



Work on Aroor-Thuravoor highway faces tech delays

Crucial structural work stalled due to an overhead transmission line

BIJU E PAUL @Alappuzha



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An NHA official

THE much-awaited Aroor-Thuravoor elevated highway on NH 66 is facing further delays due to the slow progress in shifting a high-voltage power line that crosses the highway near SN Nagar in Aroor.

This setback is likely to impede the progress of what is set to be the longest flyover in South India.

The 12.75-km elevated stretch runs from Aroor Bypass Junction to south of Thuravoor. Construction began in 2023. However, a few works, including drainage systems and landing sections, remain incomplete. These can be finished in a month.

Officials with the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) said around 85% of the work has been completed. However, crucial structural work at pillars 25, 26, and 27 remains stalled due to the presence of a 110 KV overhead transmission line. The girders and deck slabs at these pillars can only be in-

stalled after the transmission line is elevated.

Initially expected to be completed by May, the timeline has now been extended to December. If the shifting of the electric line is further delayed, it is possible that the commissioning time will be extended. The original three-year contract period had ended in February.

"While similar work at the Aroor Bypass Junction has

been completed, the remaining work near SN Nagar involves relocating a 110 KV line that crosses the highway. Two transmission lines, originating from Kalamassery and Punnappra, intersect the highway at critical points," said an NHA official.

To facilitate the process without disrupting power supply, 16 temporary towers under the Emergency Restoration System are being installed. Four permanent towers are also under construction near SN Nagar.

Once the temporary system is in place, the existing lines will be shifted, and the permanent towers will be raised to the required height before reinstalling the lines, the officer said. KSEB officials said these procedures are time-consuming due to its technical complexity.

Meanwhile, NHA officials said that though the money was deposited with the KSEB months ago, they are lagging with the works, delaying the opening of the corridor.

3 counting centres in Alappuzha for assembly polls

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Alappuzha

VOTE counting for the Assembly elections in the district will be conducted at three centres. The counting for Aroor, Cherthala, and Alappuzha constituencies will be at St Joseph's Girls HSS, Alappuzha.

For Ambalappuzha and Kuttanad constituencies, the counting centre has been arranged at SD College. Meanwhile, votes for Haripad, Kayamkulam, Mavelikkara, and Chengannur constituencies will be counted at Bishop Moore College, Mavelikkara.

The first phase of training for officials appointed for election duty has begun at Leo XIII HSS auditorium. Around 800 officials have been deployed for counting duties.

District Collector and election officer K Inbasekar attended the session and addressed queries raised by the officials.

The training programme scheduled for Sunday at Leo XIII HSS has been shifted to Lajatul Muhammadiyah HSS.

THREE VEHICLES COLLIDE AT VAZHATHOPPU; ONE INJURED

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Kollam

THREE vehicles collided early on Thursday at Vazhathoppu on the Punalur-Pathanapuram road, leaving one person injured.

The accident took place when a lorry transporting vegetables from Pavoorchatram in Tamil Nadu to Changanassery collided head-on with a Fortuner SUV travelling from Kozhikode to Anchal.

The impact caused the lorry to overturn, with its rear wheel and housing dislodged.

Following the collision, the

car skidded off the road and rammed into a fish-laden pickup van that was parked by the roadside.

The occupants of the pickup van were reportedly asleep at the time.

The injured is Kumar, the cleaner of the lorry, who suffered a head injury. He was shifted to the Punalur Taluk Hospital. The lorry driver, Karthik, was also injured in the collision.

The Fortuner was carrying five passengers, all natives of Anchal. The vehicle was driven

by Riyaz, a businessman from Punalur.

The pickup van, carrying fish from Tamil Nadu to Alappuzha, had been parked on the roadside. Nishad and Nihass were in the vehicle.

Fire and Rescue Services personnel from Kunnikode and Pathanapuram, along with a recovery team, reached the spot and cleared the vehicles, restoring traffic.

Preliminary findings suggest that overspeeding and driver fatigue may have led to the accident.

