

Nearly 50 died on railway tracks between Alappuzha and Thrissur this year

G. Ragesh
KOCHI

Nearly 50 people lost their lives on railway tracks crossing three districts in central Kerala in the first four months of the year, according to official figures highlighting gaps in safety measures and awareness.

As per the data, 48 people were killed on the stretch between Cherthala station in Alappuzha and Vallathol Nagar in Thrissur till April 28. The fatalities include both accidents and suicide cases, official sources said. A total of 242 deaths were reported from the same stretch in 2025.

Of the 48 deaths this year, 20 took place on tracks between Kalamassery and Irinjalakuda, while 17 occurred on lines connecting Irinjalakuda with Vallathol Nagar. Only two deaths happened on the stretch from Cherthala to Ernakulam Junction (South) and nine between Ernakulam South and Kalamassery. The data shows that tracks between Kalamassery and Vallathol Nagar continue to account for higher number of fatalities, with the stretch witnessing 182 deaths last year. Source-



Cause for concern: The repeated fatal accidents have prompted both the Railway Protection Force and the Government Railway Police to enhance safety measures and awareness drives along vulnerable stretches. FILE PHOTO

es with railway enforcement agencies cited a large number of illegal pedestrian crossing points and a lack of safety awareness as reasons for the higher number of deaths reported from the stretch covering largely rural areas. Stretches crossing paddy fields end up being killing fields, with pedestrians finding no space to step out of the tracks even if they notice a train moving towards them, the sources said.

The repeated fatal accidents have prompted both the Railway Protection Force (RPF) and the Government Railway Police to enhance safety measures and awareness drives. Efforts, sources said, were on to bring down the number

of fatalities by barricading illegal entry points. The entry points beneath both sides of the Ernakulam North overbridge and one under the South bridge have already been closed, while the RPF has identified other vulnerable locations.

“The most important precaution is to avoid walking over the tracks. Efforts are on to barricade illegal pedestrian entry points, besides conducting frequent awareness drives. At some points, we have even conducted demonstrations using life-size dummies to sensitise people about the risks in crossing or walking over the tracks,” Binoy Antony, Inspector, RPF, Ernakulam South, said.

Survey flags severe water stress in 2,567 wards in State

Kasaragod and Thiruvananthapuram top the list, with 24.74% and 22.01% of wards, respectively, facing severe water shortage; expert stresses need to strengthen infrastructure, rainwater harvesting, and improved distribution to mitigate the crisis

Aathira Haridas
KOCHI

A total of 2,567 out of 21,472 wards in Kerala have been identified as the most drought-affected, with Kasaragod and Thiruvananthapuram districts topping the list, according to a recent study.

The report, based on a comprehensive survey across wards and panchayats, found that 24.74% of wards in Kasaragod and 22.01% in Thiruvananthapuram are facing severe water stress.

The survey was jointly conducted by the Centre for Water Resources Development and Management (CWRDM), the Kerala Forest Research Institute, and the Institute of Climate Change Studies under the project titled ‘Identification of water stress hot-spots in Kerala’, and was funded by the Kerala State Council for Science, Technology and Environment. The study covered all districts in 2024, except Palakkad. The report will serve as one of the baselines for future water stress assess-



A delay in the southwest monsoon this year is likely lead to water stress for drinking and agriculture. FILE PHOTO FOR REPRESENTATIONAL PURPOSE

ments in the State, scientists said.

Excessive groundwater extraction for irrigation and saltwater intrusion were reported in Kasaragod district. Kannur faces similar issues, with groundwater depletion emerging as a major concern, according to the report.

Highland areas experience low water pressure and limited supply. Meanwhile, in Wayanad, a lack of water sources, delays in pipeline approvals, and poor distribution networks have worsened the situa-

tion, particularly in tribal areas where residents often depend on poor-quality water. Malappuram also reported inadequate distribution systems and an unreliable municipal water supply in certain regions.

According to K. Naveen, project lead and scientist at CWRDM, the summer months remain the most critical period. Local bodies must ensure proper water distribution planning during this time. He said that effective water distribution at the panchayat level could help mi-



Prolonged heat stress conditions may lead to a sharp decline in water availability

K. NAVEEN
Scientist, CWRDM

tigate water stress.

