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Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

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Kerala Regional News

Kerala's Wild Elephant Population Decline:Survey	**Context:**
	- A recent survey detected a **significant decline in Kerala's wild elephant population.** - Last year's survey by the Forest Department recorded **1,920** elephants, which has now been reduced to **1,793.** **Key findings of Survey:** - The Forest Department attributes this decline to elephants migrating to forest areas in neighboring states. - Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary has the highest number of elephants (813), followed by Anamudi (615). - Nilambur has 198 elephants, while Wayanad has 78. - There has been a 29% decrease in Wayanad and a 12% reduction in Anamudi, primarily due to climate change. **Mortality Rates:** - From 2015 to 2023, 845 wild elephants died, with an increasing number each year. - Young elephants under the age of ten are most prone to death according to the surveys.

Thiruvananthapuram International Airport	**Context:** • Thiruvananthapuram International Airport (TVM) will introduce robots for cleaning, marking a pioneering step in India's adoption of robotic technology. • This initiative could potentially be the first of its kind for Indian airports. **Key points:** • These robots are specially designed to clean sludge and waste in large, industrial confined spaces. • They are being recognized as the world's first robotic scavengers. **Passenger Traffic Growth:** • Thiruvananthapuram International Airport (TRV) saw a notable increase in passenger traffic during the first quarter of 2024-25. • Total passenger count for this period reached over 1.26 million, a 21% rise from the 1.038 million passengers in Q1 2023-24. **Air Traffic Movements (ATMs):** • In Q1 FY2024-25, TRV recorded 7,954 ATMs, a 14% increase from the 6,887 ATMs in Q1 2023-24. **About:** • Established in 1932, it is the first airport in the state of Kerala. • Thiruvananthapuram International Airport , is the second busiest airport in Kerala and the fourteenth busiest in India.

Dr. MS Valiathan: A Medical Pioneer	**Context:** ● Dr. M.S. Valiathan, a celebrated cardiac surgeon and Ayurvedic medicine scholar, left a profound legacy in Indian healthcare. ● He passed away in Manipal at the **age of 90.** ● His contributions significantly impacted healthcare in India and beyond. **Key points:** ● Dr. Valiathan's pioneering efforts in the local production of affordable artificial heart valves revolutionized cardiac care, benefiting over 100,000 patients. ● He was honored with the **Padma Vibhushan in 2005 for his exceptional contributions.** ● As an advocate for **integrating Ayurveda with allopathic medicine,** he authored significant works on Ayurvedic principles and served as the first Vice-Chancellor of Manipal University, expanding its medical education and research programs. ● His lifelong dedication to improving healthcare infrastructure and advancing medical technologies continues to inspire future medical professionals.
Jalasamrudhi	**Context:** ● Officially commenced in 2017, Jalasamrudhi is a significant water conservation initiative in Kerala's Kattakada assembly constituency. ● The project addresses escalating climate challenges and declining groundwater reserves in the region. **Achievements and Impact:** ● The community-based programme effectively halted the acute water scarcity experienced for the past two decades. ● Groundwater levels saw a substantial increase, from 1,355 million cubic meters (mcm) to 4,908.68 mcm between 2017 and 2019. **Initiation and Implementation:** ● Initiated by MLA I B Satheesh post his 2016 election, the project exemplifies local planning combined with government cooperation. ● The initiative involved cleaning 314 ponds and over 43,000 wells, digging more than 300 farm ponds, and installing recharging structures in government institutions and schools.

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