

End economic embargo imposed on Kerala: CM

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Demanding the Union government to immediately end the "economic embargo" imposed on Kerala for the past few years, CM Pinarayi Vijayan on Wednesday said that such political manoeuvres to destroy the State's development model will not succeed in the face of the will of Kerala, which has survived floods and epidemics.

Speaking at a press conference, he said that there have been intense efforts, especially over the past five years, to undermine Kerala's efforts for capital expenditure. He said that the Centre had reduced Kerala's market borrowing limit.

AHINDA groups plan mega convention to back Siddaramaiah

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

AHINDA organisations have decided to hold a mega convention in Mysuru on January 25 to vigorously push for Siddaramaiah's continuation as Chief Minister for the remainder of the term.

Representatives of AHINDA organisations gathered in the city on Wednesday under the leadership of K.S. Shivaram,

SIT arrests former IFS officer in fake drug manufacturing case in U.T.

Police sources say team arrested Sathiyamoorthy in Hosur, Tamil Nadu, and brought him to Puducherry for inquiry. The team had already arrested Raja, alias Valliappan, and 19 others for involvement in the case

The Hindu Bureau
PUDUCHERRY

The sleuths of a Special Investigation Team (SIT) have arrested former Indian Forest Service (IFS) officer G. Sathiyamoorthy in connection with the counterfeit drug case in Puducherry.

Police sources said the SIT team arrested Sathiyamoorthy in Hosur, Tamil Nadu and brought him to Puducherry for interrogation.

The team had already arrested Raja alias Valliappan, considered the kingpin in the manufacturing and distribution of coun-



Police personnel escorting former IFS officer Sathiyamoorthy, who was arrested in the fake drug manufacturing case, to the judge's residence in Puducherry on Wednesday: M. SAMRAJ

terfeit drugs, and 19 others for their alleged involvement in the case.

Raja had produced

covered ₹2.5 crore in cash and jewellery from Raja's house.

The accused had been previously arrested for a similar offence by the Tamil Nadu police.

The SIT team took Raja into custody recently. During interrogation, the police found that a former official who had opted for Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) had helped Raja pay Goods and Services Tax (GST). Following this, the SIT launched a search for Sathiyamoorthy, who had gone absconding.

The team tracked Sathiyamoorthy to Hosur and arrested him. He was

brought to Puducherry for interrogation on Wednesday.

Police sources said the former IFS officer had named a few officials serving in the GST office in Puducherry who had reportedly helped him with payments.

Steps have been initiated to obtain permission from the Union government to arrest them.

Lieutenant Governor K. Kailashnath had, meanwhile, recommended a probe by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and National Investigation Agency (NIA) into the scam.

Webinar on Dec. 28 for engineering students and aspiring professionals

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

As part of *The Hindu* Education Plus CareerX for Gen Z series, SASTRA University, Thanjavur, in collaboration with *The Hindu* Education Plus, will host a webinar titled "Engineering careers for VIKSIT BHARAT" at 4 p.m. on Sunday.

Emerging opportunities
Aimed at engineering students and aspiring professionals, the webinar will



explore emerging career opportunities, evolving industry expectations, essential skill development among other things.

Further, it will also discuss the expanding role of engineers in India's vision of becoming a developed nation, including the growing impact of artificial intelligence across industries.

The session will feature insights from an eminent panel comprising John Bosco Balaguru Rayappan, dean, sponsored research and professor, School of Electrical and Electronics Engineering, SASTRA University; Sowmya Suresh,

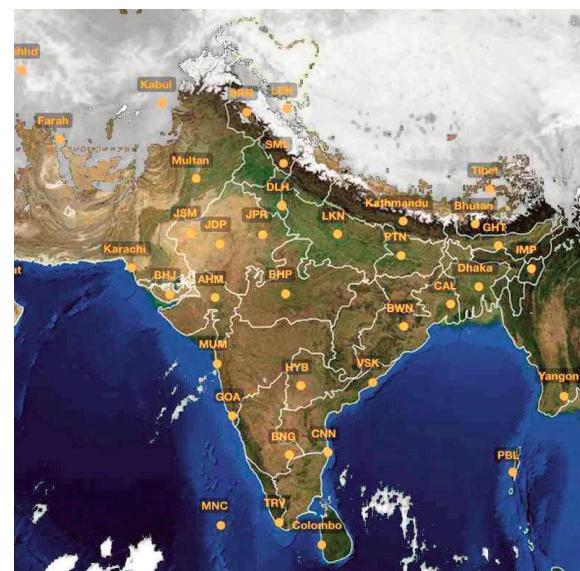
vice-president and head - entry cadre fresher management, HCL Tech; R. Narayanan, senior partner and head, Education and Skill Development, KPMG India; and Anamika Tiwari Chada, head, HR, Staples India. The discussion will be moderated by Soma Basu, journalist.

