

ILLUSTRATION: BINAY SINHA

Corner-room calculations

HDFC Bank’s succession planning route offers tips for major lenders and non-banks

RAGHU MOHAN
New Delhi, 13 October

The move by HDFC Bank to add one more whole-time director (WTD) to its board, taking its strength to five, may light up a route for domestic systemically important banks, or D-SIBs, and upper-layer shadow lenders to create a leadership pipeline, experts said.

In a bourse filing on September 12, HDFC Bank explained its rationale for the step — “in order to have sharper synergy and oversight, including on the bank’s subsidiaries, as well as to have a larger pipeline for succession planning”. This builds on the Reserve Bank of India’s (RBI’s) 2023 stipulation that private banks must have at least two WTDs, including the managing director (MD) and chief executive officer (CEO), on their boards.

“The idea of creating a pool of WTDs for regulated entities (REs) will give executives exposure to the challenges and opportunities around strategy, governance, regulatory, legal, audit, and compliance at the board level,” said Rajesh Narain Gupta, founder and chairman, SNG & Partners, a law firm. “This will give a 360-degree perspective on running the organisation and add significant value to the business leader and CEO in making.”

The big moves
Of late, succession planning in banks has hit the headlines with corner-office occupants moving on all of a sudden.

In the case of HDFC Bank, a D-SIB, wholesale changes at the top of its batting order came about after its MD & CEO Sas-hidhar Jagdishan announced in August that he was quitting. Kaizad Barucha, the deputy MD spoken of as a successor, was handicapped by the RBI’s 15-year cap (as a WTD, or 70 years, whichever is earlier; this also applies to MDs & CEOs of private banks). He was appointed to the board as

WTD in 2013.

V S Rangan’s term as executive director (ED) was to end in November 2026 even as a successor to Bhavesh Zaveri, who retired as ED earlier in April this year, remained undecided. Nomination and remuneration committee members Sandeep Parekh and D Ranganathan, too, were near their term-limits (January 2027). Since then, of course, Anup Bagchi has been appointed boss at HDFC Bank; Rangan is now a WTD along with Jimmy Tata.

Earlier, there were sudden exits of Sumant Kathpalia at IndusInd Bank and Srikrishnan Hari Hara Sarma at Karnataka Bank. At Kotak Mahindra Bank, here was a change of guard after its MD and CEO, Ashok Vaswani, decided not to seek reappointment on the completion of his term on December 31, 2026. Vaswani assumed office on January 1, 2024, for a three-year term approved by the RBI in October 2023. Anup Kumar Saha has received RBI’s approval to take over as MD & CEO for a three-year term starting January 1, 2027. The WTD route is now being looked at afresh to create leadership strength.

Strategic dividend

“Operating as a D-SIB and given its vast post-merger balance sheet, HDFC Bank may want to revisit its executive architecture,” said Nitin Potdar, a senior corporate lawyer and founder of Chambers of Nitin Potdar. “Given the RBI’s stringent mandate for microscopic governance, elevating multi-vertical risk, IT, and compliance functions, adding a fifth WTD seems fully justified.”

Crucially, this expansion yields a vital strategic dividend: “It structurally broadens the bank’s internal bench of board-level talent, ensuring a robust, cross-functional pool of future MD & CEOs who can navigate strict regulatory tenure caps.”



“HDFC Bank’s move highlights a critical regulatory objective. When the RBI prescribed the WTD guidelines for private banks in 2023, it intended to build a deeper institutional bench, not just solve for one-off succession,” observed Ravi Duvvuru, a member of the RBI’s advisory group on regulation and founder and designated director, Duvvuru & Reddy LLP. “Broad adoption of WTDs creates a mature executive market where leaders are thoroughly tested in risk, compliance, and governance before taking the helm.”

How many WTDs are enough? “While HDFC Bank may merit having five WTDs due to its size and scale, it may not be the case with every other bank,” said R Gurumurthy, who serves on the boards of Axis Capital and Religare and is former head-governance at RBL Bank.

It’s worth noting that the RBI also requires at least half the attendees in a board meeting to be independent directors (IDs).

How do you get top-class IDs onboard? The remuneration paid to them is not commensurate with the time spent on the board, although the RBI has hiked the fixed remuneration ceiling to ₹30 lakh annually, with sitting fees on top. One route, suggested Divyanshu Pandey, founder at C B Pandey & Associates, “Is to go back to the core and groom a second level of management of those who did not qualify to rise to senior positions in a bank, but have great knowledge to be

Good for business

A larger pool of whole-time directors can:

- Give sharper synergy and oversight, including on subsidiaries
- Create a deeper pipeline for succession planning
- Give exposure to business executives to board-level challenges and opportunities
- Build a robust, cross-functional pool of future MDs & CEOs who can navigate strict regulatory tenure caps

appointed as an ID.”

Industry-wide talent pool

There is one more facet to what HDFC Bank has done. The new WTD will be in charge of the bank’s subsidiaries. This mirrors the position at the State Bank of India (SBI), which has a dedicated MD to look after its subsidiaries. It also tells you where we are now: The larger banks are financial conglomerates (SBI being the first to answer to such a profile) with business lines cutting across mutual funds (MFs), insurance, and investment banking (i-banking). Seen in this context, WTDs in private

banks become an industry-wide talent pool, mirroring the state-run undertakings model where a WTD from one institution can seamlessly transition to lead another.