“Prolonged heat stress conditions during summer may lead to a sharp decline in water availability from water sources due to higher evaporation, reduced rainfall, and increased water usage. Surface water bodies such as streams and ponds have also seen declining trends, worsening water scarcity. In districts like Kannur and Kasaragod, water availability has been hit so badly that some areas depend on tanker supply,” he said.

Dr. Naveen stressed the need for strategies such as strengthening and upgrading water infrastructure, promoting rainwater harvesting and groundwater recharge, and improving water distribution efficiency across the State.

He also highlighted the need for greater community awareness, climate-resilient water management, and enforcement of regulations on groundwater use. Stronger collaboration between local bodies, agencies, and communities is essential to ensure sustainable and equitable water access. He said that a delay in the southwest monsoon this year might lead to water stress for both drinking and agriculture, particularly for those dependent on multiple water sources for cultivation.

The report on ‘Identification of Water Stress Hot-spots in Kerala’ calls for a comprehensive approach to water management, including infrastructure upgrades, sustainable conservation practices, and improved efficiency in distribution systems.

The report also stressed the importance of community participation and awareness in managing water resources effectively. It will be submitted to the government to help formulate water management strategies.

Kadambrayar pollution: PCB yet to fix environmental compensation

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

The Kerala State Pollution Control Board (PCB) is yet to comply with a directive issued by the National Green Tribunal (NGT) to fix environmental compensation on those responsible for the pollution of the Kadambrayar in Ernakulam.

An order issued by the Southern Bench of the tribunal comprising Pushpa Sathyanarayana, Judicial Member, and Prashant Gargava, Expert Member, on February 19, 2026 had directed the PCB to assess the environmental compensation payable by violators. The Bench also directed the board to ensure compliance with the action taken report submitted by the Local Self-Government department regarding the pollution of the river.

The Ernakulam district office of the board stated that a decision remained pending on the issue of fixing environmental compensation. Senior board officials said that earlier inspections had found that some industrial units, apartment complexes, hotels, and commercial units located close to the banks of the waterbody were responsible for the illegal discharge of untreated water. Most erring units were found lacking in adequate facilities to process wastewater. Clarity is expected soon on environmental compensation, and required measures will be initiated as per the tribunal’s directive, they said.

The Southern Bench has posted the matter for reporting compliance on June 22, 2026 after making an observation that the board is yet to comply with its February 2026 order. The environmental compensation will be fixed based on the ‘polluter pays principle’. The board has to work out the amount based on the quantum of waste generated by violators.



Government of Karnataka

DEPARTMENT OF MINES & GEOLOGY

#49, Khanija Bhavan, Race Course Road, Bengaluru-560001
E-mail: dir-mines@karnataka.gov.in

No. DMG-17012/26/2025/2026-27 **Dated: 06.05.2026**

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

The Department of Mines and Geology is calling tender for auction of seized generated iron ore fines under respective notification through MSTC. Eligibility conditions, terms and conditions, date and time for participating in the electronic auction are provided in the Tender Document. Separate Lot wise auction notifications are published in MSTC portal. Tender Documents, notifications, updates and other details for the e-auction process of respective lots shall be available in electronic form only at the website of MSTC Ltd.

<https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/aucsearch/search.jsp>

The auction of old stock for each lot is "AS IS WHERE IS AND NO COMPLAINT BASIS". The interested bidders shall ascertain the quantity and quality of the Iron /Manganese ore before participation. The Department is not responsible for any dispute arising after confirmation of the bid.

Interested bidders may visit the MSTC Ltd website.

Sd/-
Director,
Department of Mines & Geology

DIPR/CP/533/NR/2026-27



KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
No.2, 2/1 & 2/3, Kalidasa Marg, 1st Main Road, Gandhinagar,
Bengaluru - 560009. Phone No. 080-22265383 website:www.kiadb.in

No. IADB/ENGG/ETND-EP-12/1102/2026-27 **Date:05.05.2026**

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER

(Through GOK KPP Portal Only)

Item Rate Tender under two cover bid system is invited as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through electronic procurement from eligible Contractors who have got adequate financial resources, suitable construction equipments, technical man power & sufficient past experience for the following works mentioned below:

