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Kerala Regional News

<p>Pampa-Achankovil-Vaipar river linking project</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proposed Pampa-Achankovil-Vaipar River Interlinking Project has reignited significant concerns in Kerala due to its potential environmental impact. • The project aims to divert water from the Pamba and Achankovil rivers to Tamil Nadu, which could lead to severe water scarcity in Kerala's Alappuzha, Kottayam, and Pathanamthitta districts, affecting around three million people. • Environmental experts warn that it would submerge over 2,000 hectares of forest land and disrupt local ecosystems, particularly the Vembanad Lake. <p>About:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vembanad Lake, Kerala is the longest lake in India and the largest in the state. • It is fed by multiple rivers, including the Meenachil and Pamba. • The lake is also home to the Kumarakom Bird Sanctuary and hosts the famous Nehru Trophy Boat Race. • Recognized as a Ramsar site, it plays a vital role in local biodiversity and agriculture.
<p>Arts-based psychosocial care for Children</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNICEF has joined hands with Kerala State Disaster Management Authority (KSDMA) to introduce arts-based psychosocial care, along with traditional forms of therapy and care. • This initiative aims to help children process their emotions and experiences through expressive art, creating a safe space for healing. • A five-day workshop is currently underway, focusing on the therapeutic potential of art in disaster recovery. <p>About:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund) is a humanitarian and developmental agency of the United Nations focused on providing aid to children worldwide. • Founded in 1946, it initially aimed to provide emergency relief to children affected by World War II. • UNICEF operates in over 190 countries and territories, working closely with governments, communities, and partners to improve the lives of children and adolescents.
<p>Nirnaya network</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In order to provide comprehensive diagnostic services at public



Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

	<p>health institutions and thereby reduce out-of-pocket expenditure of patients, the state government is set to launch Nirnaya (Nava Kerala Integrated Referral Network for Advanced Diagnostics And Care).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is expected to be rolled out by April 2025 by the Aardram Mission. • It aims to introduce standardisation and ensure people-friendly services at health centres. <p>About:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aardram is a flagship health initiative launched by the Kerala government to transform the public health sector. • The primary goal of this mission is to deliver patient-friendly, quality healthcare services in government hospitals and to add specialty and super-specialty facilities in district and taluk hospitals.
<p>Miyawaki Method</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kerala Naval Unit NCC (KNU NCC) has launched the Miyawaki urban forest project on its premises as part of the One Tree, One Cadet campaign. • The project aims to create a dense, sustainable forest on a small area of land along the Akkulam lake. <p>About:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Miyawaki method, developed by Japanese botanist Akira Miyawaki, is a unique technique for creating dense, native forests in a short period. • This method involves planting a high density of native tree species, typically 10 times denser than traditional afforestation methods. <p>Key Principles of Miyawaki Method:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Native Species: Only native tree species are used to ensure ecological balance and biodiversity. • Dense Planting: Trees are planted very close together, fostering competition and rapid growth. • Minimal Maintenance: Once established, the forest requires minimal maintenance, as the dense canopy suppresses weed growth. • Rapid Growth: Miyawaki forests grow significantly faster than traditional plantations, often reaching maturity in 10-20 years.

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