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WHAT A GLITTER!



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BUSINESS NEWS

“European Winter Comes to Kollam”

Kollam is set to experience the magic of a European winter this November, as the ‘Summer in Bethlehem’ Mega Fest opens to the public on November 1 at Thirumullavaram Beach. Spread across two acres, the festival promises a world-class entertainment and leisure experience, complete with snow, music and cultural showcases.

Organized by Chungath Hospitality Private Limited, the highlight of the event is a 3,000 sq. ft. ‘Snow World’, where visitors can enjoy the thrill of real snowfall. Complementing this is a 20,000 sq. ft. temperature-controlled hall maintained below 18°C, recreating the chill and charm of a European winter.

Adding to the atmosphere is a meticulously designed ‘Bethlehem Replica Village’, featuring miniature European monuments, cobblestone streets, intricate



woodwork and themed shopping streets. Visitors can also explore the ‘Taste of Europe’ food courts and over 60 shopping stalls, styled like a Christmas village.

A 10,000 sq. ft. air-conditioned auditorium, equipped with state-of-the-art facilities to host 50–2,000 guests, has been developed

as part of the project. The space will be available for weddings, conferences and corporate events at affordable rates.

Ample parking for over 300 vehicles and special tourist packages in collaboration with hotels and travel agencies have also been arranged.

The Experience Center will open to the public from 3 PM on November 1, with the official inauguration at 6 PM by film legend Balachandra Menon, marking his 50th year in Malayalam cinema. On November 2, noted singer Pandalam Balan and his team will perform live. Each evening thereafter will showcase international-standard stage shows, including performances by popular film stars, a Royal British Parade and the Flamingo Dance.

Tickets are priced at ₹ 400 for adults and ₹ 200 for children below 17 years. Three-day passes are also available at ₹ 1,000 and ₹ 500, respectively.

“Through these initiatives, Chungath aims to shape a generation that is both physically and mentally strong,” said Rajive Paul Chungath, Managing Director of the Chungath Group.

India Maritime Week 2025 Inaugurated

The Union Minister for Home Affairs & Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah, inaugurated India Maritime Week (IMW) 2025 at the NESCO Exhibition Centre, marking the commencement of the world’s largest maritime gathering. The ceremony was held in the august presence of Shri Sarbananda Sonowal, Union Minister for Ports, Shipping & Waterways; Shri Devendra Fadnavis, Chief Minister of Maharashtra; Dr. Pramod Sawant, Chief Minister of Goa; Shri Shantanu Thakur, Minister of State for Ports, Shipping & Waterways; and Deputy Chief Ministers of Maharashtra, Shri Eknath Shinde and Shri Ajit Pawar.



Shri Sarbananda Sonowal hailed IMW 2025 as a “turning point in India’s maritime journey,” highlighting that India’s port capacity has doubled to 2,700 MTPA, cargo handling has risen to 1,640 MMT, and inland waterway cargo has grown from 6.9 MMT to 145 MMT over the past decade.

NMPA Showcases Maritime Leadership at IMW 2025

The New Mangalore Port Authority, celebrating its Golden Jubilee Year, made a strong mark at IMW 2025 as a Platinum Sponsor, highlighting its contributions to India’s blue economy.

NMPA signed 18 MoUs worth ₹ 52,599 crores, with key industry leaders — including MRPL, Aegis Vopak, Reliance, HPCL, GMPL and IPRCL, underscoring robust investment potential on India’s West Coast.

Held under the theme “Uniting Oceans, One Maritime Vision,” IMW 2025 brings together over 100,000+ participants from 85+ countries, featuring 500+ exhibitors, 350+ speakers, and 12 parallel conferences over five days. The event reaffirms India’s maritime resurgence and its vision to become a global maritime superpower by 2047.

In his inaugural address, Shri Amit Shah described the maritime sector as a symbol of “India’s strength, stability, and sustainability.” He said, “This is India’s maritime moment—transforming the Gateway of India into the Gateway of the World.”

Renault Duster Returns on Republic Day

Fans, fasten your seatbelts – the legend is back! The Duster returns to reignite the frenzy and fuel the passion of SUV lovers across India.



Renault India, a wholly owned subsidiary of the French carmaker Renault Group, has announced that its much-awaited new SUV will proudly carry forward the legacy of the iconic nameplate – Duster.

Originally launched in India in 2012, the Renault Duster redefined the SUV landscape and pioneered a segment that today accounts for nearly one-fourth of the passenger vehicle market. The Duster is also going to be the first product to be launched under the brand’s International Game Plan 2027 in India. The car is a key pillar company’s India centric transformation strategy renault. rethink.

Speaking on the occasion, Stephane Deblaise, CEO Renault Group India said “Renault Duster is more than just a name – it’s a

true legend. A symbol of adventure, reliability and innovation, its comeback shows our commitment to the Indian market and our desire to offer vehicles that meet the needs of our customers. New Renault Duster will rely on its iconic heritage while adopting a modern design, advanced technology and enhanced performance.”

The announcement marks a significant moment for Indian automotive enthusiasts, many of whom have long awaited the return of the beloved SUV. With close to 1.8 million customers globally and more than 200,000 happy owners in India, the Duster enjoys a cult following and remains one of the most successful SUVs in Renault’s global portfolio. The icon will be unveiled on Republic Day – 26th January 2026.

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THE YELLOW METAL GLITTERS LIKE NEVER BEFORE

EDITORIAL

Gold has become a part of our life to the extent that any surge in its price shoots up our heartbeats. And if it goes up breaking records every day without any respite, Keralites experience sleepless nights. This is wedding season and a bride without a reasonable glitter of gold is beyond imagination for us.

The price of one sovereign gold (eight grams) almost touched one lakh rupees in the third week of October, a hike of more than Rs.30,000 during the last six months. To purchase one sovereign of gold ornament, you have to fork out at least Rs.10,5000 which includes making charges and applicable GST. Though there was a slight fall in gold price by the last week of October, still it hovers above 90,000 for eight grams.

Gold has always been the cynosure of all, especially the fair sex. It has become an innate part of our culture to the extent that right from the birth of a child, the naming ceremony, the engagement, wedding, again the birth of a child for the new couple, gold occupies a pivotal position in all these ceremonies. When a child is born, the first thing given to it is a drop of honey with a



touch of gold. For the naming ceremony also gold in the form of rings, bangles, anklets, waist chains etc are an essential part of our customs and traditions. In short, we can't think of a day without gold in our entire life. And when price of this yellow metal goes up every day, the heart beats of all, especially the women, too go on the northward. Over the past month, Gold's price has risen more than 17% and is up 58% compared to the same time last year.

Though there has been substantial fall in the sale figures of gold outlets during the last couple of months, jewellery dealers expect a stabilization in the bullion market as high volatility in prices threaten their business.

SALES FIESTA

GST Cut & Diwali Bonanza: Retailers Rake in Rs. 5.4 Lakh Cr

The unprecedented surge in retail sales reflects strong festive sentiment across India, GST cuts acted as strong incentive

On the backdrop of substantial fall in GST rates of automobiles, white goods etc, Diwali sales in the country witnessed unprecedented boost up with customers en bloc rushing to retail outlets. Early estimates point out that customers all over the country brought home goods worth approximately Rs.5.40 lakh crore during the festival season. A hitherto unheard-of sales hike.

As the cut in GST was announced sufficiently earlier, traders and retailers were expecting enthusiastic response from the customers. Diwali shopping thrust coupled with GST cut proved to be a thumping morale booster for the



commerce sector which had been crippled with damp sales and falling demand earlier. The strong performance reflects robust consumer confidence, festive enthusiasm, and the growing success of domestic products amid the continued boycott of Chinese-

made goods. The surge was driven by strong participation from both metropolitan and Tier 2 and Tier 3 markets, where consumer spending remained buoyant.

The extended festive period—from Navratri and Dussehra to Diwali—helped sustain momentum across key sectors such as jewellery, electronics, clothing, home décor, and food products. Consumer sentiments remained upbeat despite inflationary pressures, as retailers offered heavy discounts, combo deals, and “vocal for local” branding to attract footfall.

