End economic embargo imposed on Kerala: CM

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.

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

Raja had produced drugs under the names of nearly 14 branded companies and distributed them in 16 States The police recovered ₹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. Kailashnathan had, meanwhile, recommended a probe by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and National Investigation Agency (NIA) into the scam.

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

AHINDA groups plan mega convention to back Siddaramaiah

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, president of the Karnataka State Backward Classes Awareness Forum, and chalked out a plan to mobilise a large number of people for the event.

The plans to hold an AHINDA convention in support of Mr. Siddaramaiah comes amid the ongoing speculation over a possible change of guard in the State, with reports of Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar angling for the coveted post.

Webinar on Dec. 28 for engineering students and aspiring professionals

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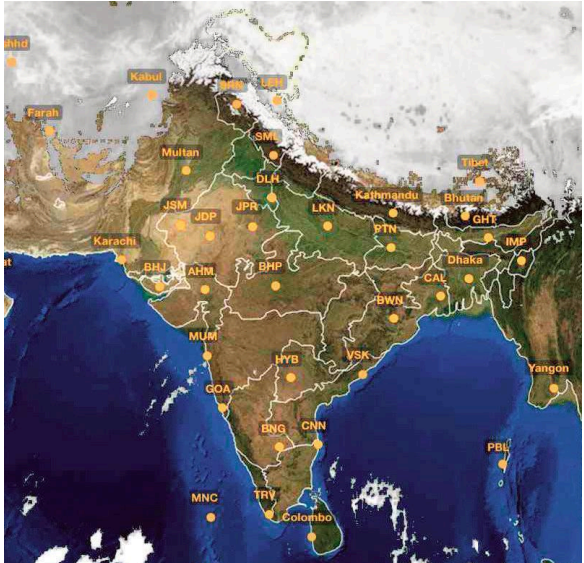ngineering, SASTRA University; Sowmya Suresh, vice-president and head - entry cadre fresher management, HCL Tech; R. Narayanan, senior partner and head, Education and Skill Development, KPMG India; and Anamika Tiwari Chada, head, HR, Staples India. The discussion will be moderated by Soma Basu, journalist.

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

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