




06 August 2024

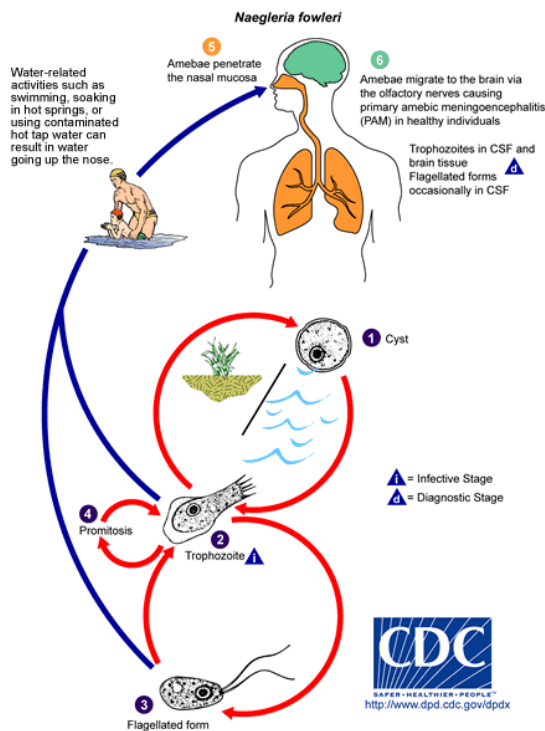
Kerala Regional News

<p><b>Puthumala scheme</b></p>	<p><b>Context:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kerala government plans to <b>adopt the Puthumala rehabilitation model</b> for those affected by the recent landslides in Wayanad.</li> <li>• The <b>Puthumala scheme, implemented after the 2019 landslide</b> in the region, proved successful in providing housing, livelihood, and community facilities to the affected families.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key features of the proposed model include:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Township development:</b> Creating new residential areas with necessary infrastructure.</li> <li>• <b>Land allotment:</b> Providing land plots for rebuilding homes</li> <li>• <b>Livelihood support:</b> Assisting affected families in resuming their economic activities.</li> <li>• <b>Community facilities:</b> Establishing schools, healthcare centers, and other essential amenities</li> <li>• By replicating this successful model, the government aims to ensure a comprehensive and effective rehabilitation process for the Wayanad landslide victims.</li> </ul>
<p><b>ICCS to study reasons for Wayanad Landslides</b></p> 	<p><b>Context:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A devastating landslide struck Wayanad district in Kerala on <b>July 30, 2024</b>, resulting in a high number of casualties.</li> <li>• In response to this tragedy, the <b>Institute of Climate Change Studies (ICCS)</b> has been tasked with investigating the causes of the landslide.</li> <li>• The ICCS will conduct a thorough study to understand the factors contributing to the disaster.</li> <li>• Based on their findings, the ICCS will <b>submit policy recommendations to the Kerala government.</b></li> <li>• These recommendations are expected to focus on preventing similar incidents in the future and improving disaster preparedness and response mechanisms in the region.</li> </ul> <p><b>Institute of Climate Change Studies (ICCS):</b></p>



- The Institute for Climate Change Studies (ICCS) is an **autonomous research institution under the Department of Environment**, Government of Kerala.
- It was established to address the challenges posed by climate change in the state
- ICCS focuses on
- **Research:** Conducting studies on climate change impacts, vulnerability assessment, and adaptation strategies.
- **Data Management:** Developing a comprehensive climate change information system, including data banks and vulnerability maps
- **Capacity Building:** Training and educating stakeholders on climate change issues and mitigation measures.
- **Policy Support:** Providing scientific evidence and recommendations to inform climate change policies.

**Amoebic Meningoencephalitis**



**Context:**

- Three individuals in Kerala have been **diagnosed with amoebic meningoencephalitis**.
- This rare and often **fatal brain infection is caused by the amoeba Naegleria fowleri**.

**About:**

- Amoebic meningoencephalitis is a rare but **devastating brain infection caused by free-living amoebas found in freshwater**.
- The most common culprit is **Naegleria fowleri**, often referred to as the **"brain-eating amoeba."**

**Key Points:**

- **Transmission:** The amoeba **enters the body through the nose** while swimming or engaging in water-related activities.
- **Symptoms:** Initial symptoms resemble bacterial meningitis, including headache, fever, nausea, vomiting, and stiff neck.
- These progress rapidly to confusion, hallucinations, seizures, and ultimately, death.

**Khader Committee**

**Context:**

- The Khader Committee has proposed a significant change of extending high school education to Class 12.
- This would effectively **merge** the current high school



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	<p>(Classes 8-10) and higher secondary (Classes 11-12) levels into a single unit.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The primary goal of this recommendation is to ensure in-depth learning for students by providing a more seamless educational progression.</li> <li>• The committee also suggested other reforms such as revised school timings, limiting maximum marks, and increasing focus on vocational training</li> </ul> <p><b>Khader Committee:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Khader Committee was a panel formed by the Kerala government in 2007 to recommend reforms in the state's school education system.</li> <li>• Chaired by <b>Dr. M.A. Khader</b>, the committee proposed significant changes to improve the quality of education.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key recommendations:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Rescheduling school hours: To 8 AM - 1 PM</b> for regular classes, with additional hours for extracurricular activities.</li> <li>• <b>Limiting maximum score:</b> To 79% with grace marks, aiming to reduce pressure on students.</li> <li>• <b>Focus on vocational learning:</b> Integrating vocational training with academic curriculum.</li> <li>• <b>Extending high school education:</b> To Class 12, providing in-depth learning.</li> <li>• <b>Reforming teachers' unions:</b> Setting criteria for recognition and conducting referendums</li> </ul>
<p><b>Rare Earth Elements</b></p>	<p><b>Context:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Kerala, along with Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, and Odisha, has been identified by the Geological Survey of India (GSI) as a state with promising reserves of rare earth elements.</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Rare Earth Elements</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rare earth elements (REEs) are a group of <b>17 metallic elements crucial for modern technology.</b></li> <li>• They include the <b>15 lanthanides and scandium and yttrium.</b></li> <li>• Despite their name, they aren't actually rare, but their <b>extraction and purification is complex.</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Key characteristics:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Unique properties:</b> REEs exhibit unique magnetic, luminescent, and catalytic properties.</li> <li>• <b>Wide applications:</b> Essential components in electronics, clean energy technologies (wind turbines, electric vehicles), magnets, and various</li> </ul>



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	<p>industrial processes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Supply chain concerns:</b> Global supply is concentrated in a few countries, leading to concerns about supply chain stability and price fluctuations.</li></ul> <p><b>Applications:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Smartphones</li><li>• Computers</li><li>• Electric vehicles</li><li>• Wind turbines</li><li>• Medical equipment</li></ul>
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