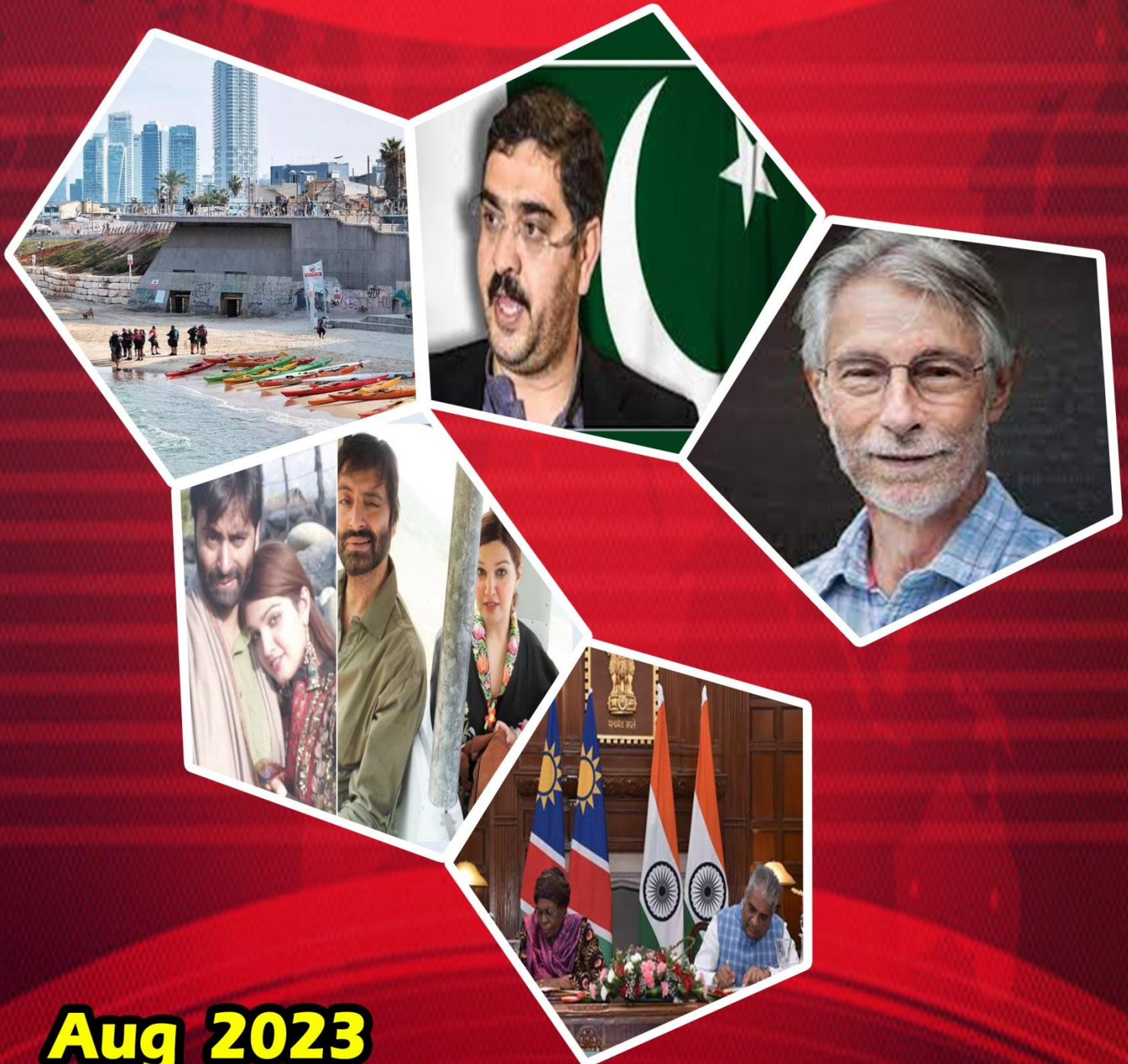


WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS



Aug 2023

Date: 14.08.23 - 20.08.23



National News

IMS Noida has launched a Zero-Waste campus.

- The **Indian Pollution Control Association (IPCA)** and **Noida Institute of Management Studies (IMS)** have jointly launched the **Zero-Waste Campus** in August 2023.
- It focuses on efficient recycling processes, source separation and complete disposal of waste and the complex is designed with the aim of achieving **100% recycling** by installing an **Aerobin machine to remove waste**.

Memorial Day is observed as a national day to remember those who lost their lives during the partition of India.

