Plus One admissions likely to commence from May 25

At present, 3,60,844 higher secondary seats, 33,000 vocational higher secondary seats, and more than 30,000 seats in polytechnic and ITIs are available in the State

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The General Education department is preparing to invite applications for Plus One single-window admission from May 25.

A final date is yet to be confirmed since the number of seats in some districts is fewer than the number of students who have completed SSLC.

At present, 3,60,844 higher secondary seats, 33,000 vocational higher secondary seats, and over 30,000 seats in polytechnic and ITIs are available in the State, according to the department.

However, 4,10,456 students became eligible for higher studies this year.

A proposal has been submitted to the government for allowing marginal seat increase of up to 30% and continuing the batches temporarily sanctioned and those shifted to the Malabar region as had been done in the past. However, a government order will have to be issued, subject to Cabinet ratification, to effect the seat increase in time for students to submit their applications.

Last year, the increase in seats from marginal seat increase and shifting of batches came to more than 80,000.

However, with Plus Two result declaration on May 26 and Bakrid on May 28, another date is also under consideration – May 29. This is also so that SSLC revaluation results can be announced ahead of first allotment which will allow the updated marks of students to be entered in time for the allotment.

The trial allotment is expected to be published on June 8.

Allotments

This will be followed by three allotments in the main phase. Classes could start in the first week of July. A supplementary allotment will also be held.

The office of the Minister is also keen that admissions begin on May 25 and the process hitherto followed is observed and no student is denied Plus One admission.

Modi afraid of satire: K. Prakash Babu

The Hindu Bureau
THRISSUR

K. Prakash Babu, a Central Secretariat member of the Communist Party of India (CPI), on Friday launched a sharp attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi, accusing him of cowardice for blocking the X account of a digital satire collective named "Cockroach Janata Party." The collective had emerged online to protest remarks likening unemployed youth in the country to "cockroaches."

Mr. Babu was speaking while inaugurating the 90th anniversary celebrations of a May Day rally and the observance of S.A. Dange Day, held in the run-up to the national general council meeting of the All India Trade Union Congress, scheduled in Thrissur from June 1 to 3.

Mr. Babu alleged that Mr. Modi, preoccupied with serving "American imperialist interests," has forgotten millions of poor workers in India. He accused the Prime Minister of surrendering India's sovereignty to the U.S. and waiting for approval from the American President even while formulating development policies for the country.

"India's dignity is being mortgaged before the global community. The country is being pushed towards an unprecedented economic slowdown, while fascist tools are being used to strengthen capitalism," he said. He further claimed that the government is attempting to weaken organised labour and trade union movements.

'Insulted the people'

Referring to the incident involving a Norwegian journalist, Mr. Babu criticised Mr. Modi for walking away without answering a question on why journalists in India are not given opportunities to ask questions. "By doing so, he insulted not just the journalist, but the people of India," he said.

He also alleged that India has been turned into an "electoral autocracy" under Mr. Modi. Raising concerns over citizenship policies, Mr. Babu claimed that more Indians have been excluded through administrative processes than through the Citizenship Amendment Act, and warned that only a united public response could counter such developments. The meeting was presided over by CPI Thrissur district secretary K. G. Sivanandan. Veteran trade union leaders from the district associated with AITUC were honoured on the occasion.

Two held for assault on village officer

The Hindu Bureau
THRISSUR

Thrissur Rural Police have arrested two men for allegedly assaulting a village officer and a village assistant, obstructing them from discharging official duties, and attempting to run them over with a tipper lorry, near Vallachira, in Thrissur district.

The arrested have been identified as Mithun, 42, of Venginissery and Nishil, 27, of Pazhuvil. The police also seized the JCB used for illegal soil excavation, the tipper lorry used for transporting the soil, and the car belonging to the accused.

The incident occurred around 5.15 pm on May 20 near the Vallachira Village Office. According to the police, village officer Shinod, 49, and village assistant Shaji, 55, questioned the accused upon noticing illegal loading of soil into a tipper lorry. This allegedly led to the accused assaulting the officials and obstructing their duties.

During the altercation, the first accused allegedly drove the lorry towards the officials in an attempt to run them over. However, both managed to escape unhurt by moving away in time. However, their scooter and motorcycle were damaged in the impact.

Women ask KSRTC to provide better sanitation, security

Haleemath Rizwana S.A.
KOZHIKODE

Even as the newly elected United Democratic Front (UDF) government is preparing to launch free travel for women on KSRTC buses from June 15 under its 'Five Indira Guarantees' scheme, several commuters are of the view that fare-free transit alone is insufficient without addressing the lack of basic safety measures and better hygiene and sanitation at bus stations for women.

Although KSRTC depots do provide toilets and resting areas for women, the services are rarely used due to poor maintenance. Unhygienic washrooms remain a problem, especially for women travelling long distances.

According to Tanisha Kumareshan, a nutritionist and a former national table tennis player from Kozhikode, most toilets at bus stands are unhygienic and lack clean water. She also suggested that all KSRTC buses be equipped with functional CCTV cameras and proper surveillance systems to improve women's safety. "During tournaments, I have had to travel alone on buses at night, which made me feel unsafe. Safety measures like these can make women feel more secure," Ms. Kumareshan said.

'Heavily congested'

Sunitha Jyothi Prakash, 55, a public relations officer from Kozhikode, said the KSRTC depot in Kozhikode is heavily congested and requires better infrastructure.

"Despite multiple complaints in the past regarding its poor facilities, nothing has improved," she alleged.

"There is no airflow inside the building. The place feels suffocating," said Aleena Siby, a student from Palakkad.

"Resting areas designated for women are very rare at KSRTC stations. While travelling at night, I have found it inconvenient," said S. Aishwarya, 26, a student from Wayanad. She added that the lack of proper waiting and resting areas makes late-night travel unsafe for female passengers.

Apart from safety and sanitation, passengers also pointed out the absence of CCTV cameras both inside the buses and in waiting areas, as well as a low number of female conductors and security personnel.

Cattle chaos

Stray cattle block the road in front of the Thrissur Collectorate posing a threat to motorists and pedestrians alike. K.K. NAJEEB

CUK announces PG admissions

The Hindu Bureau
KASARAGOD

The Central University of Kerala (CUK) has commenced the registration process for admission to postgraduate (PG) programmes for the academic year 2026-27. Candidates who have appeared for the Common University Entrance Test (CUET-PG) conducted by the National Testing Agency (NTA) are eligible to apply.

The online registration is open on the University website www.cukerala.ac.in and will remain active until June 10, 2026. The provisional rank list will be published on June 13. Candidates may submit grievances, if any, on June 22 and 23.

The first phase of admission for all categories will be held from June 20 to 30. The second phase will take place on July 2 and 3, followed by the third and final phase on July 6 and 7. Classes for the academic year will commence on July 9.

For details, visit www.cukerala.ac.in or contact 046722309467.

Piping hot tea is slowly getting out of reach

V. Reji, Vinod Kumar, Johnson K. Joshi, and Anjana Radhakrishnan are among those affected by rising food prices.

S.R. Praveen
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Till not so long ago, V. Reji's day kickstarted with tea from a wayside shop, once he finishes the early morning trips in his autorickshaw. Through the course of the day, he used to have at least four more. Now, he has cut it down to a maximum of two. With the prices of tea going up in most shops in Thiruvananthapuram, due to a massive hike in commercial cooking gas prices, he has been finding it difficult to keep his habit going.

"I drive a CNG-powered autorickshaw. The prices of CNG have gone up in recent weeks. Added to this is the hike in the prices of tea as well as most other food items in restaurants. As autorickshaws have a fixed rate, we cannot increase them when our expenses go up. However, prices at tea shops and restaurant are unregulated. They are also helpless, but there should be some regulation," says Mr. Reji. His plight is shared by a large number of daily wage workers, students and even those with mid-level incomes.

