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**WEEKLY CA**  
**APRIL 2021**



**APRIL 8-15**



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## NATIONAL AFFAIRS

1. Union Health Minister **Harsh Vardhan** and Tribal Affairs Minister **Arjun Munda** has virtually launched Tribal Health Collaborative '**Anamaya**'
  - **Anamaya** is multi-stakeholder initiative that will converge efforts of various Government agencies and organisations to enhance the health and nutrition status of the tribal communities.
  - Supported by: **Piramal Foundation** and **Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation**
2. Education Minister **Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank'** has launched NanoSniffer, the world's first Microsensor based Explosive Trace Detector (ETD). It was developed by IIT Bombay team. **NanoSniffer** provides trace detection of the nano-gram quantity of explosives and delivers results in seconds.
3. Union Education Minister **Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank'** has presented **AICTE Lilavati Awards 2020 on women empowerment** to the winners.
  - Awards aims to create awareness about issues like sanitation, hygiene, health, nutrition, literacy, employment, technology, credit, marketing, innovation, skill development, natural resources and rights among women
4. NITI Aayog will launch first-of-its kind **Online Dispute Resolution (ODR) handbook** in India. ODR is the resolution of disputes outside courts, particularly of small and medium-value cases, using digital technology and techniques of alternate dispute resolution such as negotiation, mediation, and arbitration.

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5. Indian Army's Lieutenant Colonel Army man **Bharat Pannu** has made **two Guinness World Records for fastest solo cycling**
  - He made the 1st record by cycling from **Leh to Manali (472) km** on Oct 10, 2020, in 35 hours, 32 min, 22 seconds

- His second record saw him begin cycling **5,942-km-long 'Golden Quadrilateral' route**, which connects Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata. He started from India Gate, New Delhi, and complete the route in 14 days, 23 hours and 52 minutes
6. **NITI Aayog**, along with **Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation** and **Centre for Social and Behaviour Change, Ashoka University** has launched '**Poshan Gyan**'. It is a **national digital repository on health and nutrition**.
7. PM Narendra Modi has virtually inaugurated **2021 Raisina Dialogue (6<sup>th</sup> edition)**. It will be held from **April 13 to 16, 2021**, in fully digital form for the 1st time due to COVID-19.
- Theme for 2021 conference: "**#ViralWorld: Outbreaks, Outliers and Out of Control**"
  - It is being organised by **Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)** and **Observer Research Foundation**.
  - **Raisina Dialogue** is India's flagship conference on geopolitics and geoeconomics, organised annually since 2016.
8. Law Minister **Ravi Shankar Prasad** has launched **Online Grievance Management Portal of National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSCs)**.
- Currently, complaints of victims, who are members of Scheduled Caste are processed manually in the commission. This new mechanism has been introduced to handle the complaints in online mode from the victim.

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## STATES AFFAIRS

9. **Haryana** government has approved allotment of 140 acre of land to **Flipkart** for setting up its **largest fulfilment centre in Asia**.
- It will cover an area of 3 million square feet of land belonging to **Haryana State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (HSIIDC)** at a price of **Rs 3.22 crore** per acre to Instakart Services Private Limited (Flipkart subsidiary)

10. Renowned actor, **Sonu Sood** has been appointed as the **Covid-19 vaccine campaign** ambassador by **Punjab** Chief Minister Amarinder Singh.
- Sonu Sood launched **Sanjeevani A Shot of Life** vaccination drive to spread awareness about the Covid-19 vaccine and get our people vaccinated.

## INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

11. **Singapore** has ratified world's largest free trade agreement, **Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) agreement**, led by China. Singapore became 1st among 15 participating countries to ratify RCEP.
- **RCEP** is a multi-nation trade pact, comprising **10 ASEAN economies** as well as **Australia, China, Japan, New Zealand** and **South Korea**. RCEP was signed by 15 participating countries in Nov 2020
12. Tropical cyclone '**Seroja**' has ripped across **1000 km stretch of Western Australia**, leaving a trail of damage. It is 3-storm category that made landfall near the town of Kalbarri with gusts of up to 170 kilometers per hour.
13. **Ministry of Civil Aviation** has finalized an air **bubble agreement** with **Sri Lanka**. Under this, all eligible passengers will be able to travel between the two countries in the near future.
- Sri Lanka has become **6th country in SAARC region** to enter such agreement with India.
  - With this, India now has such pacts with 28 countries, including **Afghanistan, Bahrain, Canada, France, Germany, Iraq, Japan, the Maldives, Nigeria, Qatar, UAE, UK and US**.
14. Ecuadorian businessman and politician **Guillermo Alberto Santiago Lasso Mendoza** has been elected as the President of Ecuador. He defeated **Andrés Arauz** in the 2021 general election

