Deutsche Bahn delegation visits IIIC

The Hindu Bureau
KOLLAM

A high-level delegation from Deutsche Bahn (DB), Germany's state-owned national railway company, visited the Indian Institute of Infrastructure and Construction (IIIC) in Kollam to explore international collaborations in skilled workforce development. The 13-member delegation from Berlin included senior representatives from Deutsche Bahn, its subsidiaries such as DB Engineering & Consulting GmbH and DB Rail Academy, as well as key industry suppliers and project partners. As one of the world's premier railway operators employing nearly 3,00,000 people globally, DB manages Germany's extensive passenger and freight networks, infrastructure maintenance, and international railway projects.

The visit comes in the wake of Germany launching an ambitious €100-billion railway modernisation initiative. To execute this massive infrastructure upgrade, Deutsche Bahn anticipates recruiting approximately 22,000 skilled technical professionals. "Recognising India as a vital hub for high-quality technical talent, the German railway giant has been surveying leading skill development institutions across various States, with a strong focus on Kerala, to establish sustainable recruitment pipelines," said IIIC officials. To fulfil the requirements of this proposed partnership, the IIIC plans to construct a dedicated 150-metre German railway track model on its campus. This specialised infrastructure will offer trainees hands-on, industry-aligned practical instruction tailored to European railway standards.

KU faces scrutiny over same questions for semester exam

Three questions appearing in Part A of MA History fourth semester question paper were repeated in Part B. Duplication effectively reduced the number of unique questions available to students

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Kerala University found itself mired in controversy after identical questions were found repeated in different sections of the MA History fourth-semester examination paper on 'History of Freedom Movement in India'.

The issue came to light after a section of students pointed out that three questions appearing in Part A of the question paper were repeated in Part B. The duplication effectively reduced the number of unique questions available to students.

Authorities stance
University authorities initially defended the question paper by claiming that students had sufficient choices in both sections and therefore were not disadvantaged.

According to the explanation, candidates were required to answer only a specified number of questions from each part, thereby making the repetition inconsequential. While they had to answer three out of five questions in Part A, only five out of the eight questions in Part B had to be attempted, they claimed.

Lapse in preparation
However, the explanation drew criticism from various sections, who maintained that the duplication reflected a lapse in the question paper preparation process.

The Department of History on Friday submitted an explanation to Kerala University Vice-Chancellor in-charge Mohanan Kunnummal, in which it reiterated that the additional choices meant students did not face any difficulty during the examination. The department also reportedly claimed that no student has submitted any complaint regarding the examination.

Detailed inquiry
However, the Vice-Chancellor, treating the matter as a serious lapse, has directed the university's Syndicate Standing Committee on Examinations to conduct a detailed inquiry and submit a report at the earliest.

Report on CET constituent college proposal only after detailed discussions: panel

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The high-level committee appointed by the government to submit proposals regarding turning the College of Engineering, Thiruvananthapuram (CET) into a constituent college under the APJ Abdul Kalam Technological University (KTU) will submit its report only after detailed discussions, the panel has informed.

Addressing growing concerns among a section of students and faculty members, Kerala State Higher Education Council vice-chairperson Achuthsankar S. Nair, who is also the committee chairperson, stated that numerous speculative reports and varying interpretations regarding the proposal have been circulating even before the panel has held its first official meeting.

Seeks additional time
He assured all stakeholders that the committee would move forward only after holding thorough consultations with everyone associated with CET.

To ensure this process is given due diligence, the chairperson has formally requested the State government for additional time to conduct such extensive discussions.

The members of the academic community, organisational representatives and other people are invited to submit their views, feedback and suggestions directly to the committee chairperson via email at vc.kshec@kerala.gov.in.

Meanwhile, Higher Education Minister Roji M. John emphasised that both KTU and CET are equally important institutions, and that the government would hold consultations with all stakeholders before adopting a decision that is broadly acceptable.

Kerala Bank to roll out 'Gen Z Tech' student loan scheme

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Kerala State Cooperative Bank (Kerala Bank) will soon roll out a low-interest loan scheme for enabling students to purchase laptops and tablets for their educational needs. Under the 'Gen Z Tech Loan,' open to undergraduate students and upwards, the bank will offer up to ₹1 lakh on 6.99% interest with a 30-month repayment period. The parent of the student applicant is required to be a guarantor.

