



Ramesh Chennithala @chennithala  
Heartiest congratulations to my dearest D.K. on assuming charge as the Chief Minister of Karnataka. He is a dear companion who has stood by me for over 40 years, sharing a deep bond since our NSUI days. More than just a colleague, he is a beloved friend with whom I have shared countless struggles and memories, both in politics and personal life.

# DKS sworn in as K'taka CM

13 take oath as ministers; Rahul Gandhi, Kharge, Siddaramaiah attend

PTI @Bengaluru

STATE Congress president D K Shivakumar took oath as Karnataka Chief Minister on Wednesday and 13 other legislators, including senior leader G Parameshwara, were sworn in as ministers in his Cabinet.

In the presence of AICC chief Mallikarjun Kharge, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and outgoing CM Siddaramaiah, Shivakumar took oath in the name of seer "Gangadhar Ajja", while holding a copy of the Constitution. Governor Thaa-warchand Gehlot administered the oath of office and secrecy to Shivakumar, Parameshwara and others at Lok Bhavan. Parameshwara, who is set to be Deputy CM, took oath in the name of Dr B R Ambedkar.

The other legislators who took oath as ministers were K H Muniyappa, K J George, M B Patil, Ramalinga Reddy, Satish Jarkiholi, Krishna Byregowda, Priyank Kharge, U T Khader, Eshwar Khandre, Yathindra Siddaramaiah, Byrathi Suresh,



Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge, AICC general secretary K C Venugopal, outgoing Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and CM D K Shivakumar during the swearing-in ceremony of the new state government in Bengaluru on Wednesday | PTI

and Sharan Prakash Patil. Barring Khader and Yathindra, all the others were ministers in the previous Siddaramaiah government. Khader had been the Speaker of the Karnataka assembly, and Yathindra, a member of the legislative council, is Siddaramaiah's son. Shivakumar, a 64-year-old Vokkaliga strongman, was elected leader of the Congress Legislature Party on May 30,

following Siddaramaiah's resignation as chief minister on May 28.

AICC general secretaries K C Venugopal and Randeep Singh Surjewala, CMs of Congress-ruled states, several top Congress leaders, dignitaries, and invitees were present at the swearing-in. Religious leaders from all major communities, including heads of various maths, were also present.

# Tatkal booking goes haywire despite app reforms

TINISHA RACHEL SAMUEL @Kollam

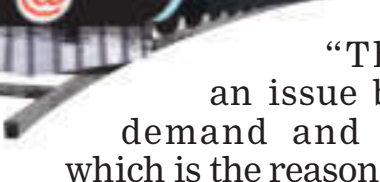
NEARLY a year after the Indian Railways announced key modifications to Tatkal booking service, passengers continue to face issues and are unable to get confirmed tickets.

From July 2025, Tatkal tickets booked through the IRCTC website and mobile app were made available only to users authenticated with the Aadhaar number. Tatkal tickets booked at computerised passenger reservation system (PRS) counters and through authorised agents also require OTP authentication sent to the mobile number provided by the user at the time of booking.

To prevent bulk bookings during the crucial opening period, authorised agents are not permitted to book Tatkal tickets during the first 30 minutes of the booking window. As per the Indian Railways, around 14 lakh passengers book train tickets through online platforms daily, and for Tatkal, around four lakh users log in between 10 am and 11 am.

## NEVER-ENDING ISSUES

- New rules suggest that private apps can only begin bookings after 11.30 am
- When TNIE tried, a private app showed reservation status within 3 minutes of 11am, even as the facility was unavailable on the RailOne app itself
- Some say booking the more expensive Premium Tatkal is easier via RailOne compared to booking normal Tatkal tickets
- Several allege that some railway staff at ticket counters help travel agents with bookings
- Server glitches on the app while booking Tatkal tickets is another issue



"There is an issue between demand and supply, which is the reason why the ticket issue persists," a senior Railways official said. When TNIE tried booking a Tatkal ticket from Kollam Junction to MGR Chennai Central on train no 12624 through the RailOne app, the facility was not functional during the 11 am time slot. However, a private app showed TQWL 17 for 3AC berths within three minutes, at 11.03 am, even as new rules suggest that private apps can only begin bookings after 11.30 am.