- **India** observes **August 14, 2023** as **Partition Day** to honor the fierce struggles and sacrifices that took place during the partition of **India** and **Pakistan** in **1947**.
- Indian Prime Minister Modi has declared **14th August** as **Partition Memorial Day** or "**Vibhajan Vibhishika Smriti Diwas**". Our Prime Minister said that this day reminds us of the need to eradicate the deadly poison of social divisions and disharmony and further strengthen the spirit of **social harmony, unity** and **human empowerment**.

A joint venture agreement has been signed between the Union Ministry of Tourism and MakeMyTrip to facilitate the travel of tourists.

- **MakeMyTrip**, an online travel services company, has entered into an MoU with the **Union Ministry of Tourism** on **August 13** to promote various tourist destinations in the country and facilitate their travel.
- The agreement is aimed at enhancing the company's "**Traveler's Map of India**" **microsite** and making it easier for travelers to find places within the country.

- It is notable that this **microsite** is designed in line with the **DekhoApnaDesh** scheme of the **Central Government**.

An Indo-Jewish cultural heritage square (arena) has been opened in Israel.

- To honor and celebrate **India's 77th Independence Day**, an "**Indo-Jewish Cultural Square**" (Arena) in **Eilat**, Israel has been inaugurated by the government of the country on **August 15**.
- The organization is dedicated to the "**Civilized Bond**" of strong and **good diplomatic relations** between the two countries. It is designed to symbolize the friendship, love, mutual concern and deep state connection between India and Israel, according to the **Mayor of Eilat, Eli Lankri**.

CCEA has approved 7 major development projects of the Ministry of Railways worth Rs 32,500 crore.

- The **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)** has on **August 16, 2023** approved seven major development projects of the **Ministry of Railways** with funding of nearly **Rs 32,500 crore from the Central Government**.
- These development projects are designed to facilitate the operations of the railway sector to the people and to reduce the **problems** and **congestion** in it and to provide the necessary infrastructural development in the sector. It is also reported that these projects cover nearly **35 districts** and ensure their development.

The Union Cabinet has approved a Rs 13,000 crore scheme to support traditional artisans of the country.

- The central government has approved the **PM Vishwakarma Development Scheme** in August 2023 to support India's urban and rural-traditional artisans and their talent at an estimated cost of **Rs 13,000 crore**.



- The project is designed to strengthen the family-based livelihood practice of artists and artisans and develop their **traditional skills of working** with their hands and tools. It is significant that this is a **5 year project**.

The Union Cabinet has approved a Memorandum of Understanding between India and Australia to enhance cooperation in the field of sports.

- **The Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports and Australia's Department of Health and Aged Care** signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on **August 16** to further strengthen cooperation in the sports sector between the two countries.
- The program is designed to facilitate bilateral exchange programs in the field of sports between the two countries, expanding knowledge and expertise in athlete and **coach training and development, sports science, sports governance and integrity and their grassroots participation**.

The President of India has launched INS Vindhyagiri, a type of warship that does not get caught in the enemy's radars.

- **Indian President Draupadi Murmu** launched India's new warship 'INS Vindhyagiri' on **August 17** at the **Garden Reach Shipyard (GRSE)** on the banks of the Hooghly River in Kidderpore, Kolkata, West Bengal.
- Named after the mountain range in Karnataka, this advanced enemy country's stealthy INS Vindhyagiri is the sixth version of the "**Project 17A**" warships.

The Central Water Authority has launched a mobile app called FloodWatch.

- **FloodWatch**, a mobile app to get information on real-time flood forecast conditions across India, was launched on **August 17, 2023**.

- The app has been launched with the aim of disseminating information related to all flood situations and forecasts for almost **seven days on a real-time basis**. It is significant that this app was launched by **Central Water Commission** president **Kushvinder** in **New Delhi**.

A Memorandum of Understanding has been entered into to share the India Stake.

- **India** and the Organization of **Trinidad and Tobago** have signed a **Mutual Development Agreement (MoU)** in August 2023 on sharing the **India Stake**.
- It is a collection of **digital public goods, open APIs**, and this MoU aims to **facilitate identity, payment services and data at scale**.

AICTE President has launched the Margdarshan Scheme 2023-24.

- **Margdarshan Scheme 2023-24**, a visionary initiative of All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) was successfully launched by AICTE President **Prof. T. G. Seetharam** on **16th August**.
- The AICTE Chairman mentioned that this initiative has been launched with the aim of raising the standard of **technical education across the country** by providing dedicated guidance and its **consistent efforts**.

An MoU has been entered into between the Government of Rajasthan and NLC for supply of 300 MW of solar power.

