

DAILY NEWS MONITOR: 27 AUGUST 2021

1. Flipkart strengthens its supply chain network ahead of the festive season

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

E-commerce firm Flipkart has strengthened its supply chain network in Karnataka with the addition of three new facilities ahead of the upcoming festive season. These new fulfilment centres will help create deeper capabilities to support thousands of sellers, MSMEs (micro, small and medium enterprises), small farmers from the state to cater to the growing customer demand. They would also create more employment opportunities while enabling faster deliveries for consumers. The addition of the new facilities is a testament to Flipkart's commitment to continue building the e-commerce ecosystem and serving customers & sellers from the state in a seamless manner while contributing to the state's economic growth & prosperity.

2. FM discusses key areas of cooperation for supporting recovery of BRICS nations

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

Sitharaman, as the chair, remarked that India attaches great significance to presenting this statement before the global community since it unanimously voices the view of BRICS countries on the critical aspects underpinning current international policy conversations on post pandemic recovery. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on 26 August discussed with her BRICS counterparts the key areas of cooperation that would be crucial in supporting recovery of the grouping's economies and maintaining macroeconomic stability, while protecting against future uncertainties posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. She highlighted that BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) has been playing and will continue to play a crucial role in dealing with crises such as the pandemic.

3. 165k unorganised workers registered on first day of e-Shram portal launch

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

About 165,000 workers in the unorganised sector registered themselves on the e-Shram portal on the first day of its launch on 26 August. The portal, which aims to build a comprehensive database of unorganised workers in the country, would ensure the formalisation of the workforce, industry bodies said. After unveiling the portal, Labour and Employment Minister Bhupender Yadav said there were an estimated 380 million workers in the unorganised sector, and the platform would help provide the benefits of various central and state welfare schemes to them, particularly in times like these. There are varying estimates of the number of unorganised workers. According to the Economic Survey (2018-19), 93 per cent of the

total workforce in India is in the unorganised sector. According to an estimate, the total workforce in the country is 450 million. Ninety-three per cent of this comes to 418.5 million.

4. SpiceJet doubles frequency of cargo flights to China

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

SpiceJet has doubled the frequency of its scheduled freighter flights to Kunming and Wuhan in China from two to four per week. The increase in flights came into effect last week ahead of the festive season which sees import of mobile phones and electronic goods from China and comes in the backdrop of disruption at Shanghai airport. The disruption caused due to Covid-19 cases among the airport staff at Shanghai has led to cancellation of flights and restriction on loads. Air freight charges have gone up too and shippers are exploring trucking of export goods from Shanghai to alternate airports in China for onward carriage. “China is an important market for SpiceXpress and we have increased our frequency to Wuhan and Kunming,” an airline spokesperson said.

5. Pandemic has India scrambling to boost its manufacturing sector

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

For decades, the services industry powered India’s growth and tempered unemployment in the world’s second-most populous nation. The coronavirus pandemic is now leading to calls for an urgent rebalancing of the economy toward manufacturing. High-contact services jobs from airlines to hotels and malls to multiplexes were the first to collapse amid protracted lockdowns aimed at containing the virus. The decline of the sector, which typically accounts for 55% of the economy, is forcing people to seek work on rural farms or in the undersized manufacturing industry.

6. Niti Aayog, Cisco launch next phase of Women Entrepreneurship Platform

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

The Niti Aayog and the US-based tech giant Cisco on 26 August launched the next phase of the Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP), according to an official statement. Titled 'WEP Nxt', this next phase of Niti Aayog's flagship platform will leverage Cisco's technology and experience working with India's start-up ecosystem to enable more women-owned businesses across the country, the statement added. The WEP is a first of its kind, unified access portal that brings together women from different parts of India to realise their entrepreneurial aspirations. Speaking on the occasion, Niti Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant said that as per the Sixth Economic Census, women only constitute 13.76 per cent of the total entrepreneurs, i.e., 8.05 million out of the 58.5 million entrepreneurs in the country.

7. Centre may roll out e-com policy without data norms

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

The policy will also stay clear of the controversial data localization rules, as these will be separately handled by the Reserve Bank of India and the upcoming bill pending before Parliament. The commerce ministry will proceed with the proposed e-commerce policy without waiting for the personal data protection bill to be passed in Parliament, a top ministry official said. The policy will also stay clear of the controversial data localization rules, as these will be separately handled by the Reserve Bank of India and the upcoming bill pending before Parliament. An earlier version of the draft e-commerce policy leaked in 2008, which had proposed to include data rules, was junked after stiff opposition from the industry. A recent version accessed by Mint in March this year showed the commerce ministry intends to bring in regulations that would prevent the formation of digital monopolies and facilitate e-commerce exports.