To register, visit newsht.live/THSASEE or scan the QR code.



WEATHER WATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD; POLLUTION DATA: CPCB; MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 17.00 HRS)

Forecast for Thursday: Cold wave conditions very likely at isolated places over Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Chandigarh, Delhi, Jharkhand, Punjab and Rajasthan. Dense fog very likely at isolated places over Assam, Meghalaya, East Madhya Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura, Odisha and West Bengal & Sikkim

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	25.6...	34.0...	21.8...	Kozhikode	33.6...	31.8...	21.8...
Ahmedabad	30.4...	35.6...	20.4...	Kurnool	30.4...	36.3...	16.3...
Atzawl	26.0...	30.5...	16.5...	Lucknow	20.1...	32.6...	12.6...
Allahabad	15.8...	24.6...	9.8...	Madurai	32.0...	32.1...	21.2...
Bengaluru	27.0...	31.5...	15.1...	Mangaluru	31.7...	31.9...	21.9...
Bhopal	25.3...	31.6...	13.6...	Mumbai	32.8...	32.8...	20.3...
Bhubaneswar	27.8...	33.6...	13.6...	Mysuru	28.2...	31.3...	13.2...
Chandigarh	22.6...	30.2...	10.2...	New Delhi	20.1...	30.1...	8.1...
Chennai	28.7...	30.9...	20.9...	Patna	14.5...	33.4...	13.4...
Coimbatore	31.0...	34.8...	21.5...	Port Blair	29.8...	31.5...	21.5...
Dehradun	23.9...	32.1...	8.7...	Puducherry	30.0...	39.0...	19.6...
Gangtok	13.2...	18.6...	8.6...	Pune	27.5...	30.5...	9.9...
Goa	—	—	—	Raipur	27.4...	34.4...	8.9...
Guwahati	—	—	—	Ranchi	22.6...	33.9...	8.5...
Hubballi	28.8...	31.3...	13.3...	Shillong	18.2...	30.7...	7.4...
Hyderabad	28.1...	32.6...	12.9...	Shimla	17.2...	32.6...	6.5...
Imphal	23.8...	30.8...	13.9...	Srinagar	12.9...	33.0...	3.0...
Jaipur	22.3...	31.0...	11.0...	Thiruvananthapuram	33.4...	34.2...	22.5...
Kochi	31.4...	34.6...	12.6...	Tiruchi	30.5...	34.0...	20.0...
Kohima	18.0...	24.0...	6.5...	Vijayawada	30.3...	33.8...	18.4...
Kolkata	24.0...	31.3...	13.3...	Visakhapatnam	28.2...	31.9...	19.5...

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO ₂	NO ₂	CO	PM _{2.5}	PM ₁₀	CODE
Ahmedabad	.64	.70	.47	.135	.152	■
Bengaluru	.4	.20	.29	.174	.366	■
Chennai	.5	.25	.28	.208	.153	■
Delhi	.17	.62	.63	.123	.293	■
Hyderabad	.8	.41	.32	.142	.127	■
Kolkata	.6	.21	.64	.305	.186	■
Lucknow	.6	.38	.58	.153	.299	■
Mumbai	.18	.13	.61	.90	.122	■
Pune	.25	.24	.25	.257	.223	■
Visakhapatnam	.16	.89	.55	.319	.251	■

Air Quality Code: ■ Poor ■ Moderate ■ Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO₂: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as monuments.

NO₂: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM_{2.5} & PM₁₀: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Rohtak, Haryana recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 344 indicating a very poor level of pollution. In contrast, Shillong, Meghalaya recorded a healthy AQI score of 11.

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

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REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

REFERENCE No.820/01(A)/Con/Bridge/Proof Checking/ PIU-PWD/U-PREPARE

Date: 24/12/2025

NAME OF PROJECT: Uttarakhand Disaster Preparedness and Resilience Project (U-PREPARE)

Project (U-PREPARE)