

# Chemical test proves doubts of pilferage of gold in Sabarimala temple, says court

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Kochi

THE Kerala High Court on Monday observed that the chemical analysis of the samples collected from Sabarimala prima facie reinforced its doubts that the original gold-clad dwarapalakas and door frames from the temple were replaced.

The court, citing the analysis reports from the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC), noted that the original gold-clad plates didn't have nickel and acrylic polymer layers, whereas the layers were present in the subsequently-plated copper plates. This, along with the absence of mercury and compara-



tive thickness of the gold and nickel layers in the latter, clearly indicated a systematic and methodical process behind the execution of the alleged offence (of gold theft), the court said.

It said the reports not only disclose the manner and modus operandi of the alleged tampering and substitution, but also provide critical evidentiary pointers for correlating past

transactions with subsequent activities.

The report, therefore, assumes central importance in the probe as it sheds light on multiple technical and material aspects and furnishes a scientific basis for evaluating transactions undertaken during 2024 and 2025, identifying the chain of decision-making, fixing individual responsibility and criminal liability, and examining the existence of any organised or concerted action amounting to criminal conspiracy. However, the court refrained from disclosing additional technical particulars at this stage, noting the possibility of further arrests and recoveries.

## EXPRESS READ

### Next generation post office opened in IIT-M

CHENNAI: In a bid to rework campus-based postal facilities for a younger, digitally native user base, the Tamil Nadu Postal Circle of the Department of Posts inaugurated a Next Generation (N-Gen) Post Office at the Indian Institute of Technology, Madras on Monday. The facility was opened by Prof V Kamakoti, director of IIT Madras, in the presence of Dr Jane Prasad, registrar of the institute, and senior postal officials including G Natarajan, postmaster general for Chennai City Region, and Major Manoj M, director of postal services for the region. The N-Gen format is part of a national programme to modernise post offices located within educational institutions, recasting them as technology-enabled, youth-centric service hubs while retaining core postal functions.

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# Limited stock: No saree, dhoti for many ration card holders in Kovai, other dists

M SARAVANAN @Coimbatore

SEVERAL ration card holders have been left disappointed this Pongal as they did not receive free dhotis/sarees, distributed by the state government along with the Pongal gift hamper.

Supervisors of ration shops said each shop distributed less than 60% dhotis and sarees in proportion to the total number of eligible card holders, attributing it to short supply. While some card holders received either a dhoti or a saree, few others received neither due to less allotment, they said.

R Ganesan, a card holder said, "I did not get a dhoti or a saree even though I am an eligible card holder. I received ₹3,000 cash, one kg raw rice, sugar and a full sugarcane. When I asked the staff of the ration shop at Ramanathapuram, they said there was less allotment of the materials to the shop. He said I will be provided the dhoti and saree if the cooperative department sends more materials after Pongal festival."

A supervisor, requesting anonymity, said, "At the ration

shop I work at, 564 ration card holders were eligible to receive free dhoti and saree. But we only received 300 sets of dhotis and sarees. As per oral instruction from officials, I was asked to manage the distribution with the short quantity, without any issues. On the first day of Pongal gift hamper distribution, I handed over the materials to the card holders. After a few days, I distributed either the dhoti or saree to the eligible card holders.

The distribution was cut down to those who did not ask for both." G Rajendran, state president of Tamil Nadu Ration Shop Employees Association, said, "The allotment has been less than 60% against the total eligible cards every year. Supervisors of ration shops are struggling to manage the situation with the short supply. They managed the card holders, who were all not provided the clothes, saying they will inform once the shop gets an additional allotment in the coming days."

Sources said there is no chance of receiving additional supply as the distribution process is over.

Speaking to TNIE, N Muthureka, a resident of the Arapalayam in Madurai, said she did not receive the saree, dhoti or sugarcane, as officials cited low supply. "I received ₹3,000, one kg of rice and sugar. The quality of the rice is very poor. To my knowledge, most people have not received sarees and dhotis. A few received only dhotis," she said.

A senior official from the cooperative department said, "The allotment of dhotis and sarees was less against the total eligible card holders in the district. Card holders who were left out may receive the clothes if we receive further allotment."

Cooperative department officials in Tiruchy said the department also faced a shortage of dhotis and sarees this year. As some cardholders did not opt to receive dhotis and sarees, officials initially managed the distribution with the available stock. Subsequently, based on a fresh indent, the required quantity of these items was received.

