31 May 2024
National and International News

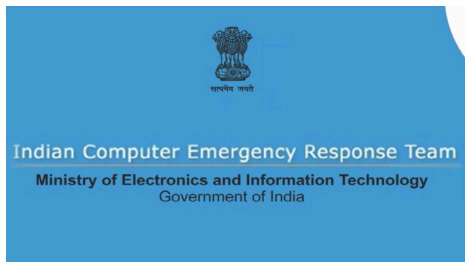|	

77th World Health Assembly	**Why in news?**
	● **India emphasized its commitment** to proactive actions for **women, children, and adolescent health** and well-being at the **77th World Health Assembly in Geneva**.
	
	Key points:
	● **Date and Venue**: Held from 21 to 30 May 2024, in **Geneva**, **Switzerland**.
	● **Participants**: Attended by delegations from **all WHO Member States**, health ministers, and other senior health officials.
	● **Theme**: Focused on "**Health for All: Protect Everyone**".
	● **Agenda**:
	  ○ Global health emergencies, including the COVID-19 pandemic.
	  ○ Universal Health Coverage (UHC).
	  ○ Health workforce issues.
	  ○ Non-communicable diseases (NCDs).
	  ○ Mental health and substance use.
	● **Key Discussions**:
	  ○ Strengthening health systems.
	  ○ Financing for health.
	  ○ Improving access to medicines and vaccines.
	  ○ Addressing health inequities.
	● **Resolutions and Decisions**:
	  ○ Adoption of resolutions on primary health care.
	  ○ Strategies to combat antimicrobial resistance.
	  ○ Global strategies on digital health.

PRAGATI-2024	**Why in news?** ● The **Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS)**, an **autonomous body** under the **Union Ministry of Ayush**, launched "**PRAGATI-2024**" (Pharma Research in AyurGyan And Techno Innovation). **About PRAGATI-2024**: ● **Full Name**: Pharma Research in AyurGyan And Techno Innovation (PRAGATI-2024) ● **Objective**: To **explore research opportunities** and **foster collaboration** between the **Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS)** and the **Ayurveda drug industry**.

	● Focus Areas: 　　○ Advanced research in Ayurveda 　　○ Development of new Ayurvedic drugs 　　○ Innovation in Ayurvedic drug manufacturing processes **● Key Participants**: 　　○ Researchers from CCRAS 　　○ Industry experts from the Ayurveda drug sector 　　○ Academic institutions specializing in Ayurvedic studies
eMigrate project 	**Why in news?** ● The **Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)**, the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)**, and the **Common Service Centre eGovernance Services India Limited** have recently **signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)**. ● This **MoU aims to create a synergy between the Common Service Centre (CSC)** SPV and the MEA **to provide eMigrate services** through CSCs across the country. **About eMigrate project**: ● The project **aims to assist blue-collar workers going to Emigration Check Required (ECR) countries** by **making the emigration process seamless and online**. ● It **addresses issues faced by migrant workers** and **brings foreign employers, registered recruitment agents, and insurance companies onto a common platform** to **promote safe and legal migration**. ● Under this MoU, the **eMigrate Portal of MEA will be integrated with the CSC's portal** to provide the following eMigrate services to citizens through CSCs: 　　○ **Facilitate registration** of applicants on the eMigrate portal. 　　○ **Assist with** uploading and processing required **documents** on the eMigrate portal. 　　○ **Support booking medical and other services** required by migrant workers or applicants registered on the eMigrate portal. 　　○ **Create awareness** about eMigrate services across India.
Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In)	**Why in news?** ● **India's Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In)** has **issued a high-severity warning** for a **vulnerability in Google Chrome for desktops**. ● This vulnerability **affects both Windows and Mac users and can be exploited by remote attackers** to execute arbitrary code on targeted systems.

Indian Computer Emergency Response Team
Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
Government of India
	About CERT-In:
	● **Establishment**: CERT-In was established in **2004**.
	● **Objective**: Its primary objective is to **enhance the security of India's communications** and **information infrastructur**e.
	● **Function**: Acts as the **national nodal agency** for responding to **computer security incident**s.
	● **Responsibilities**:
	  ○ **Incident Response**: Handles and coordinates responses to cybersecurity incidents.
	  ○ **Alerts and Advisories**: Issues alerts and advisories on latest cyber threats and vulnerabilities.
	  ○ **Awareness**: Conducts training and awareness programs on cybersecurity.
	  ○ **Collaboration**: Works in collaboration with various stakeholders, including government departments, private sectors, and international agencies.
	  ○ **Research and Development**: Engages in research to develop tools and techniques for enhancing cybersecurity.
	● **Legislation**: Operates under the **Information Technology Act, 2000**.
	● **Services**: Provides services such as early warning, vulnerability handling, incident response, and security quality management services.