That leads us to another aspect: The RBI’s four-tier scale-based regulatory (SBR) approach, which was introduced to cut out arbitrage between banks and non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) as it was seen as being detrimental to orderly growth and systemic stability.

The layers are: Base (NBFCs with assets of ₹1,000 crore and below); middle (assets of ₹1,000 crore and above); upper (to be specifically identified); and top (to be left empty, unless the banking regulator feels an NBFC poses potential systemic risk).

The idea behind this architecture is that it enhances transparency and governance while not burdening them with higher-level regulations.

Now, the upper-layer NBFCs are financial conglomerates too and, like the bigger banks, have interests in MF, insurance, and i-banking. In March this year, the agenda of a Department of Financial Services meeting on NBFCs, chaired by then finance secretary, M Nagaraju, included the following: “governance reforms to include better leadership rotation” and “clarity on NBFCs as potential banks”.

Is there a case for upper-layer NBFCs to have more WTDs?

“As a good practice, it will be desirable for upper-layer NBFCs to have multiple WTDs. It will give them exposure and

increase the bench strength for future elevation. In case making multiple WTDs is not possible they could be made permanent invitees to the board,” said Vimal Bhandari, chairman of HDEF Mutual Fund Trustee Company and an ID on the board of Escorts Kubota’s, having served RBL Bank in a similar capacity.

“This will give them a perspective on how a board works and sensitise them to leadership expectations; as and when possible, they could be appointed WTDs”. And “at a time when the leadership pool across regulated entities needs to be widened, such an approach can create bench strength who can move across REs.”

Simply put, you can create a talent pool at the firm- and systemic level.

Other banks

That said, Gurumurthy pointed to the fact that “given that external CEOs are probably chosen more often now, it may be better to consider this bench as a potential pipeline for CEOs of other banks too”.

“While it may not necessarily form the pool for choosing an MD & CEO, it will most certainly be the one if anyone is needed to occupy that chair on an emergency basis. It’s a good training ground for a future CEO role though, certainly,” said Gurumurthy.

Disclosure: Entities controlled by the Kotak family have a significant shareholding in *Business Standard*

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E-mail – gangessecurities@birlasugar.org; Website-www.birla-sugar.com

POSTAL BALLOT NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the Members of Ganges Securities Limited ("Company"), pursuant to Section 108 and 110 and other applicable provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 ("Act") and Rules made thereunder ("Rules"), Securities and Exchange Board of India (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 ("Listing Regulations"), Secretarial Standard on General Meetings issued by the Institute of Company Secretaries of India ("SS-2") read with the guidelines prescribed by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs ("MCA") for holding general meetings/ conducting postal ballot process through e-voting vide various general circulars issued by MCA ("Circulars"), including any statutory modification(s) or amendment(s) or re-enactment(s) thereof for the time being in force and), approval of the members of the Company' is being sought for the following Resolution by way of Postal Ballot through remote e-voting process ("remote e-voting") only.

S. No.	Description of Resolution	Type of Resolution
1.	Approval of Material Related Party Transaction(s) of the Company.	Ordinary

In accordance with the aforesaid Circulars, the Company has sent the Postal Ballot Notice along with the Explanatory Statement thereof on Tuesday, October 13, 2026, in electronic form only to those Members whose email addresses are registered with the Company/RTA/Depository Participants (DP) and whose names appeared in the Register of Members/List of Beneficial Owners as received from MUFG Intime India Private Limited (formerly known as Link Intime India Private Limited) the Company's Registrar and Transfer Agent ("RTA") / Depositories as on Friday, October 09, 2026 ("Cut-Off date").

The Company has engaged the services of National Securities Depository Limited ("NSDL") to provide remote e-voting facility to its members and the communication of assent or dissent of the Members would only take place through the remote e-voting system.

The Postal Ballot Notice is also available on the website of the Company at www.birla-sugar.com, the website BSE Limited at www.bseindia.com and National Stock Exchange of India Limited at www.nseindia.com on which the Equity Shares of the Company are listed and on the website of NSDL at www.evotingnsdl.com.

Remote E-Voting Schedule:

Commencement of e-voting: Wednesday, October 14, 2026 at 09:00 A.M. (IST)	End of e-voting: Friday, November 13, 2026 at 05:00 P.M. (IST)
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The remote e-voting module shall be disabled by NSDL thereafter and Members will not be allowed to vote electronically beyond the said date and time. Voting rights of the Members shall be in proportion to the shares held by them in the paid-up equity share capital of the Company as on Cut-off date. Once vote on the Resolution is cast, the Member will not be able to change it subsequently. Only those Members whose names are recorded in the Register of Members of the Company or in the List of Beneficial Owners as on the Cut-off date will be entitled to cast their votes by remote e-voting. Members who hold the shares in physical mode and have not registered/updated their e-mail address with the Company, can register/update the same by sending email to kolkata@in.mfpm.mufg.com giving details of folio number, e-mail address and self-attested copy of PAN Card, AADHAAR Card. Members holding shares in dematerialised mode and have not registered / updated their e-mail address, can register / update their e-mail address with the Depository Participant(s) where they maintain their demat accounts.

