

Schools find it difficult to ensure fitness protocol; CS to chair meet

Clearances from KSEB, fire & rescue, health, local self government, forest and MVD must

ASWIN ASOK KUMAR @TPuram

MOVES to make corrections from the past lapses appear to have faced concerns of practicality, as authorities of various schools have reported difficulty in the new fitness certification process. Unlike in the previous years, the schools will now have to obtain clearances from multiple bodies, including KSEB, fire & rescue, health, local self government, forest, and MVD, according to a circular issued by the health department in November 2025. However, with schools set to reopen within a month, many institutions are finding it difficult to get the paperwork done. With the concerns reaching the top brass of administration, chief secretary A Jayatilak will soon convene a meeting with the secretaries of the departments concerned to address the issue.

"This is the first time that schools are getting such a circular. While earlier we had to contact the local body authorities and obtain the fitness certificate after inspections, school officials will have to contact agencies concerned, ensure their visit to schools, collect their approvals and hand them over to the local bodies. All of this



needs to be completed before June, making it a tedious project," a school principal told TNN.

However, officials from the general education department said that many headmasters have shared the same opinion. "The new process is an ideal one for sure, but a time-consuming and thereby an impractical one. Schools are trying their best to get all these clearances done, as the funding for teachers' salaries will only be provided for those with fitness cer-

Tough task ahead

- KSEB has been asked to ensure that no exposed electric posts are placed near the schools.

- The fire & rescue department will verify the installation of functional fire extinguishers in schools and that teachers and students are trained to use them.

tificates," department sources said. While the current fitness certification system only looks for structurally stable buildings that can withstand harsh climates, which will be vetted by the local bodies concerned, the education department also issues guidelines that are to be monitored by the school PTA. "The spirit of everything mandated by the health department is already there in these guidelines. But the formal process is what makes it complicated for schools," the source added.

Apart from the usual process, the education department has also issued a School Safety Manual, which encompasses more aspects, including protection from drug abuse and sexual harassment.

The new norms issued by the

health department include a clearance from the forest department that snake entry points have been eliminated, and rodent control and waste management measures have been implemented. The department also needs to verify that contacts of snake handlers are displayed in the school, and the staff are familiarised with the SARPA app.

KSEB has been asked to ensure that no exposed electric posts are placed near the schools. The engineering wing of the local self-government department will ensure that all buildings of the schools are structurally stable and that all overgrown, dangerous trees have been pruned or removed. Notably, a report by the local self-government department had found in September 2025 that 1,157 schools in the state had unfit buildings, of which 875 were government and 262 aided schools.

The MVD authorities will also ensure that all school vehicles are certified by the authorities. The fire & rescue department will verify the installation of functional fire extinguishers in schools and that teachers and students are trained to use them.

Court rejects plea seeking postal ballots to voters on election duty

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Kochi

THE KERALA High Court on Thursday rejected the plea of the Joint Council of State Service Organisation, Kerala NGO Union, and others seeking a directive to the Election Commission to allow election duty officers who have not yet received postal ballots to cast their votes before May 4, the counting day.

Justice K V Jayakumar held that "interference of the court at this advanced stage of the electoral process, by way of an interim order, is not warranted."

"The interim orders sought for are declined." The petitioners argued that a total of 20,411 officers on election duty were deprived of their right to vote due to the non-availability of postal ballots at the designated vote facilitation centres.

Deepu Lal Mohan, counsel for the Election Commission, opposed the plea and submitted that postal ballots are currently stored in the strong room as per the prescribed procedure. Those strong rooms will remain sealed until the commencement of counting at 8 am on May 4, and hence any attempt to reopen, access or alter the status of postal ballot prior to the counting would directly compromise the sanctity, secrecy and irrevocability of the electoral process.

Marine fish landing in the state touches 6.24L tonnes

CONTINUED FROM P1

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Kochi

PELAGIC fish dominated the catch with a 54% share, followed by demersal resources, crustaceans, and molluscs.

