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



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



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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"> <li>In 2022, there were an <b>estimated 249 million malaria cases in the world</b>, and 6,08,000 malaria deaths across 85 countries.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Namdapha flying squirrel</b></p> 	<p><b>Context</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A <b>nocturnal flying squirrel</b> has resurfaced in Arunachal Pradesh after going missing for 42 years.</li> <li>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. <b>Namdapha Tiger Reserve in Arunachal Pradesh's Changlang district.</b></li> </ul> <p><b>About Namdapha Flying Squirrel</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>IUCN Status: <b>CR</b></li> <li>Wildlife Protection Act Status: <b>Schedule II</b></li> <li>Found in Arunachal Pradesh in the <b>Namdapha National Park</b></li> <li>It is among the 25 "most wanted lost" species that are the focus of Global Wildlife Conservation's "Search for Lost Species" initiative.</li> </ul>

### Kerala Regional News

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



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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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