

IACE

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

15th to 16th August 2023

DESCRIPTIVE

❖ Parsi New Year 2023 - 16th August

- 16th of August draws near, the Indian Parsi community readies itself for a lively and historically meaningful celebration the Parsi New Year, or Navroz, also known as Nowroz.
- Derived from the Persian words 'Nav' and 'Roz' which literally translates to 'new day', the tradition of celebrating Parsi New Year is believed to have been observed by Iranians and Zoroastrians for the past 3,000 years.
- This annual event, following the 'Shahenshahi' calendar, embraced mainly by the Parsi community in Gujarat and Maharashtra, holds a deep cultural and historical importance.

❖ India celebrates 77th Independence Day

- India celebrates 77th Independence Day 2023 on August 15, it's a moment to reflect on our incredible journey as a nation.
- This day is a tribute to the sacrifices of our ancestors and a reminder of the ideals that bring us together.
- The Prime Minister Narendra Modi raises the National Flag at Delhi's Red Fort.
- This day symbolizes the end of a challenging fight for freedom, led by iconic figures like Gandhi, Bhagat Singh, and Subhash Chandra Bose.
- It remains a pivotal moment in Indian history, honoring non-violent civil disobedience and leadership.
- The theme for this year's celebration is '**Nation First, Always First**,' an integral part of the broader "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav" Celebration.
- In 2023, PM Narendra Modi also introduced the '**HAR GHAR TRINGA**' Campaign, encouraging the public to participate in the flag-hoisting ceremony on Independence Day, August 15, 2023.

❖ National Mourning Day - August 15

- Bangladesh observes National Mourning Day on August 15 to remember and mourn the brutal assassination of the nation's first president, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, in 1975.
- On August 15, 1975, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, his wife and 12 members of his family were killed by a faction of the armed forces at his Dhanmondi residence in Dhaka.
- Only his two daughters - Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her sister Sheikh Rehana who were abroad, survived the incident.
- The killers did not spare Rahman's 10-year-old son Russell.

❖ Kupwara bags 'Best Performer District Award' under PMAY-G Convergence

- Kupwara has been conferred with the prestigious award for the 'Best Performer District in UT of Jammu & Kashmir under PMAY-G' by Manoj Sinha, Lieutenant Governor J&K UT.
- This ceremony held at Srinagar under AWAS Mega Mahotsav.
- Kupwara district has received the award in recognition of construction of 4723 PMAY houses out of a target of 4902 houses for Financial year 2022-23.
- The award has been formally received by ACD Kupwara, Hilal Ahmad Mir in presence of Chief Secretary, Arun Kumar Mehta and Commissioner Secretary RDD&PR, Mandeep Kour.
- The rural housing programme not only provides a home to the poor but also generates employment for them up to 96 days work under MGNREGA besides LPG connection, water and electricity connections are provided to PMAY beneficiaries under convergence.

❖ NAFIS gets Gold Award for fool-proof fingerprint identification system

- National Automated Fingerprint Identification System (NAFIS) of NCRB for winning the Gold Award under the Excellence in Government Process Reengineering for Digital Transformation Category-1 of Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG).
- This award for excellence in delivering e-governance is a recognition of the dedication the entire NAFIS team has put into creating a fool-proof fingerprint identification system.
- NAFIS has created a central database of fingerprints of criminals, which can be accessed by users from all States, Union Territories and Central Agencies.
- This has resulted in a qualitative improvement in the efficiency and effectiveness of the criminal detection and investigation process.

❖ PM Modi lays foundation stone of Sant Ravidas Temple in Madhya Pradesh

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of Sant Shiromani Gurudev Shri Ravidas ji Memorial that will be constructed in more than ₹100 crores at Badtuma village of Sagar district in Madhya Pradesh.
- Sant Shiromani Gurudev Shri Ravidas ji Memorial will have grandeur as well as divinity which will flow from the teaching of Sant Ravidas ji.
- The memorial is steeped in the spirit of 'Samrasta' as the soil of more than 20,000 villages and 300 rivers have been used in it.
- Families from Madhya Pradesh have sent grain for 'Samrast Bhoj' and five yatras also concluded here at Sagar.
- These yatras mark a new era of social harmony.
- Sant Ravidas ji was raising his voice against malpractices prevalent in the society.

