







**WEEKLY CA
OCT 2021**

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NATIONAL AFFAIRS

1. AirAsia India has become the **first Airbus** operator in the world to start **Taxibot** services with passengers on board with a modified Airbus fleet. It has announced the implementation of an Alternate Taxiing Solution (**ATS**), TaxiBot.
 - The airline has tied up with **KSU Aviation**, the exclusive operator of the TaxiBot in India.
2. Delhi International Airport Limited (**DIAL**) was the **first airport in the world** that introduced Taxibot -an operationally efficient and environment-friendly advanced taxiing solution – in 2019.It is also the first airport in the world to adopt this green taxiing solution.
3. **India's 1st Atal Community Innovation Center (ACIC)** launched at Vivekananda Global University (**VGU**), **Jaipur, Jagatpura, Rajasthan**.It will be set up by Government of India, Atal Innovation Mission. (AIM) and NITI Aayog.
 - It aims to support and nurture innovative ideas that can take the shape of big ideas and help transform society for a better tomorrow.
 - It will benefit the hardworking, passionate and courageous businessmen of Rajasthan who want to take their business towards heights.
4. As a move to further extend the Central Government's effort of supporting youth from rural and semi-urban areas, on September 30, 2021, Union Minister Bhupender Yadav, Ministry of Labour and Employment launched **DigiSaksham** in collaboration with Microsoft India.
 - It aims to enhance youth employment opportunities in these areas by imparting digital skills.
 - Microsoft India has also roped in **Aga Khan Rural Support Programme-India** and its knowledge partner **TMI e2E Academy** for rolling out this initiative.
5. On September 30, 2021, the Union Minister for Panchayat Raj and Rural Development **Giriraj Singh** launched the **People's Plan Campaign (PPC) 2021- Sabki Yojana Sabka Vikas** and Vibrant Gram Sabha Dashboard.

- He released a booklet on PPC 2021 for the preparation of plans for FY23 and the 10th issue of Gramoday Sankalp Magazine.
 - The PPC 2021 was scheduled to be rolled out in all the States from 2nd October 2021.
6. The Union government unveils **Chacha Chaudhary**, a popular comic book character, as a mascot for '**Namami Gange Programme**', for sensitising children and youths about the cleaning of Ganga and other rivers during the 37th executive committee meeting of the National Mission for Clean Ganga (**NMCG**) which was chaired by Director General Rajiv Ranjan Mishra.
7. The Union government's National Mission for Clean Ganga (**NMCG**) has tied up with Diamond Toons to develop and distribute comics, e-comics and animated videos featuring Chacha Chaudhary, with an estimated cost of Rs 2.26 crore.
- Public engagement activities like '**Ganga ki Baat, Chacha Choudhary Ke Sath**' will be initiated with the character.
 - Initially comics will be launched in Hindi, English and Bengali languages.
8. The Indian Space Research Organisation's (**ISRO**) commercial arm, New Space India Limited (**NSIL**) announced its first '**demand-driven**' communication satellite mission as part of Space reforms announced by the government in June 2020.
- As part of this initiative, NSIL is undertaking its 1st demand driven communication satellite mission named **GSAT-24**, a four-tonne class Ku- band satellite.
 - The entire satellite will be leased to **Tata Sky** for meeting their DTH application needs.
 - NSIL made an agreement Arianespace for launching service. The GSAT-24 satellite will be owned and operated by NSIL on a commercial basis.
 - NSIL is set to launch the GSAT-24 satellite in the first quarter of 2022.
9. India hosted the 2nd edition of Global FinTech Festival (**GFF**) **2021**, the World's largest virtual fintech festival from September 28 to 30, 2021.
- **Theme:** 'FinTech: Empowering a Global Digital Economy'.
10. On the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti (October 2, 2021), Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, **Shri Bhupender Yadav** launched a web portal - '**Wetlands of India Portal**' (<http://indianwetlands.in/>). Iconic Week of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav of MoEFCC was observed on

4-10th October 2021. **Objective-** The portal is a single point access to all information relating to wetlands.

