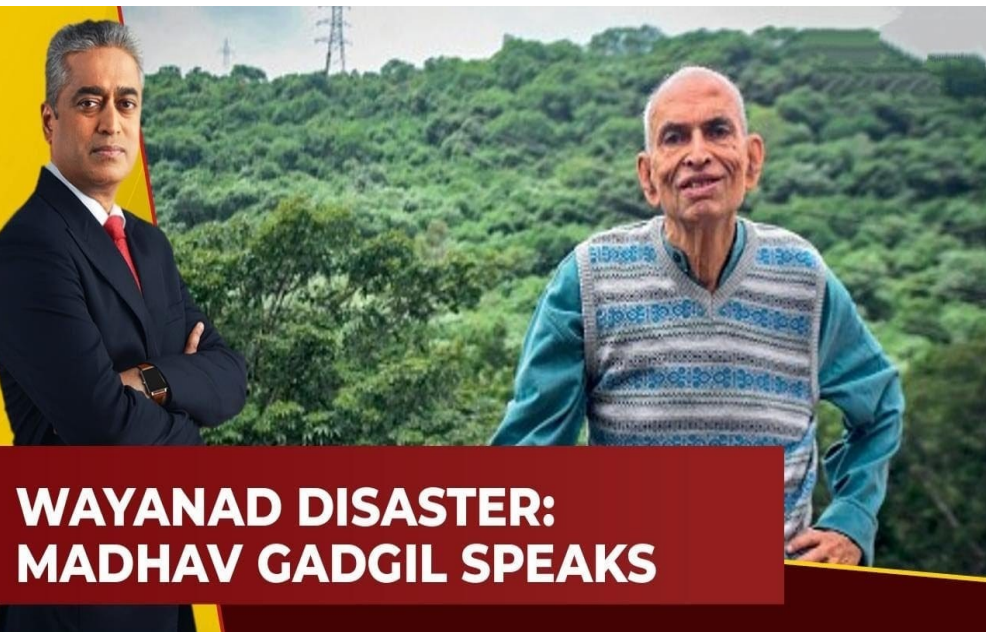




ILLEGAL QUARRYING MUST BE BANNED: MADHAV GADGIL



Following the recent disaster in Wayanad, Prof. Madhav Gadgil, an eminent ecologist and chairman of the Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel (WGEEP) attributed the disaster to the Kerala government's failure to implement essential ecological recommendations. He emphasizes that mindless construction and deforestation are making the region more susceptible to landslides and flooding. Mining and quarrying should be avoided, not everywhere in Kerala, but only in the highly sensitive areas. The landslides that happened recently and a few years ago in Puthumala occurred in similar areas with high slopes and heavy rainfall. These areas are very prone to landslides. There are lots of tourist resorts with artificial lakes, which increases the burden on geological structure. Gadgil also raises serious allegations on illegal mines and granite quarries in Wayanad. They are owned illegally by political parties causing destruction to the environment. As a solution to the problem, Gadgil suggests that all human interventions should be stopped in the ecologically fragile areas in the Western ghats.

■ Ankitha Susan Saju, Britty Joshy

WAYANAD DISASTER: MADHAV GADGIL SPEAKS

PARIS OLYMPICS 2024: INDIA SHINES WITH 5 MEDALS, GLOBAL STARS MAKE HISTORY



The Paris Olympics 2024 (July 26-Aug 11) is witnessing a spectacular display of talent and determination, with India making a mark with 5 medals, including 1 gold, 2 silver, and 2 bronze. The United States currently leads the medal tally with 30 medals, followed by France with 26 and China with 19. India has secured a total of 5 medals, including 1 gold, 2 silver, and 2 bronze.

