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1. First women CMD of ONGC (Jan. 7, 2022)

Alka Mittal has been appointed as the Chairman Cum Managing Director (CMD) of the Oil major company ONGC(Oil and Natural Gas Corporation).

She is the first woman CMD of ONGC.

2. Freedom fighter K. Ayappan dead (Jan. 6, 2022)

Veteran freedom fighter, eminent lawyer and one of the early leaders of the BJP in Kerala, K Ayyappan Pillai died in Thiruvananthapuram at the age of 107 years.

An ardent admirer of the 'Father of the Nation", Mahatma Gandhi, he had actively participated in the Quit India movement

3. Social worker Sindhutai Sapkal passes away (Jan. 5, 2022)

Noted social activist and Padma Shri winner Sindhutai Sapkal who was also known as **Orphan Children Mothers** passed away in Pune at the age of 74 on 4 January 2021.

- She was a social worker and social activist known particularly for her work in raising orphaned children in India. She nurtured over 1,500 orphaned children and through them had a grand family of 382 sons-in-law and 49 daughters-in-law.
- She received Padma Shri in 2021 in the Social Work category.
- In 2017, she received Nari Shakti Puraskar from the President Of India
- The **2010** Marathi film Mee Sindhutai Sapkal by Anant Mahadevan is a biopic inspired by the true story of Sindhutai Sapkal. The film was selected for world premiere at the 54th London Film Festival.

4. Ambassador Atul Keshap appointed as head of US-India Business Council (Jan. 5, 2022)

The U.S Chamber of Commerce has appointed ambassador Atul Keshap as the **President of the U.S.-India Business Council (USIBC).**

- He will **replace Nisha Desai Biswal**, who has been appointed the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's **Senior Vice President of International Strategy and Global Initiatives and South Asia**.
- Mr. Keshap was also previously the U.S. Ambassador to Sri Lanka and the Maldives as well as Charge d'Affaires at the U.S. Embassy in New Delhi.

The U.S.-India Business Council (USIBC) represents top global companies operating across the United States, India, and the Indo-Pacific.

• Founded in 1975.

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

• Headquarters: Washington, D.C., United States

5. New Director General for the National Mission for Clean Ganga (Jan. 4, 2022)

Shri G Asok Kumar (*the Rain Man of India***),** Additional Secretary, Ministry of Jal Shakti took over as the **new Director General for the National Mission for Clean Ganga, Ministry of Jal Shakti** on 3rd January 2022. He belongs to the Indian Administrative Services Telangana Cadre 1991 batch.

- Before joining NMCG, he served as the Mission Director for National Water Mission where his inspiring work in "Jal Shakthi Abhiyan: Catch the Rain" campaign led to the sanction of over 9.5 lakh water conservation and rainwater harvesting structures all over India.
- Shri Asok Kumar is also the recipient of several awards such as the SKOCH Award for Public Services 2021, Jal-Mitra award from the Government of Andhra Pradesh and the first Telangana Excellence Award by the Government of Telangana for outstanding work done in Public Administration.

6. Mohammad Hafeez retires from International Cricket (Jan. 4, 2022)

- **Pakistan all-rounder Mohammad Hafeez** has announced his retirement from international cricket, ending a career that spanned over 18 years.
- Hafeez, who made his international debut in 2003 in an ODI against Zimbabwe, featured in 392 internationals for Pakistan, scoring 12,780 runs and taking 253 wickets.
- His last international game was the ICC Men's T20 World Cup semi-final in November 2021.

7. Ashok Elluswamy appointed head of Tesla Auto Engineering project (Jan. 3, 2022)

Tesla has hired Indian origin American Ashok Elluswamy as the head of its Autopilot Engineering project .

- Ashok Elluswamy did his B.Tech in Electronics and Communication Engineering from the college of Engineering Guindy in Chennai.
- The owner of Tesla is Elon Musk.
- The Auto Engineering project of Tesla is to build a car which does not require human assistance.

8. Noted Odia writer Punya Prava Devi no more (Jan. 2, 2022)

- Noted Odia writer and Kendra Sahitya Akademi award winner Punya Prava Devi, died after a brief illness. She was 83 years old .
- She had won the national award for best children's literature in 1960 and Shishu Sahitya Ratna Bal Sahitya Puraskar by the Kendra Sahitya Akademi in 2010.

9. New Coast Guard Director General (Jan. 1, 2022)

Government of India has appointed Mr VS Pathania, as the 24th Chief of Indian Coast Guard.

He is an alumnus of the Defence Services Staff College, Wellington and National Defence College, New Delhi.

Coast Guard:

- It is a maritime law enforcement agency under the Union Ministry of Defence.
- It is responsible for protecting Indian economic interest in the territorial waters and Exclusive Economic Zones of India.
- It is responsible for curbing smuggling and piracy on the High Seas.
- It also undertakes rescue and search operation in High Seas
- It was set up in 1977 on the recommendation of Dr Nag Chaudhary committee set up by the Government of India in 1970.

For detail on territorial waters, exclusive economic zone see our blog.

10. Ross Taylor announced his retirement from Cricket (Dec. 31, 2021)

- New Zealand Cricketer Ross Taylor confirmed that he will retire from Test cricket after the Bangladesh series in January 2022 while International (ODIs) vs Australia and the Netherlands in February and March 2022 will be his last in the shorter format.
- So far, he has represented his nation in 110 Tests, 233 ODIs and 102 T20Is.