The Board of Directors of the Company has appointed Mr. Mohan Ram Goenka (Membership No. FCS 4515 & COP 2551), Practicing Company Secretary, as Scrutinizer to conduct the Postal Ballot and e-voting process in a fair and transparent manner.

The resolution, if approved, shall be deemed to have been passed on the last date of e-voting, i.e. Friday, November 13, 2026. The results of e-voting will be announced within two working days from the conclusion of remote e-voting period and will be displayed on the Company's website www.birla-sugar.com and communicated to the Stock Exchanges and Depositories.

In case of any queries, you may refer the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for Shareholders and e-voting user manual for Shareholders available at the download section of www.evoting.nsdl.com or call on : 022 – 4886 7000 or send a request to Ms. Pallavi Mhatre, AVP – NSDL at evoting@nsdl.com or contact at NSDL, 3rd - 7th Floor, Naman Chambers, Plot C32, G - Block, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (E), Mumbai - 400 051, India.

By Order of the Board
For Ganges Securities Limited
Vijaya Agarwala
Company Secretary
ACS - 38658

Place : Kolkata
Date : October 13, 2026

SALE OF ASSETS
(Sale by way of E Auction)
M/s. PEEJAY AGRO FOODS PVT LTD (Under Liquidation)
Reg.Off. New Building, Ayyappankavu Road, Karayur, Kottapadi Post, Thrissur, Kerala-680 505.
Sale of Assets comprising of L&B (Unit 1- Land -18.7 Cents, Building 6540.25 Sq ft at Karayur, Kottapadi Post, Guruvayur - Asset ID: 3977 & Unit 3- Land - 119.01 Cents, Building - 46565.97 Sq Ft at Kuranjiyur, Chavakkad Post, Guruvayur - Asset ID:3978 & P&M (Unit 2-Asset ID: 3980) by way of E Auction on 13.11.2026

For more details kindly visit Baanknet.com
<https://ibbi.baanknet.com/eauction-ibbi/home> after 2 days of publication of this Advertisement
— Or Contact :
R. RAGHAVENDRAN, B.Com, FCA., CISA.,
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FACT
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E-tenders for Outsourcing of Canteen Services at FACT UC & CD
FACT invites online bids (two-part) from experienced and financially sound parties for the following contracts through <http://eprocure.gov.in> portal
1. Tender ID: 2026.FACT.928381.1 :- Tender for Outsourcing of Canteen services at FACT Udyogamandal Complex (UC) for a period of two years.
2. Tender ID: 2026.FACT.928415.1 :- Tender for Outsourcing of Canteen services at FACT Cochin Division (CD) for a period of two years.
A Pre bid meeting will be held at 2:00 PM on 17.10.2026 at FACT Corporate Materials Department, Udyogamandal. Due date/time for submission of bids is 27.10.2026 / 03:00 P.M.
Any change / Extensions to this tender will be informed only through our website / CPP e-procurement portal and will not be published in newspapers.
sd/-
Asst. General Manager (Materials)-T&S

HDFC ERGO General Insurance Company Limited
CIN: U66030MH2007PLC177117
IRDAI Registration No.: 146
Date of Registration with the IRDAI: July 09, 2010

HDFC ERGO

Financial Results						(₹ in Lakhs)	
Sr No.	Particulars	Three months ended		Six months ended		Year ended	
		Mar 30, 2026	Sep 30, 2025	Sep 30, 2026	Sep 30, 2025		Mar 31, 2026
		Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited		Audited
1	Total Income from Operations (Note 1)	525,743	400,609	955,747	765,475	1,576,876	
2	Net Profit / (loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and / or Extraordinary Item)	21,759	24,327	51,006	51,911	107,962	
3	Net Profit / (loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional and / or Extraordinary Item)	21,759	24,327	51,006	51,911	107,962	
4	Net Profit / (loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and / or Extraordinary Item)	16,460	18,289	38,459	39,025	81,312	
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period (Comprising Profit / (loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax) (Note 2)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	
6	Paid up Equity Share Capital	72,712	72,583	72,712	72,583	72,583	
7	Reserves (exclude Revaluation Reserves) (Note 3)	327,099	268,313	327,099	268,313	288,640	
8	Securities Premium Account	217,343	210,833	217,343	210,833	210,833	
9	Net Worth	590,874	525,264	590,874	525,264	545,975	
10	Paid up Outstanding Debt	140,000	140,000	140,000	140,000	140,000	
11	Outstanding Redeemable Preference Shares	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	
12	Debt Equity Ratio (No. of times)	0.24	0.27	0.24	0.27	0.26	
13	Earnings Per share (of ₹10/- each) (for continuing and discontinued operations)						
	1. Basic:	2.26	2.52	5.29	5.38	11.20	
	2. Diluted:	2.26	2.51	5.28	5.37	11.18	
14	Capital Redemption Reserves	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	
15	Debtenture Redemption Reserves	3,750	3,565	3,750	3,565	3,750	
16	Debt Service Coverage Ratio (No. of times)	8.85	19.73	10.25	10.41	10.82	
17	Interest Service Coverage Ratio (No. of times)	8.85	19.73	10.25	10.41	10.82	