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## REPORTS & INDICES

15. NA

## GOVERNMENT SCHEMES & PROGRAMMES

16. Education Minister **Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank'** launched '**SARTHAQ**', the implementation plan for **NEP 2020**.
- The full form of **SARTHAQ** is '**Students' and Teachers' Holistic Advancement through Quality Education**.
  - The plan delineates the roadmap for the implementation of **NEP 2020** for the next **10 years**.
17. Union Health Minister, **Harsh Vardhan** will launch a new mission titled as '**Aahaar Kranti**' with the motto of '**Good Diet-Good Cognition**'
- It aims to spread the message of the need for a nutritionally balanced diet and to understand the importance of accessible to all local fruits and vegetables.
  - It will be organized by **Vijnana Bharati** (Vibha) and Global Indian Scientists' and Technocrats' Forum (GIST)
  - It is designed to address the problem of '**hunger and diseases in abundance**'.
18. **Udhampur** district of Jammu and Kashmir has bagged top position at National level for successfully implementing **Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) during 2020-21**.
- Udhampur has received top position for constructing roads of 560.49 km in 2020-21.
19. Principal Scientific Adviser to Govt of India, **K Vijay Raghavan** has launched a mobile app titled as '**MANAS**' to cater mental well-being of citizens on scalable, secure and digital platforms
- **MANAS: Mental Health and Normalcy Augmentation System**.
  - It is an initiative of Principal Scientific Adviser to Govt of India executed by **NIMHANS Bengaluru, AFMC Pune** and **C-DAC Bengaluru**.
  - The app was developed under Prime Minister's Science, Technology, and Innovation Advisory Council (PM-STIAC).

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## ECONOMY & BUSINESS

20. Union Ministry of **Skill Development and Entrepreneurship** (MSDE) will organize the first regional workshop on Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana 3.0 (PMKVY 3.0).
- This will facilitate the state to understand provisions of PMKVY, along with the effective implementation of the scheme in the **North East Region** (NER).
21. **NITI Aayog** has launched **India Energy Dashboards (IED) Version 2.0** to provide single-window access to the energy data enabling easy downloading of data in a cleaner, more intuitive way.
- Energy data published by **Central Electricity Authority, Coal Controller's Organisation**, and **Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas** is compiled in the Dashboards
  - **NITI Aayog** launched **Version 1.0** in **May 2017**.
  - **Saubhagya, UJALA, PRAAPTI**, and **Vidyut PRAVAH** has been incorporated in the portal
22. Union Commerce & Industry Minister **Piyush Goyal** has launched **DGFT 'Trade Facilitation' mobile app** for promoting ease of doing business and providing quick access to information to importers/exporters
- **App** was **developed** by **Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)** under **Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT)**
23. Minister for Commerce **Piyush Goyal** has inaugurated an electronic marketplace providing a platform to connect aqua farmers and buyers, titled as **e-SANTA**.
- It will raise income, lifestyle, self-reliance, quality levels, traceability and provide new options for aqua farmers.
  - It will change the traditional way of carrying out business with formalized & legally binding methods.
  - e-SANTA: **Electronic Solution for Augmenting NaCSA farmers' Trade in Aquaculture**
24. **Union Ministry of Agriculture** has inked MoU with **Microsoft India** for a pilot project to improve farmers income in selected **100 villages of 6 states**, by creating a vibrant digital agro-ecosystem
- **Microsoft** along with its local partner, **CropData** will implement the project
  - 6 states comprises of **UP, MP, Gujarat, Haryana, Rajasthan** and **Andhra Pradesh**
  - The project has been approved for **1 year**
  - It will develop farmer interface for smart and well-organized agriculture.

