



01 July 2024

Kerala Regional News

<p><b>State of Travancore-Cochin</b></p>	<p><b>Why in the news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>July 1, marks the <b>75th anniversary</b> of the princely states of Travancore and Cochin merged to form the state of Travancore-Cochin, also known as Thiru-Kochi.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This historic event, which took place in <b>1949</b>, preceded the <b>formation of the state</b>.</li> <li>The merger was a <b>significant milestone in Kerala's history</b>, bringing together two distinct regions and laying the foundation for a united state.</li> <li>The state of Travancore-Cochin emerged as a result of this union, with <b>Thiruvananthapuram as its capital</b>.</li> <li>The <b>legislative assembly and secretariat were established in Thiruvananthapuram</b>, along with Ernakulam and Alappuzha as important administrative centers.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Sabarimala pilgrims insurance scheme</b></p>	<p><b>Why in the news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The <b>Travancore Devasom Board (TDB)</b> has received a positive response from <b>insurance companies for its plan to launch insurance coverage for pilgrims</b> visiting the hill shrine in Sabarimala.</li> </ul> <p><b>About Sabarimala pilgrims insurance scheme:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Most deaths at the hill shrine</b> are due to <b>non-accident reasons such as heart failure and respiratory problems</b>.</li> <li><b>Current Insurance Scheme:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Rs 5 lakh</b> compensation for <b>accidental deaths</b>.</li> <li><b>Rs 30,000</b> allocated for <b>ambulance costs within the state</b>, <b>Rs 50,000</b> for those outside the state.</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>New Insurance Scheme:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pilgrims can opt for coverage by paying a <b>one-time premium of up to Rs 10</b> while booking darshan through the Virtual Q system.</li> <li>Aim to provide an insurance cover of about Rs 5 lakh.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enhanced benefits for pilgrims under the new scheme.</li> </ul>
<p>E-Way Bill for Gold in Kerala</p>	<p><b>Why in the news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kerala plans to introduce an e-way bill for gold to curb tax evasion.</li> <li>Discussed at the recent GST council meeting.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Recommendations:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mandatory e-invoicing for B2B transactions for taxpayers supplying gold and precious stones with annual turnover above Rs 20 crore.</li> <li>Gold consignments above Rs 2 lakh to fall under the e-way bill scope.</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Gold Consumption in Kerala:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Estimated by the World Gold Council (WGC) as having the highest per capita gold consumption in India.</li> <li>Annual consumption of 200-225 tonnes.</li> <li>Annual tax revenue from gold jewellery trade is less than Rs 600-1,000 crore.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p>Kitchen improvement initiative of Kerala</p>	<p><b>Why in the news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kerala looks to bring ergonomic revolution to home kitchens.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The state coordination committee has approved the exploration of factors to create ergonomic, gender-neutral kitchens in households.</li> <li>Specifically, this initiative aims to enhance kitchen facilities, regardless of gender, especially in low-income and middle-income households.</li> <li><b>Gender-Neutral Kitchens:</b> The revised school textbooks in Kerala now depict men and women working together in kitchens. This progressive approach promotes gender equality and inclusivity.</li> <li><b>State Resource Group (SRG):</b> The SRG submitted a report suggesting improvements such as laying tiles, installing kitchen sinks, slabs, racks, and ensuring access to clean water.</li> <li><b>Financial Assistance:</b> Local bodies can allocate funds (up to Rs 75,000) for kitchen upgrades. The goal is to reduce</li> </ul>



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	<p>physical exertion and health issues associated with traditional hearths and squatting during food preparation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Exclusion:</b> New houses built under the <b>Kerala government's LIFE housing scheme won't be part of this kitchen improvement initiative.</b> However, families not covered by the LIFE scheme are eligible for financial assistance.</li> <li>●</li> </ul>
<p><b>Karthumbi brand of umbrellas</b></p>	<p><b>Why in the news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● PM Modi highlights <b>Attapadi tribal women's Karthumbi brand of umbrellas</b> in 'Mann ki Baat'.</li> </ul> <p><b>About Karthumbi brand of umbrellas:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Origin and Purpose:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The Karthumbi umbrella brand was launched in <b>2014</b> in <b>Attappadi, Kerala's Palakkad district.</b></li> <li>○ It aimed to provide a sustainable livelihood for tribal communities, particularly the <b>Muduga, Irula, and Kurumba tribes.</b></li> </ul> </li> <li>● <b>Tribal Women's Involvement:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Around 50 tribal women initially received training in umbrella making.</li> <li>○ 10 of them received expert training outside Attappadi.</li> <li>○ <b>The initiative was driven by Thambu, a tribal welfare organization.</b></li> </ul> </li> <li>● The <b>manufacturing process is seasonal, starting in February,</b> with umbrellas ready by the monsoon in Kerala (usually June).</li> <li>● <b>Symbol of Resilience:</b> The Karthumbi brand umbrellas have become a symbol of resilience and community support for tribal women.</li> </ul>

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