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**WEEKLY CA  
JULY 2021**

**AUG 16-23**



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## NATIONAL AFFAIRS

1. The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (**NCPCR**) conducted a nationwide assessment of **minority schools** and released a report titled 'Impact of Exemption under Article 15 (5) with regards to Article 21A of the Constitution of India on Education of Minority Communities'.
2. **Dr Jitendra Singh**, Minister of State (MoS-Independent Charge) Science & Technology; Minister of State (Independent Charge) Earth Sciences released 'IndiGau', India's first and world's largest Cattle Genomic Chip for the conservation of pure varieties of indigenous cattle breeds like, Gir, Kankrej, Sahiwal, Ongole etc.
  - The chip was developed by the scientists of **National Institute of Animal Biotechnology (NAIB)**, Hyderabad (Telangana). It is an autonomous institution under the aegis of the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Ministry of Science & Technology (MoST).
3. Union Minister Narendra Singh Tomar, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (MoA&FW) inaugurated the world's second-largest refurbished state-of-the-art National Gene Bank (NGB) at the **National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (NBPGR)**, Pusa, New Delhi.
  - This will cater the need of **biofortified crop varieties**. Biofortification is the process by which the nutritional quality of food crops is improved.
4. **Kaziranga National Park** of Assam became India's **first** National park to be equipped with **satellite phones**, an initiative to boost anti-poaching measures in the park. Jishnu Barua, Chief Secretary of Assam presented 10 satellite phones to forest personnel at the National Park.
5. The **2nd phase of SAMVAD** was launched by the Union Minister of Women and Child Development (WCD) Smriti Zubin Irani in Bengaluru, Karnataka on the successful completion of one year of SAMVAD programme.
  - SAMVAD stands for **Support, Advocacy & Mental Health intervention for children in Vulnerable circumstances and Distress**.

- It aims to ensure holistic development and psychosocial well being of children and adolescents.
6. As a part of the Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav, the 75th year of Independence of India, **MyGov** under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (**MeitY**) along with the United Nations (**UN**) **Women** launched the “**Amrit Mahotsav Shri Shakti Innovation Challenge 2021**”.
- The 3rd series of Student Entrepreneurship Program (**SEP 3.0**) was launched by **Atal Innovation Mission** facilitated by Niti Aayog in collaboration with La fondation Dassault Systemes for young innovators of Atal Tinkering Lab(**ATL**)
7. As a part of the Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav, the 75th year of Independence of India, **MyGov** under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (**MeitY**) along with the United Nations (**UN**) **Women** launched the “**Amrit Mahotsav Shri Shakti Innovation Challenge 2021**”.
- Amrit Mahotsav Shri Shakti Innovation Challenge 2021 is a platform for women.
  - The challenge is implemented under the Multi-Partner Trust Fund (COVID-19) Programme.
  - Nari Sashaktikaran – to empower women to help them reach their full potential.
8. Union Minister Rajnath Singh, Ministry of Defense (**MoD**) has launched **Defense India Startup Challenge (DISC) 5.0 (5th version)** under Innovations for Defense Excellence-Defense Innovation Organisation (**iDEX-DIO**) through video conference.
- The Challenge has been launched by Ministry of Defence in partnership with Atal Innovation Mission (AIM).
9. **Delhi-Chandigarh Highway Becomes India’s 1st EV-Friendly Highway**
- Dr Mahendra Nath Pandey, Union Minister of Heavy Industries inaugurated the state of the art electric vehicle (**EV**) **charging station** in (Karnal Lake Resort) Karnal, Haryana, installed by Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (**BHEL**).
10. Intel India collaborated with **Society for Innovation & Entrepreneurship** (SINE)-Indian Institute(IIT) of Bombay has launched first-of-its-kind industry-technology alliance “**Plugin Alliance**”, for **enhancing Industry 4.0** revolution in India.

11. Uddhav Thackeray, Chief Minister of Maharashtra, launched the **e-crop survey** initiative across the state, with effect from 15th August 2021.
- This will be jointly implemented by the department of revenue and agriculture and Tata Trusts.
  - The project was introduced as a pilot in 2 districts of Maharashtra.
12. On the lines of Digital India, Odisha is all set to launch India's first 'Smart Health Cards scheme' covering its 3.5 crore people of 96 lakh families under the **Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana**. The information for the same was provided by Odisha Chief Minister (CM) Naveen Patnaik while addressing the 75th Independence Day celebrations in Bhubaneswar.
13. The government of Jammu & Kashmir (**J&K**) has introduced the **Karkhandar scheme** to support the local artisans and weavers and to promote the traditional handicrafts of J&K.
- The scheme also aims to provide training in the field of handicrafts sector.
  - The scheme will be implemented across the Union Territory (**UT**) through the Directorate of Handicrafts and Handloom Kashmir/Jammu.
14. The government of Chhattisgarh launched the '**Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Bhumihin Majdur Nyay Yojana**' to provide financial assistance of **Rs 6000** (annually) for more than **12 lakh Landless workers of Chhattisgarh**.
- This is a **first of its kind** scheme that focuses on delivering economic justice for the landless labourers.
15. The Asian Development Bank (**ADB**) will provide **USD 500 million loans** to Government of India to expand the metro rail network in Bengaluru, Karnataka with the construction of two new metro lines totaling **56 kilometers Outer Ring Road- Kempegowda International Airport corridor with 30 stations**.



## INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

16. India virtually chaired the meeting of the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) Working Group on Agriculture 2021 on the theme '**BRICS Partnership for Strengthening Agro Biodiversity for Food and Nutrition Security**'. India was represented by India's **Sanjay Agarwal**, Secretary, India's Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (MoA&FW).

- During the meeting, BRICS nations agreed to strengthen agro-biodiversity to ensure food and nutrition security.
- Discussions were held on the Joint declaration of the **11<sup>th</sup> meeting of BRICS and Action Plan for 2021-24** for agricultural cooperation of BRICS countries and BRICS Agriculture Research Platform.
- This BRICS Working Group meeting will endorse the Action Plan of 2021-24 for adoption in the BRICS 2021 meeting.
- It should be noted that the BRICS Agriculture Research Platform has been developed by India to promote cooperation in the areas of agricultural research, extension, technology transfer, training and capacity building.
- As per the UN (United Nations) 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development noted that BRICS countries are well positioned to lead the target of achieving 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) to eradicate hunger and poverty i.e. **SDG 1: No Poverty & SDG 2: Zero**

17. '**Exercise Konkan- 2021**', a bilateral Naval Exercise held **between the Indian Navy and the Royal Navy of Britain** in Portsmouth, United Kingdom (UK).

18. The 12th Edition of **Exercise INDRA-2021**, a bilateral **Military Exercise** held between Indian Army and the military forces of Russian Federation in **Volgograd, Russia** (from 1st to 13th August, 2021).

19. Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Narendra Singh Tomar addressed the 6th meeting of the Agriculture Ministers of the member countries of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO). The meeting was held virtually from **Dushanbe, Capital of Tajikistan**. It was held under the **Chairmanship of Tajikistan (2021 SCO Presidency)**.

20. The World Health Organisation (**WHO**) created a new advisory group “The International Scientific Advisory Group for Origins of Novel Pathogens” or ‘**SAGO**’ to study into the origin of the COVID-19.
- The advisory group will develop a global framework to study the emergence of future pathogens with pandemic potential.
  - For SARS-CoV-2, SAGO will support the undertaking of recommended studies outlined in the March 2021 report.
21. On August 18, 2021 **India and Vietnam** had conducted a **Bilateral maritime exercise** in the **South China Sea** as a part of maritime cooperation between the two countries.
22. The **BRICS** nations (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) have signed an agreement for the cooperation in remote sensing satellite data sharing.
- The agreement was signed under India’s BRICS chairship.
  - The agreement was signed by the Heads of BRICS Space Agencies.

## REPORTS & INDICES

23. According to the 2nd Edition of Global Crypto Adoption Index 2021 released by **Chainalysis**, a crypto-analysis firm, **India with a score of 0.37 ranked 2nd** out of 154 countries. Vietnam topped the index.
- It aims to provide an objective measure of which countries have the highest level of Cryptocurrency adoption.
  - The index ranks countries based on **3 indicators** such as On-chain value received, On-chain retail value received and Peer-to-Peer (**P2P**) exchange trade volume
  - India improved to **2nd rank from 11th** in the 2020 Global Crypto Adoption Index.

## GOVERNMENT SCHEMES & PROGRAMMES

24. Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (National Mission of Financial Inclusion) completed its 7th Anniversary on 15th August, 2021. It was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on February 28, 2014.

- As per government data, PMJDY now has **42.89 crore beneficiaries** (basic bank account holders) with **INR 1,43,834 crore total balance**.
- More than 50% of them are women – 23.76 crore, while 28.57 crore belong to rural and semi city areas.
- The average balance of PMJDY accounts stands at around INR 3000-3500.

25. Secretary of Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) Durga Shankar Mishra has launched a logo and brand named “**SonChiraiya**” to promote market products of Urban Self Help Groups (SHG).

- This would enhance women participation and make them financially empowered.
- **Mansukh Mandaviya**, Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare virtually inaugurated the **Aarogya Dhara- 2.0** to increase the reach of the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Aarogya Yojana (**AB-PMJAY**) programme to the poorest households of India and to create awareness about the scheme.
- He chaired the event – Aarogya Dhara- 2.0, to mark the completion of **2 crore treatments** under AB-PMJAY.
- Treatments worth ~Rs 25000 crore have been provided to patients across 33 States/Union Territories (**UTs**), through the network of 23000 publics and private empanelled hospitals.

