1. Niti Aayog pitches for greater operational, financial autonomy for state-owned discoms
Source: The Economic Times (Link)

Government think tank Niti Aayog has pitched for greater operational and financial autonomy for state-owned discoms, saying for a state-owned utility to succeed, there should be a clear separation between utility and state. In a report titled 'Turning Around the Power Distribution Sector', Niti Aayog said the performance of state-owned discoms is also determined by the ability of the respective State Electricity Regulatory Commissions (SERC) to revise tariff frequently and adequately. Noting that discoms have a monopoly in their area of functioning, the think tank suggested that delicensing distribution can introduce competition and enable retail choice for customers.

2. Parliament passes Inland Vessels Bill 2021! Take a look at benefits of new Act
Source: Financial Express (Link)

The Inland Vessels Bill 2021 was passed by the Parliament recently, which aims to replace over 100-year old Inland Vessels Act of 1917 as well as usher in a new era in the inland water transport sector. The bill also aims to fulfill the Modi government's vision to make the Legislative framework more user-friendly as well as promote ease of doing business. Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways, Sarbananda Sonowal moved the bill in Rajya Sabha recently. The Inland Vessels Bill 2021 will now be sent to the President for assent. According to the ministry, it will allow harmonized and effective inland vessels' regulation and also their seamless and safe navigation.

3. UAE lifts ban on transit flights from India, Pakistan, other countries
Source: Business Standard (Link)

The United Arab Emirates will lift a ban on transit passenger traffic from India, Pakistan, Nigeria and other countries from Aug. 5, the National Emergency and Crisis Management Authority (NCEMA) said on Tuesday. The UAE, a major international travel hub, has banned passengers from many South Asian and African countries for several months due to the coronavirus pandemic. NCEMA said on Twitter that passengers travelling from countries where flights had been suspended would be able to transit through its airports from Thursday as long as they present negative PCR tests taken 72 hours prior to departure. Final destination approval would also have to be provided, the authority said, adding that UAE departure airports would arrange separate lounges for transiting passengers.

4. NERAMC initiates first ever export consignment of maize to Bangladesh
Source: The Economic Times ([Link](#))

North Eastern Regional Agricultural Marketing Corporation Limited (NERAMC) has initiated its first ever export consignment of Maize to Bangladesh. This consignment is sourced from the farms of Burigaon in Darrang District and will give a further boost to farmers' income especially during this pandemic situation. Though the initial order is for 50 MT of Maize, NERAMAC expect that this will open the floodgate for exporting the varied agri-horti produces of North East India to newer market. Atul Bora, Minister of Agriculture, Government of Assam had flagged off the shipment in the presence of a host of dignitaries.

5. Government mulls further easing of indirect tax compliance
Source: Livemint ([Link](#))

The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) is examining more measures to liberalize compliance requirements in customs and GST procedures to boost cross-border trade and to make life easier for businesses. The measures under review will also seek to leverage technology and widen the tax base. Self-certification and reduction of licence requirements will be a key part of the proposed measures. The indirect tax authority is currently reviewing two separate sets of recommendations made by internal study groups on customs and GST that examined measures for revenue augmentation and expansion of tax base, while enhancing ease of doing business and further reducing compliance burden, said an official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity.