



Eco-sensitive area: State wants settlements, farmland excluded

Insists that Centre notify ESAs in line with Oommen V Oommen report

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@TPuram

EVEN as the Union government is gearing up to notify eco-sensitive areas (ESA) along the Western Ghats, Kerala plans to approach the Centre again seeking an exclusion of human settlements and agricultural land from the purview of ESA. The state insists that the Centre notify ESAs in line with the Oommen V Oommen report. According to the draft notification, an area of 9,993.7 sq km has been proposed as eco-sensitive area.

In the wake of the ministry of environment and forests (MoEF) planning to declare ESA villages based on the draft notification, the state government convened a high-level meeting chaired by Environment Minister Sunny Joseph. The meeting also decided to invite members of the central government-constituted experts panel to the state and discuss the recommendations submitted by the previous UDF government, based on the report prepared by the state-appointed Oommen V Oommen committee which had recommended the exclusion of certain regions from ESAs.

Sunny Joseph told *TNIE* that Kerala has already accepted the Oommen V Oommen report and hence would urge the Centre to follow the same in-principle.

"According to the Oommen V Oommen committee report, the MoEF had excluded human settlements and farmlands. We would point out that Kerala has around 30% of its area as forest land and that the state has a high population density. Hence, there should not be further ESA demarcation. The central panel will visit the state next



9,993.7 sq km proposed as eco-sensitive area

The state insists that the Centre notify ESAs in line with the Oommen V Oommen report. According to the draft notification, an area of 9,993.7 sq km has been proposed as eco-sensitive area. In this wake, the state government convened a high-level meeting chaired by Environment Minister Sunny Joseph.

month. Only after listening to our position should the final notification be issued. The ESA should be in line with what is published in the Kerala Biodiversity Board website," the minister said.

The meeting also decided to hold talks with the central committee to safeguard the state's interests while finalising ESA. Chief Minister V D Sathesnan will hold another meeting on June 30 with the forest and environment ministers and senior officials to chalk out the next course of action.

"We have recommended to exclude thickly-populated areas, agricultural lands and plantations from ESAs. Instead of cutting down on the number of ESA villages from 123, we chose to exclude certain key regions from the purview of ESA. Now,

it has been 12 years since the draft notification. Our report was unanimously accepted by the state assembly. Later, the previous government decided to ask the Centre to cut the area of ESA further, but that was not approved. The government can now go ahead with our proposal," Oommen V Oommen said.

The Kasturi Rangan-led High Level Working Group (HLWG) had recommended an area of 13,108.7 sq km in 123 villages in the state to be demarcated ecologically sensitive. However, the state government, after physical verification, excluded an area of 3,114.30 sq km due to agriculture and settlements. The MoEF accepted the proposal and the draft notification was published with an area of 9,993.70 sq km, inclusive of 123 villages.

Later, the previous state government further pointed out that the area under the draft notification constitutes two categories -- forest land constituting 9,107 sq km and a non-forest area of 886.7 sq km. The state proposed to remove the non-forest area of 886.7 sq km from ESA and sought to denote only 9,107 sq km as ESA with 118 villages.

However, the proposal has not been cleared yet.

Seeds of despair: Kerala lost over 24,500 farmers, farm workers to suicide in 27 yrs

RAJESH ABRAHAM @Kochi

KERALA'S agrarian distress has claimed an alarming human toll, with 24,591 farmers and farm workers dying by suicide between 1995 and 2022. That amounts to an average of 1,069 deaths every year, exposing the deepening crisis in the state's rural economy.

The figures -- presented by Dr Martin Patrick, a retired Maharaaja's College professor and a former principal of the Rural Academy for Management Studies, Kuzhupilly -- appear in the book 'Karshika Keralam Pinnitta Arupathu Pathittandukal' published by the Sacred Heart College, Thevara, and the Organic Kerala Charitable Trust.

In a chapter titled 'Farmer Suicides and Debt Trap: A Perspective from the Rural Sector', Dr Patrick notes that Kerala accounted for 4.25% of the country's farm suicides during the period, with 92% of those who died being men, significantly higher than the national average of 80%. The crisis has shown little sign of easing. Between 2014 and 2022, Kerala recorded 2,233 farmer suicides. Idukki reported the highest number (453), followed by Palakkad (404) and Thiruvananthapuram

(337). "Debt has become the alpha and omega for farmers—the beginning and the end," Dr Patrick writes, identifying indebtedness as the principal reason behind the continuing tragedy.

