

## Testwale Current Affairs PDF

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### **1. NMDC signs up Champion Boxer Nikhat Zareen as its Brand Ambassador ( Jan. 28, 2023 )**

Hyderabad-based Navratna mining **PSU NMDC**, has signed a **Memorandum of Agreement (MoA)** with World Boxing Champion and gold medal winner of Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games , **Nikhat Zareen** to represent NMDC as its **brand ambassador**.

#### **An overview of the news**

- The company has chosen to be represented by someone who has proven his commitment to bring laurels to the country.
- Nikhat Zareen represents the strength, courage, agility and national pride associated with the brand NMDC.
- Her commitment to bring glory to the nation resonates with company values.
- Her personality is synonymous with the credibility and strong brand values of NMDC and this association will add to the overall brand of both the stakeholders.

#### **Nikhat Zareen**

- She won the gold medal at the women's boxing world championships on **May 20, 2022, in Istanbul, Turkey**.
- She became the **fifth Indian woman** to win a boxing world championships gold medal.
- She joins an elite list of Indian boxers, including **Mary Kom, Sarita Devi, Jenny RL and Lekha KC**, who have become world champions.
- She was born on **June 14, 1996, in Nizamabad, Telangana**.

#### **Medal won by Nikhat Zareen**

- Gold medal : World Boxing Championships 2022, Istanbul
- Gold medal : Commonwealth Games 2022, Birmingham
- Bronze medal : Asian Boxing Championships 2019, Bangkok
- Gold medal : Women's Junior and Youth World Boxing Championships, Istanbul
- Silver medal : Youth World Boxing Championships 2013, Albena

### **2. Naresh Lalwani takes charge as General Manager, Central Railway ( Jan. 27, 2023 )**

Naresh Lalwani takes charge as General Manager, Central Railway

**Naresh Lalwani** took over as the new **General Manager of Central Railway** on 24 January 2023.

### **An overview of the news**

- He replaced **Ashok Kumar Mishra**, General Manager, Western Railway, who was also holding the additional charge of Central Railway.
- He is a senior **Indian Railway Service of Engineering officer** of 1985 batch.
- Prior to taking over as General Manager, Central Railway, he was serving as **Senior Deputy General Manager and Chief Vigilance Officer, Western Railway.**
- Lalwani graduated from **Shri Govindram Saxeria Institute of Technology** and Science, Indore in 1985.
- He has vast experience of working in various important positions in Indian Railways.
- Starting his career from **Lumding in Assam**, he worked in the **Northeast Frontier Railway** for 10 years.
- Thereafter, he worked in various positions in the **Ahmedabad and Mumbai divisions of Western Railway.**
- He has also worked as a professor in **Indian Railway Institute of Civil Engineering, Pune** imparting knowledge to Railway officers.

### **3. Gambian Vice President 'Badra Ali Joffe' passes away in India ( Jan. 25, 2023 )**

Gambian President **Adama Barrow** tweeted on 18 January 2023 that Gambia's Vice President '**Badra Ali Jofe**' has passed away in India after a illness.

#### **An overview of the news:**

- 65-year-old Badra Ali had also been the Education Minister before becoming the Vice President.
- He served as the Education Minister from 2017 to 2022.
- In the year 2016, the famous personality of Gambia '**Yahya Jammeh**' was defeated by Badra Ali.
- He was then the fourth Vice-President to serve alongside President Adama Barrow.
- Badra Ali worked at the **World Bank** as an education specialist for West and Central Africa.
- Gambia was also in the news last year due to the death of about 70 children in the African country Gambia after consuming **cough syrup made in India.**

**Gambia:**

- Capital: Banjul
- President: Adama Barrow
- Currency: Gambian Dalasi

**4. Renowned architect Dr. B.V. Doshi passed away ( Jan. 25, 2023 )**

Noted architect and Padma Bhushan awardee **Balkrishna Doshi passed away at the age of 95.**