11. The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (**FSSAI**) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) with the Ministry of Food Processing Industries (**MoFPI**), which aims to support Self Help Groups (**SHGs**), Farmer Producer Organizations (**FPOs**) and producer cooperatives to improve the standard of their food businesses.

- **Food safety training**

- Training would be provided at the micro level food processing units to understand basics of manufacturing practices and good hygiene and other regulatory requirements. After completion of the training, 'Food Safety Supervisor' certificates will also be provided.

- **Registration of micro enterprises**

- FSSAI and the ministry would provide support to micro enterprises towards obtaining FSSAI licence and registration.

12. India's **1st** and world's **3rd** ropeway for public transport was proposed to be constructed in the city of **Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh** to ease the traffic congestion.

- The ropeway service will cover an aerial distance of **~5 km** from Cantt Railway Station (Varanasi Junction, Uttar Pradesh) to Church Square (Godauliya) in about 15 minutes.

- On completion, Varanasi will become the **1st Indian city** and India will become the third country in the world (after **Bolivia and Mexico City**) to use ropeway services in public transportation.

- WAPCOS Limited, an accredited public sector enterprise under the Union ministry of Jal Shakti has proposed the cost of the ropeway service at **~Rs 400 crore**.

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13. On October 4, 2021, Tax Inspectors Without Borders (TIWB) launched its programme in Seychelles where India was chosen as the Partner Administration and has also provided Tax Expert for the same.
- The launch event was virtually attended by **Jagannath Bidyadhar Mohapatra**, Chairman of the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), and **Rusudan Kemularia**, Head of the TIWB Secretariat (Paris, France) along with other senior officials.
 - TIWB is a joint initiative of the **United Nations Development Programme** (UNDP) and the **Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development** (OECD) launched in 2015.
14. On October 02, 2021, Taking forward Swachh Bharat and Unnat Bharat mission, the government has launched a **web portal** named '**Waste to Wealth**' to bring together technology providers, government stakeholders, urban local bodies and users on the platform to seek solutions for the waste problems of the country.
- It will enable collaborations for sustainable development through a circular economy & community participation.

STATES AFFAIRS

15. Assam Fisheries Minister **Parimal Suklabaidya** launched India's first e-Fish market application named '**Fishwaale**'. The app was developed by Aqua Blue Global Aquaculture Solutions Pvt Ltd, in collaboration with the Assam fisheries department.
16. The Manipur government has entered into a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with global engineering and product development digital services firm Tata Technologies Ltd (TTL) to transform technical training and encourage entrepreneurship and innovation in the state.
- The total investment involved in the collaboration is Rs 200 crore for the tenure of three years.
17. **Alibaug White Onion & Wada Kolam Rice** of Maharashtra, Edayur Chilli and Kuttiattoor Mango of Kerala and Chinnor rice of Madhya Pradesh (MP) got the GI Tag.
18. The World Bank (WB) Board of Executive Directors has approved a **US\$ 150 million** (~ Rs 1,112 crore) program titled '**Chennai City Partnership: Sustainable Urban Services Program**' to

support **Tamil Nadu's** vision of making Chennai into a world-class city that is more green, livable, and resilient to climate change.

- WB also approved a **US\$ 40 million** (around Rs 296 crore) project titled '**Meghalaya Health Systems Strengthening Project**' to improve the quality of health services in Meghalaya and strengthen the state's capacity to handle health emergencies, including the COVID-19.
 - All 11 districts of the state will benefit from the project and it will enable women to better utilize healthcare services at the community level.
 - The Under-5 mortality in Meghalaya in FY20 was about 40 deaths per 1,000 live births and Stunting among under-5 was about 47 percent.
 - Non-communicable diseases (including hypertension, diabetes, heart disease, and cancer) account for more than half of the disease burden in the state.
19. The Chief Minister (CM) Assam **Himanta Biswa Sarma** launched '**Mission Basundhara**' to resolve the state's land record by enabling the state's people to resolve their land-related issues easily through an online system. It was organised by the **Revenue and Disaster Management Department** in Guwahati.
- **Objective:** To secure the land rights of the indigenous population and to eliminate the middleman from the system.
 - The state government has planned to spend around **Rs.225 crore** for the implementation of the mission.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

