WEEKLY CA JULY 2021

AUG 8-15

CONTENTS

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

1. **MeitY Startup Hub** (MSH), the nodal entity under the Ministry of Electronics & IT (MeitY), collaborated with **India Accelerator**, the start-up accelerator, to support deep-tech startups.
   - Through the partnership, MSH will work with India Accelerator's flagship program SOMA.
   - MSH plans to build a start-up ecosystem to support deep-tech startups to transform their ideas into scalable solutions by providing best practices, fundraising, knowledge sharing, etc.

2. Government of India (GoI) is set to host the **1st India Internet Governance Forum** 2021 (**IIGF 2021**) in India from October 20-22, 2021.
   - IIGF 2021 will be conducted by the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (**MeitY**).
   - The theme of the IIGF-2021 will be ''**Inclusive Internet for Digital India**''.
   - IIGF is the **Indian chapter** of the **United Nations based Internet Governance Forum**. It will act as a platform to discuss public policy issues related to the Internet.
   - Over 10,000 participants are expected to participate in the event, more than 25 workshops across the digital economy, digital governance, Trust, Securit

3. One of the **world's Highest Mobile Air Traffic Control (ATC) towers** has been built by the Indian Air Force (IAF) in the Nyoma area of Ladakh at the Advanced Landing Ground.

4. The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (**MoHUA**) has declared **Indore, Madhya Pradesh**, the **cleanest city of India**, as the **1st 'water plus' city** of India.
   - Indore received the 1st Swachh Certification of Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) Water Plus from the MoHUA under the Swachh Survekshan 2021(SS2021).
   - It is a certificate provided by the **MoHUA** to a city for maintaining cleanliness in rivers and drains of its administration.
   - A city/ward/circle/zone could be declared as Water Plus **only if** all wastewater released from households, etc. is treated before releasing it to the environment.
   - The certification of SBM Water Plus is valid for 6 months and the certification process needs to be carried out every 6 months.

5. The Handbook named '**Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Implementation**' was released by NITI Aayog. The objective of the book is to provide guidance to the state governments and local

bodies **about policy making and setting up of** norms related to **charging networks for Electric Vehicle (EV)**.

- It has been developed by NITI Aayog in association with the Ministry of Power (MoP), Department of Science and Technology (DST), Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) and World Resources Institute(WRI) India.

6. The **total installed renewable energy capacity in India**, excluding large Hydro, has crossed the milestone of **100 GigaWatts (GW**).

- With this, India holds 4th position in the world in terms of installed Renewable Energy (RE) capacity, 5th in solar and 4th in wind in terms of installed capacity.
- **Target –** 100 GW achievement is considered to be part of India's target of 450 GW of renewable energy capacity by 2030, increasing 25 GW every year and it will reach 146 GW installed RE capacity if we include large hydro projects.

7. International Air Transport Association **(IATA)** and United Nations Conference on Trade and Development **(UNCTAD)** have extended their partnership to facilitate international trade, particularly **e-commerce in developing countries** through improved exchanges of trade data.

- As part of the partnership, the Air Cargo messaging standards (**Cargo-XML**) will be integrated with **ASYCUDAWorld** (Automated System for Customs Data), UNCTAD's automated customs management system.
- It will allow efficient processing of air cargo shipments for more than 100 countries.
- The next step of the collaboration will focus on enabling ASYCUDAWorld, to manage eCommerce shipments efficiently.

8. In August 2021, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change announced the addition of **4** more wetlands from India, 2 each from **Gujarat and Haryana** in 'The Convention on Wetlands of International Importance'/ **Ramsar Convention**.

Ramsar sites that are included:

- **Thol Lake Wildlife Sanctuary, Gujarat**
- **Wadhvana Wetland, Gujarat**
- **Sultanpur National Park, Gurgaon, Haryana**

- **Bhindawas Wildlife Sanctuary, Jhajjar, Haryana**

STATES AFFAIRS

9. Chief Minister of Gujarat launched **'eNagar' mobile application** and **portal** which covers 10 modules offering 52 services.
   - The eNagar project aims to have efficient, transparent and scalable online citizen-centric services and a back-office operation support system.
   - The Urban Development and Urban Housing Department has appointed **Gujarat Development Mission** as the **nodal agency** of the eNagar Project.

10. On August 8, 2021, the Karnataka government issued an order for the implementation of the **National Education Policy** (NEP) – **2020** from the current academic year 2021-2022.
    - Through this, **Karnataka has become the 1st state in India** to issue an order on the implementation of NEP-2020.