Nikhata Zareen made history by becoming the first Indian woman to win a gold medal in boxing at the Olympics, defeating Thailand's Jutamas Jitpong in the 50kg category. PV Sindhu secured a silver medal in badminton, losing to China's HE Bing Jiao in the women's singles final. Indian men's badminton duo Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty won a silver medal, falling short against Indonesia's Kevin Sanjaya Sukamuljo and Marcus Fernaldi Gideon in the final. HS Prannoy won a bronze medal in badminton, defeating China's Shi Yuqi in the men's singles event. Indian women's hockey team secured a bronze medal, defeating Germany 2-1 in the third-place match. Olympic triathletes swam in the Seine River for the first time, with France's Cassandre Beaugrand claiming gold in the women's event and Britain's Alex Yee winning gold in the men's race. French swimmer Leon Marchand made history with a stunning double win, claiming gold in both the 200-meter butterfly and 200 breaststroke events.

■ Anjal

Marian Alumnus Renjini Wins Best Documentary Award at Sri Lanka International World Film Festival



Renjini Ganapathy, an alumnus of the Department of Communication and Media Studies at Marian College Kuttikkanam Autonomous, has been honored with the Best Documentary Award at the Sri Lanka International World Film Festival, coordinated by Film Festival Junction. Her award-winning documentary, titled "The Life of Line Houses," explores the lives and conditions of the line houses in the tea plantations of Idukki District. This achievement highlights the exceptional talent and dedication of Renjini, who graduated in 2024 and completed the documentary as part of her academic curriculum. The department extends its heartfelt congratulations to Renjini for her remarkable achievement.

Renjini's documentary provides a poignant and insightful look into the lives of the tea plantation workers and their families, living in the line houses of Idukki. Through her lens, she captures the essence of their struggles and resilience, bringing international attention to an often-overlooked community. Her success at the Sri Lanka International World Film Festival not only marks a significant milestone in her career but also serves as an inspiration to the present students who are studying here.



■ Seethal Reji

Periyar National Park launches buggy cars



Periyar-National Park, an important tourist attraction in the Idukki district of Kerala has rolled out new eco-friendly buggy cars to explore the dense forests of Thekkady. The project initiated by Periyar Tiger Reserve Field Director P.P Pramod received a positive response during it's trial run. It operates on battery power and can accommodate up to six passengers including the driver. Foreigners and ornithologists who stay and spend their time in Thekkady will be benefitting from this new tourism package which costs thousand rupees for a group of five tourists and it includes entry tickets. The package also offers activities like bamboo rafting and trekking from Thekkady park to lakeside. The new eco-friendly buggy cars are part of a broader initiative to promote sustainable tourism and reduce the carbon footprint in the sensitive forest ecosystem. Additionally, the Periyar Tiger Reserve authorities plan to introduce guided tours with experienced naturalists to enhance the educational aspect of the forest exploration.

■ Ankitha Susan Saju

Relocation is the only remedy



The Chooralmala Bridge, a concrete structure built in 1981, symbolises hope and progress for the residents of Attamalla, Chooralmala and Mundakkai. On Tuesday, the devastating landslide wiped out this bridge . For several decades the bridge served as a crucial link for over 1000 families residing in the Meppadi panchayat.1,592 people have been rescued from the landslide and 90 people are now under treatment. Around 90% of houses were destroyed in Mundakkai due to land slide. The rescue operations are led by Kerala and Karnataka under the leadership of Major general VT Mathew from Bengaluru. The increasing frequency of disasters can be attributed to both natural and man-made factors. Climate change has also significantly impacted the disaster. The state government cannot shrug off its responsibility to ensure the protection of its ecological fragile areas in the western ghats. Though the Meppadi area has been identified as landslide -prone, no remedial actions were taken to relocate people living here. It is time for introspection among all the stake holders. Let the hills remain as forest land and the humans inhabit the safer places. Immediate action should be taken by the Government in consultation with experts and the common people.

■ Diya Mariya Peter

Rain Disrupts Coal Mining



Six days of incessant rains in Telangana's Bhadradi Kothagudem district have severely disrupted coal mining across Singareni. Instead of the daily target of 2 lakh tonnes, only 1.10 lakh tonnes could be mined across 11 areas. It has resulted in a shortfall of approximately 5 lakh tonnes over six days. Additionally, 60 lakh cubic meters of overburden removal in 18 open-cast mines has been affected.

■ Mahendar Syamala

Was it a coincidence or?