On May 1, State-owned oil marketing companies increased price of 19-kg commercial cylinders used in tea shops and eateries by almost ₹1,000, from the previous price of around ₹2,300. Come June 1, Milma will also hike milk prices by ₹4/litre.

Symbolic value

In Kerala, tea shops have a symbolic value as a shared space for the coming together of people, with heated exchange of opinions on everything under the sun. The hike in tea prices has come as a sort of dampener for these regular tea drinkers.

One of the hardest hit groups have been the food delivery workers, who have long working days and are dependent on tea shops and restaurants for much of the day.

"Since our daily targets are steep, with a requirement of at least 27 deliveries, most of us get out of our house by 6 a.m. We depend on restaurants for not just tea, but everything from breakfast to dinner. The steep hikes have left our budgets in disarray," says Ameer, a food delivery worker.

Students are another group who are feeling the pinch. Anjana Radhakrishnan, a Civil Services aspirant studying at a coaching institute here, says the tea and food prices are a major concern.

"Tea drinking became a habit once I began classes at the institute. One advantage of tea is that it is the cheapest of refreshing beverages available. However, we are now thinking of cutting down on the number to save money," she says.

Vinod Kumar, a gym trainer, is concerned that prices of food items are not reversed when gas prices fall. Tea prices have gone up in Technopark as well as in the cafes that dot Kazhakuttam, where IT companies are located.

"In Kazhakuttam, you can get tea for anywhere between ₹15 to ₹25. The price of 'Boost' has gone up to ₹70. The authorities should regulate the prices," says Johnson K. Joshi, employee at an IT company.

All set for school

A family shopping for school essentials at a shop on High Road in Thrissur on Friday ahead of the reopening of schools K.K. NAJEEB

CPI(M) warns of massive stir over alleged move to scrap LIFE Mission

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANTHAPURAM

The Communist Party of India (Marxist) [CPI(M)] has condemned reports of the United Democratic Front (UDF) government considering to put an end to the LIFE housing mission launched by the Left Democratic Front (LDF) government. The State will witness a massive protest movement if this "politically motivated and anti-people" step is not withdrawn, said the statement.

However, Minister for Local Self-Governments K.M. Shaji has denied the reports. He said that the UDF government has not made a decision to discontinue to the project. No step will be taken without conducting a proper study. Under the LIFE Mission, five lakh houses have become a reality, while more than one lakh houses are in various stages of construction. Along with this, more than two lakh families with land are waiting to get houses in the next phase.

According to the CPI(M), LIFE beneficiaries and the order of priority were finalised after giving special consideration to the weaker sections and after discussions at the gram sabhas and panchayats.

Judge recuses from hearing poll petitions

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

A Bench of Justice A. Badharudeen has recused itself from hearing petitions challenging the election to the Lok Sabha of Congress MPs Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and K.C. Venugopal, from the Wayanad and Alappuzha constituencies, respectively.

The petitions were posted before the Bench on Thursday after a Bench presided over by Justice K. Babu ceased to hear the matter after his retirement from service on attaining superannuation. With the Bench of Justice Badharudeen recusing itself from hearing the petitions, another Single Bench would consider the petitions on May 25.

In her petition challenging the election of Ms. Gandhi, Navya Haridas, the BJP candidate from Wayanad in the 2024 Lok Sabha election, alleged that Ms. Gandhi suppressed vital information regarding assets owned by her and her family, thereby misleading voters and influencing their electoral choice. Mr. Venugopal's election was challenged by A.M. Ariff, his rival candidate from the Alappuzha constituency, alleging corrupt practices.

One held for ₹1.19-cr. 'online trading fraud'

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Thiruvananthapuram City cyber crime police have arrested a 47-year-old man in connection with an online share trading fraud case in which over ₹1.19 crore was allegedly swindled from the victim.

The police identified the accused as Ramesh of Kannadi in Palakkad. He is suspected to be the mastermind behind the scam. A Kadakampally native was purportedly defrauded of the large sum through multiple transactions.

According to official sources, the fraudsters befriended the complainant through the social media by falsely claiming to represent a reputed U.K.-based investment company. They allegedly said that investing in online trading would double the returns.

The victim transferred money online to bank accounts provided by the fraudsters.

Timings
KOZHIKODE

SATURDAY, MAY. 23				
Sun	RISE	06:03	SET	18:44
Moon	RISE	12:23	SET	00:20
SUNDAY, MAY. 24				
Sun	RISE	06:03	SET	18:45
Moon	RISE	13:14	SET	01:02
MONDAY, MAY. 25				
Sun	RISE	06:03	SET	18:45
Moon	RISE	14:01	SET	01:41

Kozhikode Weather	max	min
Thrissur	33	26
Palakkad	35	27
Kannur	34	25

Kozhikode Today
32°C Morning will be comfortable. Day will be little warm. Spells of moderate rain and thundershowers with gusty winds to occur.

Kozhikode Tomorrow
32°C The weather will be little warm. Spells of moderate rain and thundershowers to occur. Night will be comfortable.

Text & Context

Weekday features on *The Hindu* epaper (epaper.thehindu.com) carry explainers, special articles and quizzes. In the latest issue (May 22, Friday), the following articles are available:

- Should the rupee be left to depreciate?
newsth.live/EvICOn/rupee

You can use your smartphone's inbuilt features to access these articles. If it's an Android phone, use Google Lens to read and tap the url to access an article. If it's an iPhone, use Live Text on camera to do the same.

Published by Nirmala Lakshman at No. 49/339 & 340, NH, Bypass Road, Vyttila Jn. Ernakulam, Kerala 682019 and Printed by Deepu.R at THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., Survey No. 224/2C2, 2D & 2E, Vettickal, Mulanthuruthy via, Maneed Village, Maneed Panchayaat, Pambra Desam, Muvattupuzha Taluk, Piravom Sub District, Ernakulam, Kerala 682314, on behalf of THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD. Editor: Suresh Nambath Chandrasekar (Responsible for selection of news under the PRP Act).
ISSN 0971 - 751X

Under no illusions about the scale of the task ahead: Bindu Krishna

Navamy Sudhish
KOLLAM

Minister Bindu Krishna has taken charge of an incredibly diverse and challenging set of portfolios, overseeing Women and Child Development, Labour, Animal Husbandry, and Dairy Development. The Kollam MLA says she is under no illusions about the scale of the task ahead, and these departments must be aggressively restructured from the ground up to ensure optimum efficiency.

As she is stepping into office at a time when the labour landscape is undergoing a massive shift, the Minister is prioritising a deep and empirical study into how these changes will impact existing working environments. "With the introduction of the Labour Codes, we are facing a lot of structural difficulties on the ground. We are in the process of formulating our State-specific rules. There is a serious, tangible impact on our existing working environments. It is a highly sensitive matter, and I intend to study this impact so we can devise effective strategies to protect our workforce," she says.

Workers' welfare

A similar urgency marks her approach to the welfare of guest workers as the Minister points out that residential quarters of interState labourers in most places remain in truly deplorable conditions. "As Keralites, we are highly conscious of personal hygiene and quality of life. But their living conditions are not good enough. To address this disparity, we are housing schemes and welfare measures for them. The focus will be comprehensive and we will take measures to safeguard the dignity of all labour sectors," she says.

Her commitment to ensure the welfare of workforce takes on a deeply


Bindu Krishna

emotional and personal resonance when it comes to the cashew sector. For Ms. Krishna this is not merely a policy matter as her own mother was a cashew worker. The Minister says she is determined to brainstorm with experts to explore every viable avenue for its sustainable revival, and promises targeted government interventions across all traditional sectors currently facing financial strain.

