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Kerala Regional News

Floating Treatment Wetlands	Why in the news?
	● The city of **Kochi in Kerala has introduced floating treatment wetlands (FTWs)** as part of its environmental initiatives. **Key points**: ● FTWs are **artificial islands made of plants that help purify water** by **absorbing pollutants** and **providing habitat for aquatic life**. ● These **wetlands are placed in water bodies like lakes** and **ponds** to **improve water quality** and **enhance biodiversi**ty. ● The project **aims to address pollution and promote sustainable water management in urban areas**.
Muziris Heritage Project	**Why in the news?** ● More renovated structures under **Muziris Heritage Project** opened to visitors. **About Muziris Heritage Project**: ● **Historical Significance**: 　○ **Muziris was an ancient port** on the **west coast** of southern India, **serving as a vital trading center**. 　○ It **engaged in commerce with civilizations** such as the **Greeks, Romans, Arabs, Chinese, Jews, Portuguese, Dutch, and even the British**. ● **Lost Legacy Rediscovered**: 　○ The **project aims to revive the legacy of Muziris**, which vanished from historical records. 　○ **Remnants of this legendary seaport were unearthed in Pattanam, Kerala**, after heavy rains. ● **Cultural Showcase**: 　○ Muziris Heritage Project **conserves and showcases the rich heritage of the region**. 　○ It includes **museums, religious sites, beaches, and historical locations**.

	● **First Green Project in Kerala**: Muziris is **recognized as Kerala's first green project**, emphasizing sustainable development. ● **Key Sites**: India's first church, first mosque, and the oldest European monument in Muziris.

Safe Sound Mission	**Why in the news?**
	● The **Safe Sound Mission** has been **launched in Kerala to raise awareness about the dangers of sound pollution**, especially among students.
	
	Key points:
	● Spearheaded by the **Indian Medical Association**, **National Initiative for Safe Sound**, and the **ENT Association**, this initiative **aims to address health issues caused by factors like**
	   ○ loud honking,
	   ○ loudspeakers, and
	   ○ excessive use of headphones and earphones.
	● **By educating students from an early age, the mission seeks to prevent hearing problems, mental stress, and lifestyle diseases** related to sound pollution.

West Nile fever	**Why in the news?**
	● A woman in Alappuzha, Kerala, has been **diagnosed with West Nile fever**.
	
	About West Nile fever:
	● **Cause**: Caused by the **West Nile virus (WNV)**, a member of the **Flavivirus genus**.
	● **Transmission**:
	   ○ **Primarily transmitted to humans through the bite of an infected mosquito**, mainly the **Culex species**.
	   ○ **Birds are the main hosts** and **reservoirs of the virus**.
	   ○ **Can also be transmitted through blood transfusions, organ transplants**, and **from mother to baby during pregnancy, delivery, or breastfeeding** (rare cases).
	● **Symptoms**:
	   ○ Most people (approximately 80%) are **asymptomatic**.
	   ○ **Mild Symptoms**: Fever, headache, body aches, joint pains, vomiting, diarrhea, or rash.
	   ○ **Severe Symptoms**:

	■ High fever, neck stiffness, stupor, disorientation, coma, tremors, seizures, and paralysis. ■ This can lead to **severe neurological illnesses such as encephalitis or meningitis**. ● **Incubation Period**: Typically **2 to 14 days**, but can be longer in people with weakened immune systems.

Smart city project	**Why in the news?**
	● Centre extends deadline for Thiruvananthapuram smart city project to March 2025
	
	About Smart city project:
	● **Objective**: To **promote cities that provide core infrastructure and give a decent quality of life** to their citizens, a clean and sustainable environment, and the application of 'Smart' Solutions.
	● **Core Infrastructure Elements:**:
	  ○ Adequate water supply.
	  ○ Assured electricity supply.
	  ○ Sanitation, including solid waste management.
	  ○ Efficient urban mobility and public transport.
	  ○ Affordable housing, especially for the poor.
	  ○ Robust IT connectivity and digitalization.
	  ○ Good governance, especially e-Governance and citizen participation.
	  ○ Sustainable environment.
	  ○ Safety and security of citizens, particularly women, children, and the elderly.
	  ○ Health and education.
	● **Coverage**: Initially, **100 cities** were selected to be developed as Smart Cities in multiple phases.