

## Daily News Monitor: 7 September 2020

### **1. Customs to roll out pan-India faceless assessment for all imports by October 31**

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

The Customs Department will roll out pan-India faceless assessment for all imported goods by October 31, the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) has said. While faceless assessment for import of certain goods was already rolled out in Bengaluru and Chennai ports on June 8, it was extended to Delhi and Mumbai Customs on August 3. This will now be extended in phases to all ports across the country by December 31. “Board has decided to roll out the Faceless Assessment at an all India level in all ports of import and for all imported goods by October 31, 2020,” the CBIC said in a circular. Faceless assessment enables an assessing officer, who is physically located in a particular jurisdiction, to assess a Bill of Entry pertaining to imports made at a different Customs station, whenever such a Bill of Entry has been assigned to him through an automated system.

### **2. DPIIT starts exercise for states/UTs ease of doing business ranking for next year**

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

The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) has started the exercise for the ranking of states and Union Territories in terms of ease of doing business for the next year, a top government official said. DPIIT Secretary Guruprasad Mohapatra said that the ease of doing business ranking of states and UTs for next year would be released by March 2021. “We have started the exercise already. We have communicated the Business Reform Action Plan (BRAP) for next year with the states/UTs, which they have to implement,” he told PTI. Last year, the department had identified 181 reform points and for 2021, it has shared 301 such points with the states and UTs. The ranking is based on the implementation of BRAP and feedback received. It started in 2015. The action plan cover 12 business regulatory areas such as access to information, single window system, labour, and environment.

### **3. New draft guidelines on advertising released; to treat non-legible disclaimers as misleading ads**

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

The government has come out with a comprehensive set of draft guidelines on advertising under which ‘disclaimers’ that are not easily noticeable by or legible or easily understandable to an ordinary consumer will be treated as misleading advertisements under the Consumer

Protection Act. The violation of these guidelines would face action by the recently established Central Consumer Protection Authority. The draft guidelines, on which the Consumer Affairs Ministry has sought public comments by September 18, are applicable to companies whose products or services are advertised as well as to advertisement agencies and endorsers. According to the draft guidelines, a disclaimer should be clear, prominent enough and legible. “It should be clearly visible to a normally-sighted person reading the marketing communication once, from a reasonable distance and at a reasonable speed.”

#### **4. Government asks auto industry to cut imports, raise exports**

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

Senior ministers of the Union government took Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s clarion call of Atmanirbhar Bharat forward and urged automakers to reduce their dependence on imports, increase exports, and make India a global manufacturing hub for automobiles and auto components. “I request the auto industry to not depend on imports, develop import substitutes, and expand its export business. The government will support you in increasing production and boosting employment potential,” said Nitin Gadkari, the Union minister for road transport and highways, and micro, small and medium enterprises. Minister of railways, and commerce and industry Piyush Goyal and minister of environment, forest and climate change Prakash Javadekar also urged the auto sector to boost local manufacturing at the annual conventions organized by the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) and the Automotive Component Manufacturers Association of India (ACMA), held on 4-5 September.

#### **5. Reliance Industries to spin off oil to chemicals business**

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

Reliance Industries Ltd on 6 September released details related to carving out its oil-to-chemicals business into a separate entity, six months after it first announced the proposal as a precursor to a stake sale. According to the plan, RIL’s oil-to-chemicals assets, including its refining, petrochemicals, fuel retail (majority interest only) and bulk wholesale marketing businesses, along with its assets and liabilities, will be transferred to a new unit. In April, RIL approved an arrangement for transfer of its oil-to-chemicals (O2C) business to Reliance O2C Ltd as a going concern on slump sale basis. The separation of the assets was planned as part of RIL’s target to sell 20% in its refining and chemicals business to Saudi Aramco. Assets, including Reliance Ethane Holding Pte Ltd, Reliance Gas Pipelines Ltd, Gujarat Chemical

Port Ltd, Reliance Corporate IT Park Ltd, Reliance Industrial Infrastructure Ltd, among others, will not be part of the oil to chemicals undertaking.

#### **6. Isro's Chandrayaan-3 to lift off for Moon in early 2021, without orbiter**

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

The Indian Space and Research Organisation (Isro) is swiftly moving ahead with the Chandrayaan-3 mission likely to be launched in early 2021. However, unlike Chandrayaan-2, it will not have an orbiter but will include a lander and a rover, Union Minister Jitendra Singh said. The mission has been delayed by the coronavirus pandemic and the follow-up lockdowns. The launch which was planned for 2020 will now take off for the Lunar surface sometime in early 2021. Chandrayaan-3 will be a mission repeat of Chandrayaan-2 and will include a Lander and Rover similar to that of Chandrayaan-2, but will not have an orbiter, a statement quoting Singh said. Planned to land on the South Pole of the Moon, Chandrayaan-2 was launched on July 22 last year. However, the lander Vikram hard-landed on September 7, crashing India's dream to become the first nation to successfully touch down on the lunar surface in its maiden attempt.

#### **7. India's covid numbers past those of Brazil; country now in second spot globally**

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

India's covid numbers crossed those of Brazil with 90,802 covid-19 cases in the last 24 hours, and took the total tally to 4,204,613 on 7 September. With this, India reached the second spot in world in terms of having the highest caseload of coronavirus cases. According to Johns Hopkins University's live dashboard of the disease, the total count of cases in Brazil is 4,137,521. India is now only behind the US, currently the country worst hit by the covid-19 pandemic. India had been closing in on Brazil, recording highest number of fresh cases for the past few days. In terms of the number of deaths due to covid-19, India is currently at the third spot after the US and Brazil with 71,642 people succumbing to the highly infectious disease.

#### **8. Solar power not finding buyers – Here's what Centre plans to do**

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

To address the issue of solar power not finding buyers, the government will bundle projects in order to cushion the hit to state-run power distribution companies (discoms) from high tariffs discovered under certain auctions, Union power minister RK Singh told FE. To start with, projects with a combined capacity of 3 gigawatt (GW) bid out under the manufacturing-linked solar scheme in January, will be bundled with a total 3.2 GW capacity awarded in the

last two Seci auctions held in February and June. This means that the discoms concerned could buy power at a composite rate of `2.66 per unit, against a higher tariff of `2.92 discovered the manufacturing-linked scheme. The 3 GW capacity to be combined with other projects is part of the 12 GW projects awarded in the maiden auction under the manufacturing-linked scheme.

### **9. After years, Govt plans new development bank for big infra funding**

**Source: The Indian Express ([Link](#))**

Years after some of India's biggest Development Finance Institutions (DFIs), such as ICICI, IDBI, IFCI and IRBI, either reinvented themselves or faded away, the government is veering towards setting up a new DFI essentially to fill the gap in long-term finance for infrastructure sectors. "Discussions have been held at the highest level over the last couple of months. The two options being discussed are: i) whether it should be promoted by the government or, ii) it should be given a private sector character with the government restricting its holding to 49 per cent," a top government official told The Sunday Express. The proposed DFI will be used to finance both social and economic infrastructure projects identified under the National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP).