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### **1. Sindhu Gangadharan appointed Vice-Chairperson of NASSCOM ( Sept. 15, 2023 )**

Sindhu Gangadharan, currently Senior Vice-Chairperson and Managing Director at SAP Labs India, was named Vice Chairperson of the National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM).

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

- **As the first woman to lead SAP Labs India**, which is SAP's largest R&D center globally, Gangadharan is responsible for overseeing product development and innovation across all five centers located in Bangalore, Gurgaon, Pune, Hyderabad, and Mumbai.
- Earlier this year, Gangadharan was appointed as the Chairman of the **NASSCOM GCC Council for the period 2023-2025**.
- She also holds positions on the boards of organizations such as **Siemens India** and **Titan Company Limited**.
- Gangadharan is a **member of the steering committee of the Indo-German Chamber of Commerce**, an industry association promoting bilateral trade and discussion between India and Germany.

#### **NASSCOM (National Association of Software and Service Companies):**

- It is the apex body for India's technology industry.
- Established as a **non-profit organization in 1988**.
- Membership exceeds more than 3000 companies, including Indian and multinational companies.
- Membership spans the entire industry spectrum.
- NASSCOM's mission includes policy advocacy and strategic guidance for the development and progress of the technology sector.
- Founder - **Nandan Nilekani, Devang Mehta**
- Headquarters - **Noida, Uttar Pradesh, and New Delhi**

**Cognizant India Chairman and Managing Director Rajesh Nambiar** has been appointed as the **new chairperson of the Indian IT and technology trade body NASSCOM**.

### **2. Renowned political cartoonist Ajit Ninan passes away ( Sept. 12, 2023 )**

Renowned political cartoonist Ajit Ninan passed away at the age of 68.

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

- Ajit Ninan was widely recognized for his contributions, including the famous **"CentreStage"** series in India Today magazine and **"Ninan's World"** in The Times of India.
- In addition to his political cartoons, Ninan was known for his work in children's literature.
- One of his favorite creations of the **1980s was Detective Moochwala and his dog Pooch**, which appeared in the **youth magazine Target**.
- Ajit Ninan's political cartoons are known for their bold and humorous stances on various subjects, including satire on both the ruling government and the opposition.
- He also used his artistic talents to address environmental issues and create memorable caricatures.

### **About Ajit Ninan**

- Ajit Ninan is best known for his work on **"Ajit Ninan's Funny World"**, which was published in **Target magazine**.
- They were called **"Just Like That!"** Also known for. Which was published daily in the **Times of India**.
- With Jug Suraiya, he sang **"Like That's Only!"** Co-wrote. Which was published bi-weekly in the **Times of India**.
- During the 2009 Indian general elections, he produced a series of cartoons, **"Poli Tricks"**, which was published in The **Times of India**.
- Additionally, he collaborated with Sunil Agarwal on the single-panel cartoon strip **"iToons"** in The **Times of India**.

### **3. RBI approves the reappointment of Sandeep Bakshi as MD & CEO of ICICI Bank ( Sept. 12, 2023 )**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) approved the reappointment of Sandeep Bakshi as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (MD and CEO) of ICICI Bank.

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

- The RBI approval, received through an exchange filing on September 11, has extended the tenure of Sandeep Bakshi as MD and CEO of ICICI Bank from **October 4, 2023, to October 3, 2026**.
- Sandeep Bakshi has been leading ICICI Bank since October 15, 2018, and before that, he served as a full-time director and Chief Operating Officer (COO).
- Bakshi has a **tenure of 36 years in ICICI Group** and has held various important positions.

#### **About ICICI Bank Limited:**

- ICICI Bank Limited is **an Indian multinational bank and financial services company.**
- The Bank offers a wide range of banking products and financial services to both corporate and retail customers.
- ICICI Bank has subsidiaries in the fields of **investment banking, life and non-life insurance, venture capital, and asset management.**
- Additionally, it has a **global presence, operating in 17 countries.**
- It also has branches in the **United States, Singapore, Bahrain, Hong Kong, Qatar, Oman, Dubai International Finance Centre, China and South Africa.**
- In addition, the bank has representative offices in the **United Arab Emirates, Bangladesh, Malaysia, and Indonesia.**
- Established - 5 **January 1994**
- Headquarters - **Mumbai, Maharashtra, India, (Registered Office at Vadodara, Gujarat)**

#### **4. Dennis Austin, co-creator of Microsoft PowerPoint, dies at 76 ( Sept. 12, 2023 )**

Dennis Austin, one of the co-creators of Microsoft PowerPoint, has died at the age of 76.

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

- Dennis Austin, along with Robert Gaskins, developed PowerPoint and introduced it in 1987.
- Austin and Gaskins were both part of the software company Forethought, which was later acquired by Microsoft for \$14 million shortly after the launch of PowerPoint, which was originally named Presenter.
- Initially, PowerPoint was available exclusively for the Macintosh platform.

#### **About Dennis R. Austin's career:**

- Dennis R. Austin was the lead software developer of PowerPoint from 1985 to 1996, focusing on versions for Apple Macintosh computers.
- He began his career in the computer division of General Electric in Arizona, followed by positions at Honeywell in Massachusetts and Burroughs in California.
- In late 1984 Forethought, Inc. He became a software developer for Gavilon Computer.
- At Forethought, Robert Gaskins initiated the development of graphical presentation software that later became PowerPoint, with Austin as the lead developer.
- Tom Rudkin joined the PowerPoint project and made significant programming contributions along with Austin.

- Microsoft acquired Forethought in 1987, and Austin remained as the lead developer of PowerPoint until 1996.

## **5. Parliament of Vanuatu elects Sato Kilman as the new Prime Minister ( Sept. 10, 2023 )**

Vanuatu Parliament elects Sato Kilman as Prime Minister amid political change.

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

- The decision came after a court upheld a no-confidence motion against Kilman's predecessor.
- Former Prime Minister and People's Progressive Party leader Sato Kilman took the position with 27 votes in favor.
- In the secret ballot, his rival Kalsakau got 23 votes.
- Kilman, 65, held the post of deputy prime minister in Kalsakau's government before he was ousted in May.

### **About Vanuatu**

- It is an archipelago consisting of 83 islands, 16 of which are inhabited.
- Its largest islands include Espiritu Santo, Malacula, Efate, Eromango, Ambrym, Tanna, Pentecost, Apé, Ambe (also known as Aoba), Gaua, Vanua Lava, Maevo, Malo, and Anitium (or Anatome).
- Its capital is Port Vila, located on the island of Efate.
- Its other important cities include Luganville on Espiritu Santo and Isangel on Tanna.
- Vanuatu has three official languages: Bislama, English and French.
- Bislama is a Creole language spoken by the majority of the population of Vanuatu.
- The official currency used in Vanuatu is the vatu (VUV), which is pegged to the Australian dollar, resulting in a relatively stable exchange rate.

## **6. SPG Chief Arun Kumar Sinha responsible for PM Modi's security passed away ( Sept. 7, 2023 )**

Arun Kumar Sinha, director of the Special Protection Group (SPG), responsible for the security of Prime Minister Modi, died at the age of 61 in Gurugram.

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

- Arun Kumar Sinha was an Indian Police Service (IPS) officer of the 1987 Kerala cadre.
- He assumed the role of Director of SPG in March 2016 and was initially appointed on a contract basis, with a tenure of up to May 31, 2024, in the rank and compensation of Director General of Police.

- His dedication to his responsibilities has resulted in a one-year extension in service till May 31, underlining his commitment to the role.
- Arun Kumar Sinha had a varied career, serving in various positions in his home cadre state Kerala, and in the Border Security Force (BSF) at the Centre.

**Role of SPG:-**

- The Special Protection Group (SPG) was **established in 1985**.
- Its primary mission is **to protect the Prime Minister of India**.
- SPG has a strength of around 3,000 personnel.
- It remains a central force in ensuring the security of the country's highest office.

**7. Hindustani classical singer Malini Rajurkar passed away at the age of 82 ( Sept. 7, 2023 )**

Renowned Hindustani classical singer Malini Rajurkar has passed away at the age of 82.

**An Overview of the News**

- Malini Rajurkar was known for her simplicity and deep artistry in music.
- He was a notable presence in India's major music festivals including **Gunidas Sammelan (Mumbai), Tansen Samaroh (Gwalior), Sawai Gandharva Mahotsav (Pune) and Shankar Lal Mahotsav (Delhi)**.
- Malini Rajurkar was highly regarded for her expertise in Tappa and Tarana styles of music.
- He also ventured into light music and gained popularity for rendering Marathi Natyageet and other compositions.
- Born in 1941 in Ajmer, Rajasthan, she received her musical education at Ajmer Sangeet College under the guidance of Govindrao Rajurkar and Vasant Rao Rajurkar, who later became her husband.
- She was an exponent of the **Gwalior Gharana** and was known for her mastery of the '**Khayal**' and '**Tappa**' styles in Hindustani classical music.

**Differences in Classical Music in India: Hindustani and Carnatic Traditions**

- In India, there is a historical perspective that music was unified by the **13th century AD**.
- After this period, it began to split into two distinct forms: **Hindustani** and **Carnatic classical music**.
- The Government of India officially recognizes these two classical music traditions.
- Carnatic classical music is mainly practiced in the **southern Indian states of Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana**.