Name of the works: (1) Formation of Roads including asphaltting, construction of RCC Side Drains, Inspection Chambers, Spur Culverts, Valve Cistern, Rain Water Harvesting & Water Supply Works at Sector-1 of Gowribidnur 4th Phase in Jarabandanahalli Village, Gowribidnur Taluk, Chikkaballapura District. (2) Formation of Roads including asphaltting, construction of RCC Side Drains, Inspection Chambers, Spur Culverts, Valve Cistern, Rain Water Harvesting & Water Supply Works at Sector-2 of Gowribidnur 4th Phase in Jarabandanahalli Village, Gowribidnur Taluk, Chikkaballapura District. (3) Establishment, Commissioning of 10 MLD Sewage Treatment Plant followed by 5 MLD Tertiary Treatment Plant along with 2 modules of 1.50 MLD each Common Effluent Treatment Plant with 1.50 MLD Capacity RO System & ZLD Facilities on total turnkey basis, including Operation & Maintenance of entire Plant for a period of 10 years at KWIN City at Phase-1 in Nelamangala Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District.

● Last Date & Time for Receipt of Tenders: **25.05.2026** upto **4:00** pm.

Applicants May download bidding documents from the Karnataka Public Procurement portal <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>

Sd/- Chief Engineer-1
KIADB, Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/536/CCL/2026-27



ASSET RECOVERY MANAGEMENT BRANCH,
PNB HOUSE, MARKET ROAD, ERNAKULAM-682 011
PH:0484-2350477, E-mail: cs4459@pnb.bank.in