Notes:

1. Total Income from operations represents Gross Written Premium (GWP).
2. Ind AS is applicable to insurance companies in India with effect from April 1, 2026. Pursuant to the regulatory forbearance granted to the Company for a period of one year, Ind AS will be effective from April 1, 2027.
3. Includes Reserve on Amalgamation created on the merger of erstwhile HDFC ERGO Health Insurance Limited (formerly Apollo Munich Health Insurance Company Limited) with the Company.
4. The above is an extract of the detailed format of quarterly and year to date Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchange under Regulation 52 of SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosures Requirement) Regulations, 2015. The full format of quarterly and year to date Financial Results are available on the website of Stock Exchange (www.bseindia.com) and the Company (www.hdfcergo.com).
5. For the other line items referred in Regulation 52(4) of SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosures Requirement) Regulations, 2015, pertinent disclosures have been made to Stock Exchange (BSE) and can be accessed on www.bseindia.com.

For and on the behalf of Board of Directors
Sd/-
Parthaniil Ghosh
Managing Director & CEO
DIN: 11083324

Place: Mumbai
Date: October 13, 2026

Registered & Corporate Office: 6th Floor, Leela Business Park, Andheri-Kurla Road, Andheri (East), Mumbai - 400 059.

COCHIN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT LIMITED
CIAL/ COMM/ SHW/ 78
14/10/2026
TENDER NOTICE
Online item rates e-tenders are invited from reputed agencies for the work mentioned below at Cochin International Airport.

Name of Work	Estimate Amount	EMD	Completion period
Annual Maintenance Contract for Computers & Peripherals at CIAL	Rs. 2 Crores + GST	Rs. 10 Lakh	3 Months

Interested firms may register themselves on the online E-Tendering portal <https://etenders.kerala.gov.in> and then download the Tender documents. For eligibility criteria and other details, visit our website www.cial.aero

MANAGING DIRECTOR

DIAGEO
India

UNITED SPIRITS LIMITED
Corporate Identity Number: L01551KA1999PLC024991
Registered Office: "UB Tower", No. 24, Vittal Mallya Road, Bengaluru-560 001, Karnataka, India.
Tel: 080-22210705; Fax: 080-22245253;
Website: www.diageoindia.com e-mail: investor.india@diageo.com

NOTICE

SEBI's SPECIAL WINDOW FOR TRANSFER AND DEMATERIALIZATION (DEMAT) OF PHYSICAL SHARES

Kindly note that a special window for transfer and dematerialization (demat) of physical shares will remain open upto 4th February 2027 as per SEBI Circular no. HO/38/13/11(2)2026-MIRSD-POD/I/3750/2026 dated 30th January 2026 ("SEBI Circular")

This facility is available to those investors who had purchased physical shares of United Spirits Limited (the "Company") prior to 1st April 2019, and

a) had not lodged the shares for transfer, or

b) had lodged the shares for transfer, but the same was rejected, returned, not processed due to deficiencies in documentation.

Applicability of Special Window:

For clarity regarding applicability of this window for transfer deeds executed prior to 1st April 2019, investors may refer to the below matrix:

Lodged for transfer before 1 st April 2019	Availability of original security certificate with the Investor	Eligibility under the special window
No (Fresh lodgement)	Yes	Yes, subject to conditions stated under SEBI Circular.
Yes (Rejected, returned earlier)	Yes	
Yes	No	No
No	No	No

Kindly note that the request(s) which are accompanied with original share certificate(s) along with transfer deed(s) and other supporting documents will only be considered under the special window.

Investors wishing to avail this special window may contact the Company's Registrar and Share Transfer Agent (RTA), as below

Integrated Registry Management Services Private Limited
Unit: United Spirits Limited
30, Ramana Residency, 4th Cross, Sampige Road Malleswaram, Bengaluru – 560 003, Karnataka, India.
Tel: +91 80 2346 0815 to 818
Email: blgsta@integratedindia.in

Investors may address your queries to the above-mentioned email ID.

For further details, investors may refer to the SEBI Circular by scanning the Quick Response (QR) code above.

For United Spirits Limited

Sd/-
Pragya Kaul
Company Secretary and Compliance Officer

Place : Bengaluru
Date : 14th October 2026



Woman dies after surgery, family alleges negligence

Post-operative deterioration and a second surgery preceded death

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Kozhikode

A 49-YEAR-OLD woman died at the Government Medical College Hospital in Kozhikode on Monday following complications after a hysterectomy, prompting her family to allege medical negligence. Police have registered a case of unnatural death and initiated an investigation into the circumstances surrounding her death.

The deceased, Thankamani, a resident of Mandarathur in Vadakara, died around 5pm while undergoing treatment at the hospital.

According to her family, **Thankamani** was admitted to the hospital on October 5 for a hysterectomy, which was performed at the Institute of Maternal and Child Health attached to the medical college on October 8. She was shifted to a ward the following day, but her condition reportedly deteriorated, with symptoms including vomiting, bleeding and diarrhoea.

As her condition worsened, she was shifted back to the intensive care unit (ICU) on October 10. The family alleged that subsequent medical examinations revealed an intestinal injury, which they believe led to an infection and further complications.

