

Abandoned cable in housing park claimed lives of 2 children in Kovai

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Coimbatore

A day after two children were electrocuted to death in the park inside the Army Welfare Housing Organisation apartment complex at Saravanampatti, investigation revealed that an old underground cable which passed through the play area was not removed and the worn out line had come into contact with a steel slider.



Live electric line lying under steel pole of round slider at the housing complex near Saravanampatti in Coimbatore | EXPRESS

On Friday, a team of officials from police, revenue and Tangedco jointly inspected the apartment. The inquiry revealed that the accident was caused by negligence in maintenance, said sources. According to Tangedco officials, power supply to the apartment complex and campus is through underground cables. Three months ago, a new cable was laid to power the high-mast light that was installed near the play area. The old line was allegedly abandoned without dis-

connecting power supply. Over time, the cable got damaged and touched the play equipment, sources explained.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Coimbatore City North) R Stalin told TNIE that the underground cable network was laid seven years ago and the play equipment was installed three months ago. Apparently, no one realised the cable when fixing the play equipment.

Tangedco officials have lodged a complaint seeking action against management of the apartment complex for their alleged negligence.

B Vyoma (8) and P Jiyans Reddy (4) died of electrocution around 6.30 pm on Thursday in the park. On Friday, their bodies were handed over to families after autopsy. Around 400 families, mostly ex-servicemen, live in the gated community.

Man booked as pet dog mauls 10-year-old girl

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Coimbatore

SULUR police in the Coimbatore district have booked a case against the owner of a pet dog which allegedly attacked a 10-year-old girl on Wednesday. S Dhanapal (32) of Ayodhyapuram near Peedampalli was booked on Friday under IPC sections 289 (on negligent conduct concerning animal) and 337 (on causing hurt by act endangering life or personal safety of others). Police registered a case based on the complaint filed by the girl's father on Thursday seeking action against the dog owner.

The girl was on her way to a relative's house when the dog owned by Dhanapal, which was left untied, chased and attacked her. She suffered multiple injuries and was rescued by locals. She was then rushed to Coimbatore Medical College Hospital (CMCH) where she is currently undergoing treatment.

LDF in a spot as audio on liquor bribery goes viral

Bar assn leader allegedly heard asking owners to pay bribe to govt

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @TPuram

A decade after the bar bribery scandal rocked the then UDF government led by Oommen Chandy, the LDF government has been caught in a similar situation after an audio clip, purportedly sent by a bar association leader asking money from bar owners to pay kickbacks to the government for a favourable liquor policy, surfaced on Friday.

The Opposition UDF, including IUML, flayed the LDF and demanded the resignation of Excise Minister M B Rajesh alleging corruption. The BJP termed it 'Delhi model bribery'. The CPM termed the charges baseless, while Rajesh asked the state police chief to conduct a detailed probe into the allegations. Both CPM and Rajesh said they suspected a conspira-

cy behind the allegation. The leaked clip, suspected to be sent by Federation of Kerala Bar Association Idukki district president Ani Mon to members during the executive meeting of the association in Kochi on Thursday, asks bar owners to give ₹2.5 lakh each to tweak the liquor policy and fulfil their demands such as scrapping of the dry-day policy and extending operations of bars from 11pm to midnight.

The speaker says a new liquor policy will be declared and implemented after the Lok Sabha elections with many favour-

able changes. To make it happen, "what needs to be given should be given," says the speaker.

No sooner did the clip surface than the UDF targeted Rajesh, demanding his resignation, alleging that the new liquor policy was to be implemented after taking ₹25 crore as kickback from bar owners.

"The government move aims to facilitate huge profits for bar owners, by doing away with the dry-day policy, opening pubs in IT parks," alleged Sudhakaran.

Leader of Opposition V D Satheesan alleged corruption to the tune of ₹20 crore, as owners of the state's 801 bars were allegedly being asked to pay ₹2.5 lakh each. He said, "The fund collection demand will not be made without the knowledge of someone in government."

The government move aims to facilitate huge profits for bar owners, by doing away with the dry-day policy, opening pubs in IT parks and extending bar timings. K Sudhakaran, KPCC president

3rd judge to decide Savukku's detention under Goondas

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EVEN as the arguments were under way, Justice Swaminathan made it clear what was in store as he pointed out that even without his detention under Goondas Act, the detenu has little chance to walk out of the prison as five cases were already booked against him.

