



**CAPTIVE ELEPHANTS ARE VICTIMS OF
HUMAN ABUSE
Media Reports**

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About us:

Elsa Foundation is a non-profit charitable trust that focuses on conservation of biodiversity, prevention of cruelty to animals, animal rights issues of both domestic and wild animals. It opposes keeping wild animals in captivity.

We have travelled to several countries to study best practices and implement them in India.

The foundation supports various government bodies, in informed policy-making and decision-making on critical issues impacting biodiversity and the rights of animals.

Our work areas are research, advocacy, awareness, publication, support in policy and decision-making.

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Cover photo: Temple elephant separated and isolated in a concrete cell (Image by WRRC)

Video: Elephant Beaten Mercilessly by Mahouts in Tamil Nadu While it Cries in Pain, Sparks Outrage | Watch

Two mahouts kept hitting the legs of the 19-year-old female elephant Jayamalyatha of Andal Temple, Srivilliputhur, with sticks for about 20 seconds while it was heard trumpeting in pain.

Updated: February 22, 2021 5:10 PM IST

By [Trending Desk](#) | Edited by [Ritu Singh](#)



The elephant, said to be from Srivilliputhur temple, was tied to a tree and being hit, the video reveals.

Chennai: In a case of animal cruelty that has raised concerns among wildlife activists, two mahouts were seen purportedly ill-treating an elephant in a camp at Thekkampatti. According to The Hindu, mahout Vinil Kumar and his assistant Sivaprasad kept hitting the legs of the 19-year-old female elephant Jayamalyatha of Andal Temple, Srivilliputhur, with sticks for about 20 seconds while it was heard trumpeting in pain. The video which was taken by a visitor to the elephants rejuvenation camp has drawn condemnation from the public and wildlife activists. The elephant, said to be from Srivilliputhur temple, was tied to a tree and being hit, the video reveals.

When contacted, a source in HR&CE (Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments) Department which organised the 48-day camp said higher officials too had seen the video and one of the mahouts has been placed under suspension pending departmental inquiry. According to preliminary investigations, the incident occurred when the elephant was allegedly not obeying the mahout's commands. Angered by its behaviour, Kumar and Sivaprasad chained the elephant to a tree and attacked it, the officials said. A total of 26 elephants from various temples and mutts in Tamil Nadu and Puducherry were brought to Thekampatti in Coimbatore district for the nearly two-month long rejuvenation camp on February 8. The camp for temple and mutt elephants is being held annually.

Heartbreaking video shows chained elephant struggling to walk, forced to limp in Tamil Nadu

In another case of animal cruelty, a heartbreaking video has emerged of an elephant forced to hop and limp as its front legs were chained together in Tamil Nadu's Tirunelveli district.



Pramod Madhav
Chennai

January 24, 2021 UPDATED: January 24, 2021 11:20 IST



The elephant, in the video, was seen struggling to walk and attempting to jump and limp as his front legs were chained.

In another case of animal cruelty, a heartbreaking video has emerged of an elephant forced to hop and limp as its front legs were chained together in Tamil Nadu's Tirunelveli district.

The elephant, in the video, was seen struggling to walk and attempting to jump and limp as his front legs were chained.

The video also showed that Mahouts and other helpers were seen walking around the elephant as no one even bothered to unchain the animal.

Experts said this would have caused severe distress to its internal organs and raised questions as to how the mahout even allowed this. Asian elephants weight nearly 4.5 tons and have unique way of walking pattern to maintain stability.

The elephant has reportedly been identified as Makhna Mohan from Thirunelveli district and the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests has been informed about the incident.

Elephant with open wounds rescued, sent to rehab

P Oppili / Mar 9, 2020, 04:57 IST

Chennai: A 55-year-old cow elephant [Jameela](#) with [deep open wounds](#) on both sides of its hips was [rescued](#) by wildlife officials from Pottalpudhur in Tenkasi district on Sunday and sent to the forest department's elephant [rehabilitation](#) centre in Trichy. Its owner continued to hire the [elephant](#) out for functions despite the wounds, which showed no signs of medicare, according to animal welfare activists.

