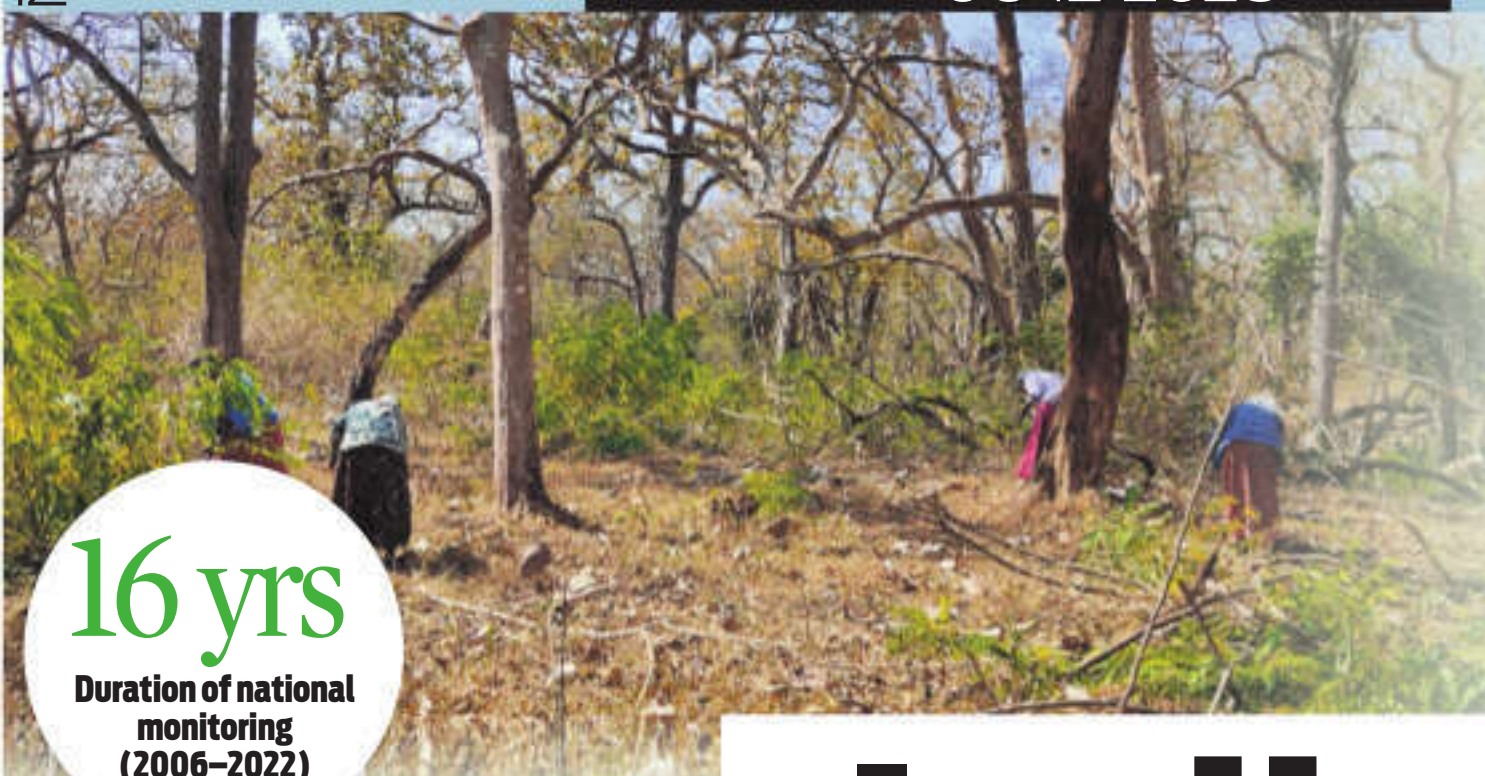




Some of the worst invasions occur in Mudumalai Tiger Reserve, Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve, the Nilgiris and the dry Eastern Ghats — landscapes that the Nature Sustainability study also mapped as national invasion hotspots.



