

Operation Numkhor: Kochi Customs arrest five suspects

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

In a major breakthrough in Operation Numkhor - a nationwide crackdown on smuggling of premium second-hand vehicles and forged registration rackets involving Motor Vehicle department (MVD) officials - the Customs (Preventive) Commissionerate, Kochi, has arrested five suspects; four from Assam and one from West Bengal.

Among those taken into custody, with the support of Shillong Customs, is Dipak Patowary, District Transport Officer (DTO), Bongaigaon, Assam. The other accused are Biswadip Das of West Bengal, Ayub Ali, Mostafa Ahmed, alias Rinku; and Jalal Mandal, all from Assam.

460 smuggled vehicles

Investigators suspect that the racket involving Mr. Patowary facilitated the illegal registration of nearly 460 smuggled vehicles using forged documents. These include foreign-made luxury cars and lorries as well as Indian-made vehicles exported and smuggled back into the country through Bhutan without paying Customs duty. The Assam Police have also registered their arrests.

Mr. Das, believed to be one of the masterminds, was apprehended near the India-Bhutan border in a coordinated operation on February 22.

He was remanded in judicial custody and later brought to Kochi on transit remand for further investigation.

"The Customs (Preventive) Commissionerate, Kochi, alone has seized 49 such smuggled vehicles out of a potential list of 200 identified across Kerala. Tracking the history of

Four persons from Assam and one from West Bengal arrested as part of Operation Numkhor, a nationwide crackdown

each vehicle is an elaborate process, and seizing them all will take time," officials said.

CAG report

Operation Numkhor has emerged as one of the most extensive crackdowns on vehicle smuggling and forged registrations, prompting other agencies, including the Central GST department, to initiate separate investigations.

A recent report by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG), tabled in the Assam Assembly last month, revealed that 15,849 vehicles bearing identical chassis and engine numbers were registered across multiple north-eastern States, exposing the scale of the racket.

Forged documents

"Multiple rackets are involved in smuggling vehicles and securing illegal registrations using forged documents. We have so far identified two major networks - one based in Coimbatore and another in Assam," Customs sources said.

The Kochi Commissionerate launched Operation Numkhor with Statewide raids on September 23, 2025, including searches at the residences of popular film actors such as Dulquer Salmaan and Prithviraj Sukumaran.

On the first day alone, 39 vehicles were seized, followed by another 10 in the subsequent days.

Corporation proposes State's first LAP at Vyttila

The TOD-based Local Area Development Plan is expected to address long-standing issues faced by motorists and pedestrians around the State's busiest junction

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The Kochi Corporation is set to implement Kerala's first Local Area Development Plan (LAP) at Vyttila, anchored in the innovative concept of transit-oriented development (TOD).

The plan envisages the development of around 105 hectares within a 500-metre radius of the Vyttila metro station, covering parts of divisions 44, 45, 46, 47, and 48.

The major components include the development of Vyttila Junction, beautification of the flyover, development of Vyttila North bus stand, street-edge improvements, Phase II of the mobility hub, and a food street.

To ensure public participation, the Corporation and the Local Self-Government department will jointly organise an exhibition at Kunnara Park, Thy-

Smooth sailing ahead

■ The plan covers 105 hectares within 500-metre radius of Vyttila metro station

■ Key proposals include redevelopment of Vyttila Junction, improvements to flyover area and Vyttila North bus stand, mobility hub Phase II, street-edge upgrades, and food street

■ Plan seeks to densify population around the junction, prioritising public transport, pedestrian facilities, and community spaces

■ Draft plan exhibition at Kunnara Park, Thykoodam, to be held on Sunday for residents to submit suggestions and objections



koodam, on Sunday from 4.30 p.m. to 7.30 p.m. Mayor V.K. Minimol will inaugurate the event. The exhibition will provide a platform for residents to register objections, suggestions, and opinions on the draft plans.

Conceived during the tenure of the previous LDF council, the TOD-based LAP is expected to address long-standing issues faced

by motorists and pedestrians around Kerala's busiest junction. The plan will be aligned with the Corporation's master plan, which charts the city's development trajectory for the next two decades.

