



19 June 2024

Kerala Regional News

<p>Kerala Water Authority (KWA)</p>	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The State Human Rights Commission has registered a case based on a petition concerning the potential outbreak of epidemics due to the uncleaned state of two Kerala Water Authority (KWA) tanks at Palluruthy. <p>About KWA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formed in 1984. Created under the Kerala Water and Wastewater Ordinance, 1984 (later replaced by the Kerala Water Supply and Sewerage Act, 1986). Headquarters: Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala. Key Functions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planning and implementation of water supply projects. Maintenance of water supply and sewerage infrastructure. Provision of potable water to urban and rural areas. Management of wastewater and sewage treatment facilities. Major Projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jal Jeevan Mission: Ensuring household tap connections in rural areas. AMRUT (Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation): Improving water supply in urban areas.
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Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

<p>Academic tourism</p>	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Kerala University aims to promote academic tourism by leveraging its strong academic reputation and diverse resources. ● This initiative is included in the university's annual budget for 2024-25, presented on Tuesday. <p>About Academic tourism:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Academic tourism is an emerging concept where individuals travel specifically for educational purposes, such as attending conferences, workshops, seminars, or exploring historical and cultural sites for learning. ● This type of tourism can benefit both the traveler and the host institution or region by fostering knowledge exchange, cultural understanding, and economic development. ● Kerala University exploring academic tourism could involve creating programs that attract students, researchers, and educators from around the world to engage in academic activities and experience the local culture. ● This initiative could enhance the university's global presence and contribute to Kerala's reputation as a destination for educational excellence.
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Kollam port

Why in the news?

- The **Union government** has designated **Kollam port** in Kerala as an **authorized Immigration Check Post (ICP)** for **entry and exit from India** with valid travel documents for all classes of passengers.
- This designation was made through an order by the **Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)**, issued under Rule 3 (b) of the **Passport (Entry into India) Rules, 1950**.

About Kollam port:

- **Location:** Kollam Port, also known as **Thankasseri Port**, is situated in Kollam district, **Kerala**.
- **Type:** Intermediate port.
- **History:** Established in **825 AD** by the rulers of the ancient **Venad kingdom**.
- **Significance:** Historically significant for trade with Chinese, Arabs, and Romans.
- **Facilities:** Equipped with a fishing harbor, cargo handling facilities, and a lighthouse.
- **Connectivity:** Well connected by road and rail; nearest airport is **Trivandrum International Airport**.
- **Administration:** Managed by the **Department of Ports, Government of Kerala**.



National Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Policy 2016

Why in the news?

- **APJ Abdul Kalam Technological University** is set to launch a **start-up cell and an intellectual property rights (IPR) centre.**
- It aimed at **fostering entrepreneurial skills** among students, **encouraging entrepreneurship**, and **increasing awareness of intellectual property rights.**

About National IPR Policy:

- **Date of Approval:** The policy was approved by the Union Cabinet on May 12, **2016.**
- **Seven Objectives:**
 - **Awareness Creation:** Promote awareness about the economic, social, and cultural benefits of IP.
 - **Generation of IP:** Stimulate the generation of IP through a variety of measures, including incentives.
 - **Legal and Legislative Framework:** Strengthen and modernize the IP administration and adjudication systems.
 - **Administration and Management:** Strengthen IP offices and increase human resources capacity.
 - **Commercialization of IP:** Facilitate commercialization of IP rights by providing guidance and support.
 - **Enforcement and Adjudication:** Strengthen enforcement and adjudicatory mechanisms for combating IP violations.
 - **Human Capital Development:** Enhance and strengthen human resources, capacities, and institutions for training and research.



Biodiversity hotspot

Why in the news?

- The **first rapid assessment survey of Indian species** conducted at the **Indian Institute of Management - Kozhikode (IIMK)** by the **Malabar Natural History Society (MNHS)** discovered **668 species of flora and fauna on the campus.**

Key points:

- The **survey recorded** 350 plant species, 189 invertebrates, 19 amphibians, 22 reptiles, 69 birds, and 19 mammalian species.
- The findings highlight that **IIMK is a microcosm of the Western Ghats biodiversity hotspot**, known for its diverse ecological features and array of endemic species.

About Biodiversity hotspot:

- A biodiversity hotspot is a **biogeographic region** that is both a **significant reservoir of biodiversity** and is **threatened with destruction.**
- **Criteria:** To qualify as a biodiversity hotspot, a region must meet two criteria:
 - It must contain at least **1,500 species of vascular plants as endemic** (more than 0.5% of the world's total).
 - It must have lost at least **70% of its original habitat.**
- **Global Hotspots:** There are currently **36 recognized biodiversity hotspots** around the world, including:
 - Tropical Andes
 - Mesoamerica
 - **Indo-Burma**
 - **Western Ghats and Sri Lanka**
 - **Madagascar and the Indian Ocean Islands**
 - **Eastern Himalayas**
 - Mediterranean Basin
- **Western Ghats (India):** One of the eight **"hottest hotspots"** of biological diversity in



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