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) & 9(1) 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 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 26-05-2026 from 11.00 AM to 05.00 PM				
Sl. No.	Name of the Branch Name of the Account Name & address of the Borrower/Guarantor	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 30.04.2026 C) Possession Date u/s 13(4) of Sarfesi Act 2002 D) Symbolic/Physical/Constructive	a) Reserve Price b) EMD c) Bid Increase Amount Details of the encumbrances known to the secured creditors
1	PNB ARMB ERNAKULAM Mrs Mariya Beevi, W/o Sadik Ahmed, Bedriyya House, Velliparambu, Kuttikkattoor, Kozhikode-673008 Mr Sirajudheen (Guarantor), S/o Alil Hasan, Vakkath Puzhampurath House, Palazi P O, Pantheerankavu Kozhikode-673014	(1) All that part and parcel of property consisting of 6.07 ares of land comprised in Sy.No.9/9/5 along with residential building No.IX/322 F of Arakkuzha Panchayath with all improvements situated Arakkuzha Village, Muvattupuzha Taluk, Ernakulam District belonging to Mrs.Mariya Beevi Boundaries: North: Property of Pottaykkal Mathai, South: Pathway and Property of Arayakkal Kunjan, East: Property of Pottaykkal Cicly, West: M C Road (2) All that part and parcel of property consisting of 4.05 ares of land comprised in Old Sy No. 86/1, 86/2A in Re.Sy. no 376/16-2-2 along with residential building no 14/337/E situated at Mazhuvannur Village, Kunnathunadu Taluk, Ernakulam District belonging to Mrs Mariya Beevi. Boundaries: North: Panchayath Road and Private Road, South: Property of Basil, East: Property of Susan John, West: Property of Babu.	A) 13(2)- 30.04.2025 B) Outstanding Amount as on 30.04.2026- Rs.1,03,32,154.98(Rupees One Crore Three lakhs Thirty two thousand One hundred Fifty four and paise Ninety Eight only) with further interest, Cost and charges as applicable from 01.05.2026 C) Possession Notice: 29.07.2025, 18-04-2026 D) Constructive	a) Rs.1,32,30,000/- b) Rs.13,23,000/- c) Rs.1,00,000/- No such information known to the best of the knowledge of Authorized officer. The bidders are requested to do their own due diligence.
2	PNB ARMB ERNAKULAM Mr Shajahan C M, S/o Mohammed C, Chenthaara House, Thottamampam P O, Aluva, Ernakulam-683105. Mr. Suresh Babu (Guarantor), S/o Kumaran, 92(1047), Paruthi Pillai House, Monastery Lane, Aluva East, Ernakulam-683563	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, 705,708/2708/3, 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: Property of Malathy Amma & Others; South: Property of Francis; East: Panchayath Road; West: Property of Malathy Amma & Others	A) 13(2)- 27.08.2025 B) Outstanding Amount as on 31.03.2026 - Rs.1,04,72,659.40 (Rupees One crore Four lakhs Seventy Two Thousand Six hundred Fifty Nine and Forty paise only) with further interest, Cost and charges as applicable from 01.04.2026. C) Possession Notice- 06.01.2026 D) Constructive	a) Rs.16,20,000/- b) Rs. 1,62,000/- c) Rs.10,000/- No such information known to the best of the knowledge of Authorized officer. The bidders are requested to do their own due diligence.
3	PNB ARMB ERNAKULAM Mr. Subin Baby, Mr Seeko Baby, both having address at: Parakkal House, KSRA49, Alambimoola Road, Kangarappady, Ernakulam-682021	All that part and parcel of property consisting of 1.62 ares of land with residential building there on in Sy No 798/3/3/19,798/13A/1798/13A/3,798/13A,Re Sy no 860/3-2 Block No 5 situated at Thrikkarakara North,KanayannurTaluk,Ernakulam District belonging to Mr.Mr Subin Baby & Mr Seeko Baby. Boundaries: North: Property of Haridas; South: Property of Sasi; East: Private Road; West: Property of Santhosh	A) 13(2)- 13.06.2024 B) Outstanding Amount as on 30.04.2026 - Rs. 66,06,142.62 (Rupees Sixty Six lakhs Six thousand One hundred Forty two and Sixty two paise only) with further interest, Cost and charges as applicable from 01.05.2026 C) Possession Notice- 10.09.2024 D) Constructive	a) Rs.55,42,000/- b) Rs. 5,54,200/- c) Rs.50,000/- No such information known to the best of the knowledge of Authorized officer. The bidders are requested to do their own due diligence.
4	PNB ARMB ERNAKULAM 1. M/s Ideal Trading Company, D No.11/ 682, ABC/OE, Edathale North, Aluva - 683564. 2. Mr Sajeer C I, S/o C A Ismail, 3. Mrs Shaheena T B, W/o Sajeer C I, both having address at: Cheruparambil House, Edathale North P.O., Aluva - 683564, 4. Mr. Latheef P T, S/o Abdul Khader, Puthiyaveetil House, Thottumugham P O., Aluva - 683105. 5. Mr. Muhammed Jasim C H, S/o Hameed C A, 6. Mr Muhammed Afsal, S/o Hameed C A, both having address at: Conothadai House, Uliyanoor P O, Aluva - 683108	All that part and parcel of property consisting of 3.64 Ares(9 cents) of land with residential building thereon in Old Survey No.56/1,Re Survey No.19/5/9 of block 32, Keezhmadu Village, Aluva Taluk, Ernakulam District in the name of Mr. Latif. Boundaries: North: Road & Property of Venu; South: Property of Sathyabhama; East: Property of Property of Narayan Pillai; West: Property of Property of Narayanan Pillai. 