



25 June 2024

Kerala Regional News

<p><b>UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN)</b></p>	<p><b>Why in the news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Kozhikode</b>, a city in <b>north Kerala</b> celebrated for its rich cultural heritage, has been <b>officially declared India's first UNESCO City of Literature</b> under the <b>UNESCO Creative Cities Network</b>.</li> </ul> <p><b>About UCCN:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Establishment:</b> Launched in <b>2004</b> by <b>UNESCO</b>.</li> <li>● <b>Objective:</b> To <b>promote cooperation among cities</b> that <b>recognize creativity as a strategic factor</b> for <b>sustainable urban development</b>.</li> <li>● <b>Creative Fields:</b> The network <b>covers seven creative fields</b>: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Crafts and Folk Art,</li> <li>○ Design,</li> <li>○ Film,</li> <li>○ Gastronomy,</li> <li>○ Literature,</li> <li>○ Media Arts, and</li> <li>○ Music.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● <b>Membership:</b> As of 2023, there are <b>295 member cities from over 90 countries</b>.</li> <li>● <b>Applications in India:</b> Routed through the <b>Ministry of Culture</b>.</li> <li>● <b>India's Cities in UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN):</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Srinagar and Jaipur:</b> Crafts and Folk Arts category.</li> <li>○ <b>Mumbai:</b> Film category.</li> <li>○ <b>Chennai, Gwalior, and Varanasi:</b> Music category.</li> <li>○ <b>Hyderabad:</b> Gastronomy category.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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<p><b>Aakkulam lake project</b></p>	<p><b>Why in the news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● MLA Kadakampally accuses the Tourism Minister of wilful delay in implementing <b>Aakkulam lake project</b>.</li></ul> <p><b>About Aakkulam lake project:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Aakkulam Lake is located in <b>Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala</b>.</li><li>● <b>Objective:</b> The project aims to rejuvenate and restore the <b>Aakkulam Lake</b>, enhancing its ecological health and recreational potential.</li><li>● <b>Key Components:</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ <b>Dredging and Desilting:</b> Removal of accumulated silt and debris to improve water quality and increase the lake's depth.</li><li>○ <b>Waste Management:</b> Implementation of solid and liquid waste management systems to prevent pollution.</li><li>○ <b>Shoreline Development:</b> Beautification of the lake's surroundings, including landscaping and creation of recreational areas.</li><li>○ <b>Biodiversity Conservation:</b> Initiatives to protect and enhance local flora and fauna.</li></ul></li><li>● <b>Funding and Implementation:</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ The project is funded by the Government of Kerala with support from various environmental and tourism agencies.</li><li>○ Implementation is carried out by the <b>Kerala State Coastal Area Development Corporation (KSCADC)</b>.</li></ul></li></ul>
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<p><b>Sayanthanam scheme</b></p>	<p><b>Why in the news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The <b>Kerala State Housing Board</b> will implement the <b>Sayanthanam scheme</b> to build housing complexes for elderly people living alone.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The <b>first projects</b> will be located on <b>Housing Board land at Gandhi Nagar in Kottayam and Nettayam.</b></li> <li><b>Beneficiaries: Elderly individuals</b> who face <b>loneliness</b> due to their children working in distant places will benefit from this initiative.</li> <li><b>Facilities:</b> The old-age apartment complexes will provide <b>facilities for the mental well-being of the beneficiaries.</b></li> </ul>
<p><b>Navakiranam project</b></p>	<p><b>Why in the news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The '<b>Navakiranam</b>' <b>voluntary relocation scheme</b> has <b>encountered a roadblock due to a shortage of funds</b> in the Forest department.</li> <li>Despite this, the <b>scheme has successfully relocated 784 non-tribal families</b> to areas adjoining the forests.</li> </ul> <p><b>About Navakiranam project:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Objective:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The <b>Navakiranam voluntary relocation scheme</b> was initiated by the Kerala government under the <b>Rebuild Kerala Initiative.</b></li> <li>Its <b>primary goal</b> is to <b>relocate people residing in isolated forest settlements</b> who <b>face threats from wild animal attacks and landslides.</b></li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Target Group: Families residing in areas prone to natural disasters</b> or those <b>living in biodiversity-rich zones</b> where human habitation poses a threat to the environment.</li> <li><b>Incentives:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Financial compensation, land allocation,</b> and support for building new homes in the designated relocation areas.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Couples who own title land with title deeds receive ₹15 lakh as compensation.</li> <li>○ Each unmarried adult above 18 years gets ₹15 lakh, and differently-abled family members receive an additional ₹15 lakh.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Jeevanandam insurance scheme</b></p>	<p><b>Why in the news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Finance Minister K.N. Balagopal in the Assembly denied any ulterior motives behind the <b>Jeevanandam insurance scheme</b> for government employees.</li> </ul> <p><b>About Jeevanandam insurance scheme:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Objective:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The Jeevanandam scheme <b>offers government employees the option to invest a desired amount.</b></li> <li>○ It <b>guarantees a fixed monthly income post-retirement</b> through the State Insurance Department.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● <b>Implementation:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The project <b>deducts a fixed amount monthly from the salary of government employees.</b></li> <li>○ In return, it provides a fixed monthly amount once the employees retire.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● <b>Not Mandatory:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The scheme is not mandatory; <b>employees can choose to participate.</b></li> <li>○ The government aims to <b>ensure insurance coverage and financial security for retirees.</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul>

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