The action by the wildlife authorities was triggered by a complaint sent to them by A S Ramesh, an animal lover, who is a software consultant in Chennai. He told the TOI that he first noticed Jameela's condition when he visited Pottalpudhur for a function at which she was paraded.

"On both sides of the hips there were deep wounds that had been left open. There was no indication that any ointment had been applied to the wounds. The open wounds posed a grave danger to the very survival of the animal, which was being forced to attend functions in many parts of the state," he said.

Animal welfare activist Antony Rubin too said veterinary care was totally absent and the animal continued to participate in functions with the open wounds.

Another animal welfare activist, R Raghu, said [the animal had been suffering the wounds for more than a decade](#) and that the forest department had rescued the elephant on several occasions, only to release it to the owner's care in a few days. He said the wounds were the result of making the elephant lie down on cement floors. "Elephants develop small sores when they lie on cement floors. These sores develop into deep wounds when left untreated," he said.

Raghu said the owner had failed to provide any medication to heal the elephant.

Temple elephant Vedhanayaki dies of ailment

TNN / Updated: Nov 30, 2019, 13:35 IST



ERODE: The Arulmigu Bhavani [Sangameswarar temple](#) elephant died of ailment in the early hours of Friday. The 40-year-old elephant, named Vedhanayaki, was diabetic and it had been suffering from wounds for more than two years.

“It was in deathbed for the past 10 days,” a temple official told TOI. The official said due to diabetic-related wounds that it had been suffering from the [elephant](#) could not stand even for an hour at a stretch in the past two years.

On November 18, officials attached to the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments (HR&CE) Department had alerted both the district administration and forest department about the elephant's deteriorating health condition.

Subsequently, collector C Kathiravan had directed forest officials to do the needful. On their part, forest officials administered medicines on the elephant, which was stationed on the temple premises. However, the elephant died at 5am on Friday without responding to the treatment.

Elephant in famed Tamil Nadu temple develops health problems in 'cramped' shelter

Forest officials say that despite reminders, the officials of Adi Keshava Perumal have failed to build a spacious shelter for the temple elephant.



Published: 18th August 2019 04:48 AM | Last Updated: 18th August 2019 08:04 AM

| [A+](#) [A](#) [A-](#)



The swollen leg of Sriperambadur temple elephant. | EXPRESS

By S V Krishna Chaitanya

Express News Service

CHENNAI: The famed Adi Keshava Perumal temple in Sriperumpudur has allegedly failed to provide proper shelter to the 22-year-old temple elephant and this has recently resulted in swelling near the ankle of right hind leg.

The main concern was the small shelter in which the elephant is housed and also that it was kept short-chained for long hours. As per Section 5 of the Rules, a minimum floor area and height of 9 meter x 6 meter x 6 meter shall be ensured. Going by this standard, the Kothai's shed is not even one-third of it.

The shed was constructed when she was brought as a three-year-old calf from Assam in 2001.

But now the elephant weighs 3,840 kgs. The elephant was brought to the temple to use it in rituals.

An eyewitness shared with Express a video showing the poor health condition of the elephant, named Kothai. After appraised by Express, Sriperumbadur forest ranger Selva Kumar visited the temple on Wednesday evening and said that the elephant was not given adequate medical care and the last veterinarian visit was one month back.

"She is literally dragging her hind right leg while walking and seems to be in extreme pain. The elephant is unable to bend the ankle of an injured leg," the eyewitness, who alerted Express, said seeking anonymity.

The video shared to Express shows the elephant struggling to walk and it is said that the health has started deteriorating in the last one month.

While the executive officer of the temple was not available for comments as he was posted on duty in the Aththi Varadhar festival, forest ranger Selva Kumar said the current elephant shelter was too small and clearly violates Tamil Nadu Captive Elephants (Management and Maintenance) Rules, 2001.

"We have issued multiple notices and even warned the temple in this regard. In June, the temple had promised to rehabilitate the elephant in two months to a larger shelter which will have a natural pond and other amenities like shower etc., and said the groundwork has already started in the land identified. But there is no progress so far," Kumar said.

On the health of the elephant, he said, "There are no external injuries, but there is swelling near the thigh and ankle areas. It looks like a muscle problem and we have instructed the temple authorities to provide immediate medical care. The elephant is unable to bend the leg while walking, but is able to sleep and bend when stationed."

Chief Wildlife Warden Sanjay Srivastava said a report has been sought from Kancheepuram district forest officer and the issue would be raised with Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments (HR & CE) Department.

"We will seize the elephant if the temple does not follow the guidelines."

Elephant used for begging and marriage parades in Madurai to be rescued

A woman from Madurai was in possession of the elephant, originally meant to be gifted to the Meenakshi Amman temple.



NEWS COURT | FRIDAY, JUNE 14, 2019 - 15:39



TNM Staff [Follow @thenewsminute](#)

The Madras High Court has ordered the rescue of a 34-year-old elephant that was used by a woman in Madurai for begging and parading in marriage functions. Stating that **Malachi, the elephant, had been subjected to ill treatment**, the court directed the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Chief Wildlife Warden to take possession of the elephant immediately. A Bench of Justices S Manikumar and Subramonium Prasad suggested that the Department of Forests may either keep the elephant in a camp or transport her to a zoo, in accordance with law.

The court was hearing the petition of S Muralidharan, an animal lover, who had alleged that Indira, a woman from Madurai was subjecting Malachi to cruelty. He argued that Malachi was originally a gift from a woman named Masan from Rangat, North and Middle Andaman district. She had reportedly given the elephant to Indira to gift it to the Meenakshi Amman temple in Madurai. However, Indira never gave it to the temple and employed the elephant for begging and marriage function parades.

The petition had also alleged violations under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act as well as the Tamil Nadu Captive Elephants (Management and Maintenance) Rules, 2011. In addition to this, a counter affidavit filed by the Chief Wildlife Warden also details five instances when the caretakers of the elephant were fined as much as Rs 25,000 for a number of violations including begging, ill treatment and a drunk mahout handling the elephant.

Indira had denied the allegations, arguing that people automatically came and offered money to the elephant while she was walking on the road; the elephant was not used for any begging purpose, she said. However, the court observed that the excuse cannot be accepted.

“The last incident of imposition of fine of Rs.25,000/- on 01.08.2018, for begging, is after the filing of the instant writ petition. Even taking it for granted, that the elephant is adequately fed and taken care, the manner in which the elephant has been used, cannot be ignored. Disregard to the statutory rules, is apparent on the face of record. In such a scenario, the elephant cannot be permitted to be kept in the custody of the third respondent.” said the court.

However, the judges declined to pass orders on transferring the ownership certificate of the elephant, asking the Chief Wildlife Warden to decide on it.

Thiruvilanji Kumarar temple elephant succumbs due to medical neglect?

Jumbo was carrying large tumour & authorities allegedly failed to provide appropriate treatment



Published: 25th April 2019 02:09 AM | Last Updated: 25th April 2019 02:09 AM

| A+ A A-



By Express News Service

TIRUNELVELI/CHENNAI: In a tragic incident, 16-year-old female temple elephant Valli succumbed on Tuesday night due to alleged medical negligence. The jumbo was under the care and maintenance of Thiruvilanji Kumarar temple, ilanji near Courtallam. Valli was carrying a large tumour and the alleged failure on the part of temple authorities to provide appropriate treatment resulted in her death. Going on an usual evening walk, the elephant suddenly collapsed on the ground and died before a veterinarian would attend to her.