Those availing the loan will also be offered a .5% reduction in the interest rate on educational loan, bank president P. Mohanan and other senior officials said at a press conference here on Friday. The scheme will be formally launched at Kakkanad on July 27. In the coming months, the Kerala Bank is also planning to conduct a meeting of expatriate Keralites in Kozhikode and an 'IT meet' in Kochi as part of placing added focus on these sectors, Mr. Mohanan said. The dates will be announced in due course, he said.

Growth in business
The bank's total business has grown from ₹1,01,204.41 crore to ₹1,28,697 crore, placing it fifth among banks in Kerala is terms of the size of business. In the 2025-26 fiscal alone, the bank registered a growth of ₹7,700 crore. Loan disbursal in 2025-26 rose by 43% to ₹33,900 crore over the previous fiscal. Over the past two fiscals, loans worth ₹3,005 crore were issued to 51,300 Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME). Total deposits have risen to ₹75,457 crore and credit to ₹53,240 crore.

On whether the bank's CPI(M)-led management would change with the Congress-led UDF government coming to power in Kerala, the bank management had no such qualms, Mr. Mohanan said. The bank has a cordial leadership with the government, he said. "The Kerala Bank has a legally and democratically elected board of directors. Neither does the bank traverse an isolated path in its growth. It has a system that moves together with the RBI, NABARD and the State government," he said. Kerala Bank vice-president T.V. Rajesh and chief executive officer Jorty M. Chacko were among those present.

School authorities, teachers in State upset over KFON's decision on bills

R.K. Roshni
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

As the row over a communication from KFON (Kerala Fibre Optic Network), the State government's Internet service provider, to the General Education department asking schools to bear service charges associated with KFON Internet connectivity continues, teachers' organisations have criticised the decision.

KFON authorities had informed the department by email that schools should intimate KFON if they want to retain the connection and pay the related service charges. Schools have not made payment for KFON connectivity bills till now, says the email.

The Kerala School Teachers' Association (KSTA) and the All Kerala School Teachers' Union highlight that Internet services are needed in schools not only for academic but administrative work too. The government should be paying the KFON bills of at least government schools.

Digital resources used
Classrooms in schools are mostly high-tech and use digital resources on the government's Samagra portal such as videos, audios, puzzles for effective learning. Schools also use software and websites decided by the government to maintain student data, scholarships, eoffice, and teachers' salaries. Moreover, Kerala has scored high on various school surveys and rankings owing to Internet connectivity in schools and the bridging of digital divide. All this will be impacted if free service in schools is discontinued, they argue. KFON argues its services are not provided free for any office. The service charges for schools are not a newly imposed financial liability, and from the inception of the project, it has been stipulated that government and aided schools should bear the service charges. Delays in remittance of the charges has led to accumulation of outstanding dues over the past two years.

However, head teachers and Principals of schools contend that they are not aware of reasons behind KFON's argument. What they do know is that free Internet service was to be provided to schools through KFON.

KFON services are currently available in around 6,000 of the 15,000-plus schools in the State. In many schools, Internet connections have been provided but the service is not smooth. Where repeated complaints have not yielded results, other service providers are used to ensure Internet connectivity. At times, teachers use personal data connections to teach in class.

Some heads of institutions say it is cheaper to use other service providers than KFON. Also, KFON configuration has not been completed in some schools. Head teachers or Principals say they often end up paying for Internet connections because it is not always practical for local bodies to use their funds to pay the bills of schools. In some cases, the local bodies have not reimbursed the institution heads for the bills paid.

LDF alleges massive cut in local body development funds

The Hindu Bureau
KANNUR

The Left Democratic Front (LDF) has intensified its campaign against the United Democratic Front (UDF) government over the alleged reduction in development funds for local self-government institutions, with the Kannur district panchayat claiming that ₹12.73 crore has been cut from its development allocation, disrupting welfare schemes and development projects.

The LDF district committee has announced marches to local body offices on August 1 and 3 to protest the alleged reduction in Plan funds.

The district panchayat's governing body unanimously passed a resolution seeking the immediate restoration of funds, stating that the financial cuts had jeopardised development and welfare activities across the district.

Grant withdrawn
The district panchayat alleged that the government cut ₹3.61 crore from projects already included in the 2026-27 Budget and approved by the District Planning Committee. It also claimed that ₹9.11 crore, sanctioned as Finance Commission Grant for 2025-26, which had been included in the new Budget, was withdrawn, taking the total cut to ₹12.73 crore.