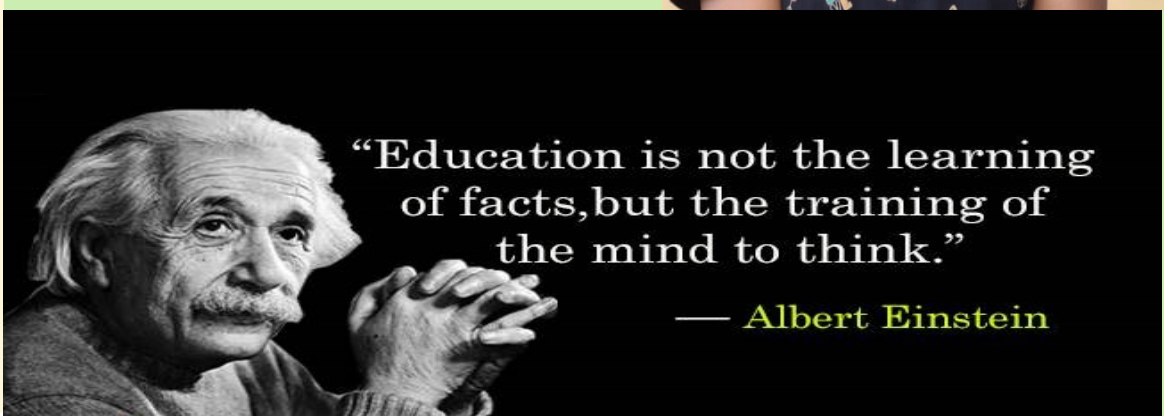
The editors of five newspapers in Kerala reported the Wayanad tragedy in their headlines 99.99 % similarly. The headline was 'Ullu potti' (The water stored in the mountains burst). Professionals everywhere arrive at an editorial judgement more or less equally. This similarity in headlining exhibits the journalistic acumen of Kerala media persons. In 1816 Carl Theodor said "Great minds think alike". The headlines , bullet summary, drone pics, graphic descriptions, timeline and the designing of the major Malayalam newspapers are excellent examples of professional competency among Kerala journalists, as most of whom are trained in the university or other media Institutions. The Kerala newspapers can be compared to International newspapers in content creation and designing, said Prof. M Vijayakumar, Director of the Department of Communication and Media Studies in Marian College. Strangely, the headlines of the Kerala newspapers concerning the Wayanad disaster contains a striking question "Was it just a coincidence or a pick from social media/AI/chat GPT?" This remarkable similarity prompts enquiries as to how these headline concepts developed, which adds a degree of mystery to the journalistic skill Kerala media professionals exhibit in their reporting.

■ Ananthya J

Marian student gets Rs.10 lakhs French Scholarship

First year MSW student Jessica Lopez of Marian college, Kuttikkanam got selected for a French scholarship worth Rs. 10 lakhs. It is a social service program implemented by a French volunteer agency in collaboration with the French government. The 7 month volunteer service program in Corsia of France will commence in October 2024.Jessica will be involved in the project promoting youth development, sustainable development and cultural exchange.

■ Jenil A



— Albert Einstein



DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION AND MEDIA STUDIES, MARIAN COLLEGE KUTTIKANAM AUTONOMOUS

Marian is Comfortable with FYUGP



While the academic community in the higher education sector in Kerala is not generally very happy about the introduction of four year undergraduate Programme (FYUGP) this academic year, Marianities are comfortable with the new system thanks to the meticulous home work done during the last six months. We have jumped into the NEP bandwagon much earlier with the outcome based education (OBE) system. Marian has published two books on OBE and organised many workshops for the academics in other colleges. FYUGP is implemented in all colleges in Kerala from 1 July 2024. After the initial hiccups (quite natural when we drastically deviate from the old system). Marian could easily solve many problems. The new system is student -centric providing ample opportunities for selection of courses and transfer of earned credits from one college to another. There is a radical change in teaching, learning and evaluation methods. The student - friendly approach emphasises the integration of aptitude development , career - oriented skills, and practical knowledge along with theoretical learning. It offers flexibility in choosing and studying different minor courses and multi - disciplinary courses. We welcome the new academic initiative.

