

Kochi Water Metro

April 26, 2023

In news– Prime Minister of India has inaugurated the first phase of the Kochi Water Metro, **a first of its kind public boat service in India integrated with a metro rail network.**

About Kochi Water Metro-

- It is **not only the country's first water metro and it is also the first-ever integrated water transport system of this size and scale in Asia.**
- The Kochi Water Metro has been instituted at a cost of ₹1,136.83 crore.
- The project received **funding from the Kerala government and a loan from KfW- a German state-owned investment and development bank.**
- In the first phase, the water metro services will start on the High Court to Vypin and Vytilla to Kakkanad stretches.
- Frequent commuters can opt for weekly, monthly, and quarterly passes.
- **Kochi One Card can be used to travel seamlessly** on both Kochi Metro and Kochi Water Metro.
- One can obtain a ticket digitally through Kochi One App.
- **KWM's boats are being built by Cochin Shipyard.** Once it is fully operational, 78 boats will ply between 38 terminals on 10 islands.
- It is expected to become **fully operational by 2035** with a daily commuter-count of 1.5 lakh passengers.
- It is also described as **possibly the largest electric boat metro transportation infrastructure being implemented in the world.**

Kochi Water Metro boats-

- The boats are **made of aluminum catamaran hulls** and Fiber Reinforced Polymers (FRPs) superstructure.

- They are **equipped with lithium titanate oxide batteries.**
- These boats **can be monitored and controlled from the state-of-the-art Operating Control Centre.**
- In 2022 Kochi Water Metro **won the prestigious Gussies Award (France) for the best commercial passenger electric boat in the world.**
- Since the transport system **uses renewable sources of energy it is sustainable.**
- The boat has been designed in a unique way that **ensures negligible wave activity and does not disturb aqua flora and fauna.**
- In the first phase, 34,000 passengers can commute on the water metro.