Offline vs. online

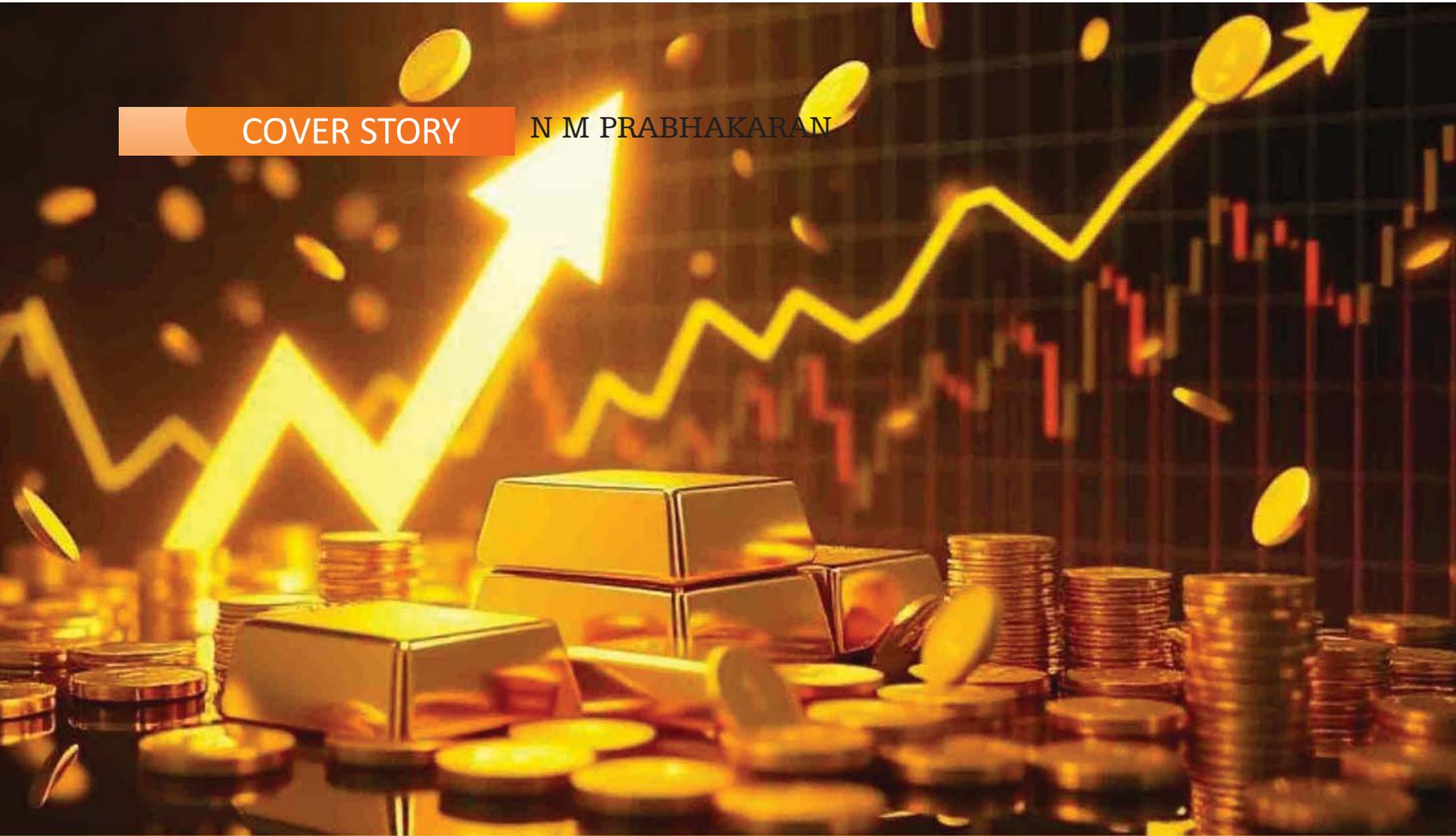
Despite the strong presence of online platforms, physical markets

N M PRABHAKARAN

remained vibrant. Traders emphasised that the festive spirit, in-store experience, and immediate product availability kept brick-and-mortar sales strong. However, e-commerce competition continues to challenge traditional retailers.

The robust Diwali sales underline the importance of the festive period for India's economy. Retailers expect the momentum to continue into the upcoming wedding season, where nearly 48 lakh weddings between November and December could generate an additional 1.6 lakh crore in business.

A retail boom signals the strength of India's domestic market and its growing shift towards self-reliance, setting a strong tone for year-end consumption. In short, Diwali 2025 reaffirmed the festival's role as India's biggest economic catalyst, lighting up not just homes but also the country's trade and business sentiment.



GOLD PRICE GOES THROUGH THE ROOF!

Silver too shines like never before

The price of one sovereign gold (eight grams) almost touched one lakh rupees in the third week of October, a hike of more than Rs.30,000 during the last six months. To purchase one sovereign of gold ornament, you have to fork out at least Rs.10,5000 which includes making charges and applicable GST. Though there was a slight fall in gold price by the last week of October, still it hovers around 90,000 for eight grams.





Breaking all-time records every day, gold price is surging relentlessly, giving sleepless nights to Malayalee homes. It's wedding season in Kerala and Malayees can't think of a bride sans jewellery adorning her from top to toe. The price of one sovereign gold (eight grams) almost touched one lakh rupees in the third week of October, a hike of more than Rs.30,000 during the last six months. To purchase one sovereign of gold ornament, you have to fork out at least Rs.10,5000 which includes making charges and applicable GST. Though there was a slight fall in gold price by the last week of October, still it hovers above 90,000 for eight grams.

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than 17% and is up 58% compared to the same time last year.

Why is gold rallying so sharply?

Gold's recent surge is being attributed to a number of factors including global uncertainties, monetary expectations, and domestic currency weakness.

Since 2022, a series of global conflicts, from Russia's invasion of Ukraine to rising China-Taiwan and US-China tensions, along with the prolonged Israel-Hamas war, has

shaken financial stability worldwide. Amid this turmoil, gold has re-emerged as a preferred safe haven.

Central banks have led the charge, and sharply increased their bullion holdings in recent years. As per the World Gold Council data, they bought 1,082 tonnes in 2022, 1,037 tonnes in 2023, and a record 1,180 tonnes in 2024, which is more than double the earlier annual average of about 500 tonnes. Many also began shifting their reserves from the Bank of England's vaults to



SILVER PRICE TOO GOES UP



Following the footsteps of gold prices, silver too became dear with October 2025 alone accounting for 22% hike in the prices.

Silver's meteoric rise in October 2025 has captured the attention of investors, jewellers, and households across India. Against the backdrop of historic returns, fast-evolving market conditions, and the onset of the festive season, this white metal is going to touch unprecedented hike in its prices. By the fourth

week of October price of silver crossed Rs. 1,72,000 per kilogram. But there was a substantial fall in silver price by the end of October due to the effect of various international forces.

This skyrocketing prices of silver are affected by increased industrial demand, such as for electric vehicles and solar energy. A weaker dollar generally supports higher precious metal prices.

domestic facilities, reflecting a push for financial sovereignty. For example, India alone repatriated about 214 metric tonnes between 2022 and 2024.

Additionally, gold's rally is also tied to the US dollar's weakness. The dollar index, which tracks its strength against six major currencies, has dropped nearly 10 per cent in 2025, driving investors away from dollar-based assets. The decline stems from Trump's tariff policies, which have strained global trade, and America's swelling debt load. His proposed "One big, beautiful bill" could add over \$3.9 trillion to US debt. With fiscal deficits widening, Moody's has already downgraded the US credit rating, further fuelling gold's appeal as a safe, long-term asset.

When did gold surge like this before?

This is not the first time gold has gone on a spectacular run. Two earlier periods stand out in history, the first being the bull run of 1979-80 and then the surge of the 1930s.

Between 1978 and early 1980, global gold prices quadrupled from around \$200 to over \$850 an ounce. The drivers were a volatile mix of double-digit inflation, oil shocks, and geopolitical crises including the Iranian Revolution and the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.

In India, though import controls were strict under the Gold Control Act, domestic prices still mirrored the international trend.

Historical data show that the price of 24-carat gold rose from 1 937 per 10 grams in 1979 to 1 1,330 in 1980, marking a surge of nearly 45 per cent.

But once US Federal Reserve Chairman Paul Volcker sharply raised interest rates to tame inflation (famously known as the Volcker shock), gold's glory faded. By 1982, prices had fallen by more than 50 per cent from their peaks. For nearly two decades, gold languished in a bear market,

trading sideways until the early 2000s.

Will history repeat itself?

History suggests that gold's biggest rallies often coincide with fear, inflation, and uncertainty and they tend to cool once stability and higher interest rates return.

The steady institutional demand may act as a pillar for prices even if speculative sentiment cools. Yet, analysts warn that if inflation falls sharply

and real rates rise, gold could face a correction similar to 1980.

The skyrocketing prices of gold has its impact manifested in the form of reduced footfalls in jewellery shops across Kerala. Shops in Kochi, which normally experience huge rush during wedding and festival seasons, have been getting few customers during October. Even though wedding season and Deepawali should have added glitter to the gold outlets, shops owners get only damp response.



Wonderla Wins Kerala Pollution Control Award



Wonderla Amusement Park, Kochi has been honoured with the Kerala State Pollution Control Board Award 2025. The award was presented at AURA 2025, the State Pollution Control Board's International Conclave on Environment inaugurated by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, held at Adlux Convention Center, Angamali.

The recognition came in the presence of esteemed dignitaries including, Shri Roji M John, MLA, Smt. S Srikala, Chairperson, Kerala State Pollution Control Board, Shri Sriram Shambashiva Rao, Special Secretary, Smt. Lathika Sasikumar, President, Karukutty Panchayat, Shri Shaijo Parmbi, Vice President, Karukutty Panchayat and Shri U V Jose, Executive Director, Sujitha Mission.

The award underscores Wonderla's unwavering commitment to sustainability and environmental stewardship while delivering world-class amusement experiences to millions of visitors.

Over the years, Wonderla Kochi has pioneered a wide range of eco-friendly measures to reduce its carbon footprint and conserve natural resources. These efforts include recycling and reusing water through advanced pool treatment systems and a modern sewage treatment plant, and deploying water and energy saving measures such as tap aerators and advanced sludge drying systems. The park has also installed a 684 KW solar power plant and a DG synchronization system to cut down on emissions and optimize fuel use, introduced advanced energy monitoring software for real-time efficiency tracking, and established EV charging stations to encourage sustainable mobility.

