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	<p>the CEC and ECs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The legislation aims to bring transparency to the appointment process, responding to a directive from the Supreme Court of India in the Anoop Baranwal v Union of India case, 2023.
<p>Feeding Stations for oil spill-hit birds at creek in T.N</p> 	<p>Context</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> After bird-life was badly hit by the recent Ennore oil spill, the TN state forest department has found close to 50 birds of different species completely ‘painted’ black with oil. Experts from the Wildlife Trust of India (WTI) and the Besant Memorial Animal Dispensary (BMAD) are planning to establish feeding stations for birds at the Ennore creek. <p>Key points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> TN State Department of Environment, Climate Change and Forests, the nodal agency for the oil spill clean-up, has roped in WTI to work with local volunteers and the Wildlife Warden, Chennai, to assess how the affected birds could be rescued and rehabilitated. The team is planning to strategically set up ‘cafeterias’ with nets to feed the birds with fresh fish and capture those that are sick.
<p>India Skills Report</p>	<p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> India Skills Report is published by talent assessment agency Wheebox in association with various agencies including All India Council for Technical Education, Confederation of Indian Industry and Association of Indian Universities. <p>According to the report,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kerala has emerged as the most preferred State to work in the India Skills Report 2024. Kochi and Thiruvananthapuram have come second and fourth respectively among cities where both men and women prefer to work regardless of their age. Kerala also secured the second position in overall employability among the 18-21 age group to reaffirm its status as a robust talent pool in the country. <p>For more - https://wheebox.com/india-skills-report.htm</p>
<p>Bill to replace the PRB Act</p>	<p>Context</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parliament passed the Press and Registration of Periodicals Bill to make the process of allotment of title and registration of periodicals simple through an online system without the requirement of physical



	<p>interface.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It replaces the Press and Registration of Books Act, 1867.
<p>India receives price bids for 26 Rafale jets, 3 submarines</p>	<p>Context</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> India has received price bids from France for the purchase of 26 Rafale-M carrier-based fighters as well as three additional Scorpene-class conventional submarines. The 26 jets are meant to fill the gap in the numbers till the indigenous Twin Engine Deck-Based Fighter is inducted into service. <p>Did you know?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Navy currently operates two aircraft carriers, the INS Vikramaditya and the indigenously built INS Vikrant. The major difference between the existing Scorpenes and the new ones is their integrated combat system (ICS). The earlier submarines had systems from France, while the new ones will have indigenous ICS, with significant localised solutions provided by Bharat Electronics Limited in collaboration with French suppliers.
<p>WHO prequalifies a malaria vaccine by Serum Institute</p>	<p>Context</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The World Health Organization (WHO) added the R21/Matrix-M malaria vaccine to its list of prequalified vaccines. It is developed by Oxford University and manufactured by Serum Institute of India. In October 2023, the WHO had recommended its use for the prevention of malaria in children. The R21 vaccine is the second malaria vaccine prequalified by the WHO. <p>Key points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The prequalification means larger access to vaccines as a key tool to prevent malaria in children, with it being a prerequisite for vaccine procurement by UNICEF and funding support for deployment by Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance. It added that both vaccines have been shown to be safe and effective in clinical trials, for preventing malaria in children. <p>Did you know?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Malaria, a mosquito-borne disease, places a particularly high burden on children in the African



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	<p>region, where nearly half a million children die from the disease each year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2022, there were an estimated 249 million malaria cases in the world, and 6,08,000 malaria deaths across 85 countries.
<p>Namdapha flying squirrel</p> 	<p>Context</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A nocturnal flying squirrel has resurfaced in Arunachal Pradesh after going missing for 42 years. The Namdapha flying squirrel (<i>Biswamoyopterus biswasi</i>) was last described in 1981 based on a single individual found in the 1,985 sq. km. Namdapha Tiger Reserve in Arunachal Pradesh's Changlang district. <p>About Namdapha Flying Squirrel</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> IUCN Status: CR Wildlife Protection Act Status: Schedule II Found in Arunachal Pradesh in the Namdapha National Park It is among the 25 "most wanted lost" species that are the focus of Global Wildlife Conservation's "Search for Lost Species" initiative.

Kerala Regional News

<p>Mathrubhumi journos win big at Kerala Assembly Media Awards</p> 	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The winners of the Kerala Assembly Media Awards 2023 were announced and Mathrubhumi received three awards. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Suraj Sukumaran of Mathrubhumi Grihalakshmi was awarded the R Sankaranarayanan Thambi Assembly Media Award for the feature story: "Malore Vanangunna Veeranamar" Ramya K.H - Assistant Content Manager at Mathrubhumi was awarded the EK Nayanar Assembly Media Award for her investigative series 'Neethidevathe Kannuthuraku' published in Mathrubhumi daily.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr G. Prasad Kumar of Mathrubhumi News won the K.R. Gouri Amma Assembly Award in the visual media category.
<p>Kozhikode Corp approves draft proposal for Rs 146.05 crore</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kozhikode Corporation plans to implement Rs 146.05 crore worth of projects in the next financial year. • Rs 130.9 crore will be utilized for various projects and maintenance grants. • Rs 22 crore will be utilized for housing projects. • Rs 18 crore for public works.
<p>‘MT Kalam – Navathi Vandanam’</p> 	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ‘MT Kalam – Navathi Vandanam’, the felicitation event for legendary Malayalam writer M T Vasudevan Nair will be organized by Manorama Online <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MT Matat Thekepat Vasudevan Nair is a Malayali who is famous as a novelist , screenwriter , film director , writer and dramatist . Vasudevan Nair (born: 15 July 1933) . • He has made his mark in Malayalam literature and film industry and is known as MT. • Khandshah's first novel was 'Pathiravum Pagalvelichtam'. • The first novel published in book form was 'Nalukett' (1958). • The first novel itself also won the Kerala Sahitya Akademi award. Later works like 'Svargam Opaunna Saam' and 'Gopuranadail ' also received Kerala Sahitya Akademi awards. • In 1963-64, M.T. wrote the screenplay of his own story ' Murawenn '. Entered the film industry. • In 1973, the film 'Nirmalyam', which was first directed and produced, won the President's Gold Medal.
<p>Nirmala Sitharaman to inaugurate 91st Sivagiri pilgrimage</p> 	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Union Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is set to inaugurate the 91st Sivagiri pilgrimage on December 31st marking the commencement of this revered event. • Swami Satchidananda, President of Sree Narayana Dharma Sangham Trust will preside over the inauguration ceremony.



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Suresh Babu wins 2022 Science Literature award



Context:

- Kerala Kaumudi's Deputy Editor, P Suresh Babu has been honored with the 2022 Science Literature award by Kerala State Council for Science, Technology and Environment (KSCSTE).
- This prestigious award includes a cash prize of Rs 50,000
- A plaque and a citation will also be presented during the Kasaragod Science Congress.

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