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**WEEKLY CA  
NOV 2020**

**NOVEMBER 8-15**

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1. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched **Ro-Pax ferry** service between **Ghogha and Hazira in Gujarat** through video conferencing. The Ro-Pax ferry vessel called the "**Voyage Symphony**" is a three-deck vessel. It has a load capacity to load thirty trucks, 100 passenger cars and 500 passengers.
2. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has renamed the Ministry of Shipping to **Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways**. PM Modi announced the renaming of the ministry at the inaugural virtual event of Ro-Pax terminal at Surat's Hazira.
3. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated various development projects in Varanasi through video conferencing. The projects inaugurated includes sound show, Sarnath Light, Sewerage related works, infrastructure protection for conservation of cows, agriculture produce warehouse, multipurpose seed storehouse, Varanasi city smart lighting works, 102 Gau Ashray Kendras, 105 Anganwadi Kendras.
4. **IIT Alumni Council** has launched "**MegaScope**" for personalized healthcare. MegaScope has been launched to include testing, data analysis and genomics to precisely diagnose infections and to prescribe personalised medicines.
5. **Australia-India Water Centre (AIWC)** has been inaugurated in a virtual event. This Water Centre is led by **IIT Guwahati** from Indian side and **University of Western Sydney** from the Australian side. Along with this, the centre has 21 partners from India and Australia.
6. The **DRDO** has developed fire **detection and suppression system for passenger buses**. The technology can detect fire in buses in less than 30 seconds. Also, it can extinguish the fire in 60 Seconds. The technology was developed by the Delhi based **Centre for fire explosive and environment safety** of DRDO.
7. 13th **Urban Mobility India (UMI) Conference 2020** was held virtually on the theme "**Emerging Trends in Urban Mobility**" from New Delhi which was inaugurated by Minister of State Hardeep Singh Puri, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA). During the Conference the Award of Excellence was conferred upon Capital Region Urban Transport (CRUT), Bhubaneswar (Odisha) and Agartala Smart City Limited (ASCL), Tripura.
8. Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) will be starting '**Bharat Darshan–Dakshin Bharat Yatra**' from December 12. The Bharat Darshan Yatra will start from **Hyderabad** and Secunderabad from December 12 to 18. The theme of this yatra will be '**Show India to Indians**'.
9. For the first time in India, the **Mumbai Metro Rail Corporation Ltd.** will lay **vibration-absorbing tracks** on the Colaba-Bandra-SEEPZ Metro Line-3.

10. **Tata Medical and Diagnostics Ltd (TataMD)** have unveiled "**TataMD CHECK**" which is a novel diagnostic testing for COVID-19. It is the **world's first CRISPR CaS-9 based diagnostic tool** and is powered by FELUDA.
11. World Health Organization announced that it is to set up a **traditional medicine centre in India**. The announcement of establishing the centre was made during the inaugural ceremony of two future ready Ayurveda institutions. These institutions were inaugurated in **Jamnagar** and **Jaipur**.
12. Indian Navy launched the fifth Scorpene submarine "**Vagir**" at Mazagon Dock of south Mumbai. The submarine is capable of taking missions such as anti-submarine warfare, anti-surface warfare, mine laying, intelligence gathering and area surveillance. Vagir is a part of six Kalvari class submarine.
13. India test fired all-weather **Quick Reaction Surface-to-Air-Missiles** at the Chandipur Test Fire Range. It is called **QRSAM**. The missile is capable of striking aerial target at a height of 15 km.
14. India's first **Sandalwood Museum** is being established in **Mysuru**, Karnataka. The museum is set up by the Regional Forest Department to educate farmers about the significance of cultivation of sandalwood.
15. Union Minister of Jal Shakti, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat launched the **country's first solar-based Integrated Multi-Village Water Supply Project (IMVWSP)** in **Arunachal Pradesh**.

## STATES AFFAIRS

16. Uttarakhand CM, Trivendra Singh Rawat inaugurated the **India's longest motorable single lane suspension bridge** of 725-metre-long Dobra-Chanti suspension bridge in TehriGarhwal district over the Tehri Lake.
17. **Uttarakhand** became first state to provide **free high-speed WiFi services** for all government colleges and universities.
18. Uttar Pradesh government has announced that the **International Bird Festival** will be organized in **Gorakhpur** district of Uttar Pradesh (UP) in February 2021.
19. The **Haryana** Government passed a bill which provides a **right to recall an elected member of Panchayati Raj Institutions** if they fail to perform their duties well. The state government also provided 50% reservation to women in these bodies.
20. **Jharkhand** General Assembly passed a resolution demanding a separate '**Sarna Code**' for Tribals. The proposal was tabled by Chief Minister Hemant Soren. The resolution was passed unanimously with voice vote. The Resolution seeks a separate column for followers of Sarna religion in Census 2021.

21. Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan launched a roadmap to “**Aatma Nirbhar Madhya Pradesh 2023**”. Under the roadmap, special focus will be on health and education in the state. A network of hospitals will be established in the state focusing on the health sector.
22. Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (**APEDA**) has confirmed that **Tezpur Litchi** of Assam has received the Geographical Indication (GI) Tag. Tezpur Litchi was granted the Geographical Indication (GI) tag certification on 27th March 2015.

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## INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

23. **United Arab Emirates** announced major changes to its Islamic laws. It includes loosening of alcohol restrictions, **allowing unmarried couples to cohabit** and loosening criminalization of honour killings
24. The Pakistan Gurudwara body, PSGPC (Pakistan Sikh Gurudwara Parbandhak Committee) is to celebrate the first anniversary of the inauguration of Kartarpur Corridor. The Corridor connects Dera Baba Nanak in India with Gurudwara Darbar Sahib.
25. **Aung San Suu Kyi** led National League for Democracy (NLD) party has claimed to have won the Myanmar elections. Around 38 million voted to select the National League of Democracy (NLD) Party for a second term.
26. **Nepal President Bidya Devi Bhandari** has released a special pictorial anthology on **Mahatma Gandhi** to mark the 151st birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. This anthology is written in the Nepali language. The book was launched at a special function held at in Kathmandu in the presence of Indian Ambassador to Nepal, Vinay Mohan Kwatra.
27. **4th India- Philippines Joint Commission** on Bilateral Cooperation was held virtually on November 6. The meeting was co- chaired by India’s External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Teodoro Locsin Jr, Secretary, Department of Foreign Affairs of Republic of Philippines.
28. US President-elect Joe Biden announced a 12-member Task Force to deal with COVID-19 in the United States of America The task force is to be headed by a former **General Surgeon Vivek Murthy** and other officials from Food and Drug Administration and universities.
29. The Virgin Hyperloop that plans to connect Mumbai and Pune in 25 minutes has conducted its first successful passenger ride. The test was conducted in Las Vegas. The Hyperloop is a new mode of

transport that speeds up to 1000 kilometres per hour. The idea was conceived by Tesla and SpaceX in 2012.

30. **Sudan** was removed from the **list of State Sponsors of Terrorism**. India has welcomed its removal. Also, India welcomed the normalisation of Sudan's relations with Israel. Sudan-Israel After UAE, Bahrain, Sudan became the third country to normalise its relations with Israel in the last two months.
31. India attended first **BRICS Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors' meet**. The Finance Minister Nirmala Sitaraman represented India at the meet.
32. **India and Maldives** have agreed over **four MOUs** during the visit of India's Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla to Maldives. The four MOUs were signed for **cooperation in sports and youth affairs; connectivity project, setting of plant and soil testing labs**.
33. **China** recently launched the **first 6G experimental satellite**. The satellite will test the technology of Tetrahertz waves in space.
34. India attended the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Summit. India was represented by PM Modi at the summit. This is the 20th summit of the organization and third for India since it became a member in 2017. India was an observer at the SCO since 2005.
35. The Indian Astronomers have collaborated with 2020 Physics Nobel Laureate Prof Andrea Ghez on the **"Thirty Meter Telescope Project"**. The telescope is being installed at **Hawaii** and is to revolutionise the understanding of the universe. Thirty Meter Telescope Project It is an international partnership project between **India, China, Japan, California and Canada**.
36. The **Second World Health Expo** is being held in **Hubei's Capital City, Wuhan** in China from November 11-14, 2020. The World Health Expo will showcase the Latest Technology in Fitness Sports and the most realistically restored anti-epidemic Scenes. It will feature 12 different venues for audiences to experience the most frontier health technology.
37. **Stanford University**, from United States has released a list of Top 2% Scientists of the world. The list has 1, 59, 683 persons and **1, 492 Indians** have found a place in it. The scientists have been selected in the global list based on their research paper's International Evaluation. The results have been published in **PLOS Biology** and have been classified into 22 scientific fields and 176 sub-fields in the report.
38. The **United Nations** has created a new alliance to prevent COVID-19 food crisis. It was proposed by Italy and led by Food and Agriculture Organization. According to the State of Food Security and Nutrition Report, 2020 more than 690 million people went hungry in 2019.

39. **India** has received the **first commercial shipment** from **Bangladesh** through water route on November 9, 2020. The shipment was received Assam's Karimganj on the Protocol for Inland Water Trade and Transit (PIWTT) route. This is a step towards utilizing the inland waterway connectivity for trade and prosperity between both the countries.
40. **India** attended the **10th BRICS Health Ministers Conference** virtually. Union Health and Family Welfare Minister Harsh Vardhan attended the meeting from the Indian side
41. **India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA)** report on '**Deepening Cooperation in IBSA: Perspectives from Key Sectors**' has been launched by the Economic Relations Secretary of Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Rahul Chhabra.
42. The **INTERPOL** and the **World Customs Organization** conducted **Operation Thunder, 2020** in 103 countries. The operation was conducted **against environmental crimes**.
43. Prime Minister Narendra Modi **cochaired India-ASEAN summit** along with the Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc. ASEAN is Association of South East Asian Nations. During the summit, PM announced that India is to contribute **1 million USD to COVID-19 ASEAN Response Fund**.
44. **China** and **fourteen other countries** signed a deal to set up the **world largest trading bloc** named **Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP)**. The negotiations to sign the deal began in 2011. These 15 countries account to 30% of world population and 30% of global GDP. Thus, the deal is the world largest Free Trade Agreement.

## REPORTS & INDEXES

45. The **Wildlife Institute of India** recently released a survey on the Ganges river. According to the survey, **49% of the river is high on biodiversity**. These are results of phase I of the survey. The Gangetic Dolphins and Otters in the river have increased in numbers. The study was conducted by the WII on behalf of National Mission for Clean Ganga undertaken by the Ministry of Jal Shakti. The first phase of the survey was held in 2017-19.
46. The Mumbai based research non-profit **India Migration Now** has recently released "**Interstate Migrant Policy Index**" (**IMPEX**). The index measures integration of interstate migrants. The average IMPEX score of India is 37 out of 100. According to the index, the states of **Kerala**, Goa, Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh have been most successful in integrating migrant workers. On the other hand, Delhi has the least Interstate Migrant Policy Index.
47. On November 12, 2020, on the occasion of the World Pneumonia Day, the International Vaccines Access Centre released the **11<sup>th</sup> Annual Pneumonia and Diarrhoea Progress Report**. According to the report, India has achieved the **global target of 90% coverage** of three of five vaccines. These vaccines are DPT Vaccine, Measles vaccine, PCV vaccine, Rotavirus vaccine and Haemophilus

Influenzae Type B vaccine. DPT is Diphtheria, Pertussis and Tetanus vaccine. PCV is Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine.

48. International Financial Services Centres (IFSC) **International Retail Business Development Committee** has presented its final report to International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA). The final report has recommendations on **Capital Markets, Banking and Insurance**. The committee also made recommendations for the development of IFSC.
49. A review of **BMI (Body Mass Index)** of various countries' teenagers has been recently published in the international medical journal "**The Lancet**", which placed India at **196th rank with respect to BMI in boys & 198th rank with respect to BMI in girls**. This review covered school-aged children and adolescents for ages **5-19 years** from 1985 to 2019 in 200 countries and territories. India's boys ranked **180th with an average height of 5.46 feet** while **girls ranked 182nd with an average height of 5.06 feet**. Netherlands tops in country with Tallest boys and girls.
50. The Fifteenth Finance Commission headed by N K Singh is to submit its report to the President of India. The recommendations made by the commission are as follows
- The Commission has recommended that the **states shall get 41% of central tax revenues**. Earlier, the fourteenth Finance Commission had recommended 42%.
  - 4.3 lakh crores for the local governments
  - Rs 1 lakh grant to health care
  - Rs 2.9 lakh crores of revenue deficit grants to 17 states.
  - The commission have recommended the states to keep aside at least 8% of their budget for building health care capacities
51. According to the International Energy Agency's (IEA) report, **Renewables 2020 – Analysis and Forecast to 2025**, India's Renewable Energy sector will see the largest growth after COVID-19. **India will double its green energy capacity addition in 2021 compared to 2020 levels**. Driven by China and the United States, new additions of renewable power capacity worldwide are expected to a record level of almost **200 Gigawatts (GW) in 2020**. Total Installed Wind and Solar PV capacity will surpass natural gas in 2023 and coal in 2024.