Speaking on this recognition Arun K. Chittilappilly, Executive Chairman & Managing Director, Wonderla Holidays Ltd., said, "We

are honoured to receive the Kerala State Pollution Control Board Award once again. At Wonderla, sustainability is not just an initiative but a core philosophy that drives everything we do. This recognition is a reflection of our engineering team's dedication and the company's larger vision of creating joy responsibly. We remain committed to innovating and investing in sustainable practices that safeguard our environment while delivering memorable experiences for our guests."

Volvo EX30 Electric Car Launched in Kerala

Winner of Red Dot Award for Product Design and World Urban Car of the Year 2024



Volvo India has launched its latest electric model, the EX30, in Kerala. The event held in Kochi was attended by Amit Kaloo, Regional Manager, Volvo India; Anish Mohan, Director, Kerala Volvo; and Krishnakumar R, CEO, Kerala Volvo.

Interested buyers in Kerala can take test drives at Kerala Volvo, Kochi Showroom. Customer deliveries will begin early

SIB and Arya.ag join hands to deliver ₹ 250 cr in agri credit

Arya.ag, India's largest and only profitable integrated grain commerce platform, has announced a strategic partnership with South Indian Bank under a Business Correspondent model to extend formal credit access to smallholder farmers and Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) and Agri Enterprises through warehouse receipt financing. This collaboration aims to significantly address the financing gap in post-harvest agriculture by enabling low-cost, collateral-backed loans across remote agricultural districts.

According to industry estimates, over 60% of India's smallholder farmers lack access to formal credit, with post-harvest finance being particularly scarce. While the demand for such credit exceeds ₹ 1.4 lakh crore, banks typically serve only a fraction of this need, often bypassing small and marginal producers. Agri traders in rural markets also face constraints in accessing structured finance to manage their working capital requirements across crop cycles.

"Across India's agri ecosystem, both smallholder

farmers and local agri traders often face a systemic credit gap due to lack of formal collateral and visibility. At Arya.ag, we have reimagined post-harvest finance by anchor-ing it in the stored commodity itself. Through our platform, every grain becomes a digital asset that can be stored, financed, or sold transparently," said Anand Chandra, Co-founder and Executive Director, Arya.ag.

Senthil Kumar, SGM & Head – Credit, South Indian Bank, explained the bank's role in the initiative, "The partnership with Arya.ag allows us to deliver much-needed credit to India's agricultural communities. Farmers can now leverage Arya.ag's data-rich and digitized warehousing solutions to store their produce and sell it at an opportune time to maximize their earnings. It opens the doors for India's farmers to achieve more profitability with their produce. It also offers us an opportunity to introduce formal credit to India's smallholder farmers. We are confident that with such initiatives, we can bring more Indians, especially the hitherto underserved population, into the realm of organized finance."

and cutting-edge technology, the EX30 has achieved five-star rating in the Euro NCAP safety test. The EX30 also features active safety tools like an intersection auto brake to lessen collisions, a door-opening alert to prevent "dooring" accidents, and the much-advanced Safe Space Technology that boasts of 5 cameras, 5 radars and 12 ultrasonic sensors.

The EX30 comes with an 8-year battery warranty and includes a wall box charger as a standard fitment. The car also reimagines how one interacts with it. With the NFC (Near Frequency Card), one can just tap onto the sensor and unlock the car. Additionally, with Digital Key Plus in the Volvo Car App, the phone itself acts as a key. It's not just convenient; it's smarter, safer, and surprisingly seamless.

With its advanced electric drivetrain and innovative features, this model offers an unparalleled driving experience while contributing to a sustainable environment.

BUSINESS NEWS

Dr Agarwals Eye Hospital Launches ReLEX SMILE in Kochi



Marking a milestone in eye care in Kochi, Dr Agarwals Eye Hospital has launched ReLEX SMILE, a minimally invasive, ultra-precise laser vision correction procedure, along with the VisuMax 500, an advanced femtosecond laser system to deliver vision correction in under 30 seconds.

ReLEX SMILE, short for Refractive Lenticule Extraction – Small Incision Lenticule Extraction, is a minimally invasive laser eye surgery for correcting myopia (nearsightedness). During the procedure, a femtosecond laser creates a tiny, lens-shaped piece of tissue within the cornea, called a lenticule, which is then removed to reshape the cornea and allow light to focus properly on the retina. This improves

vision with minimal discomfort and a quick recovery, often reducing or even eliminating the need for eyeglasses or contact lenses. The VisuMax 500 is a state-of-the-art femtosecond laser system that enables ReLEX SMILE, allowing doctors to perform the procedure with exceptional precision and safety.

Shri Hibi George Eden, inaugurated the system in the presence of Dr. Soundari S, Regional Head – Clinical Services, Dr. Ramya Sampath, Regional Head – Clinical Services, Dr. Sanjana P, Head – Clinical Services, and Mr. Dheeraj E.T., VP – Operations and Business, all from Dr. Agarwals Eye Hospital.

As part of the inauguration, Dr. Agarwals

Eye Hospital is offering free doctor consultations and SMILE evaluations until October 31, 2025.

Explaining the key features of ReLEX SMILE and VisuMax 500, Dr. Soundari S said, “We are happy to bring the latest in eye care technology to the city. ReLEX SMILE is a revolutionary, minimally invasive procedure that corrects myopia with exceptional precision. Unlike traditional laser surgeries, it requires only a tiny incision, preserving the cornea’s stability and reducing post-operative discomfort. Patients benefit from faster recovery, minimal dryness, and excellent visual outcomes, making vision correction safer and more comfortable than ever before.”

Oxford University Press Launches New Bilingual Dictionary

In celebration of the Diwali festive season and World Dictionary Day which falls on 16 October, Oxford University Press India has launched its latest Mini English-Malayalam Dictionary, specifically designed for students, language learners, and general readers.

The Mini English-Malayalam Dictionary, featuring a cover inspired by Tholpavakoothua traditional form of shadow puppetry from Kerala



celebrates the region’s rich artistic and cultural heritage while serving as a practical learning companion. The dictionary features over 20,000 words and derivatives with their detailed translations in Malayalam along with grammatical information

on irregular nouns, verbs and adjectives.

Sukanta Das, Managing Director, Oxford University Press India, said, “With millions of speakers worldwide, Malayalam is one of the country’s most expressive and culturally rich languages. Oxford’s new Mini English-Malayalam Dictionary is crafted to support learners with contemporary, real-world usage. It’s a celebration of both language and learning.”

Bakemill Unveils New Logo



Bakemill, one of Kerala’s leading cake manufacturers, marked the beginning of its 11th year by unveiling its new logo and symbol. Filmstar Madonna Sebastian released the new identity at a function held at Kochi. Bakemill’s Managing Partners Noushad Ibrahim, Manoj Joseph, and Muhammed Sagheer also attended the function.

Announcing the company’s future roadmap, Managing Partner Noushad Ibrahim revealed plans for an ambitious ₹ 100 crore expansion project over the next two years. In the first phase, Bakemill will open 50 exclusive retail outlets to deliver premium cakes, cookies, and specialty products directly to customers, creating new employment opportunities in the process.

Partners Manoj Joseph and Muhammed Sagheer added that the refreshed logo and symbol represent not just a visual transformation, but also Bake-

mill’s commitment to flavor, quality, innovation, and world-class standards - aiming to strengthen its presence in both domestic and international markets. All upcoming products will carry the new identity.

Currently, Bakemill exports to 15 countries and operates its own distribution network in Texas, USA, under the name Global Impex Inc., which also distributes over ten other Indian brands. The company is the third-largest cake distribution network across the USA, Canada, Europe, and the Middle East.

Founded a decade ago in a modest 3,500 sq. ft. facility in Irinjalakuda, Bakemill has grown into a major industry player with 1.5 lakh sq. ft. of space and four state-of-the-art production units. With a daily production capacity of 70 tonnes, it stands as Kerala’s second-largest cake manufacturer.

PEB Menon Memorial Sabhagruham Inaugurated



Dr. Madhu S Nair, CMD, Cochin Shipyard, inaugurates the PEB Menon Memorial Sabhagruha at Vyasa Vidyalaya Sr. Secondary School, Palachuvad, Kakkannad. The memorial has been constructed under the CSR scheme of Cochin Shipyard.

Cyberpark-based Code Ace aims Rs 100 crore business by 2028

presents car to best team member on 7th anniversary



Digital marketing firm CodeAce is targeting a business of Rs 100 crore in the next three years, according to founders of the company, based out of the Government Cyberpark at Kozhikode.

The target is to create global brands in the fields of performance marketing, software development and e-commerce based in Kozhikode, CodeAce CEO Jijin Mohan, COO Sarath Kumar and Director Mohanan Kottoor said amid the company's seventh anniversary celebrations.

The event, Elevexa, saw the management gifting a Hyundai Venue car to an employee who made outstanding contributions to the company's growth over the past four years. The celebrations were inaugurated by M.K.

Raghavan, MP. Others present included Ahamed Devarkovil MLA, former Assistant Development Commissioner Natarajan C, Cyberpark General Manager Vivek Nair, CAFIT President Abdul Gafoor and media panellist Nijesh Aravind.

Adding to the festivities were film stars Ramzan Muhammed, Saniya Iyappan and prominent automotive journalist Hani Musthafa. A fashion show and music programmes formed highlights of the cultural segment by Street Academy.

