

Drunk driving cases decline, thanks to hefty fines and strict surveillance

Motorists' tactics, including chewing herbal leaves & using mouthfreshners, fail to fool cops

JOSE K JOSEPH @Kochi

CHEWING herbs to stuffing the mouth with coffee powder and rinsing with mouthwash — these are some of the desperate tricks motorists in the city are taking to in the hope of beating the breathalyser. But with police tightening surveillance and imposing stiff penalties, such shortcuts have failed, even as drunk driving cases have seen a dramatic fall over the past three years.

Crime records reveal a steep decline. In 2023, the city registered 29,313 drunk driving cases. The number dropped sharply to 5,422 in 2024 and fell further to 1,766 in 2025. Senior police officers are now confident the figure will dip below 1,000 this year, aided by sustained enforcement and awareness drives.

Police attribute the decline to hefty fines — ₹10,000 in certain cases —, suspension of driving licences, and increased surveillance at all hours, especially late nights and weekends. Repeat offenders face even stricter action, including imprisonment. "In drunk driving cases, apart from



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the heavy fine and licence suspension, the accused is also made to attend awareness classes. We explain the dangers of driving under the influence and the harmful effects of alcohol," an officer said. "For repeat offenders, we ensure stern measures. These are expected to bring down the numbers further."

With enforcement being intensified, police stations across the city have been witnessing emotional scenes during aware-

ness classes. Officers say many offenders plead for a reduction in fines, citing financial hardship. "Some turn emotional, bemoaning the steep fine. But we clarify that no relaxation is possible," a police officer said. "In some cases, we have seen family members quarrel over money wasted on an avoidable offence." Police say they have also repeatedly encountered motorists carrying items such as coffee powder, mouth

fresheners, mouthwash and herbal leaves, believing these could help them escape detection. In one police station in the city, officers recently witnessed an unusual scene as an accused lashed out at a friend, accusing him of providing misleading advice that chewing curry leaves would help evade the breathalyser test.

"There is a lot of misleading information circulating, especially online, claiming that stuffing coffee powder or herbs in the mouth can beat the breathalyser. These methods do not work," a senior officer said. "If we have any doubt, we conduct a medical test. People should not fall for such misinformation and put their — and others — lives at risk."

With stricter enforcement and sustained awareness drives, police believe the city is steadily turning the corner on drunk driving. Officers say the sharp fall in cases shows that deterrence, education and constant monitoring are working — and that attempts to outsmart the system are only reinforcing the risks, not reducing them.

NOTORIOUS gangster Aneesh Antony aka Maradu Aneesh was arrested from a house at Panambukad near Vallarpadam, Kochi, on Thursday.

According to police, officials of the Mulavukkada police station were conducting a search in the Panambukad area for another accused in a criminal case registered in Kochi on Thursday when they found Aneesh staying at the residence.

Aneesh had gone into hiding after Tamil Nadu police recently reached Kochi in search of him in connection with a robbery case registered at Chavadi police station near Coimbatore involving his gang.

He was taken into custody and handed over to the Ernakulam Central police, who recorded his arrest in a pending criminal case, police said. Aneesh was later produced before a court and remanded in judicial custody. Ernakulam Central police have informed the Tamil Nadu police about Aneesh's arrest, and the latter are expected to approach the court seeking his custody, police added.

OBITUARY

Sydney S Fernandez

Kochi: Sydney S Fernandez, 61, proprietor of Summer Care Ice Cubes, passed away on Thursday.

He is the son of the late Adv Stanley Fernandez and Treesa. The mortal remains will be kept for public homage at his residence at Tripunithura from 9 am to 2 pm on Friday. The funeral services will be held at Amaravathi St Peter & St Paul Roman Catholic Church at 3 pm. Sydney is survived by wife Bindu (Kannikkattu family), children Riya and Rohan and siblings Adv Pierson Fernandez and Adv Seena Suresh.

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JACK LONDON

CSL delivers first multipurpose vessel to Germany

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Kochi

THE Cochin Shipyard Ltd (CSL) has delivered 'MS Heinz', the first of the HS EcoFreighter series of Multi-Purpose Vessels (MPVs), to HS Schiffahrts UG & Co, Germany. The Delivery and Acceptance Protocol was signed by CSL director (operations) S Harikrishnan and HS Schiffahrts director Heinz Josef Schepers through a virtual ceremony, in the presence of senior officials on Monday.