**An overview of the news**

- Regarded as the foremost architect of modern India, Doshi was **born on 26 August 1927 in Pune.**
- Doshi has the distinction of having worked with stalwarts in the field such as Corbusier and Louis Kahn.
- Doshi's major projects include CEPT University and Kanoria Kala Kendra in Ahmedabad, Indian Institute of Management in Bangalore and 'Aranya Low Cost Housing', a township for low and middle income families in Indore.
- Doshi was awarded the prestigious **Aga Khan Award in the year 1995 for the architecture of 'Aranya Low Cost Housing' township.**
- He was awarded the most prestigious award in the field of architecture **"Pritzker" in the year 2018. He was the first Indian to receive this honour.**
- Doshi was also awarded the **Padma Bhushan**, India's third highest civilian award in the **year 2020.**

**5. US President Biden nominates Julie Turner as North Korea human rights envoy ( Jan. 24, 2023 )**

US President **Joe Biden** has nominated **Julie Turner** as **special envoy for human rights in North Korea** on 24 January.

**An overview of the news**

- The move to fill the post, which has been **vacant since 2017**, comes amid debate over human rights issues as well as efforts to counter Pyongyang's nuclear weapons program.
- Julie Turner is currently the **director for East Asia and the Pacific** in the State Department's Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor.

- Turner has served in the office for East Asia and the Pacific for more than 16 years, primarily focusing on initiatives related to the **promotion of human rights in North Korea**.
- The post of special envoy had become controversial in South Korea as the previous administration tried to bring North Korea to the negotiating table.
- Some activists said that human rights had been sidelined due to national security priorities.
- North Korea has repeatedly denied allegations of human rights abuses and blamed the sanctions for the dire humanitarian situation.
- **A landmark 2014 United Nations report** on North Korean human rights concluded that North Korean security chief and leader **Kim Jong Un** should face justice for Nazi-style atrocities.

## **6. Vikram Dev Dutt appointed as DGCA director general ( Jan. 23, 2023 )**

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet on 21 January approved the appointment of **Vikram Dev Dutt** as the next **director general in the Directorate of General of Civil Aviation (DGCA)**.

### **An overview of the news**

- He will take over as the chief of the aviation regulator on **February 28, 2023**. He will replace DGCA chief **Arun Kumar**.
- In 2022, Dutt was appointed by the Center as the Chairman and **Managing Director of Air India Limited**. In 2022, Air India was sold to the **Tata Group**.
- His appointment as DGCA Director General will be "**in the rank and pay of Additional Secretary to the Government of India**".
- Dutt is a **1993 batch IAS officer** of the AGMUT (Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Mizoram and Union Territories) cadre.

### **Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA)**

- It is a statutory body and formed under the **Aircraft (Amendment) Bill, 2020**.
- It investigates aviation accidents and enforces all regulations related to aviation.
- It registers and provides certificates to **civil aircrafts**.
- It is attached to the **Ministry of Civil Aviation**, Government of India.
- It coordinates all regulatory functions with the **International Civil Aviation Organisation**.

## **7. Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi to be Chief Guest at India's Republic Day celebrations ( Jan. 22, 2023 )**

According to the **Ministry of External Affairs, Egypt President Abdel Fattah El Sisi** will be the **chief guest** at the **74th Republic Day celebrations**.

### **An overview of the news**

- He will pay a state visit to India from the **24th to the 26th** of this month.
- This is the first time that the President of Egypt has been invited as the chief guest on the Republic Day 2023 of India.
- A **180-member strong contingent of the Egyptian Army** will also participate in the Republic Day parade.
- The President of Egypt had earlier visited India in **October 2015** to attend the **3rd India-Africa Forum Summit**, followed by a state visit in September 2016.
- President Sisi will have a bilateral meeting and delegation-level talks with PM Modi on bilateral, regional and global issues of mutual interest.
- Abdel Fattah Sisi is a former Army officer who was elected as the president of Egypt t in **2014 and was re-elected in 2018**.

