

# MORE AN AQUA-DESERT THAN A LIFELINE FOR FISHERMEN



The people of Kuttanad depend on the water in the wetland canals for washing, bathing and at times drinking too. Often, these water sources are heavily polluted from pesticide residues and organic waste

Reema Narendran | ENS  
T'Puram, March 18

A survey by the State Health Department shockingly revealed that the incidence of cancer was very high in Kainakari panchayat, right at the heart of the Vembanad wetland. Fearing panic, the report has been moved to the cold storage, but the stark truth remains.

“The water is highly polluted here and we do have an increasing number of people getting affected by cancer. The most common type is abdominal cancer; throat cancer comes second,” said Kainakari panchayat member James.

The overuse of chemical fertilisers (20,000 tonnes annually) and pesticides (500 tonnes), including the deadly ones such as DDT, lindane and endosulphan, is generally believed to be the cause of such a high incidence of cancer. The pesticide and fertiliser residues dissolve in the water, an integral part of Kuttanad life.

The water has unfortunately become a cesspool of not only the fertilisers applied on plantation farms and pesticides used in Kuttanad, but also of hundreds of tonnes of human excreta that flow down the Pampa and Achenkoil rivers during the Sabarimala pilgrimage season,

not to mention oil spills and waste from houseboats.

These contaminants affect not only humans, but also clams, prawns and fish, which are sensitive even to the slightest change in the level of salt. This cocktail of chemicals is not something they can cope with.

“This lake has no wealth now, our children are moving into the construction field,” says Kausalya, a mother of three fishermen who survived three bouts of chikungunya.

What could spell further doom to this wetland is the proposed Pampa-Achenkoil-Vaippar Link Project which would take away the water right from the High Ranges.

“The floods we have in Kuttanad have become a necessity, just like a bath. They not only cleanse, but also bring in a lot of organically rich soil and silt with it, which is absolutely necessary for paddy cultivation here,” says Kuttanad Vikasana

Samithi (KVS) director Fr. Thomas Peelianickal.

Echoing his view was Mulla-periyar Special Cell member James Wilson, an expert in inter-state water issues: “We need at least 4,745 mcm of water just for flushing out the present level of toxic pesticide residues and other pollutants from Vembanad. We also need a lot of water for various other uses in the wetland. If we go ahead with the river diversion project, the Pampa is estimated to have a deficit of 3,537 mcm of water by 2050, leading to a lot of salinity intrusion problems in Kuttanad and making the water shortage worse.”

The two interventions in the natural flow of the river and the tides - the Thanneermukkom barrage and the Thottapilly spillway - have now been recognised as ‘errors in judgement’.

“Only farmers of around 12 per cent of the total paddyfields go in for a second crop. It is for them that the barrage is kept closed. The berried prawns and pearl-spots which breed during the season are unable to enter the waterways, while we fishermen have to starve,” says Anilkumar of Muhamma.

‘Aqua-desert’ is how the fishermen now describe the Vembanad Lake. While the pollution in Kuttanad is organic, the lake



The fishermen of Muhamma near a Matsyathavalam or fish sanctuary set up by ATREE. No one catches fish 300 metres around this sanctuary

in and around Kochi has become barren thanks to industrial effluents. “The huge quantities of ammonia being dumped into the lake - to the tune of 430-560 ppm - acids, suspended solids, fluorides and radioactive minerals are toxic for fish, which face reproductive hazards and growth abnormalities, with eggs often being destroyed,” notes Cusat School of Industrial Fisheries director Madhusoodana Kurup.

But all is not lost, yet. Organisations such as ATREE, RARS, CMFRI, Kuttanad Vikasana Samithi and several panchayats are working towards the revival of this wetland of international importance. While ATREE, RARS and CMFRI are working



(Concluded)  
(The study was conducted with a fellowship from the Centre for Science and Environment, New Delhi)

## KSKTU workers encroach on land in 7 places in Wayanad

Express News Service  
Kalpetta, March 18

THE workers of the Kerala State Karshaka Thozhilali Union (KSKTU), the farm labourers’ organisation of the CPM, encroached upon excess land in six estates and excess revenue land in another place in Wayanad district on Thursday.

The workers encroached upon Kuppamudi Estate, Kolagappara, near Sulthan Bathery, Pambra Estate near Pulppalli, Achur, Meppadi and Puthumala divisions of Harrison’s Malayalam Limited (HML) in Vythiri Taluk, Jessi division of Parisson’s Estate at Kaithavallikkunnu near Mananthavadi and the revenue land at Karakkani,

Kunnamangalam, near Thonichal in Edavaka panchayat.

The agitators who reached the estates by 11 am pitched flags on the land and declared the land as liberated from the estate group. The KSKTU leaders also announced that measures would be taken to distribute the land among the landless in the district soon.

After pitching flags on the land, majority of the workers retreated from the spots, it is learnt.

“The agitation aims only to invite the attention of the government to the excess land illegally held by plantation groups,” the KSKTU district committee said in a press release here.

## Summer exemption for repayment of loans

Express News Service  
T'Puram, March 18

GOVERNMENT employees have been granted the customary summer exemption from repayment of loans.

The State Government, in an order dated March 11, stopped the recovery on account of the repayment of principal and interest of all loans and advances taken from the government by State Government employees for three months from April. The exemption is for employees drawing basic pay up to Rs 12,930 per month. The recovery of instalments thus deferred will be effected in five equal instalments from July to November 2010.

The deferred recovery, a practice being followed for over a decade, is being implemented mainly to put more money at the disposal of employees before school and college reopening.

The benefit will be applicable to all State Government employees, including contingent and work establishment staff and the teaching and non-teaching staff of aided schools and private colleges who are paid from the Consolidated Fund of the state. The benefit will also be extended to all non-gazetted and gazetted officers of the local bodies, including contingent and work establishment staff drawing a basic pay up to Rs 12,930 per month in respect of the loans and advances taken by them from the local bodies.

### DIRECTOR GENERAL NAVAL ACADEMY PROJECT (MIN. OF DEFENCE) EOI FOR SUPPLY & INSTALLATION OF MEDICAL EQUIPMENT PHASE I AT INDIAN NAVAL ACADEMY, EZHIMALA

- Applications are invited from reputed and experienced medical companies for supply and installation of medical equipment Phase I at Naval Academy, Ezhimala, Kannur District, Kerala.
- The firm will be expected to Supply / install / commission medical equipment in accordance with specifications in a time bound manner and offer support in terms of warranty / guarantee, maintenance and long-term service.
- Criteria for applying**
  - Estimated cost of work will be approx. **Rs. 65 Lakh.**
  - Should have setup medical equipment for a hospital **one** of the criteria given below.
    - One similar completed order not less than Rupees **52 Lakh** in last seven years.
    - Two similar completed orders not less than Rupees **32.5 Lakh** in last seven years.
    - Three similar completed orders not less than Rupees **26 Lakh** in last seven years.
  - Minimum average annual turnover of Rupees **19 Lakh**, in the last five financial years ending 31 Mar 09.
  - The company should be doing business for at least five years in the field medical equipment.
  - The vendor / products and or its associate companies etc should not have been banned or black-listed by any Government or Quasi Government Agencies or Public Sector undertakings at any given time.
  - Infrastructure for R & D.
  - Qualified manpower and experience.
  - Quarterly stock level statement for last financial year duly authenticated by bank.
  - Firms with foreign collaboration and capacity to supply imported equipment may also apply. Certificate of foreign OEM as their sole distributor of equipment in India be submitted.
  - Repeat client history of at least 5 years supported by copies of orders.
  - Should have been assessed by the Income Tax department for the last three years.
- Details to be furnished by firms:**
  - Name, Address, Telephone / Mobile No., Fax, email ID and website address.
  - Profile, ownership and organisational structure of the firm.
  - Annual turnover and IT Return of the firm for the last three years.
  - Details of three major assignments, xerox copies of supply order, proof of installation and user feed back reports.
  - Authorisation certificate from OEM / Manufacturer for Medical Equipment.
  - Client list and Defence Projects executed.
  - List of qualified manpower, equipment etc and factory layout.
- Application indicating willingness to participate alongwith details mentioned at SI 4 to be forwarded to Director General, Naval Academy Project Ezhimala, Katari Bagh, Naval Base P.O., Kochi (Kerala) – 682 004 by 26 Apr 2010. Firms will be short-listed based on above criteria or any other additional criteria considered necessary by Indian Navy at a later date. Tenders will thereafter be issued to short-listed companies only. List of equipment is available in the advertisement at irf-nausena.nic.in . For any queries contact Project Coordinator on pma\_kochi@rediffmail.com .**
- The Director General, Naval Academy Project Ezhimala, Kochi reserves the right to reject any or all the applications received in respect to the advertisement without assigning any reason whatsoever. No compensation will be paid to any firms for rejection on any account.

davp 10702/11/0336/0910

Director General

**THE FEDERAL BANK**  
LIMITED Regd. Office: Aluva, Kerala

Regional Office:  
Mission Quarters,  
Thirissur-680 001.

(Rule 8(1))

**POSSESSION NOTICE**  
(For Immovable Property)

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Federal Bank Ltd., under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (hereinafter referred to as Act) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) of the said Act read with Rule 8(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 (hereinafter referred to as Rules) issued a Demand Notice dated 29.03.09 calling upon the borrowers :

1. Shri. Balachandran C., S/o. Aravindaksha Menon, Chungath House, Methala P.O., Kodungallur, Thrissur Dist.
2. Smt. Sreekalpa P., W/o. Balachandran C., Chungath House, Methala P.O., Kodungallur, Thrissur Dist.
3. Shri. Madhusoodhanan K., S/o. Aravindaksha Menon, Chungath House, Methala P.O., Kodungallur, Thrissur Dist.

to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being of Rs. 21,60,081/- (Rupees Twenty one Lac sixty thousand eight hundred and eighty one only) in loan accounts with interest with in 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice

The borrower/s and/or owner/s having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower/s and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules on this the 12<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2010.


The borrower/s and/or owner/s in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Federal Bank Ltd. for an amount of Rs. 21,60,081/- (Rupees Twenty one Lac sixty thousand eight hundred and eighty one only) in loan accounts with interest, cost and expenses.

**Description of the Immovable Property**

All that piece and parcel of 29.50 cents of land with building along with all improvements thereon situated in Survey No. 42971 (Old No. 5293) of Chevvoor Village, Thrissur Taluk, Thrissur District, Kerala State and bounded on North by Property of Pazhukutty Math, South by Road, East by Road and West by Property of Chandrika

2/2 250 cents along with building and all improvements thereon situated in Survey No. 2374 of Methala Village, Kodungallur Taluk, Thrissur District, Kerala State and bounded on North by Road, South by Property of Ayalapparambil family, East by Property sold to Anilkumar and West by Road.

P. No. : "Thirissur" For The Federal Bank Ltd.  
Date: 12.3.10 (Sd/-) Authorised Officer

**सिंडिकेटबैंक**  
**Syndicate Bank**

**HOUSING FINANCE BRANCH**  
Muthoot Towers, M.G. Road, Ernakulam, Kochi 682 036.  
Ph: 0484 2360912, 2362126

**POSSESSION NOTICE**  
(for Immovable property)\*  
[Appendix IV under the Act-rules-8(1)]\*

Whereas the undersigned being the authorized officer of the Syndicate Bank under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(4) read with rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice dated 15.10.2009 calling upon the borrower and also owners of the property/surety to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs. 579765/- (in words Five lakhs seventy nine thousand seven hundred sixty five only) with in 60 days from the date of the said notice.

The owners of the property Sri J.K. Akbar S/o. Kochu Pillai, Henneth House, Thirikkakara, Kochi-682 021 and others having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the owner of property and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 of the said rules on this 12th Day of March of the year 2010

The owner of property in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Syndicate Bank, Housing Finance Ernakulam Branch for an amount of Rs. 579765/- and interest thereon, costs etc.

**Description of the Immovable Property:**  
All that part and parcel of the property consisting of 7.758 Cents of and and building in Sy. No. 5572/C at Vazhelsale Village, Kanyanpuzha Taluk, Ernakulam District in the name of Sri J.K. Akbar.

**Bounded:**  
On the North by : Vazhi  
On the South by : Vacant Land  
On the East by : Property of Mr. Sivadasan and Sridaya  
On the West by : Road


Sd/-  
Chief Manager / Authorised Officer,  
Syndicate Bank Regional Office, Pioneer Towers,  
Shastri Nagar Road, Ernakulam-682 031.

Date : 12.03.2010  
Place : Ernakulam

You will never hear our readers saying

The same old stuff



**Union Bank of India**  
(A Government of India undertaking)  
Post Box No. 688010 17/416-W, Kabeer Plaza, V.C.S.B. Road ALAPPUZHA  
Phone Nos. 0477 2251539, (fax) 2251439 E. mail: cbsalapuzha@unionbankofindia.com

**AUCTION NOTICE**  
**[SCHEDULE 4 (2)]**

Where as the Bank acting through its Authorised Officer, in exercise of its powers under Section 13(4) of Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (SARFAESI), took possession of the mortgaged property of Mr. Narayana Menon and Mrs. Pingala Devi on 21.10.2008 on their failure to pay the due amount as per the notice dated 05.07.08 issued under section 13(2) of the said Act and decided to put up for sale the Schedule -1, Part -A property for realization of the Schedule -1, Part - B debts due to the Bank, upon the following terms and conditions:

**Conditions of Sale**

- a) Sale is being held on AS IS WHERE IS, WHATEVER THERE AND WITHOUT RECOURSE basis and the Bank is not responsible for title, condition or any other fact affecting the property.
- b) The particulars specified in the Schedule -1 have been stated to the best of information of the Bank and the Bank will not be answerable for any error, misstatement or omission.
- c) Demand Draft/ Pay Order for Rs.2,50,000/- (Rupees Two Lakhs Fifty Thousand only) towards the earnest money deposit (EMD) along with application shall be deposited with the Authorised Officer on or before 27.04.2010 at 10.30 am to participate in the sale. The Demand Draft/ Pay Order shall be drawn on Union Bank of India payable at Alappuzha. Cheques will not be accepted for EMD.
- d) At the auction sale the amount biddings are to be increased or the method of bidding shall be as determined by the Authorised Officer.
- e) For the reasons, it shall be discretion of the Authorised Officer to cancel the sale for any reason and return the bids submitted and Bank would not entertain any claim or representation in that regard from the bidders.
- f) The person declared to be the successful purchaser shall pay forthwith on receipt such declaration a deposit of 25% (twenty five percent) of sale price, less EMD deposited if any, and remaining amount shall be paid within 15 days from the date of confirmation of sale by the Bank.
- g) On issuance of Sale Certificate by the Bank, sale shall be complete and no claims shall be entertained by the Bank.
- h) Nothing in this notice constitutes or will be deemed to constitute any commitment or representation on the part of the Bank to sell the property. Bank reserves the right to cancel the sale for any reason it may deem fit or even without assigning any reason such cancellation shall not be called in question by the bidders.
- i) The Bank reserves its right to accept, reject any or all bids at any stage and vary, modify and waive any condition of sale in its absolute discretion.
- k) Brokers/ Middleman shall not be entertained.

Sale of Schedule -1, Part - A property shall be held by the Authorised Officer of the Bank by way of Public Auction as per details set out hereunder.

Date of Sale	27.04.2010
Time of Sale	10.30 am
Place of Sale	Alappuzha Branch premises
Reserve Price Fixed in Rupees	25,00,000/- (Twenty Five Lakhs only)
Earnest Money Deposit	2,50,000/- (Two lakhs Fifty thousand only)

**Schedule – 1 Part – A**

Name of the account	Description of property and the name of the owner (if more than one owner give all their names)	Details of Encumbrances as known to the Bank	Claims if any put forward to the property and any other Known particulars bearing on its nature and value	Valuation as assessed by us in Rupees.
M/S.Epic Systems and Tours	1) 23.07 Ares of Land with Residential Building in Re. Sy. No.13/3 (Old. S. y. No. 2 0 6 5 B and 2065C) of Thirikkunnapuzha Village, Karthikapally Taluk, Alappuzha (Dist.) owned by Mr. Narayana Menon and Mrs. Pingala Devi. Bounded by: East - Property of Narayana Menon & Madhavan. West - Property of Narayana Menon North - Property of Madhavan South - Road.	Not known	NIL	Rs. 25,00,000 (Rupees Twenty Five lakhs only).

**Schedule – 1 Part – B**

Nature of Facility	Debt due as on 30.06.08	Post 13(2) notice Interest recoverable	Costs recoverable	Recovery effected after Notice date	Total dues as on 27.04.10
Term Loan	24,60,038.00	7,63,249.00	55054.00	12,73,750.00	20,04,591.00

Sd/- AUTHORISED OFFICER  
Union Bank of India  
Kabeer Plaza, V.C.S.B. Road, Alappuzha.  
Ph: 0477 2251539Fax: 0477 2251439  
Place : Alappuzha  
Date : 17.03.10  
E. mail: cbsalapuzha@unionbankofindia.com