The judge also pointed out to the speed with which the detention proposed by Inspector of Central Crime Branch of Greater Chennai Police on May 12 was endorsed by Assistant

Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner before it finally got the nod from the Commissioner of Police.

Though the judges differed on the main issue, they agreed about issuing a direction to the Tamil Nadu Prisons DGP to shift Shankar from the Coimbatore Central Prison to Puzhal prison. Since a split verdict was delivered, the matter will now be assigned to a third judge to take a call on the legality of detention.

Two persons, journalist Sandhya Ravishankar and founder of Tamil Munnetra Padai Veeralakshmi, filed petitions seeking to implead themselves in the case.

Senior counsel S Prabhakaran, appearing for Veeralakshmi, questioned the 'tearing urgency' behind expediting the hearing of the HCP while there were so many other petitions waiting to be heard. Accusing Shankar of deliberately denigrating the judiciary, police and the execu-

tive, Prabhakaran said the YouTuber is adopting strategies of blackmail and threat. He called upon the judges to deal with the case with an 'iron hand'.

Meanwhile, the bench, after hearing another petition filed by the YouTuber's mother, ordered the National Human Rights Commission to hold an inquiry into the alleged human rights violations meted out to him at the Coimbatore Central Prison. She had alleged that the prison authorities had physically tortured him.

Kerala's proposal to construct new dam violates SC directions, says CM Stalin

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POINTING out that taking up Kerala's proposal for a new dam for consideration will violate the orders of the Supreme Court, Stalin said, "We are informed that the EAC, under the aegis of the MoEF, has included the above proposal by M/s Irrigation Design & Research Board (IDRB), Government of Kerala, in the agenda of its upcoming meeting. The proposal

for constructing a new dam by Kerala, purportedly in lieu of the existing Mullaiperiyar dam, is against the directions of the SC."

The letter said, "The existing dam has been repeatedly found to be safe in all aspects by various expert committees and has been ruled so by the SC in its judgments dated February 27, 2006, and May 7, 2014. Later in 2018, when Kerala

made an attempt to get approval for the ToR for EIA study for the proposal for a new dam, the

issue was taken up by Tamil Nadu at the SC and it was clearly ruled that any such step would require SC's permission," Stalin pointed out. He also reiterated that the current act of Kerala on EIA study for a new dam would be in contempt of SC orders.

I am fit, stop spreading lies, 'healthy' Naveen slams BJP



Bhubaneswar: Hitting back at BJP for making his health condition their major campaign issue in this election, CM Naveen Patnaik on Friday accused the party and its leaders of spreading complete lies about him. "There is a limit to the amount of lies BJP can spread. As you can see I am in very good health and have been campaigning for around a month all over the state," he told a news agency while campaigning for BJD candidates in Mayurbhanj. BJD leader and star campaigner VK Pandian also termed the campaign by BJP leaders as unfortunate. Naveen and Pandian were responding to the aggressive campaign by the BJP where even top leaders of the party have alleged that the chief minister was not in good health. Union Home Minister Amit Shah had in a recent public rally had gone to the extent of saying that Naveen should retire due to his advanced age and health.

Advertisement for Sri Rangam Temple featuring a QR code and contact information for the temple's management.

Advertisement for South Indian Bank E-Auction Sale Notice, detailing the sale of immovable assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.

Advertisement for 'CHANGE OF NAME' for T.SUMITHA EZHIL, W/o Mr. D. Joseph Ezhil, residing at House No. 108C/3-2, Nadukattu Esakiamman Kovil Street, Vetturmadam P.O., Nagercoil - 629001.

Large advertisement for Union Bank of India Asset Recovery Branch - Madurai, No. 51, Rosary Church Building, Town Hall Road, Madurai - 625001. It includes details for an E-Auction Sale Notice for sale of immovable properties, listing various lots with descriptions, reserve prices, and terms of sale.

Advertisement for South Indian Bank Ltd, Regional Office - Madurai, First Floor YMCA Building, Oppo Astoria Hotels, 70 feet Road, Ellis Nagar, Madurai, Tamil Nadu. Pin : 625016. Ro1015@sib.co.in, Ph: 0452 2300205. It includes details for an E-Auction Sale Notice, listing various lots with descriptions, reserve prices, and terms of sale.

Advertisement for 'CHANGE OF NAME' for EASAV SIMSON NADAR, S/O. SIMSON NADAR, born on 08.04.1971, (Native District Tirunelveli) Residing at No. 91/1, South Street, Odaikkarai, Karisalpatti, Tirunelveli Dt-627414.

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