Courtallam range officer Arokiyasamy told Express that a month ago during a regular inspection a large tumour was noticed in the bottom part of the abdomen and the Executive Officer of the temple was even served a notice. The veterinary doctor also had reportedly directed the temple authorities to shift the pachyderm to the Veterinary Hospital in Tirunelveli for treatment as the tumour was too large to be treated in the temple and warned that it would be fatal for the animal, if neglected.

“The temple failed to act upon the advice of the veterinary doctor and continued treatment locally,” the ranger said. He said autopsy was conducted and the exact cause of the death can be determined only after getting the results. Officials said the tumour had been there for quite sometime now and the elephant had returned from the annual 48-day rejuvenation camp for temple and mutt elephants held on the banks of Bhavani adjacent to Vanabathrakaliamman temple at Mettupalayam.

Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department authorities said the elephant was gifted to the temple by Kadambur Zamin in 2006 bringing her from Assam when she was five years old. The elephant was microchipped and ownership certificate was in the name of Thiruvilanji Kumarar temple.

Chief Wildlife Warden Sanjay Kumar Srivastava told Express that any action can be taken by HR&CE only. However, he said a report will be sought from the District Forest Officer of Tirunelveli, who is also member-convener of District Captive Elephant Monitoring Committee.

Meanwhile, office-bearers of Tamil Nadu Nature and Environmental Development Association, have written to the Collector Shilpa Satish Prabhakar, forest department, HR & CE and police to take action against the erring officials who were not giving proper treatment to Valli.

Translation: Elephant Indira dies after being in her death brink for 10 days in Melacheval. | March 25 2019 | 12.07

47 year-old elephant Indira, that belonged to Sheik Moideen of Thirunelveli district died after 10 days of suffering.

Elephant had spinal problem and was unable to get up.

Upon doctors' investigation, it was found that **the elephant was injured 15 years before when it fell down while boarding on a lorry for transporting. Later, as the elephant aged, this injury took a toll on her and caused other physical trauma.**

தமிழகம்

முகப்பு > செய்திகள் > தமிழகம்

மேலச்செவலில் 10 நாட்களாக மரணப்படுக்கையில்
போரடிய பெண் யானை சாவு



வீரவநல்லூர்: நெல்லை மாவட்டம் பொட்டல்புதூரைச் சேர்ந்தவர் சேக்மைதீன்(75). இவர் வளர்ந்து வரும் 47 வயதான இந்திரா என்ற பெண் யானையை திருவிழா மற்றும் விசேஷங்களுக்கு வாடகைக்கு பயன்படுத்தி வந்தார். 2 மாதங்களுக்கு முன் மேலச்செவலுக்கு யானையை அழைத்து வந்த சேக்மைதீன், களக்காடு பகுதியில் நடைபெற இருந்த மற்றொரு நிகழ்ச்சிக்கு யானை கொண்டு செல்ல தீர்மானித்து மேலச்செவல் நயினா முகம்மது பள்ளிவாசலில் தங்கியிருந்தார்.

இந்நிலையில் திடீரென காய்ச்சலால் படுத்தக்கொண்ட **யானைக்கு முதுகு**
தண்டுவடத்தில் பாதிப்பால் எழுந்து நிற்க முடியவில்லை.

தற்காலிகமாக யானைக்கு சிகிச்சையளிக்கப்பட்டது. ஆனால் வயது முதிர்வின் காரணமாக யானை படுத்த படுக்கையாக கிடந்தது. இதுகுறித்து மருத்துவர்கள் விசாரித்தபோது, 15 வருடங்களுக்கு முன்பு யானையை கேரள மாநிலம் மூணாறில் லாரியில் ஏற்றும் போது தவறி விழுந்து காயமடைந்தது தெரியவந்தது. அப்போது யானை பருவத்தில் இருந்ததால் அதன் பாதிப்பு பெரிதாக தெரியவில்லை. தற்போது வயது முதிர்வால் நோய்தொற்று ஏற்பட்டு யானையை மரணப்படுக்கைக்கு கொண்டு சென்றுவிட்டது.

