



18 September 2023

National and International News

<p><b>International Day of Democracy</b></p>	<p><b>In news:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>The 15th of September</b> was celebrated as an international day of democracy.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This year's theme of the day was “<b>Empowering The Next Generation</b>”.</li> <li>• The theme focuses upon the young people's essential role in advancing democracy.</li> </ul> <p><b>Did you know?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The <b>United Nations</b> has developed a <b>democracy fund</b> which is used to finance those projects which ensure a vibrant democracy .</li> </ul>
<p><b>PM launches Vishwakarma scheme</b></p>	<p><b>PM Vishwakarma Yojana:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is a <b>Central Sector Scheme</b> with a financial outlay of Rs.13,000 crore.</li> <li>• <b>Time period:</b> Five years (FY 2023-24 to FY 2027-28).</li> <li>• <b>Aim:</b> To strengthen and nurture the Guru-Shishya parampara or family-based practice of traditional skills by artisans and craftspeople working with their hands and tools.</li> <li>• The scheme also aims at improving the quality, as well as the reach of products and services of artisans and craftspeople and to ensure that the Vishwakarmas are integrated with the domestic and global value chains.</li> <li>• Under this scheme, the <b>artisans and craftspeople will be provided recognition through PM Vishwakarma certificate and ID card</b>, Credit Support upto Rs.1 lakh (First Tranche) and Rs.2 lakh (Second Tranche) with a concessional interest rate of 5%.</li> <li>• The Scheme will further provide Skill Upgradation, Toolkit Incentive, Incentive for Digital Transactions and Marketing Support.</li> <li>• Under the scheme, there will be two types of skilling programmes -- Basic and Advanced and a stipend of Rs 500 per day will also be provided to beneficiaries while undergoing skills training.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Project Cheetah</b></p>	<p><b>Key facts about Cheetah</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The cheetah is the fastest land animal, which has the fastest running speed record of 93 and 98 km/h (58 and 61 mph).</li> <li>• It is considered to be a big cat and belongs to the Felidae family.</li> <li>• They have a small rounded head, a lightly built body, and a roundly spotted coat.</li> <li>• They have long thin limbs and long tails.</li> </ul>



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	<p><b>Project Cheetah</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The introduction of cheetahs in India is being done under Project Cheetah, which is the world's first intercontinental large wild carnivore translocation project.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Santiniketan declared UNESCO World Heritage site</b></p>	<p><b>Context</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Santiniketan, the famed place in West Bengal where poet Rabindranath Tagore built Visva-Bharati over a century ago, has been inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key points</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Established in 1901 by poet and philosopher Tagore, Santiniketan was a residential school and centre for art based on ancient Indian traditions and a vision of the unity of humanity transcending religious and cultural boundaries.</li> <li>A 'world university' was established at Santiniketan in 1921, recognising the unity of humanity or "Visva Bharati".</li> <li>Distinct from the prevailing British colonial architectural orientations of the early 20th century and of European modernism, Santiniketan represents approaches toward a pan-Asian modernity, drawing on ancient, medieval and folk traditions from across the region.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Former French Colonies Mali, Niger And Burkina Faso Create Military Alliance</b></p>	<p><b>Context</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Leaders of the former French colonies Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger inked a charter to form a military alliance of Sahel states in defiance to the Western nations after overthrowing the ruling governments and forging closer cooperation amongst the Junta rulers.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key points</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>African states have decided to militarily assist each other, individually or collectively to depose external aggression or internal threat to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of their nations.</li> <li>The document signed by the three nations read that an "attack on the sovereignty or territorial integrity of one or more parties to the charter will be regarded as aggression against the other parties and will require their assistance, including the use of military force."</li> <li>The charter also stated that the signatories would effectively fight terrorism and any organised terror activity in the Sahel states.</li> </ul>
<p><b>For sickle cell patients, an elusive disability certificate</b></p>	<p><b>Context</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A plan to issue permanent disability certificates to those above the age of five with sickle-cell disease has been stuck in a quagmire at three Union Ministries for nearly three years.</li> <li>In a report tabled during the Monsoon Session of Parliament, a Standing Committee of Parliament urged the government to take a quick decision.</li> </ul>



