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1. US Senate confirms Indian-American Richard Verma to top State Department post (April 2, 2023)

The **United States Senate** on March 30 confirmed the appointment of **Indian American Richard Verma** as **Deputy Secretary of State, Management and Resources**.

An overview of the news

- This position is normally seen as the **CEO of the powerful State Department in the US Government**.
- Richard Verma served as the **US Ambassador to India** from January 2015 to January 2017 and is currently the Chief Legal Officer and Head of Global Public Policy at **MasterCard**.
- He also served as **Assistant Secretary of State for Legislative Affairs** during the Obama administration.
- Prior to this he was **National Security Advisor to United States Senator Harry Reid**.
- Verma has also served as **Vice Chairman of The Asia Group**, Partner and Senior Counselor at Steptoe and Johnson LLP, and Senior Counselor at the Albright Stonebridge Group.
- Verma holds a BS degree from Lehigh University, an LLM with distinction from **Georgetown University Law Center**, and a PhD from Georgetown University.
- He was appointed to the **President's Intelligence Advisory Board** and he is a former member of the **Weapons of Mass Destruction and Terrorism Commission**.

2. Vice ADM Atul Anand takes over as the Director General of Naval Operations (DGNO) (April 1, 2023)

Vice Admiral Atul Anand took over as the **Director General Naval Operations** on April 1, 2023.

An Overview of the News

- He was commissioned into the **Executive Branch of the Indian Navy** on **January 1, 1988**, and is an alumnus of the **National Defense Academy, Defense Services Command and Staff College, Mirpur (Bangladesh) and the National Defense College**, New Delhi.
- Vice Admiral Atul Anand is a recipient of the **Ati Vishisht Seva Medal and the Vishisht Seva Medal**.
- He has also served as **Navigating Officer of IN Ships Sharda, Rannvijay and Jyoti**, and was Direction Officer of Sea Harrier Squadron INAS 300 and Executive Officer of destroyer INS Delhi.

- His important staff appointments include Joint Director Staff Requirements, Director Staff at the Defense Services Staff College, Wellington, Director Naval Operations and Director Naval Intelligence (Ops).

About Indian Navy

- It was **established in 1830** and its **mission is to protect maritime interests and borders**.
- The motto of the Indian Navy is "**Sham no Varunah**", which means "**May Varuna, lord of the oceans, be auspicious to us.**"
- The fleet includes **ships, submarines and aircraft with approximately 67,000 personnel**.
- Operations include **anti-piracy, disaster relief and joint exercises** with other navies.

3. Hero MotoCorp board appoints Niranjana Gupta as CEO (March 31, 2023)

Hero MotoCorp's board appointed Niranjana Gupta as the **new Chief Executive Officer (CEO)** of the company.

An Overview of the News

- Niranjana Gupta has been instrumental in ensuring the **financial stability of HeroCorp** in a highly competitive and ever-subscribing landscape.
- Gupta has over 25 years of leadership experience in diverse sectors such as **consumer goods, metals & mining, and miscellaneous sectors with expertise in finance, M&A, supply chain and strategy**.
- In addition to his role at Hero MotoCorp, Gupta also serves as a **board member of Ether Energy, HMC Ekal Auto Pvt Ltd and HMCL Colombia**.
- Prior to joining Hero MotoCorp, Gupta added 20 years at Unilever in various Global Claddings and three years at Vedanta Ltd.
- Wind Energy Munjal** is the Chairman, Executive and Whole Director of the Board.

About Hero MotoCorp

- It is an **Indian multinational motorcycle and assembly manufacturer headquartered in New Delhi, India**.
- The venture is the **world's largest producer and part of the Hero Group**, a diversified business conglomerate with interests in financial services, allied energy and other scripts.
- The company was **established in 1984** as a **joint venture between Hero Cycles and Honda Motor Company of Japan** and began production of motorcycles in 1985.

The company has **manufacturing facilities in India, Bangladesh and Colombia.**

4. Tata Power approves reappointment of Praveer Sinha as CEO and MD (March 31, 2023)

er approved the re-appointment of **Praveer Sinha** as the **Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director of the company.**

An Overview of the News

- Sinha's reappointment is **for a period of four years from May 1, 2023 to April 30, 2027**, subject to the approval of the members of the company.
- Under Sinha's leadership, Tata Power is transforming itself into a **sustainable, technology-oriented and customer-centric green energy solutions company.**
- Sinha **holds a PhD from the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi**, and is a Visiting Research Associate at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Boston, USA.

