



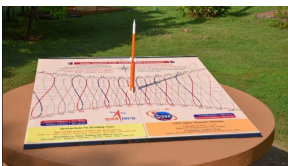
20 December 2024

Kerala Regional News

<p>Next Generation Missile Vessels (NGMVs)</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL) has commenced construction of the Next Generation Missile Vessels (NGMVs) for the Indian Navy. ● The NGMVs are intended to enhance the Indian Navy's combat capabilities and replace the aging Khukri-class corvettes. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The contract, signed in March 2023, involves the construction of six vessels at a total cost of ₹9,805 crore (approximately \$1.16 billion), with deliveries expected to begin in 2027. ● These advanced vessels will feature state-of-the-art weaponry and sensors, including surface-to-surface missile systems and anti-missile defense capabilities. ● Designed for high-speed operations, each vessel will have: ● Displacement of about 1,437 tons. ● Maximum speed of 33 knots. ● Operational range exceeding 2,800 nautical miles. <p>About:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Khukri-class corvettes are a class of missile corvettes designed and built for the Indian Navy to replace the aging Petya II-class vessels. ● Key features include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Displacement: Approximately 1,423 tons (full load). ○ Propulsion: Powered by two SEMT Pielstick/Kirloskar diesel engines, enabling a speed of up to 24 knots. ○ Range: Capable of covering 4,000 nautical miles at a speed of 16 knots
<p>Comprehensive survey of Captive Elephants</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Kerala High Court has recently directed the State government to form a team to conduct a comprehensive survey of captive elephants across the State. ● This team should verify the number of elephants, their ownership status and whether they are in the custody of any individuals/institutions with valid documents. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The team will comprise of District Collectors and Divisional Forest Officers. ● It will function under the supervision of the Chief Wildlife Officer.



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	<p>Additional information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recently, the Kerala government has also introduced the Kerala Captive Elephants (Management and Maintenance Rules), 2023, which outlines stringent regulations for the care and maintenance of captive elephants in the state. <p>Key provisions of the rules include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Euthanasia Guidelines: The rules provide clear guidelines for the humane euthanasia of elephants in cases of severe illness or old age. Punishment for Cruelty: Strict penalties have been imposed for acts of cruelty towards elephants, including physical abuse, neglect, and overwork. Veterinary Care: Mandatory veterinary care, including regular health check-ups and vaccinations, is required for captive elephants. Adequate Housing and Diet: Elephants must be provided with adequate housing, food, and water to ensure their well-being. Regular Exercise: Captive elephants should be given regular opportunities for exercise and social interaction.
<p>Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC)</p> 	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) has unveiled a polar sundial at its Space Museum, and put it on display in the 'Rocket Garden' of its Space Museum at Thumba which is expected to attract significant visitor interest. This sundial is designed to be both accurate and fully functional, showcasing the intersection of art and science. It serves as an educational tool, enhancing public understanding of timekeeping and astronomy. The installation reflects VSSC's commitment to promoting space science and technology among the general public, making it a notable addition to the museum's offerings. <p>About:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) is one of the major centres of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) located in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala. It is primarily responsible for the design, development, and launch of India's rockets and satellites. <p>Key Roles of VSSC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rocket Development: VSSC is responsible for developing various launch vehicles, including the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) and the Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle1 (GSLV). Satellite Development: The center also contributes to the development of satellites for communication, remote sensing, and navigation purposes. Space Exploration: VSSC is involved in various space exploration missions, including lunar missions and planetary exploration. Technology Development: The center conducts advanced research and development in areas such as propulsion systems, avionics, and structural engineering.



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<p>Urban Commission proposes recommendations</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Urban Commission in Kerala has proposed a 25% reservation for youth in local bodies as part of its interim report aimed at guiding urbanization over the next 25 years. • This recommendation is part of a broader strategy that includes forming metropolitan planning committees in major cities like Kochi, Kozhikode, and Thiruvananthapuram, and enhancing urban governance. • The commission emphasizes the need for professionalized urban management and improved funding mechanisms for local bodies. • The complete report is expected by March 2025, addressing various challenges related to urban development and sustainability
<p>Vizhinjam port gets new location code : IN TRV 01</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vizhinjam International Seaport has been assigned a new location code: IN TRV 01. • It represents India and Thiruvananthapuram. • This change, replacing the previous code IN NYY 1, was made following a recommendation from the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE). • The new code aligns with Thiruvananthapuram's existing location code for its international airport, enhancing the port's international navigation and shipping operations. • The Directorate General of Systems and Data Management approved this update, which is set to be utilized starting January 2025. <p>About:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) is one of the five regional commissions of the United Nations. • Established in 1947, its primary goal is to promote economic cooperation and integration among its member states. <p>Refer to Addapedia notes for detailed info on Vizhinjam International Seaport.</p>

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