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	<p><b>Key points</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Health Ministry is responsible for determining the criteria and rules for disability certificates, while the Social Justice and Empowerment Ministry issues the certificates, which are required for getting reservation and benefits of schemes.</li> <li>• Given that sickle cell disease, a debilitating genetic blood disorder, is especially prevalent among tribal populations across India, the Tribal Affairs Ministry is keen on ensuring that the certificates are issued to patients with chronic anaemia, pain, and complications arising out of tissue and organ damage.</li> </ul>
<p><b>India becomes 13th nation that can issue OIML certificates</b></p>	<p><b>Context</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• India joins an exclusive club of 12 nations, today. India is now authorized to issue the International Organization of Legal Metrology (OIML) – an international standard-setting body– approval certificates.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key points</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• India now can support its domestic manufacturers of weighing and measuring products like weighing devices, taxi meters, speedometers, agricultural measuring devices such as cereal moisture meters, health-related devices such as exhaust measurements and alcohol content of drinks, etc., to export to the international market.</li> </ul> <p><b>The International Organization of Legal Metrology (OIML)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is an intergovernmental organisation that was created in 1955 to promote the global harmonisation of the legal metrology (science of measurement) procedures that underpin and facilitate international trade.</li> <li>• It has 63 Member States and 64 Corresponding Members. India became a member in 1956.</li> <li>• India is now an exclusive group of nations, including Australia, Switzerland, China, Czech Republic, Germany, Denmark, France, United Kingdom, Japan, Netherlands, Sweden, and Slovakia, as the 13th country worldwide, authorized to issue OIML approval certificates.</li> </ul>



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Kerala Regional News

Champions Boat League (CBL)



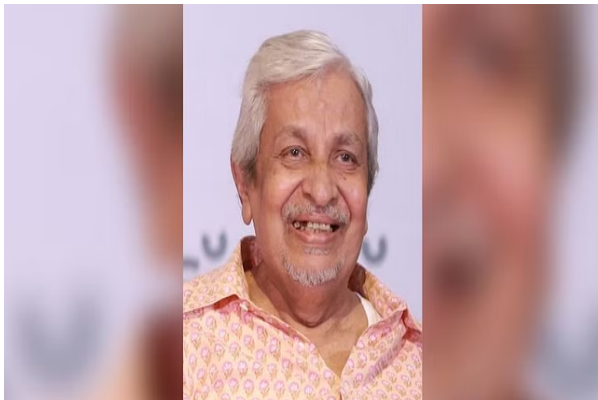
In News: Veeyapuram Chundan wins CBL inaugural race in Kerala.

- Riding the wave of good form, Pallathuruthy Boat Club's Veeyapuram Chundan won the inaugural race of the third edition of the Champions Boat League (CBL) held on the Kochi backwaters, at Marine Drive.

Key Points:

- The Champions Boat League (CBL) is a snake boat racing league held annually in the backwaters of Kerala, India.
- The league was launched in 2019 by the Kerala Tourism Development Corporation (KTDC) to promote tourism and to preserve the traditional snake boat racing culture of Kerala
- Iruttukuthi boats are used in this race.

Person In News: C R Omanakuttan



In News: Writer C R Omanakuttan passes away at 80

- Malayalam writer and academician C R Omanakuttan passed away at the age of 80.

Key Points:

- C. R. Omanakuttan was born at Thirunakkara in Kottayam in 1943
- He was an Indian writer, humorist, and cultural activist from the state of Kerala.
- He was awarded the 2010 Kerala Sahitya Akademi Award for Humour for his book Sree Bhoothanatha Vilasam Nair Hotel.
- He worked as a professor of Malayalam in different government colleges in Kerala, and also worked at the Maharaja's College, Ernakulam, for 23 years.
- Known for his satire and humorous criticism, Omanakuttan has published 25 books. Kalpadu, Omanakathakal, Pakarnnattam, Ezhava Sivanum Varikunthavum, Abhinava Sakunthalam, Savamtheenikal, Bhranthante



diary and Devadas are some of his popular works.