The LAP model seeks to densify population around Vyttila while prioritising public transport, pedestrian facilities, and community spaces such as

SHRC orders effective utilisation of water reservoirs in city

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

State Human Rights Commission (SHRC) Chairperson Alexander Thomas has sought steps to effectively utilise the six water reservoirs in Kochi.

The order was issued in a suo motu case registered by the Commission based

on a newspaper report. The Commission directed the Central Regional Chief Engineer of the Kerala Water Authority (KWA) to urgently look into the matter. It also noted that since the utility had decided to improve the efficiency of the water treatment plant at Aluva, the excess purified water from the plant

should be distributed to areas facing drinking water shortage.

Reports sought

Further, the Chief Engineer and Superintending Engineer of the KWA (Ernakulam) have been asked to submit reports on the steps taken in light of the order within three weeks.

playgrounds. Notification of the LAP is expected to foster a balanced residential ecosystem and attract natural investments. Development and construction activities in notified areas will be required to conform to its broader framework.

While the ideal scenario would be LAPs for all 76 divisions of the Corporation, experts suggest that a city the size of Kochi could realistically sustain five to six LAPs around select zones. Following the Vyttila initiative, the previous council had also conceived an LAP for Palluruthy, adopting a slightly different model that preserves rural characteristics despite its urban setting. The Corporation's 2025-26 Budget earmarked ₹2 crore for preparing a comprehensive and scientific LAP for Palluruthy.

For details regarding the exhibition, contact: 0484-2427223.

40 injured as bus rams parked lorry at Eramalloor



The accident occurred near Kochuvelli Junction at Eramalloor on Saturday as the superfast bus, which was en route to Palakkad from Kollam, crashed into the lorry parked on the wayside.

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

At least 40 people were injured as a KSRTC bus rams a lorry near Eramalloor in Alappuzha district on Saturday. Two of the bus passengers were critically injured in the accident, which took place around 11 a.m.

The accident occurred at Kochuvelli Junction near Eramalloor as the superfast bus, which was en route to Palakkad from Kollam, lost control and crashed into the lorry parked on the wayside. Twenty-three of the in-

jured, including the conductor of the bus, were admitted to VPS Lakeshore Hospital, Nettoor, around 13 km from the accident site. Most of them suffered injuries to face, neck, and chest in the impact of the collision, a hospital spokesperson said.

The remaining injured sought treatment from different hospitals. "According to the information we received, the bus was carrying passengers to its full capacity. Around 10 people who escaped unhurt were later sent in other buses," an officer with the Aror police said.

'Able Point' unit to offer jobs for differently abled

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

The main objective of the Social Justice department is to ensure freedom and a self-sufficient life for the differently abled, Higher Education and Social Justice Minister R. Bindu has said.

The Minister was speaking at the State-level inaug-

uration of the 'Able Point' unit, an initiative aimed at providing employment for the differently abled and parents of children with autism. The first 'Able Point' was opened near Gandhi Park in Kakkannad.

'Able Point' will sell products made by the differently abled. The plan is to ensure a monthly salary of

not less than ₹15,000 for the employees, according to a communication. Government agencies and NGOs will be roped in to provide training in customer service, sales strategies, product knowledge, and inventory management.

Efforts are under way to set up such centres at 100 locations.

KIRF awards presented

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

Minister for Higher Education R. Bindu presented the Kerala Institution Ranking Framework (KIRF) 2025 awards here on Saturday.

The programme was organised by the Kerala State Higher Education Council (KSHEC) at Rajagiri School of Social Sciences, Kakkannad.

The KIRF has been de-

veloped by the KSHEC as a State-level mechanism to assess and promote quality, transparency, and academic excellence among higher education institutions in Kerala, according to a release.

The Minister said that KIRF had emerged as an important policy instrument to strengthen quality assurance and academic competitiveness within the State's higher education sector.

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA

OFFICE OF THE NALGONDA MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

RFP Notice No. E1/354/C&D Waste Unit/RFP/NNC/LG/2025-26 Dt: 08.03.2026

Name of the Work: RFP for Selection of Concessionaire for Establishment of Construction and Demolition Waste Processing Plant of 60 TPD capacity with Operation and Maintenance for 10 years in Nalgonda Municipal Corporation Cluster (10 ULBs).

