



24 June 2024

Kerala Regional News

<p><b>Kerala Urban Water Services Improvement Project (KUWSIP)</b></p>	<p><b>Why in the news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The <b>Kerala Urban Water Services Improvement Project</b>, aided by the <b>Asian Development Bank (ADB)</b>, involves <b>replacing 750 km of water supply lines in Kochi</b> and <b>installing new water meters</b> for 1.46 lakh consumers.</li> <li>• <b>For the first time</b> in the State, the <b>operation and maintenance of Kochi's entire water supply system will be entrusted to a private firm</b>, which won the bid for the project.</li> </ul> <p><b>About Kerala Urban Water Services Improvement Project:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Objective:</b> The project aims to provide <b>safe, reliable, and continuous drinking water</b> to the urban population in <b>Kochi and Thiruvananthapuram</b> cities of Kerala.</li> <li>• <b>Context:</b> KUWSIP is part of the <b>Rebuild Kerala Development Program (RKDP)</b>, initiated after the <b>flood disaster of 2018</b>.</li> <li>• <b>Key Interventions:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Improving efficiency of water distribution network</b> in Kochi.</li> <li>○ <b>Refurbishing and upgrading water treatment plants</b> in Kochi and Thiruvananthapuram to meet Indian drinking water standards.</li> <li>○ <b>Rehabilitating water pumping stations</b> in both cities to enhance efficiency.</li> <li>○ Strengthening institutional capacity for sustainable benefits.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Funding:</b> The project is backed by the <b>Asian Development Bank (ADB)</b> with a proposed loan amount of <b>US\$ 125 million</b>.</li> </ul>
<p><b>GST revenue-sharing</b></p>	<p><b>Why in the news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Kerala has sought changes in the sharing pattern for Goods and Services Tax (GST) revenues</b> between the <b>Centre and the States</b>.</li> </ul>



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	<p><b>Key points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Proposal:</b> Kerala Finance Minister K.N. Balagopal suggests changing the <b>GST revenue-sharing ratio to 60:40 in favor of states.</b></li> <li>● <b>Current Ratio:</b> Currently, the ratio is <b>50:50</b> between the Centre and states.</li> <li>● <b>Rationale:</b> The <b>proposed change aims to provide more financial autonomy to states and strengthen their fiscal position.</b></li> <li>● <b>Challenges:</b> Implementing this change <b>requires consensus among all states and the Central government.</b></li> </ul>
<p><b>Coastal cruise services in the Kerala</b></p>	<p><b>Why in the news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The <b>Kerala Maritime Board (KBM)</b> has taken a significant step toward <b>establishing coastal cruise services in the state.</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Key points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● They have invited <b>expressions of interest (Eoi)</b> from competent firms to <b>create cruise routes connecting 4 non-major ports and a major port within Kerala.</b></li> <li>● These <b>routes will link neighboring ports on both the west and east coasts,</b> as well as offer international cruise services.</li> <li>● The <b>initiative aims to position Kerala as a major cruise hub in the southern region.</b></li> <li>● The <b>proposed cruise services will cover various categories, including:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Deep sea and international cruises</b></li> <li>○ <b>Domestic inter-state and intra-state services</b></li> <li>○ <b>River and marine cruises</b> connecting inland waterways and islands</li> <li>○ <b>Day cruises,</b> such as sunset cruises and MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conventions, and Exhibitions) tours</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Kerala Maritime Board (KBM)</b></p>	<p><b>Why in the news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The <b>Kerala Maritime Board (KBM)</b> has taken a significant step toward <b>establishing coastal cruise services in the state.</b></li> </ul> <p><b>About KBM:</b></p>



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Purpose:</b> KMB was established in <b>2017</b> to manage and operate the non-major ports in Kerala.</li> <li>● <b>Coastline:</b> Kerala boasts a <b>590 km long coastline</b> with <b>17 notified non-major ports</b> and one major port at Cochin.</li> <li>● <b>Responsibilities:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Administering and controlling non-major ports.</b></li> <li>○ Exploiting Kerala's coastline for sustainable maritime trade and shipping industry growth.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● <b>Recent Achievements:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>ISPS status</b> was obtained for <b>four ports:</b> Kollam, Vizhinjam, Beypore, and Azhikkal.</li> <li>○ Ongoing efforts to <b>secure immigration checkpoint status for Kollam port.</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Sugeeta Rajan</b></p>	<p><b>Why in the news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Chinmaya Vidyalaya's former principal and current academic director <b>Sugeeta Rajan (70) has passed away.</b></li> </ul> <p><b>About Sugeeta Rajan:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● She was <b>former principal and academic director of Chinmaya Vidyalaya in Kannur.</b></li> <li>● She played a <b>crucial role in establishing the school.</b></li> <li>● Sugeeta Rajan <b>received the CBSE Best Teacher Award in 2010</b> and the <b>National Award for Best Teacher in 2013.</b></li> <li>● Her contributions extended beyond teaching; she <b>served as the Kannur Sahodaya Chairman, General Secretary, and CBSE Inspection Team Member.</b></li> <li>● Additionally, she was <b>involved in cultural and social activities related to Swami Chinmayananda.</b></li> </ul>

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