




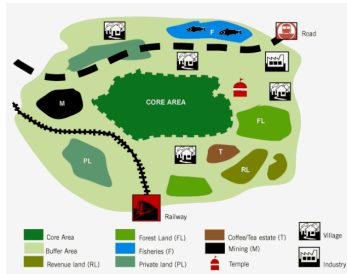
22 May 2024

National and International News

<p><b>Copernicus Emergency Management Service (EMS) Programme</b></p>	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A helicopter carrying Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi crashed in East Azerbaijan province recently.</li> <li>• A multi-agency effort is underway to locate the helicopter.</li> <li>• The European Union activated its Copernicus EMS rapid response mapping service.</li> </ul> <p><b>About Copernicus Emergency Management Service (EMS) Programme:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Copernicus EMS is a European Union program providing geospatial information in support of emergency response and disaster risk management.</li> <li>• It is part of the broader Copernicus Earth Observation program.</li> <li>• <b>Main Services:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Rapid Mapping:</b> Provides geospatial information within hours or days of a disaster event for emergency response.</li> <li>○ <b>Risk &amp; Recovery Mapping:</b> Offers detailed maps and analysis for disaster preparedness, recovery, and risk reduction.</li> <li>○ <b>Early Warning Systems:</b> Includes European and Global Flood Awareness Systems (EFAS and GloFAS), European Forest Fire Information System (EFFIS), and Drought Observatory (EDO).</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>R21/Matrix-M vaccine</b></p> 	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Serum Institute of India (SII) has announced the commencement of exports of the 'R21/Matrix-M' malaria vaccine to Africa, contributing to the global fight against the disease.</li> </ul> <p><b>About R21/Matrix-M:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A new malaria vaccine has been approved for preventing malaria in children.</li> <li>• It is the second malaria vaccine recommended by the WHO, following the RTS,S/AS01 vaccine.</li> <li>• Developed by the Jenner Institute at Oxford University and the Serum Institute of India.</li> <li>• Supported by the European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership (EDCTP), the Wellcome Trust, and the European Investment Bank (EIB).</li> </ul>



Critical Tiger Habitat (CTH)



Why in news?

- The **Supreme Court** has ordered the **Rajasthan government** to **shut down 68 mines** operating within a **1-kilometre radius of the critical tiger habitat (CTH)** in the **Sariska reserve**.

About Critical Tiger Habitat (CTH):

- Critical Tiger Habitat, also known as **Core Area**, is a **legally protected area** designated under the **Wildlife Protection Act of 1972** in India.
- It is **crucial for the survival and recovery of tiger populations**.
- **Purpose:** The **primary objective of CTH is to ensure the long-term conservation of tigers and their habitats** by maintaining an inviolate area where **human activities are restricted**.
- **Identification:** CTHs are **identified based on scientific criteria such as**
  - The presence of tigers,
  - Prey availability,
  - Habitat quality, and
  - Connectivity to other tiger habitats.
- **Management:** CTHs are **managed by the respective state forest departments** with support from the **National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)** to **implement conservation measures and manage human-wildlife conflict**.
- **Relocation of Villages:** To create inviolate areas, villages within CTHs may be relocated. This is **done with the consent of the villagers and involves compensation packages** to ensure their livelihoods are not adversely affected.
- **Inviolate Areas:** These are areas within CTH where **no human activities, including resource extraction and tourism, are allowed** to ensure minimal disturbance to tigers and their prey.
- **Buffer Zones:** Surrounding the CTH, buffer zones are **established where limited human activities are permitted**. These areas act as a **transition zone between human settlements and core tiger habitats**.

Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)

Why in news?

- **Airbus Helicopters** and the **Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)** have signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** to **provide financing solutions for the purchase of Airbus helicopters in India**.
- This **agreement aims to identify and support potential**



	<p>civil helicopter operators in India who are interested in purchasing Airbus helicopters.</p> <p><b>About SIDBI:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Established:</b> 2nd April 1990, under an Act of the Indian Parliament</li> <li>● <b>Purpose:</b> Principal financial institution for the promotion, financing, and development of the <b>Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprise (MSME) sector</b></li> <li>● <b>Jurisdiction:</b> Ministry of Finance</li> <li>● <b>Initial Incorporation:</b> Wholly owned subsidiary of the <b>Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI)</b></li> <li>● <b>Current Ownership:</b> Shares held by the <b>Government of India (GoI) and 22 other institutions/PSBs/insurance companies</b> owned or controlled by the Central Government</li> <li>● <b>Headquarters:</b> Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh</li> <li>● <b>Functions:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Assists MSMEs in acquiring funds for growth,</b> marketing, development, and commercialization of technologies and innovative products</li> <li>○ <b>Provides several schemes and offers financial services and products</b> to meet the individual requirements of various businesses</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Bacterial Pathogens Priority List (BPPL)</b></p>	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The <b>WHO's latest Bacterial Pathogens Priority List (BPPL) highlights major global threats</b> posed by <b>critical priority pathogens</b>.</li> <li>● These <b>pathogens have a high burden, resist treatment, and spread resistance to other bacteria</b>.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The list includes <b>gram-negative bacteria resistant to last resort antibiotics</b>.</li> <li>● It also <b>features Mycobacterium tuberculosis resistant to the antibiotic Rifampicin</b>.</li> <li>● <b>The list categorizes 15 families of antibiotic-resistant bacteria into three priority levels:</b> critical, high, and medium.</li> </ul> <p><b>About BPPL:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Purpose:</b> The BPPL is designed to identify bacterial pathogens that pose the greatest threat to public health due to their resistance to antibiotics.</li> <li>● <b>Origin:</b> Developed by the World Health Organization (WHO) in <b>2017</b>.</li> <li>● <b>Criteria for Selection:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The level of resistance,</li> <li>○ Mortality rates,</li> </ul> </li> </ul>



- Prevalence in the community,
- Healthcare burden, and
- Potential for spreading resistance.