Bid Document Download Start Date: Dt: 09.03.2026

Date & Time for Pre-Bid Meeting: Dt: 10.03.2026 @ 11.00 AM in the Ofo, Nalgonda Municipal Corporation.

Last Date for receiving queries: Dt: 11.03.2026 up to 5.00 PM

Response to queries: Dt: 13.03.2026 at 11.00 AM

Bid Submission Start Date: Dt: 13.03.2026 from 1.00 PM onwards

Last Date for receipt of Bids: Dt: 23.03.2026 up to 4.00 PM

Opening of Technical Bids: Dt: 23.03.2026 up to 4.30 PM

Note: Further details can be seen at e-procurement market place www.eprocurement.telangana.gov.in

Sd/- Commissioner,
DIPR R.O.No.16623-PP/CL/ADVT/1/2025-26 Dt: 07.03.2026 Nalgonda Municipal Corporation

ANDHRA PRADESH CAPITAL REGION DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (APCRDA)

AMARAVATI, Rayapudi, Thullur Mandal, Amaravati-522237 (A.P.)

E PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE

NIT No. MAU61-USIOHB(OTH)/69/2026-IFRMAU61 Dt. 07.03.2026.

Name of Work: "APCRDA-Housing & Buildings -AGC Buildings -District Cooling Plant - Development of District Cooling System for Amaravati Government Complex in Amaravati, Andhra Pradesh on PPP Basis" The bid can be downloaded on AP e-procurement portal from 11.03.2026 to 26.03.2026 up to 14.00 Hrs. Due date for submission of Bid 26.03.2026 up to 15.00 Hrs, Technical bid opening 26.03.2026 @16.00Hrs. For further details please refer to www.approcurement.gov.in and <https://crda.ap.gov.in> Sd/- Commissioner, APCRDA, Rayapudi

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[Rule 8(6)] SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE ASSETS UNDER THE SECURITISATION & RECONSTRUCTION OF THE FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT 2002 (SARFAESI ACT) READ WITH PROVISIO 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 Symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of UCO Bank, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" on 10-04-2026, for recovery of dues as mentioned hereunder to UCO Bank, from the below mentioned Borrower & Guarantor. The Reserve Price and the Earnest Money Deposit are also mentioned hereunder.

Name & Address of the Borrowers & Guarantors: (1). Ms. LK Smart Park, Mr. Dinu Krishnan, (Proprietor), 8/235, Vazhappilly, Velloorkunnam P.O., Muvattupuzha-686673, (2). Mr. Dinu Krishnan, (Proprietor), S/o Krishnan K K, Puramana, Mekkadampu, Valsekoni, Ernakulam-682316, Guarantor: (3). Mr. KK Krishnan, S/o Kutteppan, Puramana, Mekkadampu, Valsekoni, Ernakulam-682316

Date of Demand Notice: 05-11-2025 **Date of Possession:** 13-01-2026

Amount as per demand notice: Rs. 91,74,692.73 (Rupees Ninety One Lakh Seventy Four Thousand Six Hundred Ninety Two And Paise Seventy Three Only) as on 30-04-2025 plus unapplied interest, charges, cost and expenses etc.

Recoverable Amount: Rs. 1,02,80,772.33 (Rupees One Crore Two Lakh Eighty Thousand Seven Hundred Seventy Two And Paise Thirty Three Only) as on 28-02-2026 plus unapplied interest, legal charges, cost and expenses etc. thereon.

Description of the Immovable Property: All that part and parcel of 12.14 Ares in Sy. No. 163/5A with industrial building X 73A in Valsekani Village, Muvattupuzha Taluk, Ernakulam District comprised in Settlement Deed No. 1142/15 dated 21-03-2015 of Muvattupuzha SRO in the name of Mr. Dinu Krishnan together with right to Use motorable road having a width of 3.5 meter and length of 20 meter covered by deed No. 4100/19 dated 20-11-2019 and Rectification Deed No. 4239/19 dt 29-11-2019 of Muvattupuzha SRO as per a) Partition Deed No. 1142/ 2015, b) Rectification Deed No. 4239 /2019, c) Owner of Property: Mr. Dinu Krishnan, **Boundaries:** North: Property of Paulose & others; South: Property of Lakshmanan & Private Road; East: Property of Ashokan; West: Property of Krishnan Gopalan, Encumbrance: Nil.