25. RBI has increased Way and Means Advances (WMA) limits for the State Governments/UTs from Rs. 32,225 crores (fixed in February 2016) to **Rs. 47,010 crores**.
- The limit has been enhanced on the recommendation of a committee headed by Shri Sudhir Shrivastava.
  - Revised WMA limits depicts an increase of about 46%.
  - RBI has extended enhanced interim WMA limit of ₹ 51,560 crore for a further period of six months i.e., from April 1, 2021 up to September 30, 2021.
26. RBI has enhanced limit of max balance of **Payments Bank** from Rs 1 to **Rs 2 lakhs per customer/** account.
- The step has been taken to encourage the efforts of Payments Bank for financial inclusion to cater customers needs, including MSMEs, small traders and merchants.
27. The **ADB** has approved a **USD 484-mn** to improve transport connectivity and road maintenance in the **Chennai -Kanyakumari Industrial Corridor (CKIC)** in Tamil Nadu.
- The CKIC is part of India's **East Coast Economic Corridor**.



28. The **SEBI** has imposed a penalty of **Rs 25 crore** on the **Ambani family** and firms linked to the promoter group for violation of takeover code regulations in the **year 2000**.
- In January 2000, the promoter stake in Reliance Industries (RIL) had increased by 6.83 per cent following conversion of warrants issued in 1994.
  - However, the promoter group failed to make an open offer as mandate under the **Substantial Acquisition of Shares and Takeovers (SAST) Regulations 1997**.
29. **Ghaziabad Nagar Nigam (GNN)** has announced successfully raising and listing **India's first Green Municipal bond issue**.
- GNN raised **₹150 crore** at a cost of **8.1%**.
  - This fund will be used to clean dirty water by setting up a tertiary water treatment plant and supply piped water through water-meters to places like Sahibabad



- **Ghaziabad** is **debt-free** and has maintained a revenue surplus position in the last few years, according to India Ratings, which rated the paper.
30. **Airtel Payments Bank** has rolled out new digital savings account called '**Rewards123**' to offer consistent value, with assured rewards on different types of digital transactions throughout the year.
31. **Reserve Bank of India** has decided to publish **Financial Inclusion (FI) Index** to measure the extent of financial inclusion in the country.
- As per RBI, FI index will be published annually in **July** for the previous financial year.
  - The index will use various parameters and shall reflect the broadening and deepening of financial inclusion in the country.
32. **World Bank** and **Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)** have approved **loan worth \$300 million for canal-based drinking water projects in Punjab.**
33. RBI has enhanced the loan limit against the pledge/hypothecation of agricultural produce backed by NWRs/(e-NWRs) issued by warehouses registered and regulated by WDRA from **Rs 50 lakh** to **Rs 75 lakh** per borrower.
- It aims to encourage farm credit to individual farmers against pledge/hypothecation of agricultural produce and leverage the inherent safety of NWRs/ e-NWRs.
  - Priority Sector loan limit backed by other Warehouse Receipts will continue to be ₹50 lakh per borrower.
34. According to Finance Ministry, **Direct tax collection** during **FY 2020-21** has registered nearly **5% growth** over the revised estimate.
- The **provisional figures** show collection at Rs. 9.45 lakh crore.
  - "The net Direct Tax collections represent 104.46% of the Revised Estimates of **Rs. 9.05 lakh crore** of Direct Taxes for the FY 2020-21,".
  - However, it is lower than the net direct tax collection of FY 2019-20, which was Rs. 10.51 lakh crore.

## AWARDS & RECOGNITION

35. **British Academy of Film and Television Arts** has announced **74th British Academy Film Awards (BAFTAs) 2021** to honour the best national and foreign films. **List of Winners:**

- Best Film: Nomadland
- Best Director: Chloe Zhao (Nomadland)
- Best Actor-Leading Role: Anthony Hopkins (The Father as Anthony)
- Best Actress-Leading Role: Frances McDormand (Nomadland as Fern)
- Best Original Screenplay: Promising Young Woman (Emerald Fennell)
- Best Short Film: The Present

36. Indian film producer **Guneet Monga** has been conferred with **2nd highest French civilian honour** titled as **Honour of the Knight of the Order of Arts and Letters** (Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres).

