

‘The Kerala Story 2’ cleared for release



Kochi: The Kerala High Court on Friday paved the way for the release of ‘The Kerala Story 2-Goes Beyond’ film by staying the single judge order which had put on hold the movie’s screening by 15 days.

A bench of Justices Sushrut Arvind Dharmadhikari and P V Balakrishnan passed the interim order on the appeal moved by the film’s producer Vipul Amrutlal Shah late Thursday night, hours after the movie’s release were stayed.

In its order the bench said that the single judge’s finding that guidelines for certification have not been borne in mind by the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) were “merely on the basis of a few clippings and without viewing the movie” and therefore, it “cannot be countenanced”.

“That apart, the fact that insertions, excisions and modifications, have been carried out by the appellant (Shah) in the movie as per the directions of the CBFC would only further reinforce the fact that there is an application of mind from the part of Board while granting the certificate,” the bench said.

It further said that once a certificate has been issued, there is, prima facie, a presumption that the authority concerned has taken into account all the guidelines, including public order.

“... if, due to the release of the movie, any issue of public order arises, it is the duty of the state to maintain it,” the bench said.

The court also said that this presumption includes that the film has been judged in its entirety from the point of view of its overall impacts, by taking into consideration the principles enunciated in the Cinematograph Act, 1952 and the relevant guidelines.

“In such circumstances, merely on the basis of a few clippings and without viewing the movie, the finding of the single judge that the guidelines for certification have not been borne in mind by the CBFC while granting certification, cannot be countenanced.

“In the light of the afore discussions, we are of the view that the impugned order dated February 26, 2026 interdicting the release of the movie is only to be stayed and we do so.

Ordered accordingly,” the bench said.

Shah in his appeal had claimed that the film does not harm or denigrate the state of Kerala or any religious community.

“The film only portrays a social evil,” his lawyers had told the court.

He had also contended that if the film’s release was put on hold, it would “financially finish” the producers as the movie is set to be screened in 1,500 theatres in India and over 300 abroad on February 27.

The single judge had stayed the release of the film on the ground that prima facie there was a manifest non-application of mind to the requirement of law by the censor board, CBFC.

The judge also said that “the possibility of communal disharmony or denigration of a community also being prima facie involved in the movie”, its release without scrutiny by the higher authorities would be legally improper.

The court had further said that the content of the film’s teaser has “a prima facie potential to distort public perception and disturb communal harmony”.

-PTI

Woman raped twice, killed

Paradip (Odisha): A 23-year-old woman was raped twice in a day in separate places by her boyfriend and a stranger offering help and then thrown off a four-storey building, leading to her death, in Odisha’s Jagatsinghpur district, police said on Friday.

Police arrested both the accused and booked them under various sections of BNS for kidnapping, rape and murder.

“The incident took place on February 22 after the woman left her house with plans to elope with her boyfriend, who had asked her to come to a temple by promising to marry her. However, he took her to a secluded place, raped her and abandoned her at Rahama bus stand,” Jagatsinghpur Superintendent of Police Ankit Kumar Verma told reporters.

As the victim was waiting at the bus stand, another man hailing from Jharkhand, who was heading to nearby Paradip on his motorcycle, saw the hapless woman and offered help. He, however, took her to the roof of his rented accommodation at a place in Paradip town and raped her again, the SP said.

The accused then threw the woman from the roof of the building, leading to her death, he said, adding her body was found the next morning.

The SP said the victim’s brother lodged a complaint at Paradip Model police station on February 25, alleging that his sister was raped and murdered on February 22. An unnatural death case was registered on February 23 following the recovery of the woman’s body. Earlier, in the evening of February 22, the woman’s brother had lodged a missing persons case at Tirtol police station when his sister did not return home.

BJD supremo and Leader of the Opposition in the state assembly, Naveen Patnaik, condemned the incident and demanded justice for the woman and other victims of recent rape incidents.

“How many more innocent lives will be lost? From underage girls to differently abled young women, no one is safe. So, is the rule of law still in place in the state? The news of heinous crimes coming from Kanhari in Angul, Kuchinda in Sambalpur, and Paradip is deeply disturbing. Chaos everywhere, insecurity all around, O Mother!” he said in an X post.