(With inputs from Vincent Arockiaraj @ Tiruchy and Jeyalakshmi Ramanujam @ Madurai)



## SUMMER IN SIGHT

A street vendor arranges watermelons brought from Tindivanam in Villupuram district, near Krishnampathy Lake in Coimbatore on Monday. The seasonal fruit signals the arrival of summer and is being sold at ₹30 per kg | S SENBAGAPANDIYAN

# 50 injured in jallikattu in Tiruchy, Pudukai

TIRUCHY & PUDUKKOTTAI: At least 50 people, including bull tamers, owners and spectators, were injured in jallikattu and Vadamaadu events held in Tiruchy and Pudukkottai districts respectively on Monday. In Tiruchy, 22 persons were injured at a Jallikattu event held at Navalur Kuttapattu village. In Pudukkottai, Jallikattu was conducted at Mukkanipatti, where 600 bulls were registered and 462 tamers enrolled. Twenty-seven tamers suffered injuries, including 10 major cases. Separately, a Vadamaadu event held at Keezhapanaiyur South Colony near Arimalam in Pudukkottai district left seven persons with minor injuries.

# Youth kills sister opposing her friendship with man

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Tirunelveli

A 25-year-old man was arrested for allegedly hacking his elder sister to death at Thachankudi-yiruppu, near Devarkulam, on Sunday, after neighbours repeatedly passed comments on her friendship with a married man. The arrested was identified as Kannan.

The deceased was identified as R Radhika (28). Sources said Radhika, who was unmarried, was friends with a married man. Her friendship was often questioned by her neighbours, which led to frequent quarrels within the family over the past few months. Superintendent of

Police Dr V Prasannakumar said Radhika's younger brother, Kannan, had objected to her friendship. On Sunday, an argument ensued between the siblings, and during the quarrel, Kannan allegedly attacked Radhika with a sickle, causing severe cut injuries. She was rushed to a hospital for treatment, where the doctors declared her dead on arrival.

During interrogation, Kannan allegedly confessed that he was upset over his sister continuing her friendship despite repeated objections. Devarkulam police registered a case and produced Kannan before a magistrate, who remanded him to judicial custody.

# 'DMK govts built 43 dams across TN over the years'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

THE project is intended to increase the city's total storage capacity by roughly 15% and meet the growing demands of fast-developing areas.

Highlighting the features of the project, Stalin said the surplus water from a network of 69 lakes in and around the Manamathi area and other minor clusters, which would otherwise drain into the sea, will be diverted to the Mamallan reservoir. The CM added that the project will also help store fresh water in areas such as

Thiruvadanthai, Kokilamedu, Mamallapuram, Tiruppur, Thandalam and Paiyanur. This will prevent seawater intrusion and improve both groundwater level and quality. As part of the plan, the Buckingham Canal in the region will be restored over a length of 15km, covering an area of 311 acres. This will improve the livelihood of fishermen who depend on brackish water fishing. Fishermen living in the area will also be issued fishing licences, he said. Stalin noted

that Chennai currently depends on Chembarambakkam, Puzhal, Cholavaram and Poon-di reservoirs along with the newly-built Theruvu kandigai. With the addition of Mamallan, the city's water storage capacity will improve. It may be noted that Mamallan is expected to be larger than Cholavaram in terms of capacity and will be smaller than the other three reservoirs. Explaining the reason for naming the reservoir as Mamallan, Stalin said, "The Pallavas ruled the Tondai re-

gion with Kancheepuram as their capital from the third to the ninth century CE. During this time, they created 39 lakes, including those at Mahendravadi, Uthiramerur, Thenneri, and Thoosi Mamandur to ensure food and water security through a structured lake administration system."

"Some criticism that we have not contributed much for improving water resources in the state. Former CM M Karunanidhi has done a lot. Till 2011, DMK governments over the years have built 43 dams across the state," he added.

## Illegal electric fence around farm kills man in Krishnagiri

KRISHNAGIRI: A 40-year-old man was electrocuted to death after coming into contact with an illegal electric fence near Shoolagiri on Monday. Police said the deceased was identified as N Nagaraj (40) of Kalingavaram. On Monday morning, he was found dead near a farmland owned by G Venkatesarajulu in Errandapalli village.

ENS

## Farmer attempts suicide alleging police inaction

TIRUNELVELI: A farmer attempted to end his life in front of the district collectorate during the grievance redressal meeting held here on Monday, alleging prolonged inaction on his police complaint. The farmer was identified as A Lakshmanan (52) of Sethurayanpudur near Manur. The police personnel on duty and the fire and rescue services staff immediately intervened and prevented the suicide attempt. Lakshmanan alleged that he had lent some money to a person from his locality to meet education expenses. However, when he demanded repayment, the borrower allegedly refused. He added that he lodged a complaint at the Manur police station, but was advised to approach the court.