- This honour has previously been awarded to **Meryl Streep, Leonardo DiCaprio** and **Bruce Willis**

37. Indian-origin businessman **Yusuffali MA (65 years)** has been honoured with Abu Dhabi's top civilian award, by Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi Sheikh Mohamed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan for his outstanding contribution to Abu Dhabi's business, industry and support to various philanthropic initiatives.

- He is **Chairman and Managing Director of Abu Dhabi-based LuLu Group** which operates hypermarkets and retail companies

38. Bengaluru-based **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)** has bagged **1st place for Innovative Training Practices 2019-20** at 30th National Award ceremony held at New Delhi

- Award is being conferred by **Indian Society for Training & Development (ISTD)**.

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## PERSON IN NEWS

39. Cricketer **Virat Kohli** has been appointed as the brand ambassador of **Vivo** smartphone

40. **Poonam Gupta** has been appointed as the next **Director General of National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER)**

- She will succeed **Shekhar Shah**, who was the DG of NCAER since 2011
- She is **first woman Director General of NCAER**
- President of NCAER: **Nandan Nilekani**

41. **S Ramann** has been appointed as the **Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI).**

- He has been appointed for a tenure of three years from the date of his assuming the charge or until further orders.

42. **Sushil Chandra** has been appointed as the new **Chief Election Commissioner (CEC)** by the President Ram Nath Kovind under **clause (2) of article 324 of the Constitution.**

- He will succeed **Sunil Arora**, who demitted office on 12 April 2021
- He is the senior-most election commissioner, ahead of Rajiv Kumar, in the three-member poll panel.
- He will be the 24th CEC, having been appointed as an election commissioner on February 14, 2019.

## OBITUARIES

43. President of Gita Press, **Radheshyam Khemka (88 years)** passed away following a brief illness in Varanasi.

44. Eminent Historian and an expert on Awadh **Yogesh Praveen** passed away in Lucknow.

- He was known as living legend of Lucknow as well as Avadh, and its Culture, Literature & History.
- Awards: **Padma Shri in 2019**

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## IMPORTANT DAYS

45. **National Safe Motherhood Day** is observed on **April 11** every year to raise awareness about adequate access to care for women during pregnancy, childbirth and postnatal services

- The day also marks birth anniversary of Kasturba Gandhi, wife of the father of Nation Mahatma Gandhi.
- The day was held under **initiative of White Ribbon Alliance in 2013** and also became 1st country to do so
- Theme: '**Stay at home during coronavirus, keep mother and newborn safe from coronavirus**'

46. **Ambedkar Jayanti (Bhim Jayanti)** is observed every year on **14 April** to commemorate the **birth anniversary of Babasaheb Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar (14 April 1891)**

- 2021 marks the 130th birth anniversary of B R Ambedkar (Father (chief architect) of the Indian Constitution)
- He was **1st Law and Justice Minister of the country after independence**
- He has been honoured with **Bharat Ratna in 1990** posthumously
- It has been observed as an official public holiday throughout India since 2015.

47. **World Art Day** is observed on **15 April** every year to celebrate fine arts and promote awareness of creative activity around the world.

- This day was declared by **International Association of Art (IAA)**, an NGO working in official partnership with UNESCO in 2019
- **World Art Day** was first held on April 15, 2012
- April 15 has been selected to mark the **birth anniversary of Leonardo da Vinci**, the famous painter of Mona Lisa.

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**SPORTS**

48. Union Sports Minister, **Kiren Rijju** has inaugurated **Khelo India State Centre of Excellence (KISCE) for Rowing discipline** at Jammu & Kashmir Sports Council Water Sports Academy at the Nehru Park in the world famous Dal Lake in Srinagar.
49. Pakistan Captain **Babar Azam** has been placed at **No.1** spot in the International Cricket Council's (ICC) rankings for **ODI batsmen**.
50. He replaced Indian batsman Virat Kohli, who was occupying the top position for nearly three and a half years.

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