



27 December 2024

Kerala Regional News

Wildwatch App	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In an effort to mitigate recurring human-animal conflicts in Kerala, the state forest department is set to launch the WildWatch app. The app is launched by the forest department under the Forest-PLUS 3.0 programme <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The app, Wildwatch, will enable near real-time reporting of wildlife sightings and incidents to an integrated alert system and, in turn, notify the nearest emergency operation centre of the forest division. This will help issue public safety warnings immediately. One can take a picture of the wild animal near or in human habitation and upload it on the mobile app. Through the emergency operation centre, an alert will be given to people in the area on their mobile numbers, which we will keep in the GIS-enabled web portal.
Forest-PLUS 3.0 programme	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forest-PLUS 3.0 is a USAID-funded program implemented by Tetra Tech in India. <p>Key Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen Sustainable Forest Management: To enhance the sustainable management and eco-restoration of forest landscapes. Combat Deforestation and Degradation: To reduce deforestation and forest degradation by promoting sustainable forest management practices. Climate Change Mitigation: To contribute to India's climate change mitigation goals by increasing carbon sequestration in forests. Improve Livelihoods: To improve the livelihoods of forest-dependent communities through sustainable forest-based enterprises and alternative livelihoods.
Increase in suicides among tribal people in Kerala	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has taken suo motu cognizance of the reported increase in suicides among tribal people in Kerala. There has been an alarming increase in suicides among tribal people settled on the outskirts of Thiruvananthapuram district in Kerala, with about 23 deaths reported in 2024 alone. Estimates have also suggest that around 138 suicides occurred mostly in Peringammala Panchayat in the district between 2011 and 2022.



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About:

- The National Human Rights Commission of India (NHRC) is an **independent statutory body established on 12 October 1993** under the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993.

Key Functions:

- **Protect and Promote Human Rights:** The NHRC is responsible for protecting and promoting human rights in India as enshrined in the Constitution of India and international human rights instruments.
- **Investigate Human Rights Violations:** It investigates and inquires into complaints of human rights violations
- **Intervene in Cases:** It can intervene in cases of human rights violations before courts and tribunals.
- **Recommend Remedial Measures:** The NHRC can recommend remedial measures to the government for the prevention of human rights violations.
- **Create Awareness:** It undertakes various initiatives to raise awareness about human rights among the public.

Composition:

- **Chairperson:**
 - A retired Chief Justice of India or a retired Judge of the Supreme Court of India.
- **Members:**
 - Include a sitting or retired Judge of a High Court, a woman member, a member belonging to a Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe, and a person having knowledge or practical experience in matters relating to human rights.

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