

Act against encroachments on pathway, appeal walkers

Say benches being occupied by vendors; CCMC chief assures action

ARAVIND RAJ @Coimbatore

THE popular Race Course walking track in Coimbatore, long regarded as a vital urban lung space and fitness hub, is facing growing criticism from residents and regular visitors due to the rapid rise of illegal stalls and encroachments along its pathways.

Activists, fitness enthusiasts, and daily walkers have expressed frustration over the increasing number of temporary shops and eateries being set up directly on the walking track and even on benches meant for public resting. What was once a peaceful stretch for exercise and relaxation has, in recent weeks, begun to resemble a crowded marketplace, especially during weekends when footfall is high.

"We come here every evening for a calm walk, but now we have to navigate through stalls and crowds. It's becoming impossible to maintain a proper walking rhythm," said S Ramesh Kumar, a regular walker.

Another resident, Meena Krishnan, voiced concern over the misuse of public seating. "The benches are meant for people to rest, especially senior citizens. But now vendors are



EXPRESS

occupying them and even asking people not to sit," she said.

Apart from inconvenience, some citizens have raised concerns about hygiene and safety, pointing out that the unregulated food stalls may not be following proper sanitation standards. Social activists argue that the unchecked growth of such encroachments reflects a lack of consistent enforcement by authorities.

"The Race Course is not just a recreational space, it's an essential public asset for health and well-being. Allowing commercial activity to take over sets a dangerous precedent. There needs to be regular monitoring. Clearing the stalls once is not enough if they return the next day," said R Varun, a fitness enthusiast.

Residents have appealed to the Coimbatore City Municipal Corporation (CCMC) to intervene and restore order.

Speaking to TNIE, CCMC Commissioner M Sivaguru Prabakaran acknowledged the issue and said, "We have received some complaints over encroachments. We shall remove them immediately in the next few days. We will also conduct an inspection during the weekends and ensure these shops are not being set up at the same spot once again. No permission has been given to anyone to set up stalls at the Race Course, and no permission will be given in future either. Regulating the temporary stalls is not on the cards as the Race Course area is off limits for such commercial activities."

Efforts to reunite jumbo calf with herd continues

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Coimbatore

FOREST department staff in the Sirumugai Forest Range are continuing intensive efforts to reunite an abandoned elephant calf with its herd on the fifth day. Officials said four attempts to reunite the calf with a herd have so far failed, including the latest effort on Wednesday evening at Kothamandi Reserve Forest. Teams are closely monitoring multiple herds in the region. "A team tracks elephant herds and once a suitable herd is located, another team brings the calf to spots such as water troughs where herds usually gather. Reunions typically occur during

the morning or evening hours," said a senior official from the Coimbatore Forest Division. On Wednesday around 3 pm, the calf was brought near a herd for the fourth reunion attempt. The herd, which included two other calves, initially allowed the young elephant to stay for nearly one-and-a-half hours. However, it was later rejected despite showing signs of affection. "We suspect the mother elephant may have rejected the calf as she is already caring for other calves in the herd. Nevertheless, we are continuing our efforts," the official said.

The calf is being fed milk formula, and a tribal mahout is caring for it through the night.



HEAT SHIELD AT SHRINE

In a bid to provide relief to devotees from the intense heat, officials of the Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments (HR&CE) Department have rolled out cooling green mats inside the Koniyan Temple premises in Coimbatore | S SENBAGAPANDIYAN

Family court had rejected adoption plea

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Since she struggled to provide financial support to all the three children, especially after her husband's death, she gave her child to the couple for adoption. However, when the couple attempted to legalise the adoption and submitted application for guardianship, the Family Court rejected the application.

Hearing the appeal, the bench summoned the child's biological mother, who appeared before the court and informed that right from birth, the child has been taken care of only by the couple and she wholeheartedly consented to appoint them as the guardian. In fact, the child was calling the couple as father and mother and addressed her (biological mother)

as aunt, she added. Satisfied that the couple was genuinely bringing up the child as their own child and the child is also recognising them as the parents and the biological mother has consented to the same, the judges observed that it would be in the welfare of the child to appoint the couple as her legal guardian and passed the above order.

EXPRESS READ

Perur temple clerk gets three years RI for theft

Coimbatore: A temple clerk was sentenced to three years of rigorous imprisonment for stealing gold and silver items from the Perur Patteswarar Temple. Vivekanandan (45), a resident of Vedapatti, was working as a clerk at the temple. In 2011, during an inspection of the temple chariot, it was found that 92 grams of gold and 6 kg of silver ornaments fixed on the chariot were missing. A probe confirmed that Vivekanandan had stolen the jewellery. He was also fined ₹10,000. ENS

26-yr-old held for stealing gold jewels from house

Coimbatore: The city police arrested a 26-year-old man from Salem for allegedly stealing over six sovereigns of gold jewels from a house at Poonga Nagar in SITRA of Coimbatore. The incident occurred when the complainant, R Andavan (40), who owns a snack shop on a pushcart, left for work around 4 pm on April 27. When he returned home at 9.30 pm and checked again the next morning, he discovered the gold jewels missing. After an investigation, the police managed to arrest the suspect, Dineshkumar (26) of Vazhappady in Salem. ENS