16 yrs

Duration of national monitoring (2006-2022)

15,500 sq km/yr

Natural areas newly invaded in India

266,954 sq km

Total natural area already invaded

105,725 sq km

Tiger habitat affected

144 mn people

Exposed to new invasive plants

2.79 mn

livestock Affected by loss of forage

200,000 sq km

Smallholder farmland exposed

1,988 sq km/yr

Fastest spread rate (Chromolaena odorata)

HOTSPOTS OF INVASION SPREAD

- **Western Ghats:** Rapid expansion of Lantana & Chromolaena; range doubled in two decades
- **Northeast India:** High invasion acceleration driven by warming & land-use change
- **Himalayan Foothills:** Dryland invaders like Prosopis moving upslope
- **Nilgiri Biosphere Region:** Dense thickets affecting wildlife corridors
- **Shivalik-Terai Belt:** Prioritised high-risk cluster with multi-species invasions
- **Dandakaranya & Central Indian Dry Forests:** Lantana and Prosopis dominating understory
- **Aravalli Ranges:** Spread aided by fragmented scrub and grazing pressure
- **Duars (North Bengal & Assam):** Moist conditions favour fast-growing weed species

REMOVAL OF INVASIVE SPECIES STATUS AS ON OCTOBER 2025

Out of 1,77,363 Hectares of Invasive invested in the Tamil Nadu Forest, various types invasive were removed in 34,710 Hectares upto October 2025. The removal has to be carried out in the remaining 1,42,653 Hectares in due course. Species wise break-up details are:-

Name of invasive species	Total infested area (in Ha.)	Area removed upto October 2025 (in Ha.)	Remaining area to be removed (in Ha.)
Lanta camara	144034	26735	117299
Prosopis juliflora	23454	4685	18769
Senna spectabilis	2446	1963	483
Wattle	7429	1327	6102
Total	177363	34710	142653

India faces ecological emergency

S V KRISHNA CHAITANYA @ Nairobi

INDIA is confronting a rapidly escalating ecological crisis as invasive alien plants surge across forests, grasslands, wetlands and farmlands — reshaping ecosystems at a pace and scale not previously understood. A recent peer-reviewed study published in Nature Sustainability this year presents the clearest national picture yet. Invasive plants are spreading across nearly 15,500 sq km of natural areas every year, displacing native vegetation, degrading wildlife habitats, threatening pastoral livelihoods and creating cascading socio-ecological risks across the country. At the same time, the world's top biodiversity science body, IPBES, warns that invasive species are now among the top five direct drivers of global biodiversity loss, costing economies more than \$423 billion annually in damages and management costs. For India, which is home to extraordinary biodiversity and hundreds of millions whose lives are directly tied to natural systems, the implications are profound. Amid this national emergency, Tamil Nadu has emerged as a rare example of proactive, policy-driven management.

The Nature Sustainability study, based on 16 years of field monitoring across 2,77,000 sq km, paints an alarming picture. By 2022, nearly 144 million people, 2.79 million livestock and about 2,00,000 sq km of smallholder agriculture had already been exposed to new invasions. Over 2,66,954 sq km of India's natural landscapes are now invaded, including more than 1,05,000 sq km of tiger habitat.

"At current rates, entire ecosystems could shift from native to invasive dominance within a generation," said lead author Ninad Mungi in a statement, adding, "These plants are moving faster than we can manage or even monitor them."

Species such as Chromolaena odorata are spreading at nearly 1,988 sq km a year, outpacing any existing management efforts. Lantana camara, Prosopis juliflora and Chromolaena dominate large swathes of forest and dryland habitats, with Prosopis transforming entire arid and semi-arid regions of western and pe-

