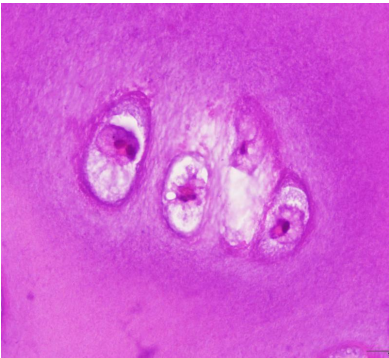




**04 November 2023**

**National and International News**

<p><b>SC verdict on same-sex marriage</b></p>	<p><b>In the news:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Petitions seeking review of SC's majority judgment refusing to legalize same-sex marriage.</li> <li>• SC holds no fundamental right to marry for same-sex couples but directs authorities to protect them from harassment.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Right to marry is a fundamental right.</li> <li>• Article 21 of the Constitution guarantees the right to marry the person of one's choice.</li> </ul> <p><b>Did you know?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parliament has conferred social status for marriage as an institution under the Special Marriage Act, 1954.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Haemoglobin isn't used only in blood, scientists discover</b></p> 	<p><b>Context</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A new and serendipitous discovery has revealed that hemoglobin isn't used by RBCs alone.</li> <li>• In a study <b>published in Nature</b>, scientists from China have reported that <b>chondrocytes</b> – cells that make cartilage, the connecting tissue between bones – also make <b>hemoglobin</b> and seem to depend on it for their survival.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key points</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The scientists called these blobs <b>hemoglobin bodies or Hedy</b>.</li> <li>• The discovery of functional hemoglobin in cartilage also suggests that it plays <b>a role in certain joint diseases</b>.</li> </ul>
<p><b>53 accidents, 19 deaths per hour in road crashes in 2022, says Ministry</b></p>	<p><b>Context</b></p> <p>India witnessed 53 accidents and 19 deaths every hour, or an average of 1,264 accidents and 42 deaths, daily in road crashes last year, according to a <b>Ministry of Road Transport and Highways report</b></p> <p><b>Key findings</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The number of road accidents in 2022 increased by <b>11.9%</b> and deaths rose by 9.4%.</li> <li>• According to an analysis by the <b>Save Life Foundation</b>, with a crash severity of 38.15, India ranks among the <b>20 worst countries for road crashes</b>.</li> <li>• According to <b>World Road Statistics, 2022</b> published by the International Road Federation, Geneva, which uses data for the year 2020 in terms of the total number of</li> </ul>




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	<p>fatalities, India was followed by <b>China</b> (with a crash severity of 25.22) and the U.S. (with a crash severity of 2.01).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Of the factors causing road accidents, “<b>speeding</b>” was the most common. It accounted for 72.3% of accidents and 71.2% of deaths.</li> <li><b>Uttar Pradesh</b> registered the highest share of deaths at 13.4%.</li> <li>This was followed by <b>Tamil Nadu</b> at 10.6% and <b>Maharashtra</b> at 9%.</li> </ul>
<p><b>106th Constitutional Amendment Act: Women’s Reservation Bill</b></p>	<p><b>Why in the news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Delay in implementation of the quota law before the general election in 2024.</li> <li>The Government proposes to implement this reservation after the next census followed by delimitation.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The 106th Constitutional Amendment Act stipulates 33% reservation for women in the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies.</li> <li>The 73rd and 74th constitutional amendments of 1993 gave women one-third representation in local body elections.</li> <li>The 77th Constitutional Amendment extended reservations for promotions in jobs for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.</li> <li>103rd CAA provided for 10% EWS reservation for poor Forward Caste sections of the society in educational institutions and public employment.</li> </ul> <p><b>Think:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Know about 106th Constitutional Amendment Act</li> <li>Know about Delimitation</li> </ul>
<p><b>Author Nandini Das wins 2023 British Academy Book Prize</b></p> 	<p><b>Context</b> Indian-born author <b>Nandini Das</b> has been named the winner of the <b>2023 British Academy Book Prize</b></p> <p><b>Key points</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>She got this prize for her book <b>Courting India: England, Mughal India and the Origins of Empire</b>.</li> <li>The British Academy Book Prize, formerly known as the <b>Nayef Al-Rodhan Prize</b>, was established in 2013 to reward and celebrate the best works of non-fiction that demonstrate rigor.</li> </ul>



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### Kozhikode and Gwalior enter creative cities list



#### Context

- **Kozhikode in Kerala and Gwalior in Madhya Pradesh** have made it to the prestigious creative cities list of UNESCO for contributions in the fields of **literature and music**, respectively.
- The announcement was made by UNESCO on its official website on **October 31**, which is designated as **World Cities Day**.