CodeAce IT Solutions LLP is a success story by two friends who studied together since their 10th grade.

CodeAce started as a five-member startup at TenX, a startup acceleration hub in the Cyberpark.

Back then, with a capital Rs 25 lakh and borrowed computers, the company barely had five clients. Today, CodeAce has over 120 employees, a 7,000-sqft office and more than 80 clients worldwide. The company works with leading international firms in the US and Europe, providing marketing services to a number of global brands.

Starting from performance marketing, Code Ace went on to expand its operations to software and Indian e-commerce businesses. The company has already registered in the US and is preparing to open a new office in Dubai. It has also gained attention among Malayalis through its inspirational podcast, WiseUp.

BUSINESS NEWS

Emirates SkyCargo Opens Operations Centre at Cochin Airport



Emirates SkyCargo Manager Ameer Al Zarouni after the inauguration ceremony.

Emirates SkyCargo has opened Operations Centre at Cochin International Airport, marking a significant boost to international cargo operations from Kochi. The presence of Emirates SkyCargo is expected to further strengthen cargo connectivity to the Middle East and Europe. This development represents a significant step toward transforming Kochi into a major cargo hub.

Alongside this, several international courier services and additional freight forwarders are also planning to commence operations at the airport. Discussions were held between CIAL and Emirates

SkyCargo regarding the development of CIAL as a central hub for textile exports from Tamil Nadu and Kerala. The collaboration aims to enhance cargo and trade facilities, increase cargo volumes, and promote economic growth in the region.

Emirates SkyCargo Manager Ameer Al Zarouni & CIAL Managing Director S. Suhas IAS jointly inaugurated the event. SkyCargo Operations Lead Hassan Abdullah, CIAL Head of Cargo Satheesh Kumar Pai, Head of Commercial Manoj P. Joseph and Customs Deputy Commissioner E. Vikas were also present on the occasion.

DP WORLD LAUNCHES DEDICATED WAREHOUSE FACILITY FOR MONDELEZ INDIA IN COCHIN

State-of-the-art site strengthens Mondelez India's supply chain across Kerala with complete warehousing solutions.

DP World has inaugurated a dedicated warehouse facility for Mondelez India in Cochin, further strengthening Mondelez India's supply chain and distribution capabilities across Kerala.

The state-of-the-art facility, designed and operated by DP World, provides over 4,000 pallet positions, comprising 2,200 positions for dry goods and the remainder configured for ambient storage at 18-25 degrees Celsius. This fully integrated warehouse solution combines advanced infrastructure, warehousing services, and skilled manpower to

ensure Mondelez India's products reach consumers reliably, efficiently, and in compliance with the highest quality standards.

The inauguration took place at Ernakulam, Kerala in the presence of senior delegates from both Mondelez India and DP World.

Suresh Ramani, Chief Commercial Officer- Logistics -DP World India Subcontinent, said, "At DP World, we are committed to building advanced logistics solutions and world-class assets that simplify supply chains and unlock growth for our valued customers. We are

excited to inaugurate this new warehouse in Cochin for Mondelez India which is a true testament of our ability to design infrastructure that is safe, compliant, and efficient at scale.

This launch strengthens DP World's warehousing network across India, which now exceeds 5 million sq. ft. across 60+ locations. By integrating warehousing, port terminals, rail freight, freight forwarding, and express logistics, DP World continues to build resilient, integrated supply chain solutions that support India's economic growth.

Kerala is at the forefront in providing financial services to all

Kerala is leading the way in financial inclusion with leading-edge microfinance, MSME lending and women-centric financial products reaching rural and semi-urban areas, says a KPMG-CII report. The report, released at the CII Kerala Banking & NBFC Summit 2025 in Kochi, showcases Kerala as a dynamic and increasingly business-friendly destination that is impacting the national economy.

The report, which showcases the unprecedented transformation underway in the Indian banking, financial services and

insurance (BFSI) sector, highlights Kerala as a dynamic and increasingly business-friendly destination that is impacting the national economy through innovation, inclusion and sustainability.

Vishnu Pillai, Financial Services Technology Leader and Office Managing Partner, Kochi, KPMG, India, said that the transformation in the BFSI sector in India is not just about growth in numbers, but is also redefining finance as a platform for inclusive opportunity creation, technological leadership and social empowerment.

BUSINESS NEWS

CSL Launches Three State-of-the-Art Vessels, Marking a Milestone in Indian Shipbuilding

Strengthens India's Maritime and Offshore Capabilities



Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL), India's premier shipbuilder, has achieved a historic feat with the simultaneous launch of three cutting-edge vessels—the Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW SWC), the Hybrid Electric Methanol-Ready Commissioning Service Operation Vessel (CSOV), and India's largest Trailer Suction Hopper Dredger, DCI Dredge Godavari. The triple launch underscores India's growing shipbuilding prowess and self-reliance under the Aatmanirbhar Bharat and Maritime India Vision 2030 initiatives, reaffirming the India's position as a global maritime power and a hub for advanced, sustainable vessel construction.

The Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW SWC), built for the Indian Navy, was

launched by Smt Renu Rajaram wife of Vice Admiral R. Swaminathan, AVSM, NM, Controller of Warship Production and Acquisition, Naval Headquarters, Indian Navy, New Delhi.

The Trailing Suction Hopper Dredger (TSHD), with a hopper capacity of 12,000 Cubic Meters Capacity, built for the Dredging Corporation of India (DCI), was launched by Smt Sirobhushanam Sujatha of DCI.

The Commissioning Service Operation Vessel (CSOV), specially designed to support the construction, commissioning, operation, and maintenance of offshore wind farms by transporting personnel and equipment and serving as a floating base for wind turbine specialists, was launched by Smt Vasantha, wife of Shri B. Kasiviswanathan, IRSME, Chair-

person, Cochin Port Authority.

The event was held as two different ceremonies. The launching of ASW SWC was held at Morning. The ceremony was presided over by Shri Madhu S. Nair, CMD, CSL, along with senior officials from the Indian Navy and CSL.

The launching of the Dredger and the Commissioning Service Operation Vessel (CSOV) was held in the afternoon. Shri B. Kasiviswanathan, IRSME, presided over the ceremony. Shri M. Angamuthu IAS, Chairman, Dredging Corporation of India and Shri Andre Groeneveld, CEO of Pelagic Wind Services, Shri Madhu S. Nair, CMD, CSL, along with senior officials from CSL attended the function. ■



Your Business is Our Concern

Cyberpark Hosts Awareness Session for Women



Government Cyberpark, in association with the Government of Kerala's Dept. of Women and Child Development, Kozhikode, successfully conducted an insightful POSH Act Awareness Session titled "Building Safer Workplaces for Women."

Facilitated by Mr. Suhail Kundil, Founder of Fio Foundation, the session offered valuable insights into the Prevention of Sexual Harassment Act, its

historical evolution including the Vishakha Guidelines, and the key legal responsibilities of employers.

This impactful session helped Cyberpark's tech community and company representatives strengthen their understanding of workplace safety and inclusivity, marking another step toward building secure and respectful work environments for women. Cyberpark officials also participated. ■

Dabur launches Make India Dengue-Free campaign



Dabur India has launched a campaign to make India dengue-free. To create awareness about effective prevention from dengue fever and malaria, Dabur Odomos is conducting community awareness with its mega initiative Making India Dengue Free campaign and distributing free samples of Odomos mosquito repellent creams to school students across the country to protect themselves from the mosquitoes that cause dengue fever. As part of this, awareness was created among more than 300 children of Sacred Heart UP School, Vypin Karthadam, Ernakulam district, on effective mosquito prevention.

"As a brand, Odomos works to keep people safe from dengue fever and

other deadly mosquito-borne diseases. We have taken up this social initiative to raise public awareness and help protect them from mosquito bites. There has been a significant increase in the number of dengue fever cases in recent years.

A major factor is the lack of awareness about the fact that dengue fever is caused by the day-biting mosquito *Aedes aegypti*. People are prone to getting bitten by this mosquito while travelling or in schools, playgrounds. It is the need of the hour to spread awareness about preventive measures and help protect ourselves from the mosquitoes that cause dengue fever," said Vaibhav Rathi, Marketing Head - Home Care, Dabur India Limited. ■

KSUM calls for full use of creative economy tech sector



Kerala's tech workers should strive to reap the benefits of the state as the world's fastest-growing creative economy, Kerala Startup Mission CEO Anoop Ambika said. He was speaking at the 2025 graduation ceremony of Fab Lab at the Kerala Startup Mission campus at Kalamassery.

Unlike earlier, when technology workers and the creative community engaged in opposing poles, today's creativity sector engages them in a single domain, he pointed out. Integrating advanced technology into creativity

has led to the emergence of endless possibilities in both sectors, he added.

"The value of this sector is 200 billion dollars," the CEO said, calling upon Fab graduates to make the best use of it.

The graduates from Fab Lab this year are Ebin Mathew, Akash Edamana, Ancy Roshan, Ashish Joy, Namita Aravind, Noel Saji and Revi Shankar S.

Fab Lab Kerala is a flagship initiative of the Kerala Startup Mission to promote digital fabrication technology and maker culture in the state. The

labs are equipped with state-of-the-art facilities including 3D printers, laser cutters and other advanced manufacturing equipment.

It is a platform for students, entrepreneurs and researchers to transform their ideas into practical products. Fab Lab Kerala plays a vital role in strengthening Kerala's knowledge economy and fostering a technology-driven society.

