



26 June 2024

Kerala Regional News

<p><b>1st IDF Regional Dairy Conference Asia Pacific-2024</b></p>	<p><b>Why in the news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The <b>first IDF Regional Dairy Conference Asia Pacific-2024</b> is being <b>organized jointly</b> by the <b>Union Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying</b>, the <b>National Dairy Development Board (NDDB)</b>, and the <b>International Dairy Federation (IDF)</b>.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Theme:</b> Farmer Centric Innovations in Dairying</li> <li>It aims to <b>bring together global dairy leaders and experts</b>.</li> <li><b>Focus:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enhancing productivity,</li> <li>Ensuring transparency in milk aggregation,</li> <li>Promoting sustainable practices,</li> <li>Addressing climate challenges, and</li> <li>Advocating for One Health principles.</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>India</b>, as the <b>largest milk-producing nation</b>, has a unique opportunity to draw international attention to the Asia-Pacific region's dairy sector during this event.</li> </ul>
<p><b>India's first off-grid solar power plant</b></p>	<p><b>Why in the news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Sapins</b>, a <b>dairy products company based in Kochi</b>, has <b>established India's first off-grid solar power plant in the dairy sector</b>.</li> <li>This <b>200-kW plant</b>, constructed at a cost of ₹2.8 crore, is located at their upgraded facility in <b>Kizhakkambalam</b>.</li> </ul> <p><b>What is an off-grid solar power plant?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An off-grid solar power plant is a standalone system that <b>operates independently of the main electricity grid</b>.</li> <li>It <b>generates electricity from solar panels and stores it in batteries for use when needed</b>, rather than relying on continuous grid connection.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Kerala Headload Workers Act, 1978</b></p>	<p><b>Why in the news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Trivandrum Chamber of Commerce and Industry (TCCI) expressed <b>concerns about the deterrent effect of the Kerala Headload Workers Act, 1978</b>, on prospective <b>investors in the state</b>.</li> </ul> <p><b>About Kerala Headload Workers Act, 1978:</b></p>



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Enactment:</b> The Kerala Headload Workers Act was enacted in 1978.</li> <li>● <b>Objective:</b> It regulates the employment and working conditions of headload workers in Kerala.</li> <li>● <b>Definition:</b> It defines 'headload work' as the manual labor of carrying goods for hire or reward.</li> <li>● <b>Registration:</b> Provides for the registration of headload workers with the Licensing Authority.</li> <li>● <b>Welfare Measures:</b> Includes provisions for the welfare of headload workers, such as ensuring proper working conditions and timely payment.</li> <li>● <b>Regulation:</b> Empowers the Licensing Authority to regulate recruitment, employment, and wages of headload workers.</li> </ul>
<p><b>National Health Mission (NHM)</b></p>	<p><b>Why in the news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>The Health Minister of Kerala</b> has urgently appealed to the <b>Union Health Minister</b> to release ₹637 crore earmarked for the <b>National Health Mission (NHM)</b> activities in Kerala for the fiscal year 2023-24.</li> </ul> <p><b>About NHM:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Objective:</b> NHM was launched with the aim to provide accessible, affordable, and quality healthcare to rural populations, especially mothers and children.</li> <li>● <b>Launch Date:</b> NHM was launched in May 2013, replacing the earlier <b>National Rural Health Mission (NRHM)</b>.</li> <li>● <b>Components:</b> It integrates various national health programs like <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health (<b>RMNCH+A</b>),</li> <li>○ National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme (<b>NVBDCP</b>), etc.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● <b>Sub-missions:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ National Rural Health Mission (NRHM),</li> <li>○ National Urban Health Mission (NUHM), and</li> <li>○ various state health missions.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● <b>Focus Areas:</b> Key areas of focus include maternal and child health, immunization, communicable diseases control, non-communicable diseases, sanitation, hygiene, etc.</li> <li>● <b>Implementation:</b> Implemented by the <b>Ministry of Health and Family Welfare</b>, Government of India, in collaboration with state governments.</li> <li>● <b>Funding:</b> NHM is primarily funded by the <b>Government of India</b>, with <b>state contributions</b>, and also receives support from external agencies and partnerships.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Construction of Flood</b></p>	<p><b>Why in the news?</b></p>



<p>control dams</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Kerala government announced plans to build nine new dams, including one at Mullaperiyar.</li> <li>• They have also begun steps to construct flood control dams across several river basins, including Periyar, Chalakudy, Chaliyar, Pampa-Achencoil, and Meenachil.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Periyar River:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Location:</b> Kerala and Tamil Nadu</li> <li>○ <b>Significance:</b> Provides water for irrigation and domestic use; major source of hydroelectric power in Kerala through dams like Idukki and Mullaperiyar.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Chalakudy River:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Location:</b> Kerala</li> <li>○ <b>Features:</b> Known for its biodiversity-rich basin and the Athirappilly and Vazhachal waterfalls.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Chaliyar River:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Location:</b> Kerala</li> <li>○ <b>Importance:</b> Supports agriculture and is a source of drinking water; historically significant for trade and transport.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Pampa-Achencoil River:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Location:</b> Kerala</li> <li>○ <b>Pampa River:</b> Flows through the Pathanamthitta and Alappuzha districts; significant for its association with Sabarimala pilgrimage.</li> <li>○ <b>Achencoil River:</b> Known for its religious importance and as a tributary of the Pampa.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Meenachil River:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Location:</b> Kerala</li> <li>○ <b>Features:</b> Known for its picturesque landscapes and agricultural importance.</li> <li>○ <b>Challenges:</b> Pollution from urbanization and agricultural runoff; efforts for conservation and sustainable use ongoing.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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