

Operation Gaja shines spotlight on Chittoor's kumkis

K. Umashanker CHITTOOR

190-Ramapuram is a non-descript village in the Gudipala mandal of Andhra Pradesh's Chittoor district, close to the boundary with Tamil Nadu.

It made headlines on the dawn of August 30, when a lone wild elephant in musth trampled a farmer-couple to death, critically injured three other villagers, and killed about 10 head of cattle.

A few hours before it was captured on August 31, the wild elephant trampled a woman farmer at Bodinettam village near Katpadi in Tamil Nadu, before re-entering Chittoor district.

The jumbo continued to wreak terror in a dozen villages on the Chittoor-Tamil Nadu boundary till the evening of August 31.

The lone elephant, considered "very dangerous" by the Forest Department, had made its way to the thin forest range of Gudipala mandal, straying from its habitat in the Maharaja Kadai forests of Tamil Nadu 140 km away, criss-crossing jungle patches and fields along the way.

A team of forest officials from Chittoor rushed to Ramapuram village. About 100 personnel, including watchers, animal trackers and beat officers from six ranges in Chittoor and Tirupati districts were deployed for 'Operation Gaja'



Jumbo rescue: Kumkis Jayanth and Vinayak with a wild elephant at 190-Ramapuram village in Chittoor. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

to subdue the lone elephant on rampage.

Drone at work Kumkis (trained elephants) Jayanth and Vinayak from the Naniyala Forest Camp at Ramakuppam in the

Kuppam forest range were brought in special vehicles.

The search for the wild elephant continued from morning till late at night on Wednesday, but without success. By daybreak on Thursday, rumours spread

that an elephant had killed a woman farmer at Bodinettam village, a few kilometres away, in Tamil Nadu, confirming its location to somewhere within a radius of five kilometres.

Forest Department officials then deployed a drone camera from Tirupati.

After a five-hour aerial survey, the elephant was found on a sugarcane field.

The two kumkis, led by the highly experienced mahouts, jumped into action. For a couple of hours, the wild jumbo desperately tried to get away from the forest personnel and the pursuing kumkis. Finally, when the exhausted elephant was standing under a tree, a tranquilliser dart

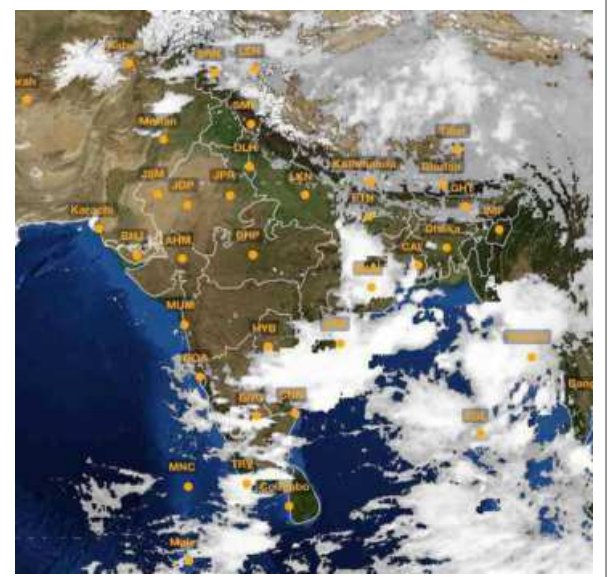
was shot at it. In a few minutes, the two kumkis had accomplished their task. The sedated tusker was captured.

Slowly and steadily, with its head bent, the bull elephant followed the kumkis. After a medical examination, the captured elephant was shifted to a truck, which made its way to the S.V. Zoo Park in Tirupati, 80 km away.