She adds that lack of funds is a major issue across all departments, especially Animal Husbandry. "I am being told that even faculty and staff at the Kerala Veterinary and Animal Sciences University are not receiving their salaries on time. Department officials claim it is due to an acute shortage of funds. For a State to have only one dedicated veterinary university, and to see that institution crippled by basic operational struggles, is unacceptable," she says.

Yet, even as she drives these Statewide reforms, developing her home constituency of Kollam remains an uncompromised priority. "I have already scheduled a meeting with the Health Minister to address severe infrastructure gaps at the district hospital, where a malfunctioning cath lab and a problematic culture of referring patients to the medical college have long frustrated patients. Fast-tracking pending bridge constructions and reconstructing broken roads to bring visible transformation to the city will be another area of focus," she says.

State to monitor travellers from Ebola-affected nations

Surveillance to be in place for up to 21 days. State Rapid Response Team says measure is being adopted as an additional precaution; passenger screening strengthened at international airports

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The State Health department will place travellers arriving from countries flagged by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Union Health Ministry for reporting Ebola cases under mandatory health surveillance for up to 21 days after their arrival in Kerala.

The State Rapid Response Team, which met here on Thursday under the chairmanship of Health Minister K. Muraleedharan, said the measure was being adopted as an additional precaution. Officials clarified that no Ebola cases have been reported in India so far and that there was no cause for panic.

Travellers arriving from Ebola-affected countries – the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Uganda and South Sudan – have been directed to strictly follow the special health guidelines issued by the Union Health Ministry.

Symptoms

Passengers from these countries have been advised to immediately report to health authorities at airports if they experience symptoms associated with Ebola, including fever, fatigue, headache, muscle pain, vomiting, diarrhoea, sore throat or bleeding.

Those who may have had direct contact with confirmed or suspected Ebola patients have also been instructed to inform health officials.

Passenger screening has been strengthened at international airports and seaports in the State. Isolation wards and intensive care facilities have also been readied for those requiring treatment or observation.

The Health Minister has directed department officials to ensure timely training of health-care personnel in infection prevention and control, use of PPE kits, treatment protocols, and critical-care management.

Direct contact

Ebola is a severe viral haemorrhagic fever that spreads through direct contact with the bodily fluids of infected persons or contaminated materials. It is not considered an airborne disease in normal community settings.

The incubation period–the time between exposure and onset of symptoms–ranges from two to 21 days, which is why health authorities typically monitor travellers for 21 days.

Kerala has historically adopted aggressive surveillance measures for infectious diseases because of its high volume of international travel, especially from Gulf and African countries. The State also has a strong track record in handling contagious disease outbreaks such as Nipah and COVID-19 through stringent surveillance, monitoring, early detection and diagnosis.

Health officials said the public health alert was intended not to create alarm but to raise awareness. With four international airports and heavy passenger movement, they noted, it can take less than 24 hours for a viral outbreak in another part of the world to reach the State.

Why is nursing not 'essential service,' asks High Court

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

The Kerala High Court has orally asked why services rendered by nurses are not declared as an "essential service".

The court issued notices to the Secretary, State Council for Clinical Establishments; Secretary, Health and Family Welfare Department; and the Jubilee Mission Hospital, Thrissur, in a petition filed by the Kerala State United Nurses' Association, challenging the appointment of unregistered persons as nurses in Jubilee Mission Hospital and Amala Institute of Medical Sciences, Thrissur, during an ongoing strike by qualified nurses.

The court orally remarked that it is not justifying the action of the hospital or the association, and that certain categories of services such as doctors, nurses, lawyers cannot go on strike. While suggesting that nurses go on strikes after their working hours, the court sought the State government's stance on the matter of nursing as an essential service.

For fair wages

The petitioner then asserted that only the petitioner association is on strike and there are other nurses who are available.

It added that one-third of the staff are working in essential units.

The staff nurses in the two hospitals had gone on strike in March, demanding fair wages.

Despite govt. change, heads of a few cultural forums stay put

S.R. Praveen
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Heads of some State cultural institutions in Kerala have shown reluctance to step down from their posts despite a directive from the previous Left Democratic Front (LDF) government to their appointees to vacate after the change in government. Kerala State Film Development Corporation (KSFDC) chairperson K. Madhu is yet to resign.

According to sources in the Culture department and the Kerala State Chalachitra Academy, the film body's chairperson Resul Pookutty and vice-chairperson Kukku Parameswaran tendered their resignation only two days ago, after much delay.

When *The Hindu* asked Mr. Pookutty on Friday whether he had resigned on or intends to continue in the post, he said he did not want to comment.

According to KSFDC sources, Mr. Madhu was in office on Friday. Rumours have been rife that at least some of the current institution heads are seeking an extended tenure.

Minister for Cultural Affairs P.C. Vishnunadh told *The Hindu* that quite a few of the institution heads have submitted their resignations over the past couple of days."As per the information I have, almost every culture institution head, except the KSFDC chairperson, have submitted their resignation. Some names have come up as suggestions to take up these posts. A decision will be taken only after discussions and considering the opinion of the Chief Minister," said Mr. Vishnunadh.

In the past, whenever there have been changes in government, most of the political appointees used to immediately vacate their posts.

Poet K. Satchidanandan had resigned from his post as president of the Kerala Sahitya Akademi on May 8, soon after the election results were declared. Vice-president Ashokan Charuvil had also stepped down.

Mr. Satchidanandan had said that it was "natural" that people holding similar posts vacate them following a change in government.

BENGALURU NORTH CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer
Yalahanka division, Bengaluru – 560064.

No:BNCC/EE/YNK.D/KPPP/05/2026-27 Date: 22-05-2026

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT)
(TWO COVER SYSTEM)

(Through **GOK** KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** only)

The Executive Engineer, Yalahanka Division, BNCC invites tenders on behalf of the Commissioner, BNCC Bengaluru from eligible Tenderers for the Works detailed in the table below. (Standard Tender Document KW-04)

Sl No.	Name of the Work
1.	Restoration of road cut portion carried out by KIADB at Chowdeshwari layout in **Ward No-03** **Amount put to Tender : ₹. 193.21 Lakhs,** **EMD: ₹. 2,90,000.00**

Calendar of Events: (1) Tenders must be submitted online through KPP portal on or before **05-06-2026** upto **4:00** pm. (2) Date of Pre-bid Meeting on **26-05-2026** at **3:00** pm. (3) Last date & Time for receipt of tenders **05-06-2026** at **4:00** pm. (4) Date & time of Opening of Technical bid on **06-06-2026** after **4:00** pm.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Yalahanka Division, BNCC

കേരള സംസ്ഥാന ഭാഗ്യക്കുറി SUVARNA KERALAM SK - 53 DRAW RESULT 22.05.26

₹1 Crore: RE 885786 (PATTAMBI)

Consolation ₹5000: RA 885786 RB 885786 RC 885786 RD 885786 RF 885786 RG 885786 RH 885786 RJ 885786 RK 885786 RL 885786 RM 885786

₹30 Lakh: RE 318008 (MOOVATTUPUZHA)

₹5 Lakh: RH 864462 (ADOOR)

₹5000: 0075 0710 1497 1605 5076 5635 6376 7240 7548 8089 8426 8611 9027 9132 9228 9601 9653 9793 9876

₹2000: 1327 2702 3121 4575 7558 7909

₹1000: 0115 0814 1159 2433 2541 2564 3101 3124 3559 3600 3646 4104 5087 5330 5547 6613 6708 7911 8915 9002 9009 9266 9319 9685