Reserve Price: Rs. 95,10 lakh **EMD:** Rs. 9,51 lakh **Bid Increment:** Rs. 0,25 lakh

DATE & TIME OF e-AUCTION SALE: 10th April 2026 between 11:00 AM to 05:00 PM (with unlimited auto extensions of 10 minutes each, if required)

Last Date & Time of Submission of Bid along with E.M.D.: 09th April 2026, 05:00 PM

The sale shall be subject to the Terms & Conditions as prescribed in the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002. Detailed terms and conditions of the sale is available/published in the following websites/web portal:
(I) <https://baanknet.com>, (II) <https://www.ucobank.in>

Date: 06-03-2026, Place: Ernakulam (Sd/-) A.G.M. & Authorised Officer, UCO Bank,

Details of the encumbrances known to the secured creditors: SI No.1: As per EC No P35295265 dtd 06.10.2025, encumbrance for Rs.62,359/- dtd 26.08.2016 in Munsiff court. SI No.2 & 3: No such information known to the best of the knowledge of Authorized officer. The bidders are requested to do their own due diligence.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS: 1. The sale shall be subject to the Terms & Conditions prescribed in the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 and to the following further conditions: 2. The properties are being sold on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" and "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" and "WHATEVER THERE IS BASIS" 3. The particulars of Secured Assets specified in the Schedule herein above have been stated to the best of the information of the Authorised Officer, but the Authorised Officer shall not be answerable for any error, misstatement or omission in this proclamation. 4. The Authorized Officer reserves the right to accept any or reject all bids, if not found acceptable or to postpone/cancel/adjourn/discontinue or vary the terms of the auction at anytime without assigning any reason whatsoever and his decision in this regard shall be final. 5. The secured asset will not be sold below the reserve price. 6. The Sale will be done by the undersigned through e-auction platform provided at the Website <https://Baanknet.com> on 27.03.2026 (S.no.1 & 3) & 28.04.2026 (S.no.2) from 11.00AM to 5.00 PM. 7. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer <https://Baanknet.com> and www.pnb.bank.in.

Place: Ernakulam (Sd/-) Authorized Officer, Punjab National Bank, ARMB, Ernakulam Date : 06.03.2026

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SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization 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 Authorized 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 here in 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 respective properties.

The auction will be held on 27.03.2026 (S.No.1 & 3) & 28.04.2026 (S.No.2) from 11.00 AM to 05.00 PM

