



Navarathri SHG sales exhibition from Oct 1 to 15

CHENNAI : The Tamil Nadu Corporation for Development of Women will organise a special Navarathri exhibition showcasing products made by self-help groups at the Mother Teresa Women's Complex in Nungambakkam here.

The fortnight-long exhibition will be held from October 1 to 15, 2026, offering visitors a range of traditional and handcrafted products, a press release from the Tamil Nadu Corporation for Development of Women (TNCDW) said here on Tuesday.

Organised under the Tamil Nadu State Rural Livelihoods Mission and the Tamil Nadu Urban Livelihoods Mission, the exhibition aims to provide self-help groups with fair market prices and wider access to urban markets.

More than 70 SHGs from across the state will participate in the exhibition, setting up 50 stalls offering more than 100 varieties of products. The exhibition will feature artisanal and festive products, Navarathri 'Golu' dolls, wooden sculptures, handicrafts, textiles and accessories, as well as handcrafted products made from jute, paper, palm leaf and banana fibre. Herbal preparations and household products will also be available. Dedicated food stalls will serve traditional delicacies throughout the exhibition, the release said.

Admission and parking will be free, and the venue will be open to the public daily from 9 am to 9 pm. The organisers have invited the public to visit the exhibition and purchase products made by women SHGs, the release added. Navarathri will be observed from October 11 to 19, followed by Vijayadashami on October 20.

Absconding Chennai man held for wife's suicide

CHENNAI : A man who absconded after the Madras High Court upheld his conviction in connection with his wife's suicide was arrested and remanded, the police said on Tuesday. The man was arrested on Monday after a Mahila Court issued an arrest warrant to nab and imprison the absconding Raja, police said.

The police team led by the Inspector of Triplicane Police Station arrested Raja, 35, of Pallavan Salai here and produced him before the Mahila Court, which remanded him to judicial custody.

A release from the police said Raja's wife Sudha died by hanging in 2016, two years after marriage with him. A case of unnatural death was registered and investigated was taken up by the D-1 Triplicane Police Station.

Police investigation revealed that Sudha was harassed for dowry and abetted to commit suicide. Consequently, the legal sections of the case were altered to dowry harassment and abetment of suicide. Raja was then aged 25. He was arrested in 2016 and remanded to judicial custody.

Following the trial Raja, was declared guilty on May 31, 2022 by a Mahila Court which sentenced him to 10 years of rigorous imprisonment along with a fine of Rs 15,000.

Subsequently, he appealed before the Madras High Court which in its judgment on August 25, 2026, upheld Raja as guilty and sentenced him to 3 years of rigorous imprisonment and levied a penalty of Rs 15,000.

The Mahila Court issued an arrest warrant to nab the absconding Raja and imprison him, the release said and added that the court order was executed by the Triplicane Police team led by the Inspector.

24-hour strike by private bus operators demanding fare hike

CHENNAI

PRIVATE bus operators across Tamil Nadu, barring those in Chennai, Madurai, Nagercoil, and Udhagamandalam, have announced a 24-hour token strike from midnight on September 29 to press for a revision of passenger fares and oppose the proposed expansion of the state government's free travel scheme for women.

According to the Federation of Bus Operators As-

sociation of Tamil Nadu, around 7,000 private buses operate in the state, and the sector is grappling with mounting losses due to the steep increase in the cost of diesel and spare parts. While fares were last revised in 2018 when diesel was priced at Rs 64 a litre, the fuel now costs over Rs 100 a litre.

"We are currently operating at a loss of around 65 per

cent. Unless fares are revised, the private bus sector will become unviable," Federation President Thangaraj told reporters on Monday.

Following a petition by a federation of private bus owners, the Madras High Court in March last year had directed the state government to seek views from operators and the public regarding a fare revision. How-

ever, operators alleged that no further action has been taken.

The federation has also raised strong objections to the upcoming expansion of the women's free travel scheme, scheduled for October 2. They noted that while state transport undertakings receive government subsidies to implement the initiative, private operators are exclud-

ed from such compensation.

"The expansion of the scheme will further worsen the financial position of private bus operators. The government should extend the free travel scheme to private buses as well and provide a subsidy to compensate us," Thangaraj added. The strike will be observed from midnight on September 29 to midnight on September 30.



Will back move seeking removal of CEC in Parliament: DMK

CHENNAI

THE DMK said on Tuesday that it would support in Parliament the Opposition's move seeking the removal of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, though it is not part of the INDIA bloc. DMK spokesperson T K S Elangovan, speaking to reporters, said that whenever Opposition parties oppose the BJP on any issue, his party would also stand by them.

"Ideologically, we (Opposition) all stand together. We are not part of the INDIA bloc. That is different. But in Parliament, we will support whoever brings a removal motion against Gyanesh Kumar, because our leader (DMK chief M K Stalin) had issued a statement," Elangovan said,



answering a question on the status of the INDIA bloc and ties between the Congress and Samajwadi parties.

