



27 July 2024

Kerala Regional News

<p>Kasaragod Unearths Ancient Megalithic Rock-Cut Chambers</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two ancient rock-cut chambers from the Megalithic period have been uncovered in Kolamkulam, a village in the Kasaragod district. <p>About:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> These chambers, believed to be around 1,800 years old. Discovery Details: The chambers, carved from laterite stone, were confirmed as part of the Megalithic culture. The findings included a uniquely carved door, a foot-wide hole at the center, and various earthen vessels inside, all of which remain untouched. Structural Features: The entrances and steps leading to these chambers were located underground, with one chamber featuring a stone sealing its top. This discovery contributes to a series of similar structures found in the region over the past two decades, including sites known as Muniyara, Kalpathayam, Pandava Cave, and Pirangi Cave. Archaeological Significance: Dr. Koroth emphasized the importance of these findings, which suggest that the area was inhabited during the Megalithic period. He noted that despite the archaeological value of such discoveries, there has been a lack of protective measures for these sites.
<p>Collector's Super 100 program</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Thiruvananthapuram District Administration, has launched the second phase of the Collector's Super 100 program. This initiative aims to foster STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) education among girls from tribal and coastal communities in the district. <p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Program Objectives: The Collector's Super 100 program empowers girls from marginalized sections



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	<p>by introducing them to STEM education, enhancing their skills, and nurturing their interest in these subjects. The goal is to equip them with the necessary knowledge and confidence to succeed in STEM fields.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comprehensive Approach: The program focuses on addressing learning gaps, bringing students up to speed with the syllabus, and providing skill training in communication, writing, and computer skills. Workshops on life skills and counseling are also conducted to help students overcome challenges and disruptions in their educational achievements. • Experiential Learning: Through institutional visits, interactive sessions, and hands-on training workshops, students are able to showcase their skills, interpret the knowledge they have acquired, and experience a more comprehensive education. The aim is for students to pursue subjects that can lead to jobs in STEM fields.
<p>Waste Management Reforms</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Kerala High Court has expressed serious concerns regarding the unhygienic conditions in Thiruvananthapuram, stating that no other capital city in the world is as dirty as it is. <p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unhygienic State of Thiruvananthapuram: The division bench, comprising Justice Bechu Kurian Thomas and Justice Gopinath, criticized the city's waste management, stating that it presents an embarrassing situation for the state. • Call for Learning from Other Countries: The court suggested that local authorities visit Sri Lanka to observe its effective waste management practices. The judges pointed out that despite being a less affluent country, Sri Lanka maintains clean streets and attracts numerous tourists, contrasting sharply with the conditions in Thiruvananthapuram. • Waste Management Techniques: The court referenced Singapore's innovative waste management methods, such as converting plastic waste into energy, and urged Kerala's authorities to adopt similar strategies. • Government Accountability: The court demanded that the government present a detailed plan to prevent further waste dumping into the Amayizhanchan canal and to address the existing pollution. Sarada Muraleedharan, the additional



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chief secretary, acknowledged the state's responsibility and outlined plans for daily cleaning of trash booms and the establishment of facilities for non-biodegradable waste collection.

- **Monitoring and Enforcement:** The court emphasized that merely filing criminal cases against offenders is insufficient. It recommended implementing confiscation measures for repeat violations and suggested the installation of CCTV cameras to monitor dumping activities. The government plans to install ten cameras as part of the Smart City Mission to enhance surveillance in garbage-prone areas.

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