







WEEKLY CA SEP 2021

SEP 24-30

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NATIONAL AFFAIRS

1. Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying (DAHD) signed a multi-year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to support India's livestock sector.
 - Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Minister Parshottam Rupala signed the deal
 - To support the nation's food and nutritional security and protect the economic wellbeing of small-scale livestock producers.
 - The Gates Foundation will provide technical assistance to the department to ensure sustainable growth and prosperity of India's livestock sector.
2. Union Minister, Piyush Vedprakash Goyal, Ministry of Commerce & Industry launched the National Single Window System (NSWS), an online portal to enable global and domestic investors, entrepreneurs, and businesses to identify and obtain approvals and clearances needed in India. It is an effort toward **ease of doing business**.
 - This portal is an integration of the existing clearance systems of the Centre and states.
 - It has been developed by the **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade** (DPIIT) along with **Invest India**.
3. The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (**MeitY**) has organised a strategy workshop titled "**Connecting all Indians**" to make India one of the largest connected countries in the world.
4. The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) and the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to improve food, nutrition security and livelihoods in India against the impacts of climate change.
 - The deal was signed between WFP India representative and Country Director Bishow Parajuli and ICRISAT Director General Dr Jacqueline Hughes on September 24.
 - **Objective**
 - To bolster food security, nutrition and livelihoods that are resilient to climate change.
 - To focus on climate-resilient food security, nutrition and livelihoods, especially for smallholder farmers and ecologically vulnerable communities.

- To generate ideas and frameworks for policy positions relevant not just for India but regional and global food problems.
5. Amazon Internet Services Pvt Ltd (**AISPL**) has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **MeitY Startup Hub**, an initiative of the Ministry of Electronics and IT (**MeitY**), to promote technology innovation and the sustainable growth of start-ups in India. AISPL undertakes the resale and marketing of Amazon Web Services (**AWS**) Cloud services in India.
6. Ministry of Commerce and Industry observed Vanijya Saptah (Trade & Commerce Week) from 20th to 26th September 2021 as a part of the celebration of “Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav”.
- The Department of Commerce (**DoC**) organised various programmes and events across India to showcase the rising economic force and exporter conclaves.
 - The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) organised the launch of the National Single Window System and Industrial Park Rating System.
7. The world’s highest Electric Vehicle (**EV**) charging station was inaugurated at 500 feet in **Kaza**, in the Spiti Valley, Lahaul and Spiti district, **Himachal Pradesh**. **The charging station will support all EV Scooters and cars.**
8. On September 27, 2021, Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) launched the 7th consecutive edition of Swachh Survekshan (SS)-2022 themed on **‘People First’** from New Delhi.
- SS 2022 has incorporated specific indicators focusing on **frontline workers** like improvement in their working conditions and livelihood opportunities.
 - Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban will organize a series of citizen centric activities under the overarching theme of Jan Bhagidari. The survey, flavoured with the Azaadi@75 spirit.
9. In September 2021, the Union Law Minister **Kiren Rijiju** inaugurated India’s **1st** ‘Sports Arbitration Centre of India’ (**SACI**) in **Gujarat**. The SACI will serve as an independent body to redress the disputes in the sports sector and expand the country’s sports sector.
10. On September 27, 2021, the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA) organised the launch event of the convergence between Prime Minister Formalisation of Micro-food processing Enterprises (PMFME) and Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM) scheme.

- It was jointly launched by **Durga Shanker Mishra**, Secretary, MoHUA; and **Pushpa Subrahmanyam**, Secretary, Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) during a virtual event organized as a part of **Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav** (AKAM).
- The online Seed Capital Module developed on DAY-NULM MIS (management information system) was also launched to help in effective implementation of this convergence.

11. On September 28, 2021 i.e. on the occasion of World Rabies Day, the Central Government has launched a **National Action Plan for dog Mediated Rabies Elimination by 2030** (NAPRE) for the elimination of dog mediated rabies by 2030.

- It was unveiled by Union Minister **Mansukh Mandaviya**, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoH&FW) and **Parshottam Rupala**, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying (MoFAHD)
- The action for the same has been drafted by the **National Centre for Disease Control** (NCDC) in consultation with FAHD.