The vessel has been designed by Groot Ship Design, Netherlands, and constructed at CSL

in accordance with the Classification Rules of Det Norske Veritas (DNV), the Norwegian risk management company.

The 7,000 DWT (deadweight tonnage) HS EcoFreighter is an ice-class vessel capable of carrying project cargo, heavy cargo, steel coils, containers, timber, paper, dry bulk cargoes, as well as dangerous goods, for worldwide trading. The vessel features a raked stem with the "Groot Cross-Bow" design, optimised for enhanced speed performance and fuel efficiency, along with a transom stern. The vessel is provided with a single

large cargo hold fitted with six

movable panels, enabling flexible cargo configurations, including grain bulkheads at multiple positions and a tween deck arrangement.

Propulsion is provided by a medium-speed four-stroke diesel engine driving a controlla-

Gangster Maradu Aneesh held

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Kochi

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MS Heinz, the first of the HS EcoFreighter series of multipurpose vessels delivered by Cochin Shipyard Limited to Germany

ble pitch propeller (CPP) through a reduction gearbox. The delivery of MS Heinz marks an important milestone in Cochin Shipyard Ltd's expanding presence in the international commercial shipbuilding market, said C M D Madhu S Nair.

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Dhanlaxmi Bank

Dhanlaxmi Bank Ltd, Palarivattom Branch, 32/2383, KMM Building, Opp. KSEB, S N Junction, Palarivattom, EMK - 682205

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REGIONAL OFFICE: ERLAKULAM

CORPORATE OFFICE: THIRURUS

NOTICE OF SALE THROUGH PRIVATE TREATY

SALE OF IMMOVABLE ASSETS CHARGED TO THE BANK UNDER THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT 2002 (SARFAESI ACT)

To, 1. M/s. Eximpires Pvt Ltd, 44/3505, Opp. Deshabhimani, Deshabhimani Road, Kaloor, Ernakulam - 682 017, 2. Mr. Ajith Bhaskaran, Pipe Field, 35/762, North Janatha Road, Palarivattom, Ernakulam - 682 025, 3. Mrs. Anupama Ajith, Pipe Field, 35/762, North Janatha Road, Palarivattom, Ernakulam - 682 025, 5. Mr. Ragesh P, 39/393 A1, Padinchingal, Alathikkal West Hill, Kochi - 673 005, 6. M/s. Pipefield India Pvt Ltd, 37/3464, NH Road, Deshabhimani Jn., Kaloor, Ernakulam - 682 017, 7. M/s. Roofco Trading Co. Pvt Ltd, 37/3464, NH Road, Deshabhimani Jn., Kaloor, Ernakulam - 682 017, 8. M/s. Roofco Builders & Developers, 37/3464, NH Road, Deshabhimani Jn., Metro Pillar No. 560, Kaloor, Ernakulam - 682 017, 9. Mrs. Sheena Prasanth, D/o P Bhaskaran, Pipe Field, North Janatha Road, Palarivattom, Ernakulam - 682 025.

The Authorized Officer of Dhanlaxmi Bank Limited has taken over possession of the schedule property u/s 13(4) of the SARFAESI Act.

Public at large is informed that the secured property as mentioned in the Schedule is available for sale through Private Treaty, as per the terms agreeable to the Bank for realisation of Bank's dues on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" and "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" and "WITHOUT REOURSE BASIS".

STANDARD TERMS & CONDITIONS FOR SALE OF PROPERTY THROUGH PRIVATE TREATY ARE AS UNDER:

1. Sale through Private Treaty will be on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" and "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" and "WITHOUT REOURSE BASIS".

2. The intended buyer will be required to deposit 25% of the sale consideration on the next working day of receipt of Bank's acceptance of offer for purchase of property and the remaining amount within 15 days thereafter.

3. The purchaser has to deposit 10% of the offered amount along with the quotation/application which will be adjusted against 25% of the deposit to be made as per clause (2) above.

4. Failure to remit the amount as required under clause (2) above will cause forfeiture of amount already paid, including 10% of the amount paid along with application.

5. In case of non-acceptance of offer of purchase by the Bank, the amount of 10% paid along with the application will be refunded without any interest.