Stalin had issued a statement on September 23 demanding that CEC Gyanesh Kumar "must go" and saying that he had no right to continue in office. Elangovan said that such support in Parlia-

ment does not mean that the DMK is a constituent of the INDIA bloc and that the move to oppose the BJP is based on ideology.

"Samajwadi Party top leader Akhilesh Yadav was skipping the meeting like the DMK, and that was because of the Congress party, he said, adding that the grand old party chose TVK

in Tamil Nadu "for the sake of two ministerial berths in the TVK government", he added.

Further, the DMK leader said that the Congress party has said that it will continue with the TVK. "They are not in our (DMK) alliance. How can we support them? How can we go to the meeting called by them?" he asked. To another question, Elangovan said that the Congress, by aligning with the TVK and ditching the DMK, "committed a mistake".

After the TVK, led by actor-turned-politician C Joseph Vijay, won 108 constituencies out of the 234 Assembly segments in the April Assembly polls, the Congress party joined hands with the TVK and became a part of the government, after a gap of nearly six decades in Tamil Nadu.

TVK leaders review arrangements for CM's Dharapuram poll rally

CHENNAI

SENIOR leaders of the ruling TVK on Tuesday inspected the venue in Dharapuram where the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister and TVK president C Joseph Vijay is scheduled to address a major campaign rally on Wednesday in support of the party's candidate for the October 6 assembly by-poll.

TVK general secretary and Minister N Anand visited the meeting venue and reviewed the arrangements, party sources here said. The meeting is being organized in support of P Sathyabama, the candidate representing the Secular Social Justice Victory Alliance in the Dharapuram by-election.

Party functionaries are currently making arrangements at a 34-acre site along the Dharapuram-Udumalai road, erecting stages and flagpoles under heavy security cover.

The inspection was also attended by Minister K G Arunraj, Minister K A Sengottaiyan, TVK Deputy General Secretary Udumalai K Radhakrishnan, along with several members of the Legislative Assembly, district secretaries, and party cadres.

Campaigning has intensified in the SC-reserved Dharapuram Assembly constituency



in Tiruppur district, where 22 candidates including Sathyabama of TVK were locked in a high-stakes electoral battle.

TVK sources here said that TN CM Vijay is also likely set to lead a roadshow across the constituency on October 4, just ahead of the campaign wrap-up.

Having won the Dharapuram seat for the AIADMK in the April Assembly elections, Sathyabama subsequently resigned from the party to switch allegiance to the ruling TVK, which had re-nominated her for the seat.

TVK chief Vijay already campaigned for Maragatham Kumaravel at Acharakkalam in Madurantakam on September 28, giving the party back-to-back mega events as it fights to secure both constituencies.

Annamalai to honour unsung women achievers with Kamaraj Awards on Oct 2

This year, around 12 outstanding women from different parts of Tamil Nadu and from diverse spheres of activity have been identified for recognition

CHENNAI

AS part of its observance of October 2026 as women empowerment month, 'We The Leaders' founded by former state BJP president K Annamalai will confer the Kamaraj awards on women achievers on Gandhi Jayanthi day. The award aims to recognise women whose contributions have transformed lives, strengthened communities and inspired others, but whose work may not always have received the visibility it deserves, Aspire K Swaminathan, general secretary of "We The Leaders" said on Tuesday.

According to him, across Tamil Nadu, countless women continue to make a difference in education, agriculture, community development, social service and several other fields, often working quietly and away from public attention. The Kamaraj Award seeks

to identify such women, bring their stories before a wider audience and recognise the values of perseverance, service, leadership and social responsibility that their journeys represent.

This year, around 12 outstanding women from different parts of Tamil Nadu and from diverse spheres of activity have been identified for recognition. Each awardee has distinguished herself through sustained effort, personal commitment and meaningful contribution in her respective field. The award has been instituted in the name of "Perunthalavar" K Kamaraj, whose public life continues to be remembered for simplicity, integrity, commitment to education and concern for the welfare of ordinary people.

Through this recognition, "We The Leaders" seeks to celebrate women who con-



tinue to reflect these values through their work and service. The awardee will then be invited onto the dais to receive the honour from Annamalai, following which she will briefly share her thoughts and experiences with the audience.

After launching "We The Leaders", Annamalai have undertaken several key social activities and events across Tamil Nadu.

He also recently claimed "in many constituencies, more than 30,000 leaders are part of our 'We The Leaders' organization. In every constituency, we must set as our goal the creation of at least 30,000 leaders on behalf of our organization".



Members of the fishing community stage a protest against the state government's proposal to build a new Secretariat at Pattinapakam in Chennai on Tuesday

Vijay felicitates cop for clinging to SUV roof to foil gutka smuggling

CHENNAI

CHIEF Minister C Joseph Vijay on Tuesday felicitated Kovilpalayam police head constable M Velmurugan for his bravery in foiling a gutka smuggling attempt. Velmurugan had clung to the roof of an SUV for nearly 40 km in an attempt to prevent the gutka smugglers from escaping, while a police team chased the vehicle and eventually arrested 3 persons, a press release said. The CM invited Velmurugan to the Secretariat here and lauded him for his courage, quick thinking and dedication to duty.

