

DAILY NEWS MONITOR: 8 MARCH 2022

1. Microsoft unveils fourth data center in India

Source: Reuters ([Link](#))

Microsoft Corp (MSFT.O) unveiled its fourth data centre in India on 7 March, betting on rising digital consumption in one of its fastest-growing markets. Microsoft India head Anant Maheshwari said the company was making long-term investments in the country, although he declined to confirm reports by local media of a \$2 billion price tag for the latest centre. "A public cloud data center is not a one time investment, it is a continuous investment that we have," Maheshwari told Reuters. "In the last two years, we doubled the capacity in the existing three data centers." The overall Indian public cloud services market is expected to reach \$10.8 billion by 2025, according to research firm IDC.

2. India and US to collaborate on building resilient supply chains: USTR report

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

As part of its efforts to address the global supply chain crisis, the Joe Biden administration plans to collaborate with India on building resilient supply chains and promote a transparent rules-based trading system for market economies and democracies, the US Trade Representative has told Congress. In its 2021 Annual Report to Congress, the US Trade Representative (USTR) said the United States and India share a dynamic and important trade and investment relationship. In 2021, the United States and India relaunched the United States-India Trade Policy Forum (TPF), which had not met since 2017.

3. Public-Private Partnership to be key driver of PM Gati Shakti scheme: MoS Finance

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

Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary on 7 March said Public-Private Partnership (PPP) would be the key driver of the Rs 100 lakh crore ambitious PM Gati Shakti initiative. This national master plan for multi-modal connectivity aims to develop infrastructure to reduce logistic costs and boost the economy. The PM Gati Shakti - National Master Plan was announced last year with an aim to break departmental silos and bring in more holistic and integrated planning and execution of projects with a view to address the issues of multi-modal and last-mile connectivities. Observing that PPP has given a push to growth, Chaudhary said various infrastructure projects have been completed through public-private partnership.

4. Govt to reopen application window for PLI scheme for white goods

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

The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) will reopen the application window for production-linked incentive scheme for white goods from 10 March to 25 April to give a second chance to prospective investors to take benefits of the scheme, an official statement said. The Cabinet approved the PLI scheme for manufacturing components and sub-assemblies of air conditioners (ACs) and LED lights in April 2021 to bring manufacturing at the centre stage. The scheme is to be implemented over a seven-year period, from FY22 to FY29, with an outlay of Rs 6,238 crore.

5. Faasos now largest Indian origin QSR with 500 restaurants in 10 countries

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

Rebel Foods' homegrown brand, Faasos, said it has touched the milestone of the 500 restaurants across 10 countries making it the largest Indian origin QSR (quick service restaurant) chain, globally. Faasos entered 7 new countries in 2021 - the United Kingdom, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Hong Kong, Philippines, and Bangladesh. Motivated by an 80 per cent consumer repeat rate in India. The brand also added 55 new internet restaurants and 50 new cities in the last quarter. Faasos is the flagship brand of Rebel Foods which operates the largest number of internet restaurants worldwide. The brand is known for giving surprises under wraps with various traditional and fusion flavors. Faasos has adapted its offerings in each market to suit different customer preferences yet retains its core of bringing surprises under wraps. The brand witnessed a 7.5X order growth within months of its launch in Bangladesh, Malaysia, Singapore, and Thailand and has been receiving customer love across international geographies.