DEER PARK, TOY TRAIN AT VOC ZOO PARK TO BE RAZED FOR PUBLIC SWIMMING POOL



CCMC in FY 23-24 budget proposed to build an aviary in place of the zoo

CCMC announced two new swimming pools and begin works for the public pool inside Deer enclosure on Jan 31, 2026

Until its closure, VOC Zoo was one of the very few municipal-run zoos in India and the only such zoo in whole of South India

Toy Train & 'VOC Park Station' established on Children's Day on Nov 14, 1992 inside the spotted deer enclosure in the zoo

Workers engaged in clearing the fences of the spotted deer park in Coimbatore | S SENBAGAPANDIYAN

ARAVIND RAJ @ Coimbatore

THE VOC Zoological Park, one of Coimbatore's beloved public spaces, is once again at the centre of controversy, with the Coimbatore City Municipal Corporation (CCMC) proposing to construct a public swimming pool inside the former spotted deer enclosure by felling several decades-old trees. The move has drawn sharp criticism from environmentalists, social activists and residents, who argue that the project erases the city's ecological and cultural memory.

The VOC Zoological Park, named after freedom fighter VO Chidambaram Pillai, was established across 3.03 acres in 1965. For generations, the zoo has served as a haven for the city's residents and has become an enduring landmark.

However, years of neglect by the CCMC led to the suspension of the zoo's licence by the Central Zoo Authority in 2018. The facility was permanently shut in January 2022. In the CCMC budget for FY 2023-24, the zoo was proposed to be redeveloped into an aviary (bird park), a plan that was reiterated in the following years' budget as well. Despite these announcements, no visible progress was made. Amidst this backdrop, foundation stones were laid last Saturday by Coimbatore MP Ganapathy P Rajkumar and other officials for a public swimming pool inside the spotted deer enclosure.

The project, estimated to cost ₹1.94 crore, involves uprooting over 25 trees, including eight large banyan trees. The plan also includes dismantling the toy train track and 'VOC Park Station', attractions deeply embedded in the childhood memories of many Coimbatoreans.

Environmentalists have raised objections, stating that mandatory approvals were not obtained.

K Syed, an environmentalist and member of the District Green Committee (DGC) said the committee had neither granted permission nor received any application from CCMC for uprooting or translocating trees in the enclosure. He said banyan is the national tree and cannot be cut or even pruned without approval. He added that the committee would probe the matter.

Activists also questioned the necessity of the project, pointing out that a public swimming pool already exists and is functioning well at Gandhi Park.

"If executing unwanted projects is an art, then CCMC is a Picasso. The UGSS project, Semmozhi Park, NMT corridors, 24x7 water supply and the list goes on. Instead of implementing such projects, the CCMC must ask people about their needs," said S Vivin Saravan, a social activist.

He further suggested that the civic body should revive the toy train service and 'VOC Park Station'.

Responding to criticism, a senior CCMC official claimed that efforts would be made to minimise damage to trees.

Speaking to *TNIE*, CCMC Commissioner M Sivaguru Prabakaran said, "I've clearly instructed officials not to cut any trees and conduct a survey now. We've only started initial stages of work, which includes clearing excess bushes and other unwanted vegetation. If there are very big old trees, we will try not to disturb them. Once the survey is completed, we shall submit a report to the DGC for approval for any uprooting or translocation. Without their approval no trees will be uprooted or translocated."

Regarding the toy train, he revealed the CCMC plans on introducing the facility in phase 2 of the Semmozhi Poonga project. "We'll also try to restore and revive the existing toy train in the zoo once it's converted into an aviary."

A ride through VOC Zoological Park

- Established in 1965 by Coimbatore City Municipal Corporation (CCMC)
- Spread across about 4.5 acres of land
- Over 7 lakh people visited the zoo per year
- Housed over 450 different animals, reptiles and birds
- Toy Train & 'VOC Park Station' established on Children's Day on November 14, 1992 inside the spotted deer enclosure in the zoo
- VOC Zoo shut down permanently in 2022 after attempts renew licence failed
- Central Zoo Authority of India (CZA) suspended licence of VOC Zoo in 2018 citing lack of maintenance
- The project, estimated to cost ₹1.94 crore, involves uprooting over 25 trees
- Activists questioned need of the project, pointing that a public swimming pool already exists at Gandhi Park

Seven days after rescue, pregnant jumbo found dead at Madukkarai

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Coimbatore



A female wild elephant was found dead at Thimilmalai forest in Coimbatore on Tuesday | EXPRESS

BARELY seven days after successfully rescue, a 50-year-old pregnant elephant was found dead at Thimilmalai forest in Madukkarai forest range on Monday evening.

The field-level staff noticed the carcass only on Tuesday morning, and the post-mortem was carried out by three veterinarians S Vennila, K. Vijayaragavan, and Karthikeyan in the presence of DFO N Jayaraj and members of the NGO on Tuesday afternoon. Sources in the forest department said that the animal could have died due to the failure of liver, kidney and heart and samples of the organs have been taken and will be sent for analysis to find the reason for the organ failure.

"The animal had a 15-month-old foetus, and the animal fell sick, as the female elephant requires more energy to take care of herself and the foetus. Due to multiple organ failure, the animal could have died," said an official of the forest department.

After the post-mortem, the carcasses of the elephant and foetus were left as feed for leopards, wild dogs, and wild boar.

Forest department staff, with the help of two veterinarians, successfully rescued, treated with more than 20 bottles of IV fluids, and let off the female elephant from the belt near the stream in Ayyasamy temple in Karadimadai near Kuppanur on the city outskirts on January 26. Field-level staff who were monitoring the animal last week said that the animal travelled Ettimadai and Modamathi for nearly 12 km from Kuppanur, where it was released.

44-year-old tribal killed in elephant attack



Coimbatore: A 44-year-old tribal man was killed in a wild elephant attack at Baralikkadu near Pilloor in the Karamadai forest range on Tuesday. The deceased was identified as R Sivakumar. The incident took place in front of his house around 1.30 am, when the jumbo was grazing in the dark. On hearing some noise, Sivakumar, without realising the elephant's presence, stepped outside and accidentally approached the animal. He was killed on the spot. Upon information, forest staff visited the spot and took the body to Mettupalayam government hospital for postmortem. The body was handed over to his relatives by evening, sources said. "There were footprints of the elephant, and we strongly believe that he was killed in a jumbo attack. We have issued initial solatium of ₹50,000 to the kin and will distribute the remaining ₹9.5 lakh once we receive the death certificate and other reports," an official said. ENS

EXPRESS READ

Home nurse arrested for stealing gold from elderly woman in Coimbatore

Coimbatore: A 28-year-old woman was arrested on Monday for allegedly stealing nine sovereigns of gold ornaments from a house in Coimbatore. The accused, identified as R Eswari (28) of Kothagiri in the Nilgiris, had joined the household as a home nurse on Sunday to take care of W Valli (70), a resident of the Ganapathy area, police said. According to the police, Eswari allegedly noticed a gold ornament kept on a table in the house and fled with it. Following a complaint lodged by Valli, the Saravanampatti police registered a case and arrested the suspect. She was remanded in judicial custody on Monday. ENS

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank
भारत सरकार का उपक्रम A Government of India Undertaking
सिंडिकेट Syndicate

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE OF SEIZED VEHICLES

Recovery Section (RLFP), Regional Office - I, Coimbatore.
Ph : 94890 43387. Email : legalrocbr@canarabank.com

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and to the Borrower/s and Guarantor/s in particular that the under mentioned vehicles/movables hypothecated **to CANARA BANK, Concerned Branch,** will be sold by online Auction.
The Movables are being sold on **"AS IS, WHERE IS, WHATEVER THERE IS AND WITHOUT RECOURSE & NO COMPLAINT BASIS"** as such sale is without any kind of warranties and indemnities.
It is proposed to sell the under mentioned seized movable assets in public auction for the debts payable to Canara Bank:
Date of submission of bid :- on or before 20.02.2026, 10:30 a.m,
Date & time of Auction :- 20.02.2026 between 11.30 AM to 12.30 PM. E Auction provider :- M/s. PSB Alliance Baanknet
Bid Submission :- Recovery Section, Regional Office-1, Opp.Anandha Sweets, 166 TV Samy Road, RS Puram West, Coimbatore - 641 002.
EMD amount of 10% of the Reserve Price is to be deposited in E-Wallet of M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited (BAANKNET) portal directly or by generating the Challan therein to deposit the EMD through RTGS/NEFT in the account details as mentioned in the said challan.
Description of Asset & Reserve Price and EMD :-

SL NO	BORROWERS NAME AND ADDRESS & A/C NO.	BRANCH	MAKE/MODEL	VEH REGN NO	RESERVE PRICE / EMD
1.	**Mr.Bobby Eric,**S/o.Anandhakumar.A.A, **Mr.Harihara Kumar (Gua),** S/o.Anandhakumar.A.A, Both are residing at : No.2/245 B, Teachers Colony, Cheran Maa Nagar, V K Road, Coimbatore - 641 035. **Loan No : 1248603000348**	Trichy Road - (1248) Mob : 9489043387	**SCRAP** VOLKSWAGEN POLO 1.5 TDI	TN 38 BY 4278	Rs.40,000/- Rs.4,000/- (being 10% of Reserve Price)
2.	**Mr. Sanjeevan Ramasamy,** S/o. Ramasamy, 19, Lakshmipuram 6, Andal Street 2, Peelamedu, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu - 641 004. **Loan No : 170006564412**	Ram Nagar - (16134) Mob : 9489043387	PIAGGIO APE CITY CNG 2022	TN 37 DP 7686	Rs.1,20,000/- Rs.12,000/- (being 10% of Reserve Price)
3.	**Ms.Pavithra. G,** W/o. Krishnakumar, 6, 1/7, CMC Colony, Kamarajapuram, RS Puram, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu - 641 002. **Loan No : 170007126068**	Ganapathy -II - (16140) Mob : 9489043387	PIAGGIO APE AUTO DX	TN 66 AM 0715	Rs.2,43,000/- Rs.24,300/- (being 10% of Reserve Price)
4.	**Ms.Sasikala. R,** C.Ramalingam, 37, Lalbahadur Sastrie Street, Kovil Medu, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu - 641 025. **Loan No : 170005363909**	Ganapathy - II - (16140) Mob : 9489043387	PIAGGIO APE CITY CNG	TN 38 DB 7150	Rs.1,62,000/- Rs.16,200/- (being 10% of Reserve Price)
5.	**Mr. Prabhu Gandhiraj,** C/o. Gandhiraj, H.No.987, Rajainayudu Layout, Gandhipuram, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu - 641 012. **Loan No : 170006175778**	Ganapathy - II - (16140) Mob : 9489043387	PIAGGIO APE AUTO DX	TN 66 AL 1732	Rs.2,02,500/- Rs.20,250/- (being 10% of Reserve Price)
6.	**Mr. Manikandan Sekar,** S/o. Sekar, 1/14, Venkatramana Nagar, Pothanur, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu - 641 023. **Loan No : 170006141730**	Kuniyamuthur-II - (16124) Mob : 9489043387	PIAGGIO APE CITY + DIESEL 2022	TN 99 X 4726	Rs.1,50,000/- Rs.15,000/- (being 10% of Reserve Price)

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale please refer the link "E-Auction" provided in Canara Bank's https://baanknet.com/. or contact Recovery & Legal Section, Coimbatore I Regional Office, Canara Bank (9489043387) during office hours on any working day.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF E- AUCTION

