

Geetika Srivastava Becomes 1st Woman To Head Indian Mission In Pakistan

Why In The News?

- **Geetika Srivastava** Will Be India's New Charge D'affaires At Its **High Commission In Islamabad**, Becoming The First Woman To Hold That Post. Currently Serving As **Joint Secretary At The Ministry Of External Affairs (MEA)**, She Will Succeed **Dr M Suresh Kumar** Who Is Likely To Return To New Delhi.



Geetika Srivastava is first woman to head Indian mission in Pakistan

Geetika Srivastava, a 2005 batch Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer, will be the new Charge d'Affaires (CDA) in Islamabad. She will succeed Dr M Suresh Kumar who is likely to return to New Delhi.

Who Is Geetika Srivastava?

EXAMS

- Geetika Srivastava, A **2005 Batch Indian Foreign Service (IFS) Officer**, Is Currently Serving As **Joint Secretary** At The Headquarters Of The Ministry Of External Affairs (MEA) And Looks After The **Indo-Pacific Division**.
- As Someone Who Learnt **Mandarin** As Part Of Her Foreign Language Training, She Has Served In The **Indian Embassy In China During 2007-09**. She Has Also Had Stints At The **Regional Passport Office In Kolkata** And As **Director Of The Indian Ocean Region Division In The MEA**.



Indo-Pak High Commissions Since 1947

- Diplomatic Missions Between **Commonwealth Countries Are Called High Commissions**, While Those Between **Non-commonwealth Countries Are Called Embassies**.
- Since 1947, When **Sri Prakasa** Was Sent As The Indian High Commissioner To The Then Dominion Of Pakistan, New Delhi Has Always Been Represented By Diplomats Who Are Men - **There Have Been 22 Heads Of Mission**.



- The Last Indian High Commissioner To Islamabad Was **Ajay Bisaria**, Who Was Withdrawn After Pakistan Decided To Downgrade The Status Of The High Commission Following The **Abrogation Of Article 370 In 2019**.



- Women Diplomats Have Been Posted To Pakistan Earlier, **But Not At The Highest Level**. It Is Also Considered A Hardship Posting, Since Islamabad Was

Declared A “**Non-family**” Posting For Indian Diplomats A Few Years Ago. That Usually Limits Women Officers From Taking Up The Assignment In Pakistan.

- Pakistan Government Has Chosen **Saad Warrach**, Currently Director General Of The Afghanistan, Iran And Turkey Desk At The Foreign Ministry, As The New Chargé D’affaires In New Delhi.

