



20 July 2024

Kerala Regional News

<p>Kerala Tops National SPARK Ranking</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kerala has once again achieved national recognition for its exemplary implementation of the Deen Dayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihood Mission (DAY-NULM), a scheme sponsored by the Union government. • The state secured the top position in the 2023-24 SPARK (Systematic Progressive Analytical Real-time Ranking), awarded by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs. <p>SPARK Award:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The SPARK ranking is based on general guidelines stipulated by the Ministry to ensure the timely completion of the project's objectives. • Kerala has become the only state to win the SPARK award for seven consecutive years. <p>Past Rankings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kerala previously secured the first position in the 2020-21 financial year. • The state attained the second position in 2021-22, 2022-23, and 2018-19. • Kerala was ranked third in 2019-20 and 2017-18. <p>Project Implementation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The DAY-NULM project has been implemented in 93 municipalities across Kerala, demonstrating the state's consistent efforts and effective management in urban livelihood initiatives.
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<p>Nipha Virus</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The state of Kerala has been proactive in addressing the potential outbreak of the Nipah virus. • A high-level meeting was convened by Minister Veena George to ensure coordinated efforts in controlling the spread of the virus, following reports of a suspected case involving a 15-year-old boy from Perinthalmanna. <p>About:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nipah virus (NiV) infection is a newly emerging zoonosis that causes severe disease in both animals and humans. The natural host of the virus are fruit bats (Indian flying fox). • Belonging to the paramyxovirus family, similar to measles, the Nipah virus is classified by the World Health Organization (WHO) as a priority disease requiring immediate attention and research. • Scientists have identified fruit bats as carriers of the Nipah virus. • Transmission can also occur through contact with infected animals, such as pigs, or from person-to-person through close contact.
<p>Leptospirosis</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leptospirosis, a bacterial infection, has become a significant health concern in Kerala, India. • Despite having effective treatments, the state is witnessing high mortality rates and widespread infection. <p>About:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leptospirosis disease is caused by a bacterium called Leptospira interrogans, or leptospira. • Leptospirosis has been called “ilijwara” in Kannada and “eli pani” in Malayalam, both meaning “rat fever”. • The carriers of the disease can be either wild or domestic animals, including rodents, cattle, pigs, and dogs. • It is a contagious disease in animals but is occasionally transmitted to humans in certain environmental conditions.



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NAWO-DHAN Project

Context:

- The Kerala government has initiated a new project called **NAWO-DHAN (New Agriculture Wealth Opportunities-Driving Horticulture and Agribusiness Networking)** to boost **food production** and revenue by leveraging underutilized land resources for commercial farming.

Key points:

- **Aim:** This project aims to connect various stakeholders in the agricultural sector, including landholders, farmer organizations, self-help groups, and startups, to enhance agricultural practices and market linkages.

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