Man dies after bike skids, hits barricade on Sathy rd

Coimbatore: A 27-year-old man died after his bike skidded and crashed into a barricade on Sathy Road in Coimbatore. The deceased has been identified as Ajith Kumar (27), a native of Thoothukudi. He was residing at Ramnagar in Coimbatore. According to police, the incident occurred on Monday morning Ajith Kumar was riding his bike on Sathy Road. He was allegedly riding in a rash manner, which caused the vehicle to skid and he fell. Ajith Kumar sustained severe injuries to his head and was later shifted to a private hospital, where he died on Tuesday. A case was initially registered. Further investigation is on. ENS



Punjab National Bank DGM and Coimbatore Circle Head Sajith Hussain inaugurated the SME outreach programme at COINDIA Conference Hall in Coimbatore on Monday. A large number of MSMEs, including existing business owners and aspiring entrepreneurs, participated in the programme | EXPRESS

HC tells DVAC to hand over docs to CBI

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THE first bench of Chief Justice Sushrut Arvind Dharmadhikari and Justice G Arul Murugan, pronouncing the verdict on petitions filed by Arappor Iyakkam, a non-governmental organisation fighting against corruption, and advocate E Saravanan and Rajkumar, both associated with the AIADMK. "In the present case, the procedures adopted by the state and the DVAC are so heavily marked by unfairness that they fail to inspire any public confidence, creating an absolute necessity for an independent inquiry to ensure the integrity of the investigation," the order said.

"The investigating agency, appointed within two weeks, shall conduct a de novo investigation as it deems fit and proceed in accordance with the law," the court said. It also directed the state government, Tamil Nadu Power Distribution Corporation (TNPDC), and DVAC to "extend full cooperation" to the probe, and asked DVAC to hand over all documents to the central agency within two weeks.

Flagging several procedural issues — including the DVAC conducting a detailed inquiry instead of a preliminary inquiry, and the government granting prior permission to hold the inquiry only against the Financial Controller of Tangedco, V Kasi — the bench said such actions create a reasonable suspicion of a "cover-

7 tenders awarded since 1987 followed the same procedure, says Senthil Balaji

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Coimbatore

THERE has been no misappropriation in the procurement and installation of transformers by the Tangedco, said former minister and DMK West Zone in charge V Senthil Balaji.

Addressing media persons in Coimbatore shortly after the Madras High Court ordered the transfer of the case to the CBI, he stated that Tangedco had followed the same established tender practices in the seven tenders that have been followed since 1987.

He cited historical precedents, pointing to a 1987 tender in which

23 bidders quoted the same rate for the second-lowest bid and 18 bidders for the third-lowest bid.

"Similarly, in 2011-12, out of 29 participants, 17 bidders quoted identical rates for the third-lowest bid," he said. He listed several instances between 1987 and 2020 where multiple bidders had quoted the same prices.

He emphasised that it was a common practice for multiple bidders to quote identical prices in such tenders.

He said that when more than one bidder quotes the same lowest rate, the work orders are typi-

cally split among them. "There is absolutely no scope for misappropriation or loss to the government, as every tender undergoes three levels of administrative scrutiny in Tangedco," he added.

He alleged that the case filed against him was with clear political motives. When asked if he felt he was being targeted, he replied, "Since neither I nor the DMK can be defeated politically due to strong support from the people, some vested interests are filing false cases and spreading misleading narratives through the media."

He said he would consult with his legal team and decide on the next course of action, including whether to challenge the Madras High Court's order.



up designed to shield high-ranking officials and political figures".

The bench said that Arappor Iyakkam's complaint alleged that Kasi, the key conspirator, appears to be a close associate of the then minister Senthil

The investigating agency, appointed within two weeks, shall conduct a de novo probe as it deems fit and proceed in accordance with the law

The Madras High Court

Balaji, and is known to have carried out his daily work from the latter's house, which prima facie indicates that Kasi has carried out the illegalities at the behest/influence of Balaji, the bench said in the order.

The allegations made in the

NGO's complaint concern public contracting under the state's authority, and are levelled against persons who occupy high constitutional and political office in the state, the bench observed. "Where a case concerns the integrity of public procurement and involves allegations of conflict of interest at the highest levels, an investigation must be not only fair, but must also appear fair," it said.

HC dismisses pleas on illegal land conversion, gives nod for public park

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Coimbatore

A long-standing land dispute in Coimbatore has been resolved after the Madras High Court dismissed three petitions related to the alleged illegal conversion and sale of land originally reserved for public use in a residential layout.