₹500: 0509 0559 0690 0709 0935 1304 1402 1478 1493 1713 2054 2066 2221 2438 2594 2719 2798 2844 2973 3134 3410 3635 3685 3985 4026 4420 4581 4603 4757 4760 4881 4930 4940 5037 5181 5360 5603 5765 5869 5994 5997 6075 6128 6170 6244 6257 6397 6452 6484 6507 6583 6718 6911 7004 7198 7206 7270 7385 7449 7454 7778 8045 8131 8151 8222 8324 8360 8371 8482 8585 8677 9041 9556 9585 9951 9968

₹200: 0019 0099 0270 0289 0305 0375 0552 0591 0600 0614 0893 0961 1140 1147 1286 1562 1573 1690 1709 2099 2213 2217 2592 2668 2679 3123 3402 3570 3875 4040 4049 4078 4092 4273 4456 4540 4775 4793 5045 5067 5129 5261 5362 5398 5551 5606 5714 5761 5863 5865 5868 5915 5991 6057 6516 6527 6638 6828 6945 6987 7135 7159 7190 7267 7279 7295 7377 7654 7685 7819 7917 7931 8355 8481 8496 8499 8503 8600 8728 8823 8943 8956 8978 9108 9230 9394 9430 9488 9610 9895 9904 9959

₹100: 0228 0386 0576 0823 0949 0996 1092 1246 1293 1388 1408 1421 1486 1600 1625 1643 1984 2134 2186 2191 2290 2363 2405 2489 2527 2723 2753 2761 2773 2821 2865 3009 3120 3130 3296 3303 3357 3371 3389 3532 3550 3747 3748 3796 3800 3849 3858 3940 4015 4023 4041 4117 4160 4191 4233 4234 4252 4373 4547 4631 4651 4782 4784 4913 4914 4953 5007 5121 5236 5421 5462 5579 5706 5740 5892 5911 5916 6045 6050 6131 6174 6307 6429 6497 6502 6532 6549 6551 6553 6774 6825 6846 6876 6895 6968 7049 7053 7104 7155 7210 7381 7635 7655 7666 7669 7756 7798 7854 7912 7915 7947 8102 8108 8227 8240 8290 8332 8402 8445 8535 8555 8681 8718 8843 8919 8959 9006 9007 9051 9109 9173 9312 9325 9412 9470 9502 9581 9657 9836 9846 9909 9937 9971 9980

Sd/- S K VIJAYALAKSHMI, Deputy Director, Directorate of State Lotteries, Thiruvananthapuram. The prize winners are advised to verify the winning numbers with the results published in the Kerala Government Gazette and surrender the winning tickets within 30 days.
www.statelottery.kerala.gov.in

SOUTH INDIAN Bank
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email:ro1004@sib.co.in, CIN No.L65191KL1929PLC001017

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE (FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES) Rule 8 (6) & 9(1)

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) and 9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.
Borrower **(1) Mr. Siyavul Rahman P T,** Pothiyil Thottipparambil House, Poovathani, Chethallur, Thachanattukara, Palakkad, Kerala - 678583 and the Guarantor **(2) Mrs. Anishamol P P,** W/o Siyavul Rahman P.T., Pothiyil Thottipparambil House, Poovathani, Chethallur, Thachanattukara, Palakkad, Kerala - 678583
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the borrower/guarantor that the below described immovable property/ies mortgaged to the South Indian Bank Ltd, Branch **Angadipuram** (Secured Creditor), the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of The South Indian Bank Limited (Secured Creditor), will be sold on "as is where is" basis, "as is what is" and "whatever there is" condition on **11.06.2026** for realization of a sum of **Rs.2,41,92,330.69 (Rupees Two Crore Forty One Lakhs Ninety Two Thousand Three Hundred and Thirty and Paise Sixty Nine Only)** as on 17-05-2026, with future interest, costs and expenses etc. thereon in the account/s of Mr. Siyavul Rahman P T with Angadipuram Branch of the Bank

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

Name of Property Owner: Mr. Siyavul Rahman P T, **Description of property:** All that part and parcel of land admeasuring 26.91 Ares along with all constructions, improvements, easementary rights existing and appurtenant thereon situated in Sy No. 3/1A1B within Thachanattukara Village, Mannarkkad Taluk, Palakkad District and owned by Mr. Siyavul Rahman P T, morefully described in Assignment Deed No. 2267/1999 dated 04-05-1999 of Sub Registrar Office - Mannarkkad. **BOUNDARIES:** (as per Deed No. 2267/1999), North: Property of Thoduvakkappu, South: Road, East: Property of Thoduvakkappu, West: Property assigned to Siyavul Haq.

Reserve Price: **Rs.1,45,42,000/- (Rupees One Crore Forty Five Lakhs Forty Two Thousand Only)**
Earnest Money Deposit (EMD): **Rs. 14,54,200/- (Rupees Fourteen Lakhs Fifty Four Thousand Two Hundred Only)** (EMD shall be deposited on or before 10.06.2026 by 5.00 PM
Bid Increment amount: **Rs.25,000/- (Rupees Twenty Five Thousand Only)**
Date and time of E-auction: **11.06.2026 from 10.00 AM to 10.30 AM** (with 5 minute unlimited auto extensions till sale is concluded)
Encumbrances known to the Bank: **Nil Encumbrances from 01-01-1985 to 18-05-2025**

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in web portal of South Indian Bank Ltd, (Secured Creditor) website i.e. **www.southindianbank.com**. Details also available at **https://bankauctions.in** For any further information and for inspection of property, the intended bidders may contact The South Indian Bank Ltd., **Branch Angadipuram** during working hours or may contact The Authorised Officer at Regional Office, Kozhikode, First Floor, Happy Towers, Vaikkom Mohammed Basheer Road, Mananchira (P O), Kozhikode (Mob: **97473 88611 & 94472 83059**)
Place: Kozhikode Date : 18.05.2026 Sd/- Authorised Officer, The South Indian Bank Ltd.

Federal Bank
THE FEDERAL BANK LTD, LCRD / THRISSUR DIVISION
1st Floor, Chenchery Tower, Thrissur-Ernakulam High Road, Ollur, Thrissur, Kerala-680 306, Ph: 0487-2424654, Email: tsrlcrd@federal.bank.in,
CIN: L65191KL1931PLC000368

SALE NOTICE (SALE THROUGH E-AUCTION ONLY)

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY ISSUED UNDER THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT 2002, (hereinafter referred to as Act) r/w proviso to rule 8(6) of the SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES, 2002(hereinafter referred to as Rules)
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 Federal Bank Ltd (Secured Creditor), the possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of The Federal Bank Ltd (Secured Creditor), will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" on **09-06-2026 between 11:00 am – 12:00 pm** for recovery of below mentioned amount due to the The Federal Bank Ltd.