20. Former Foreign Minister **Fumio Kishida (64 years old)** has been elected as the president of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (**LDP**) and set to become the next and the 100th Prime Minister (**PM**) of Japan. He will be succeeding Yoshihide Suga, who stepped down as Japan's PM.
21. United States (US) satellite, Landsat 9, was launched through the United Launch Alliance (ULA) Atlas V rocket that lifted off from the foggy Vandenberg Space Force Base in California, US.
- It will monitor the **Earth's land surface** by taking the orbital track of Landsat 7, which will be decommissioned.

- It is a project of **NASA** (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) and the **US Geological Survey** (USGS).

22. Tunisia's President Kais Saied has appointed **Najla Bouden Romdhane** as the first woman Prime Minister of Tunisia. She succeeds Prime Minister Hichem Mechichi who served as the Prime Minister of Tunisia, from 2020 to 2021.

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REPORTS & INDICES

23. Mansukh Mandaviya, the Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare released UNICEF's (United Nations Children's Fund) global flagship publication – 'The State of the World's Children 2021; On My Mind: promoting, protecting and caring for children's mental health'.

- The publication details the significant impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the mental health of children. The report was launched globally on the same day.
- Around **14 percent** of 15 to 24-year-olds (or 1 in 7) in India were reported feeling depressed or having little interest in doing things.
- It is estimated that more than 13 percent of adolescents aged 10–19 live with a diagnosed mental disorder (as defined by the World Health Organization (WHO)).
- Every year, almost 45,800 children and adolescents between the ages of 10 and 19 die from suicide which is about **1 person every 11 minutes**.

24. **India** was positioned at an overall rank of **59th** among 110 countries in the 3rd edition of '**Digital Quality of Life Index (DQL) 2021**' prepared by cybersecurity company 'Surfshark'. This is 2 positions lower than the 57th rank secured by India in the 2020 Index.

- For the 2nd consecutive time, **Denmark** topped the ranking, followed by South Korea & Finland in 2nd & 3rd positions.
- Ethiopia is the lowest (110) ranked Country. Cambodia ranked at 108th Position & Cameroon ranked at 109th Position .

- The Index ranks India at 17th place among the Asian countries and **1st** in the South Asian region.
- The report evaluates countries' digital quality based on 5 fundamental principles.
Note - India shares **49th** rank along with Thailand, in the '**2021 Inclusive Internet Index**' by The Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU), where the ranking was topped by **Sweden**.

25. On September 30, 2021, the National Institution for Transforming India (**NITI Aayog**), the Government of India's national policy think tank, released a performance assessment report of **district hospitals** in India titled '**Best Practices in the Performance of District Hospitals**'.

- NITI Aayog conducted the study in consultation with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and WHO (World Health Organisation) India.
- This report is the **1st-ever** performance assessment of district hospitals undertaken across India.
- The National Accreditation Board for Hospitals and Healthcare Providers (NABH), a constituent board of the Quality Council of India conducted the validation of data.
- Currently, there are more than 800 district hospitals across the country, in which a total of 707 district hospitals from 36 States and Union Territories were assessed in 2018-19.

26. **NITI Aayog ties up with AWS, Intel to Boost Innovation**

NITI Aayog tie-up with **Intel** and Amazon Web Services (**AWS**) to establish a new experience studio at the NITI Aayog Frontier Technologies Cloud Innovation Center (CIC).

- The studio will act as a hub for experimentation and collaboration with a focus on agriculture, health care, and smart infrastructure.
- The NITI Aayog has set up a portal **CovAid** for tracking all aid coming via missions or by individual organizations.

27. Union Minister Bhupender Yadav, Ministry of Labour and Employment released the report of first quarter of **Quarterly Employment Survey** (QES) part (April to June 2021) of the All-India Quarterly Establishment-based Employment Survey (AQEES) prepared by the Labour Bureau.