- Central state-owned **NLC India** has on **August 18** announced a joint venture agreement with the **Rajasthan government's Urja Vikas Nigam (RUVNL)** to supply nearly **300 MW of solar power under the CPSU scheme**.
- NLC said that the agreement has been entered into with the primary objective of providing solar power for the **next 25 years in the capital**



of the state, Jaipur. It is noteworthy that this is the first time that NLCIL has expanded this capacity outside Tamil Nadu and so far it has included a **1.40 GW capacity in the southern state.**

International news

Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar has been appointed as the Care-Taker Prime Minister of Pakistan.

- The President of Pakistan **Dr. Arif Alvi** has approved the decision to appoint **Balochistan Awami League Party (BAP) Senator Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar** as the **Care-Taker Prime Minister of Pakistan in August 2023.**
- The agreement was made after a consensus was reached between the **opposition** and **Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif** during the talks held in the country's capital, **Islamabad**, on August 12, 2023. It is notable that he has previously served as the **"Government Spokesman"** of **Balochistan from 2015 to 2017.**

Anita Shah has been sworn in as Nepal's Union Affairs Minister.

- In a **Cabinet reshuffle of Nepal**, **Nepal Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal** has appointed **Anita Devi Shah** as the **Union Minister of Public Administration and Federation** to replace **Aman Lal** on 13 August 2023.
- With this, he has reshuffled the cabinet for the **11th time.** It is also significant that **Dahal** has already reshuffled the **cabinet 10 times within 8 months of coming to power and with this appointment he has formed the 11th cabinet.**

The UAE Modern Pentathlon Federation and Dubai Police have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding to enhance the country's sports cooperation.

- **Dubai Police** has signed a memorandum of understanding with the **UAE State Modern Pentathlon Federation** in August 2023 for

cooperation and development in five disciplines: **athletics, steeplechase, ab fencing, laser pistol shooting, 200m swimming and running.**

- The MoU is aimed at establishing joint working groups for effective **implementation of defined key objectives** in the field of sports and efficient achievement of its shared goals.

An agreement has been signed to start the first direct flights between Israel and Vietnam.

- The two countries signed a memorandum of understanding on **August 16** in **Hanoi, Vietnam**, to **plan to launch the first direct flight between Israel and Vietnam.**
- The partition agreement was signed in the presence of Israel's Economy Minister **Nir Barkat** and Vietnam's Chief Representative **Nguyen Hong Dien.** According to this, commercial flights between Vietnam's **Hanoi** and Israel's **Tel Aviv** will be started from **October.**
- It is also notable that **"A Free Trade Agreement"** was signed between the two countries last **July.**

The UAE and Ethiopia have entered into various development MoUs to boost the economies of both countries.

- The President of the United Arab Emirates, **Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed**, and the Prime Minister of the Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, **Abiy Ahmed**, on **August 18** signed various memorandums of understanding for the development of several institutions between the two countries.
- It is significant that these MoUs have been entered into with the aim of promoting economic development and cooperation between the two countries and **fostering corporate partnerships.**



The official website for the International Conference on Fishing Communities around the World 2023 has been launched.

- The International Conference on Fishing Communities Around the World 2023 (ICFC 2023) is scheduled to be held from September 19 to September 21 at the massive Busan Port International Exhibition and Convention Center (BPEX) in South Korea.
- The Maidan is planned to bring together union representatives of fishing communities from around the world and from different countries to address challenges, issues, transboundary fisheries disputes and develop cooperative solutions.

State news

"Trichy" has been selected as the best Municipal Corporation of Tamil Nadu.

- The Tamil Nadu Government has mentioned in a recent announcement that the Trichy Corporation has been selected as the Best Performing Corporation in Tamil Nadu for the year 2023. The award for this is going to be presented to the Mayor of Trichy on behalf of the Hon'ble Chief Minister.
- These awards are presented by Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu every year on Independence Day to the best performing Municipalities, Boroughs and Corporations in the state.

A project to build the country's largest new IT hub in Lucknow.

- The August 2023 announcement mentioned that preparatory work for setting up a new and country's largest IT center in Lucknow, the capital of the state of Uttar Pradesh, has been initiated by the Chief Minister.
- It has been announced that the State Rajkiya Nirman Nigam (UPRNN) has already drawn up a blueprint for setting up an IT Technology

Park and Center on nearly 40 acres and an International Incubation Facility on 6.9 acres in Amausi and Nadarganj Industrial Areas on Kanpur Road in the main city and work is underway.

The Union Minister has launched schemes to improve coastal defense in Gujarat.