Kerala's marine fish catch stood at 6.24 lakh tonnes in 2025, accounting for around 17% of India's total marine fish production. Threadfin breams and cephalopods landings registered a significant growth of 27% and 16%, respectively, in the state. However, there was a decline in the landing of penaeid shrimps and ribbon fish. Oil sardine, Indian mackerel, anchovies, threadfin breams and penaeid shrimps were the top five resources landed in Kerala in 2025.

Ernakulam district contributed the highest share (29%) of catch followed by Kollam (25%) and Kozhikode (18%). Among landing centres, Neendakara in Kollam emerged as the top contributor with around 70,000 tonnes, followed by Munambam with 64,000 tonnes.

"Favourable environmental conditions played a crucial role in supporting the revival of small pelagic fish stocks during the period. This ecological advantage was further reinforced by regulated fishing pressure, leading to the necessary time and space for recovery", said Grinson George.

Marine fish landings generated an estimated income of ₹69,254 crore at the landing centres across the country, and ₹97,702 crore at the retail level, indicating strong market de-

FISH LANDING STATISTICS

India's marine fish production		
2025	2024	2023
35.7 lakh tonnes	34.7 lakh tonnes	35.3 lakh tonnes

India revenue at fish landing centre: ₹69,254 crore

Retail level: ₹97,702 crore

Kerala revenue at landing centre: ₹12,665 crore

Retail level: ₹16,681 crore

Highest contributor among landing centres in Kerala

Neendakara: 70,000 tonnes

Munambam: 64,000 tonnes

Kerala records highest marketing efficiency of 72.83%

National average: 70.88%

mand. The income at landing centres rose by 10.45% while the revenue at retail level rose by 8.43%.

In Kerala, the total value at the landing centre level was estimated at ₹12,665 (up 17.8%) and ₹16,681 (up 11.1%) at the retail centre level. National marketing efficiency improved to 70.88%, with Kerala recording the highest marketing efficiency (72.83%). Heads of research divisions J Jayasankar, Shoba Joe Kizhakudan, K S Sobhana, Josileen Jose, V V R Suresh and Krupsha Sharma were present at the press briefing.

Film chamber tightens ICC norms on sets

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Kochi

THE Kerala Film Chamber of Commerce has decided to strengthen Internal Complaints Committees (ICCs) in all film shooting locations. As part of the move, the Chamber has directed that ICCs submit detailed minutes of the events and happenings to it before the film certification process to ensure safe and accountable working environments on all sets.

Speaking at a press conference held in Kochi on Thursday, Suresh Kumar, the president of the Kerala Film Chamber, said that film projects that do not submit the minutes report will not be permitted to seek film certification. "There should be an announcement about the constitution of the IC and its members on shooting locations. The persons concerned should ensure that the crew are aware of the committee. They should also be urged to report any incidents of harassment, he said, directing the internal committee to intervene in issues on shooting sets and prepare a detailed report.

The move comes after complaints were raised by several artists, even after the constitution of the internal complaints committee on shooting locations.



TODDY-TODAY

Ranjith V, a toddy tapper with 28 years of experience, recalls that over a hundred people once worked in the trade during its heyday. Most have since moved on to other jobs as the industry slipped into crisis | VINCENT PULICKAL

2 sisters working in US found dead in Kanyakumari sea

Kanyakumari: Two sisters from Kerala were found dead in the sea at Vavuthurai in Kanyakumari on Thursday. The two, who had been working in the US, came to Kanyakumari as tourists on April 26. As the duo did not return to the hotel they were put up, their family made a missing complaint to the Kanyakumari police. On Thursday noon, Kanyakumari Marine Police found their bodies near the groyne in the Vavuthurai area. The police retrieved the bodies and sent them to Kanyakumari Government Medical College and Hospital for postmortem examination.