SCHEDULE OF THE SECURED ASSETS

SL. No.	Name of the Branch, Name of the Account, Name & addresses of the Borrower / Guarantor	Description of the Immovable Properties / Owner's Name (mortgagers of property(ies))	(A) Dt. of Demand Notice u/s 13(2) of SARFAESI ACT 2002 (B) Outstanding Amount as on 28.02.2026 - Rs.1,03,58,320.40 (Rupees One Crore Three Lakh Fifty Eight Thousand Three Hundred Twenty And Paise Forty only) with further interest, Cost and charges as applicable. (C) Possession Notice - 06.01.2026 (D) Symbolic Possession.	(A) Rs. 69,00,000/- (Rupees Sixty nine lakh only) (B) Rs. 6,90,000/- (Rupees Six lakh ninety thousand only) (C) Rs. 10,000/- (Rupees Ten thousand only)
1	PNB, ARMB Ernakulam Mr. Jose P M, S/o. Manuel Papu, Parappilly House, Edayakkunnam, South Chittoor P.O., Ernakulam-682027.	All that part and parcel of property having an extent of 6.07 Ares in Old Sy.No.18/1/4 in Resurvey Block No.1 in Resurvey No. 201/21 along with building there on in Kuzhupilly Village, Kochi Taluk, Kuzhupilly Sub District belonging to Mr. Jose P.M. Boundaries: North: Property of Mary Varghese. South: Property of Antony. East: Property of Mary Varghese. West: Road.	A) 13(2)-25.10.2023 B) Outstanding Amount as on 28.02.2026 - Rs.30,67,419.14 (Rupees Thirty lakh sixty seven thousand four hundred nineteen and paise fourteen only) with further interest, Cost and charges as applicable. C) Possession Notice - 15.02.2024 D) Symbolic Possession.	a) Rs. 69,00,000/- (Rupees Sixty nine lakh only) b) Rs. 6,90,000/- (Rupees Six lakh ninety thousand only) c) Rs. 10,000/- (Rupees Ten thousand only)
2	PNB, ARMB Ernakulam Sri. C M Shajahan, S/o Mohammed, Chentharra House, Thottamugham P.O., Aluva, Ernakulam-683105. Sri. Suresh Babu (Guarantor), S/o Kumaran, 92/10/47), Paruthipilli House, Monasthy Lane, Aluva East, Ernakulam-683563. & Others, South: Property of Francis. East: Panchayath Road, West: Property belongs to Malathy Amma & Others.	All that part and parcel of property having an extent of 1.31 Ares of land with residential building in old Sy no.750, 713/1, 716/1, 699/1, 699/3, 723/1, 705, 708/2, 708/3, 713/2, 699/2 in Re Sy No. 143/5 in block no.2 situated at Mulavukad Village, Kanayannur Taluk, Ernakulam District belonging to Sri. C M Shajahan. Boundaries: North : Properties belongs to Malathy Amma and Kavanal Elamma, South: Property of Thankachan and Kumari, East: Property of Thankachan and Canal, West: Thodu and Property of Elamma.	A) 13(2)-27.08.2025 B) Outstanding Amount as on 28.02.2026 - Rs.1,03,58,320.40 (Rupees One Crore Three Lakh Fifty Eight Thousand Three Hundred Twenty And Paise Forty only) with further interest, Cost and charges as applicable. C) Possession Notice - 06.01.2026 D) Symbolic Possession.	a) Rs. 18,00,000/- (Rupees Eighteen lakh only) b) Rs. 1,80,000/- (Rupees One lakh eighty thousand only) c) Rs. 10,000/- (Rupees Ten thousand only)
3	PNB, ARMB Ernakulam Mis. St. Mary's Oil and Flour Mills, Kadathy, Mekkadampu P.O., Muvattupuzha, Ernakulam, PNB-682316. Mr. M J Kuriaakose (Prop. St. Mary's Oil & Flour Mills), Madathinahottathil House, Kadathy, Muvattupuzha, Ernakulam, PNB-682316. Mr. Shon Babu, Madathinahottathil House, Kadathy, Muvattupuzha, Ernakulam, PNB-682316.	All that part and parcel of property consisting of 14 Cents in Sy.no. 516/14A, 5 Cents in Sy.No. 516/14B, 5 Cents in Sy. No. 516/15, 10 Cents in Sy. No. 516/10 and 14 Cents in Sy. no. 516/16B of land and all other attachments thereon in Velloorkunnam Village in Muvattupuzha Sub District, Ernakulam District belonging to Mr. Shon Babu. Boundaries: North: Property of Muthalathu Eliamma and Kavanal Elamma, South: Property of Thankachan and Kumari, East: Property of Thankachan and Canal, West: Thodu and Property of Elamma.	A) 13(2)-07.03.2023 B) Outstanding Amount as on 28.02.2026 - Rs.1,98,22,097.25 (Rupees One Crore Ninety Eight Lakh Twenty two thousand ninety seven and paise twenty five Only) with further interest, Cost and charges as applicable. C) Possession Notice - 15.05.2023 D) Symbolic Possession.	a) Rs. 36,00,000/- (Rupees Thirty six lakh only) b) Rs. 3,60,000/- (Rupees Three lakh sixty thousand only) c) Rs. 10,000/- (Rupees Ten thousand only)

Details of the encumbrances known to the secured creditors: SI No.1: As per EC No P35295265 dtd 06.10.2025, encumbrance for Rs.62,359/- dtd 26.08.2016 in Munsiff court. SI No.2 & 3: No such information known to the best of the knowledge of Authorized officer. The bidders are requested to do their own due diligence.

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Place: Ernakulam (Sd/-) Authorized Officer, Punjab National Bank, ARMB, Ernakulam Date : 06.03.2026

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