- Union Home Minister Amit Shah has launched various development projects in August 2023 aimed at improving border and coastal security and building and upgrading its infrastructural facilities.
- In this, the new type of brigadier warships needed by the Navy and the installation of unmanned aerial vehicles for patrolling along the borders are seen as important.

An awareness and cleanliness drive has been organized in Ladakh.

- In the Union Territory of Ladakh, the State Department of Tourism, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department (RD&PRD), Roots Ladakh Organization and the State Wildlife Department have launched an initiative for an "Awareness and Cleanliness Movement" under the campaign "Meri Maati Mera Desh".
- The initiative was launched with the aim of creating awareness about the importance of forests, wildlife and environment and promoting tourism in the state and also about the serious issue of human-wildlife conflict.

CRPF 166 Battalion is planning to launch a colorful vehicle tiranga rally.

- In the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, CRPF 166 Battalion Force organized a vigil called Colorful Vehicle Tiranga on August 14, 2023 at Banihal Circle in Ramban District.



- **JKP, CRPF, RPF, GRPF, PRI** organization and army personnel and members and many local residents participated in this **tiranga rally** with the aim of making the people of the region celebrate their independence day well.

The intellectual giant National Media Conference 2023 has been held in New Delhi.

- The esteemed **Rashtriya Navratna Awards 2023** and **National Media Conference**, a prestigious event on behalf of electronic and print media associations, was held at **Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi on 14th August 2023**.
- From every corner of India, the best individuals and best organizations in the nominations for these prestigious awards will be honored with the prestigious **Rashtriya Navratna Awards 2023**.

Youth 20 Summit to be held in Varanasi.

- The **Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs** has planned to host the "**Youth 20**" summit for 2023 on **August 17** in **Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh**.
- The summit is likely to be held from **August 17 to August 20**. This conference aims to discuss these themes on the future of work, **21st century skills, climate change and disaster risk reduction, peace building and reconciliation: building an era without war and Industry 4.0, innovation as key goals for development**.

The women's fare-free bus travel scheme is called 'Vidiyal Payanam'.

- In August 2023, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister **M K Stalin** announced that the free bus travel scheme for women in **Tamil Nadu** will now be called the "**Vidiyal Payanam Scheme**".
- On the occasion of Independence Day (August 15), the Chief Minister hoisted the national flag at the **Chennai** Chief Secretariat and then announced that various programs for women are

working well in Tamil Nadu and the free bus travel program for women will be called "**Vidiyal Payanam Scheme**" in the future.

Mobile app and emergency helpline launched for medical aid fund.

- **Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde** on **August 15** launched an emergency helpline and mobile app for the **Chief Minister's Medical Assistance Fund**.
- It is also significant that the book '**Rokthok**' based on the philosophy of **Balasaheb Thackeray** and the **fifth edition** of the medical aid manual was released on this occasion. He said that more than **12 thousand 500 patients** have benefited from this financial assistance of the **Chief Minister** in the last one year, which is seen as important.

G20 Digital Economy Ministers and Digital Economy Working Group Summit held in Bengaluru.

- The G20 Digital Economy Ministers and Digital Economy Working Group Summit kicked off on **August 16** in **Bengaluru, Karnataka**.
- The conference was inaugurated by **Alkesh Kumar Sharma**, Secretary, Ministry of Information Technology and Electronics. This conference is scheduled to be held from **August 16 to August 19**. The conference will be held under the theme of "**Digital Economic Progress**".

Wipro launches its new Center of Excellence for Innovative AI at IIT-Delhi

- Largest IT services provider **Wipro** has announced on **August 16** that it will set up a center of excellence for its innovative AI technology to develop the system at the **Yardi School of Artificial Intelligence (ScAI)** on the **IIT Delhi campus**.
- The center, part of the institute's partnership with the university, is designed with the aim of



"Fostering talent, supporting fundamental and applied research and expanding the state of the art in the field and creating a special recognition for research and development," the institute said.

India's first unmanned aerial vehicle test facility to be set up in Tamil Nadu

- India's First Public Test Center for Unmanned Aerial Systems (Drone) under the Defense Test Infrastructure Scheme (DTIS) will be set up in Tamil Nadu by the Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation (TIDCO) in its August announcement.
- The center is said to help make Tamil Nadu a preferred location for aerospace and defense companies to set up their Indian operations. It is reported that the center will be set up on an area of nearly 2.3 acres at SIPCOT Industrial Park in Vallam Vadagal near Sriperumbudur, Tamil Nadu.

The campaign 'My Bengal, Drug Free Bengal' has been launched.

