



Ramesh Chennithala @chennithala
Dijo Kappan was a rare public servant who gave "social service" its true meaning. A tireless advocate for farmers & consumers, he was a brotherly figure to me for decades. His sincerity & commitment to the people, even beyond power politics, will always be remembered.

HOTELS IN STATE TO DOWN SHUTTERS ON MAY 6

As Centre raises prices, cost of LPG cylinder crosses ₹3,000 in state | Eateries warn of 50-60% hike in menu prices

SHAINU MOHAN @TPuram

THE steep rise in commercial LPG prices has jolted Kerala's restaurant industry, with eateries warning of a 50-60% hike in menu prices. On Friday, the central government increased the price of 19kg commercial LPG cylinders by ₹993, with the cost of a cylinder crossing ₹3,000 in the state. The decision has come as a further blow to food-business operators who are already on the verge of closure due to the LPG crisis triggered by tensions in West Asia.

Warning of job losses and a spike in food prices, the Kerala Hotel and Restaurants Association (KHRA) has called for a statewide shutdown on May 6, while demanding immediate relief measures from the Centre and state governments.

KHRA state president G Jayapal said the sector is already under severe stress and will not be able to absorb the latest LPG price hike.

He said that the situation is grave and the cumulative rise in cost of LPG, milk, vegetables, pulses, and cooking oil has made operations unsustainable. "Prices of essentials have skyrocketed. Coconut oil that



A small hotel near the Secretariat in Thiruvananthapuram puts up a revised price list, reflecting the hike in the cost of LPG cylinders | B P DEEPU

once cost ₹100 is now nearing ₹300. Pulses are around ₹150 per kg, chickpeas have crossed ₹100, and even small lentils are touching ₹170. Along with this, LPG prices have shot up drastically. To stay viable, we may have to raise menu prices by 50-60%," he said.

At the same time, operators fear reduced footfall and decline in sales if the menu rates

are hiked. "A steep hike is not practical. Even increasing the price of a cup of tea from ₹12-14 to ₹18-20 overnight is not feasible. A ₹2 increase itself is difficult to sustain customers," said Sasidharan, a restaurant owner in the state capital.

KHRA said the burden of LPG price hikes is disproportionately borne by commercial cylinder users. "Around 85%

Feeling the heat

Recent trend of commercial LPG prices in Ernakulam, per cylinder

Dec 2025	₹1,587
April 2026	₹2,090
May 2026	₹3,085

Instead of increasing domestic prices, the entire burden is shifted to the commercial segment.

This results in higher GST collections for the government while oil companies also maintain profits. — G Jayapal, KHRA state prez

of LPG usage is domestic and only 15% is commercial. Yet, instead of increasing domestic prices, the entire burden is shifted to the commercial segment. This results in higher GST collections for the government while oil companies also maintain profits," Jayapal alleged.

The association has urged both the Centre and the state government to intervene and offer relief measures such as subsidies, waiver or extension of loan repayment deadlines, reduction or deferment of licence fees, and relaxation of various taxes.

The Kerala Vyapari Vyavasayi Ekopana Samithi and political parties have announced solidarity with KHRA's statewide strike on Wednesday.

The CPM state secretariat called for widespread protests

against the steep hike in commercial LPG prices, alleging that the move would trigger inflation and ultimately burden the public. In a statement, the party accused the Union government of prioritising corporate interests and imposing an unprecedented increase in cylinder prices.

The hike in LPG prices right after the latest series of assembly elections also raises questions about the legitimacy of the central government's claims denying any shortage in the country. "Many of our businesses are now spending close to ₹1 lakh a month on LPG alone, said K T Rahim, Ernakulam secretary of the KHRA. "Moreover, there is a limit to how much we can recover this amount by increasing the price of food items," he said.

— With inputs from Kochi bureau

Consumer activist Dejo Kappan dies at 69

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Kottayam

DEJO Kappan, who worked beyond party politics to protect the rights of consumers and farmers and was an active presence in the public sphere of Kerala, passed away. He was 69.

He was undergoing treatment following a car accident in Thiruvananthapuram on October 16, 2025 and passed away at 9.30 am on Friday at a private hospital in Cherupunkal. The body was brought to his residence at Palakad near Edamattom in Pala on Saturday. Funeral services are scheduled to commence at his residence at 2 pm on Sunday, followed by interment at the Cherupushpam Church Cemetery, Palakad.

