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### **1. Appointment of Vinay Kumar as India's new Ambassador to Russia ( March 20, 2024 )**

Vinay Kumar, a 1992 batch Indian Foreign Service (IFS) member, has been appointed as the new Indian Ambassador to Russia.

#### **An Overview of the News**

- Vinay Kumar currently serving as India's Ambassador to Myanmar, Kumar is set to assume his new role in Moscow soon, as confirmed by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).
- Russia holds an important position as a long-term partner of India, their diplomatic relations are an integral part of India's foreign policy.
- Kumar will take over from Pawan Kapoor, who has been appointed as the new Secretary (West) in the Ministry of External Affairs as India's representative in Moscow.

#### **About Vinay Kumar**

- Kumar, a graduate of IIT-Kharagpur, entered the Indian Foreign Service (IFS) in 1992.
- He held the post of India's Ambassador to Afghanistan from 2018 to 2020.
- Kumar's previous roles include serving as Joint Secretary (South) in the Ministry of External Affairs.
- He also served in the Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations in New York.

#### **About Russia:**

Capital - Moscow

Currency - Russian Ruble

Continent - Europe, Asia

Official language - Russian

Prime Minister - Mikhail Mishustin

### **2. Governor C. P. Radhakrishnan assumes charge as Governor of Telangana ( March 20, 2024 )**

Jharkhand Governor C P Radhakrishnan takes charge as the Governor of Telangana.

#### **An Overview of the News**

- After the resignation of Dr. Tamilisai Soundararajan, President Draupadi Murmu has handed over the additional responsibility of looking after Telangana to Governor Radhakrishnan.

- Additionally, Governor Radhakrishnan has been assigned the task of acting as the Lieutenant Governor of Puducherry.
- The official swearing-in ceremony took place at the Raj Bhavan in Hyderabad, with Chief Justice of the State High Court, Justice Alok Aradhe administering the oath.

**About Telangana**

Capital - Hyderabad

Chief Minister - Revanth Reddy

Established - 2 June 2014

**3. President appointed Governor in two states ( Oct. 19, 2023 )**

President Draupadi Murmu appointed new governors for Tripura and Odisha.

**An Overview of the News**

- Indra Sena Reddy Nallu was appointed Governor of Tripura in place of Satyadev Narayan Arya.
- Former Jharkhand Chief Minister Raghubar Das was elected as the new Governor of Odisha in place of Professor Ganeshi Lal.

**About Tripura**

- It is a state in North-East India.
- Tripura has 19 different tribal communities with a majority Bengali population and Bengali, English and Kokborok are the official languages of the state.
- Five mountain ranges - Hathai Kotar, Atharamura, Longthrai, Shakhan, and Jampui Hills - run from north to south with intervening valleys.

Capital - **Agartala**

Governor - **Indra Sena Reddy**

Chief Minister - **Dr. Manik Saha**

Tourism Minister - **Sushant Chaudhary**

Borders - **Bangladesh, Mizoram and Assam**

**About Odisha**

- Formation - **1 April 1936**
- Capital - **Bhubaneswar**
- Governor - **Raghubar Das**

- Chief Minister - **Naveen Patnaik**
- Rajya Sabha - **10 seats**
- Lok Sabha - **21 seats**

#### **4. Tenure of SBI Chairman Dinesh Khara extended till August 2024 ( Oct. 7, 2023 )**

The Government of India extended the tenure of SBI Chairman Dinesh Khara till August 2024.

##### **An Overview of the News**

- On October 5, 2023, the Appointments Committee of the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has extended the tenure of State Bank of India (SBI) Chairman Dinesh Khara for a further period beyond October 2023 until he attains the age of 63 years. Let's do.
- Dinesh Kahra will now retire on 28 August 2024.
- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet consists of the Prime Minister and the Union Home Minister.
- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet also extended the tenure of SBI MD Ashwini Tiwari for two years.