About Tata Power

- It is an **Indian power utility company headquartered in Mumbai, Maharashtra.** It is a part of the **Tata Group, a conglomerate with a wide range of businesses.**
- The company is involved in several sectors of the power sector including **generation, transmission and distribution of electricity.**
- Tata Power's generation capacity includes **thermal, hydro, solar and wind power.** In addition, the company has invested in new and renewable energy sources such as the development of solar and wind power plants.
- Tata Power's transmission network covers **over 1,100 circuit kilometres and provides electricity to over 2.6 million customers** across multiple cities including **Mumbai, Delhi and Ajmer.**
- In 2021, it was named **India's most admired power company by Fortune India.**

5. Justice T.S. Sivagnanam appointed as Acting Chief Justice Calcutta High Court (March 31, 2023)

Justice T.S. Sivagnanam appointed as Acting Chief Justice Calcutta High Court

Justice T.S. Sivagnanam was appointed as the **Acting Chief Justice of the Calcutta High Court** with effect from 31 March.

An Overview of the News

- He will take over as the **Acting Chief Justice** after the retirement of the current Chief Justice **Prakash Srivastava**.
- Justice Sivagnanam is a **senior judge in the Indian Judiciary, born on June 10, 1961 in Tamil Nadu**. He specialised in Constitutional Law, Commercial Law, Civil Law and Criminal Law.
- He served as a **permanent judge in the Madras High Court** for over a decade before being transferred to the Calcutta High Court in 2018.

About Justice Prakash Srivastava

- Justice Srivastava was appointed as a **permanent judge in the Madhya Pradesh High Court in 2004**.
- Was appointed as the **Chief Justice of the Calcutta High Court in 2021**.
- Justice Srivastava retired on **March 30, 2023**.

About Acting Chief Justice

- The provision for an **Acting Chief Justice of India** is enshrined in **Article 126 of the Constitution of India**.
- Article 126 allows for the **appointment of an Acting Chief Justice** in the event of the Chief Justice of India being absent or unable to perform his duties.
- The **President of India is responsible for the appointment of the Acting Chief Justice** in consultation with the Chief Justice of India.

6. Sheikh Mansour Bin Zayed Al Nahyan appointed as Vice-President of UAE (March 30, 2023)

Sheikh Mansour Bin Zayed Al Nahyan appointed as Vice-President of UAE

The President of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), **Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan**, has appointed **Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan**, his brother, as the **Vice President of the country**.

An overview of the news

- The appointment is approved by the **UAE Federal Supreme Council**.
- The incumbent Vice president **Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum**, will also continue in the same role.
- Sheikh Mansour has been active in UAE politics since 2004, when he was appointed as **Minister of Presidential Affairs**.

- He has overseen the **Presidential Court** and the **Ministry of Presidential Affairs**, as well as presiding over several government institutions, including the **Ministerial Development Council and the Emirates Investment Authority**.
- He is also the chairman of the **Abu Dhabi Fund for Development** and a **member of the Abu Dhabi Supreme Petroleum Council**.
- He has served on the boards of several investment institutions, including the **National Archives, the Abu Dhabi Development Fund, the Abu Dhabi Food Control Authority Board, and the Abu Dhabi Judicial Department**.

About UAE

- Official Language : **Arabic**
- Capital of UAE : **Abu Dhabi**
- Currency : **Emirati Dirham**
- President of UAE : **Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan**
- Prime Minister: **Sheikh Mohammed ibn Rashid Al Maktoum**

7. Ajay Singh takes over as President and Sanjay Nair as Senior Vice President of ASSOCHAM (March 30, 2023)

SpiceJet CEO Ajay Singh has been appointed as the **new president of the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM)**.

An Overview of the News

- He succeeds **Sumant Sinha**, who recently completed his tenure as **Managing Director of Renew Power**.
- Sanjay Nair, **Founder and Chairman of Sorin Investment Fund**, has been appointed as the new Senior Vice President of ASSOCHAM.
- **Ajay Singh** is also the **President of Boxing Federation of India and Vice President of International Boxing Association**.

About ASSOCHAM

- It is one of the **leading trade associations in India**.
- It is a **non-governmental, non-profit organisation** that represents the **interests of Indian businesses and industry**.
- ASSOCHAM works to promote **economic growth and development** and to create a conducive environment for businesses to flourish in India.

- The organisation provides a platform for businesses to network and engage with **policy makers, regulators and other stakeholders, and provides a range of services and programs to support its members.**
- It also **conducts research and analysis** on a wide variety of economic and industry issues, and publishes reports and publications to disseminate its findings.

Formation - **1920**

Headquarters - **New Delhi, India**

Secretary General - **Deepak Sood**

8. Pranav Haridasan appointed as new MD & CEO of Axis Securities (March 30, 2023)

Pranav Haridasan appointed as new MD & CEO of Axis Securities

Pranav Haridasan has been appointed as the **new Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Axis Securities for the next three years.**

An Overview of the News

- **B Gopakumar**, currently **MD & CEO of Axis Securities**, has been transferred to **Axis Asset Management Company as MD & CEO.**
- **Pranav Haridasan** is currently serving as the **Managing Director and Co-Head of Equity at Axis Capital.**
- Pranav Haridasan has over **20 years of experience** in financial markets, having served as Citigroup Director Global Markets and Head of India/ASEAN Execution Services prior to joining Axis Capital.
- Axis Securities is a **subsidiary of Axis Bank** which operates retail broking services through Axis Direct.
- Axis Capital provides **investment banking and institutional equity services.**

About Axis Bank

- It is a **leading private sector bank in India.**
- It was **established in 1993** as UTI Bank, and later renamed as **Axis Bank in 2007.** The **headquarter** of this bank is located in **Mumbai, Maharashtra.**
- It provides **personal banking, corporate banking and international banking services** and this bank is focusing on digitization and innovation to improve its services.
- It has launched digital initiatives such as **Axis Mobile App and Axis Direct for online trading.**
- Axis Bank is involved in several **Corporate Social Responsibility initiatives** through the Axis Bank Foundation.

Amitabh Choudhary is the MD and CEO of Axis Bank.

9. Indian hockey player Salima Tete has been appointed as the Athlete Ambassador of the Asian Hockey Federation (AHF) (March 29, 2023)

Indian women's hockey team midfielder Salima Tete

Indian women's hockey team midfielder Salima Tete has been appointed as the **Athlete Ambassador from India by the Asian Hockey Federation (AHF)** for two years.

An Overview of the News

- It was announced during the **AHF Congress held in Mungyeong, South Korea** on March 23, 2023.
- AHF athlete ambassadors are **Lee Jong Joon (South Korea), Abdul Hannan Shahid (Pakistan) and Asai Yu (Japan)**.
- Salima Tete, as an AHF Athlete Ambassador, will play a key role in the international representation and development of athletes.
- She will also work towards **promoting awareness of the rights and welfare of athletes in the region**.
- Salima Tete received the **AHF Emerging Player of the Year (Women) award** on March 24, 2023 for her outstanding performance in 2022.

About Asian Hockey Federation (AHF)

- It is the **governing body for field hockey** and is responsible for organising **international field hockey events** in the region.
- It is a member of the **International Hockey Federation (FIH)** and works closely with the FIH to promote the sport of field hockey around the world.
- The AHF is responsible for organising several field hockey tournaments in **Asia, including the Asia Cup, the Asian Games and the Asian Champions Trophy**.
- The AHF is committed to promoting gender equality in the sport of field hockey and has established a women's committee to oversee the development of women's hockey in Asia.

President - **Dato' Fumio Ogura**

Formation - **1958**

Established - **Tokyo, Japan**

Headquarters - **Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia**

Patron - **Al-Sultan Abdullah Sultan Ahmad Shah**

10. Dilma Rousseff appointed as new President of BRICS New Development Bank (March 29, 2023)

Dilma Rousseff appointed as new President of BRICS New Development Bank

Former Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff has been elected as the **new President of the New Development Bank (NDB)**, also known as the **BRICS Bank**.

An Overview of the News

- She replaced **Marcus Troyjo** as the President of NDB.
- Rousseff is an **economist** who served as the **President of Brazil for two consecutive terms from January 2011 to August 2016**.
- During her presidency, Rousseff prioritised social policies, including poverty reduction and increased access to education and healthcare.
- The NDB has so far **approved \$23 billion in loans** for projects including renewable energy and transportation infrastructure in its member countries.

About New Development Bank (NDB)

- It is a **multilateral development bank established in 2014** by the **BRICS countries - Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa**.
- It was created with the aim of **mobilising resources for infrastructure and sustainable development projects** in emerging economies.
- It is **headquartered in Shanghai, China** and has regional offices in **Johannesburg, South Africa and São Paulo, Brazil**.
- Its authorised **capital is \$100 billion**, with each founding member contributing **\$10 billion**.
- Its main focus is on **financing infrastructure projects** including **energy, transport and water supply**.
- It operates on the principle of "**co-ownership, governance and shared benefit**", which means that member states have equal representation and decision-making power.
- It is seen as an alternative to established financial institutions such as the **World Bank and the International Monetary Fund**, which are dominated by Western countries.