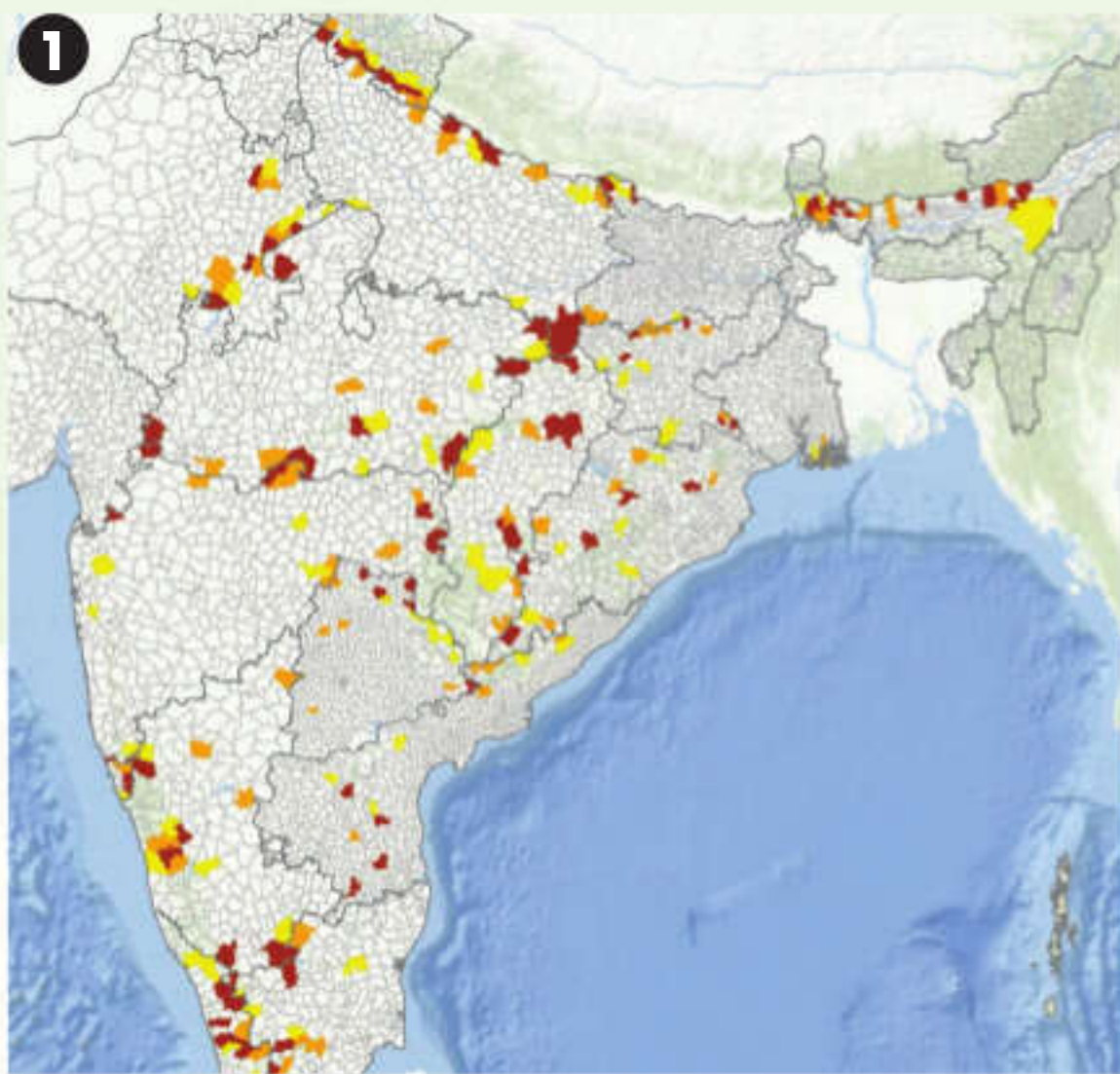
ninsular India. Researchers warn that without decisive interventions, several natural ecosystems could shift entirely from native to invasive dominance within a generation. These shifts have direct ecological consequences, invasions affect tens of thousands of square kilometres of herbivore habitat annually and erode the ecosystems upon which large carnivores and pastoral livelihoods depend.

The study's authors argue that invasions reflect deeper systemic disruptions. Fragmented landscapes, rapid land-use change, intensifying agriculture and climate extremes have created ideal conditions for invasives to spread. Meanwhile, the IPBES assessment highlighted how poorly equipped countries are to respond. Most nations—including India—lack national-level legislation for invasive species, dedicated regulatory frameworks or long-term financing mechanisms.

Few states demonstrate both the scale of the challenge and the possibility of coordinated response as clearly as Tamil Nadu. According to official government data, 1,77,363 hectare of forest land in the state are infested with major invasive plants. As of October 2025, the state had cleared 34,710 hectare, including 26,735 hectare of Lantana, 4,685 hectare of Prosopis, 1,963 hectare of Senna spectabilis and 1,327 hectare of wattle. The remaining 142,653 hectare still require removal and restoration. Some of the worst invasions occur in Mudumalai Tiger Reserve, Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve, the Nilgiris and the dry eastern ghats — landscapes that the Nature Sustainability study also mapped as national invasion

hotspots. Tamil Nadu's approach, however, sets it apart. It has pioneered a circular-economy model by partnering with pulp and paper industries to repurpose invasive biomass. Tamil Nadu Newsprint and Papers Limited (TNPL) has removed over 31,000 tonne of Senna spectabilis from 854 hectare and used it as pulpwood. Combined with Seshasayee Paper and Boards (SPB), the state has cleared Senna across Mudumalai, Sathyamangalam, Pollachi, Erode, Ooty and Masinagudi. Instead of burning or dumping biomass, Tamil Nadu has created a new economic loop—removal, utilisation and reinvestment in restoration.

Tamil Nadu is one of the very few states, which is having a dedicated policy for fighting invasives spread and achieved some success. The State's additional chief secretary Supriya Sahu will be in Nairobi and participate in multiple discussions on biodiversity loss and share Tamil Nadu's pathways.