Bidding adieu to the forest personnel and trumpeting a call of assurance to villagers, Vinayak and Jayanth boarded their vehicles and returned to their camp. Forest officials and villagers gave full credit to the trained jumbos for their critical role in Operation Gaja.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Sunday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Gangetic West Bengal, Odisha, Telangana, coastal Andhra Pradesh, Yanam, Rayalaseema, central Maharashtra, north interior Karnataka, Kerala, Mahe and Andaman & Nicobar Islands

Table with columns for CITY, RAIN, MAX, MIN and CITY, RAIN, MAX, MIN. Lists data for various cities like Agartala, Ahmedabad, Aizawl, Allahabad, Bengaluru, Bhopal, Bhubaneswar, Chandigarh, Chennai, Dehradun, Gangtok, Guwahati, Hubballi, Hyderabad, Imphal, Jaipur, Kochi, Kohima, Kolkata, etc.

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Table titled 'Pollutants in the air you are breathing' with columns for CITIES, SO2, NO, CO, PM2.5, PM10, AQI, and CODE. Lists AQI scores for cities like Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Chennai, Delhi, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Lucknow, Mumbai, Pune, and Visakhapatnam.

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI) SO2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects...

INBRIEF



Ready to face Lok Sabha election anytime: YSRCP

At a time when speculation is rife that Centre may go for early Lok Sabha election, the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) has asserted that it is ready to face the election anytime. YSRCP State general secretary Sajjala Ramakrishna Reddy on Saturday said that if the election to the Lok Sabha seats is advanced to December, the gap for the Andhra Pradesh Assembly election would be four or five months. In such a scenario, the Assembly poll can also be advanced and conducted along with the Lok Sabha election. The YSRCP is ready to face the poll anytime. It is confident of retaining people's support, he said.

Will take all-party delegation to Delhi on Cauvery issue: CM

Siddaramaiah says as per water policy, priority should be given for drinking water and adds that Karnataka govt. would place the ground realities before the CWMA and the Supreme Court

The Hindu Bureau MYSURU



Siddaramaiah

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Saturday said that his government would take an all-party delegation to New Delhi to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Water Resources Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat on the issue of release of Cauvery river water to Tamil Nadu.

The Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA) has directed Kar-

nataka to release 5,000 cusecs water daily to Tamil Nadu for the next 15 days from August 29.

Speaking on the issue, Mr. Siddaramaiah said

there was crisis because of deficit rainfall in the Cauvery command area. However, as per water policy, priority should be given for drinking water, he said.

"From where will we release that much without water? We will protect the interest of the State by safeguarding our drinking water needs and crops of our farmers. We will place the ground facts before the CWMA and the Supreme Court," he added.

"Our Water Resources Minister [D.K. Shivakumar] has met senior counsel ap-

pearing for the State before the Central Water Commission and apprised him of the ground realities. As the issue will come up for hearing on Wednesday, directions have been given on what should be our stand," he said.

Meanwhile, the Karnataka Rajya Raitha Sangha has reiterated its demand to the government to stop the release of water to Tamil Nadu. It will also stage a protest in all district centres on September 5 in support of its demand. (With PTI inputs)

T.N. targets paddy procurement of 50 lakh tonnes for 2023-24

T. Ramakrishnan CHENNAI

Even as Tamil Nadu procured about 44.22 lakh tonnes of paddy during 2022-23, the State has set a target of 50 lakh tonnes for 2023-24, the procurement process for which commenced on Friday (September 1).

As per the plan drawn up by the Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation (TNCSC) for the current year, the grade 'A' variety of paddy will account for 35 lakh tonnes and common variety, 15 lakh

tonnes. After taking into account the minimum support price (MSP) fixed by the Union government, the State government determined the MSP as ₹2,310 a quintal for grade 'A' and ₹2,265 a quintal for common variety.

The two varieties carry the State government's incentive of ₹107 per quintal and ₹82 per quintal respectively.

During 2022-23, a total of ₹9,453 crore would have been incurred towards the procurement, of which the State government's incentive component would

have been approximately ₹390 crore. In the meantime, the authorities have drawn up a detailed plan to ensure smooth procurement. In the light of complaints of farmers being compelled to pay a "fee" ranging from ₹40 to ₹60 a bag, they have categorised direct purchase centres (DPCs) as "sensitive" and "less sensitive."