Fab Academy has started admissions for 2026. For more information, visit <https://fabacademy.fablabkerala.in/>

Lexus Introduces New Lexus LM 350h



Lexus India has introduced the highly anticipated new Lexus LM 350h — a masterpiece meticulously crafted to redefine the ultra-luxury mobility segment. The arrival of the new LM 350h marks a significant milestone, reinforcing Lexus' commitment to delivering unparalleled grandeur, distinctive design, and exceptional comfort to its guests.

The flagship vehicle LM 350h, has already received an overwhelming response in the Indian market, reflecting the growing demand for luxury travel.

Since its debut, the new Lexus LM 350h has been captivating luxury vehicle enthusiasts nationwide and reflects the increasing desire for a luxurious travel experience, setting a new benchmark for first-class travel.

The new LM 350h has been crafted with meticulous attention to detail, focusing on a serene and productive experience. It introduces a suite of enhancements to further solidify its status as a leader in the ultra-luxury mobility space. Mr. Hikaru Ikeuchi, President of Lexus India, expressed his delight, stating:

"We are truly humbled by the overwhelming response from our guests to the Lexus LM 350h and wish to sincerely thank our customers for their patience in waiting for this exceptional vehicle. The LM is a testament to our unwavering commitment to luxury, featuring grand interiors and an exclusive private lounge that redefines comfort and sophistication. It sets a new benchmark in first-class luxury travel, offering our guests an unparalleled experience of refinement, prestige, and indulgence in India."

BUSINESS NEWS

Aster Medcity Launches Kerala's First Head and Neck Oncology Network



During the launch conference of Kerala's First Head & Neck Oncology Network by Aster Medcity. (From left to right) Dr. Arun R Warriar, Senior Consultant, Medical Oncology, Aster Medcity, Kochi, Dr. Shawn T. Joseph, Senior Consultant – Head & Neck Oncology, and Program Director – Aster Head & Neck Oncology Network, Kerala Cluster, Dr. Nalanda Jayadev, CEO, Aster Medcity and Dr. Shuhaib Khader, COO, Aster Medcity, Kochi.

Federal Bank Records Net profit of ₹ 955 Cr in Q2

Federal Bank delivered another strong quarter for the period ended 30 September 2025, marked by all-time highs in both Net Interest Income and Fee Income, and consistent growth across core metrics.

Key Highlights (Q2 FY26):

- Record NII at ₹ 2,495 crore, reflecting stable margins.
- Highest-ever fee income at ₹ 886 crore, under-scoring continued momentum in non-interest revenue streams.
- CASA ratio improved to 31.01%, up 94 bps YoY; CASA deposits grew 10.71% YoY to ₹ 89,591 crore.
- Operating profit stood at ₹ 1,644.17 crore, up 5.65% QoQ.
- Net profit rose 10.85% QoQ to ₹ 955.26 crore, driven by robust operating income and efficient cost management.

Presenting the quarterly results, Mr. KVS Manian, Managing Director & CEO said: "Having spent over a year in this role, I have a deep sense of conviction about

where the Bank stands today and the direction we're headed. Over the past few quarters, we've undertaken several strategic reorientations to strengthen our foundation and build for the future — and the results are beginning to show.

Our CASA franchise continues to demonstrate sustained and meaningful growth, reflecting the trust of our customers and the consistency of our team's execution. We're also broadening our asset mix thoughtfully, increasing the share of our mid-yield portfolio in a measured and disciplined way. At the same time, our fee income has seen strong, double-digit sequential growth, underscoring the breadth and resilience of our earnings.

Our asset quality remains solid, supported by prudent risk management and a balanced approach to growth. As we look ahead, we're shaping an organisation that's agile in its thinking, disciplined in its actions, and firmly anchored in the stability and values that define Federal Bank, he added.

BUSINESS NEWS

Hykon Inaugurates Corporate Office and Lithium Battery Factory in Kochi



Hykon, a multifaceted conglomerate and a pioneering presence in the power electronics field, has inaugurated its new corporate office and state-of-the-art Electric Vehicle (EV) and Lithium Battery factory in Kochi. The event took place at the KINFRA International Convention Centre in Kakkanad, Kochi.

The new facility was officially inaugurated by Shri P. Rajeev, the Minister of Industries, Law, and Coir, Govt. of Kerala.

Hykon's dream of establishing a modern manufacturing facility has become a reality on a 5-acre property at the KINFRA Electronic Manufacturing Cluster in Kakkanad, Kochi. The first phase includes a Corporate Office and a Manufacturing Unit for Electric 3-Wheelers and Lithium Batteries,

housed in a 52,000 sq. ft. space. This facility is designed to operate entirely on green energy, powered by a 250 KW solar plant and a 500-kilowatt-hour Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), ensuring 24/7 sustainable & eco-friendly operations—a first of its kind in Kerala.

The inaugural event was attended by several key dignitaries. Shri. George Christo, Executive Director, Hykon India Ltd. Welcomed the gathering and Shri. Christo George, Chairman & Managing Director, delivered the keynote address. Shri. R. Harikumar, Chief Operating Officer, proposed a vote of thanks.

Founded in 1991 as a Small-Scale Industry (SSI) by Mr. Christo George, Hykon began with a team of just five employees. His

college project on inverters became the foundation of the company, which was among the first in India to introduce inverters to the market under a brand name. Today, Hykon has expanded to a strong team of over 450 professionals, with three manufacturing units and more than 10 lakh satisfied customers. The company's product portfolio includes UPS, Inverters, Solar Hybrid Inverters, Solar Water Heaters, Lithium Batteries, Electronic Generators, BESS and Electric 3-Wheelers. Hykon also has a DSIR-recognized R&D Centre and collaborations with institutions like C-DAC and IIT Delhi. The company has been honoured with several awards, including the "National Award for Quality Products" presented by the President of India.

myG Future Thodayad epic store inaugurated



PWD Minister Mohammad Riyas, film stars Manju Warrier, Kunchacko Boban and myG India chairman A K Shaji jointly inaugurate the showroom.

Infopark Phase 3 to add big thrust to Kerala's development

- Infopark & GCDA sign MoU in the presence of CM
- Kerala's first AI Township project



Scripting a new chapter in Kerala's IT sector, Infopark in Kochi has embarked on its third phase of development by initiating an ambitious project that aims to create a world-class 'Integrated AI Township'.

Taking the project forward, Infopark and the Greater Cochin Development Authority (GCDA) signed a memorandum of understanding in the presence of Chief Minister Shri Pinarayi Vijayan in the state capital.

The project, being implemented jointly by GCDA and Infopark, will impart a fresh momentum to Kerala's development journey and transform the state into a knowledge economy, Infopark CEO Shri Susanth Kurunthil and GCDA Chairman Shri K. Chandran Pillai told a joint press conference here.

The project aims to attract global tech giants and GCC's (Global Capability Centre) of leading companies. It is expected to attract an investment of around Rs 25,000 crore and create around two lakh direct jobs and twice that number of indirect jobs.

Spread over more than 300 acres in the high-tech pocket of Ernakulam district, the project will be implemented through the land-pooling model, effectively addressing the difficulty in getting adequate land parcels for future-ready projects.

The MoU gives GCDA the responsibility of identifying suitable land for Infopark Phase 3 through land-pooling. Infopark will develop the infrastructure to turn the site into an integrated AI Township to host high-tech companies and as a sustainable residential area.

Infopark Phase 3: An Integrated AI Township

Considering the rapid growth of Kochi and the limited space available in the existing Infopark campuses, the phase 3 project is conceived as not just an IT park, but a technology hub based on the global concept of an 'Integrated AI Township'.

AI in all sectors

The township will serve as an Urban City Brain, being a centralised digital platform that will coordinate all city activities to anticipate and solve problems through real-time data analysis. The potential of AI will be leveraged in all sectors such as residential, commercial, retail, healthcare, education, and agriculture.

In addition to IT buildings, Phase 3 will feature residential facilities, educational institutions, sports and cultural facilities, shopping malls featuring Indian and foreign brand, amphitheatre, hospital, multi-storey parking system, lakes and open spaces.

INJACK sees multiple opportunities for Kerala, Japan amid global disruption



The ongoing tariff turbulence and the resultant global disruption have silver linings for Kerala in profitably associating with Japan in multiple areas, participants at the third edition of the Japan Mela organised by the Indo-Japan Chamber of Commerce Kerala Chapter (INJACK) at Kochi said.

The disruption offers opportunities for Kerala in areas including lithium titanate oxide battery (LTO battery), borrowings in Yen and in various aspects of the tourism sector, particularly health and wellness, experts at the event said.

“Every disruption carries an opportunity within it, and we should capitalise on it. The Trump tariffs are creating a major business turmoil, and Kerala should be able to find new opportunities while tackling it. Some of the key components of Kerala’s export basket are marine products, spices and textiles, and Kerala should look at Japan as an alternate market for these goods”, Additional Chief Secretary, Government of Kerala, K. R. Jyothish said.

He said Kerala’s abundant resources of rare earths should be tapped in the emerging field of LTO batteries, and the state can consider a critical mineral corridor. The state already has plans for LTO batteries

in buses, which will be cheaper than diesel. Kerala is also the first state in the country that is seriously pursuing an AI-led governance model.