- AQEES provides quarterly updates about the employment and related variables of establishments, in both organised and unorganised segments of nine selected sectors.

- The sectors are Manufacturing, Construction, Trade, Transport, Education, Health, Accommodation and Restaurant, IT (Information technology)/ BPO (Business Process Outsourcing) and Financial Services.

Key Points:

- The estimated total employment in the 9 selected sectors from the first round of QES is 3 crores and 8 lakhs approximately as compared to total of 2 crores and 37 lakhs in the 6th Economic Census (2013-14). This represents a growth rate of 29%.
- Of the total employment estimated in the selected nine sectors, Manufacturing accounts for nearly 41% followed by Education with 22%, Health 8%, Trade and IT/BPO by 7% each.
- The maximum growth of 152% was recorded in the IT/BPO sector.
- The over-all participation of female workers stood at 29% against 31% reported during 6th EC.

28. NITI Aayog releases State Nutritional Profile for 19 States and UTs

NITI Aayog, in a joint effort with International Food Policy Research Institute (**IFPRI**), Indian Institute of Population Sciences (**IIPS**), **UNICEF** and Institute of Economic Growth (**IEG**) launched '**The State Nutrition Profile**' for 19 States and Union Territories on 30th September, 2021.

- NITI Aayog Additional Secretary released The State Nutrition Profiles during a webinar titled, '**Towards progress on nutrition in India: Insights from National Family Health Survey (Phase -1)**' organized by IFPRI.

GOVERNMENT SCHEMES & PROGRAMMES

29. The Ministry of Textile has approved to continue its Comprehensive Handicrafts Cluster Development Scheme (**CHCDS**) up to **March 2026** with a total outlay of **Rs 160 crore**. The scheme aims to offer support in terms of infrastructure development, design and technology access, market support, and others to the handicraft artisans and Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (**SMEs**) to enhance production and exports

- This will focus on the integration of artisans, building grass-root level enterprises and link them to SMEs in handicraft sectors to ensure economies of scale.

30. About Comprehensive Handicrafts Cluster Development Scheme (CHCDS):

Aim: To create a world-class infrastructure to provide the business needs of the local artisans and local artisans and small and medium-sized enterprises to boost production and export.

Significance of CHCDS:

- The cluster aims to assist the artisans & entrepreneurs to set up world-class units with modern infrastructure, the latest technology, and adequate training and human resource development inputs, coupled with market linkages and production diversification.
- Under this scheme, various soft interventions like baseline survey and activity mapping, skill training, improved tool kits, marketing events, seminars, publicity, design workshops, the capacity building were provided to SMEs.
- Under this scheme, the clusters with 10000 artisans will be selected for overall development.

31. Union Minister for Panchayat Raj and Rural Development **Giriraj Singh** launched the **People's Plan Campaign (PPC) 2021- Sabki Yojana Sabka Vikas** and Vibrant Gram Sabha Dashboard.

- He released a booklet on PPC 2021 for the preparation of plans for FY23 and the 10th issue of Gramoday Sankalp Magazine.
- The PPC 2021 was scheduled to be rolled out in all the States from 2nd October 2021.

About PPC-2021:

- It is a strategy for ensuring the preparation of GPDP (Gram Panchayat Development Plan) in a campaign mode. PPC 2021 meetings will be rolled out from October 2, 2021, to January 31, 2022.
- The meetings include physical presence and presentation by frontline workers/supervisors on 29 sectors including Agriculture, Minor Irrigation, Animal husbandry, Fisheries, Social Forestry, etc.
- The GPDP aims to strengthen the role of elected representatives of Panchayats and SHG (Self Help Group) Women under DAY-NRLM (Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural

Livelihoods

Mission)

ineffective

Gram

Sabha.

32. On October 01, 2021, Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi launched the **second phase** of Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban (**SBM-U 2.0**) and the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation 2.0 (**AMRUT 2.0**).