Doctors later performed an emergency surgery to address the complications. The procedure lasted several hours, according to her relatives. Thankamani was placed on ventilator support after the operation but died despite treatment. Her relatives have questioned the treatment provided after the initial surgery and approached the police, alleging negligence. A post-mortem examination is to be conducted to help establish the cause of death. The hospital is expected to release a medical bulletin on Wednesday and respond to the allegations after a detailed examination of the case.



Medical negligence allegations haunt Kozhikode MCH

A series of deaths, surgical errors and allegations of medical negligence at Kozhikode Government Medical College Hospital have raised serious concerns

Major lapses and allegations (2023–2026)

JUNE 2026: WRONG-KIDNEY SURGERY ALLEGATION

Rejith died on June 4 while on ventilator support at Kozhikode MCH. His family alleged that a kidney-stone surgery in August 2025 was performed on the wrong kidney and accused the hospital of further negligence and unauthorised surgeries

JULY 2025: ALLEGED DELAY IN VENTILATOR SUPPORT

The parents of a young girl alleged that doctors failed to act as her oxygen levels dropped and kept her in the ward citing a lack of ventilator availability. She died after being shifted to another hospital

MARCH 2025: DEATH FOLLOWING POST-SURGICAL COMPLICATIONS

Vilasini, 57, of Perambra, died on March 12 after undergoing surgery on March 7 for post-menopausal bleeding and endometrial hyperplasia. An emergency open surgery reportedly revealed an intestinal stitch leak and faecal peritonitis

NOVEMBER 2024: ALLEGED DELAY IN DIAGNOSING GBS

Relatives of Rajani of Koothali, Perambra, alleged a four-day delay in diagnosing Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS) after she was admitted to the casualty department. They claimed she was initially treated for psychiatric and orthopaedic conditions. She later died

NOV 2024: DELIVERY COMPLICATIONS AND MULTIPLE SURGERIES

B Anusree alleged that doctors failed to address an umbilical cord complication during her delivery on January 13, resulting in excessive bleeding and an unhealthy infant. She subsequently underwent five surgeries, including a hysterectomy

MAY 2024: SURGERY ON WRONG BODY PART

A four-year-old girl from Cheruvannur underwent surgery on her tongue instead of having her sixth finger removed. An associate professor in the Department of Paediatrics at the Institute of Maternal and Child Health was suspended following the incident

DECEMBER 2023: CHARGESHEET IN HARSHINA CASE

Police submitted a 750-page chargesheet before the Kunnamangalam court against two gynaecologists and two nurses in the K K Harshina case. Harshina alleged that a surgical instrument

was left inside her abdomen during a caesarean section in 2017 and was removed only in 2022. In March 2025, the court sought a report on her compensation claim

FEB 2023: WRONG-LIMB SURGERY AND IMPLANT ERROR

Reports emerged of alleged surgical errors, including surgery on the wrong leg of Sajina, 60, and the insertion of an incorrect implant during an arm-fracture surgery on a young man



EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Palakkad

THE family of M P Gopika (21), one of three people killed in the luxury car crash at Athani near Nedumbassery in the early hours of Sunday, has alleged that attempts are being made to sabotage the case and protect the accused, Suhail Sajeev, 19, by exploiting financial influence. Gopika's father, M R Pradeep Kumar, an autorickshaw driver from Edakkurissi in Karimba, alleged that the case was being weakened and that crucial details, including the accused's alleged drunkenness, had not been recorded in the FIR. Addressing

reporters on Tuesday, the family expressed apprehension that external interference could undermine the investigation and deny them justice.

Pradeep said that when he visited Nedumbassery police station on the morning of the incident, he saw the accused lying inside a cell. He claimed that he had personally heard the circle inspector say that the accused was heavily drunk. The family questioned why the accused was allegedly sent to the Borstal School (a correctional institution for adolescent offend-



ers) despite being involved in a crash that claimed three lives.

The family also raised questions over the collection of a blood sample from Gopika's body even after the postmortem examination. "I was told that there was pressure from higher levels when I enquired about the procedure. Attempts were being made to defame Gopika on social media,"

her father alleged.

A student who had served as vice-chairperson during her undergraduate studies at KMM College, Thrikkakara, Gopika

Rural SP denies lapses as protests intensify

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Kochi

DYFI members staged a protest in front of the Nedumbassery police station on Tuesday, accusing the police of attempting to protect the accused in Sunday's road accident that killed three youths, even as Aluva Rural SP K S Sudarshan dismissed the allegations of police lapses.

In the remand report submitted before the Judicial First Class Mag-

ACCUSED SEEKS BAIL

Suhail Sajeev filed a bail application before the Judicial First Class Magistrate Court-I, Angamaly on Tuesday. The court will consider it on Thursday.

accident happened. The witness had identified the vehicle but could not identify its driver at the time, Sudarshan said.

"The FIR was registered based on the statements available immediately after the incident. The complainant could identify the vehicle but not the driver. The police can record only what a witness states. This will not adversely affect the case," he said.

Sudarshan said subsequent investigation established that Suhail was driving the car. He was arrested after the police collected evidence, including witness statements and CCTV footage.

Sudarshan also clarified that the accused's intoxication was mentioned in the remand report. Suhail underwent a medical examination after being taken into custody, and the findings were included in the report, he said.