### Kerala Regional News

<p><b>Flood Forecast and Early Warning System</b></p>	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Equinoct</b>, a <b>Kochi-based community-sourced modeling solution provider</b>, will install and operate 100 rain gauges.</li> </ul> <p><b>About Equinoct:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Objective:</b> Install and operate <b>rain gauges</b> with community participation.</li> <li>● <b>Coverage Area:</b> <b>Periyar and Chalakudy river basins</b> in Kerala.</li> <li>● <b>Beneficiary Districts:</b> Idukki, Ernakulam, Thrissur, and some areas of Palakkad district.</li> <li>● <b>Implementation:</b> <b>Equinoct</b>, a Kochi-based community-sourced modeling solution provider, is leading the project.</li> <li>● <b>Recognition:</b> Equinoct's <b>Community-sourced Impact-based Flood Forecast and Early Warning System</b> received recognition from <b>UNICEF</b>.</li> <li>● <b>Community Involvement:</b> Community members, including students, are trained to install and read the gauges.</li> <li>● <b>Hyper-local Climate Warning System:</b> The initiative aims to <b>predict accurate areas impacted by rainfall</b>, enabling better disaster mitigation plans.</li> </ul>
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Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

**National  
Commission (NMC)**

**Medical**

**Why in news?**

- The **National Medical Commission (NMC)** has issued a **show cause notice to Idukki Medical College Hospital due to inadequate facilities.**

**About NMC:**

- **Establishment:** Replaced the **Medical Council of India (MCI)** in 2020.
- **Purpose:** **Regulatory body** for medical education and practice in India.
- **Jurisdiction:** **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare,** Government of India.
- **Headquarters:** **New Delhi,** India.
- **Four autonomous boards:**
  - Undergraduate Medical Education Board (UGMEB)
  - Postgraduate Medical Education Board (PGMEB)
  - Medical Assessment and Rating Board (MARB)
  - Ethics and Medical Registration Board (EMRB)



Kerala Administrative Tribunal (KAT)

Why in news?

- Director of General Education (DGE) Shanavas S. has issued an unconditional apology to the Kerala Administrative Tribunal (KAT) regarding the transfer of higher secondary teachers.
- The apology was regarding non-compliance with the tribunal's orders.

About KAT:

- **Establishment:** Kerala Administrative Tribunal (KAT) was established on August 25, 2010.
- **Purpose:** KAT was set up to adjudicate disputes and complaints regarding the recruitment and conditions of service of persons appointed to public services and posts in connection with the affairs of the State of Kerala.
- **Jurisdiction:** The tribunal has jurisdiction over matters concerning the services and posts under the state government, excluding members of the judiciary.
- **Legislation:** It was established under Article 323A of the Constitution of India and operates under the Administrative Tribunals Act, 1985.
- **Location:** The principal bench of KAT is located in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.
- **Composition:** KAT consists of a chairman and several judicial and administrative members. The chairman is typically a retired judge of a High Court.
- **Appeals:** Decisions made by KAT can be challenged in the High Court of Kerala.



Kireedam' bridge

Why in news?

- Actor Mohanlal received a special gift from Kerala Tourism on his 64th birthday.
- Tourism Minister P A Mohamed Riyas announced that the project to convert the 'Kireedam' bridge in Vellayani, Thiruvananthapuram, into a tourist spot is in its final stages.

Key points:

- **Significance:** The bridge is a famous location from the 1989 cult classic movie 'Kireedam' starring Mohanlal.
- **Cultural Impact:** The superhit song 'Kanneerpoovinte Kavilil Thalodi...' was shot on this bridge, earning it the name 'Kireedam' bridge.
- **Awards:** Mohanlal won the National Film Award - Special Mention for his performance in 'Kireedam'.
- **Tourism Potential:** The public will soon enjoy the scenic beauty of the Vellayani Lake area where the movie was filmed.
- **Budget:** The state government sanctioned Rs 1.22 crore for the project under the 'Cine Tourism Project- Kireedam Palam at Vellayani'.
- **Initiative:** 'Kireedam' bridge is the first project under Kerala Tourism's cinema tourism initiative.
- **Future Projects:** Bekal Fort in Kasaragod, featured in Mani Ratnam's movie 'Bombay', is another site to be developed similarly.



Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

<p>Unnathi Startup City programme</p>	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The <b>Kerala Startup Mission (KSUM)</b> is seeking <b>Expressions of Interest (Eoi)</b> from <b>entrepreneurs of the Scheduled Tribes (ST) community</b> for funding opportunities under the <b>Unnathi Startup City programme</b>.</li> </ul> <p><b>About Unnathi Startup City programme:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Purpose:</b> <b>Social empowerment for the less privileged</b>, focusing on <b>educational, professional, and entrepreneurial advancement of SC and ST youths</b>.</li> <li><b>Facilities:</b> Incubation and support for entrepreneurial ventures by SC and ST community members.</li> <li><b>Eligibility:</b> Individuals, groups, and ST startups registered under KSUM.</li> <li><b>Funding:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Total Funding: <b>Loan-based</b></li> <li><b>80% Funding:</b> Sanctioned by the Scheduled Tribes Development Department</li> <li><b>20% Funding:</b> From Kerala State Scheduled Tribes Corporation or bank</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Priority Groups:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Low-income entrepreneurs</li> <li>ST youths who completed professional courses or training programmes</li> <li>Differently-abled persons</li> <li>Unmarried mothers</li> <li>Widows</li> <li>Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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