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Kerala Regional News

<p><b>SilverLine project</b></p>	<p><b>Context:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The <b>Southern Railway</b> has requested a revision of the <b>Detailed Project Report (DPR)</b> for the ambitious SilverLine project.</li> <li>• The railway authorities have expressed concerns about certain aspects of the DPR, including potential environmental impacts and cost implications.</li> <li>• The revision of the DPR is expected to address these concerns and ensure the project's feasibility and sustainability.</li> </ul> <p><b>About:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The <b>SilverLine project</b> is a <b>proposed semi-high-speed rail</b> line in India that would connect <b>Thiruvananthapuram, the capital city, and Kasaragod</b> of Kerala state.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Route:</b> The <b>529.45 km line</b> will connect Thiruvananthapuram to Kasaragod, covering <b>11 districts through 11 stations</b>.</li> <li>• <b>Speed:</b> <b>Trains will run at a maximum speed of 200 km/h</b>, reducing travel time from 12 hours to less than 4 hours.</li> </ul> <p><b>Benefits:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduced travel time and improved connectivity.</li> <li>• Reduced road congestion and accidents.</li> <li>• Boost to tourism and economic development.</li> <li>• Environmentally friendly mode of transport.</li> </ul> <p><b>Challenges:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Land acquisition:</b> Requires acquiring 1,200 hectares of land, facing resistance from landowners and environmentalists.</li> <li>• <b>Environmental concerns:</b> Concerns about deforestation, habitat destruction, and water table impact.</li> <li>• <b>Financial viability:</b> The project is estimated to cost ₹66,079 crore, raising questions about its financial feasibility.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Heli tourism policy gets cabinet's nod</b></p>	<p><b>Context:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The <b>Kerala government has approved a new heli-tourism policy</b>, aimed at promoting tourism in the state, especially in remote and inaccessible areas.</li> <li>• This policy will <b>facilitate the establishment of helipads</b> and heliports in various locations, making it easier for tourists to reach popular destinations.</li> <li>• The policy outlines infrastructure requirements for heliports, heli stations, and helipads, facilitating the growth of the heli tourism</li> </ul>



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	<p>sector.</p> <p><b>Key benefits of the heli-tourism policy:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Accessibility to Remote Areas:</b> Heli-tourism will enable tourists to explore remote and picturesque locations that are difficult to reach by road.</li> <li>• <b>Time-Saving:</b> It will significantly reduce travel time, especially for long distances.</li> <li>• <b>Boost to Tourism Industry:</b> The policy is expected to attract more tourists and contribute to the growth of the tourism industry in Kerala.</li> <li>• <b>Economic Development:</b> It will create employment opportunities and boost the local economy.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Vizhinjam seaport</b></p>	<p><b>Context:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The <b>Vizhinjam International Seaport</b> in Kerala has officially commenced commercial operations with the <b>completion of Phase I</b>.</li> <li>• This state-of-the-art deep-water port is set to revolutionize Kerala's maritime sector and boost the state's economy.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kerala has signed a supplementary concession agreement with Adani Vizhinjam Port Pvt Ltd to extend the project timeline by <b>five years</b>.</li> <li>• <b>The project timeline was extended taking into account things such as the Covid-19 pandemic, cyclone Ockhi and floods</b></li> <li>• The port is now slated for <b>commissioning in December 2024</b>.</li> </ul> <p><b>About:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Location:</b> Vizhinjam, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.</li> <li>• <b>Purpose:</b> Designed for <b>container transshipment</b>, multi-purpose cargo, and break bulk cargo</li> <li>• <b>Development: Public-Private Partnership (PPP)</b> model with Adani Vizhinjam Port Private Limited as the concessionaire</li> <li>• <b>Strategic Location:</b> Located 10 nautical miles from the busy international shipping route connecting Europe, the Persian Gulf, and the Far East</li> </ul> <p><b>Advantages:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Natural draft of 20-24 meters</li> <li>• Minimal littoral drift</li> <li>• Large-scale automation for quick vessel turnaround</li> <li>• State-of-the-art infrastructure for handling Megamax containerships</li> <li>• Capacity: <b>Phase 1 capacity of 1 million TEUs</b>, with potential for expansion to 6.2 million TEUs in subsequent phases.</li> </ul>

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