- President of India Draupadi Murmu launched the "My Bengal, Addiction Free Bengal" campaign under the program "Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyan" at the Raj Bhavan in Kolkata, West Bengal on 17th August.
- It is significant that President Murmu said in the event that any drug addiction is formed due to stress, family unrest and various problems and this initiative has been started with the aim of bringing the youth out of such addiction.

G20 Health Ministers Summit to be held in Gujarat

- Under India's G-20 leadership, the G20 Health Ministers' Summit will begin on August 17 in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- On the first day of the conference, the G20 Deputy Ministers' Conference is scheduled to

be held followed by the Health Ministers' Conference on the second day.

- The conference aims to discuss the topics of antimicrobial resistance, prevention of health emergencies, preparedness and building a health infrastructure.

India's first state-of-the-art 3D post office launched in Karnataka

- Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnav on August 18 inaugurated India's first 3D-designed post office building in Karnataka's capital Bengaluru.
- It is notable that the construction of this new post office building has been completed with the help of Larsen & Toubro and technical guidance from IIT Madras. It's a 3D structure built on nearly 1,021 square feet in the city's Cambridge-layout.

The first Maritime States Development Organization conference is scheduled to begin.

- Union Minister of Ports and Shipping Shri Sarbananda Sonowal will preside over the 19th Conference of the country's "Maritime States Development Organization (MSDC)" on August 18 and August 19 at Kevadia, Gujarat.
- It is significant that this conference is being held with the aim of discussing important issues related to the overall development and progress of the river and maritime sector.

The G20 Trade and Investment Ministerial Conference is scheduled to be held in Jaipur.

- The G20 Trade and Investment Ministerial Conference under Indian leadership is scheduled to be held in Jaipur, Rajasthan on August 24. It is a two-day conference to be held on 24th and 25th August.



- It is notable that this conference is being held with the **theme of discussion** on implementation of trade action plans presented by the President of India and building consensus on various issues related to **global trade and investment**.

Project for implementation of Bhagwan Birsa Munda Road Development Project in Maharashtra State.

- Maharashtra State Cabinet on **18th August 2023** announced the implementation of **Bhagwan Birsa Munda Road Development Scheme** to improve road connectivity in tribal areas in **17 districts of the state**.
- According to the state government, the scheme is designed to connect the remote rural and **hill tribal areas of the state with major roads**.

Appointments

R Duraisamy appointed as Managing Director of LIC.

- The central government has mentioned in its August notification that **R Doraiswamy** has been appointed as the **managing director** of the **Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)**.
- It is significant that he has taken over this post instead of **Mini Ipe**. It has been reported that he, who is currently the **Executive Director at the Central Head Office in Mumbai**, will assume this responsibility from **September 1, 2023**.



Appointment of Parminder Chopra as Chairman & Managing Director of PFC.

- Union Government-owned **Power Finance Corporation (PFC)** named **Parminder Chopra** as its **Managing Director and Full-time Chairman (CMD)** in its **August 14** announcement.



- The appointment makes Chopra the first woman to head PFC, **India's largest non-banking financial institution**. The company said that through this appointment, he is expected to improve the company according to his **regular activities**.

Elected Vice President of AFL.

- It is notable that **Adille Sumariwalla** was appointed as a member of the **powerful World Athletics Governing Council** on **August 17** and will be elected as one of the four Vice-Presidents in an additional capacity before that.
- The **65-year-old** has been the **president of the Athletics Federation of India (AFI)** since **2012**. It is mentioned that he will hold the post for **"Four years"**.



Chakravorty has been appointed as the new CEO of SBI Card.

- **Abhijit Chakravorty** has taken charge as the **New Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director of SBI Card System** from **August 12, 2023**, the company said in a notification issued on **August 16**.
- It is significant that he has received this responsibility from **Rama Mohan Rao Amara** who had been in the post for more than two and a half years before. The company said that he has **34 years of experience** in the Chakravorty banking industry and will improve the company through his various initiatives.



Colliers appoints Yagnik as CEO

- **Colliers**, the largest real estate consultancy, has appointed **Badal Yagnik** as the **Chief Executive**



Officer of its India division, the company announced on August 17.

- Notably, this appointment follows the earlier resignation of **Ramesh Nair** as the company's CEO. **Nair** will take over as CEO of Colliers India in **July 2021**.



Mushaal Hussain Malik has been appointed as **Special Advisor to the Prime Minister of Pakistan**.

- **Mushaal Hussain Malik**, wife of jailed **Kashmiri separatist leader Yasin Malik**, has been appointed as a **"Special Adviser"** to Pakistan's newly-appointed caretaker prime minister, **Anwaarul Haq Kakar**.
- She will hold the post of **Special Adviser** to Caretaker Prime Minister Kakar on **Women's**



Empowerment and Human Rights in particular, according to a recent announcement by the country.

