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Friday, 27 December 2024

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DR.G.S.GIRIDHAR SIR



Friday, 27 December 2024

Jnanpith Award winner M.T. Vasudevan Nair dies at 91

- Noted Writer and Jnanpith Award Winner M T Vasudevan Nair Passes Away at 91

Prolific Career:

- Authored nine novels, 19 collections of short stories, several essays and memoirs, and directed six films.
- Wrote approximately 54 screenplays during a career spanning seven decades.

Literary Icon:

- His novel Naalukettu (The Ancestral House) is a classic in Malayalam literature.
- Other acclaimed works include Asuravithu, Manju, and Kaalam.

Awards and Honours:

- Received the Jnanpith Award in 1995, India's highest literary honour.
- Honoured with numerous awards, including the Kendra Sahitya Akademi Award, Kerala Sahitya Akademi Award, Vayalar Award, Vallathol Award, Ezhuthachan Award, Mathrubhumi Literary Award, and O N V Literary. Conferred the Padma Bhushan in 2005, India's third-highest civilian honour.

Q. Who was M T Vasudevan Nair? **A renowned writer, filmmaker, and Jnanpith Award-winning literary icon in Malayalam literature**



Friday, 27 December 2024

Gen. (Dr) V K Singh Appointed as Mizoram Governor; Key Leadership Changes Announced by President

- Gen. (Dr) Vijay Kumar Singh, PVSM, AVSM, YSM (Retd.) has been appointed as the Governor of Mizoram by the President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu.

Change in Odisha Governorship:

- Dr. Hari Babu Kambhampati, the current Governor of Mizoram, has been appointed as the Governor of Odisha.
- He replaces Shri Raghubar Das, whose resignation has been accepted.

Gen. (Dr) Vijay Kumar Singh:

- Born on May 10, 1951, he served as the 24th Chief of Army Staff of India.
- Entered politics post-retirement and was elected as a Member of Parliament from Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh, in the 2014 and 2019 Lok Sabha elections on a BJP ticket.

Q. Who has been appointed as the new Governor of Mizoram? **Gen. (Dr) Vijay Kumar Singh, PVSM, AVSM, YSM (Retd.).**



Friday, 27 December 2024

The bilateral FTA between South Korea and the Philippines to be implemented

- The bilateral FTA between South Korea and the Philippines is set to be implemented, aiming to strengthen trade ties and stabilize supply chains.
- **Market Liberalization:** The FTA ensures a high level of market liberalization, fostering investment and enhancing business exchanges between the two countries.
- **Tariff Elimination:** South Korea will eliminate tariffs on 94.8% of products, while the Philippines will do so on 96.5% of products, effective immediately.
- **Trade and Supply Chain Stability:** The FTA is expected to enhance trade portfolios and ensure a stable supply chain for both nations.

Automobile Sector Benefits:

- Tariffs on South Korean cargo trucks and passenger vehicles will be eliminated immediately.
- Tariffs on eco-friendly vehicles will be phased out within five years.

Q. What is the goal of the South Korea-Philippines FTA? **To strengthen trade ties, foster investment, and stabilize supply chains.**



Friday, 27 December 2024

UNGA adopts milestone treaty against cybercrime

- The UN General Assembly adopted the United Nations Convention against Cybercrime, marking a significant step in global efforts to combat cybercrime.
- Historic Treaty: This is the first international criminal justice treaty negotiated by UN member states in over 20 years.
- Acknowledging Cyber Risks: The convention recognizes the severe risks posed by the misuse of information and communication technologies, enabling crimes on an unprecedented scale, speed, and scope.
- Focus Areas: Protects states, enterprises, and individuals from crimes like terrorism, human trafficking, drug smuggling, and online financial crimes.
- Victim-Centric Approach: Highlights the growing impact of cybercrime on victims and prioritizes justice, particularly for vulnerable groups.

Q. When will the United Nations Convention against Cybercrime enter into force? **90 days after the 40th signatory ratifies it.**



Friday, 27 December 2024

Turkey to support Syria in rebuilding energy, transport infrastructure

- Negotiations with Syria: Turkey plans to begin negotiations with Syria to delineate maritime boundaries in the Mediterranean Sea, as announced by the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure.
- Energy Exploration Influence: The deal would allow both countries to increase their influence in energy exploration in the Mediterranean region.
- International Law Compliance: Any future agreement will be in accordance with international law.
- Previous Agreement with Libya: A similar maritime agreement signed between Turkey and Libya in 2019 escalated tensions with Greece over energy exploration in the Mediterranean.
- Turkey's Role in Syria: Turkey has become a key player in reshaping Syria's political landscape following the collapse of Bashar Al-Assad's regime earlier this month.
- Incentives for Turkey: Turkey has strong incentives to engage with Syria's new rulers, as it hosts around 3 million Syrian migrants and Turkish companies stand to benefit from postwar reconstruction efforts.
- Stability in Syria: Successful negotiations on the maritime deal depend on stable political authority in Syria.

Q. What is Turkey planning to negotiate with Syria? Turkey plans to negotiate maritime boundaries in the Mediterranean Sea with Syria.



Friday, 27 December 2024

Maia Sandu sworn in as Moldovan president

- Maia Sandu was sworn in for her second term as President of the Republic of Moldova.
- Reflection on First Term: She acknowledged the multiple crises faced during her first term but highlighted the determination and courage of Moldovans in choosing the right side of history.
- European Union Integration: Sandu emphasized Moldova's progress in opening the door to the European Union, with Moldova waiting for official acceptance as a candidate country.
- Concerns Over Russian Aggression: Since Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022, Sandu has urged Western leaders to address Moldova's security concerns, fearing it could be the next target of Russia.
- Transnistria Conflict: Moldova is home to the breakaway region of Transnistria, a Kremlin-backed area with Russian troops and a major weapons storage facility, though it remains internationally recognized as part of Moldova.
- Council of Europe Resolution: In March 2022, the Council of Europe passed a resolution recognizing Transnistria as being under Russian occupation.