## GOVERNMENT SCHEMES & PROGRAMMES

52. The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy has recently issued orders to expand Pradhan **Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthan Mahabhiyan (PM-KUSUM)**. Accordingly, the new target of the scheme has been enhanced to **achieve solar capacity of 30.8 GW by 2022**. This is to be done with the revised central financial support of Rs 34,035 crores.



53. Union Cabinet chaired by PM Narendra Modi approved **Production Linked Incentive Scheme for ten sectors**. The schemes are worth of Rs 1.46 lakh crores. The Gol had earlier announced the scheme for pharmaceuticals and electronic products alone. Ten sectors includes food processing, leather, textiles, battery manufacturing. The pharmaceuticals (and medical devices) and electronics are already under the scheme. These sectors were suggested by NITI Aayog. The rest four sectors are to be decided soon.
54. Finance Minister Smt Nirmala Sitharaman announced the fourth economic stimulus package. During the announcement, the Finance Minister introduced the "**Atma Nirbhar Bharat Rozgar Yojana**". Atma Nirbhar Bharat Rozgar Yojana. The beneficiaries of the scheme include employees in EPFO registered establishments who were on monthly wages less than Rs 15,000.
55. Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs had approved the Continuation and Revamping of the **Scheme for Financial Support to Public Private Partnership in Infrastructure Viability Gap Funding Scheme till 2024-25**. The main objective of the scheme is to promote PPP (Public-Private Partnership) in social and economic infrastructure for proper.

## ECONOMY & BUSINESS

56. Saffron Production under the **National Saffron Mission** that was so far confined to Kashmir is now to be implemented in the **North East**. The plants are to be transported from Kashmir to Sikkim. So far, saffron production was confined to the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.
57. The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) has made **FASTags mandatory for all four-wheelers from January 1, 2021**. The ministry released an official notification regarding this and clarified that it will be applicable to old vehicles also.
58. Coal Minister Shri Pralhad Joshi announced that the **19 mines were auctioned during first tranche of coal mine auction**. The first tranche of the auction is to generate revenue of Rs 7,000 crores. The auctioned mines have peak rated capacity of 51 million tonnes.
59. The Finance Ministry has given its approval for the **creation of national database for unorganised sector**. It will be the first-ever national database for migrant workers. The aim of creating national database is to give a proper platform to migrant labourers.
60. **Hunar Haat** has restarted from November 11 after a gap of around seven months due to the COVID-19 pandemic. To mark the beginning of operations, Union Minister for Minority Affairs Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi inaugurated '**Hunar Haat**' at **Delhi Haat, Pitampura**. The Hunar Haat is being organized by the India International Trade Fair (**IITF**), Pragati Maidan from November 11.

61. The Government of India has set up a 22-member inter-ministerial committee to strengthen Capital Goods Sector. The committee will look into issues. This will help India achieve its goal of becoming a 5 trillion USD economy.
62. The Union Ministry of Textiles has launched a campaign for Diwali- "Local4Diwali". The campaign has been launched to promote the Indian handicraft which is the cultural heritage of the country and also a source of livelihood for many.
63. Credit rating agency, Moody's Investors Service has revised the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) forecast of India to **-8.9 percent** upwards for calendar year 2020 from the -9.6 percent contraction forecasted earlier. The agency forecasted in September 2020 that India's GDP will contract by 9.6%.
64. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced **Mission COVID Suraksha**. Under the mission, the Government of India has **allocated Rs 900 crores to the research and development of COVID-19 vaccines in India**. The funds allocated do not cover the cost and distribution of the vaccines.
65. Finance Minister Smt Nirmala Sitaraman announced the Economic Stimulus Package 4.0. Production Linked Incentive Scheme for 10 sectors. **Rs 1.46 trillion to be provided**. Rs 6,940 crore scheme to promote manufacture of API (Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients). Rs 18,000 crores allocated to Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban).
66. Ministry of Food Processing Industries announced that a **50% transport subsidy is being provided to 41 notified fruits and vegetables** from the Himalayan and the North Eastern states. Earlier, these notified fruits and vegetables were provided with rail subsidies under the Kisan Rail Scheme.