12. On September 28, 2021, the Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi launched 35 crop varieties which are climate resilient and higher nutrient-content.

- These have been developed by the **Indian Council of Agricultural Research** (ICAR) to address climate change and malnutrition.

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STATES AFFAIRS

13. The Haryana government decided to cover farmers growing horticultural crops against abiotic factors under a specially-designed scheme- Mukhyamantri Bagwani Bima Yojana (MBBY).
14. **Anurag Singh Thakur**, Union Minister of Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, inaugurated the **first edition of the Himalayan Film Festival** (24th to 28th September 2021) organised by the Union Territory (UT) of Ladakh in collaboration with the Directorate of Film Festivals, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting(**MIB**).

- The 5-day film festival at the Sindhu Sanskriti Kendra, Leh is organised as a part of the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'.
- The event is hosted by the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council, **Leh**.

15. The Chief Minister of Kerala, **Pinarayi Vijayan** has virtually inaugurated '**Digital Hub**' under Kerala Startup Mission (KSUM) in Kalamassery, Kerala. The digital hub is started at the Technology Innovation Zone (**TIZ**) and it has a built-up space of 2 lakh square feet and has a capacity to support **200 startups**.

16. **Sojat Mehndi from Rajasthan**, known for its medicinal values has received the geographical indication (GI) tag.

- From the North East States, the traditional brew of Dimasa community, Judima from Assam and Naga Cucumber from Nagaland known for its high potassium content also bagged GI tags.

17. On the **105th** birth anniversary of **Deen Dayal Upadhyay**, the Chief Minister (**CM**) of Haryana Manohar Lal Khattar launched '**Samarpan Portal**', a web portal where people can register themselves to offer **voluntary service** in the field of education, sports, agriculture, and skill development.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

18. The World Health Organization (WHO) announced new stringent Global Air Quality Guidelines (AQGs) to assess the effects of air pollution and its health impact.

- Earlier, WHO issued guidelines in 2005. Yet many countries did not reach 2005 AQGs.
- Even lower levels of air pollutions have impact on health and climate change
- In the new AQGs thresholds was set for six key air pollutants — particulate matter (PM2.5 and PM10), ozone (O3), nitrogen dioxide (NO2), sulphur dioxide (SO2) and carbon monoxide (CO).
- Bangladesh, Pakistan and India have recorded the highest air pollution levels with regard to the 2005 WHO guidelines.

REPORTS & INDICES

19. According to the report of the Food and Agriculture Organization (**FAO**) of the United Nations(**UN**) titled '**Tracking progress on food and agriculture-related SDG indicators 2021**', COVID 19 has set back progress towards Sustainable Development Goals (**SDGs**) enshrined in the **UN's Agenda 2030**, undermining the decades of development efforts.

- It focuses on eight SDGs, which were adopted at the **UN summit in New York in 2015**. It's **FAO's 3rd assessment** this time.
- According to the report, the COVID-19 pandemic has increased the burden of **chronic hunger**. It has pushed around **83 to 132 million people** into hunger in 2020.
- COVID-19 has disrupted the food supply in society, around **14 percent** of all food has been lost.
- The new report **coincides** with the recent **UN Food Systems Summit**, which aims to raise global awareness and spur actions to transform food systems, eradicate hunger, reduce diet-related diseases, and heal the planet.

20. In accordance with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) report titled '**Fed to Fail? The crisis of children's diets in early life**', two in every three children between **6-23 months** didn't get the nutritious diet needed for healthy growth and the COVID-19 pandemic could make the situation much worse.

- This report was released ahead of the United Nations Food Systems Summit on September 23, 2021 in New York, United States (US).
- **Basis of Analysis:**
- The report examined the **UNICEF Global Database on Infant and Young Child Feeding** for the status, trends, inequities and barriers to nutritious diets of children aged 6-23 months.
- This database has collated data from 607 nationally representative surveys conducted in 135 countries, representing more than 90% of all children under 2 years.
- UNICEF has estimated that globally, more than half of children under the age of 5 with wasting are younger than 2 years of age. This amounts to around 23 million children.