### **About Republic Day Celebration**

- Every year Republic day is observed on **26 January**. It was on this day the constitution of India was promulgated in **1950 and India became a republic**.
- **The President of India** presides over the Republic day functions. It is customary to invite a foreign country leader as an honoured guest at the Republic day function.
- In **1955 Rajpath (Now Kartavya Path)** became the permanent place for the Republic day parade.
- The Chief Guest was the Governor-General of Pakistan **Malik Ghulam Muhammad**.
- **President of Indonesia, Sukarno** was the **first guest at 1950 Republic day parade**.

## **8. New Zealand's ruling Labor Party elected Chris Hipkins as the country's 41st prime minister ( Jan. 22, 2023 )**

**New Zealand's ruling Labor Party** on 22 January elected **Chris Hipkins** as its leader and the country's **41st prime minister**, replacing **Ms Jacinda Ardern**.

## **An overview of the news**

- Hipkins was the only candidate for the position and was confirmed by 64 MPs in what is known as the **Labor caucus**.
- Known as "**Chippy**", Hipkins played a key role in the response to COVID-19.
- He was first elected to Parliament in **2008 for the Labor Party**.
- He was appointed **Minister of Health in July 2020** before becoming the Minister of COVID Response.
- Before Hipkins can officially become prime minister, Ardern must submit her resignation to **King Charles III's** representative in New Zealand, Governor General **Cindy Kiro**.
- Kiro Hipkins will then be appointed to the role and sworn in.
- The Labour party has also selected Carmel Sepuloni as the deputy prime minister.

## **About New Zealand**

- Prime Minister: **Chris Hipkins**
- Capital: **Wellington**
- Currency : **New Zealand dollar**

## **9. Nick Walker is the new CEO of Vedanta Cairn Oil & Gas ( Jan. 21, 2023 )**

Nick Walker as the new Chief Executive Officer (CEO).

**Cairn Oil & Gas**, a Vedanta group company, announced the appointment of **Nick Walker as the new Chief Executive Officer (CEO)**.

## **An overview of the news**

- Prior to this appointment, Nick Walker was President and CEO of Lundin Energy, one of Europe's leading independent E&P companies.
- Walker has more than 30 years of international experience, serving as a technology, commercial and executive officer in companies such as BP, Talisman Energy and Africa Oil.

## **Cairn Oil & Gas Company**

- The Vedanta Group, led by industrialist Anil Agarwal, bought the company in 2011 from UK-based oil and gas exploration company Cairn Energy Plc (now Capricorn Energy Plc).

## **Vedanta Group**

- It is a multinational company headquartered in London, England.

- Vedanta Limited is an Indian subsidiary of Vedanta Resources, the holding company of the Vedanta Group.
- It is into the business of Zinc-Lead-Silver, Iron Ore, Steel, Copper, Aluminium, Power, Oil and Gas.
- Chairman of Vedanta Group: Anil Agarwal

## **10. Praveen Sharma appointed as Director of National Health Authority ( Jan. 20, 2023 )**

**Praveen Sharma** has been appointed as the **Director in the National Health Authority (Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission)** under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

### **An overview of the news**

- Sharma has been appointed to the post under the Central Staffing Scheme for a period of five years.
- Sharma is a **2005 batch Indian Defense Service of Engineers (IDSE) officer.**

### **National Health Authority (NHA)**

- The National Health Authority implements India's public health insurance scheme called "Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY)".
- NHA was established to implement PM-JAY at the national level.

### **About Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission**

- **Beginning - 27 September 2021** by PM Narendra Modi
- It connects digital health solutions of hospitals across the country.
- It not only simplifies the procedures of the hospitals but also enhances the ease of living.
- With the implementation of this scheme, old medical records may not get destroyed as each and every record will be stored digitally.
- The project has been implemented in pilot phase in six states and union territories.