The head constable, attached to the Kovilpalayam police station in Coimbatore, was on duty when a police team stopped a Karnataka-registered SUV near the Kaniyur toll gate following information that gutka was being smuggled. The 3 men inside the vehicle allegedly pushed the police personnel aside and sped away on the highway. Without losing time, Velmurugan



jumped onto the SUV's roof and held on to the roof rails. The SUV driver reportedly accelerated to more than 100 km per hour and continued for about 40 km, with the head constable clinging to the roof. The pursuing police team eventually intercepted the vehicle near Avinashi in Tiruppur district and arrested the 3 men, all from Rajasthan, the release said. Police seized more than 170 kg of banned gutka and the vehicle. After felicitating Velmurugan, the CM advised him to exercise caution while on duty. Director General of Police Mahesh Kumar Agarwal was present on the occasion.

Woman cop dies after being pushed during clash at govt hospital

PARAMAKUDI

A 35-year-old woman head constable died after she was allegedly pushed to the ground while attempting to stop a violent clash between two groups at the government general hospital here, police said on Tuesday. The deceased officer was identified as Kannaki (35), who was attached to the Parthibanur police station in Ramanathapuram district and posted on duty at the Paramakudi government hospital.

According to police, a few youths who had sustained injuries in a brawl arrived at the hospital late Monday night for treatment. Soon after, members of the two groups clashed again on the hospital premises. When Officer Kannaki intervened to stop the fight, a youth identified as Karuppu Raja forcefully pushed her. Kannaki lost her balance and fell backward, suffering severe head injuries.

Though she was immediately admitted for emergency medical care, she succumbed to her injuries without responding to treatment. Upon receiving information, Ramanathapuram district superintendent of police G Chandeesh and Paramakudi deputy superintendent of police Sugumaran visited the hospital to conduct an investigation.

IIT Madras study finds educated professionals among cybercrime victims

CHENNAI

A study by researchers from IIT Madras here has found that financial cybercrime victims in the country were often highly educated professionals, challenging the perception that victims are primarily careless, financially unaware or greedy.

The study found that high digital literacy does not necessarily protect individuals from cyber fraud. Victims included IT professionals, bankers, doctors, management and finance professionals, public-sector officers and individuals with cybersecurity certifications, a release from the institution on Tuesday said here.

India's rapid digital transition near-universal mo-

bile access, UPI, and the wider Digital India push has brought hundreds of millions of first-generation users into digital finance within a decade, opening an unusually wide attack surface for investment and stock-trading frauds, task and job scams, digital payment frauds, malware attacks, and the distinctly Indian "digital arrest" scam.

While official statistics from the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) record the transactional breach, they remain silent on the human trauma behind the numbers, prompting the research team to ask a human question rather than a technical one.

The researchers found that victims were often targeted



The findings are based on semi-structured interviews with 33 victims — 22 men and 11 women, including 12 senior citizens—across Chennai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, New Delhi and Mumbai. The interviews were conducted in English, Hindi and Tamil

during periods of stress or life disruption, including illness in the family, retirement, job searches, or workplace pressure. Fraudsters exploited

fear, financial expectations, and reputational concerns to create an "engineered brain freeze," with victims describing a state of "mind arrest"

that impaired their ability to think clearly.

Financial losses ranged from a few thousand rupees to more than Rs 1 crore, while victims also reported shame, insomnia, depression, and damaged family trust. The study also found that institutional responses varied, with some banks and cybercrime cells responding quickly while others lacked the required technical capabilities and coordination.

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lysed using the Gioia methodology. The study was led by Prof P Kandaswamy, IPS (Retd), and Prof Nandan Sudarsanam, from IIT Madras in collaboration with Prof. Akanksha Jaiswal, Associate Professor, The University of Western Australia, Chennai Campus and Prof. Ameeta Fernando from Loyola Institute of Business Administration, Chennai.

The research received support from the Wadhvani School of Data Science and Artificial Intelligence at IIT Madras.

Elaborating on the findings, Nandan Sudarsanam, Wadhvani School of Data Science and Artificial Intelligence, IIT Madras, said, "Our findings show that financial cybercrime is not

simply a problem of inadequate digital literacy. Even highly educated and digitally experienced individuals can become vulnerable when fraudsters exploit fear, stress, and urgency. Understanding these factors is essential to designing more effective prevention strategies."

Prof. P Kandaswamy IPS (Retd), Adjunct Faculty, Department of Data Science and Artificial Intelligence, Department of Management Studies, IIT Madras said, "The response to cybercrime must move beyond blaming victims. Banks and law-enforcement agencies need stronger systems for early detection, rapid intervention, and coordinated response, along with better support for victims."