RudraM-II missile	**Why in news?** ● The **Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO)** successfully **flight-tested the RudraM-II missile** from the **Su-30 MK-I platform of the Indian Air Force (IAF) off the coast of Odisha**. **About RudraM-II missile**: ● **Type**: **Air-to-surface** missile ● **Developed by**: Defence Research and Development Organisation (**DRDO**) ● **Purpose**: Designed for precision strikes against enemy targets ● **Range**: Capable of engaging targets at around **350 km**

Kerala Regional News

Monsoon Croaks Bioblitz 2024	**Why in news?**
	- The Centre for Citizen Science and Biodiversity Informatics under **Kerala Forest Research Institute (KFRI)** is organizing **Monsoon Croaks Bioblitz 2024**. **About Monsoon Croaks Bioblitz 2024**: - Aims to **document frogs in Kerala during the monsoon**. - Seeks to **cultivate scientific curiosity** and **interest in frogs among the public**. - An **intensive survey to identify and document as many species as possible within a designated area**. **Key habitats** need to be **identified to protect endangered species**. - Scientific observations will be **part of the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) database**. - Previous Monsoon Croaks Project (2023) identified about 80 amphibian species, including 11 IUCN Red List species. **Most observed species**: Wayanad Bush Frog and Asian Common Toad. **Important recorded species**: Resplendent Shrub Frog, Malabar Torrent Toad, Small Tree Frog, Anaimalai Flying Frog, and Purple Frog.
Professional Theatre Competition-2023	**Why in news?** - Kerala State **professional theatre awards declared**. **About Professional Theatre Competition-2023**: **Best Play**: "**Manikarnika**" by **Souparnika**, Thiruvananthapuram **Organizer**: Regional theatre of the **Kerala Sangeetha Nataka Akademi** **Best Director**: **Rajesh Erulath** for "**Santham**" by Amala Communications, Kanjirappally **Best Script**: **K.C. George** for "**Chandrika Vasantham**" by Deva Communications, Kayamkulam **Best Male Actor**: Girish Ravi in "Santham" **Best Female Actor**: Meenakshi Aditya in "Parannuyaranoru Chiraku" **Best Male Singer**: Nishad K.K. in "Parannuyaranoru Chiraku" **Best Female Singer**: Shyama K.R. in "Kuchelan" by Aksharakala, Thiruvananthapuram **Best Music Director**: Udaykumar Anchal for "Parannuyaranoru Chiraku" **Best Lyricist**: Vibhu Pirappankode for "Manikarnika" **Special Jury Mention**: Anita Suresh for "**Chandika**

	Vasantham" and Sunil Poomadam for "**Manikarnika**"

Energy Management Centre Kerala (EMC)	**Why in news?**
	● A workshop and exhibition on **sustainable cooling technology** was organized on May 30 by the **Energy Management Centre (EMC) Kerala** and the **World Resource Institute India**, in collaboration with the **Indian Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air Conditioning Engineers' Kochi chapter**.
	● The **exhibition showcased high insulation quality glasses, cool roof coatings, and energy-efficient mechanical cooling systems for buildings**.
	
	About EMC:
	● Kerala Government is the **first state government in India to establish an Energy Management Centre (EMC)** at the state level.
	● The primary **aim of EMC is to transform and use the energy sector as a catalyst for promoting an economically and ecologically sustainable development** process.
	● **Key areas of focus include**:
	  ○ Management of energy technology systems (both conventional and non-conventional).
	  ○ Energy conservation across all sectors of the economy.
	  ○ Energy resource management.
	  ○ Rural and urban energy systems.
	  ○ Energy education and training.
	  ○ Energy generation and conservation-based employment.
	  ○ Poverty alleviation programmes.

District Consumer Disputes Redressal	**Why in news?** ● The **Ernakulam District Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission** has ordered the **arrest of a Kerala Water Authority (KWA) official** for **not complying with an order to ensure water supply to a consumer and pay ₹65,000 in compensation**. **District Consumer Disputes Redressal**: ● **Establishment**: Established under the **Consumer Protection Act of 1986**, also known as the **District Consumer Forum**. ● **Jurisdiction**: **Handles consumer complaints for goods and services** valued up to **₹1 cror**e. ● **Composition**: Typically **consists of a President and two other members**, **one** of whom **should be a woman**. ● **President**: Usually a person who is or has been, or is **qualified to be, a District Judge**.

	● **Function**: Addresses disputes involving defective goods, deficient services, unfair trade practices, and other consumer grievances.
Red laterite cliff of Varkala 	**Why in news?** ● The **red laterite cliff of Varkala**, facing Papanasam beach, has been **declared a national geological monument** by the **Geological Survey of India (GSI)**. ● A **portion of the cliff** recently **caved in due to heavy rain**. **About Red laterite cliff of Varkala:** ● **Location**: **Varkala**, **Kerala**, India, facing the Papanasam beach. ● **Formation**: Composed of **red laterite**, which is a soil and rock type **rich in iron and aluminum**. ● **Rarity**: **Rare geological formation in Asia**. ● **Appearance**: Characterized by its distinct red color due to the **high iron oxide content**.

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