



CURRENT AFFAIRS 09th Jan 2024

National News

1. First Meeting Of Inland Waterways Development Council Held In Kolkata



The Inland Waterways Authority of India, operating under the Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways, created history by hosting the inaugural meeting of the Inland Waterways Development Council (IWDC) in Kolkata.

This event, spearheaded by Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways, Sarbananda Sonowal, brought together representatives from waterway states, central government officials, and experts aboard the MV Ganga Queen.

The primary focus was on unveiling key initiatives, such as the “Harit Nauka – Guidelines for Green Transition of Inland Vessels” and the “River Cruise Tourism Roadmap 2047.” Additionally, the meeting saw the signing of several Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs), symbolizing collaborative efforts towards advancing inland waterways and associated sectors.

2.ONGC Begins First Oil Production In Krishna-Godavari Deep-Water Block



Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), one of India’s leading energy exploration and production companies, achieved a significant milestone on January 7 by commencing the first oil production from the deep-water KG-DWN 98/2 Block.

Located in the Krishna Godavari (KG) basin off the Bay of Bengal on the Kakinada coast, this development marks a crucial step forward in India’s energy landscape. The anticipated peak production from the 98/2 field is remarkable, with expectations set at around 45,000 barrels of oil per day and over 10 Million Metric Standard Cubic Metres per Day (MMSCMD) of gas.

As the project advances, ONGC is actively working towards the final phase of the 98/2 block, with efforts underway to commence the production of the remaining oil and natural gas by mid-2024.

State News

3.Mamata Banerjee Launches ‘Yogyasree’ For SC/ST Students In West Bengal



West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has recently introduced a comprehensive social welfare scheme named “Yogyasree.”

The initiative aims to provide free training modules for Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) students in West Bengal, specifically targeting entrance and competitive examinations.

The Yogyasree scheme encompasses the establishment of fifty training centres across the state. These centres will offer cost-free training for SC and ST students, focusing on competitive examinations. Additionally, 46 centres will provide similar opportunities for those aspiring to secure government jobs and pursue careers in civil services.

4.Kerala Woman Sets Guinness Record, Sings In 100+ Languages



Kerala teenager Suchetha Satish achieved a remarkable feat by setting a Guinness World Record during her performance at the ‘Concert for Climate’ in Dubai on

November 24, 2023. Singing in an astounding 140 languages, she captivated the audience and earned widespread acclaim for her musical prowess.

Suchetha Satish, a 16-year-old prodigy, mesmerized the audience at the Indian Consulate Auditorium in Dubai during the Concert for Climate. The event was part of the COP 28 summit, attended by representatives from over 140 nations, emphasizing the global significance of her achievement.

Ms. Satish's repertoire showcased her versatility, as she sang in 29 Indian languages and 91 international languages. The performance included a rendition of the Sanskrit song "Janki Jane" from the Malayalam movie Dhvani, along with a Hindi composition by her mother, Sumitha Ayilliath, and renowned Bollywood composer Monty Sharma.

Business News

5. Government To Invest 60,000 Cr In River Cruise Tourism And Green Vessels



Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal announced a significant government investment of Rs 60,000 crore by 2047 in the development of river cruise tourism and eco-friendly vessels. This initiative aims to boost tourism, enhance water transport, and create employment opportunities.

Sonowal outlined the plan, stating that Rs 45,000 crore would be allocated to river cruise development, increasing passenger capacity from 2 lakh to 15 lakh by 2047.

Additionally, the government plans to invest Rs 15,000 crore over the next decade in green transport, intending to develop 1,000 environmentally friendly vessels and ferries.

6. Microsoft's 'AI Odyssey' To Upskill 100,000 Indian Developers: Boosting AI Talent In India



Microsoft India has unveiled the 'AI Odyssey' initiative, aiming to train 100,000 Indian developers in the latest AI technologies.

The program seeks to equip developers with skills essential for executing AI projects aligning with business goals. It is open to all AI enthusiasts in India, regardless of experience.

The program is divided into two level. Level One focuses on using Azure AI services with practical skills. Level Two involves an online assessment and interactive lab tasks for Microsoft applied skills credentials. Completion offers a chance to win a VIP Pass for the Microsoft AI Tour in Bangalore on Feb 8, 2024.

Important Days News

7. Pravasi Bharatiya Divas 2024



Pravasi Bharatiya Divas, also known as Non-Resident Indian (NRI) Day, celebrated on January 9, serves as a tribute to the contributions and achievements of the overseas Indian community to the development of India.

The day also marks the return of Mahatma Gandhi from South Africa to India in 1915, symbolizing the leadership that fueled India's freedom struggle. The inaugural celebration of Pravasi Bharatiya Divas took place in 2003. Originally an annual event, the format underwent revision in 2015, transforming it into a biennial celebration. This restructuring included the introduction of theme-based conferences during the intervening years, bringing together overseas diaspora experts, policy-makers, and stakeholders.

Ranks & Reports News

8.Top 3 States Driving India's MSME Landscape: Insights From CBRE-CREDAI Report



A recent report by CBRE-CREDAI sheds light on the landscape of micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in India, revealing noteworthy trends and state-wise contributions.

As of December 2023, the country boasts over 3 crore registered MSMEs, with Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, and Uttar Pradesh jointly constituting nearly 40% of this vibrant sector.

Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu emerge as pivotal contributors, collectively representing a significant portion of the registered MSMEs in India.

Uttar Pradesh secures a notable position among the top three states, holding a 9% share in the national MSME landscape. Policy initiatives, including interest subsidies and stamp duty exemptions, have catalyzed this growth.'

Cities like Agra, Kanpur, Varanasi, Lucknow, Meerut, and Ghaziabad have witnessed the robust emergence of MSME clusters, actively participating in the Udyam scheme...
Read more at: