



Kerala

'Hate to be in court': Boy caught in divorce, custody battle tells Kerala HC

A division bench said that children who see hostility between parents tend to have lower satisfaction levels in their relationships in the future.



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P Ramdas



Updated on: 22 Apr 2025, 8:16 am · 2 min read



KOCHI: A nine-year-old child, caught in the middle of a divorce and custody battle between his parents, has submitted before the Kerala High Court that

he abhors going to court and even hates the judges for having summoned him. The child added that he feels dehumanised and stigmatised, being paraded in front of people as a virtual chattel in the dispute between his parents.

And on cue, considering the trauma experienced by the child, the HC has held that, except in unavoidable circumstances, the presence of children in court halls or premises, for counselling or other statutory proceedings, should be ordered sparingly and with great caution.

A Division Bench comprising Justice Devan Ramachandran and Justice M B Snehalatha issued the directives on an appeal filed by a 30-year-old woman from Kannur, challenging the order of the Family Court, Thalassery, that granted custody of the child to the father and interim custody to the mother. The woman argued that the Family Court order is untenable and contrary to the child's wishes.

The Bench said that children who see hostility between parents tend to have lower satisfaction levels in their relationships in the future. "The children have gone through high conflict because their parents are unable to solve problems, negotiate interpersonal relationships, and have higher levels of social anxiety. They are also known to experience higher levels of abandonment and rejection, which may lead to traits of Personality Disorder," the court said.



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The Division Bench said that when dealing with the increasing number of matrimonial issues, courts often tend not to look at the plight of children with the requisite empathy, not deliberately but in the quest to maintain expediency.

"The parents – consumed by their personal emotions – invariably overlook the trauma of the children," the HC said.

The court said the child who was present in the court refused to even leave his mother's hands or to remove himself from her lap, and did not agree to the its repeated suggestions and persuasion to even shake hands with his father, much less talk to him. "When we insisted further, he started crying inconsolably, telling us that he does not trust us, for pushing him to such an excruciating situation," the Bench said.



The court termed it a classic example of the harrowing and torturous trauma a child suffers when parents are litigating over custody. The court set aside the order of the Family Court. It also set aside the modification made earlier by the Family Court which had decided the Munsiff Court in Kannur as the place of exchange of the child. The HC has restored a previous order that said the exchange could happen in front of the Mahatma Mandiram in Kannur.

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Education revamp: Kerala SCERT to submit suggestions this week

While broad areas with scope for improvement were detected by the department earlier, the 'Vision 2031' education seminar provided clear insights into this, SCERT officials said.



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Aswin Asok Kumar

Updated on: 20 Oct 2025, 8:00 am · 1 min read



THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: Moving teachers out of administrative responsibilities, promoting sports among students, and increased in-service

training to bolster professional practices among teachers are some of the key recommendations set to be put forth by State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT) before the state government this week.

Part of the efforts to revamp the state's school education sector, the suggestions are likely to be included in SCERT's vision document, which aims to revolutionise the education sector by 2031, the 75th year of Kerala's formation.

While broad areas with scope for improvement were detected by the department earlier, the 'Vision 2031' education seminar provided clear insights into this, SCERT officials said.

"The vision document, comprising all the key suggestions, is in the final stage of drafting," SCERT director Jayaprakash R K told *TNIE*.

Taking insights from the seminar discussions, the SCERT will suggest that teachers should not be burdened with administrative responsibilities, like the maintenance of accounts of government schemes.

"The commonly seen practice is that teachers with 20-odd years of service get promoted to the post of assistant education officers (AEO) without verifying their interest or identifying their capabilities. We will recommend a potential solution to the selection of AEO recommendation," said an SCERT official.



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More in-service training sessions will be recommended for teachers to enhance professionalism. The council evaluated that the Kerala Education Rules (KER) of 1959 need proper revision, beyond random amendments.

"There is a provision to facilitate tailoring classes in schools with over 300 girls, which is outright misogynistic," an official with the education department.

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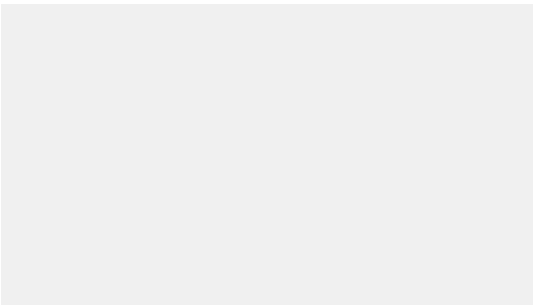
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suggestions

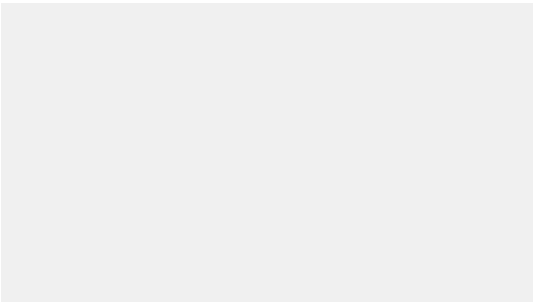
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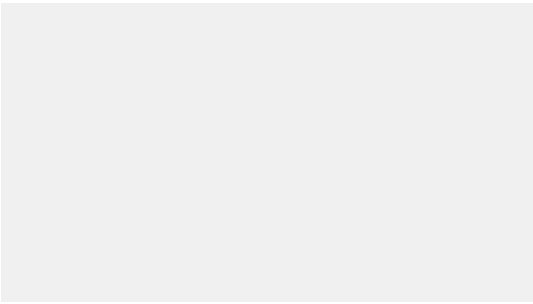
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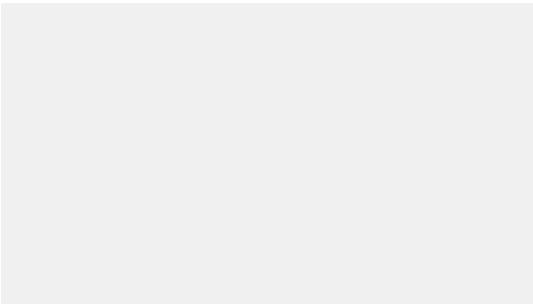


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Nedumbassery airport railway station work likely to begin this year



With the minister giving the green light for the railway station project, sources indicated that preliminary works could begin within this year.



Image used for representative purposes only. (File Photo | Express)

Express News Service

Updated on: 20 Oct 2025, 7:53 am · 2 min read



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THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: Railway Minister Ashwini V Union Minister of State George Kurian that measures would be initiated soon to begin the construction work of the Nedumbassery airport railway station. Kurian shared the information on his social media account on Saturday, noting that the long-awaited project is gaining momentum.

According to sources, the proposed station will come up near the Cochin International Airport, and the Union government is also considering the construction of a direct access way connecting the station to the airport terminal. The proposal was initially raised last year when Vaishnaw conducted an inspection of the Ernakulam-Shoranur railway section.

Sources said that during the visit, Southern Railway officials highlighted the need for a station near the airport, and a detailed proposal was subsequently submitted to the Railway Board.

Kurian also mentioned that Vaishnaw has assured him that stoppage for various train services at the Nedumbassery railway station will be considered



as per the requirement of the passengers.

“To ease the difficulties faced by regular passengers, the railway minister also confirmed that additional coaches will be added to MEMU trains starting in November,” he wrote on social media.

With the minister giving the green light for the railway station project, sources indicated that preliminary works could begin within this year.

“Once completed, the railway station will become one of the major stations in Ernakulam, and its proximity to the airport will greatly benefit passengers. If all goes as planned, Vande Bharat trains may also get stoppages here. The project could take at least two years to complete, depending on design and infrastructure requirements. Given its importance, the station is expected to feature a modern, state-of-the-art design,” said a retired Southern Railway engineer.

“Many passengers and tourists will benefit from this project. We have been demanding such a facility for a long time and appreciate the minister’s interest in it. The railway should ensure early completion, and the state government should extend all necessary support,” said John Thomas, a travel agent based in Kochi.

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Nedumbassery Airport Railway Station

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KSRTC to launch airline-model 'business class' ride; hostess to serve food

Custom-designed coaches and on-board amenities, mirroring the comfort of a business class flight, will make the service a reality.





A bus ride that rivals air travel. (Photo | Express)

Krishna Kumar K E

Updated on: 20 Oct 2025, 7:48 am · 2 min read

KOCHI: A bus ride that rivals air travel. The KSRTC is set to launch a 'new model' business class bus service promising unprecedented comfort to commuters. The premium offering, which will even have a lounge board, is set to roll out upon the completion of the NH 66 widening work.



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Custom-designed coaches and on-board amenities, mirroring the comfort of a business class flight, will make the service a reality. A hostess will be deployed and light food will be served to passengers.

"The KSRTC is acquiring two 25-seater luxury buses featuring air suspension for a super-smooth ride. The tendering process will begin soon. The speciality will be the luxury seating. We're in talks with companies in Vietnam and China to import specially designed, electronically operated reclining seats.

"The seats are intended to offer maximum comfort, much like those found in an airline's business cabin. Each seat will have a smart TV and headphones. Passengers can connect their Android devices to play their own content or enjoy KSRTC-provided selections like songs and comedy film scenes," Transport Minister K B Ganesh Kumar told *TNIE*.

Another key feature is the airline-style food service.

“A hostess will be deployed, and a small pantry with a microwave will ensure hot food is served to passengers who pre-order meals with their tickets or purchase them on board. This system is designed to minimize fares by offering the food as an optional purchase,” he said.

The service is projected to cover the Thiruvananthapuram-Ernakulam sector in a remarkable four hours, or even just three-and-a-half hours, and is planned to be launched upon completion of the NH widening activities in the section, taking full advantage of the improved NH infrastructure.

“The buses will operate as non-stop express services, avoiding entry into bus stations to save time. The only planned stops will be at a chosen hotel or restroom for the primary needs of the commuters,” the minister said.

‘Move aims to encourage shift from private cars to public transport’

“If the bus isn’t fully booked, it will make stops at less-crowded, convenient points like the bypasses in Kollam or Alappuzha for passengers with reservations,” Ganesh Kumar said.

The service will give a direct competition to premium travel services like Janshatabdi Express.



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The bus will depart from Thiruvananthapuram at 6 am to reach Ernakulam by 10 am. Simultaneous service will run from Ernakulam to Thiruvananthapuram. Service will be extended to Thrissur once work in the Thrissur section is complete, and the traffic congestion issue resolved.

The evening service from Thrissur will start at 3.30 pm, reaching Ernakulam at 5.30 pm, and Thiruvananthapuram at 9.30 pm.

By blending the speed and comfort of air travel with the accessibility of road transport, KSRTC is positioning itself to be a formidable competitor in the inter-city travel market.

“The services directly target high-end commuters like doctors, lawyers and government officials, aiming to encourage a shift from private cars to public transport,” said minister.

What’s on offer

- The premium service promises unprecedented luxury and swift travel
- Each seat to have a smart TV and headphones
- The buses will operate as non-stop express services, avoiding entry into bus stations to save time
- The service will be first launched in the T'Puram- Ernakulam sector, upon the completion of the NH 66 widening work

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