Citing official surveys, he points out that nearly one-third of Kerala's population is burdened by debt, almost double the national average. According to the 2021 NABARD survey, the average monthly income of a rural household in Kerala stood

at Rs 16,788, against an expenditure of Rs 14,778, leaving a modest monthly saving of Rs 2,010. This marks a steep decline from Rs 3,975 recorded in 2016-17—a fall of nearly 48%. Kerala also has the country's highest average household indebtedness at Rs 1.99 lakh. Nearly 70% of farmers in the state are in debt, with an average liability of Rs 2.2 lakh, according to the National Sample Survey. A study by the Kerala Independent Farmers Association estimates the average debt at Rs 5.46 lakh.

Beyond debt, the study identifies climate change, wild animal attacks, rising cultivation costs, fluctuating crop prices, and policy decisions as major drivers of distress.



Hit by losses, private bus operators in state eye daunting 'Form G' route

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Kasaragod

HIT by mounting losses due to the free-travel scheme for women on KSRTC buses and higher fuel costs, private-bus operators in the state are contemplating filing 'Form G' with regional transport offices (RTOs) to claim exemption from road tax by suspending services. Some owners have already filed for relief. The last time bus operators filed Form G en masse was during the Covid lockdown.

Ashok S, who operates buses under the name 'Sushmitha' from Kasaragod, has filed Form G for his Kasaragod-Kannur service while keeping his Kollur-Kannur operation running. "I am unable to manage losses on both routes. My Kasaragod-Kannur service was badly affected after June 15. So, I filed Form G for this route on June



Private bus operators contemplate on the option of suspending bus services and file Form G to claim road tax exemption

What is Form G?

● Operators can file Form G under the Kerala Motor Vehicles Taxation Act to claim road-tax exemption on a bus whose service has been suspended

● The operator must file it at least 30 days prior to non-operation. A fee of Rs 400 must be paid for a three-month application

22 for a period of one year," he said. "Suspending a bus service for even a quarter is a daunting task," said K Gireesh, Kasaragod district president of the Private Bus Operators Federation. "Vehicles have to be safely secured for the duration, which is nearly impossible for most owners who take to petrol stations and other public spac-

es to park their buses at night.

It is not easy to access dedicated parking spaces for long periods of time. "We have to furnish even the minutest of details of where the buses are stationed, so as to convince the motor vehicles department that they were not operated during the Form G period," Gireesh said.

Ansiba files complaint

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Kochi

Amid the controversies brewing in the Association of Malayalam Movie Artists (AMMA), actor Ansiba Hassan on Friday lodged a complaint with the Palariyattom police station, alleging character assassination. The former general secretary of the actors' association, in her Facebook post, wrote that she was defamed for raising questions and has decided to fight.



"They killed my character. From the great actor to my colleagues,

they killed me, and in the end, they even tried to defame me by dragging my stepfather's name into it. Now they are pointing towards my friends too. But those unanswered questions that I asked in my organisation will not be silenced forever," Ansiba wrote on Facebook.

Food safety tribunal cites procedural lapses, quashes ₹1 lakh fine on packaged water unit

M S VIDYANANDAN @TPuram

THE Food Safety Appellate Tribunal has set aside a ₹1 lakh penalty imposed on a Kollam-based packaged drinking water unit. The penalty was imposed by the food safety department after it found that the product did not meet the prescribed standards for calcium, magnesium and dissolved solids.

After hearing the appeal filed jointly by the business operator and manufacturer, the tribunal held that these standards were not formally notified as a regulation at the time of sample collection.

On January 22, 2024, the food safety officer of Chavara circle purchased 16 bottles from them. The Government Analyst Laboratory in Thiruvananthapuram examined the samples and

found that calcium content was only 4 mg/l as against the prescribed 10-75 mg/l, with magnesium at 3.41 mg/l, against the stipulated 5-30 mg/l. Total dissolved solids were found to be just 37 mg/l against the prescribed 75-300 mg/l. The adjudicating officer in Kollam imposed a collective penalty of ₹1 lakh on the two respondents.

