



07 September 2023

Kerala Regional News

Person in News: Prajith Jayapal



Why in the News?

- Prajith Jayapal from Kerala is a very well-known disability rights activist. He plans to drive cross-world and document how different countries are making it easy for people with disabilities.

Key Points:

- Prajith Jayapal, paralysed from the neck below after an accident in 2011 at Kozhikode bypass, has dedicated his life to inspiring people with disabilities; finding modern technologies to support them and raising awareness in society about inclusiveness.
- Now, Prajith Jayapal is on a quest, named Drive for Disabled (D4D), to drive to Six continents, 84 countries, 80,000 kilometres within 400 days.
- He will be the first disabled person from the state to try such a cross-world trip driving by himself.

Mid-day Meal Crisis: Delay in fund release affecting noon meal scheme in Kerala schools

Why in the News?

- Kerala State government is yet to provide the noon meal funds for June, July, and August.
- The noon-meal scheme in schools across Kerala has been quite a success despite fund shortage.

Do you know?

- The expenditure on the noon-meal scheme is shared by the Centre and State on a 60:40 ratio.
- The Centre will not release its share of the funds without the State submitting the statement of accounts for the money released for the past months.
- Funds are released each time only after the accounts of the previous installment are submitted.

Invasive aquatic species posing a huge challenge for Kerala

What is an invasive species and why are they a problem?

- Invasive species are non-native species that have colonised a new area to the point of damaging the surrounding environment and are seen as one of the top five major threats to our ecosystem today.
- Invasive species are capable of causing extinctions of native plants and animals, reducing biodiversity, competing with native organisms for limited resources, and altering habitats.



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	<p>According to a study,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• After the 2018 floods, Kerala is home to more than 32 alien fish species and a few alien aquatic weeds.</li> <li>• Most of these are originally from South, central and North America, southeast Asia and China.</li> <li>• As per experts, management and eradication of alien species in the water bodies is a huge challenge as it is comparatively easier to manage an invasion on land than on waters.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Alien specie has wiped out clams and oysters from Kerala lakes: Study</b></p>	<p><b>Key points:</b> As per report by <b>Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)</b> -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Invasive alien specie, the <b>Caribbean false mussel</b>, has wiped out native clams and oysters from the lakes of Kerala.</li> <li>• The Caribbean false mussel, scientifically known as <b>Mytilopsis sallei</b>, was originally from the Atlantic and Pacific coast of South and Central America but has spread widely.</li> <li>• Researchers fear that the tropical cyclone Ockhi, which struck the Kerala coast in 2017, may have triggered the spread of the <b>'Varathan Kakka' (alien bivalve mollusc' in Malayalam)</b> across the state by carrying it into new waters.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)</b></p>	<p><b>What is IPBES?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is an independent intergovernmental body, established by member States in 2012.</li> <li>• It strengthens the science-policy interface for biodiversity and ecosystem services for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, long-term human well-being and sustainable development.</li> </ul> <p><b>Do you know?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Invasive Alien Species Assessment was recently released by IPBES.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Agritourism park to come up at Ezhikkara</b></p>	<p><b>Key Points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agritourism park to come up at Ezhikkara near North Paravur.</li> <li>• Palliyakkal Cooperative Bank is mootng the project so as to attract domestic and foreign tourists.</li> <li>• The park will provide facilities for the tourists to stay in the area and study about the agricultural practices in Ezhikkara.</li> <li>• The motto of Palliyakkal Cooperative Bank is to promote tourism along with agriculture.</li> </ul>



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