Branch:Thrissur S.T Nagar Name and address of the Borrower/Guarantors/ Defaulter: **(1) M/s Precious Infra Projects Pvt Ltd,** Registered Office at 815/16, St. Louis Commercial Complex, Erinjeri Angadi, Church Circle, Thrissur-680001, **(2) Mr. Leo Louis,** S/o Louis Ouseph, Eluvathingal House, Kizhakkumpattukara, Thrissur-680005, **(3) Mr. Joe Louis,** S/o Louis Ouseph, Eluvathingal House, Kizhakkumpattukara, Thrissur-680005, **(4) Mrs. Celine Louis,** W/o Louis Ouseph, Eluvathingal House, Kizhakkumpattukara, Thrissur-680005, **(5) Mr.Pinto Peter,** S/o Peter, Eluvathingal House, Manalipadam street, Nehru Nagar, Kuriachira P.O Thrissur – 680006

Due Amout: **Rs.37,89,56,870.20 (Rupees Thirty Seven Crore Eighty Nine Lakh Fifty Six Thousand Eight Hundred and Seventy and Paisa Twenty Only)** as on 09-06-2026 as claimed in the OA filed before DRT-2, Ernakulam under the above loan accountalong with further interest/costs/charges

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY: All the piece and parcel of the landed property admeasuring a total extent of 30.41 Ares i.e. (1.57 Ares in Sy. No. 1064/3 +1.57 Ares in Sy. No. 1064/3+ 1.57 Ares in Sy. No. 1064/3 + 2.95 Ares in Sy. No. 1064/3+ 0.79 Ares in Sy. No.983/1 + 6.27 Ares in Sy. No. 1064/4+ 0.50 Aresin Sy. No.983/3+ 0.61 Ares in Sy. No.982/2+ 2.14 Ares in Sy. No.983/1 + 5.87 Aresin Sy. No.1064/3+6.23 Ares in Sy. No.1064/3+ 0.34 Ares in Sy. No.1064/4) with multistoried commercial building having a total plinth area of 1,38,804 sq. ft (Comprising of 7 Floors including 2 Basements) and with all improvements in the building in Thrissur Village, Thrissur Taluk, Thrissur District, Kerala State **Bounded on East:** Canal, **West:** Sakthan Thampuran Road, **North:** Private Road and property of Raphy Chakalakkal, **South:** Property of Jose Alukkas and Bhima Rao Sait.

Reserve Price: **Rs.61,00,00,000/- (Rupees Sixty One Crore Only)**
EMD Amount: **Rs.6,10,00,000/- (Rupees Six Crore Ten lakh only)**

Date & time of e-Auction: on 09-06-2026 between 11:00 am – 12:00 pm (IST) with unlimited extension of 5 minutes each.
Last date for the submission of documents with EMD on 08-06-2026 before 5:00PM

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in the website of The Federal Bank Ltd i.e. https://www.federal.bank.in/web/guest/tender-notices Auction Sale/bidding would be only through "Online Electronic Bidding Process" through the website:www.auctionbazaar.com

Place : Thrissur,
Date : 22-05-2026
For The Federal Bank Ltd.,
(Authorised Officer under SARFAESI Act)

KERALA STATE BACKWARD CLASSES DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD
(A Government of Kerala Undertaking)
Phone: 0471-2577550/ 2577540

Re-tender Notice

Tender ID: 2026_BCDC_852101_1
Re-tender was published for the selection of Internal Auditors for FY 2025-26 and 2026-27. For more details please visit **www.etenders.kerala.gov.in / www.ksbcdc.com.**

Sd/-

SOUTH INDIAN Bank
REGIONAL OFFICE KOZHIKODE
Happy Towers, Vaikom Mohammed Basheer Road, Mananchira P.O., Kozhikode-673 001, Ph:0495 2726727
email:ro1004@sib.co.in, CIN No.L65191KL1929PLC001017

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE (FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES) Rule 8 (6) & 9(1)

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) and 9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.
Borrowers **1.M/s Southern Agro Feeds,** Partnership Firm Represented by its Partners, Door No 3/360B,3/360C, Kuttanassery, Palakkad-679514. **2. Mr. Biju M** (Partner M/s Southern Agro Feeds), S/o Vasudevan, Melepurakkal, Chethallur(PO), Palakkad-678583. **3. Mr. Rajesh M** (Partner M/s Southern Agro Feeds), S/o Vasudevan, Melepurakkal, Chethallur(PO), Palakkad-678583. **4. Mrs. Sheeja K** (Partner M/s Southern Agro Feeds), W/o Rajesh M, Melepurakkal, Chethallur(PO), Palakkad-678583. **5. Mrs. Reena K** (Partner M/s Southern Agro Feeds), W/o Biju M, Melepurakkal, Chethallur(PO), Palakkad-678583. and the Guarantor **6. Mr. Musthafa V.M.,** S/o Muhammed Kutty, Veeramangalam, Thazhekode West (PO), Perinthalmanna, Malappuram-679352
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the borrower(s)/guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property/ies mortgaged to the South Indian Bank Ltd, Branch **Perinthalmanna** (Secured Creditor), the physical Possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of The South Indian Bank Limited (Secured Creditor), will be sold on "as is where is" basis, "as is what is" and "whatever there is" condition on **11.06.2026** for realization of a sum of **Rs.5,33,04,217.80 (Rupees Five Crore Thirty Three Lakh Four Thousand Two Hundred and Seventeen and Paise Eighty Only)** as on 15.05.2026, with future interest, costs and expenses etc. thereon in the account/s of M/s Southern Agro Feeds with Perinthalmanna Branch of the Bank.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

Item No.1: **Name of Property Owner:** Mr. Biju M, Mr. Rajesh M, Mrs. Reena K, Mrs. Sheeja K, **Description of property:** All that part and parcel of land admeasuring 199 Cents approx. in Vellinezhi Village, Ottapalam Taluk, Palakkad District, and all other improvements appurtenance and easementary rights therein, owned by (i)10 Cents(4.04 Ares) of Land in Re. Survey No.- 75/9 of Vellinezhi Village more fully described in Jenm Sale Deed No.1014/2018 dated 17.03.2018 owned by Mr. Biju (ii) 47.36 Cents (19.17 Ares) of Land in Re. Survey No.- 75/1-4 of Vellinezhi Village more fully described in Jenm Sale Deed No.1152/2018 dated 26.03.2018 owned by Mr. Biju (iii) 10 Cents(4.04 Ares) of Land in Re. Survey No.- 75/1-3 of Vellinezhi Village more fully described in Jenm Sale Deed No.1015/2018 dated 17.03.2018 owned by Mr. Rajesh M (iv) 52.78 Cents(21.36 Ares) of Land in Re. Survey No.- 75/1-5 of Vellinezhi Village more fully described in Jenm Sale Deed No.1150/2018 dated 26.03.2018 owned by Mrs. Reena K and Mrs. Sheeja K (v) 38.81 Cents(15.71 Ares) of Land in Re. Survey No.- 75/8 of Vellinezhi Village more fully described in Jenm Sale Deed No.1151/2018 dated 26.03.2018 owned Mrs. Reena K (vi) 40 Cents (16.20 Ares) of Land in Re. Survey No.- 75/7 of Vellinezhi Village more fully described in Jenm Sale Deed No.1153/2018 dated 26.03.2018 owned by Mrs. Sheeja K in SRO Cherppulassery. **BOUNDARIES All the properties (i to vi) lying together and commonly bounded as per location certificate:** East: Road and the properties of Vijayan and Nandakumar, South: Properties of Devarajan and Vijayan, West: Puzha and the properties of Rajesh and Biju, North: Properties of Rajesh and Biju.