- Renowned Carnatic singer **M.S. Subbalakshmi** comes from this tradition.
- In the rest of India, classical music is called Hindustani music.

## **8. Neeraj Mittal appointed as Secretary, Department of Telecommunications (DoT) ( Sept. 7, 2023 )**

Neeraj Mittal was appointed as Secretary in the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC).

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

- Neeraj Mittal is a 1992-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer.
- He is currently serving as the Principal Secretary in the Department of Information Technology, Tamil Nadu.
- Prior to this, he worked as Senior Advisor in the World Bank Group and as Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.
- He is replacing K Rajaraman, who is now the chairman of the International Financial Services Centers Authority (IFSCA) in Gujarat.

## **S Krishnan will head the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology**

- S Krishnan, a 1989 batch IAS officer, was appointed as the new Secretary of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.
- Krishnan currently holds the post of Industries Secretary in the Tamil Nadu State Government.
- His appointment comes after the retirement of the previous secretary Alkesh Kumar Sharma on August 31.

## **Important appointments and changes in the Ministries and Departments of the Government of India**

- **VL Kantha Rao**, who was earlier holding the post of Additional Secretary in the Department of Telecommunications, has been selected as the **Secretary in the Ministry of Mines**.
- Former Secretary, the Ministry of Mines, **Vivek Bhardwaj** will now hold the role of **Officer on Special Duty in the Ministry of Panchayati Raj**.
- **Umang Narula** has been designated **Secretary in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs**, bringing his broad administrative experience to this vital portfolio.
- **Arunish Chawla**, a 1992 Bihar cadre IAS officer, is set to take charge as the **secretary of the Department of Pharmaceuticals** within the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers from November 1, 2023.
- **Chanchal Kumar** of the 1992 batch and Bihar cadre has been appointed as **Secretary in the Ministry of Development of the North Eastern Region**.

- **Vumlunmang Vualnam**, a 1992 Manipur cadre IAS officer, has been assigned the role of **Secretary in the Ministry of Civil Aviation**. He previously served as Additional Secretary in the Department of Economic Affairs under the Ministry of Finance.

### **9. Professor Satyajit Majumdar of TISS receives Dr. VG Patel Memorial Award 2023 ( Sept. 6, 2023 )**

Professor Satyajit Majumdar, serving as the Dean of the School of Management and Labor Studies at the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) in Mumbai, was awarded the 'Dr V G Patel Memorial Award-2023'.

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

- He received this prestigious award in the category of '**Entrepreneurship Coach, Educator, and Mentor**' for his outstanding contribution to promoting and strengthening entrepreneurship in India.
- Dr. V.G. Patel is widely recognized as a pioneer of the entrepreneurship movement in India, which makes this award particularly significant.
- **Professor Satyajit Mazumdar was selected for this award from among 400 applicants from 26 different states.** The selection was done by a jury appointed by the Indian Entrepreneurship Development Institute (EDII) in Ahmedabad.
- Over the past two decades, Professor Majumdar, who is 63, has played a key role in pioneering entrepreneurship.
- With his dedicated team, he has provided mentorship to over 350 startups, including 40 from the Jammu and Kashmir region, as well as cluster startups in Jhabua, West Bengal.
- Since his appointment at TISS in **2010, Professor Majumdar's primary focus has been on establishing a thriving ecosystem for entrepreneurship within the institute.**
- In 2012, under his leadership, **TISS established a dedicated Entrepreneurship Cell, reflecting his commitment to promoting entrepreneurship in the academic context.**

### **10. ISRO condoles the death of Valarmathi, the famous voice behind the Chandrayaan-3 countdown ( Sept. 6, 2023 )**

Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) scientist N Valarmathi died due to a cardiac arrest.

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

- N Valarmathi was known for her key role in providing countdown announcements for rocket launches held in Sriharikota.
- Valarmathi's last public announcement was during the countdown to the launch of Chandrayaan-3, a historic mission that successfully landed on the Moon.

- Chandrayaan-3 was launched on July 14, 2023 from the Satish Dhawan Space Center in Sriharikota.
- Notably, Chandrayaan-3 marked the last countdown announcement given by N Valarmathi before his demise.

**The career of N Valarmathi**

- N Valarmathi had a distinguished career spanning over 30 years in the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO).
- She played a key role as the voice behind the countdown for many of ISRO's launches, including the historic Chandrayaan-3 mission, which successfully made a soft landing on the Moon in July 2023.
- Valarmathi's calm and reassuring voice became a familiar and comforting presence to millions of Indians who flocked to watch ISRO launches.
- In addition to her role in launch communications, she was noted for her significant contributions to the development of space applications intended to benefit society.