



04 November 2024

Kerala Regional News

<p>Hepatitis A</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kerala has seen a significant rise in Hepatitis A cases, with a five-fold increase reported in 2024 compared to the previous year. • As many as 6123 confirmed Hepatitis A cases and 61 deaths have been reported this year. • In comparison, there were 1,073 and seven deaths in 2023. <p>About:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hepatitis A is a viral infection that affects the liver. • It causes inflammation and can lead to mild to severe illness. <p>Transmission:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primarily spreads through the fecal-oral route, meaning it's transmitted when infected stool enters the mouth of another person. • Can also spread through close contact with an infected person. • Often contracted through contaminated food or water
<p>Person in News: T J S George</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T J S George, a renowned journalist and author, has been selected for the prestigious Vakkom Moulavi Memorial Award 2024. • He has been chosen in recognition of his tireless efforts in championing press freedom and outstanding contributions to journalism. <p>About:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This award is instituted by the Vakkom Moulavi Memorial and Research Centre. <p>Note: He was honored with the Padma Bhushan in 2011 for his significant contributions to the field of journalism.</p>
<p>Vizhinjam seaport</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Kerala government has expressed strong opposition to a new clause in the Vizhinjam seaport deal, which requires the state to repay a portion of the Viability Gap Funding (VGF) provided by the central government. • This clause, which mandates repayment in terms of Net Present Value (NPV), has raised concerns about a potential



	<p>loss of Rs 10,000-12,000 crore to the state exchequer.</p> <p>About:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Location: Vizhinjam, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala. • Purpose: Designed for container transshipment, multi-purpose cargo, and break bulk cargo • Development: Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model with Adani Vizhinjam Port Private Limited as the concessionaire • Strategic Location: Located 10 nautical miles from the busy international shipping route connecting Europe, the Persian Gulf, and the Far East <p>Advantages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural draft of 20-24 meters • Minimal littoral drift • Large-scale automation for quick vessel turnaround • State-of-the-art infrastructure for handling Megamax containerships • Capacity: Phase 1 capacity of 1 million TEUs, with potential for expansion to 6.2 million TEUs in subsequent phases. <p>Viability Gap Funding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Viability Gap Funding (VGF) in India is a government initiative designed to bridge the financial gap between the total project cost and the revenue generated by a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) infrastructure project. • This scheme aims to make economically viable but financially unviable projects attractive to private investors by providing financial support in the form of grants or deferred payments.
<p>Person in News: N.S. Madhavan</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N.S. Madhavan, a renowned Malayalam writer, was awarded the prestigious Ezhuthachan Puraskaram in 2024. <p>About:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This award is the highest literary honor bestowed by the Kerala government. • It recognizes significant contributions to Malayalam literature. • The award carries a cash prize of Rs 5 lakh and a statuette. <p>Work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • His works, such as "Lanthan Batheriyile Luthiniyakal" and the short story collection "Higuita," have garnered critical acclaim and a dedicated readership. <p>Achievements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He is a fellow of Kerala Sahitya Akademi and a recipient of the Odakkuzhal Award, the Kerala Sahitya Akademi Award for a short story, the Kerala Sahitya Akademi Award for a novel, the Muttathu Varkey Award, the Mathrubhumi



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