21. India's rank in Global Innovation Index (**GII**) **2021** by the World Intellectual Property Organisation (**WIPO**) improved by two spots to **46th** from 48th in GII 2020.

- India entered into the group of top 50 countries in GII for the 1st time.
- The NITI (National Institution for Transforming India) Aayog, along with the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and the WIPO, virtually hosted the India Launch of the GII 2021 and the Global Innovation Conclave in September 2021.

GI 2021:

Overall Rank of GI	Country
46	India
1	Switzerland
2	Sweden
3	United States of America
4	United Kingdom

22. As per the annual ranking of the international startup hubs named '**Global Startup Ecosystem Report 2021**', compiled by research organisation '**Startup Genome**', and The **Global Entrepreneurship Network**, London, Mumbai, and Bangalore are featured among the world's top startup hubs.

- **Bangalore** ranked **23rd** (26 in 2020) among the top 30 global startups, whereas **Delhi** ranked **36**.
- **Global Startup Ranking**: Silicon Valley ranked 1st followed by New York City and London (2nd) Beijing ranked at 4 and Boston at 5.

Top 5 Global Startup Ecosystem 2021 Ranking

Rank	City
1	Silicon Valley
2	New York City
2	London
4	Beijing
5	Boston

- **Mumbai**: It retained its **1st position** in the **Emerging Ecosystems** ranking outperforming other fast-growing ecosystems in areas of funding, performance market research, and

talent. Emerging Ecosystems are the ecosystems in earlier stages of growth that have high potential to be global performers in the future.

- As per the report, Indian startups raised **USD 12.1 billion** in the first half of 2021 and as of August 2021, India has produced 24 unicorns.

23. On September 22, 2021, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) published a new report titled '**Climate Indicators and Sustainable Development: Demonstrating the Interconnections**' stating that climate change effects not only obstruct the Sustainable Development Goal-13 (SDG13- Climate Action) but impede all 17 SDGs.

- It was released in coincide with the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) annual session; and the opening of the virtual SDG Action Zone to accelerate action on the SDGs.

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GOVERNMENT SCHEMES & PROGRAMMES

24. On September 23, 2021, the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (**AB-PM-JAY**) has completed **3 years**.

- In order to celebrate the 3 years' completion, National Health Authority (NHA) has organised a 4 days hybrid (virtual & physical) event, **Arogya Manthan 3.0** from 23rd – 25th September and 27th September 2021.
- The 1st Universal Health Coverage initiative for the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir was launched in December 2020.

25. **Saubhagya** – Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana, one of the largest household electrification drives in the world, has completed 4 years of successful implementation. As of March 2021, 2.82 crore households across India have been electrified under the SAUBHAGYA since its launch.

26. The Prime Minister (**PM**) Narendra Modi launched '**Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission**' (ABDM) via video conference. The program was organized on **World Tourism Day** (27th September). It

was launched in the presence of Mansukh Mandaviya, Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare and Dr Bharati Pravin Pawar, Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare.

- **Objective** – To develop the integrated digital health infrastructure of the country.
- Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission will provide a digital health ID to people which will contain their health records. This mission was launched under the pilot project National Digital Health Mission (**NDHM**).
- The mission was launched under the pilot project National Digital Health Mission (**NDHM**).
- It will help connect digital health solutions of hospitals across the country. All Indians will get a **digital health ID** under this scheme. Every citizen's health record will now be digitally secure.

ECONOMY & BUSINESS

27. The **ICRA (formerly known as Investment Information and Credit Rating Agency of India Limited)** has revised India's gross domestic product (GDP) growth projection in **FY22** from 8.5 percent (June 2021) to **9 percent**.
28. The Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) has extended the tenure of the Company Law Committee (CLC) by one year i.e. till September 16, 2022 w.e.f. September 17, 2021.
- CLC was formulated to promote **ease of doing business** to law abiding corporates, to foster improved corporate compliance for stakeholders, and to address issues impacting the working of companies.
 - The tenure of CLC was also extended in 2020 by 1 year.
29. **S&P Global Ratings** Retained India's Economic Growth Projection in FY22 to **9.5 percent**. The rating agency has reported a strong recovery in economic activity in India after the second wave of COVID-19.