இதையறிந்த ராமையன்பட்டி மருத்துவக்குழுவினர், முண்டந்துறை வனத்துறை அதிகாரிகள் மற்றும் வனத்துறையை சேர்ந்த மருத்துவக்குழுவினரும் சென்று யானைக்கு சிகிச்சையளித்தனர். இருப்பினும் தொடர்ந்து கவலைக்கிடமாக இருந்தது. உள்ளூர் கால்நடை மருத்துவர் பழனி என்பவர் தலைமையில் மருத்துவக்குழுவினர் தொடர் சிகிச்சையளித்து வந்தனர். கடந்த 10 நாட்களாக உயிருக்கு போராடிய யானை இந்திரா சிகிச்சை பலனின்றி நேற்று மாலை இறந்தது. தகவலறிந்த வனத்துறையினர் யானையை உடலை ரெட்டியார்பட்டி மலைப்பகுதியில் அடக்கம் செய்தனர்.

Elephant dies while being transported back to Srirangam from Pollachi

K Sambath Kumar / TNN / Mar 17, 2019, 15:35 IST



The elephant died when the truck reached Namakkal around 4am on Sunday.

TRICHY: A more than 60 years old female [elephant](#), owned by a man in Srirangam, died on Sunday morning while being brought back from [Pollachi](#) on a truck. The elephant, called Gulabi, was taken to Pollachi – situated more 200 km from [Srirangam](#) – on Friday for a wedding ceremony on Saturday.

Animal activists said the owner of the elephant had sent the ailing animal to Pollachi for monetary gain, without caring about its health.

The elephant fainted a couple of times while it was in Pollachi. After much efforts, it was loaded on to a truck on Saturday evening.

The elephant died when the truck reached Namakkal around 4am on Sunday.

When the carcass was brought to Srirangam, [forest officials](#) took custody of it to conduct postmortem.

A range officer attached to the Trichy forest division said an inquiry would be initiated based on the outcome of postmortem. Appropriate action would be taken if the owner was found guilty, the officer said.

Animal rights activist P Paulraj, who wrote to the CM's cell and the forest department seeking action against the owner, told TOI that the elephant had been ailing and veterinarians had given instructions that it should be given complete rest. However, the animal was taken for a marriage function in Pollachi.

He wondered how forest officials could give clearance for transporting an ailing elephant. He demanded a probe into it.

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Elephant under treatment dies



SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

SEPTEMBER 03, 2018 21:22 IST
UPDATED: SEPTEMBER 04, 2018 07:42 IST

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A 68-year-old domesticated elephant, Sundari, which had been undergoing treatment at Government Poly Clinic at Sripuram here since August 14, died on Monday evening owing to age-related ailments.

The elephant, owned by Peer Mohideen of Tenkasi and maintained by mahout Hasan Maideen of Pottalpuhur, lost its vision due to cataract and lack of proper medical care. Moreover, lacerations on its foot and loss of teeth owing to old age compounded its miseries.

As the mahout, who was earning some money by taking the elephant to temple festivals and private functions, could not maintain the weakened animal, he brought it to the Government Poly Clinic.

Meanwhile, Hasan Maideen sought financial help from philanthropists to save the pachyderm after he could not meet the medical expenses and feed it, and assistance started pouring in.

Nature shows mercy on ailing Rajeshwari

DECCAN CHRONICLE. | ZAKEER HUSSAIN

Published Apr 22, 2018, 3:53 am IST

Updated Apr 22, 2018, 3:53 am IST



The elephant had also suffered an injury when it jumped off a truck meant to take her to a jumbos' rejuvenation camp.



