

CURRENT AFFAIRS MARCH 2016 - APPOINTMENTS

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News 1 - Justice H.L. Dattu joins NHRC as Chairperson



Justice H.L. Dattu, former Chief Justice of India, joined as the Chairperson of the National Human Rights Commission of India. He is the seventh Chairperson of the National Human Rights Commission.

His appointment was announced under the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993, by the President on the recommendation of the high-powered committee headed by the Prime Minister for the tenure of 5 years.

He took over the position from Justice C. Joseph, who has been the acting Chairperson since the end of the five-year term of former Chairperson K. G. Balakrishnan.

News 2 - Hashim Thaci is the new President of Kosovo



The Members of Parliament of Kosovo elected Foreign Minister Hashim Thaci as the new president. The opposition members of the parliament boycotted the event because they accuse Thaci of being responsible for two deals with Serbia and Montenegro that they reject. Thaci succeeded Atifete Jahjaga.

He was a guerrilla leader during a conflict that led to Kosovo which unilaterally declared independence from Serbia in 2008.

News 3 - Rozle Prezlj elected Chairman of IAAF Athletes' Commission



At the IAAF Athletes' Commission meeting in Monaco, Rozle Prezlj was elected as the new Chairman. Prezlj

represented Slovenia in High Jump at three Olympics and four IAAF World Championships.

He takes over as Chairman of the commission from Frank Fredericks with immediate effect.

Britain's marathon world record-holder Paula Radcliffe was nominated Vice Chairwoman of the commission.

News 4 - Sanjiv Kapoor joins Vistara as Chief Strategy and Commercial Officer



Sanjiv Kapoor has joined Vistara Airlines as the Chief Strategy and Commercial Officer. Kapoor will take over from Giam Ming Toh, who is returning to Singapore Airlines on completion of his deputation with Vistara.

Kapoor is responsible for in-flight services and ground operations of the carrier. He has over 19 years of experience in the airline industry in various leadership and consulting roles.

News 5 - Multi Commodity Exchange appoints Mrugank Paranjape as MD & CEO



MCX, the country's largest commodity exchange, appointed Mrugank Paranjape as MD & CEO for a period of 3 years. He will succeed Manoj Vaish, nearly two years after Mr Vaish resigned. Currently, he is India Head, Deutsche Bank.

The current Joint Managing Director of MCX, Parveen Kumar Singhal, has been re-designated as the President and full-time Director with effect from April 1, 2016.

News 6 - Sunil Sabharwal reappointed as Alternate Executive Director at IMF



Independent investor Sunil Sabharwal has been reappointed as Alternate Executive Director at the IMF. He was first nominated by the US President Barack Obama in April 2014 and now re-nominated in March 2015. Prior to his appointment, Mr. Sabharwal was board chairman of Ogone, a European e-commerce payment services firm, from 2011-13.

With 16.81% of the voting shares of US in the IMF, it becomes one of the most powerful positions in IMF.

News 7 - TCS CEO N. Chandrasekaran appointed to Board of RBI



The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC), headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved appointment of Natarajan Chandrasekaran, CEO and MD of TCS; Sudhir Mankad, former Chief Secretary of Gujarat; and Bharat Narotam Doshi, non-executive chairman of Mahindra & Mahindra as part-time non-official directors to the board of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for a period of 4 years.

News 8 - Sun Pharma signs MS Dhoni as Revital H Brand Ambassador



Sun Pharma's Global Consumer Healthcare business announced Indian cricket team captain M. S. Dhoni as the new brand ambassador of Revital H. Dhoni said: "I strongly believe that the new brand positioning of Revital H will strongly resonate with the active generation of today's India and become a part of their everyday life."

The Company also has plans to telecast a new ad campaign featuring Dhoni, which will go live throughout the ICC T20 World Cup.

News 9 - Canberra University appoints Indian Scholar H. Deep Saini as Vice Chancellor



Indian scholar and plant physiologist H. Deep Saini was appointed as the Vice Chancellor of University of Canberra. Saini is currently the Vice-President of the University of Toronto and Principal of the University of Toronto Mississauga campus in Canada. He will succeed Vice Chancellor Stephen Parker in September 2016.

Saini completed his undergraduate and master's degrees at the Punjab Agricultural University in Ludhiana, and doctorate in plant physiology from the University of Adelaide.