1. Auction/bidding shall only be through "online electronic mode" through the website **https://baanknet.com/; 2.** Date & time of auction : **20.02.2026 between 11.30 AM to 12.30 PM; 3.** Last date for deposit of EMD amount & submission of bids : **On or before – 20.02.2026 before 10.30 A.M; 4.** Date of Inspection of vehicles with prior appointment : **10.00 AM to 5.00 PM on 18.02.2026; 5.** The intending bidders should submit a copy of the bid form along with the following documents/details **on or before 20.02.2026 by 10.30 AM.** – Self Attested Photocopies of PAN Card, ID Proof and Address proof. However, successful bidder would have to produce these documents in original to the Bank for verification, at the time of making payment of balance purchase (Sale Consideration amount) amount; **6.** For participating in e-auction, the intending bidders have to deposit EMD amount by way of RTGS/NEFT to the credit of account of the branch mentioned in the table above. Bidders Name, Contact No. Address, E Mail Id & Bidder's A/c details for online refund of EMD shall be submitted along with E Auction form; **7.** Only intending bidders who have submitted EMD amount will be permitted for inspection of respective vehicle; **8.** Auction would commence at Reserve Price, as mentioned above. The bidder who submits the highest bid (above the Reserve Price) on closer of 'Online' auction shall be declared as successful bidder; **9.** The Successful bidder will have to make the full payment within **07** days. If the successful bidder fails to pay the balance sale price as within **07 days** of confirmation of sale, the deposit (Including EMD) made by him shall be forfeited; **10.** The EMD deposited by unsuccessful bidder shall be refunded to them & it shall not carry any interest; **11.** Registration formalities as well as all expenditure at RTO office to be borne by the purchaser only; **12.** The authorized officer of the bank reserves the right to postpone/ cancel e-auction as well as vary the terms and condition of the e-auction without assigning any reason thereof; **13.** Intending bidder are kindly requested to inspect the vehicles/movables to know its exact condition & nature and also make independent inquiries & due diligence to satisfy themselves regarding condition of vehicle/machinery before submission of bid. Bank afterwards will not entertain any objection about condition of vehicles. **14.** The intending bidders should register their names at portal https://baanknet.com/ and get their User ID and password free of cost.
This may also be treated as notice to the borrower/s and guarantor/s of the above said loan about the holding of E-Auction Sale on the above mentioned date, if their outstanding dues are not repaid in full.

Place : Coimbatore
Date : 02.02.2026

AUTHORIZED OFFICER
CANARA BANK

U.T. OF LAKSHADWEEP
LAKSHADWEEP DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED
(A GOVT. OF INDIA UNDERTAKING)
56/2366 (Old No. 27/1038 B), Panampilly Nagar, Kochi - 682 036
Tel No. 0484 2323448 / 2323458
E-Mail: ldcladm2016@gmail.com Website: lakshadweep.gov.in

EMPLOYMENT NOTICE

Lakshadweep Development Corporation Ltd. is inviting applications for 3 (three) posts of **Marine Superintendent on Deputation basis from Central / State Governments and PSUs** or on **Contract basis,** from eligible candidates with Class I Marine Engineer Officer (MEO) having worked as Chief Engineer in coastal / foreign going vessels for at least one year.
Application with self attested copies of all certificates should reach the above address on or before 24.02.2026. Preference will be given to eligible and qualified candidates from Lakshadweep.
Please visit our Website: **lakshadweep.gov.in** for details
02.02.2026 **Sd/- General Manager**

U.T. OF LAKSHADWEEP
LAKSHADWEEP DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED
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56/2366 (Old No. 27/1038 B), Panampilly Nagar, Kochi - 682 036
Tel No. 0484 2323448 / 2323458
E-Mail: ldcladm2016@gmail.com Website: lakshadweep.gov.in

EMPLOYMENT NOTICE

Lakshadweep Development Corporation Ltd. is inviting applications for one post of **Chief Engineer (Civil) on Deputation basis from Central / State Governments and PSUs engaged in port and marine infrastructure operation** from eligible candidates with Degree or equivalent in Civil or Mechanical Engineering from a recognized University / Institution having 15 years experience in civil or mechanical engineering works including at least 10 years experience in the field of Harbour Engineering, Planning or Construction of harbours or maintenance and operation of different kinds of port machineries.
Application with self attested copies of all certificates should reach the above address on or before 24.02.2026. Preference will be given to eligible and qualified candidates from Lakshadweep.
Please visit our Website: **lakshadweep.gov.in** for details.
02.02.2026 **Sd/- General Manager**

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Place: Mumbai
Date: 30.01.2026 **General Manager (RP & PM)**

PARADIP PORT AUTHORITY
PARADIP-754142, ODISHA (INDIA)
(An autonomous body under Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways, Govt. of India)

No.AD/RSC-I-21-61-2022/276 Dated, the **29th** Jan., 2026

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For further details, visit our website: **www.paradipport.gov.in/Career.aspx.**

PPA/PR/66/2025-2026
Dt. 30.01.2026

Sd/- Sr. Asst. Secretary,
Paradip Port Authority