- It is notable that the **National Intelligence Agency (NIA)** has recently approached the Delhi High Court with a new petition seeking the death penalty for Yasin, who is serving a sentence in **Delhi's Tihar Jail**.

Vishvas Vidu Sapkal has been appointed as the **Ambassador of India to Bolivia**.

- India's ambassador to **Peru**, **Vishvas Vidu Sapkal**, has been appointed as ambassador to **Bolivia**, according to a



notification issued in August.

- It is notable that in **November 2015** at the **Indo-African Summit** held in **New Delhi**, he made special efforts to improve the strategic relations between the two countries.

Appointment of Neil Rippington as Director, Global IIHM Group.

- **International restaurant management firm IIHM** has appointed **Neil Rippington** as global director to its leadership team, according to its latest announcement.



- A renowned **chef and culinary educator**, he is said to enhance the company through his consistent efforts and activities. It is notable that he has won various awards for his **global culinary and hospitality industry experience and mastery of raw material techniques**.

Book publication

The Union Minister released **Kuwi and Desia** books in **Bhubaneswar**.

- Union Skill Development and Education Minister **Mr. Dharmendra Pradhan** and Union Finance Minister **Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman** has released the books **"Kuwi and Desiya"** in **Bhubaneswar**, the capital of **Odisha**.
- Union Minister Pradhan mentioned that the **National Organization of Educational Research and Training (NCERT)**, for the first time, in association with the **Odisha Central University**, has produced two of these valuable books, **"Kuwi Prime"** and **"Desia Primer"**.
- It is significant that these two books aim to preserve and nurture the linguistic heritage of the community and their identity along with shaping the **foundation of culture and strong education** of the tribal children of the state.



Science and Technology

Aditya-L1, the first spacecraft to explore the Sun, is scheduled to launch next month.

- **ISRO** has mentioned in its latest announcement that it is planning to launch **India's first space satellite to study the Sun "Aditya-L1" in September.**
- Developed at **Bengaluru's UR Rao Satellite Technology Centre**, the satellite is planned to launch from ISRO's premier **Sriharikota** launch pad. The spacecraft will be placed in a halo orbit around the **"Lagrange point - L1"** of the **Sun-Earth system**, nearly **1.5 million kilometers from Earth**, with the aim of surveying the entire Sun.

Awards

Aligarh University Professor awarded "Rashtriya Gaurav Award".

- **Dr. Pallav Vishnu, Professor of Linguistics, Aligarh Muslim University**, has been awarded the prestigious **'Rashtriya Gaurav Award'** for the year 2023 at a conference on **"National Integration and Economic Development" held in New Delhi.**
- This prestigious award given by **India International Friendship Society (IIFS)**, a voluntary organization, was presented to him by Smt. It is significant that **Meera Kumar** (Former Speaker of the People's Assembly) was felicitated for her outstanding performance and outstanding service.

Mobile app management company Mobulous has won the prestigious "Millennium Brilliance Award".

- **Mobulous Technologies**, a leading mobile app management provider, has won the **"Best Mobile App Management Company 2023" award** for supporting the delivery of better, more advanced and flawless app management services to its enterprise customers.

- The event was presented to the company at the prestigious **"Millennium Brilliance Awards (MBA)"**.

Dr. Waliur Rahaman has been conferred with the prestigious National Geoscience Award.

- In a recent award ceremony, **President of India Murmu** presented this prestigious **National Geoscience Award** to **Dr. Waliur Rahaman**, an alumnus of the **Department of Geography, Aligarh Muslim University.**
- Notably, he is currently working as a Scientist at the **National Center for Ocean and Polar Research, Ministry of Earth Sciences, Government of India.**

SJVN has been awarded 'NTPC Rajbhasha Shield 2023'.

- Union Power PSU **SJVN** has won the **NTPC Rajbhasha Shield System Award for 2023** in August 2023.
- The awards were presented at a conference of the **Hindi Advisory Committee of the Ministry of Power** held in the national capital, **New Delhi**. It is notable that this language is awarded annually by the **Ministry of Power, Government of India** for the efforts made by the corporations to promote the **official language policy.**

Distinguished Professor Don Towsley has received the Euler Award for 2023.

- **Manning College of Information and Computer Sciences (CICS)** Distinguished Professor **Dan Towsley** has been awarded this year's **"Euler Award"** by the **Network Science Society for his major fundamental contributions to network tomography** in classical and quantum telecommunications.
- **The Euler Prize** is awarded annually for outstanding research and innovation in the field of network science, particularly for significant

contributions to paradigms of research hypotheses.