Q. Who was sworn in for their second term as President of Moldova? **Maia Sandu.**



Friday, 27 December 2024

Arunish Chawla is new Revenue Secretary, Vineet Joshi shifted from Manipur to Centre

- The central government announced new appointments for key secretarial positions, including higher education, revenue, and personnel and training.
- Higher Education Secretary: Manipur Chief Secretary Vineet Joshi was appointed as Higher Education Secretary, filling the vacancy left by K Sanjay Murthy, who became Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG).
- Former Role of Vineet Joshi: Joshi served as Manipur's Chief Secretary during ethnic conflicts and tensions since May last year.
- Gubernatorial Appointments: Ajay Kumar Bhalla, former Union Home Secretary, was named Governor of Manipur, and former Army Chief General V K Singh was appointed Governor of Mizoram.
- Revenue Secretary: Arunish Chawla was appointed Revenue Secretary and will hold an additional charge as Secretary of the Ministry of Culture until further notice.
- Previous Role of Arunish Chawla: Chawla, who served as Secretary of the Department of Pharmaceuticals, will be succeeded by Amit Agrawal, the former CEO of UIDAI.
- National Commission for Minorities: Sanjay Sethi was appointed Secretary of the National Commission for Minorities, replacing Neelam Shammi Rao.

Q. Who was appointed as the Higher Education Secretary in the latest bureaucratic reshuffle? **Vineet Joshi.**



Friday, 27 December 2024

NCLAT approves Sapphire Media's acquisition of Big 92.7 FM

- The National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) upheld Sapphire Media's resolution plan for acquiring Big 92.7 FM, dismissing appeals by Radio Mirchi, Orange FM, and others.
- NCLT Clearance: The resolution plan was earlier approved by the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) on May 6, 2024, after being filed by the resolution professional in Mumbai.
- Contested Decision: Unsuccessful bidders, including Abhijit Realtors & Infraventure and Creative Channel Advertising & Marketing, filed five appeals against the NCLT decision, alleging irregularities, but these were dismissed by the NCLAT.
- Big 92.7 FM Overview: Big 92.7 FM, owned by Reliance Broadcast Network Ltd (RBNL), operates 58 radio stations across India, reaching over 1,200 towns and 50,000 villages.
- Strategic Acquisition: The acquisition by Sapphire Media bolsters its media sector expansion, including its portfolio of a national Hindi news channel, India Daily, and a significant presence in outdoor advertising.
- Leadership of Sapphire Media: The company is led by Aditya Vashistha and Sahil Mangla, who have been instrumental in its growth.

Q. Which company's resolution plan for acquiring Big 92.7 FM was upheld by NCLAT? **Sapphire Media.**



Friday, 27 December 2024

Pharmed Ltd chairman emeritus Krishan Kumar Aurora passes away at 88

- Chairman Emeritus of Pharmed Limited and BioPlus Group, Krishan Kumar Aurora, passed away at 88.
- Legacy of Excellence: Pharmed and BioPlus Group became synonymous with innovation and quality under Aurora's leadership, earning respect from healthcare providers.
- Career Overview: Aurora's career spanned over six decades, beginning as an accountant at AF Fergusons and later moving to Boots Pure Drug Co. (India) Ltd.
- Role at Smith Kline & French (India): He started in 1961 and rose to Managing Director and International Vice President for Southeast Asia.
- Contribution to OPPI: Aurora joined the Executive Committee of the Organisation of Pharmaceutical Producers of India (OPPI) in 1973, driving reforms that strengthened the pharmaceutical industry.
- Leadership at Bangalore Chamber: As President of the Bangalore Chamber of Industry and Commerce (1988-89), he initiated critical reforms, including setting up the Chamber's first office and securing tax relief for captive power generation.
- Transformation of Pharmed Limited: In 1990, he took over Pharmed Limited, transforming it into a trusted name in the Indian pharmaceutical sector.

Q. Who was the Chairman Emeritus of Pharmed Limited and BioPlus Group who recently passed away? **Krishan Kumar Aurora.**



Friday, 27 December 2024

Amitava Chatterjee appointed new managing director, CEO of J-K Bank

- New MD & CEO for J&K Bank: Amitava Chatterjee, currently Deputy Managing Director of State Bank of India (SBI), has been appointed as the new Managing Director and CEO of J&K Bank.
- Term Start: Chatterjee's term will begin on December 30, 2024, for a period of three years.
- Outgoing MD & CEO: Chatterjee will replace Baldev Prakash, whose term ends on December 29, 2024.
- Banking Career: Chatterjee has over three decades of experience in the banking sector, spanning diverse locations and strategic roles.
- Previous Leadership Role: He previously served as the MD and CEO of SBI CAPS, the investment banking subsidiary of State Bank of India.
- Operational Expertise: Chatterjee has led SBI operations as Chief General Manager (CGM) for the New Delhi and Jaipur circles, managing high-profile clientele such as PSUs, NBFCs, and DISCOMs.

J-K Bank

- Company type: Private
- Founded: 1 October 1938
- Founder: Maharaja Hari Singh
- Headquarters: Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir, India

Q. Who has been appointed as the new MD and CEO of J&K Bank? **Amitava Chatterjee.**



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