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**WEEKLY CA
OCT 2021**

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NATIONAL AFFAIRS

1. India's **All India Institute of Ayurveda** under Ministry of Ayush and **Croatia's Kvarner Health Tourism Cluster** entered into a **memorandum of understanding (MoU)** for academic collaboration in traditional medicine systems, especially in the field of ayurveda.

STATES AFFAIRS

2. In October 2021, 3 products from Tamil Nadu – Karuppur kalamkari paintings, Kallakurichi Wood carvings & Kanyakumari Clove were awarded with Geographical Indication (GI) tags.
 - **Karuppur Kalamkari paintings** – They are Traditional dyed paintings made on pure cotton cloth, mainly used in temples for umbrella covers, cylindrical hangings, chariot covers. These were patronised by Nayaka rulers back in the 17th century.
 - **Kallakurichi Wood carvings** – Traditional wood carvings that are indigenous art of Madurai, which are mainly used for designs & ornamentation.
 - **Kanyakumari Clove** – Known for its rich aromatic oil content, with volatile oil content of 21% (normal 18%) resulting in 86% of eugenol.
3. **Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal Launched 'Desh Ke Mentor' Programme to Provide Career Guidance to Students**
 - Arvind Kejriwal Chief Minister(**CM**) of Delhi, has launched the "**Desh Ke Mentor**" programme, which enables the citizens who are successful in respective fields to provide guidance on career choices to the students of Delhi government schools. **Actor Sonu Sood** is the brand ambassador of the "Desh Ke Mentor" Programme.
 - As a part of the initiative, interested citizens can adopt 1 to 10 students of Delhi government schools and mentor them in an interested field.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

4. The 5th edition of India-Japan Maritime Bilateral Exercise, 'JIMEX 2021' between Indian Navy (IN) and the Japan Maritime Self-Defence Force (JMSDF) is being held in Arabian Sea from October 6-8, 2021.
5. The 6th Edition of India - UK (United Kingdom) Joint Company Level Military Training exercise **Ajeya Warrior-2021** was commenced in Chaubatia, **Uttarakhand** on October 07, 2021, and it was scheduled to be completed on October 20, 2021.
6. On 12th October 2021, QUAD countries - India, Australia, Japan & USA started the second phase of the **25th edition** of joint Naval exercise '**Malabar 2021**' in the **Bay of Bengal** region. The 3-day long naval exercise is aimed at building coordination & interoperability among the navies that was established during the 1st phase.
 - In the 2nd phase the Indian side is represented by INS Ranvijay, INS Satpura, P-8I long-range maritime patrol aircraft, and a submarine.
7. German rail operator Deutsche Bahn and industrial group Siemens unveiled the **world's first automated, driverless train** in the city of Hamburg, Germany. According to them, it is more punctual and energy efficient than traditional trains.

REPORTS & INDICES

8. The World Meteorological Organization (**WMO**) warns that the number of people affected by water scarcity is expected to rise as climate change increases the global risk of water-related hazards like **floods and droughts**.
 - According to the report '**The State of Climate Services 2021: Water**', 3.6 billion people had inadequate access to water at least one month per year in 2018.
 - The situation is expected to rise to more than five billion by 2050.
 - Terrestrial water storage (TWS) dropped at a rate of 1 cm per year in 20 years (2002-2021).
 - There is only 0.5 per cent of water on Earth which is usable and available freshwater.
 - India is the topmost hotspot of TWS loss with the northern part of the country experiencing the maximum loss.
 - If the loss of water storage in Antarctica and Greenland is excluded, India has recorded the highest loss in terrestrial water storage.

9. **World Bank** released its report on South Asia Economic Focus titled '**Shifting Gears: Digitization and Services-Led Development**' and has unchanged India's GDP growth forecast for FY22 to **8.3 percent** from its earlier estimate in June 2021.
- As per the report, the Indian economy is South Asia's largest economy, and its growth in FY22 is expected to be aided by an increase in public investment and incentives to boost manufacturing.
10. On October 7, 2021, a new analysis on global multidimensional poverty namely '**Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI)**' 2021 was released which is produced by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI).
- India has a maximum number of people, 381 millions, living in multidimensional poverty. 5 out of 6 multidimensional poor people are from lower tribes or castes.
 - The Scheduled Tribe (ST) accounts for 9.4% of the population and is the poorest with 65 million of the 129 million people living in multidimensional poverty. They account for about one-sixth of all people living in multidimensional poverty in India.
11. On October 11, 2021, World Bank (WB) in its report titled '**International Debt Statistics 2022**' warned against a 12% debt rise of the world's low-income countries to **\$860 billion** in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The report called for urgent efforts to reduce debt levels.
- ii. Half of the world's poorest countries were in external debt distress or at high risk of it.
- iii. The external debt stocks of low- and middle-income countries combined raised 5.3% in 2020 to **\$8.7 trillion**.

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GOVERNMENT SCHEMES & PROGRAMMES

12. The Government of India has set a target to increase the number of Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendras (**PMBJKs**) to 10,000 across the country by March 2024.
- Till October 10, 2021, a total of 8,366 Janaushadhi Kendras have been increased across 736 districts in the country.
 - As many as 1,451 drugs and 240 surgical instruments are under product basket of Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (**PMBJP**).
13. The Central government is undertaking efforts for the Next Generation Infrastructure to improve ease of living as well as ease of doing business. On these lines, the Prime Minister (PM) of India, Narendra Damodardas Modi had announced '**PM GatiShakti – National Master Plan for Multi-Modal Connectivity**' in his Independence Day speech on August 15, 2021.
- Following this, on October 13 2021, GatiShakti, **a Rs. 100 lakh-crore project** was officially launched by the Indian PM during an event at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi.
 - Gati Shakti is a **digital platform** collaborating **16 Central Ministries and Departments** for integrated planning and coordination to implement infrastructure connectivity projects of more than 1,200 industrial clusters.
 - In line with PM Gati Shakti, Mumbai Port Trust is undertaking a number of projects promoting multimodal connectivity which is premised upon two pillars, namely **cargo-related projects** and **Sea Tourism**.
14. Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports **Shri Anurag Thakur** participated in cleanliness drive on the launch of nationwide **Clean India programme** from Prayagraj in Uttar Pradesh.

ECONOMY & BUSINESS

15. Industry body **FICCI** (Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry), in its latest economic outlook survey, has revised India's GDP growth forecast for **FY22 to 9.1 percent** from its earlier estimation of 9 percent.
- The industry and services sectors are projected to grow 12.9 percent and 8.6 percent.
16. In its October 2021 World Economic Outlook (WEO) titled 'Recovery During a Pandemic Health Concerns, Supply Disruptions, and Price Pressures', the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has

retained India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth forecast for 2021 unchanged at 9.5 percent (July 2021 forecast).

- India's GDP growth forecast for 2022 was also unchanged at 8.5 percent.
- The IMF has reduced the global economy growth in 2021 by 0.1 percent to 5.9 percent (from 6 percent of July 2021 projection) and the growth was projected at 4.9 percent in 2022.
- India's consumer price index-based inflation is expected to be at 5.6 percent in 2021 (reduced from 6.2 percent in 2020) and expected inflation to be at 4.9 percent in 2022.

17. **Tata Sons** Private Ltd subsidiary **Talace Pvt Ltd** has won the final bid for acquiring national carrier **Air India** by submitting ₹18,000 crore bid. The ministerial panel led by Union Home Minister Amit Shah approved the bid.

- The airline Air India was established by industrialist and philanthropist JRD Tata (India's 1st licensed pilot) in 1932 as the Tata Airlines and it was sold to the government in 1953.

FINANCE & BANKING

18. Global payments technology firm, **Visa** in partnership with **Juspay** launched India's **1st** Card-on-File tokenization (**CoFT**) **services** for e-commerce players such as **Grofers**, **BigBasket**, and **MakeMyTrip**.

- The CoFT service will provide a safe, secure and seamless environment for digital payments. It was launched in line with Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) recently issued CoFT guidelines which mandated replacing actual card data with encrypted digital tokens.

19. BSE Technologies Private Limited (**BSE Tech**), the wholly-owned subsidiary of BSE, has received an in-principle approval from the Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**) for setting up and operating Trade Receivables Discounting System (**TReDS**) under the Payments and Settlement Systems Act, 2007.

20. On October 6, 2021, State Bank of India (SBI) extended its partnership with Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) for another five years. Under this partnership, SBI uses **TCS BaNCS** for which TCS maintain and enhance SBI's application for core banking, trade finance, financial reporting, and financial inclusion.

21. The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) 6-members Monetary Policy Committee (**MPC**) had met on 6th, 7th and 8th **October 2021** and released its **fourth** bi-monthly monetary policy statement for **FY22** (April 2021 – March 2022).

- **Policy Rates:** RBI kept the rates unchanged (maintains status quo) for the 8th consecutive time i.e it decided to continue with the **accommodative stance** to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on the economy
- **Growth:** The MPC has retained India's real gross domestic product (GDP) growth projection for FY22 at **9.5 percent** with 7.9 percent in Q2; 6.8 percent in Q3; and 6.1 percent in Q4 of 2021-22. Real GDP growth for Q1 FY23 is projected at 17.2 per cent.
- **Inflation:** Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation was projected at 5.3 percent in FY22, with 5.1 percent in Q2; 4.5 percent in Q3; and 5.8 percent in Q4. CPI inflation for Q1 FY23 was projected at 5.2 percent.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

22. The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences awarded the **2021 Nobel Prize in Literature** to **Abdulrazak Gurnah**, a Tanzanian novelist based in the United Kingdom for his works on the effects of colonialism and fate of the refugee in the gulf between cultures and continents.

- The 2021 Nobel Prize for Literature was presented by Mats Malm, Permanent Secretary of the Swedish Academy.
- The 2021 Nobel Prize for Literature consists of a gold medal and a cash prize of 10 million Swedish Kronor (around Rs.8.5 crores).