Dr Viju Jacob, INJACK President and Executive Chairman of Synthite Industries said the Japan Mela would explore opportunities in tourism, wellness, maritime, infrastructure, spices & allied products, AI, robotics, IT, start-ups and more areas. He said India and Japan shared technological synergy and aspirations for a sustainable world.

Dr K Ellangovan, Vice President of INJACK and Managing Director of INKEL Ltd said the quality of tourists visiting Kerala was showing a steady uptick and that there were multiple areas in which Japan and Kerala could associate with each other.

Consul General of Japan, Takahashi Muneo, Chairman of the Japan Economic Council, Choemon Tanabe, INJACK Secretary Dr Jeevan Sudhakaran and Japan Mela Souvenir Co-ordinator Dr S Ratnakumar attended the event.

The event featured panel discussions on tourism and wellness; opportunities in IT and AI in Japan; maritime and infrastructure; and spices and allied products.

Jain University’s ‘Summit of Future’ Returns in January



The second edition of Summit of Future, a dynamic convergence of innovation, ideas and entertainment, hosted by Jain (Deemed-to-be) University, Kochi campus, is set to take place in Kochi from January 29 to February 1. The logo of the second edition of the Summit of the Future was unveiled at a ceremony held at Kochi. Hibi Eden, MP; Dr. Tom M. Joseph, Director of New Initiatives, Jain (Deemed-to-be) University; Prof. Venu Rajamony, Chairman, Future Kerala Mission; Prof. Dr. J. Letha, Pro-Vice Chancellor, Jain University; Sushant Kurunthil, CEO, Infopark and Subi Kurian,

Head of Operations, Jain University, among others attended the function.

Building on the resounding success of its inaugural edition, the four-day summit will feature seven thematic tracks; Education, Technology, Earth, Entrepreneurship, Wellness, Food, Culture and Literature. The event will bring together over two lakh participants, including 400+ experts and 30+ artists, across 30+ panel discussions, 25+ workshops, and 15+ masterclasses.

A key highlight this year is the emphasis on public participation alongside global thinkers,

policymakers, industry leaders, academicians and students. Through a state-wide campaign, citizens will be invited to contribute their ideas and visions for Kerala’s future, with selected proposals presented to expert panels during the summit.

“The Future Kerala Mission continues to focus on entrepreneurship, youth engagement, and sustainable development. The upcoming summit will further accelerate these efforts and attract global expertise to Kerala,” said Prof. Venu Rajamony, Chairman, Future Kerala Mission.

KITES Senior Care Forays into Kerala with Launch of Care Centre in Kochi

KITES Senior Care, a division of Lifebridge Group and one of India’s leading out-of-hospital senior care providers, has launched its specialized geriatric care centre in Kochi. The new facility expands capacity in a state where 16.5% of the population is over the age of 60.

The 48-bed centre, strategically located on Seaport-Airport Road, Kakkanad, offers a full spectrum of geriatric services, including post-hospital rehabilitation, palliative, and respite care. Residents benefit from 24x7 medical and nursing supervision, high-

dependency care units, personalized treatment plans, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, Ayurveda, wellness support, nutritious meals, and thoughtfully designed communal spaces that foster social engagement.

Shri P. Rajeev, Minister for Law, Industries and Coir, inaugurated the facility. Shri Hibi Eden, MP, Smt. Uma Thomas, MLA, Ms. Radhamani Pillai, Chairperson, Thrikkakara Municipality and Dr. T. Vinayakumar, Partner, Guide Holdings, among others attended the function. They were joined by Mr. Rajagopal G, Co-founder, Director & Group

CEO, Lifebridge Group, and Dr. Reema Nadig, Co-founder & COO, Lifebridge Group.

Mr. Rajagopal G, Co-founder, Director & Group CEO, Lifebridge Group, said: “With India’s ageing population rising sharply and Kerala leading this demographic shift, the demand for specialised senior care is both urgent and enduring. At KITES, we have built a financially sustainable, scalable model that maintains the highest standards of clinical excellence. The Kochi centre is another step in creating a trusted, pan-South India ecosystem delivering social impact & long-term value.”

BUSINESS NEWS

KIMSHEALTH Holds International Conference on Advancements in Maternal-Fetal Medicines



A two-day international conference of maternal-fetal medicine specialists, 'FETOMAT 2025', was held in Thiruvananthapuram. Dr. M.I. Sahadulla, Chairman & Managing Director, KIMSHEALTH, inaugurated the conference which was jointly organized by the Departments of Maternal & Fetal Medicine, and Obstetrics & Gynecology, KIMSHEALTH, in association with the Royal College of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists (RCOG), UK. Over 250 medical professionals from all over the world are participated.

In his inaugural address, Dr. Sahadulla expressed happiness over Kerala's significant progress in perinatal care and the opportunity to host an international conference that brings together leading experts from across the globe. He emphasized that the insights and ideas discussed at the event should be implemented on a global scale to enhance maternal and fetal health outcomes.

Even as Kerala maintains exemplary perinatal care standards, the rising rate of suicides contributing to maternal mortality was a key topic of discussion. Focusing on the mental well-being of expectant mothers, the state's first comprehensive private-

sector Perinatal Mental Health Clinic at KIMS HEALTH, 'Manasi', was inaugurated during the conference by Dr. Uma Ram, All India Chair of RCOG (AICC). The clinic will provide holistic emotional and psychological support for pregnant and postpartum women.

Dr. Vidyalekshmy R, Senior Consultant, Department of High-Risk Pregnancy and Perinatology, and Organising Secretary of FETOMAT-2025, Dr. Sajith Mohan R., Consultant, Department of Obstetrics

and Gynecology, KIMSHEALTH, among others, spoke at the inaugural session.

Dr. John Smoleniec, Conjoint Professor, Maternal Fetal Medicine, Liverpool Hospital, New South Wales, Australia, and Dr. Suresh S, Director of Mediscan, Chennai, were also part of the event.

The conference featured over 50 expert sessions focusing on current challenges and recent advancements in maternal-fetal medicine.

Saumitra P Srivastava takes charge as Director (Marketing), IndianOil

Mr. Saumitra P Srivastava has assumed charge as Director (Marketing) of IndianOil. Mr. Srivastava is a Civil Engineering Graduate from IIT Roorkee and holds an Executive MBA from SP Jain Institute of Management & Research, Mumbai.



In his new role, he will steer the strategic direction of IndianOil's vast, nationwide marketing infrastructure, ensuring sustained market leadership and customer service.

Montra Electric Launches Eviator in Kerala



Montra Electric, part of the Murugappa Group, has launched its latest innovation the Eviator, a 3.5 Ton GVW electric pickup in Kerala. Designed as a "True-EV," the Eviator brings together modern commercial capability and environmental sustainability, marking a major step forward in India's electric mobility revolution.

Built to deliver exceptional performance, reliability, and efficiency, the Eviator stands apart in the commercial EV category with advanced features including a powerful LFP battery, e-axle technology, and over the air (OTA) software updates.

With a gross vehicle weight of 3,490 kg and a payload capacity of 1.7 tons, the Eviator is powered by a 40 kWh LFP battery that offers a certified range of 245 km and a real range of up to 170 km. Its IP67-rated PMSM motor (peak power: 80 kW, peak torque: 300 Nm) ensures superior performance across diverse driving conditions.

Montra Electric provides a 7 year / 2.5 lakh km warranty on both the vehicle and the battery,

along with a matching annual maintenance contract (AMC).

For driver comfort and control, the Eviator comes equipped with telematics, regenerative braking, city/power modes, electric power steering and adjustable seating. Safety features include hill hold assist, reverse buzzer, seatbelt reminder, and fire-retardant cabin materials.

Charging flexibility is another key advantage of the Eviator. The vehicle supports multiple charging options to suit diverse operational needs from a 7.4 kWh AC charger that achieves a full charge in about 5 hours and 15 minutes, to a 3.3 kWh AC charger that takes around 10 hours and 40 minutes for a complete charge. For businesses requiring faster turnaround times, the 30 kWh DC fast charger (CCS2) enables charging from 20% to 100% in just 1 hour and 17 minutes. With this unmatched balance of sustainability, power, and safety, the Eviator is set to redefine expectations in the commercial EV segment and emerge as a true game changer.

BPCL Honours Automobile Mechanics



BPCL conducted a national level radio campaign to honour automobile mechanics who toil to make vehicles on the road to function smoothly. The voice message is presented by Rahul Dravid, former Indian cricketer and brand ambassador of MAK Lubricants.

A Mom's Mission Turns the Corner

SUCCESS STORY

How Ruby Rajagopal, a Chemistry Grad and 'Mom-trepreneur,' Turned a Son's Need into Kuhl Teen— A Game-Changing Personal Care Brand for Teens in the Global Market

The genesis of a successful business often lies in recognizing a gap. For Ruby Rajagopal, a Kochiite, the gap wasn't found in a market report or a corporate strategy session; it was found in the daily struggle of a mother trying to find safe, effective, and reliable personal care for her own teenage son.

A woman whose professional journey is as unique and colourful as her skills—ranging from Chemistry Graduate & English Lecturer to a renowned Cake Artist and baking mentor—Ruby's latest venture, Kuhl Teen, is perhaps her most ambitious and purpose-driven mission yet. It is the story of how a mother's intuition, backed by scientific rigour, is building a brand designed to meet the real, messy challenges of adolescence.