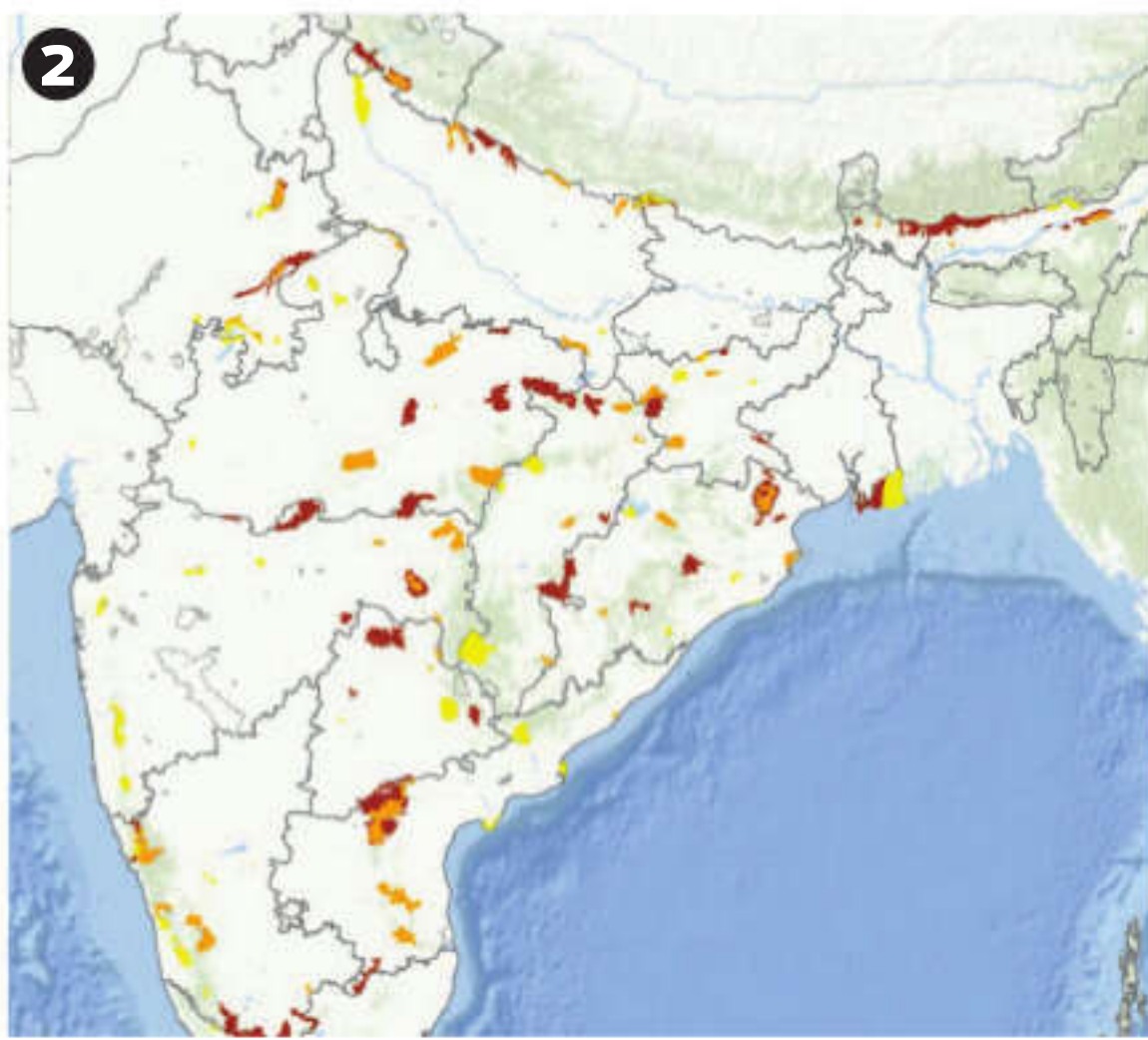


High-risk zones for management priority

(1) Statewise identification of subdistricts (n = 243) with higher vulnerability of social indicators (livestock grazing, smallholder agriculture and nature-dependent people) to invasive plants due to prevalent poverty and intensive societal dependence on natural areas.

(2) Statewise identification of protected areas (n = 167) with high vulnerability of ecological indicators (natural area, herbivore occupancy and tiger occupancy) to invasive plants due to higher population of large carnivores dependent on natural areas. List of names of the subdistricts, protected areas and dominant invasive plant species are provided in Supplementary Table 14.

● RISK ZONE 1
● RISK ZONE 2
● RISK ZONE 3



KFC Kerala Financial Corporation

SARB(TVM): VELLAYAMBALAM, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM-695033 Phone 0471-2737570,718, email: sarbsz@kfc.org, website:www.kfc.org

SALE NOTICE FOR THE SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

E-Auction Sale Notice for the sale of immovable assets under section 29 of State Financial Corporations Act, 1951. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrowers and Guarantors that the below described immovable properties mortgaged / charged to Kerala Financial Corporation, the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of Kerala Financial Corporation will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" condition.

Branch: SARB - Thiruvananthapuram Unit Name: Ponnudi River Eco Tourist Home, Kallar, TVM

Sl. No.	Name of Borrowers/guarantors	Balance outstanding as on 01.12.2025	Details of property
1.	Sri.Shaji Leo Koshy T/C 34/878, Leo Beach Tower Koshy Road, Vallakkadavu P.O. Thiruvananthapuram-695008	Rs. 11,61,92,367/- (Rupees Eleven crore sixty-one lakh ninety two thousand Three hundred and sixty seven only) with future interest & other charges from 02.12.2025	72 cents of land & building in Re-Sy. No.3434/2,3434/2-1, of Vithura Village, Nedumangadu Taluk, TVM District owned by Sri.Shaji Leo Koshy alias Sri.Shaji John Joseph by virtue of Sale Deed No. 1870/2001 of Vithura SRO. Total area - 15550 Sq.ft. Boundaries: East-Property of Mariya Dias; North - Kallar River, West-Property of Balachandran Nair, South - Road
2.	Smt.Scema Shaji Leo TC 34/878, Leo Beach Tower Koshy Road, Vallakkadavu P.O. Thiruvananthapuram-695008	Rs. 2,80,40,000/- (Rupees Two crore Eighty lakh Forty thousand only)	

Reserve Price - Rs. 2,80,40,000/- (Rupees Two crore Eighty lakh Forty thousand only)

Earnest Money Deposit - Rs. 14,02,000/- (Fourteen Lakh Two thousand only) (To be remitted on or before 12.01.2026 5pm)

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in: 'www.kfcauction.org/www.kfc.org', Phone No. 9447117125

Place: Thiruvananthapuram, Date 11.12.2025

(Sd/-) Authorized Officer
Kerala Financial Corporation

‘Invasive species a wicked problem we can only manage, not solve’

S V KRISHNA CHAITANYA @ Nairobi

AS India intensifies efforts to tackle invasive species—from Senna spectabilis in Tamil Nadu's forests to tilapia and crayfish overrunning freshwater ecosystems—the global scientific community warns that invasions are accelerating worldwide. To understand why managing invasives remains such a complex ecological and economic challenge, *TNIE* spoke to Julian Blanc, Head, Biodiversity and Land Branch Ecosystems Division of UN Environment Programme (UNEP). In this candid conversation ahead of Seventh Session of the UN Environment Assembly, Blanc explains why invasives thrive, how short-term human incentives worsen crisis, and why he calls biological invasions a "wicked problem" that requires sustained political will and long-term investment.