11. **Uttarakhand** Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami appointed Indian Women's Team Hockey Player **Vandana Kataria** as the Brand Ambassador of the State's Department of Women Empowerment & Child Development.

12. **Kerala Financial Corporation (KFC),** a non-banking financial company owned by the Government of Kerala has announced a comprehensive funding scheme named **"KFC Startup Kerala"** to support the startups in all the stages of the development.This is the first-of-its-kind scheme where all stages of startups are considered.

13. On the occasion of International Day of **World's Indigenous People Day** i.e. August 9, 2021, the Chief Minister (CM) of **Chhattisgarh** Bhupesh Baghel recognized **Community Forest Resource Rights** in an urban area, making it the first state in India to do so.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

14. **South Africa** became the **1st Country in the World to grant Patent** to an Artificial Intelligence (**AI**) System. It has granted a patent related to an Food Container system based on Fractal Geometry invented by the AI system '**DABUS**' (Device for Autonomous Bootstrapping of Unified Sentience).

15. Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** virtually chaired the United Nations Security Council (**UNSC**) High-level Open Debate on '**Enhancing Maritime Security – A Case for International Cooperation**'.

    - As India holds the **presidency** of the UNSC for the month of **August 2021**, Narendra Modi presided over the maritime security debate.
    - Narendra Modi was the **1st** Indian PM to preside over a UNSC Open Debate.
    - **PM's Remarks:** He outlined 5 principle frameworks to preserve and use the common maritime heritage, and to frame a global roadmap of maritime security cooperation.
    - The 15-member body, UNSC unanimously **adopted** the **Presidential Statement** (PRST) on Maritime Security, which was given by Narendra Modi.
    - This is the **1st** comprehensive UNSC document on maritime security.

REPORTS & INDICES

16. The **2nd Edition** of the '**COVID-19 Innovation report 2021**' released by **Startup Blink** in association with **Health Innovation Exchange** & **UNAIDS** (United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS) has ranked India 32nd (score 0.396) in the global coronavirus innovation rankings for countries. The US has topped the rankings, followed by Israel & Canada.

    - The report ranks the 40 countries and 100 cities in the world based on Innovation solutions developed to combat the pandemic.
    - In the Cities Rankings, San Francisco Bay (US), New York (US) & Moscow (Russia) were ranked as the Top 3 cities. India has 2 cities – **Bengaluru, Karnataka (49th Rank), New Delhi (55th)** in the top 100 rankings.
    - The 1st Edition of the report was released in June 2020, in which India was ranked 26th.

17. The **Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change**'s (IPCC) Sixth Assessment Report (**AR6**) Climate Change 2021: The Physical Science Basis by the Working Group I was released. It addresses the most up-to-date physical understanding of the climate system, climate science, etc.

- United Nations(UN) secretary-general Antonio Guterres called the report 'a code red for humanity'.

- The report states that if the emissions decline slowly, the temperature rise of **2°C,** the limit set by the Paris Agreement will be breached by **2060**.

- The report gave 5 scenarios for the future based on carbon emissions, as per it, the world will cross the **1.5° C warming mark in** the **2030s**, earlier than past predictions.

- Under the very high emission scenario with little action, temperatures are likely to rise by up to **5.7°C** by the year **2100**.

- **About Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC):**

- It is a group put together by the United Nations (UN), comprising over 234 scientists from 66 nations.

- The team of scientists worked together to evaluate over 14,000 research papers over the past five years, culminating in AR6, which is the first of a three-part report.

- **Establishment** – 1988 by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). **Headquarters** – Geneva, Switzerland

18. The Commonwealth Secretariat released its triennial rankings of **Global Youth Development Index (YDI) 2020**, it measures the progress in 181 countries across 6 factors of youth development. In the country wise ranking, India ranked **122nd out of 181 countries**.

- **Singapore** topped the Index for the 1st time.

- The rankings are based on 27 indicators across the 6 domains (over the period 2010-18) – Health and Wellbeing, Education, Employment & Opportunity, Political & Civic participation, Peace & Security and Equality & Inclusion.

- The 2020 YDI highlights that the global average youth Development Score improved by 3.1% between 2010 and 2018 period with 156 out of 181 countries recording improvements in their scores.