From Edible Art to Essential Care

Before becoming the founder of a personal care brand, Ruby Rajagopal had already cultivated an incredibly diverse and impactful career. She holds a Bachelor's in Chemistry and a Master's in English Literature. Her professional life included a passionate stint as an English

lecturer before a pivot into the artistic world of baking.

For over seven years, Ruby channelled her creative and educational drive into teaching edible art, training over 600 students worldwide in private cake design sessions. This transition was a perfect marriage of her skills: leveraging the chemistry of ingredients with the artistry of design.

But the next, more significant pivot was spurred by a familiar family dynamic.

Her son, Little Chef Kicha, is already a culinary sensation—a Global Child Prodigy and Indian Youth Icon who has graced international stages, including The Ellen DeGeneres Show and Little Big Shots. As Kicha navigated his demanding schedule and, crucially, entered his teenage years, Ruby encountered a profound problem: finding appropriate hygiene products.

"It's a wall many parents know too well," Ruby explains. "My son was making do with his father's products. The market was flooded with questionable ingredients, overpowering scents, and labels that looked more like



chemistry homework than clean care. I realized that teens and tweens deserve better."

It was this moment of necessity—this "Mom, I forgot to shower" chaos—that lit the spark for Kuhl Teen.

The Chemistry of Quality

Many 'mom-trepreneurs' create products based on need, but Ruby's unique background allowed her to approach the solution not just as a consumer, but as a chemist and an educator.

The initial phase of bringing Kuhl Teen to life was a year-long marathon of trial, error, and extensive consultation. Ruby spent months running between formulators, testing samples, and absorbing suggestions on what experts thought the market needed. But somewhere in that process, her sharp, scientifically-trained mind realized she was compromising her core vision.

With a chemistry degree, a sharp nose for quality, and a mother's unyielding intuition, Ruby took decisive control. She stopped taking suggestions and started giving instructions.

The final formulations for Kuhl Teen — a range that includes gentle shampoos and refreshing body washes — were 100% from her head, with every drop imagined, planned, and perfected by her own standards. This level of founder involvement is rare in the personal care space and speaks directly to the brand's authenticity. And as Kuhl Teen continues to evolve, a lineup of innovative new products is already in progress - each crafted with the same creativity, care, and uncompromising vision that defines the brand.

The Kuhl Teen Pledge: Freshness with a Purpose

Kuhl Teen is founded on a clear mission to provide personal care with purpose for skin that is changing, busy days, and bold

personalities. This focus culminates in a clear, non-negotiable set of promises that define the brand's commitment to safety and efficacy:

We pledge to offer No Nasties, No Secrets. We promise to keep our products free of parabens, sulphates, or mystery chemicals. Every item is designed for self-care that feels good, smells amazing, and works beautifully—without compromising on health or fun. Born from science, shaped by love, and driven by the everyday ups and downs of parenting a teen, we create safe, real, and fun products made just for them. No nasties. No eye-rolls. No compromises.

This clear articulation of standards is what sets Kuhl Teen apart in a cluttered market. It's a promise that directly addresses the health concerns of parents while ensuring the products meet the experiential demands of teens.

A Mission That Scales from Home to Nation

Ruby's background as an educator who has trained students across the globe ensures a world-ready perspective from day one.

Just as Kicha's culinary journey has transcended borders, Kuhl Teen is poised to do the same—driven by a universal, timeless instinct: a parent's desire to nurture safely and wisely.

Manappuram Lions Dialysis Centre Inaugurated



Manappuram Lions Dialysis Centre was inaugurated by V.P. Nandakumar, former International Director of Lions Club and Managing Director of Manappuram Finance Limited. The dialysis centre is functioning at Vaduvan-chal along with the Wayanad Hospital established by the Lions Club International Foundation. The hospital was inaugurated

by Lions Club International President A.P. Singh. Multiple Council Chairperson Lion Rajan Namboothiri presided over the function. Distribution of health cards to the beneficiaries was inaugurated by T. Siddique MLA.

Manappuram Finance has fulfilled its promise of assistance to the locals who are suffering due to the landslide and collapse of the Chural Hill.

Manappuram Finance built the dialysis center with the help of Lions International. Chairman VP Nandakumar announced that it will provide financial assistance for the monthly operations of the center and will purchase new dialysis machines as needed.

Former Lions Club International Director R Murugan, Moopainad Grama Panchayat President R Unnikrishnan, Ward Member Yashoda Chandran, Lion V Amarnath, Lion A V Vamanakumar extended their greetings. Former Lions International Directors Sangeetha Jatia, VV Krishna Reddy and Vijayakumar Raju were present.

BUSINESS NEWS

NMPA Honoured with Dual Recognition



New Mangalore Port Authority (NMPA) has achieved a remarkable feat at the National Awards for Excellence in Ports & Shipping 2025, held at Bengaluru. Dr. A. V. Ramana, Chairman, NMPA was conferred with two prestigious awards on behalf of the Port. NMPA was conferred the coveted 'Major Port of the Year' award, while the chairman of NMPA was honoured with the 'CEO of the Year' award, marking a proud moment for the institution in its Golden Jubilee year.

Under the stewardship of Dr. A V Ramana, NMPA has recorded two consecutive years of all-time high cargo handling, with 46.01 MMT in FY 2024–25, alongside record financials – a total income of ₹ 1,102.98 crore and a net surplus after tax of ₹ 420.57 crore, nearly double the figures from 2020–21. Operational efficiency has seen significant strides with pre-berthing delay reduced by 7 hours, vessel turnaround time cut by 6 hours,

berth productivity up by 11%, and container traffic growing by nearly 50% to 1,96,424 TEUs, positioning NMPA as a rising container hub on India's west coast. These milestones, combined with recognitions in official language implementation, environmental excellence, and stakeholder satisfaction, make NMPA a deserving recipient of Major Port of the Year, while affirming Dr. A. V. Ramana's stature as an exemplary CEO of the Year.

Ujjivan Small Finance Bank Registers ₹ 122 Cr Profit in Q2

Highest ever Disbursement at ₹ 7,932 Crore up 47.6% YoY; Loan book at ₹ 34,588 Crore up 14.0% YoY;

Deposits at ₹ 39,211 Crore up 15.1% YoY; CASA deposits at ₹ 10,783 up 22.1% YoY



Ujjivan Small Finance Bank Ltd has improved their overall performance during the second quarter of the current fiscal with a profit of Rs.122 crore.

Announcing the results at Banagaluru Mr. Sanjeev Nautiyal, MD & CEO, Ujjivan Small Finance Bank said "We have delivered a well calibrated growth for the quarter by ensuring absorption of excess liquidity thereby taking our CD ratio to 88.2%. Total deposits were up 1.5% QoQ and up 15.1% YoY at ₹ 39,211 Cr. CASA grew 14.9% QoQ and

22.1% YoY to ₹ 10,783 crore, while Retail TD plus CASA deposits remained around 71% of total deposits. Our CASA augmentation efforts are just beginning to take shape. The MF distribution and forex products would be rolled out to customers in Q3, while future rollout of ASBA will further drive CASA mobilization. We have proactively reset rates in both TD and SA in various buckets resulting in improvement in cost of funds by 23 bps QoQ and 17 bps YoY. We expect further CoF benefits in coming quarters.

Unibound Catalyst announces Rs 870 Cr investment at Balussery

Integrated project to boost education, tourism sectors

Leading business group Unibound Catalyst Pvt. Ltd has announced a major integrated project involving an investment of Rs. 870 Cr. in education & tourism sectors at Balussery in Kozhikode district.

The company has already submitted the Detailed Project Report (DPR) to the government and the application for single-window clearance. Welcoming the proposal, Minister for Industries, Law & Coir, Shri P Rajeeve said the government would extend all support to the business group for implementing the project.

"This major investment proposal reflects on the

highly conducive industrial ecosystem prevailing in the state. Also, this is a project that aligns well with the ESG policy of the Govt.," Shri Rajeeve said.

The project, coming up at a 96-acre site at Kottoor village near Balussery, will have a sports integrated education park, amusement park, aligned with the programmes of the national universities and wellness hub. The project is expected to generate 2000 direct jobs. "We propose to start the work on the project immediately," company directors Dr. Sundheep V Elias and Shri M P Suhail Gafoor said.

Holiday brand Pickyourtrail opens store in Kochi



Pickyourtrail, India's leading holiday brand, has opened a new store in Kochi. Their new offline store in Kochi demonstrates the company's commitment to making travel more accessible and technologically supported to its customers.

This is the company's second retail outlet in Kerala after Thiruvananthapuram. Kerala has emerged as a key market contributing significantly to PickYourTrail's growth in South India. Known for its global expatriate population, strong affinity for international travel and high digital adoption, Kerala's travel profile aligns closely with PickYourTrail's offering. Kerala is expected to account for 10% of the company's bookings in South India by 2025. Whether it's families heading to Europe, couples exploring Southeast Asia or groups planning immersive experiences across the Middle East, travellers from Kerala are increasingly opting for customized international

holidays that combine comfort and unique experiences.

Recent bookings show that leisure and honeymoon trips continue to dominate the reasons for travel. Destinations such as Bali, Maldives, Vietnam, Singapore and Thailand are still popular. Travelers are opting for experiences such as water sports, cultural tours and beachside explorations.