2. All that part and parcel of property consisting of 51.25 Ares (126.64 cents) of land in Old Survey No.794/1/13,Re Survey No.4154 of block 10, Vengoor West Village, Kunnathunadu Taluk, Ernakulam District in the name of Mr. Mohammed Jasim and Mr. Mohammed Afsal. Boundaries: North: Panchayath Road, South: Property of Elias; East: Property of Elias & Gravel Road; West: Panchayat Road.	A) 13(2)- Property 1: 03-08-2022 Property 2: 03-08-2022 B) Outstanding Amount as on 30.04.2026 - Rs. 2,02,96,790.65 (Rupees Two Crore Two Lakhs Ninety Six Thousand Seven Hundred Ninety and Paise Sixty Five only) Plus interest from 01.05.2026 C) Possession Notice- 03.09.2019 Property 2: 03.09.2019 D) Constructive	Property 1: a) Rs.60.18 Lakh b) Rs. 6.02 Lakh c) Rs.1,00,000/- Property 1: a) Rs.47.7 Lakh b) Rs. 4.77 Lakh c) Rs.1,00,000/- No such information known to the best of the knowledge of Authorized officer. The bidders are requested to do their own due diligence.
5	PNB ARMB ERNAKULAM M/s St. Mary's Oil & Flour Mill, Kadathy, Mekkadampu, P.O., Muvattupuzha, Ernakulam-682316. Mr. M Kuriaikose (Prop. M/s St Marys Oil & Flour Mill), Mr. Shon Babu, both having address at: Madathinatholathil House, Kadathy, Mekkadampu,P.O., Muvattupuzha, Ernakulam-682316	All that part and parcel of property consisting of 14 cents of land in Sy.No.516/14A, 5 cents in Sy.No516/14B, 5 cents in Sy.No516/15, 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 - Moovattupuzha Sub District in District Ernakulam owned by Mr. Shon Babu. Boundaries: North: Property of Muthalath Eliamma and Kavanal Eliamma; South: Property of Thankachan & Kumari; East: Property of Thankachan & canal; West: Thodu & Property of Eliamma.	A) 13(2)- 07/03/2023 B) Outstanding Amount as on 30.04.2026 - Rs. 1,01,82,670.76 (Rupees Two Crore One Lakh Eighty Two Thousand Six hundred Seventy and Paise Seventy six only) with further interest, Cost and charges as applicable from 01.05.2026 C) Possession Notice- 15/09/2023 D) Constructive	a) Rs. 32.40 Lakh b) Rs. 3.24 Lakh c) Rs.10,000/- No such information known to the best of the knowledge of Authorized officer. The bidders are requested to do their own due diligence.
6	PNB ARMB ERNAKULAM Manu Mohan, Kurianiplakal House, Vakaddumbhagam, Ponkunnam, Kottayam - 686505	All that part and parcel of property consisting of 2.84 Ares (7 Cents) of land with residential building in Re Sy No. 247/2/4, Block No. 24 of Mulanthuruthy Village, Kanayannur Taluk, Ernakulam District belonging to Mr Manu Mohan. Boundaries: North: Private Road, & Survey 1449, South: Property of Krishnan Kutty, East: Property of Poulse, West: Property of Edappara Family.	A) 13(2)- 07/11/2023 B) Outstanding Amount as on 30.04.2026 - Rs. 78,21,966.29 (Rupees Seventy Eight Lakhs Twenty One Thousand Nine Hundred Sixty six and paise Twenty Nine only) with further interest, Cost and charges as applicable from 01.05.2026 C) Possession Notice- 15/02/2024 D) Constructive	a) Rs. 40,68,000/- b) Rs. 4,06,800/- c) Rs.50,000/- No such information known to the best of the knowledge of Authorized officer. The bidders are requested to do their own due diligence.
7	PNB ARMB ERNAKULAM Mrs.Jiya Mariya Thankachan, Villa No.53, Soupannika, Puzhayooram, Manakunnam, Ernakulam -682307. Mr.Arun Sebastian Thekkumuriyil Babu, Villa No.53, Soupannika, Puzhayooram, Manakunnam, Ernakulam-682307.	All that part and parcel of property consisting of 3.64 Ares of land comprised in Sy.No.88/3-2 along with partially constructed building situated at Alangad Village, Paravur Taluk, Ernakulam District belonging to Mrs.Jiya Mariya Thankachan. Boundaries: North: Canal. South: Property of Rosy & Property sold by Jophin. East: 3 meter wide Road and property of Antony. West: canal.	A) 13(2)- 11/11/2024 B) Outstanding Amount as on 30.04.2026 - Rs. 1,47,74,868.98 (Rupees One Crore Forty Seven lakhs Seventy Four Thousand Eight Hundred sixty Eight and Ninety Eight paise only) with further interest, Cost and charges as applicable from 01.05.2028 C) Possession Notice- 23/01/2025 D) Constructive	a) Rs. 29,00,000/- b) Rs. 2,90,000/- c) Rs.10,000/- No such information known to the best of the knowledge of Authorized officer. The bidders are requested to do their own due diligence.

Last Date for Depositing EMD: 25-05-2026 Before 4 PM, Inspection of Property with Prior Appointment with Authorized Officer: 22-05-2026

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 hereinabove 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://Banknet.com> on 26-05-2026 from 11.00 AM to 5.00PM. (7) For detailed term and conditions of the sale, please refer <https://Banknet.com&www.pnb.bank.in>.

Date: 06-05-2026, Place: Ernakulam

(Sd/-) Authorized Officer, Punjab National Bank, ARMB, Ernakulam