■ Acsah Anna Shibu

Blessing of the New Facilities at Marian College Kuttikkanam

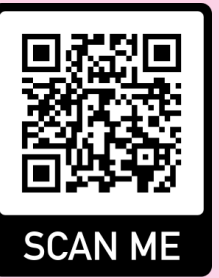
Kuttikkanam - August 1 is a day of inaugurations in Marian College Kuttikkanam with the blessing by His Excellency Mar Jose Pulickal, Bishop of Kanjirapally Diocese. The beautifully decorated confession chapel was the first one blessed by the Bishop. On the same floor was the second phase of Mediatheque- the Media Museum of the Department of Communication and Media Studies. The collected vintage media artefacts is a valuable asset to our institution, said Fr. Sobi Thomas Kannalil, Head of the Department of Communication and Media Studies. Later the Bishop inaugurated IQAC room, Carlo hostel and Madona hostel. The event concluded with a sense of celebration and optimism for the College. The presence of students and staff members truly enhanced the beauty of the occasion.



■ Ananthyka J

Documentary Fest

Diaz Antony's beautiful documentary depicting the Wayanad Puthumala Landslide and its remnants. 2019 AUG 8 Organized by Kuttikkanam Medios Talkies Film Society and Department of Communication and Media Studies, Marian College Kuttikkanam Autonomous.



■ Rahul R

MCMS students attend IDSFFK



Long documentary "Kaithi no 626710 hajar hai" directed by Lalit Vachani and "Faces" a campus documentary directed by Jithin and "Parama: a journey with Aparna Sen " directed by Suman Ghosh are some of the notable films in the Festival.

■ Earnest Joel Sujimon

Pooja Khedkar Loses IAS Candidature Debarred from Future Exams

Pooja Khedkar, a candidate for the Civil Services Examination (CSE) 2022, was found guilty of submitting fake disability and OBC certificates, leading to the cancellation of her IAS candidature and a ban from future exams by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC). She accused Pune Collector Suhas Diwase of harassment, which he denies. A criminal case for cheating and forgery has been registered against her, raising concerns about UPSC's document verification. The Delhi Court will soon rule on her anticipatory bail plea.

■ Treesa Joseph

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FYUGP : It's an opportunity for professionals



The four year undergraduate program (FYUGP) introduced in the colleges this year wins the hearts of the students in Kerala. The UG students in Marian are excited about the selectivity and flexibility of the new system. One of the students from Marian , Annetta of first BCom says, "it's an opportunity for professional growth." But Arun from first BCA has shared apprehensions of a lag in completing the course. He, however, is happy about the selectivity in choosing the minors and the multidisciplinary courses. The majority among the first year students in Marian have a positive attitude to the new curriculum. Some students opined that this will reduce the pace of migration to Europe for higher education.