"We have a unique position in Kochi as a city of thoughtful travellers. Those who plan ahead and immerse themselves in experiences are more familiar with international holidays due to their prior experience in the Gulf region. Kerala is one of our best performing markets. Travelers from the state typically book longer trips and are more interested in detailed researched and personalized itineraries. This is fully aligned with the services we offer at PickYourTrail," said Hari Ganapathy, CEO and Co-Founder, PickYourTrail.

TVS Credit registers Rs. 277 Cr Profit during Q2

TVS Credit Services Limited, one of India's leading NBFCs, has recorded net profit after tax to the tune of Rs.277 cr during the second quarter of the current fiscal. The Company registered a 17% growth in disbursements in H1 FY26 compared to H1 FY25. TVS Credit reported a Total Income of Rs. 3,481 crore for H1 FY26, a growth of 7% from H1 FY25 and Net Profit After Tax of Rs. 385 crore for H1 FY26, a growth of 28% from H1 FY25.

Q2 FY26 Highlights:

AUM stood at Rs. 27,807 Crore as of Sep'25, a 4% growth compared to Sep'24.

Total Income for Q2 FY26 was Rs. 1,784 Crore,

a 9% growth compared to Q2 FY25.

Profit Before Tax for Q2 FY26 stood at Rs. 277 Crore, a 28% growth compared to Q2 FY25.

204 Crore for Q2 FY26, a 27% growth compared to Q2 FY25.

H1 FY26 Highlights:

AUM stood at Rs. 27,807 Crore as of Sep'25, a 4% growth compared to Sep'24.

Total Income for H1 FY26 was Rs. 3,481 Crore, a 7% growth compared to H1 FY25.

Profit Before Tax for H1 FY26 stood at Rs. 520 Crore, a 29% growth compared to H1 FY25.

385 Crore for H1 FY26, a 28% growth compared to H1 FY25.

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BUSINESS NEWS

OPPO India launches F31 5G Series

The Best Smartphone for Durability with Smooth and powerful performance



OPPO India has launched the F31 5G Series, the latest in its popular F line-up, designed to meet India's demand for durability and smooth performance. The new series offers three models —F31 Pro+, F31 Pro, and F31each engineered with stronger builds, long-lasting batteries, improved heat management, and advanced connectivity. With these upgrades, the

F31 5G Series is positioned as the smoothest and most durable smartphone range under INR 35,000 in India.

Durability is no longer optional in India.

A recent Counterpoint Research survey found that 79% of buyers rank durability as their top buying factor, with more than half admitted to dropping their phones frequently. The F31 5G Series addresses this directly. This series features a 360° Armor Body with a multi-layer airbag structure that cushions internal components from impact. The aerospace-grade AM04 aluminium alloy frame is 10% stronger than its predecessor, and the AGC DT-Star D+ glass offers reinforced screen protection. The devices are triple-certified IP66, IP68, and IP69, making them resistant to dust, immersion in water, and even

ains performance even in peak Indian summers, where temperatures can reach 43°C.

At the software level, OPPO's Dual-Engine Smoothness Systema combination of the Trinity Engine and the Luminous Rendering Engine keeps apps switching fluid. These features support OPPO's 72-Month Fluency Certification, which guarantees consistent performance for six years. In application, this means a delivery partner navigating with Google Maps, receiving a WhatsApp call, and quickly switching to a UPI payment app can do so without lag, flicker, or app crashes.

Performance and Thermal Design

The F31 Pro+ is powered by the Qualcomm Snapdragon 7 Gen 3 built on TSMC's 4nm process. It combines a 2.63GHz Cortex-A715 Prime core, three 2.4GHz Cortex-A715 performance cores, and



high-pressure water jets at temperatures up to 80°C.

In real use, this means a delivery rider caught in monsoon rain, a shop-keeper using the phone with oily fingers, or a trader squeezing through a crowded market can expect the phone to keep working. The F31 also resists 18 everyday liquids including tea, coffee, milk & detergent water, reflecting its design for Indian environments.

Smoothness Under Heat

Overheating remains a common complaint; 41% of Indian users report it as a major problem. The F31 5G Series tackles this with advanced thermal design. The Pro+ model uses a 5,219 mm² vapour chamber, while the Pro and base models use 4,363 mm² and 4,300 mm² chambers respectively, each combined with expanded graphite layers. This design maint-

four 1.8GHz Cortex-A510 efficiency cores. An Adreno 720 GPU and Qualcomm AI Engine deliver 60% better performance per watt over previous platforms. The device supports up to 24GB RAM (12GB physical + 12GB virtual) and UFS 3.1 storage. The F31 Pro uses the MediaTek Dimensity 7300 Energy 4nm chipset with four 2.5GHz Cortex-A78 cores and four Cortex-A55 cores. It comes with the Mali-G615 MC2 GPU, up to 24GB RAM (12GB physical + 12GB virtual), and UFS 3.1 storage.

The F31 features the Dimensity 6300 6nm chipset with two 2.4GHz Cortex-A76 cores, six 2GHz Cortex-A55 cores and the Mali-G57 MC2 GPU. This range ensures that whether you are gaming for long hours, streaming video, or running productivity apps, the phone maintains consistent speeds without overheating. ■



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V-Guard & Young Indians Launch Meenachil River Mouth Restoration



V-Guard Industries Limited, in partnership with Young Indians (Yi) and Thiruvarpuru Panchayath, has successfully launched their ambitious CSR initiative, Meenachil River Mouth Restoration Project at the corporate office of V-Guard Industries Limited, Kochi. The inaugural event marked the beginning of a comprehensive 20–30-day

intensive river cleaning operation aimed at restoring the ecologically critical waterway connecting to Vembanad Lake.

The project will involve the removal of plastic waste, invasive water hyacinths, and newly formed mud islands with the help of specialized equipment and trained

manpower. In addition to cleaning and restoring the river mouth, the CSR initiative will extend support to the local community through health checkups for residents, and awareness drives on waste management and conservation practices.

Mithun K. Chittilappilly, Managing Director, V-

Guard Industries Ltd., emphasized during the launch that “sustainability is central to the company’s leadership vision and future growth.” He highlighted V-Guard’s commitment to ESG principles—environmental stewardship, community empowerment, and ethical governance as the foundation of its long-term success. He further called the project “a movement of responsibility that balances progress with preservation, ensuring a healthier tomorrow for generations to come.”

Bibin Jacob, Chair, Climate Change Vertical, Yi Kochi, underlined that “The Vettikadu river mouth is a vital gateway between our inland waters and Vembanad Lake. Yi Kochi, in partnership with V-Guard Industries and Thiruvarpuru Panchayath,

is taking a crucial step towards restoring the natural flow of our waterways. By clearing silt, vegetation, and invasive species like water hyacinth, we are not only rejuvenating the river ecosystem but also empowering local communities to build resilience against climate impacts.”

Sreekumar A, V P V-Guard Industries Ltd., Antony Sebastian, Executive Director, V-Guard Industries Ltd, Aneesh O.S, President, Thiruvarpuru Panchayat; Jaya Sajimon, Vice president, Thiruvarpuru Panchayat, Ajayan K Menon, Ward Member Thiruvarpuru Panchayat; Meena Palaniappan, Chapter Chair, Yi Kochi; Aashika Jain, Chapter Co-Chair, Yi Kochi were also present at the event. ■

Baiju Gopalan Elected to Executive Committee of FHRAI

Sri Baiju Gopalan, Managing Director of Sree Gokulam Hotels & Resorts, has been elected as a member of the Executive Committee of The Federation of Hotel and Restaurant Associations of India (FHRAI). Sri Baiju Gopalan was recommended and nominated by Sri. Syama Raju, President of the Southern India Hotel & Restaurant Association (SIHRA), for this key position within FHRAI from South India. The election was held during the FHRAI Executive Committee Meeting in Lucknow on Sunday, 26th October 2025.

The election to the prestigious Executive Committee underlines Sri.



Baiju Gopalan’s significant contributions and leadership within the hospitality industry. As Managing Director, his vision and commitment have helped elevate Sree Gokulam Hotels & Resorts as a prominent name in the sector. This new role in FHRAI will allow him to further influence and contribute to the growth and development of India’s hotel and restaurant industry at a national level. ■



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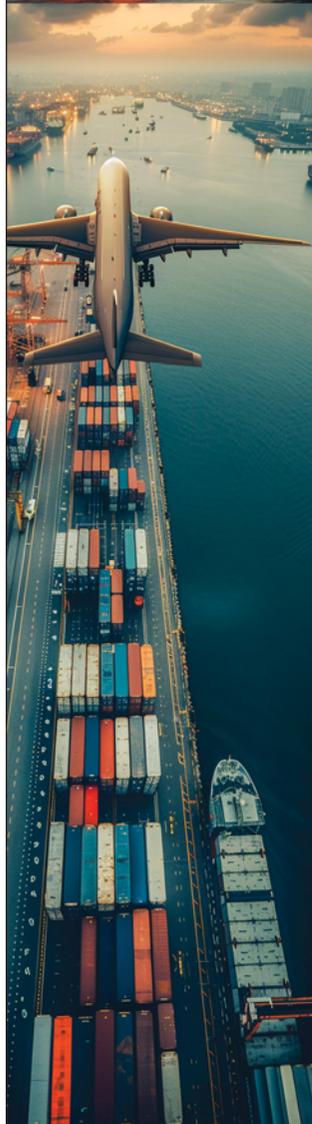
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