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## ECONOMY & BUSINESS

26. In August 2021, the Department of Public Enterprises (**DPE**), Ministry of Finance, released the **60th Public Enterprises (PE) Survey 2019-20** report. As per the report, the **net profit** of



Central Public Sector Enterprises (**CPSEs**) in FY20 decreased by **20 percent** from Rs 1.74 lakh crore in FY19 to around Rs 1.38 lakh crore

27. The Ministry of Tourism has signed **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the Indian travel agencies MakeMyTrip India Private Limited and Ibibo Group Private Limited to strengthen the Hospitality and Tourism Industry of India.

- To provide extensive visibility to accommodation units, which have self-certified themselves on **SAATHI** (System for Assessment, Awareness & Training for the Hospitality Industry) on the **OTA** (Online Travel Agency) platform.
- The main aim is **to gain insights, designing evidence based & targeted policy measures** to promote safe, and sustainable tourism.

## FINANCE & BANKING

28. General Insurance Corporation of India (**GIC Re**), the sole reinsurer in the domestic reinsurance market, is set to shut down its Dubai Office since the Dubai Authority failed to renew its licence.

- The GIC Re has decided to shift its operation to Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (**GIFT City**), the only International Financial Services Centre in India.
- The GIC Re has decided to place its Dubai Branch into a runoff because of non-renewal of Licence, non-compliance insolvency requirement.

29. On August 17, 2021, the Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**) has introduced the 'Financial Inclusion Index' (**FI-Index**) to measure the extent of financial inclusion across India.

- The FI-Index will be published annually in **July month** (for the financial year (FY) ending previous March).
- The annual FI-Index for the **FY21** (period ending March 2021) is **53.9** as against 43.4 of FY17.
- The FI-Index contain 3 different parameters with variant weightage viz, **Access** (35 percent), **Usage** (45 percent), and **Quality** (20 percent). The FI-Index has **no 'base year'**.

30. **SBI Life Insurance** launched a new Individual, Non-Linked, Non-Participating Life Insurance solution named '**SBI Life eShield Next**'.

- It will 'levels up'/improve the protection coverage of the insured person when he achieves life's major milestones like getting married, becoming a parent or buying a new house.

- It has 3 different plan options such as Level Cover, Increasing Cover, and Level Cover with Future-Proofing Benefit.
- It provides the option to pay the premium as per the customer's convenience (viz, single, monthly, half-yearly, and yearly).

31. The Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**) has issued revised guidelines for both new and existing Safe Deposit Locker and Safe Custody Article Facility with the banks.

- At present, banks do not have any liability towards lockers. The guidelines would come into effect from **January 1, 2022**.

32. World Bank and partners announce a New Global Fund for Cybersecurity named **Cybersecurity Multi-Donor Trust Fund** under the broader Digital Development Partnership (**DDP**) umbrella program.

- It aims to better define, understand, and systematically roll out the cybersecurity development agenda.
- The fund will support development of global knowledge on cybersecurity solutions for low and middle income countries.

33. NPCI International Payments Ltd (**NIPL**), the international arm of National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), has partnered with the UAE (United Arab Emirates)-based **Mashreq Bank** to provide the Unified Payments Interface (**UPI**), the mobile-based real-time payment system, in the **UAE**.

## AWARDS & RECOGNITION

34. **Mohammad Azam** from Karimnagar district in Telangana has been awarded the **National Youth Award** recently by the Union Youth Affairs and Sports Minister **Anurag Singh Thakur** in Delhi for displaying exemplary leadership qualities.

- He has conducted several awareness programmes related to blood donation, organ donation and plantation programmes under the Haritha Haram project. The award carries an appreciation certificate and Rs 50,000 cash.

## PERSON IN NEWS

35. The Appointment Committee of Cabinet (**ACC**) has approved the appointment of **Shanti Lal Jain** as the Managing Director(**MD**) and Chief Executive Officer(**CEO**) of the Indian Bank for a period of 3 years from the date of assumption of office or 1st September 2021.

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## OBITUARIES

36. Former Indian International Footballer (defender) **Chinmoy Chatterjee** has passed away at his residence in Khardah, North 24 Parganas, West Bengal. He hails from West Bengal.

## IMPORTANT DAYS

37. The United Nations (**UN**)'s World Humanitarian Day (**WHD**) is annually observed across the globe on 19th August to honour and recognise the efforts of Humanitarians across the globe on protecting and supporting the people in need.

- WHD is a campaign by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (**OCHA**) and humanitarian partners.

38. **World Photography Day** is annually observed across the globe on **19th August** to celebrate the art, craft, science and history of photography.

- The day also inspires photographers across the globe to share one of their photographs to share their world with the world.
- World Photography Day is also known as **World Photo Day**.

39. **World Mosquito Day** is observed annually across the globe on **20th August** to commemorate the discovery of British doctor Sir Ronald Ross in 1897 that female mosquitoes transmit malaria between humans.

## SPORTS

40. **The Tokyo 2020 Summer Paralympic Games will be held from 24th August – 5th September, 2021.**

- The official Mascot is 'Someity'.
- For the 1st time, Badminton & Taekwondo will be Introduced by replacing Sailing and 7-a-side football.

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