■ Meghna Mohan

കണ്ടൽ വളർത്തി പ്രകൃതിയെ സംരക്ഷിക്കൂ



ജൂലൈ 26 ലോക കണ്ടൽക്കാട് ദിനമായ ആചരിക്കുന്നു. ഭൂമിയെ സംരക്ഷിക്കുന്നതിൽ ഒരു മുഖ്യ പങ്ക് വഹിക്കുന്ന ഒന്നാണ് കണ്ടൽക്കാടുകൾ. അഴിമുഖങ്ങളിലും ചതുപ്പുകളിലും കായലോരങ്ങളിലും വളരുന്ന വൃക്ഷങ്ങളും കുറ്റിച്ചെടികളും അടങ്ങുന്ന സങ്കീർണമായ ആവാസവ്യവസ്ഥകൾ ആണ് കണ്ടൽക്കാടുകൾ. കണ്ടൽമരങ്ങളും അവയുടെ കൂടെ വളരുന്ന കണ്ടലിതര സസ്യങ്ങളും ഈ പ്രദേശങ്ങളിൽ ഇടതിങ്ങി വളരുന്നു. കണ്ടൽക്കാടുകൾ കൂടുതലായും പുഴയും കടലും ചേരുന്നിടത്തുള്ള ഉഷ്ണ കലർന്ന വെള്ളത്തിലാണ് വളരുന്നത്. വേലിയേറ്റ സമയത്ത് ജലാവൃതമായും വേലിയിറക്ക സമയത്ത് അനാവൃതവുമായും അന്തരീക്ഷവുമായി ബന്ധപ്പെടുന്ന തണ്ണീർത്തടങ്ങളിലെ ചതുപ്പു നിലങ്ങളിലാണു സാധാരണയായി കണ്ടൽക്കാടുകൾ വളരുന്നത്. 80 രാജ്യങ്ങളിൽ ഏകദേശം 1.4 കോടി ഹെക്ടർ പ്രദേശത്ത് കണ്ടൽക്കാടുകൾ ഉണ്ട് എന്ന് കണക്കാക്കപ്പെടുന്നു. ഇന്ത്യയിൽ 6740 ചതുരശ്രകിലോമീറ്റർ പ്രദേശത്ത് ഇവ കാണപ്പെടുന്നുണ്ടെന്നാണ് കണക്ക്. കണ്ടൽക്കാടുകൾ അധികവും കാണപ്പെടുന്നത് ആൻഡമാൻ നിക്കോബാർ ദ്വീപുകളുടെ കിഴക്കൻ തീരങ്ങളിലാണ്. ഭൂമിയിലെ ഏറ്റവും ജൈവസമ്പന്ന ആവാസവ്യവസ്ഥകളിൽ പ്രധാനപ്പെട്ടവയാണ് കണ്ടൽക്കാടുകൾ. ഉഷ്ണമേഖലാ കാടുകൾ ആഗിരണം ചെയ്യുന്ന കാർബണിനേക്കാൾ അവതിരട്ടി കാർബൺ വലിച്ചെടുക്കാനായിട്ടുള്ള ശേഷിയുണ്ട് കണ്ടൽക്കാടുകൾക്ക്. അതുവഴി അന്തരീക്ഷ മലിനീകരണം ഒരു പരിധിവരെ കുറയ്ക്കാൻ സാധിക്കുന്നു. അതോടൊപ്പം ഇവ ധാരാളം ഓക്സിജനും പുറത്തു വിടുന്നു. വ്യത്യസ്തയിനം മത്സ്യങ്ങളടക്കമുള്ള ജലജീവികൾക്ക് സുരക്ഷിതമായി പ്രജനനം നടത്താനും പക്ഷികൾക്ക് കൂടുകൂട്ടാനും കണ്ടൽക്കാടുകൾ വളരെയധികം സഹായകരമാണ്. ഇന്ന് ഭൂമിയിൽ നേരിട്ടുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്ന പല പ്രശ്നങ്ങൾക്കും ഒരു പരിഹാരമാണ് കണ്ടൽക്കാടുകൾ, പ്രത്യേകിച്ച് പരിസ്ഥിതി പ്രശ്നങ്ങൾക്ക് ജലാശയങ്ങൾക്കു സമീപം കണ്ടൽ ചെടികൾ നട്ടു വളർത്തുക എന്നതാണ് പരിസ്ഥിതി സംരക്ഷണത്തിന് ഘലപ്രദമായ ഒരു മാർഗ്ഗം. കേരളത്തിൽ കല്ലേൽ പൊക്കുടൻ കണ്ടൽക്കാടുകളുടെ സംരക്ഷണത്തിനായി പ്രവർത്തിച്ച ഒരു പരിസ്ഥിതി പ്രവർത്തകനാണ്. ഇത്തരം കണ്ടൽക്കാടുകളെ റിസർവ്വ് വനമാക്കി മാറ്റിയ ഇന്ത്യയിലെ ആദ്യ സംസ്ഥാനമാണ് പശ്ചിമബംഗാൾ. ലോകത്തിലെ ഏറ്റവും വലിയ കണ്ടൽക്കാട് ഇന്ത്യയിലാണ് കണ്ടൽക്കാടുകൾ സംരക്ഷിക്കേണ്ടത് അനിവാര്യമാണ്