Kharge to clear air on CM chair

RAMAKRISHNA BADSEHI @Kalaburgi

THE Congress high command will soon clear confusion on the leadership issue, or give CM Siddaramaiah the green signal to continue in the chief minister's post with a cabinet reshuffle, AICC President Mallikarjun Kharge who is also leader of opposition in the Rajya Sabha, said here on Friday.

Speaking to the media at his residence, Kharge did not elaborate in how many days the confusion will be cleared. He said Congress leaders have met him and general secretary KC Venugopal, and expressed their feelings about Karnataka politics. Opposition leader in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, former AICC chief Sonia Gandhi and he (Kharge) will discuss the matter at the appropriate time and take a decision, he added.

ICICI Bank Branch Office: ICICI Bank Limited, Pushpamangalam Estate, NH Bye pass road, Edappally, Kochin - 682024

PUBLIC NOTICE-TENDER CUM E-AUCTION FOR SALE OF SECURED ASSET
[See proviso to Rule 9(6)]
[Notice for sale of immovable asset(s)]

E-Auction Sale Notice for the sale of immovable asset(s) under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 9 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

This notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of ICICI Bank Limited will be sold on 'As is where is', 'As is what is' and 'Whatever there is' as per the brief particulars given hereunder:

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower(s)/Co-Borrowers/ Guarantors/ Loan Account No.	Details of the Secured asset(s) with known encumbrances, if any	Amount Outstanding	Reserve Price	Date and Time of Property Inspection	Date & Time of E-Auction
(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)
1.	Mr. Sarath S R (Borrower) Mrs. Nazema S (Co-Borrower) Loan Account No. TBTVM00007099940	Vacant Land With Land Area 1302 In 1.21 Ares (3 Cents) In Re Sy No. 665/9-2, In Nemom Village, Trivandrum Taluk, Trivandrum District, Pin- 695019. Bounded on The North: Property of Unni Nayyar South: His Own Balance Property East: Property of Krishnakutty West: Private Road	Rs. 14,53,524/- As on April 27, 2026	Rs. 10,50,000/- To 1,50,000/-	June 04, 2026 From 10:00 AM To 12:00 PM	June 11, 2026 From 10:30 AM To 11:30 AM
2.	Mr. Sathesh Kumar K G (Borrower) Mrs. Aswathy V H (Co-Borrower) Loan Account No. LBTVM00006811433 TBTVM00006741912	Vacant Land With Land Area 2174 Sq.ft In 2.02 Ares (5 Cents) In Re Sy No. 194/36, Vattiyoor Kovu Village, Trivandrum Taluk, Trivandrum District, Pin - 695102. Bounded on The North: Corporation Road South: Property of Saritha East: Property of Radhakrishnan West: Property of Krishnakumar	Rs. 21,52,632/- As on April 27, 2026	Rs. 15,30,000/- To 1,53,000/-	June 05, 2026 From 10:00 AM To 12:00 PM	June 11, 2026 From 10:30 AM To 11:30 AM

The online auction will be conducted on the website assets.motexauctions.com of our auction agency <M/s Motex Solutions Private Limited>. The Mortgages/ Notices are given a last chance to pay the total dues with further interest by June 10, 2026, before 05:00 p.m., else the secured asset(s) will be sold as per schedule. The prospective bidder(s) must submit the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) Demand Draft (DD) (Refer Column E) at ICICI Bank, Pushpamangalam Estate, NH Bye pass road, Edappally, Kochin - 682024 Branch on or before June 10, 2026, before 05:00 p.m. Thereafter, they have to submit their offer through the website mentioned above on or before June 10, 2026, before 05:00 p.m. along with the scanned image of the bank acknowledged DD towards proof of payment of EMD. In case the prospective bidder(s) is/are unable to submit his/ her/ their offer through the website, then the signed copy of tender documents may be submitted at ICICI Bank, Pushpamangalam Estate, NH Bye pass road, Edappally, Kochin - 682024 Branch on or before June 10, 2026 before 05:00 p.m. Earnest Money Deposit DD/PO should be from a Nationalised/ Scheduled Bank in favour of 'ICICI Bank Limited' payable at Kochin.

