway Managers (DRMs) and Managing Directors (MDs) of PSUs regarding the progress of the Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyaan.

7. Fashion e-tailer Myntra sells 10 million products in four-day online sale

Source: Livemint ([Link](#))

Around 3.5 million customers bought 10 million products during fashion e-tailer Myntra's recent four-day online sale, in the first big e-commerce sale event this year. The Flipkart-owned firm's 'End Of Reason Sale', that was held between 19-23 June, saw shoppers across the country place about 4 million orders, across multiple categories on the online platform. The last edition of its biannual sale, in December, witnessed 2.85 million customers placing 4.2 million orders for 9.6 million items. Myntra's sale event was a litmus test of sorts to gauge consumer sentiment with the covid-19 crisis impacting overall discretionary spends.