GOVERNMENT SCHEMES & PROGRAMMES

19. **Virendra Kumar**, the Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment has launched a 'PM-DAKSH' Portal and 'PM-DAKSH' Mobile App under the scheme **PM-DAKSH** (Pradhan Mantri Dakshta Aur Kushalta Sampann Hitgrahi) **Yojana** to ease the access of **skill development** schemes by the **target groups**.

   - The portal and app were developed by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (**MoSJ&E**), in collaboration with National e-Governance Division **(NeGD)**.
   - **PM-DAKSH Yojana** is the National Action Plan launched by the **MoSJ&E** in **2020-21** for skilling the target group.
   - **'PM-DAKSH' Portal:** The portal will have all information related to skill development for the target groups and provide direct access for them to register under the portal with the training institute and program of their own interest.

20. Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually launched the **Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana 2.0** (PMUY 2.0) Scheme from Mahoba district of Uttar Pradesh.

   - Under PMUY 2.0, an **additional 10 million LPG (Liquefied Petroleum Gas) connections** will be provided to the beneficiaries. Lakhs of Migrant Families are also expected to benefit from the scheme.
   - **Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY)**
   - PMUY is a flagship scheme of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG). It was launched on 1st May 2016 in Ballia, Uttar Pradesh by Prime Minister, Narendra Modi.
   - Objective – To make clean cooking fuel such as LPG available to the rural and deprived households.
   - **Financial assistance of ₹1,600** per household given by the centre to eligible households.

21. On August 12, 2021, the Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi virtually participated in '**Atmanirbhar Narishakti se Samvad'** where he interacted with women Self Help Groups (SHG) members/community resource persons promoted under the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (**DAY-NRLM**).

   - **Release of funds:**
   - During the event, he released capitalization support funds of Rs. 1625 Crore to over 4 lakh SHGs as a major financial support to increase the scope of entrepreneurship among women on lines of AatmaNirbhar Bharat.

- He also released **25 crore** as seed money for 7500 SHG members under the PM Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME) Scheme of Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoSPI). PMFME provides financial, technical and business support for upgradation of existing micro food processing enterprises.

- Apart from above, **4.13 crore** funds were also released to 75 Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) being promoted under DAY-NRLM.

22. On August 09, 2021, Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi launched the National Edible Oil Mission-Oil Palm **(NMEO-OP)** to reduce India's dependence on imported edible oils and achieve self-reliance in its production.

- The government plans to invest **Rs 11,000 crore** under NMEO-OP for a **5-year**. The mission was launched on the anniversary day of the Quit India Movement.

- PM virtually released the **9th installment** of financial benefit under Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (**PM-KISAN**). This will enable the transfer of more than **Rs 19,500 crores** to more than 9.75 crores beneficiary farmer families.

- So far, **Rs 1 lakh 60 crores** has been given to farmers under PM-KISAN. Rs 1 lakh crore and 2 crore Kisan Credit Cards were transferred to small farmers during COVID-19 under PM-KISAN.

- In August 2021, the **Equitas Small Finance Bank** (SFB) launched **'Equitech'**, a fintech accelerator programme for the **start-up** entrepreneurs ecosystem.

- **Objective:** To provide the required legal and regulatory support for the start-ups through its experts and venture capitalists.

ECONOMY & BUSINESS

23. The Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) in collaboration with **Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office**, United Kingdom (FCDO UK) has launched Swavalamban Challenge Fund (SCF) to promote entrepreneurship.

    - The **National Stock Exchange** (NSE) partnered with **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India** (IBBI) to enhance research efforts in the area of insolvency and bankruptcy.

    - This decision has been taken because the efficient insolvency and bankruptcy resolution system enables timely resolution of financial stress, balances interests of all stakeholders, promotes entrepreneurship and increases availability of credit at optimal costs.

24. Small Industries Development Bank of India (**SIDBI**) has launched the programme **'Digital Prayaas'** an **App based** end to end **digital lending tool** platform to sanction loans to entrepreneurs from low income group(especially the people at the bottom of the pyramid) by the end of the day.

    - The process of – onboarding borrowers' e-KYC (Know-Your-Customer) and sanctioning loan through credit score and analytics will get executed on an end-to-end basis digitally.

    - The post sanction documentation such as e-signing and e-stamping of the documents will also be done digitally through the App.

    - **SIDBI-BigBasket Initiative:** SIDBI also partnered with a major aggregator BigBasket to on board its delivery partners across the country and provide loans to the youths of the urban areas at an affordable interest rate for the purchase of environment friendly e-vehicles (e-Bikes and e-Vans).