## FINANCE AND BANKING

67. **Karnataka Bank Ltd.** has launched the **National Common Mobility Debit (NCCM) card**. It is the first-ever contactless debit-cum-prepaid Rupay Card of the bank and is an inter-operable transport card. This debit card has been launched in-line with the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs' vision.
68. **Airtel Payments Bank**, headquartered at Mumbai, Maharashtra India's first payments bank partnered with **Bharti AXA General Insurance** Co Ltd to offer 'Smart Drive Private Car Insurance' to offer car insurance for its customers.
69. **HDFC Bank** in Partnership with **Visa** launched '**SmartHub Merchant Solutions 3.0**', India's first comprehensive banking and payment solution for merchants. This first-of-its-kind solution offers the ideal platform for merchants and self-employed professionals to open a current account instantly and to accept payments in-store and online.

70. **Paytm** has launched 'Payout Links', a new initiative under **Paytm Payout**, for businesses. This enables businesses to instantly make payments to the customers, employees & vendors, without the need to collect their bank details.
71. International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) has approved the International Financial Services Centres Authority (Banking) Regulations, 2020. The draft banking regulations approved at the meeting opens the way for making rules for the various aspects of banking operations in IFSC.
72. Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (**IRDAI**) has set up a 9-member working group headed by **R Chandrasekaran** to revisit the product structures of engineering tariffs relevant to the retail businesses and provide suitable recommendations to revise them. The committee will submit the report within 3 months.

## AWARDS & RECOGNITION

73. Vice President Venkaiah Naidu announced the second National Water Awards. **Tamil Nadu** won the first place followed by Maharashtra and Rajasthan at second and third places respectively. Mizoram bagged the topmost position under the special category.

## PERSON IN NEWS

74. World's longest serving Prime Minister Khalifa Bin Salman Al Khalifa, Bahrain PM, died on November 11. He was 84. He died at the Mayo Clinic Hospital in the United States. He became the Prime Minister of Bahrain on 19 January 1970 but took office on 5 August 1971 after the country's independence.
75. The book titled 'How to Be a Writer' authored by **Ruskin Bond** was published by **HarperCollins** India. The book gives practical advice for every person who is aspiring to write and be published.
76. **Sonu Sood**, an actor and producer is set to pen his autobiography titled "**I Am No Messiah**". The book will be co-authored by Meena Iyer. The book will account the experience of Sonu Sood during the COVID-19 pandemic. The book is set to be published by Penguin Random House India and released in December 2020.

## OBITUARIES

77. **Sanchaman Limboo**, Former Chief Minister (CM) of Sikkim passed away at the age of 73 due to prolonged illness in Gangtok, Sikkim. He was born on January 15, 1947 in West Sikkim district, Sikkim.
78. **Satyajit Ghosh**, former football player of India and Mohun Bagan passed away at the age of 62 at Bandel, West Bengal due to cardiac arrest.
79. **Arjun Prajapati**, the renowned **Sculptor and Padma shri awardee** from Rajasthan passed away at the age of 64 in at Jaipur, Rajasthan due to COVID-19. He was popularly known as the "Maharathi of Cloning"

## IMPORTANT DAYS

80. Every year, **World Diabetes Day** is celebrated on **November 14**. The celebrations of the World Diabetes Day is led by International Diabetes Federation. This year the World Diabetes Day is celebrated under the theme: **Nurses make the difference for Diabetes**.
81. **Public Service Broadcasting Day** is celebrated every year on **November 12** as the remembrance of the first and only visit of Mahatma Gandhi to the studio of All India Radio, Delhi in 1947.

## SPORTS

82. The Ministry of Sports has approved **6 Khelo India Centres of Excellence** in six different states. Khelo India centre of excellence is an initiative of the Sports Ministry to upgrade the existing sports infrastructure in all states and Union Territories.
83. **China's Chen Meng** has been crowned as the winner of the **first-ever ITTF Women's World Cup** title. Chen Meng is the world's No.1 women tennis player at present. She defeated her Chinese compatriot Sun Yingsha by 11-13 11-6 11-9 11-6 11-8 to win the title.
84. On November 10, 2020, **Mumbai Indians** won the IPL 2020 Trophy for the **fifth** time. The team has so far won the title in 2013, 2015, 2017, 2019 and 2020. Rohit Sharma was the captain of the team.

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