

## Uber drivers to continue strike

- Special Correspondent



The indefinite strike launched by Uber drivers affiliated to the All Kerala Online Taxi Drivers Union was near complete on Tuesday.

Drivers attached to new-age taxi operator Uber will continue to strike work for the second day on Wednesday in protest against withdrawal of incentives and cutback on weekly wages.

The indefinite strike launched by Uber drivers affiliated to the All Kerala Online Taxi Drivers Union on Tuesday was near complete with just about 20-odd taxis empanelled by the operator conducting service.

This, when there are 3,107 registered online taxi drivers operating in Thiruvananthapuram and Kochi in the State, pointed out Adv. TRS Kumar, president of the union, after the executive committee decided on Tuesday evening to continue the strike.

Uber chose not to respond to queries on the strike. Queries put to Uber's national public relations wing also remained unanswered.

Some of the striking drivers *The Hindu* spoke with said while the company initially offered a weekly package of Rs 12,500, this was unilaterally revised several times over.

Meanwhile, drivers operating for Ola cabs said they would conduct trips on Wednesday. Mr. Kumar also pointed out that Ola management had positively responded for a dialogue on the charter of demands put forward by the union members.

"We are not adamant about anything. What we need is an assurance from the management on job guarantee and reasonable wages. But Uber has taken a hostile stand, forcing the drivers to continue their strike," said Mr. Kumar.