#### About UNESCO CCN

- The **UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN)** was created in 2004 to promote cooperation with and among cities that have identified creativity as a strategic factor for sustainable urban development.
- **Objective:** placing creativity and cultural industries at the heart of their development plans at the local level and cooperating actively at the international level.
- The Network covers seven creative fields: **Crafts and Folk Arts, Media Arts, Film, Design, Gastronomy, Literature, and Music**.

### Regional Director of the World Health Organization's Southeast Asia region



#### Context

Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's daughter, **Saima Wazed**, was elected **Regional Director of the World Health Organization's Southeast Asia region**

#### Key points

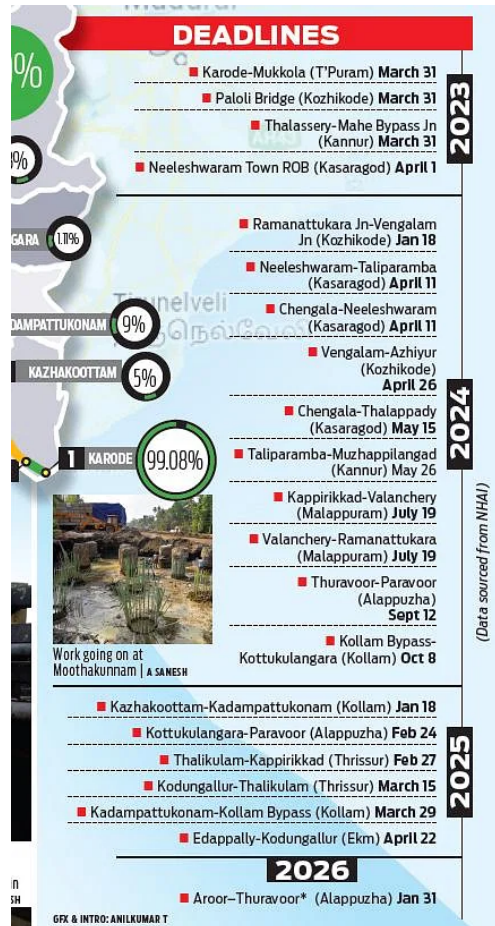
- She defeated **Shambu Acharya**, a public health veteran from Nepal, in a vote held here during the **76th session of the WHO Regional Committee for Southeast Asia Region**.
- India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, North Korea, Indonesia, the Maldives, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Timor-Leste — 10 of the 11 member countries — took part in the vote.





## Kerala Regional News

### Kerala's longest elevated highway



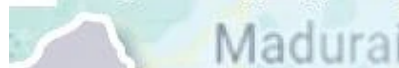
### In News:

- The construction of the state's longest **Aroor-Thuravoor Elevated Highway**, stretching from Edappally in Ernakulam district to Thuravoor in Alappuzha district, has received a huge boost.

### Key Points:

- The **Aroor-Thuravoor Elevated Highway** is a **12.75-kilometer-long, six-lane** elevated highway under construction in the state of Kerala, India.
- It begins at Aroor, Kochi, and ends at Thuravoor.