The police have invoked the charge of culpable homicide, along with provisions relating to drunken driving and abetment in the remand report, the SP said. Iyas from Kodagu in Karnataka, Devika from Wayanad and Gopika from Mammarkkad in Palakkad, were killed after the two-wheeler they were on was rammed by the car driven by Suhail at Nedumbassery in the early hours of Sunday.

Max punishment will be ensured: Chennithala

Kochi: Home Minister Ramesh Chennithala on Tuesday said the government would ensure the maximum punishment prescribed by law for the accused in the Nedumbassery accident that claimed three lives after a luxury car rammed into a scooter. Describing the incident as deeply distressing, he said neither the government nor the police would allow anyone to shield the accused or help him escape punishment through legal loopholes. The minister clarified that sending the accused to Borstal School was based on a court order and not a police decision. The court had acted in accordance with existing laws, he said.

Police chief refutes allegation against cops

T'Puram: State Police Chief Ravada A Chandrasekhar has refuted the allegation that the police had gone soft on Suhail Sajeev, who had fatally mowed down three people while driving a car at high speed under the influence of alcohol at Nedumbassery. He said stringent section of IPC 304 has been invoked against the accused and Law and Order ADGP P Vijayan is paying special attention to the investigation. He said the police are going ahead with a transparent and strict investigation and if there are allegations on the contrary, they will be examined.

regularly informed him about her whereabouts, Pradeep said. Describing her as a socially committed young woman, he said those who knew her would vouch for her character.

"Please ensure that my daughter gets justice," Gopika's mother, Sajitha, said, breaking down as she spoke about the loss.

Her paternal uncle, M R Anilkumar, also alleged that financial influence was being used to derail the case. Describing the incident as one that reflected a disregard for the lives of ordinary people, he urged the home department and the police to intervene firmly and ensure justice for the family.

Bars serving under-23s to face action

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @T'Puram

EXCISE Minister M Liju has told the assembly that stringent action will be taken against liquor shops that supply alcohol to individuals below the legal drinking age of 23 in the state. "The excise has already registered a case against all three bars which supplied alcohol to the underage accused. Stringent actions will be ensured against all such bars. We already have strict rules regarding drinking age, but still, we will issue strict guidelines," the minister said while responding to Ernakulam MLA TJ Vinod in the assembly on Tuesday. He was responding to questions on the recent Nedumbassery accident in which three youths were killed.

The minister also added that bars, which are found to be operating beyond their authorised time-frame, will also face consequences. Refuting the allegations of officers accepting bribes from bars, Liju said that no such issue has been found in the department. He also turned down the allegations of posting officials who faced disciplinary actions in key posts. The department has also got secret information that some of its officials are also supporting the law violations of some bars.

Govt to boost in-state power generation

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@T'Puram

ELECTRICITY Minister Sunny Joseph has said that the government is exploring options for increased internal power production and setting up more substations within

the state. He was responding to the questions on the recent power shortage in the state.

Addressing questions regarding construction material shortage, Industries Minister P K Kunhalikutty said that the government is trying to make

all legal crushers in the state operational.

Adding to this, Chief Minister V D Satheesan said that discussions have been held with Tamil Nadu CM C Joseph Vijay about the transport of construction materials from that state.

KERALA SIDCO
TENDER NOTICE Dt 13/10/2026
Kerala SIDCO invites quotations from qualified Chartered Engineers registered with the Institution of Engineers (India) and IEBI-registered Valuers for valuation of its land and buildings and related valuation services. Details and terms visit: www.keralasidco.com. Tel. No. 0471-2330613/614 Sd/- Managing Director

REQUIRES AN INVESTOR
A Trivandrum based startup sole proprietorship is seeking a god fearing investor to fund a dairy farm and milk powder plant. The required investment is 5 Crore Indian Rupees. Interested party meeting these specific criteria should contact:
7356601177

SALE NOTICE
OFFICE OF THE LIQUIDATOR, M/S.PEEJAY AGRO FOODS PRIVATE LIMITED (Under Liquidation)
Reg.Off.C New Building, Ayyappankavu Road, Karayur,Kottapadi Post,Thrissur, Kerala-680 505.
Phone :0422-2492454 | Email: cirp.peejayagro@gmail.com

E Auction - SALE OF PROPERTIES UNDER IBC 2016
Date and Time of E Auction on Friday, 13th November 2026 from 10:30 A.M to 01:30PM

Sale of Properties, owned by M/s. Peejay Agro Foods Private Limited (under Liquidation) forming part of the Liquidation Estate, by the Liquidator, approved by the Hon'ble NCLT, Kochi. The sale will be done by the undersigned through e-auction platform at the web portal of: <https://ibbi.baanknet.com>, on **13th November 2026**, as per the lots as described below:

General Terms and Conditions applicable to all the Auctions:

- The e Auction will be conducted on "AS IS WHERE IS, WHATEVER THERE IS and WITHOUT RECOURSE BASIS" through e-Auction service provider <https://ibbi.baanknet.com/>
- *Details of Assets (L&B and P&M) can be obtained from the Process document or by contacting Liquidator office through email.
- The EMD shall be remitted by Creating Wallet in the **BAANK NET.COM** Portal. (Refer Buyers Auction Guide by clicking the link) <https://d14q5p4neer14m.cloudfront.net/Production/Application-Documents/IBBI-Instance/client-document/Bidders-Auction-guide.pdf>
- Bids shall be submitted through online mode, only, in the format prescribed.
- The bid form, along with the terms and conditions of the e-Auction procedure in full, can be downloaded from the website <https://ibbi.baanknet.com/eaction-ibbi/home> after 2 days of publication of this ADVT.
- Last Date & Time for submission of Bid Documents is 5 PM on Tuesday 10th November 2026**
- Date & Time for Inspection by Bidders ONLY on 22nd October & on 6th November from 10:30 AM to 05:00 PM **ONLY with 2 days prior intimation to the Liquidator on his email cirp.peejayagro@gmail.com**
- Last date for payment of Earnest Money Deposit up to 05:00PM on 10.11.2026.
- Date and time of e-Auction: The E Auction shall be held On Friday 13th November 2026 as described below, at specific time slot, consisting of specific properties.**
- The bidder, who submits the highest offer on closure of online auction, shall be declared successful subject to approval by the CoC. Within 3 days of declaring highest bidder, liquidator shall conduct due diligence and verify the eligibility of the highest bidder. In case the highest bidder is found ineligible, the liquidator may, in consultation with CoC, declare next highest bidder as successful bidder.
- The Liquidator reserves his right to reject any or all of the bids or accept offer for one or more properties received, without assigning any reasons whatsoever.
- Upon confirmation of sale, the purchaser shall deposit 25% of the sale price along with applicable GST(including the EMD amount) on or before 16.11.2026 and the balance sale consideration of 75% along with applicable GST be paid within 90 days from the date of sale, provided that payments made after 30 days shall attract interest at the rate of 12%. If the purchaser fails to pay amounts in time, the amounts deposited till then, shall stand forfeited and the assets re-auctioned. The highest bidder shall be confirmed as successful bidder only after approval of the Consultation committee.**
- The above ADVT will be valid for 60 days from the date of this ADVT.
- The purchaser has to bear all cost and other expenses, like GST, Registration charges, stamp Duty and other taxes, duties and such other levies, if any, and other expenses in respect of purchase of the property & other Assets.
- The successful bidder has to bear all the expenses of registration at the prevailing rate(s).
- Liquidator shall issue Sale Certificate ONLY for the List of Land & Building mentioned in Sr.N.1 & 2. Registration of the Document shall be by the Successful bidder at his own cost.**
- Liquidator shall not be responsible for any delay or additional cost for execution of the Sale Deed.
- There are about 350 drums of pickle and other waste stored in the Building of Unit 3 situated at Kuranjyur, Chavakkad Post, Guruvayur, Thrissur, Kerala 680505. The successful bidder of land and building at his own cost and responsibility has to remove the wastages from Unit 3 in accordance with the guidelines prescribed by Punnayur Panchayat Board and Kerala State Pollution Control Board for removing the Wastages, without causing any inconvenience to the Local Residents. The available approvals for waste removal shall be presented by the Liquidator to the Successful bidder.
- All Correspondence shall be had ONLY through email at given email address: cirp.peejayagro@gmail.com and not otherwise.

Details of Assets :

Sr. No	LOT NO.	BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF ASSETS	Reserve Price Rs.	EMD @ 10%	Bid Increase	Bid Timing
1	S No. 1	Unit 1-Factory Land & Building situated at Ayyappankavu Road, Karayur,Kottapadi Post,Guruvayur,Thrissur, Kerala- 680505 ad measuring 18.70 Cents. ASSET ID-3977	63,74,330	6,37,433	2,00,000	10:30 AM to 11:30 AM
2	S No. 2	Unit 3-Factory Land & Building situated at Kuranjyur,Chavakkad Post,Guruvayur, Thrissur, Kerala-680505 ad measuring 119.01 cents. ASSET ID-3978 THE ABOVE ASSET IS ATTACHED BY THE ORDERS OF MUNSIF'S COURT, WADAKANCHERRY IN OS 478/23, IA 2/23 for Rs.2,53,935 payable to M/S. SRI RAMAKRISHNA INDUSTRIALS as displayed in the EC.	4,03,85,230	40,38,523	5,00,000	11:30 AM to 12:30 PM
3	S No. 3	Plant & Machinery* installed in Unit - 2 located at Room NO. 41/456 & 41/459, Elaihattam Road, Chavakkad, Edakkazhiyur, Thamarayoor Industrial Estate, Haridas Nagar, Guruvayur Municipality, Kerala 685006. ASSET ID-3980	27,74,931	2,77,493	2,00,000	12:30 PM to 01:30 PM

* Details of the Plant and Machinery can be obtained from the Liquidator, by sending a separate mail to cirp.peejayagro@gmail.com.