Reserve Price: **Rs.1,50,00,000.00 (Rupees One Crore Fifty Lakh Only)**
Earnest Money Deposit (EMD): **Rs.15,00,000.00 (Rupees Fifteen Lakh Only)** EMD shall be deposited on or before 10.06.2026 by 5.00 PM.
Bid Increment amount: **Rs.10,000.00 (Rupees Ten Thousand Only)**
Date and time of E-auction: **11.06.2026 from 10.00 AM to 12.00 Noon** (with 5 minute unlimited auto extensions till sale is concluded)

Item No. 2: **Name of Property Owner:** Mr. Biju, **Description of property:** All that part and parcel of Residential land admeasuring 10 Cents in Re. Survey No.- 80/12, Block No.63, Vellinezhi Village, Ottapalam Taluk, Palakkad District, along with 950 sq ft single storey building having Door No III/295 and all other improvements appurtenance and easementary rights made therein, owned by Mr. Biju more fully described in Jenm Sale Deed No.1854/2010 dated 13.04.2010, SRO Cherppulassery. **BOUNDARIES as per Revenue records:** East: Property of Parameswaran Namboodiri, South: Properties of Kumari Thankam, West: Road, North: Property of Vijayan

Reserve Price: **Rs. 22,00,000.00 (Rupees Twenty Two Lakh Only)**
Earnest Money Deposit (EMD): **Rs.2,20,000.00 (Rupees Two Lakh Twenty Thousand Only)** EMD shall be deposited on or before 10.06.2026 by 5.00 PM.
Bid Increment amount: **Rs10,000.00 (Rupees Ten Thousand Only)**
Date and time of E-auction: **11.06.2026 from 10.00 AM to 12.00 Noon** (with 5 minute unlimited auto extensions till sale is concluded)
Encumbrances known to the Bank: **Nil Encumbrances from 01.01.1993 to 18.12.2024**

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in web portal of South Indian Bank Ltd, (Secured Creditor) website i.e. **www.southindianbank.com**. Details also available at **https://bankauctions.in** For any further information and for inspection of property, the intended bidders may contact The South Indian Bank Ltd., **Branch Perinthalmanna** during working hours or may contact The Authorised Officer at Regional Office, Kozhikode, First Floor, Happy Towers, Vaikkom Mohammed Basheer Road, Mananchira (P O), Kozhikode (Mob: **97473 88611 & 94472 83059**)
Place: Kozhikode Date : 18.05.2026 Sd/- Authorised Officer, The South Indian Bank Ltd.

BUSINESS CONNECT
A Business Initiative

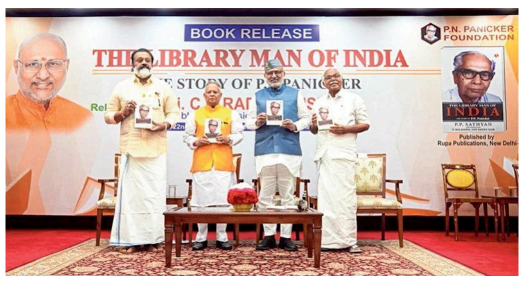
Jos Alukkas launches Platinum Jewellery Campaign featuring Dulquer Salmaan

Jos Alukkas, a trusted name in quality, innovation, and trendy jewellery in India, has launched a platinum jewellery campaign featuring its brand ambassador, actor Dulquer Salmaan on 15th May 2026. The campaign marks a bold new chapter for Jos Alukkas, with Dulquer's charismatic presence and sophisticated persona bringing alive the essence of platinum jewellery as a statement of individuality and timeless luxury. The campaign showcases an exclusive range of meticulously crafted platinum jewellery pieces, including rings, chains, bracelets, and other contemporary pieces tailored for both men and women. Each piece reflects Jos Alukkas' legacy of craftsmanship while embracing modern design sensibilities. On the campaign, Varghese Alukkas, Managing Director of Jos Alukkas, said, "At Jos Alukkas, we have always believed in offering jewellery that reflects not just beauty, but also meaning and aspiration. Dulquer Salmaan's authenticity and contemporary appeal perfectly align with the values of our brand and this exceptional collection. Through this campaign, we aim to inspire a new generation to embrace platinum as a symbol of sophistication and individuality."

Muthoot MCred strengthens growth momentum in FY26

Muthoot MCred Limited (formerly known as Muthoottu Mini Financiers Limited), one of India's trusted gold loan NBFCs, announced its audited financial results for the quarter and financial year ended March 31, 2026, reporting strong growth across profitability, Assets Under Management (AUM), and operational performance. The Company delivered exceptional growth during FY26, with Profit After Tax (PAT) rising by 88% year-on-year to ₹176.90 crore, compared to ₹94.18 crore in FY25. Assets Under Management (AUM) also witnessed a strong surge of nearly 60%, reaching ₹6,625.07 crore as of March 31, 2026, reflecting sustained portfolio expansion, strong customer demand, and the Company's continued focus on scalable and responsible growth. Total income for the year stood at ₹1,113.21 crore, compared to ₹815.15 crore in the previous financial year. Assets Under Management (AUM) stood at ₹6,625.07 crore as of March 31, 2026, reflecting continued expansion of the Company's secured lending portfolio and disciplined scale-up across markets, a press release said.

IN BRIEF



Libraries must re-emerge as centres of knowledge: VP

Vice-President C.P. Radhakrishnan on Friday said libraries must re-emerge as centres of knowledge and creativity, while expressing concern over the declining reading habits among the youth. A society that stops reading gradually loses its ability to think deeply, the Vice-President said at an event in New Delhi where he released a book, *The Library Man of India-The Story of P.N. Panicker* authored by P.B. Sathyan and published by *Rupa Publications.*

TRS chief Kavitha held over protest on farmers' issues

Telangana Rakshana Sena (TRS) chief Kalvakuntla Kavitha was arrested on Friday during a protest in front of the Secretariat against the State government's handling of the ongoing paddy procurement issues. Leading a large demonstration, along with TRS workers and women supporters, Ms. Kavitha staged a sit-in and symbolically poured paddy on the road to highlight the plight of farmers allegedly suffering due to delayed procurement operations.

Man sent to jail for harassing elderly parents in Hyderabad

A 44-year-old man was sentenced to 60 days' imprisonment by a court in Hyderabad, Telangana, for allegedly harassing and ill-treating his elderly parents, under the Naryanguda police station limits. According to the police, G. Srinivas had allegedly been harassing his aged parents, following which they lodged a complaint. Based on it, the Naryanguda police registered a case under Section 70B of the City Police Act and Section 115(2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita.

VCK's Vanni Arasu, IUML's Shahjahan join T.N. Cabinet

Shahjahan, Vanni Arasu will be Minister for Minorities Welfare and Minister for Social Justice respectively; Vijay's Cabinet now has 35 Ministers. VCK, IUML part of govt. for the first time

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay on Friday concluded the formation of his Cabinet with the induction of Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi (VCK) MLA Vanni Arasu (Tindivanam) and Indian Union Muslim League (IUML) MLA A.M. Shahjahan (Papanasam).

Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar administered the oath of office and secrecy to the new Ministers at the Lok Bhavan in Chennai, in the presence of Mr. Vijay and his Cabinet colleagues.

According to a Lok Bhavan release, Mr. Shahjahan would be the Minister for Minorities Welfare. Mr. Vanni Arasu would handle the Adi Dravidar Welfare and Hill Tribes portfolio, and will be known as the Minister for Social Justice.


Vanni Arasu and A.M. Shahjahan

With the induction of Mr. Vanni Arasu and Mr. Shahjahan, the Cabinet has the sanctioned strength of 35 Ministers in the 234-member House.

Initially 10 members

On Thursday, 23 MLAs – 21 from the TVK and two from the Congress – joined the Cabinet, which initially had 10 members. This is the first time that the VCK and the IUML have been made part of the government.

Eight SC Ministers

With the induction of Mr. Vanni Arasu, 55, who studied up to Class XII, the number of Scheduled Caste members in the Cabinet has increased to eight. Villupuram district has also got representation in the Cabinet. Hailing from Thirumangalakudi in Thanjavur district, Mr. Shahjahan, 57, holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Jamal Mohamed College in Tiruchi. He is also the founder-secretary of educational institutions in Thirumangalakudi.

Political buzz to pick up in Karnataka with notification of RS polls to 4 seats

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Political activity in the ruling Congress and opposition Bharatiya Janata Party in Karnataka is likely to intensify in the coming days with the notification of elections to four Rajya Sabha seats from the State by the Election Commission of India on Friday. The Congress is expected to win three seats while the BJP is likely to get one seat.