■ Kavya Sajeev

കല്ലേൽ പൊക്കുടൻ: കണ്ടൽ സംരക്ഷകൻ

പ്രകൃതിയുടെ ശ്വാസകോശങ്ങൾ എന്നറിയപ്പെടുന്ന കണ്ടൽ വനങ്ങൾ സംരക്ഷിക്കുകയും, അവ നശിച്ചുപോയവയ്ക്ക് ഭവിക്കുമാറ്റം നൽകുകയും ചെയ്തിരുന്ന മലയാളിയായ ഒരു പരിസ്ഥിതി പ്രവർത്തകൻ ആയിരുന്നു കല്ലേൽ പൊക്കുടൻ. യുനെസ്കോയുടെ പരിസ്ഥിതിപ്രവർത്തന വിഭാഗം കണ്ടൽക്കാടുകളുടെ സംരക്ഷണത്തിൽ അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ സംഭാവനകൾ പരാമർശിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്. കേരളത്തിൽ പരിസ്ഥിതി പ്രവർത്തനത്തിനു തുടക്കം കുറിച്ചവരിൽ പ്രധാനിയാണ് അദ്ദേഹം. കണ്ണൂർ ജില്ലയിലെ ഏഴാം പഞ്ചായത്തിലെ എടക്കീൽ തറയിൽ 1931 ൽ ജനനം. അദ്ദേഹം സജീവ രാഷ്ട്രീയം ഉപേക്ഷിച്ച് എൺപതുകളുടെ അവസാനത്തിൽ പരിസ്ഥിതി പ്രവർത്തനത്തിൽ ലേക്കു കടന്ന് കണ്ടൽക്കാടുകൾ വെച്ചു പിടിച്ചിട്ടു തുടങ്ങി. അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ ആത്മകഥയായാണ് കണ്ടൽക്കാടുകൾക്കിടയിൽ എന്റെ ജീവിതം. ആദിവാസി ഭക്തിതർക്കത്തിനെ നടക്കുന്ന ചുരുക്കങ്ങളെ തുറന്നുകാട്ടിക്കൊണ്ട് 2013ൽ പുറത്തിറങ്ങിയ പാഷിലി യോ ബുദ്ധ എന്ന സിനിമയിൽ കരിയൻ എന്ന കഥാപാത്രത്തെ അദ്ദേഹം അവതരിപ്പിച്ചു. ശ്വാസകോശ സംബന്ധമായ അസുഖത്തെ തുടർന്ന് 2015 ൽ കല്ലേൽ അന്തരിച്ചു.



■ Acsah Anna Shibu

It's Paradisiacal Climate



Kuttikkanam offers something for everyone. For those who search for tranquility it is a paradise with romantic drizzle, mist and fog. But the wet weather with umbrella -breaking winds disturb some others. Most students, it seems, are enjoying the chilly ambience.

■ Fr. Clint Mathew



MACON Launches 20x10 Feet LED Wall for Public Advertisements

In a strategic move to enhance advertising opportunities, Marian Complete Communication Solutions Pvt Ltd (MACON), a startup incubated by the Department of Communication and Media Studies at Marian College Kuttikkanam Autonomous, has introduced a 20x10 feet LED wall at the bustling Kuttikkanam junction. This prominent location, along National Highway 183A, serves as a gateway to popular tourist destinations such as Thekkady, Ramakkalmedu, and Parunthumpara, as well as a crucial route to Tamil Nadu. The LED wall offers a dynamic and visually stunning platform for various institutions, including educational bodies, resorts, hospitals, and companies, to showcase their products, services, and messages to a diverse and engaged audience. This LED wall, reminiscent of those seen in foreign countries like China and Malaysia, is designed to command attention with its size and vibrant display. Advertisers can benefit from the flexibility to update their content regularly, ensuring their messages remain relevant and captivating. The project underscores Marian Complete Communication Solutions Pvt Ltd's commitment to providing innovative marketing solutions while maintaining the college's image and integrity through strict content guidelines. This initiative not only elevates the advertising landscape in Kuttikkanam but also offers local and international businesses an unparalleled opportunity to connect with a broad audience, making their brand stand

out in the heart of this tourist hub.



■ Rahul R