❖ Partition Horrors Remembrance Day - August 14

- India is observing partition Horrors Remembrance Day in the memory of the struggles and sacrifices during the partition in 1947.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi had declared the August 14, will be remembered as 'Vibhajan Vibhishika Smriti Diwas' or Partition Horrors Remembrance Day in memory of those who lost their lives during Partition.
- It was first observed in 2021, after announcement by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- The millions of people were displaced and many lost their lives due to mindless hate and violence caused by the partition.
- India celebrates its 77th year of independence on 15 August 2023.

❖ MakeMyTrip and Ministry of Tourism To Launch Traveller's Map of India Microsite

- MakeMyTrip in collaboration with the Ministry of Tourism has launched the "Traveller Map of India".
- It is showcasing more than 600 destinations within India that are lesser known, according to a release by the company.
- The Traveller's Map of India is a microsite developed by MakeMyTrip which provides an interactive platform for travellers to discover tourism locations within the country based on their travel preferences.
- This has been designed as part of a government initiative to support domestic tourism, which can be a powerful instrument for socio-economic development.
- This can further contribute to the overall growth of the Indian economy.
- The initiative also comes under the government of India's "Dekho Apna Desh" programme.

❖ American Golfer Lilia Vu Captures 2nd Major In 2023 At Women's British Open

- American golfer Lilia Vu won the Women's British Open to claim her second major title of 2023 by defeating Charley Hull.
- She also won the Chevron Championship in April 2023, became the first female player to win two majors in the same year since Jin Young Ko in 2019, and the first American woman since Juli Inkster in 1999.
- Three of the five women's majors have been won by American this year 2023 Allisen Corpuz won the Women's U.S. Open title at Pebble Beach.
- The 2023 Women's Open was played in England at Walton Health Golf Club. It was the 47th Women's British Open, the 23rd as a major championship on the LPGA Tour.

❖ 954 Police personnel awarded Police Medals on the occasion of the Independence Day, 2023

- A total of 954 Police personnel have been awarded Police Medals on the occasion of the Independence Day, 2023.
- President's Police Medal for Gallantry (PPMG) has been awarded to 01 CRPF personnel, Police Medal for Gallantry (PMG) has been awarded to 229, President's Police Medal for Distinguished Service (PPM) awarded to 82 and Police Medal for Meritorious Service (PM) has been awarded to 642.
- President Droupadi Murmu has approved 76 gallantry awards for armed forces and central armed police forces on eve of Independence Day.
- President's Police Medal for Gallantry (PPMG) and Police Medal for Gallantry (PMG) is awarded on the ground of Conspicuous Gallantry in saving life and property, or in preventing crime or arresting criminals.
- President's Police Medal for Distinguished Service (PPM) is awarded for special distinguished record in Police Service and Police Medal for Meritorious Service

(PM) is awarded for valuable service characterized by resource and devotion to duty.

❖ **First space-based Indian observatory Aditya-L1, is ready for launch**

- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has announced that India's first space-based solar observatory, PSLV-C57/Aditya-L1 Mission, is ready to launch.
- This big project marks the country's mission that could revolutionise the understanding of the Sun's dynamics and space weather.
- Earlier, ISRO Chairman S Somanath shared an update on 28 June revealing that the organisation is targeting the end of August for Aditya-L1's launch.
- The satellite realised at the U R Rao Satellite Centre (URSC), Bengaluru, has arrived at SDSC-SHAR, Sriharikota.
- Aditya-L1, named after the Sun's core, aims to provide unprecedented insights into the Sun's behaviour by placing itself in a halo orbit around the Lagrange point 1 (L1) of the Sun-Earth system, approximately 1.5 million kilometres from Earth.