Dated : 13th October 2026
Place : Coimbatore

Sd/- R. Raghavendran, B.Com., FCA, CISA
IBBI/IPA-001/1P-P00211/201718/10411
Liquidator of Peejay Agro Foods Private Limited
AFA Valid till 31.12.2026

QUICK READ

Court stops media from airing 'sting op video'

Bengaluru: A city civil and sessions court on Tuesday passed an ad interim ex-parte temporary injunction order restraining the media, social media and digital platforms from publishing, airing, uploading, transmitting, circulating or sharing the alleged 'sting operation video' linking former chief minister and senior Congress leader Siddaramaiah. Judge B Pushpanjali, XIX Additional City and Sessions Court, passed the order after hearing two interlocutory applications (IA) filed by 78-year-old Siddaramaiah in the original suit filed by him. He prayed for a permanent injunction restraining the spreading of the video in question dated September 27 available on social media and broadcast on October 2 or its content in any form. Siddaramaiah stated that the caption for the video is not a neutral or descriptive introduction, but is deliberately framed to place him at the centre of a sensational political and sexual narrative. In one IA, he prayed to restrain the media, social media and digital media.

HC upholds AIADMK MLAs' resignations

Chennai: The Madras High Court on Tuesday upheld Speaker JCD Prabhakar's decision to accept the resignations of six AIADMK MLAs who defected to the TVK after cross-voting in favour of the ruling party in the Assembly. The court, however, criticised the delay on the part of the Speaker in deciding the disqualification proceedings against the defectors and directed him to decide the issue within two months without fail. A bench of Chief Justice Sushrut Arvind Dharmadhikari and Justice G Arul Murugan passed the order on petitions filed by AIADMK whip Agri SS Krishnamurthy and ML Ravi, president of Desiya Makkal Sakthi Kathi. Krishnamurthy challenged the Speaker's decision on the grounds that the resignations were tendered as a result of horse-trading and that the Speaker did not conduct a proper inquiry factoring in the disqualification proceedings pending against the defectors.

MAHAVITARAN TENDER NOTICE
Tenders are invited for Procurement of 7.3KV 220 KVAR Capacitor Unit with Estimated Cost of Rs 25.26 Crs. against MSSEDCL advertised Tender on website vide no. MMD/THMT2-16/1026 due for submission on dtd. 26.10.2026. For details please visit website: <https://etender.mahadiscom.in/eatApp/>
HO PR 253/26 Chief Engineer (MMD)

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited
Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala - 147001.
Corporate Identification No. U40109PB2010SGC033813, Website : www.pspcl.in (Contact Number : 9646123323)

Tender Inquiry No. PPR - 13/2026 Dated: 08.10.2026
Chief Engineer / PP&R Organization, Shed No. D-3, Shakti Vihar, PSPCL, Patiala invites E-tender under three-part bid system for banking of power from interstate utilities / traders, Traders having Valid Inter State Trading License issued by CERC for interstate trading of energy, State Electricity Boards, State Electricity Utilities, States from **1st November 2026 to 10th October 2027**. For detailed NIT & tender specifications please refer to <http://eproc.punjab.gov.in> from **08.10.2026** onwards.
Note - Corrigendum and addendum, if any will be published online at <http://eproc.punjab.gov.in>

C-976/26/13/10/2026 1079/1026-27/16126

KERALA MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LTD
(DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE, GOVT. OF KERALA)
Head Office : Thycud, Thiruvananthapuram-14, (Telephone No. 0471-2945600,),
E-mail : edrugs.kmscl@kerala.gov.in, website : www.kmscl.kerala.gov.in, CIN No. U24233KL2007SGC021616
No.KMSCL/ED/30/2026 Date : 12.10.2026

E-TENDER NOTICE
Online bids are invited from manufacturers/direct importers / loan licensees on behalf of Department of Health, Govt of Kerala for the procurement of Drugs/ Consumable for Thalassemia Management for the year 2026 - 2027.

Sl. No.	Tender No. and Date	No. Drugs
1.	KMSCL/ED/THALASSEMIA/RC/2026/026 dtd. 13/10/2026	06

Last date and time of online uploading of tender - 26.10.2026, 10.00 am.
Date and time of opening of Technical bid - 28.10.2026 11.00 am.
Tenders shall be downloaded and submitted online through the e-tender portal www.etenders.kerala.gov.in.
(Sd/-) MANAGING DIRECTOR (Tender Inviting Authority)

KERALA STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
Head Office, Pattom P.O., Thiruvananthapuram - 695 004
Web: www.kspcb.kerala.gov.in
email: kspcbendosulfan@gmail.com

Ref No: KSPCB/19/02/2026-SE-2 Date: 13/10/2026

NOTICE INVITING EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)
Kerala State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) invites Expression of Interest (EOI) from authorized and eligible operators/agencies having operational integrated Hazardous/Wastes Treatment, Storage, and Disposal Facilities (HWTSDF)/Hazardous waste incineration facility with high-temperature hazardous waste incineration capabilities for the safe packaging, loading, inter-state transportation, treatment, and scientific disposal of legacy Endosulfan waste stocks stored at the various cashew estates of Plantation Corporation of Kerala Limited in the state of Kerala.

For further details please refer to web link: <https://kspcb.kerala.gov.in/tenders>

Contact Officer & Queries:
Chief Environmental Engineer, Kerala State Pollution Control Board
E-mail: kspcbendosulfan@gmail.com
Mob. No: 9447975729

Last Date for Submission of EOI: 27-10-2026
(Sd/-) Member Secretary
Kerala State Pollution Control Board, Thiruvananthapuram.