Several users on social media platform X have raised allegations regarding issues with booking Tatkal tickets. "I have been trying to book a single Tatkal ticket for four days. First, the mobile app kept crashing, then the website too. The system conveniently collapses during the first few crucial minutes when genuine users try to book tickets. Then, magically, after five minutes, the website and app start working perfectly normally, but by then all tickets would be sold out," a user lamented on X. "One issue we experienced in

recent days is that if you search directly for Premium Tatkal tickets, most of the time there won't be any error, and there is a higher chance of getting a confirmed ticket. With normal Tatkal, things are different. Many are asking whether this is being done intentionally to push passengers towards higher-cost tickets. Many also allege that normal Tatkal tickets are mainly booked by agents," alleged Ansuman Satapathy, a rail enthusiast. Premium Tatkal at times costs three times higher than normal tickets.

Many also alleged that some staff at ticket counters help travel agents with bookings. A source, speaking on condition of anonymity, confirmed that such allegations are often raised. "In several cases, server glitches occur on RailOne app while booking Tatkal tickets. The app keeps loading for nearly five minutes even after payment is completed. By then, tickets would have been sold out. Most Tatkal bookings are made during emergencies, and refunds also take time," said Vishakh Kochiyil, a travel agent from Malappuram.

# H1N1 death in Kochi

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Kochi

RAISING concerns, Kochi reported an H1N1 death on Wednesday. The patient, a 65-year-old woman, sought treatment for fever on Tuesday and was undergoing treatment at a private hospital in Kochi.

"Following fever and other symptoms, a test was carried out, and she tested positive for H1N1 on Tuesday," said an official with the district health department. The deceased is a resident of Palarivattom.

The official added that the situation is not scary in the district. "Though a death was reported now, we haven't noticed any increase in the number of cases reported. Since the monsoon season has also started, it is important to be cautious," he added. H1N1 flu, also called swine flu, is a type of influenza A virus and is often presented with symptoms including fever, body pain, cough, fatigue, sore throat, and a runny nose.

## EXPRESS READ

### Kuwait airspace closure: 1 flight cancelled in Kochi

Kochi: Amid the closure of Kuwait airspace, Air India Express flight IX 439 from Kochi to Bahrain, which was scheduled to depart from Kochi airport at 11.45 am, was cancelled on Wednesday. A total of 119 passengers were offloaded and sent back, airport sources said. Kuwait's airspace has been temporarily closed and all flights suspended. The development came following a drone strike on Terminal-1 of Kuwait International Airport amid rising regional geopolitical tensions.



ROMANCING THE RAIN  
Two youngsters enjoy a breezy evening on Valappu beach as clouds gather overhead on Wednesday | T P SOODRAJ

# One dead, three injured in explosion during film shoot in TN; two arrested

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Chennai

A 25-YEAR-OLD special effects technician was killed and three of his colleagues were injured after a carbon dioxide cylinder exploded during the shooting of the movie, "Killer", at Binny Mills in Perambur on Wednesday morning. Police have arrested two film crew members in connection with the incident. According to Otteri police, the accident occurred around 5.30am during the shooting of a fight sequence. Four people were injured and rushed to the Rajiv Gandhi Government General Hospital (RG-GGH) for treatment.

## Simulation gone wrong

The deceased is Madhan, 25. Police said the film crew had arranged a simulated bomb-blast scene using carbon dioxide cylinders for the shoot. Preliminary inquiries revealed that excessive pressure built up when the gas was being transferred between cylinders as part of the special-effects setup, triggering the explosion.

Police said the film crew had arranged a simulated bomb-blast scene using carbon dioxide cylinders for the shoot. Preliminary inquiries revealed that excessive pressure built up when the gas was being transferred between cylinders as part of the special-effects setup, triggering the explosion.

The injured were identified as R Dinakaran (24) of Nerkundram, P Surya (23) of Maduravoyal, and S Sakthivel (27) of Sikkarayapuram near Kundrathur. Dinakaran sustained injuries to his right wrist, Surya suffered injuries to his left leg, and Sakthivel

sustained injuries to his left knee. All three are under treatment. Based on a complaint and preliminary probe, police arrested production manager Ram and special effects manager Arumugam (37).

Sources said around 10 workers were engaged in the blast sequence, which had been filmed over the last three days under Arumugam's supervision. The duo were booked under sections relating to negligence causing death and injuries.

Relatives said Madhan had been involved in high-risk work involving gas cylinders on film sets for the past two years.

Questioning whether adequate safety measures had been in place at the shooting spot, his aunt said, "Madhan discontinued his college education in his first year and was living with relatives for the past several years. We want to know whether proper safety equipment was provided to him during the shoot."

# OP TOOFAN 104 drug cases, 137 arrests within 24 hours of launch

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @TPuram

THE police have registered 104 drug cases and arrested 137 people under Operation Toofan since its launch on Tuesday. Of these, three cases were registered for commercial quantities, while eight were registered for intermediate volume.

