

Draft transport policy calls for sweeping reforms

MVD's 40-page report recommends wider use of technology, flexible payment options and transport company in cooperative sector

AISHWARYA PRABHAKARAN @Kochi

THE draft of the transport policy for Kerala prepared by the motor vehicles department (MVD) has proposed wider use of technology, including an integrated and intelligent transport system and making GPS facility a norm, to help commuters locate and plan their short and long trips.

The nearly 40-page report, which was made public on Tuesday, proposes to establish a transport company in the co-operative sector. The draft policy also proposes the implementation of cashless travel, variable pay, season tickets and multi-journey facility in the public transport sector soon.

Another interesting suggestion is related to Sabarimala pilgrimage. It said global attention can be attracted by choosing a minimum-emission bus corridor between Pampa and Nilakkal.

"Such bus operations may be extended to other parts of the state as a part of the public transport system moving towards a sustainable and green environment. More electric vehicles should be procured," it said.

"An integrated and intelligent transport system is the need of the hour. An effective R&D wing needs to be set up in the transport department and innovative steps taken to enhance the public transport sector," said the report.

By ensuring the availability of GPS in the public transport system, efficiency and safety can be ensured to a greater extent. Providing its access to commuters will help them locate and plan their short and long trips accordingly, it said.



While there should be at least one bus per 1,000 people, the state has only 0.4 bus, according to the MVD data | FILE PICTURE



KEY PROPOSALS

- Set up integrated & intelligent transport system
Make GPS facility available in public transport system
Establish transport company in the co-op sector
Implement cashless travel, variable pay, season tickets, multi-journey facility
Procure EVs for Sabarimala pilgrimage route
R&D wing to optimise first- and last-mile connectivity

The 'Draft Transport Policy for Kerala' also said that there is a need to make use of all resources like ports, waterways etc and connect all existing mass transport systems like trains, flights and ships via road transport.

Public transportation services must be operated and monitored by an integrated system, under a land transport authority or road transport authority. It also mentioned that public transportation linking tourism is under-utilised in the state.

Regarding transport companies in the cooperative sector, it said all private stage carriage operators should be made shareholders in the company

based on the value assessment. The old Act can be amended and Kerala Motor Transport Workers Welfare Fund Board reconstituted as a nodal agency. This fund can be used for huge repair costs.

Kerala operates public transportation system, mainly through KSRTC and private bus operators. To meet the fundamental travelling needs of Kerala, there should be at least one bus per 1,000 people. However, the MVD data shows that only 0.4 to 0.45 bus is available per 1,000 commuters in Kerala. "An additional 18,000 buses must be added to the system to meet the demand," the report said.

Court bid to find audio's authenticity fails

TOBY ANTONY @Kochi

THE Additional Special Sessions Court's attempt to find the authenticity of the audio clips of Dileep and his aide secretly recorded by director Balachandrakumar failed after the prosecution submitted that the filmmaker had amplified the volume of the clips leading to a change in the file creation date.

The prosecution informed the court about this while considering the petition to cancel Dileep's bail in the 2017 actor abduction and assault case on Tuesday.

The hearing started with Dileep's lawyer B Raman Pillai argued that Balachandrakumar's statements should not be relied on as there are contradictions in two statements given under Section 161 of CrPC and to the police in January this year. In the first statement given on January 3, Balachandrakumar claimed that an audio clip of 24-minute duration was recorded using a Samsung Tab. In the statement given on January 5, the director claimed that the Samsung Tab didn't exist. Raman Pillai also asked how Dileep and his aides could watch the sexual assault visuals in the living room of his house when his mother, wife and sister were at home.

On this, the court asked whether the prosecution could

find the file creation date of the audio clips submitted in a pen drive by Balachandrakumar. Public prosecutor K B Sunil Kumar said before handing over the audio clips in the pen drive to the police, Balachandrakumar had enhanced the volume of these clips following which the file creation date was changed. Currently, the file creation date is January 2, 2022, the last accessed date January 3, 2022, and the last written date December 5, 2021.