FINANCE & BANKING

30. On September 22, 2021, Federal Bank joined hands with fintech company OneCard to launch a mobile-first credit card to cater the individual's credit demand for the upcoming festive season. The cards will be powered by Visa.

- The bank is targeting consumers aged **between 23 and 35 years** representing the Gen Z and millennials.
- This card powered by OneCard app, 'slick', and can be activated and used instantly in virtual format until the physical card gets delivered. Users can control their cards through the app.

31. On September 24, 2021, the Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**) issued the master directions of RBI (**Securitisation of Standard Assets**) Directions, 2021, and RBI (**Transfer of Loan Exposures**) Directions, 2021.

32. **Master Directions on Securitisation of Standard Assets:**

Eligibility: Loans with tenor up to **24 months** extended to individuals for agricultural activities (where both interest and principal are due only on maturity) and **Trade receivables** with tenor up to **12 months** (discounted/purchased by lenders from their borrowers) will be eligible for securitisation.

Minimum Retention Requirement (MRR):

- For loans with maturity of 24 months or less, the MRR should be 5 percent of the book value of the loans being securitised.
- For loans with original maturity of more than 24 months and loans with bullet repayments, the MRR shall be 10 percent of the book value of the loans being securitised.

33. **ICICI Bank** partnered with **Amazon India** to offer an overdraft (**OD**) facility up to **Rs 25 lakh** to individual sellers and small businesses registered on the e-commerce marketplace **amazon.in**.

34. The government of India has set up a task force under **Ajay Seth**, Secretary of the Department of Economic Affairs (**DEA**), Ministry of Finance, to strengthen the road map to enhance the sustainable finance architecture of India.

35. The government has set up the India Debt Resolution Company Ltd (**IDRCL**), an asset management company (AMC) that will work with the National Asset Reconstruction Company Ltd (**NARCL**)/**Bad Bank** to clean up bad loans (i.e Non-Performing Assets (**NPA**s)).

- **Objective:** To carry out all kinds of debt management, operational management, resolution advisory, support, and consultancy services in relation to debt resolution, and insolvency resolution.

- IDRCL was set up with a paid-up capital of **Rs 80.5 lakh** on an authorized capital of **Rs 50 crore**. Canara Bank is the sponsor bank.
- Cabinet had approved govt guarantee of up to Rs 30,600 crore to back security receipts to be issued by National Asset Reconstruction Company (NARCL).

36. The Ministry of Tourism (**MoT**), Government of India launched **NIDHI 2.0** (National Integrated Database of Hospitality Industry) and '**India Tourism Statistics – At a Glance, 2021**' during the event organised on the occasion of United Nations(**UN**)'s World Tourism Day 2021 in New Delhi.

- During the event, MoT, the United Nations Environment Programme (**UNEP**) and The Responsible Tourism Society of India (**RTSOI**) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to promote sustainability initiatives in the tourism sector.

37. The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has approved a loan of **\$251 million** for urban flood protection and management in the Chennai–Kosasthalaiyar river basin in India.

- It strengthens flood risk management and integrated urban planning to transform Chennai into a more livable city.
- It will improve climate and disaster resilience of affected communities, to protect their lives, economy and the environment.

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AWARDS & RECOGNITION

38. The **Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation** has awarded **Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka**, former United Nations (**UN**) Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of the UN Women, with the **2021 Global Goalkeeper Award**.

- As a part of its annual Goalkeepers campaign, the foundation also announced the winners of the 3 additional **Goalkeepers Global Goals Awards**.
- These awards were instituted by the Foundation to recognise the efforts taken by the people to help achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals (**SDG**).

39. The President of India, Ram Nath Kovind presented the **National Service Scheme (NSS) Awards for the year 2019-20** at Rastrapathi Bhawan, New Delhi Virtually.

- Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Shri Anurag Thakur and Minister of State for Youth Affairs & Sports Shri Nisith Pramanik also attended the ceremony from Sushma Swaraj Bhawan, New Delhi.
- A total of 42 awardees in 3 different categories like University or +2 Councils, NSS Units and their Programme Officers and NSS Volunteers were conferred with the awards under the NSS Awards 2019-20

40. **Dr Rukmini Banerji**, Chief Executive Officer(**CEO**) of Pratham Education Foundation, India and **Eric A. Hanushek**, professor at Stanford University, has been awarded the **2021 Yidan Prize**, the world's highest education accolade, recognising their work on improving the quality of education and outcomes for learners at scale.

PERSON IN NEWS

41. Indian Compound Archer and Arjuna Awardee **Abhishek Verma**, 3-time world cup gold medalist, has been elected to the **Athletes Committee** of **World Archery**, the international federation for the Olympic sport of archery. He has been elected for a term of 4 years till 2025.
42. Mastercard joins the **Meltwater Champions Chess Tour** as an official partner and names **Magnus Carlsen** as Mastercard global brand ambassador.
43. India's **Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG)** GC Murmu was elected as the external auditor of the International Atomic Energy Agency (**IAEA**) at the General Conference of the IAEA in Vienna, Austria. His tenure will be for six years, from 2022 to 2027.

OBITUARIES

44. NA

IMPORTANT DAYS

45. **World Pharmacists Day** is annually observed across the globe on **September 25th** to recognise the role of pharmacists towards improving health across the globe. The day also marks the foundation day of the International Pharmaceutical Federation (**FIP- Fédération Internationale Pharmaceutique**).

- 25th September **2021** marks the observance of the **11th World Pharmacists Day**.

46. Antyodaya Diwas is annually observed across India in September 2021, to celebrate the birth anniversary of Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, former leader of the political party Bharatiya Jana Sangh (**BJS**), the forerunner of Bharatiya Janata Party (**BJP**).

- 25th September 2021 marks the 105th birth anniversary of Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya.
- The word Antyodaya means the 'rise of the last person', one of the concepts promoted by Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya.

47. **World Environmental Health Day(WEHD)** is annually observed across the globe **on September 26** to create awareness about the health of the environment and to highlight the importance of investing in the healthy and green recovery of the environment. The day also aims to create a better understanding of the integral connection between the environment, health and economy.

- The theme of WEHD 2021 is "**Prioritizing Environmental Health for healthier communities in global recovery**".

48. The United Nations(**UN**)'s **World Tourism Day(WTD)** is annually observed across the globe on **27th September** to create awareness about the importance of tourism and its impact on social, economic and political aspects of a region. The day also highlights the contributions of the tourism sector towards achieving Sustainable Development Goals(SDGs).

WTD 2021:

- The United Nations World Tourism Organization (**UNWTO**) has designated World Tourism Day 2021 as a day to focus on "**Tourism for Inclusive Growth**" as the COVID-19 pandemic has had a massive social and economic impact on both developed and developing countries.

49. World Heart Day is annually observed across the globe on 29th September to create awareness about Cardiovascular diseases (**CVD**), including heart disease and stroke, one of the world's leading causes of death(around 18.6 million deaths per year).

SPORTS

50. **Magnus Carlsen**, Norwegian chess Grandmaster won the 9th edition of **EY Norway Chess 2021** against Russian Grandmaster **Ian Alexandrovich Nepomniachtchi**. This marks Magnus Carlsen's 3rd consecutive title in Norway chess and 4th overall title.
51. Lewis Hamilton sets a new record by registering his 100th win after finishing first in **Russian Grand Prix** held at Sochi Autodrom in Russia on September 28. Hamilton is a British racer, competes for Mercedes.
- With this win, Hamilton became the first Formula-one driver in the history to reach 100 wins. Max Verstappen finished second at **Russian Grand Prix 2021**.
52. Indian snooker player **Pankaj Advani** won his **24th world title** by winning the International Billiards and Snooker Federation (**IBSF**) **6-Red Snooker World Cup 2021** by defeating Pakistan player and 2017 World Team Snooker Champion **Babar Masih**.

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