❖ **RBI picks McKinsey and Accenture to use AI& ML for an enhanced regulatory supervision**

- The Reserve Bank has selected global consultancy firms McKinsey and Company India LLP and Accenture Solutions Pvt Ltd India to develop systems using artificial intelligence and machine learning for its supervisory functions.
- RBI aims to extensively use advanced analytics, Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning in order to analyse its massive database and enhance regulatory supervision on the banks and NBFC.
- To fulfil this, the central bank plans to hire external experts.
- McKinsey and Company India LLP and Accenture Solutions Private Limited India were the ones who got awarded a contract worth rupees 91 crore, according to the Reserve Bank document.

➤ The current target is to explore the data to optimise its attributes that can be utilised to generate new and better supervisory inputs as per the EoI.

❖ **Bank Of Maharashtra (BoM) Tops List Of PSU Lenders In Q1 Loan**

➤ Bank of Maharashtra (BoM) has emerged as the top performer among the public sector lenders in terms of the loan and deposit growth in percentage terms during the first quarter of 2022-23.

➤ The Pune-headquartered lender recorded a 27.10 per cent increase in gross advances to Rs 1,40,561 crore at the end of June 2022, according to published quarterly numbers of the public sector banks (PSBs).

➤ It was followed by the Indian Overseas Bank and Bank of Baroda with 16.43 per cent and 15.73 per cent rise in advances growth, respectively.

➤ The country's largest lender State Bank of India (SBI) stood at the fourth spot with 13.66 per cent growth.

❖ **LIC appoints R Doraiswamy as managing director**

➤ Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) has appointed R Doraiswamy as the Managing Director (MD) of the company, with effect from September 1, 2023.

➤ Doraiswamy will replace Ipe Mini, who is currently an MD of LIC and is due to superannuate at the end of this month.

➤ Earlier LIC appointed Sat Pal Bhanoo as the managing director of the company.

➤ The Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB), the head hunter for directors of state-owned banks and financial institutions, had recommended the name of Sat Pal Bhanoo for the post of managing director of LIC.

❖ Sulabh founder Bindeshwar Pathak passes away at 80

- Bindeshwar Pathak, the founder of Sulabh International, passed away at the age of 80.
- Pathak was a pioneer in building public toilets.
- He founded Sulabh International, a social service organisation that works to promote human rights, environmental sanitation, waste management, and reforms through education.
- In 1991, Pathak was awarded the Padma Bhushan for his work for liberating and rehabilitating manual scavengers and also for preventing environmental pollution by providing pour-flush toilet technology.

❖ Maharashtra CM launches 'a mobile app & WhatsApp helpline' for Chief Minister's Medical Assistance Fund

- Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde launched a mobile app and WhatsApp helpline for the Chief Minister's Medical Assistance Fund.
- A programme also was organized at the Sahyadri Guest House in Mumbai for patients who have successfully overcome chronic and serious diseases.
- A helpline number 8650567567 has been started for patients and their relatives.
- More than 12 thousand 500 patients have benefited from the Chief Minister's Aid Fund in last one year.
- The fifth edition of the medical aid manual and the book 'Rokhthok' based on the ideology of Balasaheb Thackeray was launched.

❖ **Telangana govt. announces farm loan waiver up to Rs.99999**

- Telangana government has announced a farm loan waiver up to Rs.99999.
- It will be cleared within the next 45 days.
- The Government has released over 5,800 crore rupees towards this end. The decision will benefit over 9 lakh farmers.
- It will fulfil the electoral commitment made by Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao to waive farm loans of up to one lakh rupees.
- The amount will be transferred directly into loan accounts of farmers. Farm loans up to 99,999 amounting to 7753.43 crore rupees, of over 16 lakh 66 thousand farmers will be cleared.

❖ **Arunachal govt. allots 12 'stalled' hydropower projects to three Central PSU**

- Arunachal Pradesh Government signed MoAs with three Central Public Sector Undertakings to allot 12 'stalled' hydropower projects in August 2023.
- The three CPSUs are National Hydroelectric Power Corporation Limited, Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam Ltd (SJVN) and North Eastern Electric Power Corporation Limited.
- The total operational capacity of these 12 projects, withdrawn from the private players, will be to the tune of 11,523 MW.
- The program was also attended by the Union Power Secretary, senior officers from the Power Ministry and CMDs of CPSUs.
- CM of Arunachal Pradesh is Pema Khandu.