“While the government delivers longwinded speeches on women’s safety and law and order, the ground reality is extremely alarming,” the former CM added.

-PTI



A wild elephant pushes two-wheelers in a residential area in Ranchi in Jharkhand on Friday.

World calls for end to Pak-Afghan conflict

By J M Varma

Beijing: China on Friday called on Pakistan and Afghanistan to work out a ceasefire while expressing concern over the escalation of the conflict between the two countries.

China is closely following the developments of the situation in the conflict between Pakistan and Afghanistan, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning told a media briefing here, responding to questions on the current conflict between the two countries.

Pakistan and Afghanistan are close neighbours, and both are neighbouring countries of China. As a neighbour and friend,

China is deeply concerned about the escalation of the conflict and deeply saddened by the casualties caused by the conflict, Mao said.

She said China supports combating all forms of terrorism and calls on both sides to exercise calm and restraint, properly resolve their differences and disputes through dialogue and consultation, and realise a ceasefire as soon as possible to avoid more suffering.

The de-escalation serves the fundamental interests of the two countries and peoples, and will help uphold peace and stability in the region, she said.

She also said China has been mediating between the two

countries through its own channels and stands ready to continue to play a constructive role in de-escalating the situation and improving relations between the two countries, Mao said.

Russia concerned

The Russian Foreign Ministry expressed concern over the “sharp escalation” of armed clashes between Afghanistan and Pakistan, “involving regular army units, air force, and heavy weapons”.

Kremlin’s Special Envoy for Afghanistan, Zamir Kabulov, also urged Islamabad and Kabul to halt the hostilities.

-PTI

Churchill statue defaced

London: London police said they caught a vandal red-handed - or at least with red paint - after he defaced a statue Friday of former British Prime Minister Winston Churchill in central London with pro-Palestinian graffiti.

The 38-year-old suspect was arrested on suspicion of racially aggravated criminal damage for allegedly painting “Zionist war criminal” on the plinth beneath the 12-foot statue of Churchill leaning on a cane that faces Big Ben and the Houses of Parliament, the Metropolitan Police said.

“Stop the Genocide” and “Free Palestine” were also painted in red on the bronze sculpture.

The Dutch group called “Free the Filton 24,” a reference to Palestine Action activists charged with breaking into Israel-based defence firm Elbit’s sites in the UK, claimed responsibility for the vandalism.

Police did not name the suspect, as is customary when someone hasn’t been charged, but said he was in custody. Olax Outis, who said he is Dutch and part of the action group, claimed to be the man behind the act.

-AP

Injustice on other depts due to Ladki Bahin: Ganesh Naik

By Abhijit Mulye

Mumbai: The Mahayuti government faced a moment of deep embarrassment in the Legislative Council on Friday when senior BJP leader and Forest Minister Ganesh Naik openly blamed the state’s flagship welfare scheme for the financial starvation of other departments.

During Question Hour, Naik remarked that the Mukhyamantri Ladki Bahin Yojana has created conditions leading to “injustice” across various government sectors due to the massive diversion of funds.

While Naik clarified that the scheme—which provides Rs 1,500 monthly to eligible women—will continue, his candid admission exposed a growing rift within the cabinet over the state’s fiscal health. This is the first time a sitting minister has publicly acknowledged the “financial strain” caused by the populist measure, which is widely credited for the alliance’s decisive 2024 Assembly victory.

The depth of the crisis became evident when Naik revealed a desperate plan to fund his own department’s basic ex-



penditures. He informed the Council that the Forest Development Corporation of Maharashtra (FDCM) currently holds teak wood assets valued at Rs 12,000 crore. In a move that raised eyebrows, Naik proposed using these natural resources as collateral for a massive bank loan.

“I have told officials to take a loan of Rs 6,000 crore against these assets,” Naik stated. He argued that the interest could be serviced through the sale of timber obtained from regular “thinning” processes.

The Minister suggested that this Rs 6,000 crore windfall is essential to cover fundamental administrative costs, including salaries and dearness Allowance (DA) for staff, infrastruc-

ture for range forest officers (RFO) and divisional forest officers (DFO) and construction of roads and departmental rest houses.