District panchayat president Binoy Kurian said the financial crisis had disrupted welfare schemes, including the distribution of motorised tricycles for persons with disabilities, the supply of medicines to hospitals, and the payment of employee salaries.

He warned that the reduction of the Finance Commission Grant would also affect sanitation and waste management activities and delay development works scheduled for the first four months of the financial year.

Meanwhile, escalating the issue politically, the LDF district committee alleged that the UDF government had drastically reduced Plan funds for local bodies.

Reduced allocation
'The LDF claimed that while the previous government's final Budget had earmarked ₹692 crore for Local Self-Government institutions, the UDF government reduced the allocation to ₹177 crore, amounting to a cut of ₹515 crore.

It alleged that the reduction had pushed local bodies into a financial crisis, leaving little scope for development after meeting mandatory expenditures such as the LIFE housing scheme and honorarium for anganwadi workers.

Timings
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

SATURDAY, JUL. 25	
RISE 06:13	SET 18:44
RISE 15:26	SET 02:23
SUNDAY, JUL. 26	
RISE 06:13	SET 18:44
RISE 16:18	SET 03:13
MONDAY, JUL. 27	
RISE 06:13	SET 18:44
RISE 17:08	SET 04:05

Thiruvananthapuram Weather	max	min
Kottayam	34	24
Pathanamthitta	33	25
Kollam	33	25

Thiruvananthapuram Today
32°C Morning will be comfortable. Day will be little warm. Spell of light rain and thundershower with gusty winds may occur.

Thiruvanathapuram Tomorrow
33°C The day weather will be warm. Spell of light rain and thundershower ro occur. Night will be comfortable.

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THE HINDU
EDITORIAL, CIRCULATION
10 a.m. - 5.30 p.m.
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM
0471-2502001-02-03
KOCHI
0484 - 2307555, 2307911
EDITORIAL
KOLLAM: 9544986500
PATHANAMTHITTA: 9847923796
KOTTAYAM: 9847923796
ALAPPUZHA: 9633738602
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THE HINDU
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OFFICE OF THE ROURKELA MUNICIPAL CORPORATION : ROURKELA
INVITATION FOR BID
No. 9928 Dated : 22/07/2026
Bid Identification No.:- MC/RMC/55/2026

The Municipal Commissioner, Rourkela Municipal Corporation on behalf of Rourkela Municipal Corporation invites bids for works on Percentage Rate basis in Double cover on online Mode. Bid Identification **No. MC/RMC/55/2026** for **01 no.** Civil work with value of **Rs.1311.50 Lakh**.

1. Bid documents will be available in website **www.tendersorissa.gov.in** from **23.07.2026**.
2. Bids must be submitted on "online" on or before **07.08.2026 by 17.00 hours.**
3. Bids shall be opened at **11.00 hours on 10.08.2026** in the office of the undersigned in the presence of the bidders or their authorized agents.
4. Other details will be available in the web site **tendersorissa.gov.in** .

Municipal Commissioner,
Rourkela Municipal Corporation
13001/1292/2627
OIPR-13001/13131/1/26-27/0044

ODISHA TOURISM DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED
(A GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA UNDERTAKING)
PANTHANIVAS (OLD BLOCK), LEWIS ROAD: BHUBANESWAR-14
INVITATIONS FOR BIDS (IFB)
Letter No.27 E-mail: ace.otdc@gmail.com Date: 23.07.2026
BID IDENTIFICATION NO: ACE/OTDC/05/2026-27

The Additional Chief Engineer, O.T.D.C. Ltd Bhubaneswar, on behalf of Governor of Odisha, invites bids in **Double cover** system in **ONLINE MODE** only, for the following works.