The case traces back to the Sri Ramakrishna Layout in Vilankurichi, which was approved in 1990 when the area was under the Sarsarsamakulam panchayat union, prior to its merger with the Coimbatore City Municipal Corporation (CCMC). The layout, spread across 3.5 acres, included 34 residential plots and designated open spaces, approximately 36 cents for a park and 3 cents for common access, as per planning norms.

These open spaces were to be handed over to the local body through a registered gift deed. However, this transfer was never completed.

In 2018, a controversial development emerged when a revised layout plan was allegedly

submitted to the Local Planning Authority (LPA), combining the park, open space, and nearby road into a larger 1.90-acre parcel. This land was then portrayed as an approved residential subdivision and reportedly divided into multiple plots for sale.

The issue came to light following a Right to Information (RTI) inquiry, prompting a formal complaint to the municipal authorities. Subsequent inspections by the city's town planning officials confirmed that the land rightfully belonged to the corporation. Authorities revoked the 2018 approval, demolished unauthorised constructions on the site, and fenced the area, installing a notice board declaring it as Corporation property.

After reviewing the documents, a Division Bench of the High Court dismissed all three petitions on April 16, upholding the Corporation's actions. Residents and civic activists have now urged the civic body to utilise the reclaimed 36 cents of land for its original purpose by developing a public park.

FSSAI issues notice to private college over substandard food

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Coimbatore

THE Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) on Wednesday issued a notice to the mess head of a private engineering college in Palathurai near Madukkarai for providing substandard food to hostel students.

According to student sources from the college, a group of hostel students tried to stage a protest on campus on Tuesday over unhygienic food. The administration stopped them. The issue was escalated to the district administration, prompting FSSAI officers to inspect the mess and food on Wednesday. A top FSSAI officer in Coimbatore told TNIE that around 780 students from Kerala and Tamil Nadu are staying in the hostel and consuming its food. "Recently, students allegedly faced issues with substandard food. Following the complaints, FSSAI officers visited the college canteen, where they found unhygienic conditions, uncleanness, and a dirty storeroom," she said. "In particular, vegetables were found in a rotten condition and had been used in cooking. Citing these issues, we served an improvement notice to correct these deficiencies in the canteen within a week," she added. Further, she said the students did not face any health issues due to the food and that an inspection would be held after the notice period.

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited
(Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001)
Corporate Identity Number U40109PB2010SGC033813 Website: www.pspcl.in
Mobile No. 96461-5525

E-Tender Enq. No. 7801/P-3/EMP-13308 Dated: 28.04.26
Dy. Chief Engineer / Headquarter (Procurement Cell-3) GGSSTP, Roopnagar invites
E-Tender ID No. 2026_POWER_167174_1 for Procurement of M.S. Pipe of size 200 NB and 250 NB installed at dry fly ash handling system GGSSTP, Roopnagar. For detailed NIT & Tender Specification please refer to <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> from 29.04.2026 / 03.00 PM onwards.

Note: - Corrigendum & addendum, if any will be published online at <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>

683/RTP-47/26/29/04/2026
1079/12/2026-27/11/2028

ORIGINAL LAND/PROPERTY DOCUMENT LOST

I, K.RAJESH (Aadhaar No. 3975 0843 3019) son of Late. C. Kuppuraj, aged 51 residing at No. 3/498, Sai Nivas, Gandhi Nagar, Madukkarai, Coimbatore - 641105, do hereby inform to the general public that I have lost the original land document pertaining to our property registered in document no. 256 dated 13.02.1978 at 234/1978 Kotagiri Sub Register office, if any one finds the said document, please contact me over phone no. 63826 06758 or at the following residential address.

K.RAJESH
3/498, Sai Nivas, Gandhi Nagar, Coimbatore - 641105

MANAPPURAM FINANCE LTD.
CIN: L65910KL1992PLC006623; Registered Office: W - 4/ 638A, Manappuram House, P.o. Valapad, Thrissur - 680 567, Kerala, India

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 16/05/2026 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:-
COIMBATORE, POLLACHI, 0100970700811381, NILGIRIS, OOTY, 0102520730013033, TIRUPUR, ANUPPARPALAYAM, 011147070060257.

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 NEFT/RTGS on the same day of auction. Bidders should carry valid ID card/PAN card. For more details please contact, 9072607147.

Authorised Officer
For Manappuram Finance Ltd

Petronet LNG Limited

NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT)
FOR SELECTION OF CONTRACTOR FOR ROAD RESURFACING & RELATED WORKS AT PETRONET LNG LTD., KOCHI

Petronet LNG Limited (PLL) invites bids from experienced and financially sound contractors for "Road resurfacing & related works at Petronet LNG Ltd., Kochi (Kerala)".

Interested parties are requested to visit our website www.petronetng.in for detailed eligibility criteria along with other necessary details for issuance of tender document.

Note: PLL reserves the right not to issue the tender document and/or accept or reject any or all the bids at any stage of the process and/or modify the process without assigning any reasons on its sole discretion. No separate notification w.r.t. this tender shall be issued in press. Interested parties to regularly visit aforesaid PLL website for any updates.

Sr. Manager (C&P)
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