

Daily Current Affairs 10 January 2024



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Important News: International

PhonePe Appoints Ritesh Pai As CEO

Why in News:

- Digital payments platform PhonePe has announced the appointment of Ritesh Pai as chief executive officer (CEO) of its International Payments business.

Key Points:

- In his last role, as the president of products and solutions at TerraPay, Pai was responsible for launching and implementing payment products and solutions globally.
- At PhonePe, he will lead the firm's international growth and expansion plans.
- PhonePe achieved a new milestone in October 2023 as the fintech platform crossed 5 billion (5.33 billion) transactions via a unified payments interface (UPI).
- Meanwhile, PhonePe has expanded into financial services such as insurance, mutual funds, stockbroking, and lending. In August last year, PhonePe announced its foray into stock broking with Share(dot)Market.
- The company also designated new CEOs for each vertical. Hemant Gala has been promoted to the role of CEO for the lending business while Vishal Gupta, Vivek Lohcheb, and Ujjwal Jain will lead insurance, Pincode, and Share.Market vertical respectively.

Source: Entracker

First Cyclone Of 2024, Alvaro, Strikes Madagascar

Why in News:

- Alvaro, the first cyclone of 2024, made landfall near Morombe in Madagascar on January 1, 2024.

Key Points:

- It is the first cyclone to hit Madagascar during the 2023-2024 season, which in the southwest Indian Ocean runs from around late October to May.



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- Over 16,100 people have been affected by Alvaro. At least five people have been killed and 8,400 people displaced by the disaster.
- Atsimo-Andrefana, Haute Matsiatra and Menabe are the worst-hit regions of Madagascar in the wake of Alvaro.
- The world's fourth-largest island was hit by disastrous storms in January and February of 2023.
- It was hit by tropical storm Cheneso, which made landfall on January 19, 2023, along the northeastern coast of the country.
- Cheneso killed 33 people and affected 90,870, according to the National Bureau of Risk and Disaster Management (BNGRC).

Source: Down to Earth

First Meeting Of Inland Waterways Development Council

Why in News:

- The first meeting of the 'Inland Waterways Development Council' was held at Inland Waterways Authority of India, Kolkata, operating under the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW).

Key Points:

- The maiden edition of Inland Waterways Development Council (IWDC) in Kolkata culminated with many firsts in an effort to ramp up capacity and augment viability of inland waterways of the country. The meet, chaired by the Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways and Ayush, Shri Sarbananda Sonowal was attended by key stakeholders including ministerial representations from states as well as prominent stakeholders including policy makers and the industry leaders.
- The meet, with an objective to enable inland waterways as conduits of economic growth and commerce in the country, committed an investment ₹45,000 crore for development of river cruise tourism in the country. Of this ambitious sum, an estimated ₹35,000 crore has been earmarked for cruise vessels and another ₹10,000 crore for development of cruise terminal infrastructure at the end of Amrit Kaal, i.e. by 2047.



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- To amp up inland waterways for cargo trade, an investment of ₹15,200 crore has been arrived at the Global Maritime India Summit (GMIS) held in Mumbai in October, 2023. This is likely to register a growth rate of more than 400%, increasing the volume upto 500 Million Tonnes Per Annum (MTPA) by 2047. Shri Sonowal also launched 'Harit Nauka' guidelines and 'River Cruise Tourism Roadmap, 2047' at the inaugural session of IWDC in Kollkata.
- At the IWDC, a roadmap was chalked to enable capacity in an additional 26 waterways, fit for River Cruise tourism from the operational strength of 8 waterways. The number of cruise circuits with night stays to be increased from 17 to 80 during the same time.
- In an effort to boost infrastructure in the inland waterways, the number of river cruise terminals to be increased up to 185, registering a growth of 1233% from the present strength of 15 terminals. Building on the capacity of enhanced circuits, the cruise tourism traffic with night stays to be move up from 5,000 to 1.20 lakh by 2047. Similarly, the local cruise tourism traffic on National Waterways without night stay to be increased from 2 lakh to 15 lakh by 2047.

Source: PIB

Important News: National

Mamata Banerjee launches 'Yogyasree' for SC/ST students

Why in News:

- Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee of West Bengal has recently unveiled an all-encompassing social welfare initiative called "Yogyasree."

Key Points:

- The recently launched "Yogyasree" initiative by Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee of West Bengal is a comprehensive social welfare program.
- It is designed to offer free training modules to Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) students in the state, with a particular focus on preparing them for entrance and competitive examinations.



- The Yogyasree initiative involves setting up fifty training centers throughout the state.
- These centers will provide free training for SC and ST students, with a specific emphasis on competitive examinations.
- Furthermore, 46 additional centers will extend similar opportunities for individuals aiming to excel in government jobs and pursue careers in civil services.
- Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has launched an anti-ragging toll-free number for students, aligning with the Yogyasree scheme.

