




08 August 2024

Kerala Regional News

<p>Shadow puppetry meets artificial intelligence</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A team of students and teachers from Jyothi Engineering College, Cheruthuruthy, has innovatively merged the traditional art of shadow puppetry with modern technologies like artificial intelligence and robotics. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Renowned Tholpavakoothu artistes, Padma awardee Ramachandra Pulavar and Rajeev Pulavar from Koonathara Tholpavakoothu Kala Kendram, contributed authentic puppets for the system. The artistes also offered their expertise to ensure that the automated system retained the traditional essence of the art form. The team is now focused on automating and presenting each story from the shadow puppetry tradition to the public, ensuring the continuity of this cultural heritage. <p>Shadow Puppetry:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> They are popular in Orissa, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu. Examples of shadow puppet in India include: Togalu Gombeyatta (Karnataka), Tholu Bommalata (Andhra Pradesh), Ravanachhaya (Odisha).
<p>Place in News: Vizhinjam port</p> 	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Kerala government has decided to borrow ₹2,100 crore from the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) to support the construction of the Vizhinjam International Seaport. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The port is located in Vizhinjam, a coastal town in the Thiruvananthapuram District of Kerala. It was primarily designed to cater to container transshipment, the port also handles multi-purpose and break-bulk cargo. It will also be a global bunkering hub, supplying clean, green fuels like hydrogen and ammonia.



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was developed under a landlord model with a Public Private Partnership component on a Design, Build, Finance, Operate, and Transfer (DBFOT) basis.
<p>Gig Workers' Welfare Bill in Kerala</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Kerala State Platform-Based Gig Workers (Registration and Welfare) Bill, 2024, is set to be introduced in the next Assembly session in October, according to Minister for Labour, V. Sivankutty. Objective: The bill aims to address the welfare, pay, and service conditions of gig workers, who are increasingly becoming integral to the modern service sector. <p>Current Status of Gig Workers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Growing Workforce: As per NITI Aayog, there are currently 77 lakh gig workers in India, with this number expected to rise to 2.5 crore in the next five years. Work Conditions: Gig workers often operate without a formal employee-employer contract, leading to minimal direct contact between the worker and employer. This arrangement, while ensuring work completion, also increases the risk of worker exploitation. <p>Need for Comprehensive Legislation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing Gaps: The Union government's Social Security Code of 2020 was introduced to secure job conditions for gig workers, but significant progress has not been achieved. State Initiative: Recognizing the gaps, the Kerala government is preparing to introduce comprehensive legislation to safeguard gig workers' rights, focusing on service conditions, financial security, and defining the responsibilities of primary employers and aggregators. Draft Bill Status: The draft of the Bill is currently in its final stages.
<p>Wayanad Landslides</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recently, Wayanad of Kerala faced a devastating landslide that claimed over 250 lives. <p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Landslides are defined as the movement of a mass of rock, debris, or earth down a slope. These are a geological phenomenon that involves the sudden and rapid movement of a mass of rock, soil,



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or debris down a slope under the **influence of gravity**.

- Factors such as Kerala's fragile ecosystem, extreme rainfall, and increasing population contributed to this disaster.
- In India, **the entire Himalayan tract, hills/mountains in sub-Himalayan terrains of North-east India, Western Ghats, the Nilgiris in Tamil Nadu and Konkan areas** are landslide-prone.

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