

Shifty shelters! How rented houses facilitate Ernakulam's drug rackets

Here narcotics can be stored, repackaged and distributed before occupants move on

JOSE K JOSEPH @Kochi

THE rented house in Cheranalloor looked like any other in a neighbourhood of tenants. So did the flat in Perumbavoor, where police later recovered nearly ₹18 crore worth of hybrid ganja.

But investigators say such premises are increasingly becoming temporary nodes in Ernakulam's drug networks — places where narcotics can be stored, repackaged and distributed before occupants move on.

“They do not necessarily need a permanent base. Once they feel a location has been compromised, they move elsewhere. That makes tracking their movements more difficult,” a senior police officer involved in narcotics investigations said.

In Cheranalloor, cops raided a rented house and arrested two suspected drug suppliers, recovering 14.63g of MDMA. Investigators then examined their financial transactions and digital trails to identify the wider network.

In Perumbavoor, Ernakulam Rural police seized around 18kg of hybrid ganja, valued at ₹18 crore, from a rented flat. Police first intercepted an accused carrying around 1.5kg before tracing another 16.5kg to the premises. The couple staying there had reportedly moved in just two weeks earlier. The

BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

June - Perumbavoor: Police seize 18kg of hybrid ganja worth Rs 18 crore from a rented flat, where occupants had reportedly moved in two weeks earlier

July - Cheranalloor: Police raid rented house and arrest two suspected suppliers, recovering 14.63g of MDMA

July - Ponjassery, Perumbavoor: Police arrest alleged heroin trafficking kingpin who reportedly used multiple rented houses; hundreds of bottles allegedly used to repack heroin recovered from one

August - Vazhakkulam, Perumbavoor: Police detain key accused in connection with 51kg of ganja seized from rented house, with the probe pointing to an interstate supply network

August - Vennala, Kochi: Dansaf raids rented house during an MDMA investigation and recovers 4.88g of MDMA, a digital weighing scale and packaging sachets allegedly used for drug distribution.

probe subsequently expanded into an alleged international trafficking network.

“It is practically impossible to identify each and every resi-



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A senior police officer

dence used to store drugs,” the officer said.

The Perumbavoor assistant superintendent of police stays in the same building complex, yet the accused allegedly stored a large quantity of narcotics in their flat without immediately coming under suspicion.

Other cases show how rented accommodation can serve different purposes. In a heroin-trafficking case, Rural police arrested an alleged kingpin who investigators said had used several rented houses. A search of one of the homes near Perumbavoor reportedly yielded hundreds of small bottles allegedly used to repack heroin. In another case, a suspected peddler allegedly used a

rented house in Perumbavoor to sell ganja. An excise case involved an alleged MDMA supplier who investigators said travelled to Ernakulam, rented rooms and sold the drug.

Once a suspect is identified, police examine phone records, digital payments, vehicle movements and financial transactions to reconstruct their movements.

The pattern also exposes a limitation in tenant verification. Landlords generally retain copies of identity documents, but cannot reasonably be expected to determine whether every prospective occupant has links to a criminal network.

“A landlord cannot be expected to conduct a criminal investigation into every prospective tenant. But proper tenant verification and timely sharing of information with police can become valuable when a criminal network is detected,” a police officer said.

Ernakulam's urban network that closely connects the conurbation spanning Kochi, Aluva, Kalamassery, Perumbavoor and Angamaly also allows peddlers to shift accommodation without losing access to suppliers, customers or transport links. The cases point to the same blind spot: a drug network does not need a warehouse or permanent base.

Sometimes, an ordinary rented home would do.

White froth in Periyar raises fresh pollution worries; PCB vows action

ANU KURUVILLA @Kochi

WHITE froth that was detected in the Periyar at Pathalam regulator-cum-bridge on Tuesday morning has raised further questions about the level of pollutants in the river's waters. On noticing the foam, local residents notified the Kerala State Pollution Control Board. KSPCB officials arrived at the site and collected samples that have been sent for testing.

A similar occurrence was reported on August 22, said Shibu Manuel, member of the Green Action Force. “However, once the shutters are opened, the evidence related to the pollution vanishes. Today was no different. The PCB officials collected samples. Since the entire stretch has a large number of bone-meal and chicken-waste rendering factories, it is not surprising that effluents could have been dumped into the river,” he said.

“PCB officials have been collecting random samples. We hope the test results will help identify the reason behind the froth and discolouration of the water,” said A D Sujil, former chairperson of Eloor municipality.

