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Kerala Regional News

<p>Cooperative Institutions</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The committee appointed by the government to revise the rules and regulations for cooperative institutions in the state has recommended that these institutions set aside 10% of their annual profit for employees' pensions. This amount should be handed over to the Cooperative Pension Board. The committee has also suggested that a provision be included to penalize the head of the cooperative institution if new members are not enrolled in the pension scheme. <p>About:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Indian Constitution, through the 97th Amendment Act of 2011, accorded constitutional status to cooperative societies. This amendment significantly enhanced the role and importance of cooperatives in the country. Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PACS are the grassroots level institutions of the cooperative credit structure in India. They operate at the village level and provide financial services primarily to farmers and rural communities. <p>Key Functions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Credit provision: Offering short-term loans for agricultural activities like sowing, harvesting, and purchasing inputs. Deposit mobilization: Accepting deposits from members to increase their resource base. Other services: Providing services like distribution of fertilizers, pesticides, and seeds.
<p>Dengue</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ernakulam district in Kerala has been severely impacted by a dengue fever outbreak since January 2024. Over 12,000 cases have been reported, with the majority concentrated in urban areas. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dengue is a viral infection transmitted by female Aedes mosquitoes. In severe cases, it can lead to dengue hemorrhagic fever (DHF) and dengue shock syndrome (DSS), which are life-threatening conditions.



	<p>Symptoms of Dengue:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High fever • Severe headache • Muscle and joint pain • Fatigue • Loss of appetite • Nausea and vomiting • Rash (appears 2-5 days after fever) • Bleeding gums, nosebleeds, or easy bruising (in severe cases)
<p>'Mera KYC'</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kerala government aims to achieve 100% mustering of ration cards by utilizing a mobile app and iris scanners. • The mobile app, named 'Mera KYC', will enable ration cardholders to update their details and complete the mustering process conveniently from their smartphones. • Additionally, iris scanners will be deployed at various locations to capture biometric data of beneficiaries, further enhancing the security and efficiency of the system • This initiative is expected to streamline the process, reduce errors, and ensure accurate identification of beneficiaries.
<p>Kochi Water Metro</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kochi Water Metro is set to expand its services by launching routes to Mattancherry and Willingdon Island as a special New Year's gift to passengers. • This expansion will further enhance connectivity within the Greater Kochi region, offering residents and tourists alike a convenient and eco-friendly mode of transportation. • The new routes are expected to attract significant ridership, contributing to the overall success of the Kochi Water Metro project. <p>About:</p> <p>Mattancherry:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A historic neighborhood in Kochi, Kerala, known for its Jewish synagogue, Portuguese-era architecture, and vibrant spice trade history. • Popular tourist destination with attractions like the Mattancherry Palace (Dutch Palace), Paradesi Synagogue, and local markets. • Recently connected to the Kochi Water Metro system, offering convenient water transport. <p>Willingdon Island:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An artificial island in Kochi harbor, created in the early 20th century. • Home to the headquarters of the Southern Naval Command and the Cochin Port Trust.



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