



12 September 2024

**Kerala Regional News**

<p><b>Three-tier panchayat wards</b></p>	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kerala is set to introduce 1,577 new three-tier panchayat wards.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The three-tier Panchayati Raj system in India is made up of <b>Gram Panchayats, Panchayat Samitis, and Zila Parishads</b>.</li> <li>• The <b>73rd Constitutional Amendment Act of 1992</b> established the system, which aims to provide "Democracy at the roots" and "Power to the People".</li> </ul>
<p><b>Sixteenth Finance Commission</b></p>	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kerala is set to host Finance Ministers' conclave in <b>Thiruvananthapuram</b>.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Government of India, in adherence to <b>Article 280(1) of the Constitution</b>, has established the Sixteenth Finance Commission, appointing <b>Dr. Arvind Panagariya, former Vice-Chairman of NITI Aayog</b> and Professor at Columbia University, as its Chairman.</li> <li>• The Commission has been requested to make its report available by <b>31st October, 2025</b>.</li> </ul>
<p><b>New ward structure in Kerala panchayats</b></p>	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The new ward structure in Kerala panchayats will increase the <b>number of representatives and enhance women's reservation</b>.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The number of wards in the three-tier panchayats has been revised as part of the division of local body wards.</li> <li>• The previous count of 15,962 wards across 941 gram panchayats will now increase to 17,337, with the number of gram panchayats rising to 1,375.</li> </ul>
<p><b>STARS (Strengthening Teaching-Learning and Results for States) program</b></p>	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Journalism, mathematics, psychology, and geology labs will be set up in government higher secondary schools in the State as per the STARS (Strengthening Teaching-Learning and Results for States) programme for 2023-24.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The <b>STARS (Strengthening Teaching-Learning and Results for</b></li> </ul>



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## Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

	<p><b>States) program</b> is a centrally sponsored scheme in India that aims to improve the <b>quality of school education and student outcomes</b>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The program is being implemented in six states: <b>Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, and Kerala</b>.</li> </ul>
<p><b>National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) Assessing System</b></p>	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Effective waste management will now be a key factor in the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) rankings for higher education institutions.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It's an <b>autonomous body under the University Grants Commission (UGC)</b>, that assesses and certifies Higher Education Institution's (HEIs) with gradings as part of accreditation.</li> <li>The ratings of institutions range from <b>A++ to C</b>. If an institution is graded D, it means it is not accredited.</li> </ul>

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