





Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia



## 24 June 2024

## Kerala Regional News

Kerala Urban Water Services Improvement Project (KUWSIP)	<ul> <li>Why in the news?</li> <li>The Kerala Urban Water Services Improvement Project, aided by the Asian Development Bank (ADB), involves replacing 750 km of water supply lines in Kochi and installing new water meters for 1.46 lakh consumers.</li> <li>For the first time in the State, the operation and maintenance of Kochi's entire water supply system will be entrusted to a private firm, which won the bid for the project.</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>About Kerala Urban Water Services Improvement Project:</li> <li>Objective: The project aims to provide safe, reliable, and continuous drinking water to the urban population in Kochi and Thiruvananthapuram cities of Kerala.</li> <li>Context: KUWSIP is part of the Rebuild Kerala Development Program (RKDP), initiated after the flood disaster of 2018.</li> <li>Key Interventions: <ul> <li>Improving efficiency of water distribution network in Kochi.</li> <li>Refurbishing and upgrading water treatment plants in Kochi and Thiruvananthapuram to meet Indian drinking water standards.</li> <li>Rehabilitating water pumping stations in both cities to enhance efficiency.</li> <li>Strengthening institutional capacity for sustainable benefits.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Funding: The project is backed by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) with a proposed loan amount of US\$ 125 million.</li> </ul>
GST revenue-sharing	<ul> <li>Why in the news?</li> <li>Kerala has sought changes in the sharing pattern for Goods and Services Tax (GST) revenues between the Centre and the States.</li> </ul>











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	<ul> <li>Key points:</li> <li>Proposal: Kerala Finance Minister K.N. Balagopal suggests changing the GST revenue-sharing ratio to 60:40 in favor of states.</li> <li>Current Ratio: Currently, the ratio is 50:50 between the Centre and states.</li> <li>Rationale: The proposed change aims to provide more financial autonomy to states and strengthen their fiscal position.</li> <li>Challenges: Implementing this change requires consensus among all states and the Central government.</li> </ul>
Coastal cruise services in the Kerala	<ul> <li>Why in the news?</li> <li>The Kerala Maritime Board (KBM) has taken a significant step toward establishing coastal cruise services in the state.</li> <li>Key points: <ul> <li>They have invited expressions of interest (EoI) from competent firms to create cruise routes connecting 4 non-major ports and a major port within Kerala.</li> <li>These routes will link neighboring ports on both the west and east coasts, as well as offer international cruise services.</li> <li>The initiative aims to position Kerala as a major cruise hub in the southern region.</li> <li>The proposed cruise services will cover various categories, including: <ul> <li>Deep sea and international cruises</li> <li>Domestic inter-state and intra-state services</li> <li>River and marine cruises connecting inland waterways and islands</li> <li>Day cruises, such as sunset cruises and MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conventions, and Exhibitions) tours</li> </ul> </li> </ul></li></ul>
Kerala Maritime Board (KBM)	<ul> <li>Why in the news?</li> <li>The Kerala Maritime Board (KBM) has taken a significant step toward establishing coastal cruise services in the state.</li> <li>About KBM:</li> </ul>









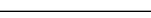


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	<ul> <li>Purpose: KMB was established in 2017 to manage and operate the non-major ports in Kerala.</li> <li>Coastline: Kerala boasts a 590 km long coastline with 17 notified non-major ports and one major port at Cochin.</li> <li>Responsibilities:         <ul> <li>Administering and controlling non-major ports.</li> <li>Exploiting Kerala's coastline for sustainable maritime trade and shipping industry growth.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Recent Achievements:         <ul> <li>ISPS status was obtained for four ports: Kollam, Vizhinjam, Beypore, and Azhikkal.</li> <li>Ongoing efforts to secure immigration checkpoint status for Kollam port.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Sugeeta Rajan	<ul> <li>Why in the news?</li> <li>Chinmaya Vidyalaya's former principal and current academic director Sugeeta Rajan (70) has passed away.</li> <li>About Sugeeta Rajan:</li> <li>She was former principal and academic director of Chinmaya Vidyalaya in Kannur.</li> <li>She played a crucial role in establishing the school.</li> <li>Sugeeta Rajan received the CBSE Best Teacher Award in 2010 and the National Award for Best Teacher in 2013.</li> <li>Her contributions extended beyond teaching; she served as the Kannur Sahodaya Chairman, General Secretary, and CBSE Inspection Team Member.</li> <li>Additionally, she was involved in cultural and social activities related to Swami Chinmayananda.</li> </ul>

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