



28 June 2024

Kerala Regional News

<p>Punargeham project</p>	<p><b>Why in the news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Fisheries Minister in the assembly reported that <b>2,578 houses were constructed</b> at a cost of ₹2,450 crore under the Punargeham project.</li></ul> <p><b>About Punargeham project:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Objective:</b> The Punargeham project <b>aims to rehabilitate fisher families residing in coastal areas</b> prone to sea erosion and other environmental hazards.</li><li>• <b>Target Group:</b> The project specifically <b>targets fisher families who have lost their homes</b> or are <b>at high risk due to sea erosion</b>.</li><li>• <b>Implementation:</b> The project is implemented by the <b>Kerala State Coastal Area Development Corporation (KSCADC)</b>.</li><li>• <b>Components:</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ <b>Construction of new houses</b> in safer locations away from the coast.</li><li>○ <b>Provision of necessary amenities</b> such as water, electricity, sanitation, and access to education and healthcare facilities.</li></ul></li><li>• <b>Criteria for Beneficiaries:</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ <b>Families must belong to the fisher community</b> and be <b>residents of areas affected by sea erosion</b>.</li><li>○ <b>Priority is given to those who have lost their homes</b> and do not have alternative housing options.</li></ul></li></ul>
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<p><b>Kerala State Council for Science, Technology and Environment (KSCSTE)</b></p>	<p><b>Why in the news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The <b>Centre of Excellence in Microbiome (CoEM)</b>, under the <b>Kerala State Council for Science, Technology and Environment</b>, celebrated <b>World Microbiome Day</b>.</li> <li>• A seminar titled '<b>Microbiome: Current research trends and future perspectives</b>,' in collaboration with the <b>National Academy of Science - Kerala Chapter</b> and the <b>Department of Biotechnology of Mar Ivanios College</b>.</li> </ul> <p><b>About KSCSTE:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Establishment:</b> 1972</li> <li>• <b>Objective:</b> The primary objective of KSCSTE is to <b>promote and harness science, technology, and environment for the sustainable development and socio-economic advancement of Kerala</b>.</li> <li>• <b>Administrative Control:</b> KSCSTE operates under the administrative control of the <b>Department of Science and Technology, Government of Kerala</b>.</li> <li>• <b>Functions:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Formulation</b> of science and technology <b>policies</b>.</li> <li>○ <b>Coordination of R&amp;D activities</b> in various scientific fields.</li> <li>○ Promotion of innovation and research through <b>grants and scholarships</b>.</li> <li>○ Facilitation of <b>environmental conservation</b> and <b>sustainable practices</b>.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>World Microbiome Day</b></p>	<p><b>Why in the news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The <b>Centre of Excellence in Microbiome (CoEM)</b>, under the <b>Kerala State Council for Science, Technology and Environment</b>, celebrated <b>World Microbiome Day</b>.</li> </ul> <p><b>About World Microbiome Day:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• World Microbiome Day is celebrated annually on <b>June 27th</b>.</li> <li>• <b>Objective:</b> The day aims to <b>raise awareness about the importance of the microbiome and its role in health, agriculture, and the environment</b>.</li> <li>• <b>Inception:</b> The <b>first World Microbiome Day</b> was celebrated in <b>2018</b>.</li> <li>• <b>Theme:</b> Each year, the event focuses on a specific theme related to microbiomes, such as "<b>Microbiomes and Food</b>," "<b>Microbiomes and Health</b>," or "<b>Diverse Microbiomes</b>."</li> <li>• <b>What is Microbiome?</b></li> </ul>



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ A microbiome is the community of <b>microorganisms</b> (bacteria, fungi, viruses, etc.) that live in a particular environment, including the human body, soil, oceans, and plants.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Koon Gramam project</b></p>	<p><b>Why in the news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Agriculture department's <b>Koon Gramam project</b> launched in Kerala.</li> </ul> <p><b>About Koon Gramam project:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Objective:</b> The Koon Gramam project aims to promote <b>mushroom cultivation</b> as a sustainable agricultural practice among rural communities in Kerala.</li> <li>● <b>Target Group:</b> The <b>primary beneficiaries are farmers and rural households</b> looking to diversify their agricultural practices and increase their income.</li> <li>● <b>Components:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Training programs</b> for farmers on mushroom cultivation techniques.</li> <li>○ <b>Provision of necessary inputs</b> such as mushroom spores, substrate materials, and cultivation equipment.</li> <li>○ Establishment of <b>support systems for marketing and selling the harvested mushrooms.</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul>



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<p><b>Unni Ammayambalam</b></p>	<p><b>Why in the news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Unni Ammayambalam</b> wins <b>Kendra Bala Sahitya Puraskar 2024.</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Key points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Winning Novel:</b> His novel <b>'Algorithngalude Nadu'</b> (Land of Algorithms) explores the world of <b>Artificial Intelligence (AI).</b></li> <li>• <b>Award Details:</b> The award includes a casket with an engraved copper plaque and a cash prize of <b>Rs 50,000.</b></li> <li>• His latest novel <b>addresses both positive and negative aspects of AI.</b></li> <li>• Emphasizes the <b>importance of human intelligence and oversight in technology.</b></li> <li>• <b>Themes in Writing:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Warns about the potential disastrous consequences of programming errors in AI.</b></li> <li>○ <b>Encourages the younger generation to control technology</b> rather than be controlled by it.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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