Reacting to the frequent appearance of froth and discolouration of Periyar water along the Eloor-Edayar industrial belt, KSPCB chairperson Sreekala S said the board has been monitoring the quality of river water. “We will initiate action against those responsible once the test results of the collected samples emerge. The chemical analysis will help us zero in on the facto-



PCB officials have been collecting random samples. We hope the test results will help identify the reason behind the froth and discolouration of the water

A D Sujil, ex-chairperson of Eloor municipality

ry that might have dumped effluents in the river,” she told *TNIE*.

Questions over ETA of ETP

Even as the Periyar, a drinking water source for millions of residents of Kochi and suburbs, continues to bear the brunt of untreated effluents being illegally dumped in it, procedures associated with the setting up of an effluent treatment plant (ETP) near Kuzhikandam Thodu (a tributary of the river in Eloor) seem to be moving forward. The plant was proposed to deal with waste discharged from industries and Aluva market. Recently, the Kerala High Court expressed dissatisfaction with PCB's timeline for setting up the ETP.

According to Sreekala, things are moving forward. “The process associated with selection of a project management consultant

(PMC) has been completed. Now, the next step involves tender notification. And steps in this regard have also been initiated,” she said. As per the proposed timeline submitted by the PCB, the construction of the ETP would begin by August 2027.

Meanwhile, the PCB has issued notices to around 20 industries operating in the Eloor-Edayar industrial belt for violation of air pollution norms. According to the chairperson, the notices were issued on Tuesday after the PCB found that these industries had been lax in air stack maintenance.

“The people's representatives had complained about foul smell in the area during a recent meeting of stakeholders. After receiving the complaint, an inspection revealed that these industries had indeed not carried out the routine maintenance works on their air stacks. This resulted in the foul smell and the resultant air pollution. Notices have been issued to the units directing them to carry out maintenance work on the air stacks. If the industries fail to carry out the directive, closure notices will be issued,” Sreekala said.

81 buses face heat for tax dues, licence violations

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Kochi

THE motor vehicles department's (MVD) enforcement wing has registered cases against 81 private stage-carriage buses for various violations during a district-wide inspection in Ernakulam on Tuesday. A total of 110 buses were inspected. The department also collected ₹1.21 lakh in fines. The inspections

were conducted at several major locations, including Aluva, Kalamassery, Chittoor, Mamangalam, Kacheripady, Kombara, Kochi, Mattancherry, Fort Kochi and Tripunithura. The violations ranged from non-payment of road tax, driving without valid driving licence, working as conductor without licence and use of unauthorised music systems in buses.

Ayyappankavu bypoll: Cong confident, LDF says mood has changed

GOPIKA VARRIER @Kochi

WITH the state election commission announcing the date for local body by-elections in the state, political parties have begun preparations.

In Kochi corporation, Ayyappankavu (ward 19) is set to go to polls following the resignation of councillor and deputy mayor Deepak Joy, who was elected the Tripunithura MLA.

Ayyappankavu has tradition-

ally sided with UDF, barring once, in 2005, when LDF candidate C M Azeez won after securing 1,751 votes. “Though Ayyappankavu is a Congress stronghold, things are different this time. The by-election was unwanted one as an elected councillor, who became deputy mayor, was made to resign. We believe

there is resentment among people against the Congress' decision and it will become evident in the bypoll,” said CPM leader and former mayor M Anilkumar.

He said the election will also be a referendum on the corporation's performance. LDF will highlight the corporation's alleged lack

of efficiency in waste management and other aspects in the bypoll.

Meanwhile, Congress is said to be confident of retaining the division. “We have been involved in voters' list review and have been helping people get enrolled. Now that bypoll has been announced, we will wait for the announcement of candidate and move ahead accordingly,”

shared a Congress leader. Sources said the decision on the candidate will be taken jointly by the District Congress Committee, in consultation with KPCC. Kochi corporation has 76 divisions of which UDF holds 48, including Ayyappankavu. LDF has 20 divisions while BJP has six.

Two divisions are held by LDF-backed independents.



KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
No.2, 2/1 and 2/3, Kalidasa Marg, 1st Main Road, Gandhinagar, Bengaluru-560009. Phone No. 080-22265383, Website: www.kiadb.in

No. IADB/ENGG/ETND-DPR-03/1424/2026-27 **Date: 01.09.2026**

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER
(Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)

KIADB invites tenders from reputed consultants/firms under two cover bid system having an office at Bengaluru with vast experience and proven record of similar nature of work for project mentioned below:-
Name of the Works: Providing Consultancy Services for Preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the Formation of New Industrial Area Including Economic Analysis, Surveying, Layout Plan Design, Preparation of Cost Estimates, Cost Structure etc., for the Proposed Masthenahalli Industrial Area, Phase-3, Chintamani Taluk & Chikkaballapura District (Extent: 614.98 acres)
The last date and time of receipt of tender is : **17.09.2026 upto 4.00 pm.**
Applicants May Download Bidding Documents from the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>.