The tribunal held that the standard relating to minimum calcium, magnesium and total dissolved solids content was incorporated through a direction issued under Section 16(5) of the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) Act, 2006. It had not formally been notified as a regulation, the body held. Moreover, the direction was issued on March 12, 2024, long past the sample collection. The tribunal also found

other inconsistencies in the proceedings. It held that the food safety officer had failed to provide a sample to the manufacturer for cross-checking, and that no specimen seal impression was included in the documents. The food analyst failed to send the report within the mandatory 14-day period, it also ruled.

The tribunal noted that the petitioner was a small-scale manufacturer registered under the Udyam scheme. He was entitled to the benefit of the Section 50 proviso, which caps the penalty for small-scale businesses at ₹25,000, it said, adding that the ₹1 lakh fine was exorbitant and unsustainable. Tribunal member Jose N Cyril issued the order. The petitioners were represented by Francy John, A Mathew, M S Reghukumar, C P Sudheesh Kumar and Muhammed Ameen.



E AUCTION SALE NOTICE FOR AUCTION OF MOVABLE ASSETS

E-Auction Sale Notice for Auction of Hypothecated Movable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 6(2) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described movable properties hypothecated to the Secured Creditor, the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Indusind Bank Limited, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whichever there is" on 18.07.2026, from 10.00 AM to 4.00 PM. The auction will be conducted online, by way of e-auction through website: <https://www.camdeexchange.com>, <https://www.edig.com>, <https://bidskro.com>, <https://thebidderlive.com>, <https://www.auction.com>, <https://www.auction.com>

DESCRIPTION OF THE VEHICLES AS UNDER

Sr. No.	Loan Account No.	Name of Borrower / Co-Borrower	Vehicle Registration No.	Vehicle Model	Vehicle Make	Reserve Price	EMD Amount	Contact Person of Branch	Mobile No
1	ELT04625G	V VISAKH V / INDIRA M	KL01CJ8851	BAJAJ RE COMPACT LPG 4S	BAJAJ	18600	1860	Suresh Prem	9048105325
2	93000113793	SAJU S S / MOLY M SASI	KL16AB7217	APE AUTO DX CLS BSVI	PIAGGIO	46800	4680	Suresh Prem	9048105325
3	ELT04977G	A ANSARI / M MAJITHABEEVI B	KL01CM7040	BAJAJ RE COMPACT LPG 4S	BAJAJ	21600	2160	Akhil Babu	9048111072

Terms & Conditions of E-auction sale available on website of respective auction portal. For any further detail please contact branch on above given number. Bank reserves right to cancel or postpone the auction. EMD 10% of Reserve Price shall be deposited through Demand Draft in favour of 'Indusind Bank Ltd' before submitting the bids online to the branch mentioned above.
Place: Ernakulam, Date: 27.06.2026
Authorised Officer: Indusind Bank Ltd

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SUNDARAM HOME — Sundaram Finance Group —

Regd Office: No. 21, Patullus Road, Chennai - 600 002.
Corporate Office: Sundaram Towers, No. 46, Whites Road, Chennai - 600 014.
Branch Office: First Floor, Kandathil Building, Kadappakkada Post, Kadappakkada, Kollam-691008 Phone: 0474 - 274 2490.

POSSESSION NOTICE

Issued Under Sec 13(4) read with Appendix IV and Rule 8(1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Whereas the authorized officer of SUNDARAM HOME FINANCE LTD., under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(2) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notices calling upon the Borrower, Co-Borrower and to repay the amount along with further interest, cost and other charges etc, if any till actual date of payment, notices within 60 days from the date of receipt of the notices. The Borrower (S) having failed to repay the amount in full, notice is hereby given to the Borrower (S) and the public in general that the Authorised Officer has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the said Act with Rule 8 of the Sarsafai Act. The borrower(S) attention is invited to provision of subsection (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets. The Borrower(S) in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with Secured property shall be subject to the charge of SUNDARAM HOME FINANCE LTD.

Sl. No.	File Nos.	Borrowers & Co-Borrowers Name and Address	Date of Demand Notice/Publication	Notice Amount	Date of Possession	Total Outstanding
1	KLM20 210077	Mr. Aneesh S (Borrower), Keezhoothu House, Nedumpana Po, Near Nedumpana Post Office, Nedumpana, Kollam - 691576.	10-04-2026	Rs. 4,03,931/-	25-06-2026	Rs. 4,14,015/-
2	KLM20 210068	Mrs. Suseelamma K (Co - Borrower) Keezhoothu House, Nedumpana Po, Kannanallor, Near Nedumpana Post Office, Nedumpana, Kollam - 691576.	10-04-2026	Rs. 14,95,943/-	25-06-2026	Rs. 15,29,040/-

Schedule of Property: All that piece and parcel of the property having an extent of 7.15 Acres/ extend remains after proceeds) along with the building, in Survey No. 446/11 transacted from Survey no. 5150, situated in Nedumpana Village, Kollam Taluk, in Kollam District, along with all the fittings and appurtenant thereto and bounded on the East by: Property of Kavadi Purayidam, North by: Pathway, West by: Property of Alummotil Purayidam and Thodi, and South by: Vayal, within the Registration District of Kollam and Sub Registration District of Kannanallor which is more fully and particularly described in the Title Deed No. 1120/1990 for SUNDARAM HOME FINANCE LTD
Date: 25-06-2026 for SUNDARAM HOME FINANCE LTD
Authorised officer

Office of The Superintending Engineer Public Works Department Circle Didwana
Date: 27/06/2026-27/06/2026
NIB Code - PWD2627A1198
UBN No - 1 PWD2627WSOB05123 2 PWD2627WSOB05124
Notice Inviting Bid No 02/2026-27

2 Bids for Road works are invited from interested bidder up to 05.00 PM on Tuesday 07 July 2026. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (<http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in>, <http://sppp.raj.nic.in>) of the State.
The approximate value of the procurement is Rs. 364.81 Lacs.
Superintending Engineer PWD Circle, Didwana
DIPRC/11045/2026

KERA KERALA CLIMATE RESILIENT AGRI VALUE CHAIN MODERNISATION PROJECT
PIU KAU, AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH STATION, MANNUTHY, THRISSUR - 680651, PHONE: 9037 824 052

TENDER NOTICE

The Kerala Climate Resilient Agri-Value Chain Modernization Project (KERA), a Government of Kerala initiative, invites offline quotations on 22.06.2026 for the below tenders with deadlines.

RFQ Title	Last date for quotation submission
Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Hydrological, Soil Moisture and Water Flow Monitoring Instruments	10.07.2026 at 02.00 PM
Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Soil Sampling and Physical Analysis Equipment	10.07.2026 at 02.30 PM
Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Weighing Lysimeter with AWS Integration	10.07.2026 at 03.00 PM

For queries, email: piukau@kera.kerala.gov.in
For more details visit: <https://kera.kerala.gov.in/notifications>
Sd/-, Technical Specialist (Agronomy), PIU KAU, KERA

UJVN Ltd.
(An Uttarakhand Govt. Enterprise)
H.O. "UJJWAL" Maharani Bldg, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006
Telephone-0135-2763808 Fax: 0135-2763598
CIN No. U40101UR20019SG025866 Website: www.ujvn.com

RO No. 533 Date: 25.06.2026
Corrigendum No.18 (Time Extension)
e-Tender No. 01/DGM (E&M D-II)/UJVNL/2025-26

Due to unavoidable reasons, the dates of e-Tender No. 01/DGM(E&M D-II)/UJVNL/2025-26 invited by office of the Dy. General Manager, E&M Design-II, UJVN Ltd., Ganga Bhawan, Yamuna Colony, Dehradun (Uttarakhand) are hereby extended as follows:
Last date for submission of bid on e-portal : 06.07.2026 up to 17:00 Hrs.
Last date for submission of Original document (Hard copies) : 09.07.2026 up to 17:00 Hrs.
Date & Time of opening of Technical bid on e-portal : 10.07.2026 from 11:00 Hrs.
Other terms & condition shall remain same. Details of subsequent addendum/corrigendum/cancellation etc. may be obtained from e-procurement portal "<http://uktenders.gov.in>".
Dy. General Manager (E&M Design-II)

