

## URBAN MOBILITY



### Kochi Bus Day on May 31

Kochi is set to celebrate yet another Bus Day! The Centre for Public Policy Research (CPPR), with the support of the Indian Chamber of Commerce, telecom partner Uninor, and media partner Red FM is observing May 31 as 'Bus Day'.

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## PROJECTS/EVENTS

[Thripunithura Traffic Study](#)

[Street Design Competition](#)



## FEATURED VIDEO



## INTERNSHIPS

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Thripunithura is a suburb of Kochi and a municipality in Ernakulam district in the Indian State of Kerala. Thripunithura is surrounded by stretches of Vembanad Lake and Canals, which sustain inland navigation. The town is situated almost eight meters above mean sea level. However, the town has been facing traffic congestion for a while now, with no concrete solutions in sight. The Center for Public Policy Research conducted a study in the town, to understand its mobility structure. It covered aspects like peak traffic time, details of public vehicles, the routes of public buses, parking details, minor and interconnecting roads, ratio of vehicles passing through each roads, and measurement of roads.

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Civitas Urban Solutions, together with ITDP, Michigan University and the Corporation of Cochin, is launching Kochi's first-of-its-kind street design competition - Street Smart: Redefining Urban Development. This open-submission competition seeks to identify suitable proposals for the redesign of Park Avenue Road in Kochi, Kerala. Streets are integral to the quality of life in a city. A growing number of cities today, across the globe, are giving importance to sustainable development; to building cities with a vision for the future. To that end, this competition is aimed at encouraging architects, urban designers, civil engineers and any other such interested persons, to bring that vision to our neighbourhoods.

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# SMART

# CIVITAS

## FEATURED ARTICLES

### Should India Ban Endosulfan?

Kasargod district in north Kerala has lots to tell about the cruelty of pesticide Endosulfan, which has inflicted on thousands severe neurological and congenital deformities, as a supposed result of 20 years of the pesticide being sprayed from helicopters on 400 acre of government-owned cashew plantations. Endosulfan, commonly known by its trade name Thiodan, was developed in the early 1950s. In 1954, Hoechst AG (Bayer CropScience) got USDA approval to use Endosulfan in the United States.

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### Islamic Banking Declared Secular; What Next?

A recent decision by a division bench of the Kerala High Court in the Dr Subramanian Swamy v. State of Kerala<sup>1</sup> pronouncing Islamic Banking as secular and, thereby, legal has triggered a series of debates throughout the country. Islamic Banking, when termed as interest-free banking, might sound utopian, but the concept is gaining popularity and acceptance, especially in a post-recession world. Islam believes that nobody is entitled to an addition to the principal sum, if he doesn't share in the risk



### INTERN WITH THE CORPORATION

The Centre for Public Policy Research (CPPR), in partnership with the Corporation of Cochin, is offering interns an exciting opportunity to work with the Mayor. The interns will assist the Mayor in activities related to the corporation for a minimum period of one month. The selected intern will report directly to the Mayor.

**Great opportunity for persons interested in governance, civic administration and public policy.**

involved. It prohibits interest, as it is believed to lead to exploitation and unproductive income.

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FOR MORE DETAILS, CONTACT  
MADHU S AT [intern@cppr.in](mailto:intern@cppr.in)

## OPINION



### Random Thoughts

The recent election results have shown a paradigm shift in Kerala politics. The initial impression is that the performance of regional parties has cost the fortunes of both fronts, forcing them to move to Cantonment House; a probable turning point for Kerala's politics. In the last two elections, the CPI (M) took initiatives to check untested claims of regional grouping, and they fairly succeeded in quantifying the vote base of those parties involved. This time, the Congress failed to take a cue from these learnings to assess the potential of splinter groups in the UDF.

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### Food Security in India

Food security is one question that has been looming large over and above our heads for a long time now, and it gains more momentum and significance as time passes by. Globally, hunger has become the most debated topic in all major international bodies like the G-20, ASEAN, etc. Mass hunger can only be overcome through ensuring food security to all. The World Bank correctly points out the volatility associated with food prices. Globally, food prices have soared almost 36 per cent in 2010-11 pushing 44 million people into extreme poverty since June 2010.

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### GDP and Alternative Measures of Welfare

Economists are interested in finding ways to improve humanity and they rely on the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) as a measure of welfare. The GDP is the market value of all final goods and services produced within a geographical entity within a given period of time. It can be used to calculate tax revenues and productivity and aids in macro management through estimations of output gaps and inflation. As the GDP measures market production and more production can be translated into higher earnings, it is seen as a good indicator of well being.

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Centre for Public Policy Research, Door No 28/3656, Sonoro Church Road, Elamkulam, Kochi, Kerala 682020

Tel: 91 484 646 9177 Fax: 91 484 232 3895

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