The composition of district-level committees has been changed in many places. Temporary officials who are meant for manning the DPCs and having a poor track record have been

identified. A system of randomisation has been put in place with respect to posting of such officials.

Contemplating closure Consensus of pressure from "locally resourceful persons" in the management of affairs at the DPCs, authorities are even contemplating closing down such centres in the event of repeated complaints. At the same time, Collectors have been empowered to open the required number of DPCs of the TNCSC in the Cauvery delta region.

Veteran theatre actor passes away

The Hindu Bureau KOCHI



Varghese Kattiparampan

Veteran theatre and film actor Varghese Kattiparampan, 88, died at Kananthulakara, near Thripunithura, on Friday.

The funeral was held at St. Mary's Forane Church, Thripunithura, on Saturday. Born to Joseph and Mariam Kattiparambil, Mr. Kattiparampan was popularly referred to as 'Stagile Sathyan' (actor Sathyan on stage) for his resemblance to the renowned actor. He was known by the name Prasad in the Malayalam film industry.

Angamaly Manishada, Kottayam Kerala, Kottayam National, and Changanassery Geetha.

He had also performed in dramas aired through Akashvani.

He made his debut in movies through Anadha Shilpangal released in 1971. He was paired opposite actors Sheela and Jayabharathi in Sumangali and Lakshyam respectively. Some of his movies include Shapamoksham, Varaphalam, and Ithiri Neram Othiri Karyam.

INDIAN RAILWAYS RAILWAY ELECTRIFICATION E-TENDER NOTICE No.RE/PGT/ELEC/TDGL/27/OT-16. Executive Electrical Engineer, Railway Electrification, Southern Railway, Palakkad acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites e-Tenders against Tender notice no. RE/PGT/ELEC/TDGL/27/OT-16 closing time and date 15.00 hrs on 03.10.2023.

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KERALA SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PROJECT, LOCAL SELF GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT. Land Required. Kerala Solid Waste Management Project (KSWMP) under Local Self Government Department requires land with truck/factory access for the development of Scientific Landfill for the scientific disposal of inert. The requirement is as shown below:

REGIONAL OFFICE KANNUR. SIB House, Chitala, Aluva Road, Kannur Pin: 670014 Kerala, Tel: +91 497 2712233/34/35. SOUTH INDIAN BANK. Regd. Office: SIB House, T.B. Road, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, Tel: 0487-2420020. POSSESSION NOTICE (FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY) Rule 8 (1). Whereas, the Authorised Officer of The South Indian Bank Ltd. under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued demand notice dated 04-04-2023 u/s. 13(2) of the Act to (1) M/s. S. Gopal Kamath, (Represented by its Partners), CV-35/3489, Kamath House, Bank Road, Kannur, Kannur District, Kerala - 670001 Also at (a) (Kozhikode Office): Customs Road, Kozhikode, Kozhikode District, Kerala - 673004 (b) (Manjeri Office): Industrial Estate Road, Manjeri, Malappuram District, Kerala - 676121 (c) (Mangalore Office): Swastik Chambers, Chamber Road, Mangalore, Karnataka - 575001 (d) (Madikeri Office): 152, College Road, Kodagu, Madikeri, Karnataka - 571201 (2) Mr. Divakar Hirendra Kamath, Partner of M/s. S. Gopal Kamath, S/o G. Hirendra Kamath (late), (3) Mr. Manohar Hirendra Kamath, Partner of M/s. S. Gopal Kamath, S/o G. Hirendra Kamath (late), (4) Mrs. Vidya Hirendra Kamath, W/o G. Hirendra Kamath (late), and (5) Ms. Tulsi Hirendra Kamath D/o G. Hirendra Kamath (late) address no.2 to 5 residing at Thulasi Vihar, Thavakkara Road, Civil Station, Kannur, Kerala - 670002 calling upon all of you to pay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs.3,13,43,229.21 (Rupees Three Crore Thirteen Lakh Forty Three Thousand Two Hundred Twenty Nine and Paise Twenty Nine Only) with further interest and costs within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.