Key Points:

- **SBM-U 2.0:** The SBM-U 2.0 aims to make cities completely '**free of garbage**' and ensure grey and black water management in all cities other than those covered under AMRUT. The outlay of SBM-U 2.0 is around **Rs 1.41 lakh crore**.
- **AMRUT 2.0:** It intends to improve sewage and septic management, making the cities into water safe cities and ensuring that no sewage drains anywhere in rivers. It will benefit more than 10.5 crore people in urban areas and the outlay of AMRUT 2.0 is around **Rs 2.87 lakh crore**.
- **Enhanced Allocation for Urban Development Ministry:** In the preceding 7 years before 2014, around Rs 1.25 lakh crore was allocated for the Ministry, while in 7 years after 2014 around Rs 4 lakh crore were allocated for the Ministry.

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33. In October 2021, Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi virtually launched the Jal Jeevan Mission (**JJM**) **mobile application** to create awareness about the mission and to improve the transparency and accountability of schemes under the JJM.

Key Points:

- PM also launched the Rashtriya Jal Jeevan Kosh, which will facilitate any individual, institution, corporation, or philanthropist, be it in India or abroad, to contribute to providing tap water connection.
- The JJM mobile app will contain information about the JJM such as the number of households that received water, quality of water, etc.
- In August 2021, as per 15th Finance Commission recommendations **Rs 1.42 Lakh Crore** was allocated to Panchayat Raj Institutions (PRIs) as a tied grant for water & sanitation from FY22 to FY26.
- So far, **5 crore** households have been provided with tap water connections. In the aspirational districts, the number of tap connections has increased from **31 lakhs to 1.16 crore**.

ECONOMY & BUSINESS

34. The Central Government of India (GoI) extended the 'Credit Guarantee Scheme for Subordinate Debt' by another 6 months till March 31, 2022 from September 30, 2021. This decision has been taken on the request of the stakeholders of the scheme.

What is CGSSD?

- CGSSD was approved by GoI on June 1, 2020 and was launched on June 24, 2020. It was on the lines of the creation of '**Distressed Assets Fund- Subordinate Debt for Stressed MSMEs**' announced on 13th May, 2020, under the Atma Nirbhar Bharat Package.
- It provides credit facility through lending institutions to the promoters of stressed MSMEs (Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises) viz. SMA (special mention accounts)-2 and NPA accounts.
- This credit is only for those institutions that are eligible for restructuring as per RBI guidelines on the books of the Lending institutions.

35. The Union government approves **Oil and Gas Projects worth Rs 1 lakh Crore** for **Northeast India** and are expected to be completed by 2025.

- The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Government of India organized an event in Guwahati, Assam, to showcase Upstream Oil & Gas opportunities in the North East Region (**NER**).

- As per the India's Act-East Policy which was transformed from Look-East Policy, announced in 2014, Union government has undertaken many key initiatives to augment infrastructure and pace economic development in NER.

36. Barely three months after the committee was set up, the **Labour Ministry** reconstituted the **expert group** responsible for determining the national floor level minimum wages under the **Code on Wages**.

- Economist and statistician **SP Mukherjee** will lead the 9-member group. Ajit Mishra, who headed the previous panel, excused himself from discharging his duty on account of his personal and other professional commitments.
- The group includes Arup Mitra of the Institute of Economic Growth (**IEG**) and Rupa Chanda of the Indian Institute of Management (**IIM**), Bangalore were added as members to the group along with a representative from the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.
- The group has been constituted for a period of three years and will continue to provide technical inputs to the ministry going forward.

37. The Union Minister for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (**MSMEs**), Narayan Tatu Rane virtually inaugurated the **India Export Initiative** and SME (Small and Medium Enterprises) Forum's portal **IndiaXports 2021** India in New Delhi. It will enhance the exports and ensure localisation. It will work as a **global manufacturing powerhouse** by improving India's manufacturing base.

- **Objective-** To boost the number of exporting MSME, increase export by 50 percent in 2022 and contribute to achieve the target of becoming a USD 5 trillion economy..

