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women-owned
businesses in UAE



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15cm
by which sea level
rose in some parts
of the Pacific in the
last 30 years

Less than
0.02%
of global emissions
pumped out by
the Pacific islands

UN CHIEF ISSUES 'GLOBAL SOS' OVER FAST-RISING PACIFIC OCEAN

An aerial view of the shoreline by a coastal highway on the outskirts of Suva, the capital of Fiji. United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres sent out a global climate 'SOS' at a Pacific islands summit yesterday, unveiling research that shows the region's seas rising much more swiftly than global averages. Fiji and other island countries such as Samoa have seen a rise in sea level that is three times higher than the global average of 9.4 centimetres. "I am in Tonga to issue a global SOS — Save Our Seas — on rising sea levels. A worldwide catastrophe is putting this Pacific paradise in peril," Guterres said.

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NATION

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Airports | P2

WORLD

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to cap
foreign
student
numbers at
270,000 | P12

New UAE law on telesales now in effect

DUBAI

BY ZAINAB HUSAIN
Features Writer

Did you notice a drop in the number of telemarketing calls you normally receive? If so, it may be because of the new telemarketing law that came into effect yesterday, implementing stricter regulations to protect your privacy and give you more control over unwarranted sales calls.

The Ministry of Economy (MOE) and the Telecommunications and Digital Government Regulatory Authority (TDRA) introduced these changes in June.

Under the new rules, telemarketing calls are now limited to between 9am and 6pm. Companies must avoid pushy sales tactics and cannot pressure or mislead clients. If you reject a product or service, the company cannot call you again about it, and same-day call backs are prohibited if you decline or end a call. Additionally, if you do not answer, companies are restricted to two follow-up calls per week.

SEE ALSO P4

Kerala film scandal uncovers ugly reality

Superstar Mohanlal, 17 others, resign from state artists' body

DUBAI

BY MANJUSHA
RADHAKRISHNAN
Entertainment Editor

In a watershed moment for the Malayalam film industry, South Indian superstar Mohanlal has resigned as president of the Association of Malayalam Movie Artists (AMMA), along with 17 other executive committee members.

This mass resignation and the dissolution of the Mohanlal-led film body reportedly follow widespread criticism of AMMA's handling of sexual harassment allegations within the industry.

The shocking move comes in the wake of veteran actor Siddique's resignation from his role as General Secretary of AMMA on August 25 amid sexual misconduct allegations.

"In the wake of the sexual accusations faced by some of the officials of the administrative committee of the AMMA

organisation following the release Hema Committee report in visual and print media, the existing administrative committee of AMMA resigns on the grounds of moral responsibility," said Mohanlal in a statement.

This shake-up was triggered after the Hema Committee's findings were made public, pointing to rampant sexual abuse, casting couch practices, and powerful groups exerting control over the industry.

"Fresh elections for a new committee will be held within two months," added Mohanlal.

#MeToo movement

In an interview with Gulf News in 2019, the actor-producer had labelled the #MeToo movement as a "fad." But a lot has changed since then.

Following the Hema Committee's damning findings, several actresses such as Rekha Sampath and Minu Muneer have come forward with accusations against industry heavyweights, including Jayasurya, Mukesh, and director Ranjith.

SEE ALSO P17

UAE residents gain from fewer fake realty ads

BUYERS, SELLERS, RENTERS TO BENEFIT
FROM CRACKDOWN ON LISTINGS

DUBAI

BY MANOJ NAIR
Business Editor

It was earlier this year that Dubai brought into play tougher rules on online property listings. And backed up those rules with tough penalties. Now, it's all paying off, and property buyers, sellers, and renters will look to benefit.

And what's more, the Dubai Land Department (DLD) and the Real Estate Regulatory Agency's crackdown on duplicated - and fake - listings of properties for sale could also be replicated on such rental properties too, industry sources reveal.

Transparency

One possible way for the realty regulators to ensure better transparency on rental property listings is by digitising issuance of rental certificates, which will remove all multiple listings of the same property for rent by various brokers.

What this adds up to is less distortion in the Dubai property market - and leading to better experience for buyers, sellers, and renters. It leads to fewer situations of a potential

buyer being misled by faulty online ads of a property they might have plans to buy.

Regulatory penalties

As instances of the same property featuring multiple asking prices were put up on brokers' whims given that in the past all that they needed were approvals from the developer concerned to advertise/list their property, the heavy regulatory penalties for not abiding by the new rules played a big role in eradicating such duplications for good.

Now, aside from getting proper clearance from DLD before advertising a property, the concerned property brokers with potential listings have another task to fulfil if they manage to sell it. That is ensure any listing of that particular property online gets taken down within 90 days of the sale transaction.

However, with the number of property listings coming down, it has meant a drop in web traffic for some property portals. To counter, some of them have raised their tariffs on listings. Also, there has been some consolidation among property portals in the country.

SEE ALSO P5

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