STRETCH	LENGTH (KM)	TOTAL (₹CR)
1 Karode-Mukkola (T'Puram)	16.02	1,147.79
2 Mukkola-Kazhakoottam (T'Puram)	24.998	1,038.35
3 Kazhakoottam Jn-Technopark Jn* (T'Puram)	2.721	304.63
4 Kazhakoottam-Kadampattukonam (Kollam)	29.83	3,685
5 Kadampattukonam-Kollam Bypass (Kollam)	31.25	3,023.78
6 Kollam Bypass-Kottukulangara (Kollam)	31.5	3,351.23
7 Kottukulangara-Paravoor (Alappuzha)	37.5	3,175.8
8 Paravoor-Thuravoor (Alappuzha)	37.9	2,638.67
9 Thuravoor-Aroor* (Alappuzha)	12.75	2,927.21
10 Aroor -Vyttila-Edappally (Ernakulam)	16.75	184
11 Edappally-Kodungallur (Ernakulam)	26.03	3,064.11
12 Kodungallur-Thalikulam (Thrissur)	28.84	2,582.77
13 Thalikulam-Kappirikkad (Thrissur)	33.17	3,923.82
14 Kappirikkad-Valanchery (Malappuram)	37.35	3,783.03
15 Valanchery-Ramanattukara (Malappuram)	39.68	4,700.15
16 Paloli Bridge (Kozhikode)	2.1	211.61
17 Ramanattukara Jn-Vengalam Jn (Kozhikode)	28.4	1,862.77
18 Vengalam-Azhiyur (Kozhikode)	40.8	3,710.48
19 Thalassery-Mahe Bypass Jn (Kannur)	18.6	1,300
20 Muzhappilangad-Taliparamba (Kannur)	29.948	3,319.22
21 Taliparamba-Neeleshwaram (Kasaragod)	40.11	3,799.66
22 Neeleshwaram-Chengala (Kasaragod)	37.268	2,348.84
23 Neeleshwaram Town ROB (Kasaragod)	0.78	83.16
24 Chengala-Thalappady (Kasaragod)	39	2,430.13



\*(Elevated highway)



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## Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

### Kottathavalam

**In News:** Kerala: Enjoy a royal picnic atop the king's hideout hill

- Nestled in the hilly region of Adivaram in Poonjar Thekkedara, Kottayam, lies a relatively **unknown paradise known as Kottathavalam**.

#### Key Points:

- About 90 km from Ernakulam town, Kottathavalam waterfall viewpoint should be on your list for one-day long trips.
- **A trade route** existed between **Madurai and Erapuzha** (present-day Erattupetta), and **Kottathavalam acted as a connecting link**.
- The old stairs carved out of rocks that one will encounter during the trail to the top of the hill are believed to have been used by the traders back then.
- Locals believe that the **Pandya King, Manavikrama**, escaped from Madurai after losing a battle to the Chola king and used the caves here as hiding spots.
- Thus, came the name **thavalam, which means a 'hideout' in Malayalam**.
- The region is also surrounded by hills on three sides, resembling a 'fort' or a kotta.

### NITC study helps Kozhikode win UNESCO honor

**In News:** NITC study helps Kozhikode win UNESCO honor

- The students and faculty of the Department of Architecture and Planning at the **National Institute of Technology Calicut (NITC)** are on cloud nine as their academic work has helped bring the prestigious 'UNESCO City of Literature' title to Kozhikode.

#### Key Points:

- A team from NITC had done a comprehensive documentation of the literary resources and assets of Kozhikode as part of the study.
- The **literary history of Kozhikode started in the 14th century**, the study revealed.
- The team also worked untiringly to gather details and literary documents to prove that the city was home to many celebrated writers.
- The study revealed that Kozhikode has the highest concentration of libraries in India with 550, excluding personal libraries.



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## Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

### A solution to waste disposal issue



### Context:

- The Tourism Department has finally come up with a permanent solution to the solid waste disposal issue that has been threatening the very existence of the houseboat industry for quite some time now in the coastal tourism hub of **Alappuzha**, known for its **splendid backwaters**.

### Key facts

- "Solid waste"** means any garbage or refuse, sludge from a **wastewater treatment plant**, water supply treatment plant, or air pollution control facility and other discarded material, resulting from industrial, commercial, mining, and agricultural operations, and from community activities.
- It is important to note that the **definition of solid waste** is not limited to wastes that are physically solid.
- Many solid wastes are **liquid, semi-solid, or contain gaseous material**.

### Diff ways of disposing of solid waste are:

- Incineration
- Composting
- Sanitary landfill
- Recycling

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