23. The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences awarded the **Nobel Prize in Economic Science** which is formally known as the '**Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences** in Memory of Alfred Nobel 2021' to **David Card** for his empirical contributions to labour economics and **Joshua D. Angrist and Guido W. Imbens** for their methodological contributions to the analysis of causal relationships.

- The prize for economic science consists of a gold medal and a cash prize of 10 million Swedish kronor (SEK).

- The academy has decided to award one half of the prize(5 million SEK) to David Card($\frac{1}{2}$) and the other half jointly to Joshua D. Angrist($\frac{1}{4}$) and Guido W. Imbens($\frac{1}{4}$), 2.5 million SEK each.

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PERSON IN NEWS

24. Crypto platform **CoinSwitch Kuber** has roped in Bollywood actor **Ranveer Singh** as its first-ever brand ambassador.
- With this collaboration, Ranveer Singh will be featured in three ad films for CoinSwitch Kuber's ongoing '**KuchToh Badlega**'.
 - The objective is to connect with millennials and Gen-Z users by featuring Ranveer through its 'KuchToh Badlega' campaign.
25. The debut book of **Rajnish Kumar**, former Chairman of State Bank of India (SBI), named "**The Custodian of Trust**" is set to be released on 18th October 2021. The book published by Penguin Random House India, discusses various memories of Rajnish Kumar with India's banking & financial sector.

OBITUARIES

26. Pakistani nuclear scientist and metallurgical engineer Dr. Abdul Qadeer Khan (85), also known as the father of Pakistan's nuclear weapons program, passed away in Islamabad, Pakistan. He was born in 1936 at Bhopal, British India.

IMPORTANT DAYS

27. **World Cotton Day** is annually observed across the globe on **7th October** to celebrate the contribution of the stakeholder of the cotton sector towards economic development. The day also

fosters the sustainable trade policies for cotton and enables the least developed countries to gain more benefits along the cotton value chain.

- **7th October 2021** marks the observance of the **first** ever official United Nations(**UN**) **World Cotton Day**.
- According to the International Cotton Advisory Committee (**ICAC**), the event theme for 2021 World Cotton Day is '**Cotton for Good**'.

28. The United Nations (**UN**)'s **World Post Day** is annually observed across the globe on **October 9th** to commemorate the anniversary of the establishment of the Universal Postal Union (**UPU**) in 1874.

- The day aims to create awareness about the role of the postal sector in the everyday life of people across the globe and its contribution to the social and economic development of the countries.
- The theme of 2021 World Post Day is "**Innovate to recover**".

29. World Mental Health Day is annually observed on October 10th to create awareness about the issues of mental health and educate the general public on the importance of Mental Health.

- World Mental Health Day is a global initiative supported by the World Health Organisation(**WHO**), World Federation for Mental Health(**WFMH**) and its member organisations.
- The **green ribbon** is a symbol of mental health.
- The theme of World Mental Health Day 2021, as per WFMH, is "**Mental Health in an Unequal World**".
- The slogan of the WHO's World Mental Health Day Campaign is "**Mental health care for all: let's make it a reality**".

30. The World Investor Week(**WIW**), a week-long global campaign, is annually observed across the globe under the aegis of the International Organization of Securities Commissions (**IOSCO**) to create awareness on the importance of education and protection of investors and highlight the related initiatives of the securities regulators.

- The **5th Edition** of the World Investor Week, **WIW 2021**, was observed from the **4th October through 10th October 2021**.

- The WIW 2020 was observed from 5 October through November 2020.

31. World Standards Day or **International Standards Day** is observed on October 14 every year at the global level. This date was chosen to mark the first meeting of delegates of **IEC** (International Electrotechnical Commission), **ISO** (International Organization for Standardization) and **ITU** (International Telecommunication Union) in from 25 countries in London, United Kingdom who established an international organisation for facilitating standardisation. **Objective-** To create awareness about the importance of standardisation to the world.

- **World Standard Day 2021 Theme-** "Standards for Sustainable Development Goals – Our Shared Vision for a Better World".

SPORTS

32. For the first time ever, India swept the eight **2021 International Hockey Federation's (FIH) annual Hockey Star Awards** with drag-flickers **Harmanpreet Singh** and **Gurjit Kaur** claiming the **Player of the Year** honours in men and women.

- However, world no. 1, 2021 Tokyo Olympics champions of Men's Hockey, Belgium team had expressed disappointment over the voting system and the outcome of FIH Hockey Star Awards after none of their players won any award.

Award	Men	Women
Player of the Year Award	Harmanpreet Singh	Gurjit Kaur
Goalkeeper of the Year Award	PR Sreejesh	Savita Punia
Rising Star of the Year Award	Vivek Sagar Prasad	Sharmila Devi
The Best Coach Award	Graham Reid	Sjoerd Marijne

33. **Valtteri Bottas** wins the Turkish Grand Prix 2021 which was held in Istanbul Park, Turkey. The victory was his first since Russia in September 2020.

- His Mercedes teammate Lewis Hamilton finished fifth and lost the Formula One championship lead to Red Bull's Max Verstappen.

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