Shri Rakesh Kumar Jain has been conferred with the Leadership CFO Award.

- **Shri Rakesh Kumar Jain** has been conferred with the **Best Leadership CFO Award** at the **14th edition of CMO Asia Awards** at an award ceremony held in **Singapore** on **August 17, 2023**.
- It is significant that this award is given in recognition of his commendable leadership skills, strong skills in financial operations and **unwavering commitment to the development of the company as the CFO of GAIL.**

THDC has been awarded 'NTPC Rajbhasha Shield Award 2023'.

- In its August 2023 announcement, **THDC India** has received the prestigious **'NTPC Rajbhasha Shield (Consolation) Award** for the year 2022 and 2023.
- **RK Vishnoi, Chairman and Managing Director (CMD)** of THDC received this prestigious award. It is also notable that the award has been presented by the Minister for New and Renewable Energy and Power **RK Singh.**

Businessman Ratan Tata has been conferred with Maharashtra prestigious 'Udyog Ratna' award.

- Senior industrialist and Padma Vibhushan **Ratan Tata** was conferred with Maharashtra State Government's first **'Udyog Ratna'** award by Chief Minister **Eknath Shinde** on **August 19** for his distinguished contribution to **India's industrial sector.**
- Notably, Chief Minister **Shinde** and **Deputy Chief Ministers Ajit Pawar** and **Devendra Fadnavis** presented the prestigious award along with a cheque of **Rs 25 lakh**, its commemorative

medal and certificate of appreciation to Ratan Tata at his residence in **Colaba, Mumbai.**

Economic news

SBI plans to open nearly 300 branches across India in the current financial year.

- In its latest August 2023 notification, **State Bank of India** has approved the initiative to open more than **300 new branches across India** in the current financial year (2023-24).
- It is significant that SBI currently has around **22 thousand 405 branches across India and 235 overseas branches and offices.** With this initiative, it is reported that there is a **great opportunity to become the most branched buyer in India.**

RBI has launched a Portal called "Udgam".

- **The Reserve Bank of India** has launched a centralized website on **August 17, 2023** to facilitate the search for **unclaimed deposits across all banks in India.**
- Customers of any bank can register on the **Udgam(Unentitled Deposit - Information Gateway)** platform using their mobile number and this portal is designed to facilitate access to the funds, the **RBI** said.

Sports news

Jannik Sinner has won his first Canadian Open title.

- **Italian Jannik Sinner** won his **"first Masters 1000 title"** at the **Canada Open** on August 13, defeating Australian **Alex de Minaur 6-4 6-1.**
- He is making his **third Masters 1000 finals appearance** after runner-up efforts at the **2021 and 2023 Miami Open**, a hard-fought victory.



India's Mohit won the world title in men's under-20 61 kg wrestling category.

- **Mohit Kumar** of India has won the August 2023 World Championship in Men's Under-20 **61kg Wrestling held in Amman, Jordan.**
- In the final held on 16th August, Mohit won the title by defeating **Eldar Akhmadudinov of Russia** 9-8. With this, he became the **fourth Indian wrestler to win this title.**

Indian archers have won bronze medals in the 2023 World Cup.

- **Indian recurve archers won two bronze medals** in the men's and women's team events of the 2023 World Cup Phase 4 held on **August 17.**
- In this match, the Indian men's recurve team of **Atanu Das, Dhiraj Bommadevara and Tushar Shelke** defeated Spain's **Andres Temino, Pablo Acha and Yun Sanchez** by 6-2 (54-56, 57-55, 56-54, 57-55) points to retained the **bronze medal.**

Priya Malik has won gold at the U20 World Wrestling Championships for 2023.

- **Indian athlete Priya Malik** won the gold medal at the 2023 U20 World Wrestling Championship in **Jordan** in August 2023.
- With this win, **she became the second Indian woman to win the U20 World Championship title.** It is notable that before this last year **Antim Panghal** became **India's first woman** to win the junior world title in wrestling.

Indian air pistol team has won bronze in the world championship series.

- The Indian men's team of **Sarabjot Singh, Shiva Narwal and Arjun Singh Cheema** won **bronze** in the **10m air pistol event** at the 2023 ISSF World Championships on **August 17.**
- With a total **score of 1,734**, they retained the medal, nine points behind **silver medalists**

Germany. It is also significant that the **Chinese team has won the gold medal in this series.**

India mixed air pistol team has won gold at the 2023 ISSF World Championships.