(Assistance for those having suicidal thoughts is available on the Tamil Nadu health department's helpline 104)

**Trivandrum Engineering Science & Technology (TrEST) Research Park**  
(A Government of Kerala undertaking)  
Email : [trestpark@kerala.gov.in](mailto:trestpark@kerala.gov.in)  
Tender Id : 2026 TrEST\_827509\_2

Bids are invited from reputed manufacturing companies/startups for advanced pilot production and commercialization, including resource mobilization and marketing of LTO EV battery cells and packs, leveraging proprietary technologies developed by members of the Kerala EV Consortium

**Bid Submission end date 27.02.2026, 5.00 pm.**  
For more details: 0471-2598555, 9188933426, Website: [www.trestpark.org](http://www.trestpark.org)  
D3/62/2026/1&PRD Sd/-, Chief Executive Officer

**CHANGE OF NAME**  
I, Sheikh Abdul Kadhar, S/o Mohamed Sulthan born on 10.06.1978 (Theni District), residing at No.11, T.V.K.K. Nagar 4th Street, Bodinayakanur Post, Bodinayakanur Taluk, Theni District-625513, Tamilnadu shall henceforth be known as **SHEIK ABDUL KHADER MOHAMMED SULTHAN.**

Sheik Abdul Kadhar  
Bodinayakanur  
19.01.2026

**MANAMADURAI BRANCH, SIVAGANGA**  
**Quotation Notice**  
Central Bank of India invites sealed bids from reputed and experienced contractors for the Interior Furnishing, Electrical Works, and Data Cabling for its Manamadurai Branch, Sivaganga located at NO. 174, BYE PASS ROAD, Near New Busstand, MANAMADURAI, SIVAGANGA 630606

Last date for submission of quotation: 26.01.2026  
Sr.Manager, Madurai.

TAMILNADU CO-OPERATIVE MILK PRODUCERS' FEDERATION LTD., MARKETING UNIT: AVINIL LAM, 3 - A, PADUMON MUTHURAMALINGANAR SALAI, NANDANAM, CHENNAI - 600 035. E-MAIL: <a href="mailto:avimarketing@gmail.com">avimarketing@gmail.com</a>						
TENDER NOTICE						
Ref. No. 23 / N1 / MKG / 2026						
The TCMPF Ltd., invites TWO PART TENDERS by way of e-Submission through e-Procurement Portal from the reputed Contractors / Manpower Agencies for the following:						
Sl. No.	Name of the work	EMD amount	Tender Document Availability in website	Pre Bid Meeting Date	E-Submission End Date and Time	Opening Date
1.	Engagement of Agency for providing 22 manpower for multipurpose services at Product centre Room, Ambattur for a period of 18 months contract.	Rs. 79,000/-	22.01.2026 to 05.02.2026	29.01.2026 at 11.30 a.m.	05.02.2026 at 03.00 P.M.	06.02.2026 at 11.00 A.M.
2.	Engagement of Agency for house keeping at Avinil Hatch parlours and maintenance of gardens for a period of 18 months contract.	Rs. 92,000/-	22.01.2026 to 05.02.2026	29.01.2026 at 12.30 p.m.	05.02.2026 at 03.00 P.M.	06.02.2026 at 11.00 A.M.

**GOVT. OF ODISHA, OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER RURAL WORKS CIRCLE: KEONJHAR**  
Email: [se\\_nerwjkr@rediffmail.com](mailto:se_nerwjkr@rediffmail.com)  
**eProcurement Notice for Road Works**  
Bid Identification No. NCB-39/RWCKJR/2025-26  
No.237 / Date: 15/01/2026

1. Name of the work :- S/R to roads in the District of Keonjhar for the year 2025-26.  
2. No. of work :- 02(Two) Nos.  
3. Estimated Cost :- As per Annexure in NIT.  
4. Class of Contractor (Eligible) :- As per Annexure in NIT.  
5. Period of Completion :- As per Annexure in NIT.  
6. Other details :-

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of tender On-line for bidding	Last Date & Time of seeking Tender Clarification	Date & Time of Opening of Tender in O/o C.C.E., R.W. Circle, Keonjhar
1	2	From 3	To 4	5
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Keonjhar	NCB- 39/ RWCKJR/ 2025-26	01.02.2026 at 11.00 A.M.	05.02.26 up to 5.00 P.M.	06.02.26 up to 5.00 P.M.
				Will be intimated later

• Further details can be seen from the website: [www.tendersorissa.gov.in](http://www.tendersorissa.gov.in)  
Sd/- Chief Construction Engineer, R.W. Circle, Keonjhar