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Bid Security / EMD (on-line)	Cost of bid document including GST (On-line)	Class of Contractor
	DOUBLE COVER TENDER			
1	**Request for Proposal (RFP) forSelection of agency(s) for setup, operation and management of Eco Retreats (Glamping) at multiple locations in Odisha through Premium / Viability Gap Funding (VGF) mode for a period of 05 Years (2026-2027 to 2030-2031) Locations: a) Konark, Puri b) Sonapur Beach, Ganjam c) Daringbadi, Kandhamal d) Talamali, Koraput e) Kolab, Koraput f) Hirakud, Sambalpur g) Satkosia, Cuttack h) Kusumbandh Simlipal, Mayurbhanj i) RUL, Jajpur j) Mahendragiri, Gajapati**	**Rs. 5,00,000/- (for each site)**	**Rs. 11,800/- (for each site)**	**Operators of Tent City having experience in similar nature of work**

Bid documents such as DTCN / BOQ etc. can be seen / downloaded from the Govt. Website i.e. **www.tendersodisha.gov.in** during the period as detailed below.

1. Online bids shall be received **from dtd.24.07.2026 till 17.00 Hours of dtd.13.08.2026**.
2. The technical bids will be opened in the office of the **Additional Chief Engineer, OTDC Ltd, Bhubaneswar at 11.30 Hours of dt.14.08.2026**
3. The authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids at any time without assigning any reason thereof.
4. Bidders can participate for one or more locations.

Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website.

Sd/-
Additional Chief Engineer, O.T.D.C. Ltd.
37001/36/2627
OIPR-37001/37002/1/26-27/0023

കേരള സംസ്ഥാന ഭാഗ്യക്കുറി SUVARNA KERALAM SK - 62 DRAW RESULT 24.07.26

ഒന്നാം സമ്മാനം ₹1 കോടി RU 227527 (KOLLAM)
സമാശ്വാസ സമ്മാനം ₹ 5000: RN 227527 RO 227527 RP 227527 RR 227527 RS 227527 RT 227527 RV 227527 RW 227527 RX 227527 RY 227527 RZ 227527

രണ്ടാം സമ്മാനം ₹30 ലക്ഷം RU 107023 (PAYYANUR)
മൂന്നാം സമ്മാനം ₹5 ലക്ഷം RY 561270 (PALAKKAD)

താഴെ കാണുന്ന നമ്പരുകളിൽ അവസാനിക്കുന്ന ടിക്കറ്റുകൾക്ക്
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Bank of Baroda — **PANAMPILLY NAGAR BRANCH**,
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SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

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 6(2) & 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) Mortgagor (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Bank of Baroda, Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" Basis for recovery of dues below mentioned account/s. The details of Borrower/s/Mortgagor/s/Guarantor/s/Secured Asset/s/Dues/Reserve Price/E-Auction Date & Time, EMD and Bid Increase Amount are mentioned below

Name & address of Borrowers/Guarantors: **1. Mr. George Antony, 2. Mrs. Binny George, 3. Mr. Joseph George,** all having address at: House No 44/655, No 25 DD Village, May 1st Road, Thammanam, Ernakulam-682032

Total Dues: **Rs. 9,80,67,920.36 (Rupees Nine Crores Eighty Lakh Sixty Seven Thousand Nine Hundred Twenty and Thirty Six Paise only)** as on 07.01.2026 Plus interest and Charges thereon from 08.01.2026.

Give short description of the immovable property with known encumbrances, if any: Equitable mortgage of 134.40 Ares (3.31 Acres) of land in Re Sy Block No.11, Re Sy No 98/1-8 (Old Sy No 170/4), in Kanjirappally Desom, Village, Taluk and G P, Kottayam District together with residential building bearing Door No. VIII/750 and VIII/751 of Kanjirappally G P and all other improvements and easements, together with 1/4th undivided right, title, interest, estate and possession in all that piece of land admeasuring to 0.1828 Hectres (45.17 Cents) comprised in Re Sy Block No 11, Re Sy No 98/1, Block no 11 consisting of a well and an approach road on and the entire portion of the 8 m wide private road belonging to Mrs. Binny George and Mr. Joseph George. **Bounded: North:** Panchayath Road; **East:** Road; **South:** Property of Anathanam Kochurani and Alice; **West:** Property of Anathanam.

Status of Possession: **Physical Possession**

Reserve Price:	EMD:	Bid increment Amount:
Rs.9,53,89,500/-	**Rs.95,38,950/-**	**Rs. 1,00,000/-**

Date & Time of E auction: **25-08-2026, 2.00 PM TO 6.00 PM**
Property Inspection Date and Time: **14-08-2026, 10 AM – 5 PM**

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Place: Ernakulam
Date : 24-07-2026
(Sd/-) Chief Manager & Authorised Officer,
Bank of Baroda