




10 July 2024

Kerala Regional News

<p>Vizhinjam Port</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. <p>About:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Vizhinjam International Transshipment Deepwater Multipurpose Seaport is an ambitious project taken up by the Government of Kerala. • It is designed primarily to cater container transshipment 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. <p>What is a Transshipment Deepwater Seaport?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A transshipment 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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<p>Kerala's Initiative to Become India's AI Hub</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kerala is set to host the country's inaugural international GenAI 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. <p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objectives: The conclave aims to explore AI's potential to revolutionize society and the economy, positioning Kerala as a leader in AI innovation nationally. • Participants: Expected attendees include industry leaders, policymakers, innovators, startups, technocrats, investors, and academic institutions keen on leveraging AI advancements. • Vision: Minister P. Rajeev emphasized Kerala's ambition to become a knowledge-based economy by leveraging AI, fostering a hub of knowledge-based industries.
<p>Nehru Trophy Boat Race Mascot</p> 	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • K.V. Bijimol, a graphic designer from Pathanamthitta, has recently gained acclaim as the designer of the 70th annual Nehru Trophy Boat Race mascot. • Her design, featuring a kingfisher rowing a toy boat, was selected as this year's winning mascot, marking a significant milestone. <p>Nehru Trophy Boat Race:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. <p>Cultural Significance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For the villages of Kuttanad, victory in this race with their traditional snake boats, known as chundanvallams, brings immense pride and celebration lasting months. <p>Snake Boats (Chundanvallams) Description:</p>



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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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