

JUMBO JOB Guruvayur gets a woman manager

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Kochi

AN ARDENT devotee of Lord Sree Krishna of Guruvayur, C R Lejumol is not scared of the temple's elephants. Born into a family of mahouts, she has been obsessed with elephants and loved to feed them. Lejumol, who took charge of Guruvayur temple's Punnathur Kotta on Wednesday, says it is a blessing from the Lord. She is the first woman manager in the 47-year history of the elephant camp.

Punnathur Kotta houses 44 elephants, which have been donated by devotees at different periods of time. Lejumol will be in charge of the elephants' up-keep. The Punnathur Kotta was a fort owned by a local ruler, which was purchased by the Guruvayur Devaswom in 1975 to keep the temple elephants. The camp is a sprawling green area spread across 10 acres. "She will have to coordinate the 150 staffers including the mahouts and ensure the wellbeing of elephants," said temple administrator K P Vinayan.



Lejumol's father Ravindran Nair and father-in-law Sankara Narayanan had retired after years of service as mahouts. Her husband Prasad was also a mahout. Lejumol, who had joined the Guruvayur Devaswom as a lower division clerk in 1996, was an assistant manager in the works department.

EPS on course to lead AIADMK

Madras HC refuses to stay General Council meeting; OPS may be removed as coordinator

R SIVAKUMAR AND T MURUGANANDHAM @ Chennai

THE Madras High Court late on Wednesday refused to stay the AIADMK General Council (GC) meeting scheduled to be held in Chennai on Thursday, clearing the way for former Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami to take over the reins of the AIADMK as its single leader, and possible ouster of O Panneerselvam from the post of party coordinator.

The court's observation that it cannot stop a party from amending its bylaws has come as a shot in the arm for the Palaniswami camp as it seeks to bring in changes in AIADMK bylaws to anoint Palaniswami as its single leader, following a



AIADMK party members arrive at the Jayalitha memorial in Chennai on Wednesday | P JAWAHAR

majority support from the party office-bearers.

It's not clear whether O Panneerselvam and a few of his supporters, including R Vaithilingam, JCD Prabhakar and Manoj Pandian, will attend

the council meeting. Earlier in the day, in another setback to Panneerselvam, Avadi Police Commissioner declined to entertain a petition from OPS asking police to deny permission to the GC meeting.

Justice Krishnan Ramasamy in his verdict said the court cannot prejudice what could transpire at the GC meeting and refused to interfere with the internal affairs of amending rules, regulations or bylaws of the party. Declining to pass any interim order, the judge said it is well settled that in matters concerning internal issues of an association or a party, courts won't normally interfere, and would leave it to the members of these entities to pass resolutions or frame by-

laws, rules or regulations for their better administration.

The judge said any decision of the members of the general council will be their collective wisdom and court cannot insist the members to act in a particular manner. The court cannot interfere with the process of conducting the general council meeting, the judge said.

Earlier, the packed court hall witnessed heated arguments from a battery of senior counsels including G Rajagopal, PS Raman and NGR Prasad for petitioners including Rankumar Adityan, PH Arvindh Pandian for AIADMK coordinator O Panneerselvam, and Vijay Narayan and GR Rajagopal for joint coordinator Edappadi K Palaniswami.



The newly-built bridge at Niduvale in Kalasa taluk which caved in

Bridge caves in a week after inauguration

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chikkamagaluru

IN Malnad region of Chikkamagaluru district, old bridges and roads are very often washed away following copious rains during the monsoon season. However, here is an instance of a new bridge collapsing within a week after it was declared open to the public.

A culvert near Niduvale under Samsa Gram Panchayat limits in Kalasa taluk has crumbled following rain. The bridge was built to provide connectivity to the surrounding villages such as Chowdibilal, Kattemane,

Konemane and Echaluholu as the old bridge was washed away in the torrential rain last year.

As there was no other approach or alternative road for the people of this region, the new bridge was built at a cost of Rs 30 lakh. A portion of the bridge caved in when a pick-up van was passing on it amid small showers on Tuesday, leaving the van stuck in the debris. Two occupants of the van escaped unhurt. Locals vented their ire over the poor quality of work carried out by the engineer and the contractor and have appealed to the authorities to take action against them.