Crucially, Naik’s proposal to treat the state’s green cover as a financial vault appeared to overlook the potential ecological repercussions. There was no mention of the environmental impact or the long-term consequences of such large-scale commercial exploitation of teak plantations to balance a strained budget.

Despite the internal alarm, Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis and Deputy CM Eknath Shinde have repeatedly asserted that the Ladki Bahin scheme remains untouchable. Naik’s “teak-for-cash” proposal is expected to be placed before the state cabinet for formal approval soon, further intensifying the debate over Maharashtra’s “revdi” politics versus sustainable governance.

This is not the first time that a state minister has spoken about the financial strain due to the Ladki Bahin scheme, widely believed to be one of the major factors that led to the Mahayuti’s decisive victory in the state assembly polls in 2024.

Odisha launches major operation in Kandhamal

Bhubaneswar: Security forces have launched an operation in the forests of Odisha’s Kandhamal district to end Left Wing Extremism (LWE) in the state, Director General of Police Y B Khurania said on Friday.

Issuing an ultimatum to the remaining Maoists, including the state’s topmost cadre Sukru, who carries a reward of Rs 55 lakh on his head and is suspected to have been hiding in those forests, the DGP asked them to abandon violence and surrender.

He said the authorities have intensified counter-insurgency operations focusing on apprehending Sukru, who allegedly killed his own cadre member Anwesh for intending

CRACKDOWN ON NAXALISM

to surrender along with a group of 12 cadre members.

Hailing from Chittrakonda area of Malkangiri district, 46-year-old Sukru is now the topmost Maoist leader in the state after elimination of his seniors in recent past.

Sukru, a Special Zonal Committee member (SZCM) of the 8th company under the Communist Party of India (Maoist)’s Kandhamal-Kalahandi-Boudh-Nayagarh (KKBN) division in Odisha, is considered a key impediment to eradicating LWE in the state. The government has announced a bounty of Rs 55

lakh on his head, a senior official said.

The state government on Thursday launched the anti-Naxal joint operation by Odisha Police’s 13 new SOG teams, District Voluntary Force (DVF), Border Security Force (BSF) and Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), which began in the Daringbadi and Raikia region, where Sukru and his team were expected to be taking shelter.

Sukru, who is leading a group of about 30 red rebels, came to the scanner of the Odisha Police after the killing of Anwesh alias Renu, whose decomposed body was exhumed from Pakiri reserve forest under Daringbadi police limits on Wednesday.

Some of the Maoists who laid down arms before the police also revealed how Sukru foiled the state government’s attempt to bring back red rebels into the mainstream.

Champa, a woman Maoist, who recently surrendered, said, “Sukru used to torture cadre members who wanted to return home and lead a normal life after getting disgusted with the jungle life.”

Kandhamal SP Harisha BC also said that the Maoist leadership violently opposed the surrender of cadre members, and Anwesh’s murder is believed to have been executed by SZCM Sukru, with the assistance of DVCM Sila and ACM Jagesh.

-PTI



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E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Constructive/Physical Symbolic Possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Bank/ Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on the date as mentioned in the table herein below, for recovery of its dues due to the Bank/ Secured Creditor from the respective borrower (s) and guarantor (s). The reserve price and the earnest money deposit will be as mentioned in the table below against the respective properties. The auction is conducted on behalf of all the joint lenders i.e State Bank of India, Canara Bank, Punjab & Sindh Bank, Tamilnad Mercantile bank, Bank of Baroda, Central bank of India, Union Bank of India, IDBI Bank Ltd, UCO Bank, Karnataka Bank Ltd.