38. On October 4, 2021, the World Trade Organization (WTO) upgraded its global merchandise trade volume growth to 10.8% in 2021 which is an upward revision from 8% forecasted in March 2021.

- For 2022, this growth will slow to 4.7% which still an increase from previous forecast of 4%.
- Global GDP (Gross Domestic Product) will grow 5.3%, up from 5.1% forecasted in March 2021.
- For 2022, Global GDP growth is estimated to 4.1% in 2022, up from 3.8% previously.

39. Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) entered into a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with North Eastern Electric Power Corporation (NEEPCO) to assist in developing renewable projects and raising funds.

- The MoU was signed by IREDA CMD Pradip Kumar Das and NEEPCO CMD Vinod Kumar Singh.

FINANCE & BANKING

40. The Securities and Exchange Board of India (**SEBI**) has decided to introduce swing pricing for open-ended debt mutual fund (**MF**) **schemes** (except overnight funds, Gilt funds and Gilt with 10-year maturity funds).

- Swing pricing allows a fund house (i.e. Asset Management Company (**AMC**)) to adjust the net asset value (**NAV**) of any Mutual Fund (MF) scheme that is facing redemption pressure.
- After enabling the Swing pricing, investors exiting or entering the MF scheme have to transact only at the adjusted NAV (which is lower than the usual NAV).
- Initially the swing pricing framework was made applicable only for net outflows (outflows exceeding inflows) from the MF schemes.
- Swing pricing will not be applicable for redemptions up to **Rs 2 lakh** for each scheme both in normal and market dislocation times (it will safeguard small investors).

41. The board of Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) under its board meeting issued frameworks for Gold Exchange, social stock exchange, delisting framework, and superior voting rights shares and approved some amendments.

Key Approvals:

- **Framework for Gold Exchange:**
- **EGR:** The instrument representing gold will be called 'EGR' and it will be notified as 'securities' under the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Act, 1956.
- **Eligibility:** The Vault Manager should be a body corporate incorporated in India and he should have a net worth of at least **Rs 50 crores**.

- the Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**) removed Indian Overseas Bank (**IOB**) from the **Prompt Corrective Action Framework** (PCAF) as the performance of bank is compliant with the PCA parameters.
 - This decision has been taken during the performance review of Indian Overseas Bank by the Board for Financial Supervision.
 - With this, IOB committed to comply with the norms of Minimum Regulatory Capital, Net NPA (non-performing assets) and leverage ratio on an ongoing basis.
42. The International Financial Services Centres Authority (**IFSCA**) set up an expert panel headed by former Environment and Forest Secretary C K Mishra to suggest a framework to develop a world-class sustainable finance hub at IFSC.
- The committee consists of leaders across the sustainable finance spectrum, including international agencies, standard setting bodies, funds, academia, and consultancies.
 - FSCA has constituted a 10-member Expert Committee to recommend approach towards development of Sustainable Finance Hub.
 - **Objective of the panel** To identify existing and emerging opportunities in Sustainable Finance for GIFT-IFSC to act as a gateway to meet India's requirements and recommend a short, medium, and long-term vision/road map on sustainable finance.
43. Payback India, a BharaPe company, has launched the '**PAY feature**' on its mobile app that provides the integrated facility of **QR** (Quick Response) **code** based payment and **loyalty points** in a single app. This initiative is a **1st of its Kind in Industry** that integrates **QR-based UPI** (Unified Payment Interface) payments and loyalty in a single app.
44. The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (**AIIB**) will provide loan assistance of **USD 356.67 million (~Rs.2.65 lakh Crore)** for the expansion of Chennai Metro Rail system, Tamil Nadu (TN), India. With this Investment, AIIB has invested a total of USD 6.7 billion making **India its largest beneficiary**.
45. Private sector AU Small Finance Bank (SFB) signed a pact with the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) to boost ongoing rural development initiatives in Rajasthan.
46. On October 04, 2021, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), gave a licence to the **Rs 6,000 crore** National Asset Reconstruction Company Ltd (**NARCL**) to start operations of the bad bank.

- The licence was granted under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002.

