



05 August 2024

Kerala Regional News

<p>Palakkad is 5th landslide prone region in ISRO list</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Palakkad district in Kerala is ranked fifth in India for landslide vulnerability according to ISRO's landslide-prone regions list. • The district has experienced 32 landslide incidents since 2011, primarily due to soil piping, a condition where underground tunnels form due to soil erosion. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ISRO has developed a comprehensive Landslide Atlas of India to address the growing concern over landslides in the country. • This invaluable resource provides detailed information about landslide-prone areas, enabling effective disaster management and mitigation strategies. <p>Key features of the Atlas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extensive database: Contains over 80,000 landslides mapped across India. • Spatial analysis: Identifies landslide-vulnerable regions and ranks districts based on exposure. • Satellite data: Utilizes high-resolution satellite imagery for accurate mapping. • Early warning system: Supports the development of early warning systems to minimize loss of life and property. <p>Most affected states:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North-Eastern States: Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur. • Himalayan States: Uttarakhand, Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh. • Western Ghats: Kerala, Karnataka, Maharashtra.
<p>Bio-toilets</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Kerala High Court has ruled that bio-toilets must be retained at the Sabarimala pilgrimage site.



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- This decision comes after a request to relocate bio-toilets from Sabarimala to relief camps in Wayanad due to landslides in the area

About:

- **Bio-toilets are eco-friendly alternatives to traditional flush toilets.**
- **Bio-toilets**, a revolutionary sanitation solution, were primarily **developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** in India.
- These eco-friendly toilets employ a **unique anaerobic process** where **human waste is converted into water, methane, and carbon dioxide by a consortium of bacteria.**
- This process significantly reduces the need for water and helps in maintaining hygiene.

How Bio Toilets work:

- **Waste decomposition:** Bacteria in the bio-toilet digester tank break down human waste into methane gas and water.
- **Odorless operation:** The anaerobic digestion process eliminates foul odors
- **Water conservation:** Unlike traditional toilets, bio-toilets require minimal or no water for flushing

IAF deploys ZAWER and REECO radars



Context:

- The Indian Air Force has significantly boosted rescue efforts in the landslide-affected Wayanad district by **deploying state-of-the-art ZAWER and REECO radars.**
- These high-tech tools are **designed to penetrate through debris and detect signs of life**, greatly enhancing the search and rescue operations.
- This strategic deployment showcases the use of cutting-edge technology in disaster relief, underscoring the government's commitment to saving lives.

ZAWER:

- ZAWER is a type of radar used by the Indian Air Force for **search and rescue operations.**
- It was deployed to aid in the search efforts following the devastating landslides in Wayanad, Kerala.

Key points about ZAWER radar:

- Used for search and rescue missions.



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deployed in challenging terrains like Siachen glacier. • Helps in locating people trapped under debris or in difficult-to-reach areas. • Provides critical support to rescue teams. <p>REECO:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • REECO radars are specialized radar systems used for search and rescue operations. • They are designed to detect objects buried under debris, such as landslides or collapsed structures. • These radars emit electromagnetic waves that penetrate through the debris and reflect off buried objects, providing valuable information to rescue teams about the location of survivors or victims. <p>Key features of REECO radars:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High penetration capabilities through various types of debris • Ability to detect objects at varying depths • Real-time data processing for quick analysis • Compact and portable for easy deployment in disaster zones
<p>Life Mission</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In order to build houses for as many as 22,500 people in gram panchayats, an additional Rs 350 crore has been allocated for the Life Mission. <p>LIFE Mission:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Life Mission is a massive housing project initiated by the Government of Kerala. • It is a significant initiative aimed at addressing the housing crisis in Kerala and improving the living conditions of vulnerable sections of society • Its primary goal is to provide homes for all landless and homeless families in the state. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing construction: Building a substantial number of houses for eligible families. • Financial empowerment: Providing means of livelihood to ensure long-term sustainability.. • Rehabilitation: Offering comprehensive support to help beneficiaries rebuild their lives.. <p>Also read about "Mission LIFE" which focuses on environmental protection.</p>



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