

# Kerala's silverline project

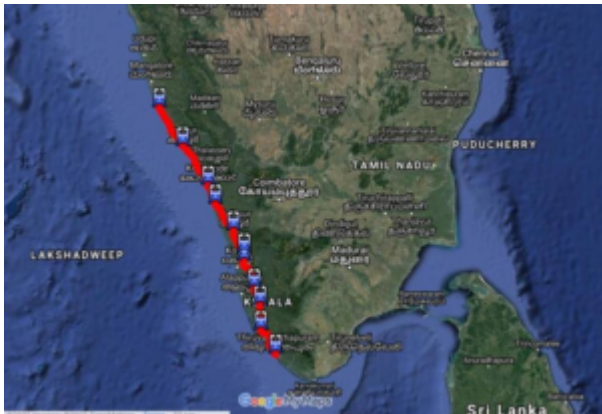
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## In news

Recently, Kerala government gave the green light to begin acquiring land for Silverline project

## About Silverline project

- It is a semi high-speed railway project aimed at reducing travel time between the state's northern(Kasaragod) and southern ends(Thiruvananthapuram).



- Project Cost: Rs 63,940 crore
- The line is proposed to be 529.45 kms long, covering 11 districts through 11 stations.
- Once completed, one can travel from Kasaragod to Thiruvananthapuram in less than four hours on trains travelling at 200 km/hr.
- The current travel time on the existing Indian Railways network is 12 hours.
- The deadline for the project, being executed by the Kerala Rail Development Corporation Limited (KRDCL), is 2025.
- KRDCL, or K-Rail, is a joint venture between the Kerala government and the Union Ministry of Railways.

## Other key features of the project

- The project will have trains of electric multiple unit (EMU) type with preferably nine cars and extendable to 12 cars each.
- A nine-car rake can seat a maximum of 675 passengers in business and standard class settings.
- The trains can run at a maximum speed of 220 kmph on standard gauge track, completing journeys in either direction in under four hours.
- Every 500 metres of the corridor, there will be under passages with provision of service roads.
- Cities covered under this rail line are Thiruvananthapuram(elevated station), Kollam, Chengannur, Kottayam, Ernakulam (Kakkanad)(elevated), Cochin Airport, Thrissur(elevated), Tirur, Kozhikode(underground station), Kannur and Kasaragod.

## Need for the project

- The existing railway infrastructure in the state cannot meet the demands of the future.
- Most trains run with an average speed of 45 km/hr due to a lot of curves and bends on the existing stretch.
- The government claims the SilverLine project is the need of the hour as it can take a significant load of traffic off the existing railway stretch and make travel easier and faster for commuters

## Opposition to the project

- Experts have called the project a 'white elephant' amid an array of concerns raised over it
- Environmentalists claim that it would impact the Western Ghats heavily because the project requires huge amounts of granite and loose soil.
- The project has received flak over apprehensions that it would destroy many paddy fields in the state

## **Significance of the project**

The proposed railway line will reduce greenhouse gas emissions, help in expansion of Ro-Ro services, produce employment opportunities, integrate airports and IT corridors and faster development of cities it passes through.