SCHEDULE OF THE SECURED ASSETS

Lot No.	Name of the Branch	Name of the Account	Name & addresses of the Borrower/ Guarantors Account	Description of the Immovable Properties Mortgaged / Owner's Name (mortgagors of Property(ies))	A) Dt. Of Demand Notice u/s 13(2) of SARFESI ACT 2002 B) Outstanding Amount as on NPA date 18.01.2012 C) Possession Date u/s 13(4) of SARFESI ACT 2002 D) Nature of Possession Symbolic / Physical/ Constructive	A) Reserve Price (Rs. in Lacs) B) EMD Rs. (Rs. in Lacs) C) Bid Incremental Amt. (Rs. in Lacs)	Date / Time of E-Auction	Details of the encumbrances known to the secured creditors
	Stressed Asset Management Branch, Mumbai			Property - 1: (all the plots at Khaitan No 4423, 4424, 4425, 4426, 4427 & 4428 dttd 18.03.1993) Plot No. 8/11/1 at south Tokugan, M G Road, Indore Area Admeasuring: 1458.33 sq. ft. owned by M/s. Magnificent Holding Pvt. Ltd alongwith Plot No. 8/11/2 at south Tokugan, M G Road, Indore Area Admeasuring: 1458.33 sq ft owned by M/s. Magnificent Holding Pvt. Ltd., alongwith Plot No. 8/11/3 at south Tokugan, M G Road, Indore Area Admeasuring: 1458.33 sq ft. owned by M/s. Magnificent Holding Pvt. Ltd, alongwith Plot No. 8/11/4 at south Tokugan, M G Road, Indore Area Admeasuring: 1458.33 sq ft owned by M/s. Magnificent Holding Pvt. Ltd, alongwith Plot No. 8/11/5 at south Tokugan, M G Road, Indore Area Admeasuring: 1458.33 sq ft owned by M/s. Magnificent Holding Pvt. Ltd, alongwith Plot No. 8/11/6 at south Tokugan, M G Road, Indore Area Admeasuring: 1458.33 sq ft owned by M/s. Magnificent Holding Pvt. Ltd, alongwith Plot No. 8/11/7 at south Tokugan, M G Road, Indore Area Admeasuring: 1458.33 sq ft owned by M/s. Brilliant Infrastructure Pvt. Ltd. alongwith Plot No. 8/11/8 at south Tokugan, M G Road, Indore Area Admeasuring: 1458.33 sq ft owned by M/s. Brilliant Infrastructure Pvt. Ltd.		A) Rs. 1306.00 B) Rs. 130.60 C) Rs. 2.50		
			Regd Office: 703-705, Chetak Centre, 12/2, RNT Marg, Indore- 452001, Also at: A-302, Mangalya Co-Op Society, Arol Maroshi Road, Andheri (E) Mumbai - 400059. Guarantors: Shri Vijay Choudhary, Address: S/o, Shri Madanlal Choudhary, 41/42, Link Garden Co-op Housing Society, Millat Nagar, Lokhandwala Complex, Andheri (W) Mumbai - 400053. Mrs. Manjiri Choudhary, Address: W/o. Shri Vijay Choudhary, Add: 905/906, Indrarashnan, Millat Nagar, Lokhandwala Complex, andheri (W) Mumbai - 400053. Shri B. L. Kejriwal, Address: S/o. Shri Babulal Kejriwal, 41/42, Link Garden Co-op Housing Society, Millat Nagar, Lokhandwala Complex, Andheri (W), Mumbai - 400053. M/s. Magnificent Infrastructure Pvt. Ltd. (mortgagor also) Address: 703-705, 7 th Floor, Chetak Centre, 12/2 RNT Marg, Indore - 452001. M/s. Brilliant Infrastructure Pvt. Ltd. (mortgagor also) Address: 703-705, 7 th Floor, Chetak Centre, 12/2 RNT Marg, Indore - 452001. M/s. Zoom Realities Projects Ltd (Mortgager also) Address: A 53 Road No. 1, MIDC Industrial Area, Marol, Andheri-E, Mumbai - 400093. M/s Brilliant Leasing & finance Pvt Ltd, Address- 10 Lohar Patti, Navin Chitra Talkies, Yashwant Ganj Indore- 452002 (M.P)	Property - 2:- Land (open plot) admn 2.5 acre, (total land 9930 sqm) situated at Sy. No. 4 2A & 2B, Hissa 2, Khapoli Pali Road, Nr. Khapoli, Vill Parli, Tal Sudhagad, Dist Raighadh PIN CODE - 410205 in name of Zoom Developers Pvt. Ltd. Property - 3:- Plot No. 306/3/2/2, Village Bada Bangarda, Tehsil Malharganj Dist Indore M.P - 453112 owned by M/s. Zoom Realities Projects Ltd., Area of land - 4050 sqm & Boundries as per deed, North: Sur No. 303/2/1, South: Sur No. 303/1, East: S. No. 306/3/2/2, West: S. No. 302 & 306. Property - 4:- Plot No. 306/3/2/3, Village Bada Bangarda, Tehsil Malharganj Dist Indore M.P 453112, owned by M/s. Zoom Realities Projects Ltd., Area of land- 4050 sqm & Boundries as per deed, North: Sur No. 303/2/1 & 306/3/2, South: Sur No. 303/1, East: S. No. 306/3/2/4, West: S. No. 306/3/2/2 Property - 5:- Plot No. 306/3/2/4, Village Bada Bangarda, Tehsil Malharganj Dist Indore M.P 453112 owned by M/s. Zoom Realities Projects Ltd., Area of land- 3480 sqm & Boundries as per deed- North: Sur No. 303/2/1, South: sur No. 303/1, East: other land, West: S. No. 306/3/2/3. Property - 6:- Plot No. 461/3, 465/3 & 541/3 patwari Haka, Village Bada Bangarda, Indore M.P Tehsil Malharganj Dist Indore M.P 453112 owned by M/s. Zoom Realities Projects Ltd., Area of land- 7330 sqm & Boundries as per deed- North: land of Mr. Ramchandra, South: land of Mr. Rameshwar, East: by road, West: by land of Mr. Amarsingh. Property - 7:- CTS No. 513, 514 & 541 S.No. 18,33,35, 111 Hissa No. 5, 7, 2, & 1, Kajuwadi, Sahar Road, B/h Spot Factory, Chakala, Andheri-East - Mumbai - 400099 (Total plot are: 13,701.03 smtr, net Plot area: 8,364.66 sqmtr) owned by Magnificent Holding Pvt. Ltd. Boundaries actual as per actual site: East: Kajuwadi, West: Parsi Wadi, North: RS N 4/2A & 4/2B, South: Gopeshwar applt. Property - 8:- 500/1, Patwari Haka, Village Bada Bangarda, Ward No. 15, Tehsil: Malarganj Dist: Indore M. P. - 453112 owned by Zoom Realities Projects Ltd., (land area as per deed 45690sqm) Boundaries actual as per sale deed:- East: land of Kamayala & others, West: land of Jagdish & others, North: Kankad, South: land of Liabai & others. Boundaries actual as per actual site: East: Open Land, West: open land, North: Road, South: Open Land.	A) 128.00 B) 12.80 C) 1.00 A) 87.00 B) 8.70 C) 1.00 A) 86.00 B) 8.60 C) 1.00 A) 75.00 B) 7.50 C) 1.00 A) 227.00 B) 22.70 C) 1.00 A) 4482.00 B) 448.20 C) 10.00 A) 1861.00 B) 186.10 C) 10.00	18.01.2012 B- Rs. 2612.31 Cr plus further interest and charges thereon C- 17.09.2012, 18.09.2012, 24.09.2012 & 25.09.2012 D- Symbolic Possession	30.03.2026 11:00AM to 04:00PM	Not Known

TERMS AND CONDITIONS - The sale shall be subject to the Terms & Conditions prescribed in the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 and to the following further conditions:
1. The properties are being sold on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" and "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" and "WHATEVER THERE IS BASIS"
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3. The Sale will be done by the undersigned through e-auction platform provided at the Website <https://banknet.com> on 30.03.2026 @ 11.00 AM to 04.00 PM.
4. The properties mentioned above have encroachments and sale is made along with the said encroachments with the responsibility of the successful bidder to remove the same. The Bank is not responsible for removing the said encroachments etc. as the said sale is strictly done on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" and "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" and "WHATEVER THERE IS BASIS"
5. Original title deeds of the properties are not available with the Bank at present, however certified copies may be handed over to the successful bidder.
6. In event of cancellation of the auction due to order of any court/tribunal authority whatsoever for any reason, Bank will not pay any interest/charges/penalty of any nature to the successful bidder.
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