25. **CoinDCX** has become the **first Indian cryptocurrency exchange to grab the title of 'unicorn' with valuation to $1.1 billio**n (Rs 8,150 crore).

    - The exchange achieved this status after a $90-million (Rs 668 crore) series-C funding round, led by Facebook co-founder Eduardo Saverin's B Capital.

    - It should be noted that Unicorns are startups with a valuation of $1 billion or more.

FINANCE & BANKING

26. The Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**) has empanelled the **Karnataka Bank** as the **'Agency Bank'** to facilitate transactions related to government (govt) businesses.

    - RBI has allowed Karnataka Bank to handle transactions related to **revenue receipts** under the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) and Goods and Services Tax (GST) on behalf of the state/central govt.

    - The bank was also authorised to make transactions such as income tax, indirect taxes, pension payments, collection of **stamp duty** charges, and State taxes such as professional tax, value-added tax and State excise duties.

27. In August 2021, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (**SEBI**) amended the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements (**LODR**)) **Regulations**, 2015 named LODR (Third Amendment) Regulations, 2021.

    - It modified certain norms related to the process of appointment/removal of **Independent directors** (IDs).

    - **Objective:** To enable the transparent appointment/removal of IDs and overcome corporate fraud and promoters' mismanagement.

    - Appointment/Re-appointment and Removal of IDs were now directed to be made only through a special resolution of shareholders.

    - A cooling-off period of **1 year** has been introduced for an ID transitioning to a whole-time director (WTD) in the same company.

    - On August 9, 2021, the collateral free loans to self-help groups (SHGs) provided under **Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission** (DAY-NRLM) have been enhanced to Rs 20 lakh from Rs 10 lakh by Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

    - Under this enhancement, for loans to SHGs up to Rs 10 lakh there will be no collateral and no margin will be charged, also, no lien should be marked against savings bank account of SHGs and no deposits should be insisted upon while sanctioning loans.

    - For loans to SHGs above Rs 10 lakh and up to Rs 20 lakh, no collateral should be charged and no lien should be marked against savings bank account of SHGs.

28. The Asian Development Bank (**ADB**) has joined hands with price housing financier **IIFL** (India Infoline) **Home Finance Ltd**, subsidiary of IIFL home finance to reduce carbon emissions and preserve water and vitality in India. IIFL is the technical assistance of the program.

- The total cost of the project is $1 million & ADB will fund through its **Urban Climate Change Resilience (UCCR) Trust Fund**, IIFL, will contribute $0.15 million towards inexpensive housing in India.

AWARDS & RECOGNISTION

29. The Information Technology, Electronics and Communication(**ITE&C**) Department of the **Government of Telangana** has won the **AI GameChanger Award 2021** for the implementation of the '**Crowd Monitoring using AI**' scheme.

   - The winners of the awards were announced at the Xperience AI Summit 2021 organised by the National Association of Software and Services Companies**(NASSCOM)**.
   - The award is presented by the **NASSCOM** in collaboration with Microsoft (Innovation partner) and Deloitte (Knowledge partner).

30. **Nagaland** has won **7 Van Dhan Awards 2020-2021** for its outstanding performance in various categories. The state topped in 3 categories, Best Survey State, Best Training State and the most number of Van Dhan Vikas Clusters(**VDVKCs**).

   - The awards were announced by Arjun Munda, Union Minister of Tribal Affairs, during the 34th Foundation day of the Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (**TRIFED**).
   - The Van Dhan Awards was instituted by the TRIFED to recognise Van Dhan Self Help Groups (**VDSHG**), **VDVKCs**, tribal artisans, forest produce gatherers and people working for them, for their achievements and contributions.
   - The awards were given under various categories such as the implementation of MSP for Minor Forest Produce (MFP), Van Dhan Yojana, adoption of digital technology, innovation and creativity, sales generated, training and number of VDVK clusters established.

31. The West Bengal Government has been honoured with **4 SKOCH Awards** for various schemes under **Ease of Doing Business Initiatives**. The awards are given by Skoch Foundation to recognize top performing government organisations.

    • Platinum Award – to 'Silpasathi' – the online single window portal
    • Gold Award – Scheme for Auto Renewal of Enlistment through online system for urban Areas
    • Silver Award – Scheme for Online issuance of Trade licences in rural areas and the E-Nathikaran : the online system for registration, preparation and submission of deeds.