Kappan began his public

life through student politics and served as state president of the Kerala Congress students' wing and Youth Front. In 1998, he quit active politics to focus on championing consumer and farmer rights. Through the organisation, Centre for Consumer Education, he obtained verdicts beneficial to the public in at least two dozen cases through public interest litigations filed in the Supreme Court and the High Court.

He was a relentless advocate for improving the services of the KSRTC and the KSEB for the benefit of the public.

Kappan has held the positions of president of Public Transport Protection Committee, and president of Sabari Railway Central Action Council, among others.



OBITUARY

Unni S Nair



Kochi: Journalist and former secretary of the Ernakulam Press Club, Unni S Nair, 53, passed away on Sunday. A journalist with 25 years of experience, he has

worked with *The New Indian Express*, *Manorama News*, *PTI*, *Jeevan TV* and *NTV*. The funeral will be held at his residence, Krishnavilasam, at Perumpara Junction, Cherthala, at 11 am on Sunday. Unni is survived by wife Preetha G Panickar (secretary, Merchant's Association Co-operative Society) and children Ananda Padmanabhan and Achuthan Unni.

Expatriate's death: Tribunal awards ₹9-cr reparation

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Kozhikode

IN A significant verdict, the Kozhikode Motor Accidents Claims Tribunal (MACT) has awarded a record-breaking compensation of ₹9,01,67,500 to the family of an expatriate killed in a road accident. Delivered by Principal Judge K Rakesh on April 25, the judgment directs the New India Assurance Company to pay the sum, marking one of the highest compensation amounts ever granted by a tribunal in Kerala.

The victim, Shijin, a native

Historic settlement

In determining the historic settlement, the tribunal factored in the victim's high overseas salary, his age at the time of death, and the financial dependency of his young family

of Thiruvangoor, was employed as a senior operator for Abu Dhabi Polymers in the UAE.

The tragic incident occurred on March 28, 2023, at Malikkadavu, Kozhikode, while Shijin was home on leave. He was travelling on his motorcycle around 1 am when he was hit by a lorry that was reportedly being driven in a rash and negligent manner. Though he was

taken to the Kozhikode Medical College Hospital immediately, his life could not be saved.

The compensation petition was filed by Shijin's wife, Nikhila Karunakaran, their two children, Ishan and Parthiv, and his mother, Radha.

In determining the historic settlement, the tribunal factored in Shijin's high overseas

salary, his age at the time of death, and the financial dependency of his young family.

Legal experts noted that the court also considered the loss of various international allowances, such as educational support for his children and free accommodation provided by his employer in Abu Dhabi.

The case was represented by advocates P M Ramesh Babu, Shameem Ahamed, and Anilesh. Shijin's family's advocate Ramesh Babu responded, "It was a historic court verdict and the family of the victim deserves the compensation."

Couple kills labourer, buries body in grove

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Coimbatore

ANAMALAI police arrested a couple on charges of murdering a labourer and burying him at a grove in Kaliyapuram, near Anamalai, on Saturday.

The arrested have been identified as M Chandran, 50, and his wife C Kaleeswari, 48, residents of Narikkalpathi. The couple had been working as labourers at a grove owned by Kathirvel in Kaliyapuram for three months. The deceased has been identified as N Karuppusamy, 44, a resident of Aliyapathi. Chandran was a friend of Karuppusamy, and the latter had asked Chandran to inform him if he came across work in any grove. Subsequently, Karuppusamy visited Chandran's grove and the duo consumed liquor.

However, on Tuesday night, Karuppusamy allegedly tried to misbehave with Chandran's wife, Kaleeswari, at the grove while intoxicated. In retaliation, Chandran assaulted him using a wooden log and he fell to the ground.

Chandran later confessed that soon after, with Kaleeswari's help, he took Karuppusamy's body and buried it 30 metres away from their grove house under a coconut tree.

After a foul smell emanated from the grove, other labourers irrigating the grove informed the grove owner, who informed Anamalai police.

TVK prepares resort to corral winning candidates in TN polls

PRABHAKAR TAMILARASU @Chennai

STARING at the possibility of a hung Assembly once the poll results are out on May 4, TN parties are bracing themselves for the infamous 'resort politics' as Vijay's Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) has made arrangements to corral its victorious candidates at a resort at Poonjeri near Mahabalipuram. It is pertinent to note that hours after the exit poll results were declared last Wednesday, Vijay issued a statement asking his party candidates to rush to the party headquarters at Panaiyur without delay if they are declared the winners on May 4.