Pesky calls: Panel fines Airtel, BSNL

YATHIRAJU @ Bengaluru

HOLDING that not preventing unsolicited and pesky calls and SMSes to mobile numbers of consumers, in spite of activation of 'Do Not Disturb' (DND) amounts to deficiency of service, the district consumer commission directed Bharti Airtel Limited and Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) to jointly pay Rs 25,000 towards compensation, along with 6 per cent interest per annum, and Rs 5,000 towards cost of litigation to the complainants.

Allowing partly the complaint filed by Meeta Jain and her husband Jitendra Jain, who fought the legal battle without engaging a lawyer, the Bangalore Urban Second Additional District Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission

passed the order.

The Commission, comprising president M Shobha, members B Devaraju and V Anuradha, observed that Airtel and BSNL have failed to address grievance raised by the complainants despite several reminders, with documentary proof of unsolicited, pesky calls, and messages generated even after activation of DND. The complainants established that both Airtel and BSNL are liable for deficiency of service, the Commission added.

The complainants had sought Rs 1 crore as compensation, refund of all bills with penal interest, legal expenditure for unethical trade practice, and prolonged mental and physical harassment, the Commission said. "In our considered view, the compensation sought by the complainants is

exorbitant and excessive. We deem fit that a sum of Rs 25,000 compensation will suffice for the complainants, which they are jointly entitled to, by Airtel and BSNL, along with 6 per cent interest per annum from the date of complaint lodged till payment is made, and Rs 5,000 as litigation expenses to the complainants," the Commission said.

Meeta Jain had taken an Airtel connection whereas Jitendra Jain was using BSNL. In spite of registering for DND, they received many unsolicited calls and messages, in clear violation of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India regulations, they claimed.

They also contended that the pesky texts are routed from across India, for which Airtel and BSNL are making profit from revenues due to packs marketed by them.

Hyd gang rape case: Bail pleas of 4 rejected

HYDERABAD: The bail pleas of four of the six accused in the sensational Jubilee Hills gang rape case were on Wednesday turned down by two different courts in the city, while orders regarding the bail plea of one of the two remaining accused was posted for Thursday. Saduddin Malik, the only accused who is above 18 years of age, did not move a bail plea.

According to sources, the investigative agency opposed granting bail to the accused on stating that they are politically influential and can potentially influence the investigation. Agreeing with this contention, the court rejected the appeal of the accused. ENS

EXPRESS READ

Nalgonda techie shot dead in Baltimore

Hyderabad: A software employee Sai Charan Nakka, 25, who hails from Nalgonda was shot dead in Baltimore, Maryland of the United States on Sunday at about 4.30 am local time. Local authorities believe that Sai Charan was shot at by a black man while he was returning in his car after dropping off a friend at the airport. Sai Charan went to the US a couple of years ago to pursue a Masters in Engineering at the University of Cincinnati. He then started working with Environ Civil Engineering Limited and lived in Hanover. The young man was planning to visit his parents in November. ENS

Retd TN power corporation staff electrocuted

Chennai: A 62-year-old retired employee of the State power corporation was electrocuted while repairing a faulty line allegedly at the behest of local officials in Chennai on Tuesday. The deceased, S Radhakrishnan, a resident of Solaippan Street, had served as a line inspector, police said. ENS

South Western Railway Tender Notice No. B/TRD/2022-23/02. Details of work and value.

NMDC Limited Commercial Department Tender Enquiry No. COM-I(48)/2021-22 MSTC Ref. No.: NMDC/HO/30/22-23/ET/195. Details of tender for plant and mining machinery.

KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED Abstract Tender Notification (Only through Electronic Tendering System) for construction of civil works at 7th floor of KPCL New Office Complex.

Online E Auction Sale Of Asset KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK LIMITED. Sale Notice For Sale of Immovable Properties.

CENTRAL BANK OF INDIA Regional Office, 2nd Floor, Grand Majestic Mall, No. 12, 2nd Cross, Gandhi Nagar, Bangalore - 560 009. Appendix-IV-A Sale Cum E-Auction Notice for Sale of Immovable Properties.

Sree Subramanyeswara Co-operative Bank Ltd. (R.B.I. Licence No. UBD - KA 550 P) A.O.: Rajatha Bhavana, No. 106, R.V. Road, V.V. Puram, Bangalore-04. Demand Notice for SCSB/AO/111/2022-23.