

## DAILY NEWS MONITOR: 19 MAY 2021

### **1. Wider Coverage: Commerce Ministry weighing proposal to revamp scheme for services exports**

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

The commerce ministry is weighing a proposal to overhaul a key scheme for services exporters to make it more broad-based and fool proof so that a wider pool of businesses, especially Covid-hit MSMEs, get the succour. The revamped Service Exports From India Scheme (SEIS) may be part of the new five-year Foreign Trade Policy (FTP), which will be effective from October 2021, sources told FE. However, given the resource crunch faced by the government in the wake of the pandemic and the growing requirement of healthcare spending, much depends on the finance ministry's approval to any such scheme, one of the sources said. Under the extant scheme, the government offers exporters duty credit scrips at 5-7% of the net foreign exchange earned, depending on the nature of services. The commerce ministry has also held discussions with exporters on the feasibility of bringing in a tax refund scheme for services exporters in future, along the lines of the Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) announced for merchandise exporters, another source said.

### **2. Scotland seeks to ramp up trade and investment ties with India**

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

The Scottish National Party (SNP), which will continue in government after emerging as the single largest party in elections this month, aspires to ramp up trade and investment ties with India. Robert Taylor, a senior spokesman for the Scottish government in Edinburgh, speaking exclusively to Business Standard, said: "India is an increasingly important market for Scotland and is identified as one of the top 20 countries for export growth." In general, the devolved government plans to increase the total value of exports from 20 per cent to 25 per cent of Scotland's gross domestic product (GDP). Taylor added the "potential areas of export growth with India include engineering and advance manufacturing, food and drink, technology, energy, finance and business services, and chemical sciences."

### **3. Adani Green buys SB Energy from Softbank and Bharti; firm valued at \$3.5 bn**

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

Adani Green Energy Ltd. (AGEL) said on 19 May it is acquiring SB Energy India from Softbank of Japan and India's Bharti Group to add 4,954 MW in its renewable power portfolio. The deal is biggest acquisition in India's renewable power sector. The transaction values SB Energy India at an enterprise valuation of approximately \$3.5 billion. The target

portfolio consists large-scale utility assets with 84 per cent solar capacity (4,180 MW), 9 per cent wind-solar hybrid capacity (450 MW) and 7 per cent wind capacity (324 MW). The portfolio comprises 1,400 MW operational solar power capacity and a further 3,554 MW that is under construction. All projects have 25 year power purchase agreements with sovereign rated counterparties such as Solar Energy Corporation of India Ltd. (SECI), NTPC Limited and NHPC Limited. The operating assets forming part of the portfolio are primarily solar park-based projects. With this deal, AGEL will achieve total renewable capacity of 24.3 GW (1) and operating renewable capacity of 4.9 GW.

#### **4. Importers to make prior disclosure to customs to avail concessional duty on goods: CBIC**

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

Importers taking advantage of concessional rate of import duty will have to give prior information to the customs officers about goods being imported and also its estimated quantity and value, the CBIC has said. The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) has amended the Customs (Import of Goods at Concessional Rate of Duty) Amendment Rules, which lay down the procedures and manner in which an importer can avail the benefit of a concessional duty on import of goods required for domestic production of goods or providing services. One major change that accommodates the needs of trade and industry is that the imported goods have been permitted to be sent out for 'job work'. The absence of this facility had earlier constrained the industry, especially those in the MSME sector which did not have the complete manufacturing capability in-house.

#### **5. Google floats News Showcase in India**

**Source: Hindustan Times ([Link](#))**

Amid mounting pressure from media houses urging technology platforms to pay a fair price and share a part of the advertising revenue for featuring articles, Google on 18 May launched its global licensing programme, News Showcase, in India. The initiative, rolled out last October, pays publishers for news content and allows them to provide limited access to pay-walled stories for users. Showcase is part of Google's \$1-billion investment to support quality journalism. Google has sealed agreements with 30 Indian publishers to offer access to some of their content such as HT Digital Streams Ltd, The Hindu Group, Indian Express Group, ABP LIVE, India TV, NDTV, Zee News, Amar Ujala, Deccan Herald, Punjab Kesari, The Telegraph India, Indo Asian News Service (IANS) and Asian News International (ANI).

## **6. Haryana first state to reimburse GST on Covid-related donations**

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

Haryana on 18 May became the first state in the country to allow reimbursement of goods and services tax (GST) paid on Covid-related donations made to the state and state-run facilities. This will be applicable till June 30. The move is aimed at encouraging efforts by corporations, non-government organisations (NGOs) and individuals and facilitating donations of items such as oxygen concentrators, Covid-19 vaccines, Remdesivir injections, etc. as the country battles the intense second Covid-19 wave. Haryana will reimburse GST already paid on such Covid-19 related items, subject to conditions “Haryana is facing an acute shortage of liquid medical oxygen and other health equipment such as ventilator, medicines etc... in order to encourage efforts by corporates, NGOs and individuals coming forward to help the state government ... by way of donations, it is necessary in the public interest to facilitate donation of such items,” the state government said in a notification on 18 May.