2 PSUs from Kerala have emerged as the best-performers

About NIFTY



In News:

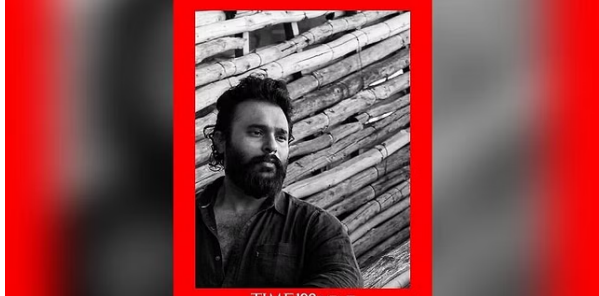
- As markets cheered the National Stock Exchange's Nifty index crossing 20,000 for the first time last week, two unexpected companies have emerged as the best-performers from Kerala.
- The two companies are PSUs Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore Ltd (FACT) and Cochin Shipyard Ltd (CSL)

Key Points:

- NIFTY is a benchmark stock market index that represents the weighted average of 50 of the largest Indian companies listed on the National Stock Exchange (NSE).
- NIFTY is calculated using a free-float market capitalization-weighted methodology.
- NIFTY is rebalanced every quarter to ensure that it remains representative of the Indian stock market.
- NIFTY is used by investors and traders to track the performance of the Indian stock market and to make investment decisions. It is also used by fund managers to benchmark the performance of their funds



### Kochi architect Vinu Daniel in TIME magazine's '100 Next' List



**In News:** Kochi architect Vinu Daniel in TIME magazine's '100 Next' list of emerging leaders

- Architect Vinu Daniel, whose Kochi-based Wallmakers aims "to build sustainable spaces that are responsive to specific site contexts and conditions while maintaining a balance between innovative and utilitarian design", has been named in the TIME magazine's '100 Next -- The World's Rising Stars list.
- "Vinu teaches us respect for local wisdom and material culture is key for a truly responsible attitude towards the environment and the future,"

**Key Points:**

- TIME magazine's 100 Next' list is an annual list of 100 emerging leaders from around the world who are shaping the future.
- The list is selected by TIME editors and is based on a variety of factors, including the individual's impact, innovation, and leadership potential.
- The '100 Next' list is a diverse group of individuals who come from a variety of backgrounds and fields.
- They include scientists, entrepreneurs, activists, artists, and athletes.

### Karuvannur Scam

#### About Enforcement Directorate (ED)

**In News:** Karuvannur Scam; ED raid on nine banks, crores laundered through Ayanthol Bank

- In the Karuvannur bank fraud case, ED has been arrested at nine places in Thrissur and Ernakulam districts, including Ayanthol Service Cooperative Bank.
- ED said that many benami transactions took place in connection with Karuvannur Co-operative Bank. The new tests are a continuation of the findings.

**Key Points:**

- The Enforcement Directorate (ED) is a financial intelligence agency and economic intelligence



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agency responsible for enforcing economic laws and fighting economic crime in India.

- It is part of the Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance, Government of India.
- The ED was established in 1956 to enforce the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1947.
- its mandate has been expanded to include the enforcement of other economic laws, such as the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002, and the Fugitive Economic Offenders Act, 2018.

## Parambikulam Tiger Reserve

### Key points:

- **Location** - Kerala
- Parambikulam Tiger Reserve is located in Sungam hills, between Nelliampathy and Anamalai ranges.
- The Parambikulam Tiger Reserve was established in the 1960s.
- Today, Parambikulam Tiger Reserve is a highly protected forest area.
- It is one of the biodiversity hotspots of the Western Ghats and is known for its tropical and subtropical moist broadleaf forests.
- The reserve is home to a diverse range of flora and fauna, including Bengal tigers, Indian elephants, sloth bears, Indian gaur, and several species of primates.
- The reserve is also known for its unique dam and boating facility on the Parambikulam River, which offers visitors the opportunity to explore the scenic beauty of the reserve.
- Due to its ecological significance and diverse wildlife, Parambikulam Tiger Reserve is a popular destination for ecotourism and nature enthusiasts.

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