The election will be held on June 18. Counting of votes will be taken up on the same day.

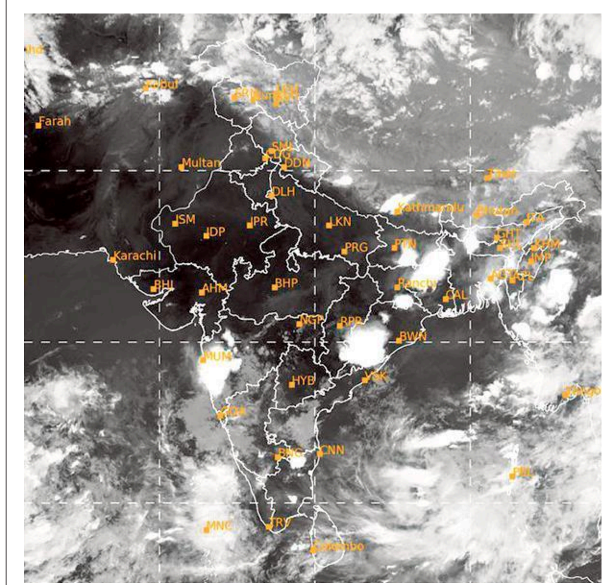
The elections have been necessitated by the completion of the term of senior leaders, including former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda of the JD (S), Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge (Congress), and BJP members K. Narayana and Iranna Kadadi. Twenty-four seats, from 10 States across the country are falling vacant. In all, Karnataka sends 12 members to the Rajya Sabha. At present, Congress has five members, BJP has six, and JD(S) has one member in the Upper House from Karnataka.

Future of Deve Gowda

The other topic of speculation of the future of JD(S) supremo H.D. Deve Gowda. The JD(S), which is an ally of the BJP, does not have the numbers to get a candidate elected on its own. It is to be seen whether the BJP would accommodate the nonagenarian leader in the lone seat that it is capable of winning. As per the sources, there has been no discussions in the JD(S) on this issue so far and that the Congress is trying to bring a balance among the caste groups.

WEATHER WATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.15 HRS)

Forecast for Saturday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Assam, Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Sikkim, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Kerala and Lakshadweep. Heat wave conditions likely at isolated places over Rajasthan, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	6	35.0	26.4
Ahmedabad	—	43.3	29.0
Aizawl	4.8	34.0	20.6
Allahabad	—	46.2	26.4
Bengaluru	58	30.7	19.2
Bhopal	—	42.2	27.2
Bhubaneswar	—	37.7	29.3
Chandigarh	—	40.6	27.8
Chennai	—	40.8	29.8
Coimbatore	—	34.4	25.6
Dehradun	—	39.6	25.9
Gangtok	3	17.8	16.8
Goa	—	34.8	27.8
Guwahati	3	34.0	26.2
Hubballi	—	33.0	23.0
Hyderabad	—	39.0	29.4
Imphal	29.3	32.6	21.7
Jaipur	—	42.0	30.7
Kochi	13	30.0	24.4
Kohima	—	27.0	18.0
Kolkata	—	37.2	29.7
Kozhikode	—	32.4	24.6
Kurnool	4	38.0	26.2
Lucknow	—	42.4	28.8
Madurai	—	39.4	26.7
Mangaluru	10	32.2	25.6
Mumbai	—	34.5	29.0
Mysuru	—	32.0	22.0
New Delhi	—	43.3	29.3
Patna	—	38.2	28.1
Port Blair	1	31.5	25.2
Puducherry	—	38.9	28.5
Pune	—	39.2	27.5
Raipur	—	44.4	31.0
Ranchi	—	39.2	26.0
Shillong	—	25.0	17.3
Shimla	—	25.0	20.5
Srinagar	—	25.5	13.4
Thiruvananthapuram	15	30.9	25.0
Tiruchi	—	39.7	28.4
Vijayawada	—	42.6	31.0
Visakhapatnam	—	36.5	30.4

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.28	.83	32	62	125	
Bengaluru	.11	.45	47	—	108	
Chennai	.18	.10	81	43	56	
Delhi	.20	.79	87	216	127	
Hyderabad	.20	.16	24	74	92	
Kolkata	.9	.32	46	64	69	
Lucknow	.9	.45	47	160	126	
Mumbai	.54	.44	15	48	57	
Pune	—	.37	84	27	49	
Visakhapatnam	.21	.54	15	71	151	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Singrauli, Madhya Pradesh recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 315 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Madikeri, Karnataka recorded a healthy AQI score of 20

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

INBRIEF

Rupee rises 76 paise to close at 95.60 against U.S. dollar

The rupee rose for the second consecutive session on Friday to close sharply higher at 95.60 against the U.S. dollar on softening of crude oil prices and supposed intervention by the RBI. Forex traders said markets found some comfort after comments from U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio hinted that diplomatic talks linked to the Iran situation were moving in a constructive direction. Moreover, positive domestic equities and a decline in U.S. treasury yields also supported the rupee. At the interbank forex market, the rupee opened at 96.30 against the U.S. dollar and stayed firm during the intraday. At the end of the trading session, the rupee was quoted at 95.60, higher by 76 paise from its previous close. On Thursday, the rupee rebounded 50 paise from its all-time closing low to settle at 96.36 against the U.S. dollar. PTI

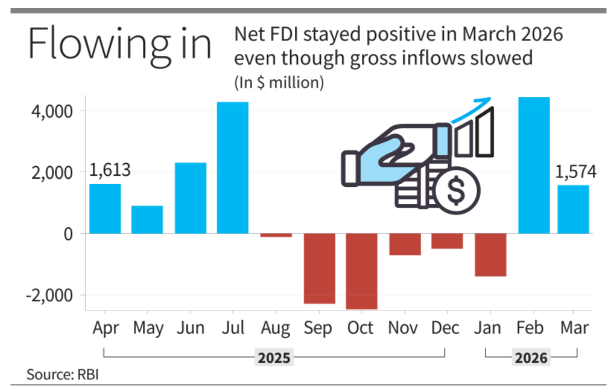
RBI injects transient liquidity of ₹81,590 cr. via VRR auction

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday injected ₹81,590 crore transient liquidity into the banking system through a three-day variable rate repo (VRR) auction. Transient liquidity is temporary cash flow fluctuations in a financial or banking system, while a VRR auction is a monetary tool used by the RBI to inject short-term liquidity into the banking system. In a release, the RBI said the funds were infused at a 5.26% cut-off rate. The demand for funds still remained lower than the notified amount of ₹1 lakh crore despite the sharp drop in liquidity surplus in the banking system. However, in comparison with the previous auction conducted on May 21, the demand was higher from banks in Friday's auction. Experts anticipate that the RBI would announce another VRR auction to manage evolving liquidity conditions. PTI

March 2026 saw net foreign investments decline to -$11.7 bn

RBI data show net FDI positive for second consecutive month in March; portfolio investors withdrew more in March, April, May, than they put in

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI



Amidst pressure on the rupee and India's foreign exchange reserves, the latest data from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) shows that the total amount of money that left the country in March 2026 exceeded inflows by $11.7 billion. This was the first month after the start of the West Asia crisis.

The overall outflow was driven by the exodus of foreign portfolio investors, which overshadowed the fact that net foreign direct investment (FDI) was positive for the second consecutive month.

That is, while net FDI was $1.6 billion in March 2026, net foreign portfolio inflows stood at -$13.3 billion. Typically, direct investment involves money flowing into growth-generating assets, while portfolio investment refers to money flowing into short- to medium-term stock holdings.