Arrangements in place for Chandanappally feast

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Pathanamthitta

THE district administration has put in place extensive arrangements at the government level to ensure the smooth, safe, and spiritually fulfilling conduct of the annual feast at the historic Chandanappally St George Orthodox Vallyapally.

A review meeting chaired by revenue divisional officer M Vipin Kumar assessed the preparations. A special police team, led by Kodumun police station and comprising personnel from across the district, will be deployed to manage security, crowd control, and traffic.

The Kerala Water Authority will ensure adequate supply of drinking water, while the

health department will station medical teams, including doctors, nurses, and ambulances, near the church premises. Temporary rest centres will also be set up for pilgrims.

The KSRTC will operate special bus services from major centres like Pathanamthitta, Aloor, Pandalam, Chengannur, Tiruvalla, and Kottarakkara. Local bodies will oversee cleaning and maintenance of key roads leading to the venue.

Food safety inspections will be intensified, while police and excise officials will conduct checks to curb the sale of illicit liquor and narcotics.

Church representatives, including vicar Fr Sunil Abraham and other office-bearers, attended the meeting.

VOTE COUNTING

Phase 2 training for officials tomorrow

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Pathanamthitta

THE second phase of training for officials assigned with vote counting for the Assembly elections will be held on Saturday at the collectorate.

Each constituency will have 14 tables for counting votes recorded in voting machines. For postal ballot counting, nine tables each will be set up in Tiruvalla, Aranamula, Konni, and Aloor constituencies, while Ranni will have seven tables.

District Collector S Prem Krishnan chaired a meeting at the collectorate to review preparations for the counting process.

He informed that on the counting day, May 4, assistant returning officers from constituencies must reach the collectorate by 5.30 am to receive postal ballots. The strong room will be opened at 7 am in the presence of observers, candidates, and their agents. Counting will begin at 8 am sharp.

A media centre will be set up near the counting venue. A separate counter will be arranged outside the centre for storing mobile phones. Except for those authorised by the State Election Commission, all persons entering the hall must deposit their mobile phones at the counter and collect them later.



Officials will be given clear instructions by the returning officer and SLM teams before counting begins. After receiving the required OTP for the ENCORE/ETPBMS systems, mobile phones of all personnel, except the returning officer, will be collected.

Updates on each round will be ensured in the ENCORE ap-

plication under the supervision of deputy tahsildars. Only authorised personnel will be allowed inside the counting hall, where all proceedings will be videographed.

In case of objections raised after counting postal ballots, only those set aside as doubtful will be re-examined. After the declaration of results, machines will be transported to the election warehouse near the collectorate and classified as defective, unused, and used before being handed over.

Parking of vehicles will not be allowed inside counting centres, said district police chief R Anand.

EXPRESS READ

JSS leaders join IUML en masse

Kollam: In a setback for the Janathipathya Samrakshana Samithi (JSS), the party of ex-minister K R Gowri Amma, several of its leaders and workers in Kollam joined the IUML on Thursday. The leaders, led by JSS Kollam district secretary Sudhakaran Pallath and state executive member Kulakkada Rajendran, received membership in the presence of IUML state leadership at the League House, Kozhikode. State and district level office-bearers of the party's youth wing, JYS, also joined the IUML.

Canara Bank POSSESSION NOTICE (SECTION 13(4)) (For Immovable Properties) with details of property and terms.

Union Bank of India POSSESSION NOTICE (Issued under Rule 8 (1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002) with details of property and terms.

Real estate advertisement in Malayalam: 'നിറഞ്ഞ സന്ധിയിൽ നിറഞ്ഞ കൈയ്യടി' with '2ND WEEK' offer.

ICICI Bank PUBLIC NOTICE-TENDER CUM E-AUCTION FOR SALE OF SECURED ASSET with details of the auction process.

IndusInd Bank LTD APPENDIX-IV (POSSESSION NOTICE) (Under Rule 8(1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002) with details of property and terms.

UJJIVAN SMALL FINANCE BANK E-AUCTION NOTICE for the sale of secured assets with details of the auction process.