



23 December 2024

Kerala Regional News

<p>PM-USHA Scheme</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kannur University has secured ₹100 crore under the PM-USHA (Pradhan Mantri Uchcharat Shiksha Abhiyan) Scheme. • As part of this, a total allocation of ₹405 crore for higher education infrastructure improvements in Kerala. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The financial aid, granted under the Multidisciplinary Education and Research Universities (MERU) category, will be split between the Central Government (60%) and the State Government (40%). • The initiative is designed to enhance the higher education ecosystem by promoting excellence and equity, said a University press release. <p>About:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PM USHA is a centrally sponsored scheme under the Ministry of Education aimed at improving the quality and access to higher education across the country. <p>Key Focus Areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equity: Increasing access to quality higher education for underrepresented groups. • Excellence: Enhancing the quality of teaching-learning processes and research. • Infrastructure Development: Improving physical and digital infrastructure in higher education institutions. • Teacher Training: Strengthening teacher training programs to enhance teaching quality. • Employability: Enhancing the employability of graduates through skill development programs and industry collaborations. • Funding: PM-USHA is funded jointly by the Central and State Governments. • Impact: This scheme aims to transform higher education in India by making it more inclusive, equitable, and responsive to the needs of the 21st century.
<p>India State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2023</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kerala has achieved the highest increase in forest cover outside the recorded forest area in India over the past decade, as reported in the India State of Forest



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	<p>Report (ISFR) 2023.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Between 2013 and 2023, the State's total forest cover also increased by 133.42 sq.km, a growth of 19.99%, marking one of the highest growth rates in the country. <p>About:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The India State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2023 reveals that India's forest and tree cover has increased to 25.17% of the geographical area, totaling approximately 827,357 square kilometers. This includes 715,343 square kilometers of forest cover (21.76%) and 112,014 square kilometers of tree cover (3.41%). The report highlights a total increase of 1,445 square kilometers since the last assessment in 2021, with significant contributions from states like Chhattisgarh, Uttar Pradesh, and Odisha.
<p>Reserve Bank of India's 'Handbook of Statistics on Indian States 2023-24</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As per the Reserve Bank of India's 'Handbook of Statistics on Indian States 2023-24', Kerala's economic growth has been notably sluggish, with an average annual growth rate of just 3.16% over the five years from 2018-19 to 2022-23. Kerala took the 30th spot, among 33 states and Union territories (UTs), in terms of economic growth over a five-year period. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kerala's average annual growth rate (AAGR) in gross state domestic product (GSDP, at constant prices) between 2018-19 and 2022-23 stood at 3.16%, with only Delhi (3.13%), Uttarakhand (2.16%) and Goa (0.70%) performing worse. Mizoram topped the chart with 6.75% growth, followed by Chhattisgarh (6.64%) and Gujarat (6.26%). Major south Indian states also registered commendable growth during the period. While Karnataka's economy grew by 5.62%, Telangana, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh posted 5.61%, 5.27% and 5.19% expansions, respectively. The quick estimate for 2023-24 showed that Kerala's GSDP improved to Rs 6.35 lakh crore, posting a 6.52% year-on-year (YoY) growth, from the previous year's Rs 5.96 lakh crore (+4.24% YoY). The handbook did not have data for all states/UTs for this year. Telangana's growth rate was pegged at 9.24%, followed by Tamil Nadu (8.23%), Andhra Pradesh (7.35%), and Karnataka (6.60%).



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Madavoorpara becomes first green tourism centre

Context:

- **Madavoorpara**, located in the Kattayikonam division of Thiruvananthapuram, has been **officially declared the first green tourism center in Kerala.**
- This designation aims to promote sustainable tourism practices while preserving the area's natural beauty and cultural heritage.
- It is as part of the **Malinya Muktham Nava Kerala campaign** that the tourist spots within city corporation limits are transforming into green tourism centre.

Key Points:

- The project is **implemented jointly by the Haritha Keralam Mission, city corporation, and the department of archaeology** under the **leadership of the Nava Kerala Mission.**
- All types of waste discarded by tourists in tourist spots, which harm nature and the environment, are collected and processed to declare the tourism sector as green spaces.
- So far in the district, 368 schools, 44 colleges, 1,425 institutions, 15 towns, and 5 tourist centres have achieved green status.

About:

Malinya Muktham Nava Keralam:

- **"Malinya Muktham Nava Keralam" translates to "Waste-Free New Kerala"** in English.
- It is a flagship campaign launched by the Kerala government with the ambitious goal of transforming the state into a waste-free and environmentally sustainable region.

Nava Kerala Mission:

- The Nava Kerala Mission is an ambitious initiative launched by the Government of Kerala, with the aim of addressing key social and economic challenges in the state.
- It focuses on: Health, education, agriculture etc.,.

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