



12 July 2024

Kerala Regional News

<p>New Appointments : Chief Justice of Kerala High Court</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Justice Nitin Madhukar Jamdar, a senior judge from the Bombay High Court, will assume the position of Chief Justice of the Kerala High Court. <p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> He is currently the seniormost judge at the Bombay High Court, next to the Chief Justice. Justice Jamdar's appointment as a judge of the Bombay High Court dates back to January 23, 2012. Prior to his judgeship, he served as the Senior Standing Counsel for the Central Government. A native of Sholapur, Justice Jamdar has also served as the Acting Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court. He is scheduled to retire on January 9, 2026, unless elevated to the Supreme Court. <p>Read about the Appointment of Chief Justice of a State</p>
<p>Chairman of Human Rights Commission</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Former Acting Chief Justice of Kerala High Court, Alexander Thomas, has been appointed as the Chairman of the State Human Rights Commission. <p>About:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A statutory body created under the Protection of Human Rights Act of 1993 is the State Human Rights Commission. Only those topics covered under the State List (List-II) and the Concurrent List (List-III) of the Constitution's Seventh Schedule are subject to investigation by a State Human Rights Commission. The State Human Rights Commission, or SHRC, is made up of two commissioners and a chairperson. The Governor appoints the members of the State Human Rights Commission.



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • However, the President alone has the power to remove them. • The State Human Rights Commission's chairperson and members are appointed for terms of three years or until they turn 70. <p>State Human Rights Commission Power:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The State Human Rights Commission has full authority to oversee the entire procedure on its own. • It conducts judicial procedures in the same manner as a court and has a full range of authority comparable to a civil court. • The SHRC has the jurisdiction to request information about the case from the state governor or any other authority, as well as to demand payment of damages to the victim. • If a direction or order is needed, it may also contact the Supreme Court or the State High Court. • Despite all the authority granted to the State Human Rights Commission, it is only required to act in relation to a case within a year of its occurrence; otherwise, it ceases to fall under its jurisdiction. • 26 states have established State Human Rights Commissions in their various states as of this writing, and they are successfully working to uphold human rights in those states.
<p>Forest Land Diversion for Non-Forest Uses: CAG Report</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over one-fifth of the state's total forest land has been diverted for non-forest purposes. • Impact: This diversion has rendered the land unsuitable for wildlife habitats. • The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) criticized the forest department for not conducting carrying capacity studies of wildlife habitats. • Consequences: The failure to protect and maintain wildlife habitats has led to increased human-animal conflicts. <p>Statistics and Land Use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total Forest Land: The state has about 11,524.91 sq km of forest land, making up around 29.66% of the state's total area (38,863 sq km). • Diversion Details: About 21.81% (2,513.53 sq km) of this forest land has been diverted for non-forest purposes.



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Leased Land: 514.90 sq km was leased to KSEB, other PSUs, and private plantations. ● Monoculture Plantations: Spread across 1,562.04 sq km. <p>Human-Animal Conflict:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Primary Causes: Loss, degradation, and fragmentation of wildlife habitats have increased human-animal conflicts. ● Species Affected: Asian elephants and other wild animals are encroaching upon human settlements due to habitat loss. ● Human-Animal Conflict Statistics: The state lost 445 people to human-animal conflicts between 2017-18 and 2020-21.
<p>Epidemic Outbreaks in Kerala</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● In 2024, Kerala is facing a severe health crisis with multiple epidemic outbreaks reported across the state. ● A total of 144 deaths have been recorded so far this year due to various diseases. <p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Poor water quality has been identified as a major contributing factor to the outbreaks, particularly of diarrhoeal diseases like Hepatitis A and cholera in Malappuram and Ernakulam districts. ● Experts, including Dr. Anish T S, have highlighted the need for safe drinking water to control these outbreaks. ● Environmental degradation has also been linked to the occurrence of these diseases, as noted by health expert V Ramankutty. ● In addition to cholera, the state is battling other diseases such as amoebic meningoencephalitis in the northern districts, West Nile fever and avian flu in Alappuzha, and H1N1 (Swine flu) in Thiruvananthapuram. <p>Alarming Outbreaks</p> <p>West Nile Fever:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Transmission: Mosquito bites ● Regions: Palakkad, Thrissur, and Alappuzha <p>H1N1 (Swine Flu):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Cause: Influenza virus ● Regions: Predominantly in Thiruvananthapuram <p>Amoebic Meningoencephalitis:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Cause: Naegleria fowleri (brain-eating amoeba) ● Regions: Kozhikode, Thrissur, Kannur, and Malappuram



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Cholera:

- Cause: Bacteria in contaminated water
- Cases: 17 reported this year, with six recent cases in Thiruvananthapuram.

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