

## Daily News Monitor: 15 June 2020

### **1. Centre unlikely to reimpose lockdown; PM may advise CMs not to lower**

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

While a blanket reimposition of a lockdown by the Centre is not on the cards, PM Narendra Modi is expected to tell the CMs to not lower their guard in the Covid-19 urban containment zones. A senior government official told ET that the PM could ask the CMs to go for extensive door-to-door screening of people living in urban containment zones and be stricter in implementation of social distancing measures and usage of face masks. The Centre has received a feedback that things have turned complacent in some states. Modi is also expected to ask certain states to increase their testing numbers by the end of June to be able to detect patients early and reduce mortality.

### **2. Data protection Bill panel seeks FB, Microsoft, Assocham, Nasscom views**

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

The Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) on Personal Data Protection Bill has called Facebook, Microsoft, Assocham, and Nasscom as part of the first batch of 10-12 entities to present their views on the proposed legislation. The JPC had sought suggestions on the Bill from people and organisations on the proposed legislation in January. The JPC “received over 200 responses and has initially selected 11-12 entities to present their ideas orally in the first phase. Some of them have been informed to be ready,” said Ram Raj Rai, director of the JPC at the Lok Sabha Secretariat.

### **3. Punjab looks to boost agricultural income through mechanization**

**Source: Livemint ([Link](#))**

Punjab is turning to options such as the use of technology as it aims to boost its crop diversification attempts amid a labour shortage against the backdrop of the coronavirus with the sowing season beginning this week. The move is significant because the state’s push for crop diversification to deal with a local labour shortage, also improve farmer income, and promote less water-intensive crops has been going on for over a year now. This, coupled with a move for greater mechanization, could yield better results for the farmers, according to government officials and experts.

#### **4. Centre to provide 500 Covid-care railway coaches to Delhi: Amit Shah**

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

The Centre and Delhi government on 14 June announced several steps to augment health infrastructure in the national Capital to deal with increasing Covid-19 cases. After a meeting with Delhi's Lieutenant Governor Anil Baijal, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and others, Union Home Minister Amit Shah announced that the Centre will immediately provide 500 converted rail coaches to the Delhi government. With this, Delhi will have 8,000 more beds added to its existing number of 9,800 beds for Covid-19 patients, and these will be equipped with all facilities in the treatment of such patients. Shah, who chaired the meeting, said testing for coronavirus will be doubled in the next two days and increased threefold in six days.

#### **5. India to step up free trade agreement talks despite self-reliance mantra**

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

India hasn't shunned efforts to forge "balanced" trade agreements despite renewed push for self-reliance, and talks with key partners, including the US, the EU and Australia, will gain momentum once the impact of the pandemic wanes considerably, an official source told FE. "We have not abandoned the principle of free and fair trade. The government is very clear that 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' is neither protectionist nor isolationist. It's about getting our act together to improve domestic production of finished goods, gain from better intergration with the global value chain and ensure fair trade," the source said. "Every country tailors its policies to suit its best interest, and we are no different," he added.

#### **6. Singapore-based Mapletree buys warehouse in Pune for Rs 300 crore**

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

In one of the biggest deals in the warehousing and logistics space this year, Singapore-based developer-cum-investor Mapletree has invested Rs 300 crore in a logistics park project of Pune-based KSH Infra Industrial Park. The deal pertains to 0.7 million square feet (sq. ft) of logistics park KSH in Pune. This is part of a 1.2 million sq. ft park that the firm is developing in the Chakan area of the city. The entire development and leasing of the project will be undertaken by KSH Infra. Mapletree has entered into a forward purchase agreement with KSH, wherein it will buy the property at a pre-agreed price when the asset is completed. Avendus Capital acted as the exclusive financial advisor to KSH Infra.

## **7. FIEO for fastening process of engagement with EU to seal free-trade pact expeditiously**

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

Exporters' body FIEO has urged Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal to fast-track the process of engagement with the European Union on the long-pending free-trade agreement (FTA) with India and conclude it in an expeditious manner. India and the EU are negotiating a comprehensive FTA, officially dubbed as the Bilateral Trade and Investment Agreement (BTIA), but the talks are stalled since May 2013 due to differences on several matters. Federation of Indian Export Organisation President S K Saraf said Vietnam, a strong competitor of India, has already signed a similar agreement with the EU, which is likely to be operational by July-August 2020.