PERSON IN NEWS

32. The government of India has nominated **Rekha Sharma as the Chairperson of the National Commission for Women(NCW)** for another term of **3 years** with effect from 7th August 2021 or till the age of 65 or until further orders.

33. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the extension of Tenure of Cabinet Secretary **Rajiv Guaba** by 1 year. He will continue till August 30,2022.

34. Reserve Bank of India(**RBI**) roped in Olympic gold medalist, Athlete (Javelin) **Neeraj Chopra** for its new public awareness campaign against **digital banking frauds.**

    • As a part of the campaign, Neeraj Chopra urges people not to disclose details such as one-time password(**OTP**), Card Verification Value(**CVV**) number and ATM PIN in front of others.

OBITUARIES

35. NA

IMPORTANT DAYS

36. **TRIFED's 34th Foundation Day – 6th August 2021**

    • The Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (**TRIFED**), under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs **(MoTA)**, celebrated its **34th Foundation day** on **6th August 2021** to

raise awareness about the issues related to the trade in tribal regions and the need to ensure a fair deal for them.

- TRIFED was established on 6th August **1987** to enhance tribal development through marketing support for handicrafts and Non-Timber Forest Produce (**NTFP**).

37. The **National Handloom Day (NHD)** is annually observed across India on **7th August** to create awareness about the handloom works in India and to recognise its contribution to the socio-economic development of India.

- The annual celebration of the national Handloom day is organised by the **Ministry of Textile.**

38. The **Quit India Movement Day** is annually observed across India on **8th August** to commemorate the launch of the Quit India Movement on 8th August **1942**.

- The day remembers the sacrifices of the martyrs of the freedom struggle and pays homage to the freedom fighters.

- The 8th August **2021** marks the **79th anniversary of the Quit India movement.** The day is also known as **August Kranti Diwas** or India August Movement since the movement was held in August.

- **National Archives of India**, under the Ministry of Culture, is organizing an exhibition on the Quit India Movement as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav being celebrated to mark 75 years of Independence.

39. United Nations (**UN**)'s **International Youth Day(IYD)** is annually observed across the globe on **12th August** to create awareness about the cultural and legal issues surrounding youth and to celebrate the potential of youths as the partners of the global society.

- IYD 2021 was virtually convened by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs(**DESA**) in partnership with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations(**FAO**) and the Major Group for Children and Youth.

- The theme of International Youth Day 2021 is **"Transforming Food Systems: Youth Innovation for Human and Planetary Health".** The IYD 2021 theme highlights that the success of the global efforts will not be achieved without the participation of young people.

40. The United Nations (**UN**)'s **International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples** is annually observed across the globe on **9th August** to recognise the contributions and achievements of the

indigenous people across the globe, who have a vast diversity of unique cultures, traditions, languages and knowledge systems.

- The day aims to promote and protect the rights of the world's indigenous population. The day is also known as **"World Tribal Day".**
- The theme of International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples 2021 is **"Leaving No One Behind: Indigenous peoples and the call for a new social contract".**

41. **Nagasaki Day** is annually observed across the globe on **9th August** to create awareness about the hazards of nuclear power and to promote world peace. The day also remembers the atomic bomb victims of Nagasaki.

- The 9th August **2021** marks the **76th anniversary** of the atomic bombing of Nagasaki, a city on the island of Kyushu in Japan.

42. **World Biofuel Day** is annually observed across the globe on **10th August** to create awareness about the importance and significance of non-fossil fuels as a substitute for conventional fossil fuels.

- Biofuels are renewable, biodegradable and sustainable sources of energy that can reduce the dependency on fossil fuels and promote clean energy.

SPORTS

43. The 32nd Edition of Olympic Games took place in Tokyo, Japan from 23rd July, 2021 – 8th August, 2021. India finished with **7 Medals (1 Gold, 2 Silver, 4 Bronze)** and has been ranked at 48th Position. This was India's highest ever medals tally in an Olympics (Previous one was 6 medals 2016 Rio Olympics)

- The US topped the Medals tally with 113 Medals (39 G, 41 S, 33 B) followed by China & Japan.

Overall Medals Tally of India:

Name	Sport	Event	Medal
Neeraj Chopra	Athletics	Men's javelin throw	Gold
Saikhom Mirabai Chanu	Weightlifting	Women's 49 kg	Silver
Ravi Kumar Dahiya	Wrestling	Men's freestyle 57 kg	Silver
P. V. Sindhu	Badminton	Women's singles	Bronze
Lovlina Borgohain	Boxing		

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