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Kerala Regional News

<p>Skoch Award</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Kochi Water Metro project has been recognized with the prestigious Skoch Award. • This award acknowledges the project's significant contribution to sustainable urban transportation and its positive impact on the environment. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Kochi Water Metro is a unique water transport system in India that connects various parts of Kochi city through a network of waterways. • It aims to reduce traffic congestion and air pollution while providing a scenic and efficient mode of transportation. <p>About:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Skoch Awards are prestigious honors given to individuals and organizations for excellence in governance, economy, and social development. • They recognize and reward outstanding achievements in various fields, including public administration, corporate social responsibility, technology, and innovation
<p>Kozhikode-Wayanad road project</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Kozhikode-Wayanad road project is seen by environmentalists as a harbinger of doom for the fragile hills and the people. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This project is a significant infrastructure development initiative aimed at improving connectivity between the coastal district of Kozhikode and the hilly district of Wayanad in Kerala. • This project involves the construction and upgrading of roads, bridges, and tunnels to facilitate smooth and efficient transportation between the two regions. <p>Key benefits of the project include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced Travel Time. • Economic Development • Social Development • Tourism Promotion.
<p>Kerala ranks second in EV adoption</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A recent report by FICCI and Yes Bank titled “Driving ZEV Transition – From Center to State,” has revealed that Kerala ranks second in EV adoption.



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EV penetration stood at 11.1 in FY24 for Kerala. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The report also revealed that Delhi is leading the way in electric vehicle (EV) adoption in India. EV penetration in Delhi stood at 11.5% in FY24. In the states of Assam, Karnataka, and Uttar Pradesh, the EV penetration stood at 10%, 9.9% and 9.2%, respectively. <p>Electric Passenger Vehicles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In terms of electric passenger vehicles penetration, Kerala leads at 5.4%, followed by Karnataka, Delhi, Chhattisgarh, and Maharashtra at 3.7%, 3%, 2.9%, and 2.9%, respectively. <p>Two-Wheelers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In terms of electric two-wheelers, the top five states, i.e. Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, and Kerala, contributed to 60% of total electric two-wheeler sales. Kerala led the electric two-wheeler penetration by 13.5%. <p>Three-Wheelers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In terms of electric three-wheelers, Chhattisgarh led the EV penetration at 89.5%, followed by Delhi, Assam, Uttar Pradesh, and Punjab at 82.8%, 82.5%, 82.4%, and 81.8%, respectively. <p>Note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> While ZEV penetration has grown by ~200 basis points (bps) annually between FY21-24, the report highlights that this growth rate must nearly double to ~380 bps annually to achieve India's ambitious EV30@30 target—30% EV penetration by 2030.
<p>Periyar River</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has directed the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) to submit a comprehensive report on the status of liquid waste management in the Periyar River catchment area. The NGT is concerned about the increasing pollution levels in the river, which is a vital water source for the region. The CPCB is expected to assess the sources of pollution, including industrial effluents, domestic sewage, and agricultural runoff. The report will provide valuable insights into the extent of pollution and the necessary measures to address the issue. <p>About:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) is a statutory organization under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC). It was established in 1974 under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974.



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Key functions of CPCB:

- **Pollution Control and Prevention:** CPCB plays a crucial role in preventing and controlling air and water pollution.
- **Environmental Monitoring:** It monitors the quality of air and water bodies across India.
- **Policy Formulation:** CPCB provides technical expertise and recommendations for the formulation of environmental policies and regulations.
- **Public Awareness:** It creates awareness about environmental issues and promotes sustainable practices.
- **Enforcement:** CPCB enforces environmental laws and regulations, taking action against polluters.
- **Research and Development:** It supports research and development activities related to pollution control and environmental protection.

Periyar River:

- The **Periyar River** is one of the **longest rivers in the Indian state of Kerala**.
- It **originates in the Western Ghats** and flows through the state, eventually **emptying into the Arabian Sea**.
- The river plays a crucial role in the state's economy and ecology.

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