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AWARDS & RECOGNITION

47. The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences awarded the **2021 Nobel Prize in Chemistry** to German chemist **Benjamin List** and British chemist **David W.C. MacMillan** for the development of a precise new and ingenious tool for molecular construction: **asymmetric organocatalysis**.
- 2021 Nobel Prize in Chemistry was announced by **Professor Göran K. Hansson**, Secretary-General of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences.
 - The Nobel Prize carries a gold medal and a cash prize of **10 million Swedish kronor (around Rs 8.5 crore)** which will be shared equally between the laureates.
 - Benjamin List and David W.C. MacMillan independently discovered that organic molecules can be used as a catalyst, a tool to speed up the reactions.
48. Delhi-based environmental organisation Legal Initiative for Forest and Environment (**LIFE**) has won the **2021 Right Livelihood Award**, for empowering communities in areas ranging from child protection to environmental defence. The award is also known as Sweden's alternative Nobel Prize given by the Swedish Right Livelihood Foundation.
49. American scientists David Julius and Lebanese-American molecular biologist Ardem Patapoutian won the **2021 Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine** for their discoveries of receptors for temperature and touch.
- The discovery explains how heat, cold and mechanical force can initiate the nerve impulses that allow us to perceive and adapt to the world around us.
 - This finding is being used to develop treatments for a wide range of disease conditions, including chronic pain.

50. Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences at Stockholm, Sweden honoured the **Japanese-American Syukuro Manabe, Klaus Hasselmann of Germany, and Giorgio Parisi of Italy** for 2021 Nobel Prize in Physics.

- The three scientists were awarded for ground breaking contributions to our understanding of complex physical systems.
- **Syukuro Manabe**, 90, a Japanese-American meteorologist and climatologist and **Klaus Hasselmann**, 89, a German oceanographer have been for the physical modelling of Earth's climate, quantifying variability and reliably predicting global warming.
- **Giorgio Parisi** has been recognized for the discovery of the interplay of disorder and fluctuations in physical systems from atomic to planetary scales.

PERSON IN NEWS

51. **"Jungle Nama: a story of the Sundarban"** authored by Jnanpith Awardee **Amitav Ghosh** has been released as an audiobook voiced by **Ali Sethi**, US-based Singer-writer, who has also created the background music and ambient sound for the audiobook.

52. Securities & Exchange Board of India (SEBI) gave approval for the appointment of **Padmaja Chunduru** as the new Managing Director (MD) & Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the National Securities Depository Limited (**NSDL**). She will succeed GV Nageswara Rao after his superannuation.

53. The National Basketball Association (NBA) named Bollywood superstar Ranveer Singh as the NBA Brand Ambassador for India to help grow the league's profile in India throughout its landmark 75th Anniversary Season in 2021-22.

54. According to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index, a daily ranking of the world's richest people, as of 28th September 2021, with a total net worth of **213 billion USD**, **Elon Musk**, CEO of Tesla has overtaken Jeff Bezos, founder of Amazon, (total net worth of 197 billion USD) to become the **world's richest person**. Elon Musk gained 13 billion USD in net worth with a rise in the share price of tesla.

- Bernard Arnault, the chairman of Louis Vuitton (LVMH) has secured the 3rd position with a net worth of 160 billion USD.

- Mukesh Ambani Topped among Indians & ranked 11th globally. Gautam Adani followed him & ranked 14th globally.
55. The Union government appoints **BC Patnaik** Managing Director of Life Insurance Corporation of India (**LIC**) on October 1, 2021, by notification dated July 5, 2021. Currently, LIC has one chairman and four Managing Directors.
56. India's first crypto unicorn **CoinDCX** appointed **Mr. Amitabh Bachchan** as its first Brand Ambassador to increase crypto awareness and to make crypto as an emerging asset class. Amitabh is being a crypto investor himself and also launched his own NFT (non-fungible token) recently.
57. The International Finance Corporation (**IFC**) has appointed **Wendy Werner** as the new **Country Head for India**. She will succeed **Jun Zhang**, who retired recently. Her main focus will be on growth and diversification of IFC's portfolio in India.