According to the RBI, the outflow of portfolio investments continued in April and May.

The outflow of dollars from the country has simultaneously eaten into the RBI's foreign exchange reserves and has led to the depreciation of the rupee.

Over the full financial year 2025-26, net FDI stood at $7.6 billion, nearly 700% higher than in 2024-25. This occurred despite six out of the twelve months experiencing more direct investment flowing out than in.

"During 2025-26, both gross and net FDI inflows were higher than the previous year," the RBI said in its monthly bulletin for April 2026.

"In March, net FDI remained positive for the second consecutive month, despite a deceleration in gross FDI, on account of relatively low repatriation and outward FDI."

Gross FDI in March 2026, or the total amount of direct investment entering the country that month, stood at $6.2 billion, nearly 31% lower than in February. However, this figure was 6% higher than in March of last year.

On the other hand, total outflows inched up to $4.7 billion in March 2026 from $4.5 billion in the previous month. This figure was 27% lower than in March 2025. Within the outflows, both repatriation by foreign companies operating in India and outward direct investment by Indian firms decreased compared with the previous year.

That is, the quantum of money repatriated and disinvested in March 2026 stood at $2.3 billion, down 40% over March last year, while outward FDI by Indian companies stood at $4.7 billion, down by 27%.

The data, however, showed that while net FDI was positive in March 2026, net foreign portfolio investments were significantly negative. That is, foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) took out $13.3 billion more from the Indian markets than they invested.

Demand driving growth, but economic outlook somewhat clouded: RBI report

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

'Pace of export orders displayed weakness, hit by the war and on subdued inbound tourism'

While India's domestic demand remains a key driver of growth, the near-term outlook for the economy is "somewhat clouded" due to supply side pressures brought on by the West Asia crisis, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said in a new report.

"Domestic demand continues to be the key driver of growth," the central bank said in its latest State of the Economy report as a part of its monthly bulletin for April 2026.

"Although headline inflation remains firmly within the tolerance band, the pass through to domestic prices needs to be monitored," it added.

"The financial conditions, crude oil prices and capital flows continue to pose challenges to the external sector outlook."

The central bank noted that while e-way bills continued to hit double-digit growth, and petrol and diesel consumption continued to grow, overall petroleum consumption fell in April due to a sharp fall in the consumption of naphtha, LPG and other petroleum products.

Similarly, higher temperatures led to a sharp increase in electricity demand. "Demand remained broad-based and supported by rural markets," the RBI noted. "Automobile sales in rural areas continued to grow at double digit in April, although showing some sequential moderation."

It added that due to the increase in prices of aviation turbine fuel, the air passenger traffic declined further in April.

Labour market conditions witnessed some moderation in the January-March 2026 quarter, with the labour force participation rate and worker population ratio declining alongside a rise in the unemployment rate.

On the supply side, the RBI said that sowing in the summer season has been "progressing well", surpassing the full season normal acreage and is higher than the previous year. It added that the acreage under all major crops is higher, except for rice.

On the services front, RBI said that the sector remained resilient in April.

However, it added that while the Services PMI accelerated, supported by a boost in transportation activity enabled by domestic suppliers and new business orders, the pace of export orders "displayed weakness", hit by the war in West Asia and subdued inbound tourism.

RBI board approves transfer of ₹2,86,588 cr. surplus to govt.

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

The Central Board of Directors of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday approved the transfer of surplus of ₹2,86,588.46 crore to the Central Government as dividend for the accounting year 2025-26.

This is an all-time high surplus transfer to the government, 6.7% higher than the ₹2.69 lakh crore transferred in the previous year. This was after taking into consideration the current macroeconomic factors, the financial performance of the bank and maintenance of appropriate risk buffers, the central bank said.

The board, at its 623rd meeting held in Mumbai under the chairmanship of Reserve Bank of India Governor Sanjay Malhotra, decided to transfer ₹1,09,379.64 crore towards the contingent risk buffer (CRB) for FY26 as against ₹44,861.70 crore in the previous year, and maintain the CRB at 6.5% of the size of the RBI balance sheet.

The central bank's board reviewed the global and domestic economic scenario, including risks to the outlook.

The board deliberated on the annual accounts of the Reserve Bank for FY26.

The gross income of the central bank increased by 26.42% over the previous year, while the expenditure before risk provisions increased by 27.6%.

LTM offers €160 mn for Randstad units

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Venu Lambu

LTM (formerly LTIMindtree) has on Friday offered to acquire Randstad's technology and consulting services business in France, Germany, Belgium, Luxembourg and Australia, cumulatively representing over $500 million in annual revenue.

The acquisition, for cash consideration of €160 million, is likely to be completed by Q3FY27 and expected to expand LTM's presence in key markets across aerospace and defence, automotive, utilities and BFS.

The deal would enable local domain expertise and complementary regional capabilities in domain-driven digital engineering, cybersecurity and IoT.

The pact would also involve a five-year IT services partnership to drive AI-enabled transformation of Randstad's India Global Capability Centre and a strategic talent MSP to support LTM's expanding global workforce.

"The proposed agreement is aligned with our five-year strategy to build a more resilient, diversified, balanced portfolio," said Venu Lambu, CEO & MD.

'Firms giving priority to AI-ready skills'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Insights are based on data taken from 1,215 employers and 2,593 employees across industries in India

As AI becomes central to workforce strategy, Indian employers are prioritising practical, AI-ready skills across general industry and the technology sector, said Nasscom in a report it prepared in collaboration with Indeed, a global job search and hiring platform based in Texas.

Accordingly, Cloud and infrastructure integration, Gen AI and LLMs, including prompt engineering, MLOps and deployment data analytics and visualisation emerged as top skills in demand in the technology sector.

As per the analysis, employers are now actively hiring across three AI categories: AI engineering and development, operations and enablement and infrastructure and data systems, while Python, machine learning, Azure, TensorFlow, and AI are the most in-demand skills for AI-related roles. Whereas for software engineering roles, employers are prioritising skills that include Agile, APIs, Git and communication skills.

The report suggests employers are seeing a rise in hiring for AI-related roles, with BFSI and telecommunications emerging as leaders in this area. There is a 103% rise in internship postings in India.

Aggressive intermediary-led competition hurting general insurers' profitability: report

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

'Most growth is coming via commissions.'

Aggressive intermediary-led competition is hurting profitability across the general insurance sector, said consulting firm Praxis Global Alliance in a report reiterating insurance regulator IRDAI's growing concerns over rising commissions and weakening underwriting discipline by general insurance companies.

The report comes days after IRDAI Chairman Ajay Seth flagged the sector's "structurally high-cost" nature and warned against excessive dependence on intermediary-driven distribution models.

Intermediary-led

According to the report, almost 80% of insurance business in India remains intermediary-led through agents, brokers, bancassurance partnerships and OEM channels, resulting in intense competition for distributor mindshare.

"Honestly, a lot of growth today is just being bought through commissions," the report quoted a senior insurance executive as saying. The report noted commission growth outpaced premium growth across private, PSU and standalone health insurers after the revised Expense of Management (EOM) framework came into effect in 2023.

Repco Home Finance Q4 net rises 3.2% to ₹129 crore

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Repco Home Finance Ltd., a Chennai-headquartered retail housing finance company, reported a 3.2% year-on-year rise in net profit for the fourth quarter ended March 31, 2026 to ₹129 crore.

Total income rose 7% to ₹454 crore while net interest income increased 16% to ₹207 crore. Loan sanctions grew 25% to ₹1,320 crore and disbursements 22% to ₹1,186 crore.

Gross non-performing assets improved to 2.55% from 3.26% while net NPAs were 1.17% against 1.32%.