News 10 - Sudhakar Rao to succeed as the New Chairman and Public Interest Director of BSE





After S Ramadorai retired as Chairman of BSE, Sudhakar Rao will succeed him as the new Chairman of BSE and new Public Interest Director subject to SEBI approval.

Rao, a retired IAS Officer of the 1973 batch, has previously held several positions in state and central government level. Mr. Rao is an Independent Director on the boards of several companies (including L&T IDPL, USL, HCG and IFFCO-TOKIO). He completed his three year term as an Independent Director on the Board of Indian Oil Corporation Limited in 2014.

News 11 - Ex SC Judge Balbir Singh Chauhan Appointed as Chairman of 21st Law Commission of India



Former Supreme Court Judge, Justice Balbir Singh Chauhan, has been appointed as the Chairman of 21st Law Commission of India (LCI).

The Union Government also appointed former judge of the Gujarat high court, Justice Ravi R Tripathi, as member of 21st Law Commission of India. Currently he is Chairman of the Cauvery River Water Disputes Tribunal.

News 12 - Tapan Chand Elected as AAI Chief



Tapan Chand has been elected as chief of Aluminum Association of India. Prior to his appointment, he was Chairman and Managing Director of National Aluminum Company.

Aluminum Association of India represents the entire spectrum of Indian Aluminum Industries. As president of the trade body, he is to approach the Union Ministry of Mines, for the revival of Aluminum Development and Promotion Council and Development Committee on Aluminium Utilization.

News 13 - Egyptian Diplomat Ahmed Abul Gheit Named as Secretary General of Arab League





The Arab League has unanimously voted veteran Egyptian diplomat Ahmed Abul Gheit (73) as its Secretary General at its ministerial meeting held in Cairo, Egypt. He will succeed Nabil El-Araby whose term ends in July 2016.

Abul Gheit is a former ambassador of Egypt to the United Nations and also served as Egypt's foreign minister from 2004 to 2011 during the final seven years of Hosni Mubarak's rule.

News 14 - Lt Gen N P S Hira appointed Deputy Chief of Indian Army



Lieutenant General (Lt Gen) N P S Hira has been appointed as Deputy Chief of Army Staff. Currently he is posted as Chief of Staff of Northern command at Udhampur, Jammu and Kashmir. He has earned an Ashok Chakra, Kirti Chakra, Shaurya Chakra and many more gallantry awards.

The General had commanded the 10 Infantry Division in Jammu and Kashmir on the Line of Control with distinction for which he was awarded the Ati Vishisht Seva Medal.

News 15 - NBFC Altico Capital appointed Naina Lal Kidwai as independent non-executive director to its board



Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) Altico Capital India nominated former HSBC India chairperson Naina Lal Kidwai as an independent non-executive director.

Altico Capital is a foreign owned and controlled NBFCs with a net worth Rs 2,000 crore and is well capitalized to capture loan growth opportunities being presented due to the capital constraints in the banking system.

News 16 - UNFPA Appoints Actor, Activist, Ashley Judd, as Goodwill Ambassador



Acclaimed humanitarian, actor and writer, Ashley Judd, was appointed UNFPA's newest Goodwill Ambassador on 15th

March 2016. As a UNFPA Goodwill Ambassador, she will support the efforts of UNFPA to end discrimination against women in all forms and promote their well-being.

Ashley and UNFPA will be joining forces to raise awareness to empower women to choose when and how often to become pregnant.

News 17 - Fazle Kabir appointed as the new Governor of Bangladesh Bank



Immediately after the resignation of Atiur Rahman, former finance secretary Fazle Kabir was appointed the 11th Governor of the Bangladesh Bank, the central Bank of Bangladesh.

Atiur Rahman had resigned after taking moral responsibility over electronic theft of 101 million US dollars from the central bank's account with the New York Federal Reserve Bank.

News 18 - AirAsia India appointed Amar Abrol as CEO



AirAsia India has appointed Amar Abrol as its Chief Executive Officer with effect from 1 April 2016. He will succeed Mittu Chandilya. Before joining AirAsia India, Mr Abrol was CEO of Tune Money. He spent 19 years with American Express.

In other announcements, AirAsia India also announced the appointments of Ankur Khanna as the Chief Financial Officer and Kiran Jain as the Head of Commercial.

News 19 - Honeywell Automation appoints Suresh Senapaty as the new Chairman



Honeywell Automation India Ltd (HAIL) appointed former Wipro CFO Suresh Senapaty as its Chairman. He has been appointed as an Additional Director (Non-Executive, Independent) and as Chairman of its Board of Directors. He succeeds Surendra L. Rao.