"AVOID WASTEFUL USE OF ELECTRICITY"

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA (PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT)

No. EE/PWD/BGM/TA/PQT/NOTI/2026-27/2016 Date:25.06.2026
- PRE-QUALIFICATION TENDER NOTIFICATION(KPPP)-

The Executive Engineer, PWD Belagavi Division Belagavi invites item rate tenders from the eligible contractors registered in KPPP in Public Works Department under KW-5 Standard tender document for a work of 01 number under 5054-80-190-01-132 Karnataka Road Development Corporation Limited (KRDC) Capital Expenditure with Pre-qualification tender amount of Rs. 209.01.21 Lakhs and Last date of receipt of pre-qualification Tender is on 29-07-2026 upto 4.00 PM and the Technical Bid Opening Date is on 30-07-2026 after 4.45 PM. For more information contact the office of the undersigned and www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in after 25.06.2026. (If no bids received, 7 days One Time auto extension activated).
Sd/- Executive Engineer, Public Works Department Belagavi Dn. Belagavi.
DIPR/BGM/RO-ND-499/KSMCA/2026-27

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E-Tender Notice

Sl No.	Item	Tender ID	Last date of submitting bid	Bid opening date
1	Renovation of Managing Director room and construction of Conference hall at Head Office	2026_RPL_856504_1	10.07.2026, 5pm	14.07.2026 11am

For more details visit : www.etenders.kerala.gov.in/www.rpkerala.gov.in
Sd/-, MANAGING DIRECTOR REHABILITATION PLANTATIONS LIMITED dtd 18.06.2026
RPL/S/78/2025-26 D3/382/2026/1&PRD

MANAPPURAM FINANCE LTD. Registered Office: W-4/638A, Manappuram House, P.O. Valad, Thrissur - 680 567, Kerala, India

GOLD AUCTION NOTICE

The pledges, in specific and the public, in general, are hereby notified that public auction of the gold ornaments pledged in the below accounts is proposed to be conducted at the following branches on 16/07/2026 from 10.00 am onwards. We are auctioning gold ornaments defaulted customers who have failed to make payment of higher loan amount despite being notified by registered letter. Unauctioned items shall be auctioned on any other days without further notice. Changes in venue or date (if any) will be displayed at auction centre and on website without any further notice.

List of pledges:-
KOLLAM, CHAVARA SOUTH, 0134550700025910, KADAKKAL, 0105690700748803, KADAPPAKKADA, 0105910730012160, KANNANALLUR, 0131210700023212, NILAMEL, 0118900700022862, 2871, 0118900730015922, 5939, 5977, 5978, 5979, POLAYATHODU, 0131660730009226, PUTHUR, 0116500700023336, 0096, PATHANAMTHITTA, KONNI, 0104800700055719, MALLAPALLY, 0103850700055656, PULLAD, 0120500700015749, TRIVANDRUM, ALAMCODE, 0134100700018568, ATTINGAL, 0102050700779973, 9997, BALARAMAPURAM, 0103500700028603, KANIAPURAM, 0107020730012770, KANJIRAMKULAM, 0131210700031588, KATTAKADA, 0106210730010409, 0428, KILIMANOOR, 0106330700008679, MEDICAL COLLEGE TVM, 0104810700044344, OLATHANI, 0121140730012169, PARUTHIPARA, 0126960700017723, 7769, PEROOKKADA, 0107620700037655, PERUMKADAVILA, 010220700018838, PEYAD, 0110410700026931, SREEKARIYAM, 0103390700757319, THIRUMALA THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, 0127760730009385, VARKALA, 0101780700804143, VAZHUTHACAD, 0132280730011095, VENJARAMOODU, 0131030730009304.

Persons wishing to participate in the above auction shall comply with the following - Interested Bidders should submit Rs. 10,000/- as EMD (refundable to unsuccessful bidders) by way of NEFT/RTGS on the same day of auction. Bidders should carry valid ID card/PAN card. For more details please contact 9072607147.
Authorised Officer For Manappuram Finance Ltd