With different exit poll surveys giving the upper hand to different parties — DMK alliance, TVK, and AIADMK bloc — TVK chief and actor C Joseph Vijay had asked his party functionaries to keep the resort ready for accommodating at least 100 win-

ning candidates. "After the meeting with party candidates on Thursday, Vijay asked the functionaries to book the resort to accommodate the winning candidates," a source privy to the developments told TNE.

According to sources, TVK usually arranges state-level functionaries' meet at the private resort at Poonjeri. The resort could accommodate more than 100 people. The source also added that Vijay had sarcastically told the candidates at the meeting "not to go anywhere after winning the seat".

Vijay has also asked his party's legal wing to be prepared for all eventualities and advised party's general secretary (election campaign management), Aadhav Arjuna, to give a representation to the Election Commission of India to bolster security to prevent disturbance to law and order on the counting day, sources said.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

CHANGE OF NAME
I, PRADEEP KUMAR MEETHALE MAYOTH, HOLDER OF PASSPORT NUMBER C 235360 ISSUED AT MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA ON 01 OCT 2024 AND WILL EXPIRES ON 30 SEP 2034, RESIDING AT MAYAPURI, P.O.NETTUR, THALASSERY, KANNUR DT., KERALA, PIN: 670105, HAVE BEEN CHANGED MY NAME TO PRADEEP MAYOTH, AS PER THE GOVERNMENT OF KERALA, INDIA. GAZETTE NOTIFICATION NO. 48 Dt: 02 DECEMBER 2025. THIS CHANGE WILL COME IN TO EFFECT IN ALL RECORDS RELATED TO ME.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, SHRUTHI MANOJ ARAYAKKATE, D/o Manoj Kumar Arayakkate, holder of Indian Passport No. K5727224, residing at 'Shreyas', Areekkara Paramba, Kuthiravattom P.O, Kozhikode, Kerala- 673016, hereby change my name from SHRUTHI MANOJ TO SHRUTHI MANOJ ARAYAKKATE vide affidavit dated 30-04-2026. Henceforth, I shall be known as SHRUTHI MANOJ ARAYAKKATE for all purposes.

ICICI Bank Branch Office: ICICI Bank Limited, Pushpangalam Estate, Nh Bye Pass Road, Edappally, Cochin - 682024

PUBLIC NOTICE-TENDER CUM E-AUCTION FOR SALE OF SECURED ASSET
(See proviso to rule 8(i))
Notice for sale of immovable assets

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 8 (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 Earnest Money Deposit	Date and Time of Property Inspection	Date & Time of E-Auction
(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)
1.	Mr. Muhammad Irshad (Borrower) Mrs. Asma (Co-Borrower) Loan Account no. LBKNR00005647173/ LBKNR00005647199/ LBKNR00005802922/ LBKNR00005802962	4 BHK House With Land Area 4790 Sq.ft And Built-up Area 2700 Sq. Ft In 4.44 Ares (11 Cents) In Re Sy No. 216, Thalassery Village, Thalassery Taluk, Kannur District - 670101. Bounded On The North: Property of Jaseela South: Property of Saru East: Foot Path. West: Property of Fathima	Rs. 1,08,12,635/- (As on April 27, 2026)	Rs. 54,00,000/- to Rs. 5,40,000/-	May 18, 2026, from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM	May 26, 2026, from 10:30 AM to 11:30 AM

The online auction will be conducted on the website (assets.matexauctions.com). of our auction agency M/s Matex Technologies Pvt Ltd. The Mortgagee's Notices are given a last chance to pay the total dues with further interest by May 25, 2026, before 05:00 PM 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 Ltd., Pushpangalam Estate, Nh Bye pass road, Edappally, Cochin - 682024 Branch on or before May 25, 2026, before 05:00 PM Thereafter, they have to submit their offer through the website mentioned above on or before May 25, 2026, before 05:00 PM 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 Ltd., Pushpangalam Estate, Nh Bye pass road, Edappally, Cochin - 682024 Branch on or before May 25, 2026, before 05:00 PM. Earnest Money Deposit DD/PO should be from a Nationalised/ Scheduled Bank in favour of "ICICI Bank Limited" payable at Cochin.

For any further clarifications in terms of inspection, Terms and Conditions of the E-Auction or submission of tenders, contact ICICI Bank Employee Phone No. 965525532/8138023587.

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/n4p45

Date : May 03, 2026 Place: Kannur

Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

ANDHRA PRADESH CAPITAL REGION DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
APCRDA Project Office, Amaravati, Rayapudi Post, Thulluru Mandal, Guntur District - 522237, Andhra Pradesh.