For any further clarifications in terms of inspection, Terms and Conditions of the E-Auction or submission of tenders, contact ICICI Bank Employee number 965522532/8138023587. The Authorised Officer reserves the right to reject any or all the bids without furnishing any further reasons. For detailed Terms and Conditions of the sale, please visit www.icicibank.com/n4p4s

Date: May 01, 2026
Place: Trivandrum

Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited
(Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001)
Corporate Identity Number U40109PB2010SGC033813 Website: www.pspcl.in
Mobile No. 96461-55225

E-Tender Enq. No. 7800/P-3/EMP-13307 Dated: 28.04.26

Dy. Chief Engineer / Headquarter (Procurement Cell-3) GGSSTP, Roopnagar invites E-Tender ID No. 2026_POWER_167167_1 for Procurement of Spares for ID Fans (Exchangeable vane). For detailed NIT & Tender Specification please refer to <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> from 29.04.2026 / 03.00 PM onwards.

Note: - Corrigendum & addendum, if any will be published online at <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>

685/RTP-48/26/30/04/2026
1079/12/2026-27/11076

Canara Bank ARM BRANCH 2nd Floor, Canara Bank Building Chittoor Road, Ernakulam South, Ernakulam - 682016. Ph: 0484-2353072, 2353071 Email: cb2875@canarabank.com

SALE NOTICE
E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES THROUGH E-AUCTION (ONLINE AUCTION) UNDER RULES 9(6) & 9 OF THE SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrowers and Guarantors that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the symbolic constructive possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Canara Bank, will be sold on 'As is where is', 'As is what is', and 'Whatever there is' basis on 29/05/2026. [Time 10:30 A.M. to 11:30 A.M. (With unlimited extension of 5 minutes duration each till the conclusion of the sale)] for recovery of Rs. 1,00,87,223.74 (Rupees One Crore Eighty Seven Thousand Two Hundred Twenty Three and Paise Seventy Four only) due as on 17/04/2026 to the Asset Recovery Management Branch, Ernakulam of Canara Bank from the borrowers Mr. Vijayakumar R P and Mr. Ashok Kumar.

The Reserve price will be Rs.17,80,000/- (Rupees Seventeen Lakhs Eighty Thousand Only), and The Earnest Money deposit (EMD) will be Rs.1,78,000/- (Rupees One Lakh Seventy Eight Thousand Only). The Earnest Money shall be deposited on or before 29.05.2026 till 10.00 AM. (Only the bids with minimum 1 incremental offer above reserve price will be accepted).

DETAILS OF PROPERTY: (Property in the name of Vijayakumar R P and Ashok Kumar as per the Document No. 2188/2014)

All that part and parcel of the immovable property consisting of 6.07 Ares of land in Re Sy No. 512/14-1 (old Sy No 1037/2, 1037/2-2) in Vellandam Village along with residential building, Nedumangad Taluk, Thiruvananthapuram District in the name of Mr Vijayakumar R P and Mr Ashok Kumar with boundaries as below: **Boundaries as per deed** - North : Property belonging to Sreekumaran Nair, South : Property belonging to Sreekumaran Nair, East : Property belonging to Sabu & Sreeja, West : Road.

For Detailed terms and conditions of the sale please refer the link "E-Auction" provided in Canara Bank Website (www.canarabank.com) or may contact Canara Bank Asset Recovery Management Branch, Ernakulam (Ph. No. 0484 - 2353072 / 2353071) E-mail: cb2875@canarabank.com during office hours on any working day.