6. The property is being sold with all the existing and future encumbrances whether known or unknown to the Bank. The Authorized Officer / Secured Creditor shall not be responsible in any way for any third-party claims/rights/dues.

7. The purchaser should conduct due diligence on all aspects related to the property (under sale through private treaty) to his satisfaction. The purchaser shall not be entitled to make any claim against the Authorized Officer / Secured Creditor in this regard at a later date.

8. The Bank reserves the right to reject any offer of purchase without assigning any reason.

9. In case of more than one offer, the Bank will accept the highest offer. If Higher bidder fails to deposit the remaining amount in terms of clause (2) above, then bank may request & accept the second higher offer.

10. The interested parties may contact the Authorized Officer for further details / clarifications and for submitting their application.

11. The purchaser has to bear all stamp duty, registration fee, and other expenses, taxes, duties in respect of purchase of the property.

12. Sale shall be in accordance with the provisions of SARFAESI Act/ the Security Interest [Enforcement] Rules.

Schedule of Property

17.55 Ares of land with title over 14.16 Ares in Re Sy. No.2, Town Block No.76, Old Sy. No.271/10A at Aluva West Village, Aluva Taluk, Ernakulam District in the name of M/s. Roofco Builders & Developers (Managing Partner Mr. Ajith Bhaskaran) as per Sale Deed No.3706/2007 of Aluva SRO and all Improvements and Incidence therein with the following boundaries. **Boundaries as per Sale Deed No.3706/2007 of Aluva SRO:**

North : Puzha, East : Road, South : Property of Umadevi & Sathidevi, West : Puzha

Place: Ernakulam

Date : 13.01.2026

Authorized Officer

Dhanlaxmi Bank Ltd

Place : Ernakulam

Date : 14-01-2026

Place: Ernakulam

(Sd/-) Chief Manager & Authorised Officer, Dhanlaxmi Bank Ltd

The South Indian Bank Ltd, Regional Office, ERLAKULAM, SIB Building, Infopark Road, Rajagiri Valley P.O., Kakkad, Ernakulam - 682039, Ph: 0484-2624126, E-mail: alwaye@bankofbaroda.com

BANK OF BARODA, ALWAYE BRANCH

Lourde Centre, Sub Jail Road, Alwaye-683 101, Ph: 0484-2624126, E-mail: alwaye@bankofbaroda.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that Bank Of Baroda, Alwaye Branch intends to accept to mortgage, the undermentioned property standing in the name of Mr. K. P. Jaleel, S/o Pareed Kunju, residing at Kunyanapally House, Thandakkad, Vengola, Ernakulam-683347 as a security of loan/credit facilities requested by her.

In case any person including individuals/banks or institutions that has got any right/title/interest/claims over the undermentioned property, they are advised to approach the bank within 10 days along with the necessary proof to substantiate their claims.

If no response is received within 10 days from the date of this notice, it is presumed that property is free of any charge or claim or encumbrance and the bank shall proceed with the mortgage and the said mortgage shall be completed without any reference / regard to any such claim which will be considered as waived.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY:

The property having an extent of 10.85 + 3.63 + 1.59 + 0.51 + 0.81 = 17.89 Ares of land lying as single plot comprised in Re-Sy No. 79/4-4, 79/5-3-2, 79/4, 79/4-5 and 79/5-3 in Re-Sy Block No. 21 (Old Sy No: 160/2C) in Vengola Village of Kunianathad Taluk, Ernakulam District covered under Settlement Deed Nos: 3087/2021 dated 20.09.2021 and 1503/2024 dated 17-04-2024 of Perumbavoor SRO with the Rights and all other improvements therein situated at Vengola Kara belonging to Mr. K. P. Jaleel, S/o Pareed Kunju. **Boundary Description:** East: Property of Aishik, West: Private Way, North: Property of Abdul Razak, South: Panchayath Road.

Brands/Units/Contact No.: S/o Pareed Kunju, Lourde Centre, Sub Jail Road, Alwaye, Kerala-683 101, Alwaye 101, Phone: 944689923, 0484-2624126, Email: alwaye@bankofbaroda.com

Advocate (Name & Contact No.): C.M.Rasheed, Advocate (Roll No: K/146/1982), Rex Building, Railway Station Road, Alwaye - 683 101 Email: cmrasheedcmrasheed@gmail.com

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE

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