State Police Chief Ravada A Chandrasekhar said a 200g MDMA weighing about 500g and ganja to the tune of 37kg were seized. He said discussions were held with police chiefs of three states, including Andhra Pradesh, to launch a comprehensive plan to counter drug menace. "Soon we will have an inter-state meeting of police officers. After that there will be a meeting with Central agencies," Ravada said.

Elaborating the source of drugs that reach the state, Ravada said ganja is mostly procured from Odisha-Andhra border, while MDMA is procured via multiple channels. "From Muscat it's being brought via Thiruvananthapuram and Karipur airports. Bengaluru is also a source," he added.



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

Public notice - Tender cum E-Auction for the sale of secured asset(s)

[See proviso to rule 8(6)]  
Notice for sale of movable asset(s)

E-Auction Sale Notice for the sale of movable 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 movable 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. Santhosh M (Borrower) LAAPY00047849677	Make- HONDA SIEL CARS INDIA LTD Model- AMAZE SMT Reg No. KL04AT6848 (2023) RC Status- Yes	Rs. 6,68,183/- (As on May 06, 2026)	Rs. 5,50,000/- Rs. 55,000/-	All working days From-10.00 A.M. To- 05.00 P.M. From 11.00 AM- 12.00 Noon	July 14, 2026 11.00 AM- 12.00 Noon

The online auction will take place on the website of e-auction agency Gimar Soft Automobile Pvt Ltd (URL Link - https://www.auctions.cardekho.com). The Mortgagors/ noticees are given a last chance to pay the total dues with further interest till July 13, 2026, before 05:00 PM failing which, this/these 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 Limited, Pushpangalam Estate, NH Bye Pass Road, Edappally, Cochin - 682024 on or before July 13, 2026 before 05:00 PM and thereafter they need to submit their offer through the above mentioned website only on or before July 13, 2026 before 05:00 PM, along with scan image of Bank acknowledged DD towards proof of payment of EMD. Kindly note, in case prospective bidder(s) are unable to submit their offer through the website then signed copy of tender documents may be submitted at ICICI Bank Limited, Pushpangalam Estate, NH Bye Pass Road, Edappally, Cochin - 682024 on or before July 13, 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 with regards to inspection, terms and conditions of the e-auction or submission of tenders, kindly contact ICICI Bank Limited on 8129501439 or 9655225532 or Gimar Soft Automobile Pvt Ltd on 9847028883/ 8848368412. Tenders which are acknowledged by the Bank/e-auction vendor official and registered before the cut-off time with complete details shall only be considered for auction.

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 : June 04, 2026  
Place: Alappuzha

Authorized Officer  
ICICI Bank Limited

**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(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 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.	M/s Perumuttathu Traders Represented By Proprietor P A Shaji (Borrower) Mr. P A Shaji and Mrs. Nojjeera Mol M A, (Guarantor) Mr P A Shaji (Mortgagor) Loan Account No. 07460500928	Vacant Land with Land Area of 22166 Sqft in 9.1 Ares situated in Re Sy No. 185/5, 4.5 Ares situated in Re Sy No. 185/5-1, 3.5 Ares situated in Re Sy No. 185/5-2, 3.5 Ares situated in Re Sy No.185/5-3, Total of 20.6 Ares (50.9 Cents) in Erumely South Village, Kanjirappally Taluk, Erumely Sub District, Kottayam District 686510. Bounded on the North by: Property of Pathrose, South by: Kochuroman - Pallipody Panchayath Road, East by: Property of KK Thomas Cheramkuzhiyil, West by: Property of Aiyarukunju	Rs. 2,10,54,099/- (As on May 26, 2026)	Rs. 10,00,000/- Rs. 1,00,000/-	June 18, 2026 From 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM From 10:30 AM to 11:30 AM	June 25, 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 Solutions Private Limited. The Mortgagors/ Noticees are given a last chance to pay the total dues with further interest by June 24, 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 Limited, Pushpangalam Estate, NH Bye Pass Road, Edappally, Cochin - 682024 Branch on or before June 24, 2026 by 05:00 PM. Thereafter, they have to submit their offer through the website mentioned above on or before June 24, 2026 by 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 Limited, Pushpangalam Estate, NH Bye Pass Road, Edappally, Cochin - 682024 Branch on or before June 24, 2026 by 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. 9655225532/8129501439.

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 : June 04, 2026  
Place: Kottayam

Authorized Officer  
ICICI Bank Limited