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Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

10 July 2024

Kerala Regional News

Vizhinjam Port	 Vizhinjam International Seaport in Thiruvananthapuram (VIST) is preparing for a significant milestone with the arrival of the San Fernando, a vessel. This marks the commencement of trial operations ahead of the port's official commissioning in September to October. The port, designed as India's first semi-automated container port, aims to establish itself as a crucial transshipment hub.
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About:

- The Vizhinjam International Transhipment Deepwater Multipurpose Seaport is an ambitious project taken up by the Government of Kerala.
- It is designed primarily to cater container transhipment besides multi-purpose and break bulk cargo.
- The port is currently being developed in a landlord model with a Public Private Partnership component on a design, build, finance, operate and transfer ("DBFOT") basis.
- The private partner, the Concessionaire M/s Adani Vizhinjam Port Private limited, commenced the construction on 5th December 2015.

What is a Transshipment Deepwater Seaport?

- A transhipment deepwater seaport is a **port that is** specifically designed to handle large container ships.
- These ports are typically located in **deep water**, which allows them to accommodate the largest container ships in the world.



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Kerala's	Initiative
Become	India's Al Hub

Context:

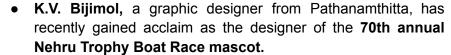
- Kerala is set to host the country's inaugural international GenAl conclave in Kochi.
- The event, spanning two days, is a collaborative effort between the state government and IBM, aiming to propel Kerala towards Industry 4.0 readiness and foster economic growth through transformative technologies like AI.

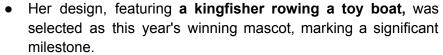
Key points:

- **Objectives:** The conclave aims to explore Al's potential to revolutionize society and the economy, positioning Kerala as a leader in Al innovation nationally.
- **Participants:** Expected attendees include industry leaders, policymakers, innovators, startups, technocrats, investors, and academic institutions keen on leveraging Al advancements.
- **Vision:** Minister P. Rajeeve emphasized Kerala's ambition to become a knowledge-based economy by leveraging AI, fostering a hub of knowledge-based industries.

Nehru Trophy Boat Race Mascot









Nehru Trophy Boat Race:

- The Nehru Trophy Boat Race takes place annually on **Punnamada Lake near Alappuzha, Kerala.**
- Scheduled on the second Saturday of August, it attracts a massive crowd of about two lakh spectators, including international tourists.

Cultural Significance:

• For the villages of **Kuttanad**, victory in this race with their traditional snake boats, known as chundanvallams, brings immense pride and celebration lasting months.

Snake Boats (Chundanvallams)
Description:

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- The chundanvallams are awe-inspiring traditional snake boats, stretching over 100 feet in length and featuring a distinctive raised prow.
- Originating from **Kerala's coastal communities**, they earned the name 'snake boats' from colonial rulers, drawing a loose comparison to boats found in Norway.

Historical Context Origin

- The Nehru Trophy Boat Race traces its origins back to 1952 when Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru visited Alappuzha.
- During his visit, a spontaneous boat race was held in his honor, with the Nadubhagam Chundan winning the inaugural event.
- Impressed by the oarsmen's skill, Nehru even boarded the winning boat, underscoring the race's significance.

Legacy:

- In December 1952, Nehru donated a silver trophy shaped like a snake boat, now known as the Nehru Trophy.
- Inscribed with Nehru's vision of the race as a unique aspect of community life in Travancore Cochin, the trophy remains a symbol of cultural pride and celebration in Alappuzha.

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