- **Team India** defeated **Turkey** to win **gold** in the **10m air pistol mixed event** at the 2023 ISSF World Championships in **Baku, Azerbaijan** on **August 18.**
- It is notable that the Indian pair of shooters **Shiva Narwal and Isha Singh** defeated the Turkish team by **16-10** to win the medal. **India is second in the ranking list** while **China's team** is at the top with **five gold** and other medals.

Rana Pratap has won gold in the 2023 National Junior Aquatic Championship.

- **Rana Pratap** bagged **Jharkhand's first individual gold medal** at the **39th Sub Junior and 49th National Junior Aquatic Championships 2023** in Odisha's capital **Bhubaneswar.**
- It is also notable that he set a new national record of **2:21.88 minutes** in the Division I Men's **200m category** with sensational swimming skills.

Obituary

Bindeshwar, founder of Sulabh International, passed away.

- **Bindeshwar Pathak** (age 80), social activist and founder of Sulabh International, passed away on **August 15** at **AIIMS in Delhi** due to a heart attack.
- He founded **Sulabh International**, an international social service organization in **1970.** He also carried out his major advocacy campaigns widely against **"Manual Scavenging"**. It is notable that he was awarded the prestigious **"Padma Bhushan"** in **1991.**



Eminent scientist and former DRDO chief Dr V.S. Arunachalam passed away.

- Eminent scientist and former DRDO-Chairman **Dr VS Arunachalam** passed away at the age of 87 on **August 16** due to old age in the **US state of California**.
- India's Prime Minister Modi condoled that **Arunachalam's knowledge, interest in research** and his contribution to **strengthening India's defense capabilities** were immense and his passing away left a great void in the **scientific community and its strategic world**.
- He also served as **Scientific Advisor** to the **Union Defense Minister** and was awarded the **Padma Bhushan in 1985** and the **Padma Vibhushan in 1990**.

Important day

Pakistan Independence Day 2023

- **Pakistan Independence Day** is celebrated every year on **August 14** to commemorate the day Pakistan gained independence and was declared a sovereign republic following the end of **British rule in August 1947**.
- It is significant that the **All India Muslim League movement** was conducted under the **leadership of Muhammad Ali Jinnah** and Pakistan was liberated.

Indian Independence Day

- **15th August** is seen as the first day that the **Indian country**, which has been stuck **under British rule** for almost **300 years**, will breathe the air of freedom.
- The day is celebrated to commemorate the day that started its journey of independence and became a **democratic, republican** and **sovereign country** and to honor the various sacrifices made to achieve this day.

Indonesian independence day 2023

- **The fourth most populous country** in the world and caught on the brink of Japanese and

Dutch domination and occupation, **Indonesia** declared its independence on **August 17, 1945**.

- It is an island nation with more than **17,000 islands**. It is a country in **Oceania, Southeast Asia** between the **Pacific and Indian oceans**.

The Parsi New Year "Navroz" is celebrated.

- The **"Parsi community"**, a major ethnic group spread across various parts of India, celebrates the Parsi New Year i.e. **"Pateti"** on **16th August**.
- Parsis are an **ethno-religious group of the Indian subcontinent** who follow the **Zoroastrian religion**. It is significant that they migrated to **medieval India** in the **Persian regional empire**.

World Humanitarian Day 2023

- **World Humanitarian Day** is observed on **August 19th** every year to mark the anniversary of the bombing of the **United Nations General Assembly Branch-Headquarters in Iraq** by terrorist organizations.
- This day was established by the **United Nations in 2009**. Also this day aims to honor the **humanitarian aid workers (Social Workers)** around the world. **"It takes a village"** is the theme for this year.

World Photography Day 2023

- **World Photography Day** is observed on **19th August** every year to encourage people around the world to share their sense of the world through the **lens** and to honor and appreciate the impact of photography on society.
- **"LANDSCAPES"** is the theme for this year. The day also aims to commemorate the announcement of the daguerreotype process to the public on **August 19, 1839** by the French Institute of Sciences.



World Mosquito Day 2023

- **August 20** is observed every year as "**World Mosquito Day**" to commemorate British physician **Sir Ronald Ross's** discovery in **1897** that "**Female mosquitoes transmit malaria to humans**".
- There is **no theme for this year**. It is observed on this day for the purpose of creating awareness among the people of the world about the ways to **protect ourselves** from these diseases that can cause serious danger like **malaria**.

Akshay Urja Diwas 2023

- **Akshay Urja Day** is observed on **20th August** every year with an aim to create awareness about the developments of **renewable energy in India** and confirm its major development projects among the general public.
- The day has been observed by the **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy** since **2004** and it is significant that the day commemorates the birthday of **former Prime Minister of India, Rajiv Gandhi**.