



09 December 2023

Kerala Regional News

<p>Safety inspection of Mullaperiyar Dam</p> 	<p><b>Context:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The <b>state government</b> has asked the <b>Supreme Court</b> to <b>immediately conduct a safety inspection of the Mullaperiyar Dam</b> by including international experts</li> <li>According to a <b>report by the United Nations University Institute for Water, Environment and Health</b>, Mullaperiyar is one of the six oldest dams in the world.</li> </ul> <p><b>Concerns:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Dam is 128 years old</b></li> <li>The concern is not about providing water to Tamil Nadu, but about safety.</li> <li>The <b>last safety assessment was in 2011</b>.</li> <li><b>Heavy rains</b> in the region and floods in Kerala.</li> </ul> <p><b>Mullaperiyar Dam:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Mullaperiyar Dam is a <b>masonry gravity dam</b> located in the <b>Idukki district of Kerala, India</b>.</li> <li>It is built on the <b>Periyar River</b>, one of the largest rivers in Kerala.</li> <li>The dam is 53.66 meters high and 365.85 meters long.</li> <li>The British colonial government built the dam between <b>1887 and 1895 by John Pennycuik</b>.</li> <li>Its main purpose was to <b>divert water from the Periyar River to the arid rainshadow regions of Madras Presidency</b> (now Tamil Nadu) for irrigation.</li> </ul>
<p>International Film festival of Kerala</p> 	<p><b>Context:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The <b>28th International Film Festival</b> began with a declaration of solidarity with the Palestinian people</li> <li>CM Pinarayi Vijayan inaugurated the festival online</li> <li>He said that the Palestine Solidarity Films in the festival also inform the <b>world of Kerala's solidarity with the Palestinian people</b>.</li> <li>He also said that said that IFFK will be at par with any film festival in the world in terms of the</li> </ul>



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	<p>political content of the films screened</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This year's <b>Spirit of Cinema award was given to Kenyan director Wanuri Kahiu</b></li> </ul>
<p>State to establish over 1000 'happiness parks' for mental and physical well-being</p>	<p><b>Context:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The <b>Kerala government</b> is set to introduce an initiative by creating more than 1000 'Happiness Parks' across the state</li> <li>These parks aim to cater to people who find themselves isolated at home providing a haven for mental and physical enjoyment through arts and sports</li> <li>Additionally, the parks will host events like 'Happiness Day' once a month, focusing on interventions for mental, physical and emotional well-being</li> </ul>
<p>National Institute for Ayurveda in Kerala</p>	<p><b>Context:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Union AYUSH Minister Sarbananda Sonowal</b> gave possible hints about considering a National Institute of Ayurveda in Kerala</li> <li>The <b>Government Ayurveda Medical College</b> to be started in Idukki can be upgraded to the National Institute of Ayurveda</li> <li>It will lead to more grants and Rs 100 crore central fund is expected to be received</li> <li>Idukki, rich in biodiversity, can be turned into an eco-tourism centre and research centre</li> </ul>
<p>Kerala govt to set up bio-CNG plants in major cities</p>	<p><b>Context:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The <b>state government</b> is gearing up to set up bio-CNG centralized plants in major cities in Kerala to tide over the reeling waste crisis faced by the state.</li> <li>Following the <b>fire outbreak at the Brahmapuram dumping yard that choked Kochi</b>, the state government had given the nod to set up a bio-CNG plant to manage the mounting waste issue faced by the city effectively.</li> </ul> <p><b>Bio-CNG:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bio-CNG is a renewable fuel that is produced from organic waste.</li> <li>It is a purified form of biogas that is made from <b>agricultural waste, animal manure, food waste, and sewage water.</b></li> <li>Bio-CNG is similar to natural gas in its composition and energy potential.</li> <li><b>Composition:</b> Bio-CNG contains about 92-98 per cent methane and only 2-8 per cent carbon</li> </ul>



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dioxide.

- **Calorific value:** Bio-CNG has a calorific value of about 52,000 kilojoules (kJ) per kg, which is nearly **167 per cent higher** than that of biogas at 19,500 kJ per kg.
- **Environmental benefits:** Bio-CNG is a cleaner-burning fuel compared to gasoline or diesel, resulting in reduced emissions of pollutants like carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides, and particulate matter.

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