Here are the excerpts:

● **The IPBES Invasive Alien Species Assessment report calls invasive species one of the top drivers of biodiversity loss. How do you view these findings?** The IPBES assessment reflects exactly what we see on the ground. Invasive species are a classic "wicked problem." They interact with climate change, land-use pressures, pollution and economic incentives, so you can improve the situation but never fully solve it. And the reality is that none of the major global en-

vironmental challenges have the financial resources they require. We're struggling on the plastic treaty, climate negotiations are falling short, and strong economic interests slow down action. Even when science is clear, as IPBES makes it, converting that clarity into long-term investment and political commitment is the hardest part.

● **Why is the Indian subcontinent particularly vulnerable to biological invasions?** The Indian region has all the ingredients that make invasions spread faster: densely populated landscapes, heavy pressure on freshwater bodies, rapid land-use change, pollution and multiple competing development priorities. When ecosystems are already stressed, invasives can take hold much more easily. At the same time, many invasive species offer short-term economic value—food, livelihood or market benefits—which creates incentives to keep using them rather than remove them. That combination of ecological pressure and economic pressure is exactly what makes the subcontinent so vulnerable. And once native diversity is lost, the ecosystem functions it supports are lost as well.

● **Why do governments struggle to act on invasives?** We prefer short-term gains over

long-term benefits. This behaviour makes it hard to invest in long-term ecological restoration, especially when invasive species appear to offer immediate economic opportunities. And governments face competing priorities: livelihoods, infrastructure, climate adaptation. Invasive species become one more problem in a crowded agenda.



Julian Blanc, Head, Biodiversity & Land Branch Ecosystems Division of UN Environment Programme (UNEP)

● **You have described invasive species management as a "wicked problem." What does that mean in practice?** Wicked problems have no final solution—you can make things better or worse, but you never "solve" them completely. What you need is sustained investment, prioritisation and long-term governance. But when these needs compete with other urgent priorities, invasive species often get pushed aside.

● **Given these challenges, what gives you hope?** Even wicked problems can be made better. We may not eliminate invasives everywhere, but with consistent investment, policy support and prioritisation, we can significantly reduce their impacts and restore ecological function. The question is not whether it's possible—it's whether we choose to make it a priority.

PARADIP PORT AUTHORITY
ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT
HARBOUR WORKS DIVISION-III
e-TCN No: CE/HWD-III/ACCTS-12/25/737,
dtd.01.12.2025

Name of the work: "Providing Drainage facilities along with maintenance repair to the plot inside BOT Bulb area near Gate No-1 at Port Prohibited area". Put to tender value: Rs.2,76,82,807.39 (excluding GST). Last date & time of submission of tender through online bidding is 22.12.2025 up to 17:15 Hrs. For details, please log on to the Website: <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app>

Sd/- Executive Engineer
Harbour Works Division-III,
Paradip Port Authority
PPA/PR/56/2025-2026 dtd. 05.12.2025

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GOLD AUCTION NOTICE

The pledges, in specific and the public, in general, are hereby notified that public auction of the gold ornaments pledged in the below accounts is proposed to be conducted at the following branches on 16/01/2026 from 10.00 am onwards. We are auctioning gold ornaments defaulted customers who have failed to make payment of his/her loan amount despite being notified by registered letters. Unauctioned items shall be auctioned on any other days without further notice. Changes in venue or date (if any) will be displayed at auction centre and on website without any further notice.

List of pledges:-
KOZHIKODE, PUTHIYANGADI,
112100700038002, WAYANAD,
SULTHANBATHERI,
102910700045671,

Persons wishing to participate in the above auction shall comply with the following:- Interested Bidders should submit Rs. 10,000/- as EMD (refundable to unsuccessful bidders) by way of Cash on the same day of auction. Bidders should carry valid ID card/PAN card. For more details please contact 7358859338, 8714638536.

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For Manappuram Finance Ltd

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