

# Daily News Analysis

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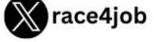




#### Friday, 27 December 2024













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NEWS





# 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:**

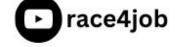
- Authored nine novels, 19 collections of short stories, several essays and memoirs, and directed six films.
- Wrote approximately 54 screenplays during a career spanning seven decades.

#### **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 thirdhighest 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.

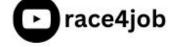
#### Change in Odisha Governorship:

- 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 on 96.5% of products, effective will do so 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 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.















## 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.















## 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 the Mediterranean Sea with Syria.















### 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 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 Kremlinbacked 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.















#### 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.



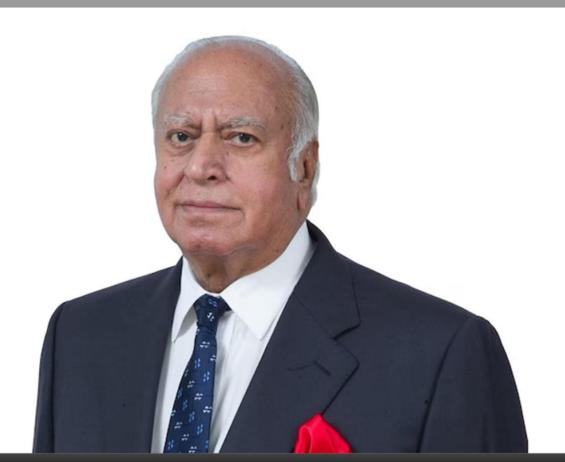












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#### Pharmed Ltd chairman emeritus Krishan Kumar Aurora passes away at 88

- 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: Mahraja 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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