DAILY NEWS MONITOR: 11 JULY 2022

1. Hydrogen enters green power play

Source: Livemint (Link)

Round-the-clock power fuelled solely by renewable energy may be close at hand, with the Union government planning pilot projects to operate solar and wind power bundled with power from green hydrogen. The Union power ministry is expected to assign state-run NTPC Ltd and Coal India Ltd to run the pilots, two officials familiar with the matter said. "There was an initial round of talks with all stakeholders on bundling solar and wind power, along with power generated through the green hydrogen-backed gas turbine. They are expected to take concrete shape soon," one of the two officials cited above said on the condition of anonymity. Since electricity from solar and wind power plants is intermittent, they need backing from a more stable power source, such as battery storage or thermal power for uninterrupted supply. Existing round-the-clock (RTC) green power projects in India are largely bundled with thermal power.

2. India inflation likely held steady just above 7% in June - Reuters poll Source: Money Control (Link)

India's retail inflation likely held steady in June, but well above the Reserve Bank of India's tolerance limit for a sixth month as lower fuel and cooking oil prices offset higher services and food costs, a Reuters poll found. Despite a substantial recent increase in food prices, rising at the fastest pace in nearly two years, overall inflation was partly contained after the government cut taxes on petrol and diesel and imposed restrictions on food exports. But most economists warned the near-term outlook was highly uncertain as a heatwave last month pushed up vegetable prices. The government has also cut estimates of wheat production because of dry spells in northern India.

3. Russian firms launch chartered ships to India Source: The Economic Times (Link)

Russian companies have launched regular chartered ships to ensure the supply of necessary goods including critical raw materials to India and China in backdrop of sanctions imposed on Moscow after the Ukraine war impacting usual supply chains. Chartered container shipping services have been launched between Russia and India for smooth transfer of critical raw materials, ET has learnt. Russian freight shipper Inteco and China-based Swift Transport Group have created joint subsidiaries for container shipping services between Vostochny in Russia's Far East and ports in China, sources indicated

4. India hands 44,000 MT of urea to crisis-hit Sri Lanka Source: The Economic Times (Link)

India on 11 July handed more than 44,000 metric tonnes of urea under a credit line extended to crisis-ridden Sri Lanka, as part of New Delhi's ongoing efforts to support the island nation's farmers and help bolster bilateral cooperation for food security, the Indian High Commission here said. Indian High Commissioner to Sri Lanka Gopal Baglay met Agriculture Minister Mahinda Amaraweera to inform him about the arrival of more than 44,000 metric tonnes of urea.