




17 December 2024

Kerala Regional News

<p>Marayur sandalwood</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Efforts are underway to secure a Geographical Indication (GI) tag for Marayur sandalwood, known for its unique fragrance and quality. • The GI tag aims to protect the traditional knowledge and craftsmanship associated with Marayur sandalwood, ensuring that only products from this region can be marketed under its name. <p>About:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marayur, a picturesque hill station in Idukki district, Kerala, is renowned for its sandalwood plantations. • The region boasts a rich history of sandalwood cultivation, dating back centuries. • Marayur produces some of the finest quality sandalwood in the world, prized for its fragrance and medicinal properties • Due to its high value, sandalwood is a protected species, and strict measures are in place to prevent illegal logging and smuggling.
<p>Kerala Forest Amendment Bill 2024</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farmers in Kerala have expressed concerns regarding the recently proposed Kerala Forest Amendment Bill, claiming it grants excessive powers to forest officers. <p>About:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Kerala Forest Amendment Bill, 2024, was notified by the Government of Kerala on November 1, 2024. • This bill proposes several amendments to the Kerala Forest Act, 1961, with the aim of strengthening forest protection and management. <p>Key Provisions of the Bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhanced Powers for Forest Officials: As per the Wildlife Protection Act, only a divisional forest officer or an assistant conservator of forests has the power to issue a warrant. • But the new bill empowers a beat forest officer to conduct a search in a house and to arrest a person without a warrant. • Besides, a forest watcher, who is only a temporary staffer, has been given the power to stop and search vehicles. • Increased Penalties: The bill proposes a fivefold hike in penalties for forest offenses. • Stricter Regulations on Forest Fringe Areas: The bill aims to regulate activities in forest fringe areas to prevent encroachment and deforestation. • Strengthened Provisions for Forest Conservation: The bill introduces several measures to enhance forest conservation efforts, such as stricter



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<p>Film: Swapnaayanam</p> 	<p>regulations on timber extraction and wildlife protection.</p> <p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 29th International Film Festival of Kerala (IFFK) opened on December 13 with the film Swapnaayanam. This signature film took audiences on a nostalgic journey through the legacy of Malayalam cinema. <p>About:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The minute-long film is written and directed by Mumbai-based cinematographer K O Akhil, who has captured the very beginning of Kerala's cinematic heritage, the historic notice announcement of 'Vigathakumaran', the first film in Malayalam that was directed by J C Daniel. Swapnaayanam also pays tribute to P K Rosy, the heroine of Vigathakumaran. The film ends with a visual of Rosy, portrayed by Abhirami Bose, enjoying a movie in a modern theatre. <p>Refer to Addapedia notes for detailed info on IFFK.</p>
<p>Digital University Kerala</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Digital University Kerala (DUK) has won its first Indian patent for the invention of a gravity driven apparatus for reinfusing the blood of patients during surgeries. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The device, developed by a team of researchers led by Dr Joseph Tharion, senior research scientist at DUK, could prove to be path-breaking for patients who rupture the fallopian tube in ectopic pregnancies. In such cases, delay in removing the blood collected in the abdominal cavity could even endanger the life of patients. Globally, the mortality rate due to ectopic pregnancy is 3.5%, while in India it is 1.5-2%. In tribal hamlets, northeastern states, conflict zones, and continents like Africa, fatality rates are very high. This achievement is expected to pave the way for further innovations in the field of medical devices and healthcare solutions in India.
<p>Karuthalum Kaithangum Adalat</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Karuthalum Kaithangum Adalat has commenced in Alappuzha. Applicants must include their name, address, mobile number, district, and taluk in their submissions. <p>About:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Karuthalum Kaithangum Adalat is a public grievance redressal initiative launched by the Kerala government to address citizens' complaints and issues effectively.



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- The program aims to provide a platform for individuals to voice their concerns directly to officials, facilitating quicker resolutions.

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