During the hearing, the court asked the prosecution why cyber expert Sai Sankar is not made an accused in the actor abduction case. According to the court, when Dileep's friend Sarath was made an accused for allegedly causing destruction of evidence, the same actions were done by Sai as well. The prosecution replied that turning Sai into an accused would be considered.

Advocate Philip T Varghese who also represents Dileep argued that the incomplete FSL reports should not be relied on to arrive at a conclusion. According to him, the mobile phones of Dileep, Aanoop and Suraj were surrendered before the court on January 31, 2022, and they were sent for forensic examination. However, in one of the reports, it is seen that the files were deleted from a phone at 8.22pm on February 7, 2022.

Police move court seeking custody of mobile phones of Dileep's kin

Kochi: The police team probing the 2017 actor abduction case on Tuesday filed a petition in the Ernakulam Additional Special Sessions Court requesting to direct Dileep's brother Aanoop and brother-in-law Suraj to hand over their mobile phones for forensic examination. According to the police, a notice in this regard was served on Aanoop and Suraj, but they refused to hand it over as part of the investigation. Police stated that these two phones were sent to a private forensic lab in Mumbai by Dileep. Though police could retrieve mirror images of the content in these mobile phones from the private forensic laboratory, the physical retraction of content is important as part of further investigation. Dileep also has filed a petition seeking his passport as he would be travelling abroad in the coming days. Dileep's passport is in court's custody.

NEXT HEARING ON JUNE 18 Dileep's lawyer has requested to have one more session of hearing before giving the verdict on the plea to cancel the actor's bail. The hearing will be on June 18.

Memory card case: Judge recuses himself from hearing govt's appeal

Kochi: Justice Kausar Edappagath on Tuesday recused himself from hearing the appeal filed by the state government in the Kerala High Court against the order of the Additional Special Sessions Court, Ernakulam, rejecting the plea of the actor to send the memory card in which the alleged rape of the actor was recorded, for forensic analysis. The appeal stated that the refusal amounts to interference in the probe which is in the sole realm of the investigating agency. The demand for conducting a forensic examination is part of the investigation, and the trial court's decision is illegal. The card may have been accessed without authorisation many times and denying the plea for a forensic examination amounts to interfering with the investigation. According to the CB, though the Forensic Science Lab report specifically shows that the memory card was illegally accessed on December 13, 2018, the court did not mention the date of last access in the proceedings and failed to take note of the relevancy of such illegal access.

GST regime: Traders of Kerala join national federation

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @TPuram

ABOUT 35 trade organisations officially joined the newly formed Kerala chapter of the Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) at its inauguration on Tuesday. The central government has an increased command over the retail sector, especially under the GST regime and also in the context of legislation like the Food Safety Act. So far, traders in the state did not have a national platform to raise their issues. This alliance will help us to present our issues before the central government," said S S Manoj, who has been elected secretary-general of the chapter.

SOS urges Pope to reconsider decision to reinstate Franco

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Kochi

THE Save Our Sisters (SOS) forum has come out strongly against the Pope's decision to reinstate Bishop Franco Mulakkal as Jalandhar Diocese's bishop. The forum termed the Pope's move, based on the trial court's judgment acquitting Bishop Franco in the nun rape case, as challenging the Ten Commandments and all Canonical Laws.

According to Felix J Pulludan, chairman, SOS, as per the information that the forum has gleaned from media reports, the Church seems to have accepted Franco and forgave all his sins based on the Kottayam Sessions Court's verdict acquitting him in



the nun rape case. "The haste with which the Church is going ahead with Bishop Franco's reinstatement even though the Sessions Court's verdict can be termed as a preliminary one and also its action of not considering the appeal filed in the High Court smells of conspiracy," he said.

"We believe that the Pope might have arrived at such a decision due to interventions made by pro-Franco Indian delegate at the Vatican — Felix J Pulludan, chairman, SOS

at such a decision due to interventions made by the pro-Franco Indian delegate at the Vatican and also other bishops," said Felix.