OBITUARIES

58. Padma Shri Professor **Bala V Balachandran**, the management guru and the founder of Great Lakes Institute of Management (**GLIM**), who is fondly known as "Uncle Bala" passed away in Chicago, United States of America (**USA**). He was born in Pudukkottai, Tamil Nadu.

IMPORTANT DAYS

59. The United Nations (**UN**)'s **International Translation Day** is annually observed across the globe on **September 30th** as a tribute to the language professionals who play a major role in connecting nations through dialogue, understanding and cooperation. The day also recognises their contribution to fostering world peace and security.
60. The United Nations (**UN**)'s **International Day of Older Persons (IDOP)** is annually observed across the globe on **October 1st** to create awareness about the challenges and issues faced by the elderly across the globe.
- The Theme of the International Day of Older Persons 2021 is "**Digital Equity for All Ages**".
 - 1st October 2021 marks the observance of the **31st anniversary** of the International Day of Older Persons (IDOP).

61. **Breast Cancer Awareness Month** is annually observed during the month of **October** (from 1st to 31st October) to create awareness about breast cancer and to highlight the importance of early detection of treatment of Breast cancer.
- The **pink ribbon** is an international symbol of breast cancer awareness.
62. **International Coffee Day** is annually observed across the globe on **October 1st** to celebrate the diversity, quality and passion of the coffee sector. The day also highlights the challenges faced by the farmers of coffee beans.
- The day is annually celebrated by the International Coffee Organization(**ICO**), its 77 Member states and coffee associations across the globe.
63. **World Vegetarian Day** is annually celebrated across the globe on **October 1st** to promote compassion and life-enhancing possibilities of vegetarianism. The day celebrates the benefits of being vegetarian. The World Vegetarian Day initiates the month of **October** as the **Vegetarian Awareness Month** which concludes on 1st November, World Vegan Day.
64. In India, Wildlife Week is annually observed from **October 2 to October 8** across the country with an aim to protect and preserve the flora and fauna of India.
- The 2021 Wildlife Week, the 67th edition, is being celebrated with the WildLife Day theme 2021 '**Forests and Livelihoods: Sustaining People and Planet**'.
 - Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav started the Wildlife Week celebrations by tiger rallies in 18 tiger range States across 51 reserves in the country as part of 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav' with the theme '**India for Tigers – A Rally on Wheels**'.
65. Gandhi Jayanti, the birthday of 'Father of Nation', Mahatma Gandhi was observed on October 2. The year 2021 marked his 152nd anniversary. His birth anniversary is celebrated as the International Day of Non-Violence by the United Nations (UN).
66. **World Animal Day** is celebrated annually on October 4, the feast day of Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals. The day is celebrated to take action for animal rights and welfare.
67. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (**UNESCO**)'s **World Teachers' Day** is annually observed across the globe on **5th October** to celebrate the teachers across the globe.

- The day also commemorates the adoption of the **1966 ILO/UNESCO Recommendation concerning the Status of Teachers**.

68. World Teachers' Day is co-convened in partnership with the International Labour Organization (**ILO**), the United Nations Children's Fund (**UNICEF**) and Education International (**EI**).

- The theme of World Teachers' Day 2021 is "**Teachers at the heart of education recovery**".

69. The United Nations (**UN**)'s **World Habitat Day** is annually observed across the globe on the **first Monday of October** to highlight the role of the citizens towards shaping the future of cities and towns.

- The day is commemorated across the globe to highlight the condition of the towns and cities and the basic rights of all to adequate shelter.
- World Habitat Day 2021 was observed on **4th October 2021**.
- The theme of World Habitat Day 2021 is "**Accelerating urban action for a carbon-free world**".

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70. The **Indian men's table tennis team** claimed the **bronze medal** in the **Asian Table Tennis Championships in Doha, Qatar**, after losing to South Korea 0-3 in the semi-finals. The Indian team was assured of a medal after beating **Iran 3-1** in the quarterfinals. Both the semifinalists secure a bronze.

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