Sd/-

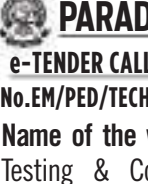
Engineer in Chief, KIADB, Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/2533/SMCL/2026-27



KERAFED
Kerala Road Freight Association
110 Main Trade Centre, Kochi, Kerala
Phone: 0472-220001, 220002
Email: kerafed@kerafed.com, www.kerafed.com

TENDER NOTICE
Kerfed invites e tender for supply of Cartons for packing Coconut oil pouches.
(Tender id: 2026_KFD_866450_1)
Bid submission closing date: 07/09/2026 @12:00 noon.
For more details and e tender submission visit www.etenders.kerala.gov.in
Sd/-
Thiruvananthapuram Managing Director
31.08.2026



PARADIP PORT AUTHORITY

e-TENDER CALL NOTICE No.EM/PEP-24/2026
No.EM/PEP/TECH-10/2025/333 Date:26/08/2026
Name of the work: “Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of 03 nos. of outdoor type active LED video wall at different locations of Paradip Port Authority”. Estimated Cost: Rs.1,71,25,184/- . Last date & time of submission of bid: dt.17/09/2026 up to 18:00 Hrs. Refer our website for details <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app>.
Sd/- Executive Engineer (Elect), PEP-II, Paradip Port Authority
PPA/PR/23/2026-2027 dt. 01.09.2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

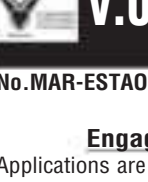
This is to inform its public that I have lost my original title deed bearing sale deed No.2772/1984 of Chavara Sub Registrar Office on 25/08/26 at Ernakulam on the way to my office from High Court to Swapnil Enclave, High Court Junction, Cochin - 682031. If anybody has found the said document you may handover the same to me.
Mobile No.8848883488
Date 01/09/2026



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V.O.CHIDAMBARANAR PORT AUTHORITY
Marine Department, Tuticorin - 628004
No.MAR-ESTA00CE(EBNB)/1/2026-Marine. Date: 02/09/2026

Walk-in-Interview
Engagement of Five (05) Trainee Pilots on a Contractual basis
Applications are invited from eligible Indian Nationals for engagement of Five (05) Trainee Pilots on a contractual basis in V.O.Chidambaranar Port Authority, Tuticorin. Candidates possessing the prescribed qualifications and experience may send their applications by email and attend the walk-in interview every Friday at the Office of the Deputy Conservator, V.O.Chidambaranar Port Authority, Harbour Estate, Tuticorin - 628004, along with their original certificates and one set of self-attested copies of relevant documents.
For more details, visit VOC Port's website at www.vocport.gov.in (Careers).
The vacancy notification will remain on the Port Authority's website, and walk-in interviews will continue until all the notified vacancies are filled.

Sd/-

Deputy Conservator



GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
CMG, SDSC - SHAR SRIHARIKOTA - 524124

Brief E- TENDER NOTICE: CORRIGENDUM-I (SALE EXTENSION)
No: e-Tender Notice No.CMG/C/CON/268718(I) **Dt: 27.08.2026**
Refer to Tender No.CMG/C/CON/268718 dated. 10.08.2026 Name of work: “Proposed BT for approach road and providing MS grill fencing at Visitors complex, SDSC SHAR” (Est. cost Rs. 131 Lakhs)
Sale period extended up to 08.09.2026
Interested tenderer may visit <https://www.isro.gov.in/Tenders.html> or www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO for details.

Sd/-

GROUP HEAD, CMG/SDSC SHAR



UNIVERSITY OF KERALA
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM-34

No.18651/Advt-25/2026/PR **No.Election/SFC(g)/2026**
NOTIFICATION
It is hereby notified under Statute 13 of the Kerala University (Conduct of Elections to various Authorities or Bodies) First Statutes, 1974, that the electoral rolls of the members of the Syndicate and Academic Council for election of one member each from the said bodies to the Finance Committee (Under Section 31 (2) (d) and (e) of the Kerala University Act, 1974), will be published in the University Office, Thiruvananthapuram on 03.10.2026.

