DAILY NEWS MONITOR: 8 JULY 2022

1. Ex-NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant to replace Piyush Goyal as India G20 Sherpa Source: Business Standard (Link)

The Centre on 7 July appointed Amitabh Kant, former chief executive officer (CEO) of the government's policy think tank NITI Aayog, as India's Sherpa for the Group of Twenty (G20) grouping, replacing Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal. The appointment comes ahead of India's G20 Presidency from December 1, 2022, to November 30, 2023, culminating in the first-ever G20 summit to be organised by the country in 2023. G20 is the premier forum for the world's largest industrialised and emerging economies for international economic cooperation and plays a pivotal role in global economic governance. Kant, a career bureaucrat who retired last month from the Aayog, will be the personal representative of the head of the government — Prime Minister Narendra Modi — at the G20 summit.

2. Finance minister asks Niti Aayog to map all industrial clusters Source: Financial Express (Link)

Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman on 7 July directed the Niti Aayog to submit a report by end-October after mapping all industrial clusters—including freight and defence corridors, logistics parks, textiles parks and pharmaceutical hubs—so that they can be incorporated under the PM Gati Shakti initiative. During the first meeting of the Apex Monitoring Authority for the National Industrial Corridor Development Programme, headed by her, Sitharaman also asked the shipping ministry to consider linking various sea ports in the country with industrial corridors. These were part of the seven action points highlighted by the minister.

3. India sees massive fall in employment in June: CMIE Source: The Economic Times (Link)

India's total employment fell by a massive 13 million to 390 million in June 2022 compared to 403 million in May, the lowest level since July last year. This is largely due to the decline of 8 million jobs in rural India on the back of sluggish monsoon followed by loss of 2.5 million salaried jobs, the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy said. However, a huge part of the workforce consisting of the agricultural labourers and small traders exited the labour market resulting only in a small increase in unemployment rate last month. However, a huge part of the workforce consisting of the agricultural labourers and small traders exited the labour market resulting only in a small increase in unemployment rate last month.

4. After wheat, India now curbs the export of wheat flour and related products Source: Business Standard (<u>Link</u>)

The government has restricted the export of wheat flour and other related products, such as maida, rava (samolina), wholemeal atta and resultant atta. All exporters will need to seek prior permission from an inter-ministerial committee on export of wheat before undertaking any outbound shipment. The Centre had banned the export of wheat in May. According to a Directorate General of Foreign Trade notification issued on July 6, the curbs will come into force from July 12. Until July 12, those shipments will be allowed where loading on the ship had started before July 6 or the consignments were handed over to the customs department before the notification was issued.

5. Dr Reddy's Lab says its Andhra plant gets two observations from USFDA Source: Business Standard (Link)

Dr Reddy's Laboratories Ltd on 7 July said the US health regulator has issued Form 483 with two observations after inspecting its manufacturing facility located at Srikakulam in Andhra Pradesh. As per USFDA, Form 483 is issued to a firm's management at the conclusion of an inspection when the investigator has observed any conditions that in its judgment may constitute violations of the Food Drug and Cosmetic (FD&C) Act and related Acts. The US Food and Drug Administration (USFDA) completed a pre-approval inspection at the company's formulations manufacturing facility FTO 11 in Srikakulam, Andhra Pradesh on Thursday, Dr Reddy's said in a regulatory filing. The inspection was conducted from June 30, 2022 to July 7, 2022.