Portal of E-Auction: <https://baanknet.com>
Ernakulam, 30.04.2026 (Sd/-) Authorised Officer, CANARA BANK

KAZHAKOOTAM BRANCH
KPLV/218, Near Mission Hospital, Kazhakoottam, Trivandrum - 695582. Ph: 0474-2417700, 90726 50480, Email: vjkazh@bankofbaroda.com

NOTICE TO BORROWERS
(Under Sub-section (2) of Section 13 of The SARFAESI Act, 2002)

To, Borrowers: Ms Leela Martin, (Co borrower and PDA Holder of Mr Martin Esidor Gomez), Ms Sudarsana, Mr Ashik (Legal Heirs of Mr Martin Esidor Gomez), 530 Puthuval Purayidom, Thumba, Pallithura PO, Thiruvananthapuram 695586

Dear Sir/Madam, Re: Credit facilities with our Kazhakoottam Branch

We refer to our letter Ref No. dated 16-11-2019 conveying sanction of various credit facilities and the terms of sanction. Pursuant to the above sanction you have availed and started utilising the credit facilities after providing security for the same, as hereinafter stated. The present outstanding in various loan/credit facility accounts and the security interests created for such liability are as under:

Nature and type of facility	Limit	Rate of Interest	O/s as on 12.04.2025 (Incl of interest upto 12.04.2025)
Term Loan, Car Loan	Rs. 5.00	9.35 %	Rs.6,93,081.66

Security agreement with brief description securities: Hypothecation of Vehicle with details: Reg No KL22N7328, Date of Regn 28.02.2020, Month & year of Mfg 05/2019, Make : Maruti Suzuki India Ltd, Model: Maruti Celorio VXi AMT, Colour: Silky Silver, Fuel: Used Petrol, Engine No: K10BN2229357, Chassis No: MA3ETDE1500638676.

As you are aware, you have committed defaults in payment of interest on above loans/ Outstanding for the quarter/Month ended November 2025. As you are aware, you have committed defaults in payment of interest on above loans/outstanding for the quarter ended November 2022. You have also defaulted in payment of instalments of term loan/demand loans which have fallen due for payment on 30.01.2023 and thereafter.

Consequent upon the defaults committed by you, your loan account has been classified as non performing asset on 30.01.2023 in accordance with the Reserve Bank of India directives and guidelines. In spite of our repeated requests and demands you have not repaid the overdue loans including interest thereon.

Having regard to your inability to meet your liabilities in respect of the credit facilities duly secured by various securities mentioned in para 1 above, and classification of your account as a non-performing asset, we hereby give you notice under sub-section (2) of section 13 of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, and call upon you to pay in full and discharge your liabilities to the Bank aggregating Rs. 6,93,081.66 as stated in para 1 above Plus interest at the applicable rate within 60 days from the date of this notice. We further give you notice that failing payment of the above amount with interest till the date of payment, we shall be free to exercise all or any of the rights under sub-section (4) of section 13 of the said Act, which please note.

Please note that, interest will continue to accrue at the rates specified in para 1 above for each credit facility until payment, in full.

We invite your attention to sub-section 13 of the said Act in terms of which you are barred from transferring any of the secured assets referred to in para 1 above by way of sale, lease or otherwise (other than in the ordinary course of business), without obtaining our prior written consent. We may add that non-compliance with the above provision contained in section 13 (13) of the said Act, is an offence punishable under section 29 of the Act.

Please note that this demand notice is without prejudice to and shall not be construed as waiver of any other rights or remedies which we may have, including without limitation, the right to make further demands in respect of sums owing to us.

We further invite your attention to sub-section (5) of section 13 of the said Act in terms of which you may redeem the secured assets, if the amount of dues together with all costs, charges and expenses incurred by the Bank is tendered by you, at any time before the date of publication of notice for public auction/inviting quotations/tender/private treaty. Please note that after publication of the notice as above, your right to redeem the secured assets will not be available.

Place: Kazhakoottam
Date: 15-04-2025

Sd/- Chief Manager, Authorised Officer,
Bank of Baroda