Also, it has been the opinion of legal experts that the judgment was a bad one and will have a very short life since it will be reversed when the appeal is taken up for hearing, he added.

Hence, we request the Pope to reconsider his decision to reinstate Bishop Franco, said Felix. "The decision should be deferred until the appeal against the Sessions Court verdict is heard by the High Court," he added.

We believe that the Pope might have arrived at such a decision due to interventions made by pro-Franco Indian delegate at the Vatican — Felix J Pulludan, chairman, SOS

ICICI Home Finance advertisement containing details of an E-Auction Sale Notice for Secured Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.

CLASSIFIEDS

ADMISSION: BSc / MEd / MBA study while you work. Acquire regular basis Degree. 9946349575
TUITION: HOME TUITION for English / Spoken English / Grammar - 9746349575 - Kochi (Online/Offline)
PUBLIC NOTICE: CHANGE OF NAME (DAUGHTERS): I, Ex No. 14422413N, HAV, SAJEEVAN CHOTON PUTHIYOTH residing at 'Nandanam', Sivapuram Motta, P.O. Sivapuram, Thalassery, Kannur, Kerala-670702, do hereby change my daughters name from NANDHANA K K to NANDANA K K and DHRSHANA K K to DARSANA K K as per affidavit dated 26.09.2021 before Advocate Notary, Roopesh M P, Kannur. The correct dates of birth of my daughters are 22.02.2005 and 13.12.2009 respectively. (Sd/-) SAJEEVAN CHOTON PUTHIYOTH

CHANGE OF NAME: I, Adithya Balan, D/o. Balan C.K (Service No. 13964940 H, Ex. Hav.), residing at Vadakkedath Meethal House, Ulliyeri Post, Kozhikode Dist, Kerala - 673620, hereby notify that in my father's Army service records my name is mistakenly entered as Althithya C.K. My correct name is ADITHYA BALAN as per my Aadhaar Card, Marriage Certificate and wide affidavit dated 13.06.2022. (Sd/-) SATHI KARONNAN

CHANGE OF NAME & DATE OF BIRTH: I, SATHI MOHAN, Daughter of M KUNHAMBU NAMBIAR is legally wedded spouse of EX No. 161392A, PO (QA1), P.V MOHANAN presently residing at 'Sagariga', P.O. Muiyann, Karimbam Via, Kannur, Kerala-670142, have changed my name from SATHI MOHAN to SATHI KARONNAN and my correct date of birth is 20.05.1973 as per Affidavit dated 13.06.2022 before Advocate Notary, Vijayan P.P, Kannur. (Sd/-) SATHI KARONNAN

Canara Bank advertisement for E-Auction Sale Notice for Secured Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.

Canara Bank advertisement for DEMAND NOTICE (Section 13(2)) regarding the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.

KERALA STARTUP MISSION advertisement for Asst Manager - Acceleration 1 Project Associate - Startup Debt Fund 1 Jr. Software Engineer-IT 1 Fablab Coordinator (CNC Operator) 1 Project Assistant-IT 1 Sr. Fellowship-Health Tech 1

SMART CITY THIRUVANANTHAPURAM LIMITED advertisement for APPLICATIONS INVITED for Smart City Thiruvananthapuram Limited.

ICAR-CENTRAL PLANTATION CROPS RESEARCH INSTITUTE advertisement for WALK-IN-INTERVIEW for selection for the assignment of Project Fellow (With Written test and Interview) and Field Assistant (With Practical test and Interview) purely on contractual basis under the Project 'Identification of Drought Tolerant Coconut Palms in Tamil Nadu and Utilization for Developing Adaptive Gene Pool (CDB-Funded Research Project)'. The walk-in interview will be held at CPCRI, Kudlu PO, Kasaragod, Kerala-671124 as detailed below:

PERINTHALMANNA BRANCH advertisement for SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY 'APPENDIX IV-A [See proviso to Rule 6(2) & 8(6)]' E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 6(2) & 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.