Source: Economic Times

Kerala Woman Sets Guinness Record

Why in News:

- Kerala Woman Sings In 140 Languages, Sets Guinness World Record

Key Points:

- A lady from Kerala, Suchetha Satish, made a Guinness World Record by singing in 140 languages at the Concert for Climate in Dubai, UAE, on November 24, 2023.
- She set a new Guinness World Record by singing in 140 languages in 9 hours, on Nov 24th, 2023.
- According to the Guinness World Records page, Ms Satish broke the record by performing in 140 languages to raise awareness about Climate Change at the Indian Consulate Auditorium in Dubai.
- The number 140 was chosen to represent the 140 nations that attended the COP 28 summit in Dubai.
- Guinness World Records is an Irish reference book published annually, listing world records both of human achievements and the extremes of the natural world.
- The brainchild of Sir Hugh Beaver, the book was co-founded by twin brothers Norris and Ross McWhirter in Fleet Street, London, in August 1955.

Source: NDTV



Indra Mani Pandey Takes On BIMSTEC Secretary General Role

Why in News:

- Ambassador Indra Mani Pandey, a senior diplomat of India, assumed the position of Secretary General (SG) of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) in Dhaka.

Key Points:

- Indra Mani Pandey, succeeded Tenzin Lekphell of Bhutan, is the 4th SG of BIMSTEC and will remain in office for a period of three years, said a press release issued by BIMSTEC Secretariat.
- As a career diplomat, Ambassador Indra Mani Pandey has been a part of the Indian Foreign Service since 1990. Before assuming the role of Secretary General at BIMSTEC, he served as the Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations and other International Organizations in Geneva.
- The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) is a regional organization that was established on 06 June 1997 with the signing of the Bangkok Declaration. Initially known as BIST-EC (Bangladesh-India-Sri Lanka-Thailand Economic Cooperation), the organisation is now known as BIMSTEC and comprises seven Member States with the admission of Myanmar on 22 December 1997, and Bhutan and Nepal in February 2004.
- On 06 June 1997, representatives of the Governments of Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka, and Thailand came together in Bangkok, and signed the 'Declaration on the Establishment of the Bangladesh-India-Sri Lanka-Thailand Economic Cooperation (BIST-EC)'

Source: News on AIR



'Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar' 2023

Why in News:

- The Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports announced 'Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar' 2023.

Key Points:

- 'Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar' is given to corporate entities (both in private and public sector), Sports Control Boards, NGOs, including sports bodies at the State and National level, who have played a visible role in the area of sports promotion and development.
- The selection committee, headed by Sports Secretary Smt. Sujata Chaturvedi, includes members of past award winners, industry associations, sports journalists/experts/commentators, Sports Secretaries of State Governments, Indian Olympic Association and NGOs active in sports.
- The six core awards which constitute India's National Sports Awards are the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award or simply the Khel Ratna, the Arjuna Award, the Dronacharya Award, the Major Dhyan Chand Award, the Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Trophy, also called the MAKATrophy, and the Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar.

Source: PIB



Important News: Day

Pravasi Bharatiya Divas 2024

Why in News:

- Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD), also known as Non-Resident Indian (NRI) Day, is celebrated on January 9 to mark the contribution and achievements of the overseas Indian community to the development of India.

Key Points:

- Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) or NRI Day is celebrated in India every year on 9 January. The day commemorates the return of Mahatma Gandhi, the greatest Pravasi from South Africa to India in 1915 for the struggle of Independence. One of the main aims of recognising Pravasi Bharatiya Divas is to pay homage and honour to the Overseas Indian community who play a significant role in the development of the country.
- Pravasi Bharatiya Divas was first celebrated in 2003. Its format was later revised in 2015 to celebrate the event once every two years and to hold theme-based conferences during the intervening period with participation from overseas diaspora experts, policy-makers, and stakeholders.
- The Pravasi Bharatiya Divas is the flagship event of the Ministry of External Affairs. It is held in different cities, to showcase the diversity and progress of different regions of India.
- The theme of Pravasi Bharatiya Divas is chosen to reflect the current priorities and concerns of the Indian diaspora. The theme of Pravasi Bharatiya Divas 2021 was "Contributing to Atmanirbhar Bharat" and 2023 was "Diaspora: Reliable Partners for India's Progress in Amrit Kaal"
- Another aspect of the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas is the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awards. The awards were initiated in 2003 by the Indian Government to recognize the achievements and contributions of NRIs and



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PIOs in various fields such as education, science and technology, arts and culture, social work, public service, trade and industry, and philanthropy.

Source: Mint