Mr. Senapaty has experience of over three decades in finance, governance, and strategy. Suresh Senapaty will be responsible for contributing to HAIL's overall strategy and to provide counsel on corporate governance, business, and financial matters.

News 20 - S Sridhar appointed as new MD of Pfizer for 5 years



Pharmaceutical giant, Pfizer, appointed Mr. S Sridhar as its new Managing Director (MD) with immediate effect for a period of five years. S. Sridhar has been working with Pfizer from past 10 years.

Prior to joining Pfizer, he worked with Diageo India Pvt. Ltd as the Finance Director. Sridhar's appointment will be subject to the approval of shareholders at the ensuing Annual General Meeting of the company.

News 21 - Sudhir Raheja given additional charge of AAI chairman



Sudhir Raheja has been given additional charge of the Airport Authority of India (AAI), Chairman. He has been appointed after the tenure of Mr. R K Srivastava tenure was curtailed by the government.

The Airports Authority of India (AAI) is responsible for creating, upgrading, maintaining and managing civil aviation infrastructure in India.

News 22 - Indian Professor appointed as 56th President of International Studies Association



Indian Professor TV Paul, Professor of International Relations at McGill University, Montreal, Canada, was appointed as the 56th President of International Studies Association (ISA), at its annual convention at Atlanta, Georgia.

Kerala born, Mr. Paul called on international relations scholars to explicitly deal with grand strategies of peaceful change more effectively.

News 23 - Pentagon nominates General Lori Robinson as first US female Combatant Chief



Defense Secretary Ashton Carter announced that Air Force Gen. Lori Robinson has been nominated to be the head of U.S. Northern Command, making her the nation's first female combatant commander. President Barack Obama has approved the choice, and now her nomination depends on Senate approval.

She is currently commander for the Pacific Air Forces and enrolled in the Air Force in 1982.

News 24 - Lionel Messi appointed as Huawei Global Ambassador



Soccer superstar Lionel Messi was appointed as Huawei global brand ambassador for its consumer business group that deals in mobile devices. The deal is especially attractive for Huawei, which is looking to expand its reach in Europe, Asia and Latin America.

Huawei shipped 108 million smartphones in 2015 and became the third-largest player after Apple and Samsung. It has associated itself with cricket as a sponsor of IPL team RCB.

News 25 - Justice H L Dattu appointed as member of International Coordinating Committee Bureau



Former Chief Justice of India, HL Dattu, was appointed a member of the International Coordinating Committee of National Human Rights Institutions (ICC) Bureau in Geneva. Justice Dattu is the Chairperson of the National Human Rights Commission.

NHRC, India will now be representing Asia-Pacific Region along with Mongolia, Qatar and Australia.

News 26 - Justice Permod Kohli appointed as Chairman of Central Administrative Tribunal





The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of Justice Permod Kohli, retired Chief Justice of Sikkim High Court as Chairman in the Central Administrative Tribunal for a period of 05 years with effect from the date of assumption of charge of the post, or till attaining the age of 68 years, whichever is earlier.

The Central Administrative Tribunal exercises original jurisdiction in relation to recruitment and all services matters of public servants covered by it.

News 27 - Paytm hires Bhushan Patil, Alibaba's former executive, as President



Paytm appointed ex-head of Alibaba Group Holding's wholesale business, Bhushan Patil as the company's new President after serving 5.5 years at the Chinese company, where he was handling operations of Alibaba.com. He will now focus on building Paytm's cross border commerce.

On the announcement, Bhushan Patil said, "It is indeed an honour to be a part of the Paytm vision and strategy both towards national cashless economy and the plan to take Paytm overseas."

News 28 - Indian-origin professor Surya Deva appointed as UN Adviser on Human Rights and Businesses



The Geneva-based UN Human Rights Council appointed Indian-origin law professor Surya Deva as an adviser on human rights and multinationals and businesses.

He will be a part of the four-member Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations. Surya Deva is an Associate Professor at the School of Law of City University of Hong Kong.

News 29 - Rakesh Mohan appointed as Independent Director of Nestle India





Dr. Rakesh Mohan, former RBI Deputy Governor, has been appointed as an Independent Non-Executive Director of Nestle India Ltd with effect from May 01, 2016 up to June 30, 2020.

He was executive director at the International Monetary Fund. He was also Deputy Governor of RBI and Secretary in Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance.