



09 August 2024

Kerala Regional News

<p>PM to unveil new crop varieties developed by ICAR-CPCRI</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">PM Modi is set to unveil a range of innovative crop varieties developed by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research's Central Plantation Crops Research Institute (ICAR-CPCRI), Kasaragod. <p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">This significant development is expected to bolster India's agricultural sector.PM is set to unveil 109 new crop varieties.Among these, two coconut varieties - Kalpa Suvarna and Kalpa Shatabdi - and two cocoa varieties - VTL CH1 and VTL CH2 - are particularly noteworthy.The new varieties are anticipated to offer increased yield, resistance to diseases and pests, and better adaptability to changing climatic conditions. <p>ICAR:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">ICAR stands for the Indian Council of Agricultural Research.It's an autonomous body under the Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE), Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India. <p>Key Roles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Agricultural Research: Conducts research to improve crop yields, develop new crop varieties, enhance livestock productivity, and address agricultural challenges.Education: Offers education and training in agriculture and allied sciences through its network of agricultural universities and institutes.Extension: Transfers agricultural technologies and best practices to farmers for increased productivity and sustainable agriculture.Policy Formulation: Provides scientific advice to the government on agricultural policies and programs.
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<p>India's Olympic medal in hockey</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kerala erupted in joy as India clinched its second consecutive Olympic hockey bronze medal. • The state was particularly thrilled as their hometown hero, goalkeeper P.R. Sreejesh, delivered a stellar performance. <p>India's Olympic Hockey Legacy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • India has a rich history in the sport, especially at the Olympics. • Golden Era: India dominated Olympic hockey from the 1928 to 1960 Olympics, winning six consecutive gold medals. • Medal Haul: In total, India has won 8 gold, 1 silver, and 4 bronze medals in Olympic hockey. <p>Recent Success:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After a long wait, India clinched a bronze medal at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics, ending a 41-year medal drought. • Paris 2024: India continued their medal-winning streak by securing another bronze medal at the Paris 2024 Olympics. <p>Olympics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Olympics is a major international sporting event held every four years. • It features both Summer and Winter Games. • The tradition began in ancient Greece in late 19th century as a religious festival honoring Zeus. • These games were held every four years and included various athletic competitions. • Today, they symbolize unity, sportsmanship, and excellence, transcending cultural and political differences
<p>Kerala's Renewed Demand for a New Mullaperiyar Dam</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kerala is intensifying its demand for the construction of a new dam to replace the 130-year-old Mullaperiyar Dam, citing safety concerns, especially after recent natural disasters like the Wayanad landslide. • The state argues that the existing dam, constructed using outdated materials, poses significant risks to several districts in central and southern Kerala. <p>Mullaperiyar Dam</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mullaperiyar Dam is a 129-year-old masonry gravity dam situated on the Periyar River in Kerala. • Built by the British, it has been a source of



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contention between Kerala and Tamil Nadu.

Key points:

- Built in **1895**, it **diverts water to Tamil Nadu for irrigation.**
- Kerala has raised concerns about the dam's safety due to its age and location in an earthquake-prone zone.
- Tamil Nadu maintains that the dam is safe and has undergone strengthening measures.
- The issue has led to legal battles and political tensions between the two states.
- The Mullaperiyar Dam remains a significant point of dispute, with both states holding firm to their positions.

Read more about Wayanad landslide

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