



18 November 2024

Kerala Regional News

<p><b>KRDCL aims to install Kavach for railways</b></p>	<p><b>Context:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>KRDCL (Kerala Rail Development Corporation Ltd) is a joint venture between the Government of Kerala and the Ministry of Railways.</b></li> <li>• It is planning to bid for more railways projects this time to install a train collision avoidance system called Kavach.</li> </ul> <p><b>About:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>KAVACH, which stands for "Kavach Automatic Train Protection System," is an indigenously developed automatic train protection (ATP) system by Indian Railways through Research Designs &amp; Standards Organisation (RDSO).</b></li> <li>• It is a state-of-the-art electronic system with <b>Safety Integrity Level-4 (SIL-4)</b> standards, which is the highest level of safety for safety-related systems.</li> <li>• <b>KAVACH is designed to prevent train accidents caused by human error, such as signal passing at danger (SPAD) and overspeeding.</b></li> <li>• It uses a combination of onboard and trackside equipment to monitor the train's position and speed, and to automatically apply the brakes if necessary.</li> <li>• The onboard equipment includes a computer, a GPS receiver, and a radio transceiver.</li> <li>• The trackside equipment includes balises (electronic tags) and radio antennas.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Child sexual abuse cases in state rise fourfold in 10 yrs</b></p>	<p><b>Context:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>The cases of child sexual abuse, encompassing all forms of assault, registered under Pocso Act sections in the state, show nearly a fourfold increase in the last 10 years.</b></li> <li>• <b>The annual report of the Kerala State Commission for Protection of Child Rights for 2023-24 shows children, both boys and girls, continue to face sexual abuse at the hands of acquaintances, relatives, family members, teachers, lovers, neighbours, and unknown persons.</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Key Points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>According to the report, 1,002 Pocso cases were registered in Kerala in 2013, and the number skyrocketed to 4,663 in 2023, with a steady rise every year.</b></li> <li>• Experts say the rise in cases registered is due to increased public awareness about the need to report the sexual abuse of</li> </ul>



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	<p>children to the police.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The report also indicates that the <b>highest number</b> of cases were registered in <b>Thiruvananthapuram (593), Ernakulam (516) and Malappuram (514) in 2023.</b></li> </ul>
<p><b>POCSO Act</b></p>	<p><b>Context:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>POCSO Act stands for <b>Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act,2021.</b></li> <li>It is a comprehensive law in India designed to safeguard children from sexual abuse.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key features of the act include:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Definition of child:</b> The act defines a child as anyone <b>below the age of 18 years.</b></li> <li><b>Sexual offenses:</b> It covers a wide range of <b>sexual offenses, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, and sexual abuse.</b></li> <li><b>Penalties:</b> The act prescribes stringent penalties for perpetrators of sexual offenses, including imprisonment and fines.</li> <li><b>Special courts:</b> It <b>mandates the establishment of special courts</b> to expedite the trial of POCSO cases.</li> <li><b>Protection of child witnesses:</b> The act provides for measures to protect the identity and dignity of child witnesses during the trial.</li> <li><b>Mandatory reporting:</b> It makes reporting of sexual offenses against children mandatory for certain persons, <b>such as teachers, doctors, and social workers.</b></li> <li><b>Child Protection Officers are key figures in implementation of POCSO Act.</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Child Protection Officers (CPOs):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Child Protection Officers (CPOs) are key figures in the implementation of the POCSO Act.</b></li> <li>Their primary responsibilities include:</li> <li><b>Reporting and Investigation:</b> Receiving complaints of sexual offenses against children, conducting thorough investigations, and ensuring that evidence is collected and preserved appropriately.</li> <li><b>Child Welfare:</b> Providing support and counseling to child victims of sexual abuse, ensuring their safety and well-being, and coordinating with relevant agencies for rehabilitation and therapy.</li> <li><b>Awareness Creation:</b> Conducting awareness programs and campaigns to educate the public about the POCSO Act, its provisions, and the importance of reporting child sexual abuse.</li> <li><b>Collaboration:</b> Working closely with other law enforcement agencies, child welfare organizations, and healthcare providers to ensure effective coordination and response to cases of child sexual abuse.</li> </ul>



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**Fodor's travel guide: 'No List' 2025**

**Context:**

- In a big embarrassment for the Kerala tourism sector, an **international agency has included the state among their list of destinations suffering from untenable popularity** citing the landslides and backwater pollution.

**Key Points:**

- **US based travel guide and online tourism information provider Fodor has included Kerala in their 'No List' 2025 that cautions travelers.**
- The back to back natural calamities, including the recent Wayanad landslide, and reports of pollution in the popular backwaters are cited in the report.
- **Kerala is the lone destination from India to be mentioned in the 'No List' published recently.**

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