

HC suggests tribunal to redress arts fest-related complaints

The Kerala High Court has suggested the constitution of a tribunal or the appointment of an Ombudsman to redress grievances related to the school youth festival and expressed concern at allegations of bribery and biased judgment involving judges.

Referring to petitions arising from such disputes, the court said such a tribunal could be constituted with a retired judge of the High Court as chairperson, a retired IAS officer, and a third member having knowledge in the field of art and literature who is selected jointly by the other two. It cited the need for such an arrangement to prevent the High Court's time being consumed by youth festival-related disputes.

The court made the observations while considering a petition filed by Neha Nair, alleging irregularities in the evaluation of a dance event at the youth festival. The petitioner alleged that one of the three judges on the panel lacked competence. According to the petitioner, the third judge had awarded 10 marks to a candidate who had otherwise performed poorly, as per the assessment of the other two judges. This discrepancy resulted in the candidate securing the first position, casting doubt on the fairness of the judgment.

Murder of woman and her newborn twins: CBI arrests two former army personnel

Two former army personnel who had gone absconding after the murder of 24-year-old Renjini and her twin newborn daughters in 2006 at Anchal in Kollam were produced before the Chief Judicial Magistrate (CJM) court here on Saturday and were remanded till January 18. They were nabbed by the CBI's Chennai unit from Puducherry.

Kumar of Anchal and Rajesh of Sreekanthapuram, Kannur, had fled abroad after committing the murders. DNA test Renjini, with whom Divil is said to have had an affair, reportedly wanted him to take responsibility as father of the twin daughters. With Divil unwilling, she approached the women's commission, which in turn directed that a DNA test be carried out.

The DNA test, Divil availed leave from the army, roped in Rajesh and committed the murders, after which they absconded, settled down in Puducherry under the names Vishnu and Pradeep, married for there, and also began a business. The CBI had issued a lookout notice for them and promised a reward of ₹2 lakh to informants, while the army too tried to trace them.

la Police recreated AI images of how the duo would look now and began comparing them with photos in social media. It turned out that a person in a wedding photo resembled Divil, based on which the probe was extended to Puducherry and they closed in on the duo, leading to their arrest. They had been declared by the army as 'deserters' in March 2006, since they failed to turn up at their unit in Pathankot.

As per the charge-sheet filed by CBI in 2013 at the CJM court, the murders were committed at a rented house when Renjini's mother had gone to the panchayat office to get the birth certificates of her granddaughters. Rajesh used to reportedly visit their house and is also said to have promised to help Renjini in getting legally married to Divil.

Boy killed after tree falls on him

The Hindu Bureau KOCHI

A boy was killed after a coconut tree fell on him at Vengola in Perumbavoor on Saturday around 8 a.m. The deceased was identified as Muhammed Ameen, 5, from Assam. He was playing with his friends in the courtyard of his rented house when the mishap occurred leaving him with an injury to his spine.

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