For details please visit **Election Notification** in www.keralauiversity.ac.in

By Order of the Vice-Chancellor, Sd/-

Resmi R
Registrar/c/ Returning Officer



Government of India Department of Space
ISRO Propulsion Complex (IPRC)
Mahendragiri P.O., Tirunelveli District, Tamil Nadu- 627 133, India
CORRIGENDUM

01.09.2026
In continuation to the e-NIT notifications published, the sale period for the below-mentioned works is extended up to 07-09-2026.
1. Work contract for Maintenance of Standard AC Units, RO Coolers, RO Plants, Walk in coolers & Refrigerators available at IPRC, Mahendragiri. (No.: IPRC/CMG/TD/e-40/MA/AC-01/2026-27, Dated: 13-08-2026) (Estimated cost: ₹ 62.50 Lakhs)
2. Non-Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract for Operation and Maintenance of AC plants at IPRC, Mahendragiri (No.: IPRC/CMG/TD/e-41/MA/AC-02/2026-27, Dated: 13-08-2026) (Estimated cost: ₹ 79.81 Lakhs)
For eligibility criteria and other details, interested tenderers may please refer to the detailed bilingual (Hindi-English) Notice Inviting Tenders (NIT) on the website <https://www.isro.gov.in/Tenders.html> and tender free view at <https://www.tenderwizard.com/isro>

Sd/-

Group Head, CMG

Advertisement No. 89/2026
Government of India
Public Enterprises Selection Board invites online applications for the post of
Director (Personnel & Industrial Relations)
In
Coal India Limited (CIL)
Last date of submission of online application by the applicant is by 15:00 hours on
21st September, 2026
Last date of forwarding of application by the Nodal officers on online system of PESB is by 17:00 hours
30th September, 2026
For details login to website <https://www.pesb.gov.in>
Link for registration of nodal officers/competent authorities is available on PESB website.



GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA,
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER,
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, SUNABEDA
email- serwsbd2003@yahoo.com

Letter No.4867 **1st corrigendum** **Date:29.08.2026**
25001/1055/2627: In continuation to this office Bid Identification No. CCRWCSD-Online-32/2026-27 invited vide this office Notice No.4357, Dtd.13.08.2026, partial modification of NCB has been made as follows:-
1. Availability of Tender online for bidding Extended up to Dtd.22.09.2026 at 5.00 PM.
2. Last Date and Time of seeking tender clarification Dtd.21.09.2026 up to 2.00 PM.
3. Date & Time of opening of tender (Technical Bid) on Dtd.23.09.2026 at 11.00 AM.
4. Date & Time of opening of tender (Price Bid) Will be intimated later.
All other terms and conditions will remain unaltered.

Sd/-

Chief Construction Engineer,
Rural Works Circle, Sunabeda.

OIPR- 25001/25182/1/26-27/0068



OFFICE OF THE ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF (CIVIL), ODISHA
NIRMAN SOUDHA, UNIT-V, BHUBANESWAR
E-mail ID: cebuildings_orissa@yahoo.co.in,
cebuildings@rediffmail.com, Tel.-(0674) - 2391523
INVITATIONS FOR BIDS (IFB)
File No-B-II-(OLL&C)-19/2026 **31755 / Bhubaneswar, the 29th August, 2026**
34001/728/2627
Invitation for Bids
1st Corrigendum
Tender Reference No. CE-Bldg-I-30/2026-27
Name of the Work – Planning, Design, Construction, Restoration and external development of Biplabi Dharanidhara Sangrahalaya at Kusumita Village in Keonjhar District.
The following changes have been made in Bid Identification No. CE-Bldg-I-30/2026-27
1. Bid documents such as DTCN / BOQ etc. can be seen / downloaded from the Govt. Website i.e. www.tendersorissa.gov.in, during the period from **dt.07.09.2026 to 17.00 hours of dt.22.09.2026** instead of dt.28.08.2026 to dt.11.09.2026 for ONLINE BIDDING respectively.
2. Online bids shall be received till **17.00 Hours of dt.22.09.2026** instead of dt.11.09.2026.
3. The technical bids will be opened at **11.30 A.M. of dt.23.09.2026** instead of dt.17.09.2026.
All other terms and conditions remain unchanged.

Sd/-

Engineer-in-Chief (Civil), (I/c) Chief Engineer,
OIPR- 34001/34117/1/26-27/0065
Buildings-I, Odisha, Bhubaneswar

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