📷 Salem district collector Rohini Bhajubhakare pays special homage to the departed pachyderm on Saturday. (Photo:DC)

Salem: The ailing Sugavaneswarar temple elephant Rajeshwari, struggling for its life, eventually died a natural death on Saturday post-noon, barely couple of days after the Madras High court allowed the jumbo's mercy killing.

In a moving ritual later after post-mortem was performed around 4 pm, Rajeshwari was laid to rest in a nearby pit by 7 pm, amid a large number of devotees giving her a tearful farewell and the Salem district collector, Ms Rohini Bhajubhakare paying special homage to the departed pachyderm.

The 42 year-old elephant was suffering with severe pain in her legs for long. Rajeshwari was also being treated for tuberculosis for the last ten years. The elephant had also suffered an injury when it jumped off a truck meant to take her to a jumbos' rejuvenation camp. All these ailments cumulatively worsened her condition and she was under treatment at a temple land in Athukadu near here.

Rajeshwari's health condition worsened further as she was unable to stand. She was turned over with help of an earthmover on March 17 for treatment. However, one of her tusks broke and she suffered a fracture in a leg during the procedure.

Following a petition by a social activist Muralidharan, the High court permitted her mercy killing if, as the Judges said, it was too cruel to keep the elephant alive. A team of doctors and health officials led by Prof. Jayathangaraj of the Veterinary and Clinical Medicine department of Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (Tanuvas) checked the elephant few days ago following the court's direction to submit a medical report on her health condition within 48 hours.

Even as more people visited the **elephant suffering in pain and agony with bedsores,** offered prayers and demanded that the planned euthanasia be called off, Rajeshwari breathed her last in the natural course around 12-20 pm on Saturday.

However, **devotees charged that elephant was not given proper treatment,** with the founder of the 'Thiruthondar Sabai', A Radhakrishnan even calling for police action against the concerned officials. He also urged that government form a committee to look into the health of all temple elephants in the state. Meanwhile, a local astrologer from Salem, J Ravikanth, saw in the pachyderm's death a "bad omen" which could bring about "changes" in Tamil Nadu politics.

Tiruvannamalai Arunachaleswarar Temple elephant dies

Shanmugasundaram J / TNN / Mar 22, 2018, 22:14 IST

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Tiruvannamalai Arunachaleswarar Temple elephant Rukku that died in the early hours of Thursday

TIRUVANNAMALAI: [Tiruvannamalai](#) Sri Arunachaleswarar Temple [elephant](#) Rukmani died in the early hours of Thursday after it sustained injuries. It died 15 days before its 30th birthday.

The cow elephant was laid to rest near Anjeneyar Temple in the afternoon after a team of six veterinarians performed postmortem. Hundreds of devotees and residents of Tiruvannamalai paid homage to their beloved elephant whom they called '[Rukku](#)'. Priests offered special prayers.

The elephant was brought to the temple at the age of three years and domesticated. It was in the temple for close to 27 years. The elephant was given by the [Tamil Nadu](#) government to the temple.

The elephant sustained injuries when it was taken out for a regular walk around 9pm on Wednesday. When it was walking through the fifth prakaram of the temple, a pack of [dogs](#) barked and ran towards it. The elephant tried to run away and hit a barricade. The mahout and a few others managed to calm down the elephant and gave it water. After a while, it was taken to its shed. However, the elephant panicked when a dog run towards it. When it tried to run away, it hit a tin sheet and sustained multiple injuries.

Temple authorities engaged a veterinarian and treated Rukku. However, it died within two hours, said the sources in the temple.

“Rukku was going to celebrate its 30th birthday in 15 days. But, unfortunately, it died after it sustained injuries when it tried to run away after a stray dog entered the shed. There were injuries on the forehead, around the eyes and trunk portion. It died around 12.15am,” said an official.

A senior forest department official said they had collected the samples of vital organs from the carcass for a detailed analysis to ascertain the cause of the death. “It will take two week to get the report,” added the official.

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