NIT No. MAU61-PLG00TH/11/2026-PLG Dt: 01/05/2026

E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE

NAME OF THE WORK: APCRDA-Request for Proposal (RFP) for "Selection of Strategic Support Agency (SSA) for Preparation of the Amaravati Economic Region Plan (AERP)".

The bid may be downloaded on AP e-procurement portal from a day after approval of NIT with 40 days schedule (02-05-2026 to 11-06-2026). For further details please refer to www.appeprocurement.gov.in and www.crda.ap.gov.in. Sd/- COMMISSIONER, APCRDA, AMARAVATI.

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA HYDERABAD METROPOLITAN WATER SUPPLY & SEWERAGE BOARD
O/o Chief General Manager (Engg), Transmission Circle, Khairatabad, Hyderabad-04.

e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTIFICATION

e-Tender No. & Date	Name of Work	Ranging (approx.)	Bid document download start date
EP No. 14 CGM(E) / TC / T1/ TD.No.1 / Refurbishment/ 2026-27, Dtd: 02.05.2026	Refurbishment of 27 MGD raw water conduit from Osmansagar to Asifnagar filter beds to arrest leakages and frequent breakdowns and thereby reduce UFW/NRW under Osmansagar section, SD-II, Trans.Div., Himayathsagar.	Rs. 198.61 crores	06.05.2026 @ 4.00 pm

The Tenderers are requested to upload the information on the Zip format preferably. Further details can be seen on www.eprocurement.gov.in

Sd/- Chief General Manager (Engg), Transmission Circle, Khairatabad, Hyderabad-04.

Lakshadweep Administration
Directorate of Education, Kavaratti- 682 555
Email: highereducationcell2021@gmail.com

F.No.LD-08003/5/2025-Est-Dir of Edn - Part(1) Dated: 30.04.2026

ADVERTISEMENT

The Department of Education, Administration of the Union Territory of Lakshadweep, Kavaratti invites competitive open Tender Enquiry in single bid system for the supply of items for the setting up of Catering Lab at Government College of Arts & Science, Kadmat. Tender documents are available from the website www.lakshadweep.gov.in. The interested party can download and apply within the stipulated time.

Sd/- M BHARANI, DANICS (DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION)

KARNATAKA NEERAVARI NIGAM LIMITED
(A government of Karnataka Enterprises)
Office of the Executive Engineer, Karnataka Neeravari Nigam Limited, No.4 BRIBC Division, Bhadravathi.

No: EE/ KNNL/ BDN-4/TA/PB-1/4701 Bhadra /5th Call Tender Notification No: 11/2025-26: Dated: 27.04.2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION - Call-5 (THROUGH KPP PORTAL ONLY)

Ref. 1) No: EE/ KNNL/BDN-4/TA/PB-1/4701 Bhadra / Tender Notification No: 11/2025-26: Dated: 06.10.2025 2) No: EE/ KNNL/ BDN-4/TA/PB-1/4701 Bhadra / 2nd Call Tender Notification No: 11/2025-26: Dated: 28.11.2025 3) No: EE/ KNNL/BDN-4/TA/PB-1/4701 Bhadra / 3rd Call Tender Notification No: 11/2025-26Dated: 28.01.2026 4) No: EE/ KNNL/ BDN-4/TA/PB-1/4701 Bhadra /4th Call Tender Notification No: 11/2025-26 Dated: 23.03.2026

Percentage Tenders by kpp portal in the prescribed form is invited by the undersigned on behalf of Managing Director, KNNL, Bangalore from the eligible Contractor under the Head of Account 4701 Bhadra. The No. of work is 01. The approximate cost of amount put to tender is Rs.4225.15 Lakhs. The amount of EMD is Rs.42.25 Lakhs (Rs.1.00 lakhs e-cash balance amt e-BG Rs.41.25 lakhs) (by kpp portal) contractors can access and submission of completed e-tendering documents from 29.04.2026 to 15.05.2026 upto 17.30 hours in the website http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. Technical Bid will be opened on 16.05.2026 at 17.30 hours and Financial Bid will be opened on after obtaining approval of technical bid from competent authority. Pre-Bid Meeting on dated: 12.05.2026 at 11.00 Hrs at O/o Executive Engineer, No.4 BRIBC Division, Bhadravathi. Stipulated period for the completion of work is 18 Months (Including monsoon).

For more conditions and details visit website http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. OR at undersigned in all working days during office hours on telephone No. 8660573513.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, KNNL, No.4 BRIBC Division, Bhadravathi.

DIPR/sm/ksma/26-27/04/04/166