##### **State Bank of India:**

- Its origin is traced to the establishment of the Bank of Calcutta in 1806, which was later renamed the Bank of Bengal in 1809. The Bank of Bombay was established in 1840, and the Bank of Madras was established in 1843.
- In 1921, these three banks were merged and one Imperial Bank of India was formed.
- On the recommendation of the All India Rural Credit Survey Committee (Gorwala Committee) 1951, the Government of India nationalized the Imperial Bank of India with the enactment of the State Bank of India Act 1955 and renamed it State Bank of India.
- SBI is the largest commercial bank in India.

Chairman - Dinesh Kumar Khara

Managing Director - Alok Kumar Chaudhary

Headquarters - Mumbai

Tagline - The Banker To Every Indian

#### **5. RBI appointed Munish Kapoor as Executive Director ( Oct. 4, 2023 )**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has officially named Munish Kapoor as Executive Director, with his new role starting from October 3, 2023.

**An Overview of the News**

- Before his promotion as Executive Director, Munish Kapoor served as Advisor in Charge within the Monetary Policy Department.
- He also held the position of Secretary of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), where he played a key role in influencing the monetary policies of the country.

**New Role and Expertise:**

- As Executive Director, Munish Kapoor will now be responsible for overseeing the operations of the Department of Economic and Policy Research.
- The department plays an important role in shaping economic policies and conducting research critical to the decision-making processes of the RBI.

**About Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**

- Established - 1 April 1935, Kolkata
- Founder - British Raj
- Governor - Shaktikanta Das

**6. Vice Admiral Tarun Sobti takes charge as Deputy Chief of Naval Staff ( Oct. 3, 2023 )**

Vice Admiral Tarun Sobti assumed the role of Deputy Chief of the Naval Staff (DCNS) on October 1, 2023, replacing Vice Admiral Sanjay Mahendru, who retired on September 30, 2023, after 38 years of service.

**An Overview of the News**

- Vice Admiral Tarun Sobti has served in the Indian Navy since July 1988 with expertise in Navigation and Direction.
- In his career spanning 35 years, he has held various command and staff positions both at sea and ashore.
- Notable commands include INS Nishank (missile boat), INS Kora (missile corvette), and INS Kolkata (guided missile destroyer).
- He has also served in staff roles in the Directorate of Personnel Requirements and Directorate of Personnel and as Naval Attache in the Embassy of India, Moscow.

**Recognition and Honor:**

- Vice Admiral Tarun Sobti's extraordinary contribution to the Indian Navy has been recognized with prestigious awards.
- He received the Vishisht Seva Medal in 2020 and the Ati Vishisht Seva Medal in 2022, both awarded by the President of India for his outstanding service and achievements.

**7. Appointment of Lieutenant General Raghu Srinivasan as BRO chief ( Oct. 2, 2023 )**

Lieutenant General Raghu Srinivasan took over the role of the 28th Director General (DG) of the Border Roads Organization (BRO) following the retirement of Lieutenant General Rajiv Chaudhary on October 2, 2023.

**An Overview of the News**

- Srinivasan is an alumnus of the National Defense Academy and the Indian Military Academy, who was commissioned into the Corps of Engineers in 1987.
- He has participated in major military operations including Operation Vijay, Operation Rakshak and Operation Parakram.
- Lieutenant General Srinivasan's expertise lies in serving in the border areas of India, particularly Ladakh, Arunachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir, providing unique insight into the infrastructure needs.

**Command and Staff Appointments:**

- Throughout his career, Srinivasan completed prestigious courses including the Defense Services Staff College, Higher Command and National Defense College.
- He has commanded units such as 58 Engineer Regiment and 416 Engineer Brigade.
- Held important positions like Deputy Director General of Discipline and Vigilance, Commandant of Bengal Engineer Group and Center Roorkee, Chief Engineer of Southern Command and Assistant Director General in Engineer-in-Chief Branch.

**Legacy and Achievements of Border Roads Organization (BRO):**

- Established on May 7, 1960 with the primary objective of securing India's borders through infrastructure development in the far northern and northeastern areas.
- BRO's contribution includes construction and dedication of more than 63,000 kilometers of roads, 976 bridges, six tunnels and 21 airfields.
- In the last year, BRO completed a record-breaking 193 projects in eight border states and three Union Territories, at a total cost of ₹5,400 crore.

**8. India celebrates 154th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi with tributes and commemorative programs ( Oct. 2, 2023 )**

Commemorative events were organized across India and in Indian missions abroad on the 154th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi on 2 October 2023.

**An Overview of the News**

- An all-religion prayer meeting was held at Bapu's Samadhi at Rajghat in the national capital, where dignitaries including the President, Vice President and Prime Minister paid floral tributes to Mahatma Gandhi.
- Bangladesh celebrated the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi with programs organized by Gandhi Ashram in Noakhali.
- The Prime Minister of Sri Lanka and the High Commissioner of India to Sri Lanka paid tribute to Mahatma Gandhi at the Temple Trees in Colombo.
- Additionally, the nation also remembered former Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri on his birth anniversary, and dignitaries paid floral tributes at his memorial Vijay Ghat in the national capital.

**Gandhi Jayanti 2023:**

- Gandhi Jayanti is celebrated on 2 October to commemorate the 154th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.
- The theme of Gandhi Jayanti 2023 is "One Date One Hour Together", with emphasis on citizen-led one-hour Shramdaan for cleanliness on October 1, 2023 at 10 am.

**Life and philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi:**

- Mahatma Gandhi was born on October 2, 1869 in Porbandar, Gujarat.
- His philosophy was based on two pillars: Satyagraha (force of truth) and Ahimsa (non-violence).
- Mahatma Gandhi was assassinated by Nathuram Godse on January 30, 1948.

**9. Dr. Mohammed Muizzu wins the Maldives presidential election ( Oct. 2, 2023 )**

Dr. Mohammed Muizzu of the opposition PPM PNC alliance won the presidential election in Maldives with more than 53% of the votes.

**An Overview of the News**

- Ibrahim Mohamed Solih of the ruling MDP received 46% of the vote in the runoff, up from 39% in the first round, but he fell short of the 50% needed to win.
- The elections saw an improved turnout of 86% in the second round compared to 78% in the first.

**About Maldives**

- It is officially called the Republic of Maldives.
- It is located in the Indian Ocean.
- It is classified as an archipelagic state.

- This country is located in South Asia.
- Geographically, it is located south-west of Sri Lanka and India.
- Maldives is located about 750 kilometers from the mainland of the Asian continent.

Capital - **Male**

Currency - **Maldivian Rufiyaa**

Official language - **Dhivehi**

## **10. Marico's Saugata Gupta appointed ASCI Chairman ( Oct. 1, 2023 )**

Saugata Gupta, Managing Director and CEO of Marico Limited, was named the new Chairman of the Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI).

### **An Overview of the News**

- **Parth Sinha**, President of Response at Bennett Coleman & Company Limited, was **elected as the Vice Chairman of ASCI.**
- **Sudhanshu Vats**, Deputy Managing Director, Pidilite Industries Limited, was **appointed as the Honorary Treasurer of ASCI.**

### **About ASCI:**

- ASCI, established in 1985, is a voluntary self-regulatory organization within the Indian advertising industry.
- It operates as a non-profit company under Section 25 of the Companies Act.
- ASCI's primary mission is to promote self-regulation in advertising and protect the interests of consumers.
- It enforces a code of self-regulation that mandates advertising that is legal, decent, honest, truthful and non-dangerous or harmful while ensuring fairness in competition.

### **Regulatory Role:**

- ASCI reviews and resolves complaints related to advertisements on various media channels including print, TV, radio and digital platforms.
- It collaborates with government bodies such as the Department of Consumer Affairs, FSSAI, Ministry of AYUSH and Ministry of Information and Broadcasting to regulate misleading advertisements in specific sectors.
- The Supreme Court of India has recognized ASCI's self-regulatory mechanism as an effective tool to regulate TV and radio advertising content.
- ASCI is a member of the International Council on Advertising Self-Regulation (ICAS).

### **Recognition and Headquarters:**

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Corporate Address: A102, A Block, Sector 58, Noida, Uttar Pradesh-201301

- ASCI has received awards from the European Advertising Standards Alliance (EASA) for its efforts, including recognition for its mobile app "ASCIOnline".
- The headquarters of the organization is located in Mumbai, India.