

CM UNVEILS RS 440 CRORE PROJECTS IN COIMBATORE, AIDS 9,343 BENEFICIARIES

Chennai, 18 Oct 2026: Infrastructure projects worth Rs 440.57 crore, covering education, healthcare, housing and civic amenities, were inaugurated or launched in Coimbatore district on Friday, with Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay also distributing welfare assistance worth Rs 34.72 crore to 9,343 beneficiaries.

At a government function, the Chief Minister inaugurated 89 completed projects costing Rs 408.25 crore and laid the foundation for 144 new works estimated at Rs 32.32 crore. A major highlight was the inauguration of Periyar Arivulagam in Coimbatore, constructed by the School Education Department as part of works costing Rs 301.71 crore.

The Chief Minister also opened additional classrooms, science laboratories, toilets and drinking water facilities at government schools, developed at a cost of Rs 19.11 crore.

Six public library buildings constructed at SS Kulam, Kuniyamuthur, Vellakinar,

MONSOON MONITORING INTENSIFIED

Chennai, 18 Oct 2026: 15 zones for close monitoring during the northeast monsoon, with all precautionary measures in place to tackle heavy rainfall, Revenue Minister K. A. Sengottaiyan said today. Speaking to reporters after inaugu-



Negamam, Theenampalayam and Idikarai at a cost of Rs 1.32 crore were also inaugurated.

In the healthcare sector, Vijay inaugurated an additional building at Suler Government Hospital, constructed at a cost of Rs 3.50 crore. Other completed projects included 28 rural development works worth Rs 12.13 crore, 14 municipal infrastructure projects costing Rs 11.27 crore and 10 town panchayat projects worth Rs 15.18 crore.

The Chief Minister also opened residential units constructed by the Tamil Nadu Urban Habitat Development Board at Ezhil Nagar in Selvapuram at a cost of Rs 26.62 crore and a commercial complex at Uppilipalayam costing Rs 4.15 crore. Among the 144 new projects, 127 works worth Rs 28.24 crore will be implemented by the Coimbatore Corporation. These include stormwater drains, drinking water pipe

lines, roads, parks, culverts, anganwadi centres, school infrastructure improvements and public health facilities.

As part of the welfare assistance programme, the Chief Minister distributed 2,000 new family cards, assistance to 2,300 beneficiaries under the Tamil Nadu State Rural Livelihood Mission and free educational kits to 1,703 government ITI students. Housing allotment orders were issued to 102 beneficiaries, while pattas, e-

pattas and forest rights pattas were distributed under various schemes. Under agricultural welfare programmes, 450 farmers received assistance through food security and oilseed schemes, while 1,021 beneficiaries benefited from horticulture and microirrigation programmes. Another 117 beneficiaries received assistance for agricultural mechanisation and solar drying facilities.

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School Education Minister Rajmohan, Backward Classes Welfare Minister V Sampath Kumar and Prohibition and Excise Minister K. Vignesh attended the function. School Education Secretary J. Innocent Divya, Director of Public Libraries S. Jayanthi, Coimbatore District Collector Pavankumar G. Giriyanavar, Corporation Commissioner Katta Ravi Teja and senior officials were present.

Cooperative loans, including crop loans, medium-term loans, livestock loans and women's self-help group loans, were distributed to 133 beneficiaries. Financial assistance was also provided to entrepreneurs, differently abled persons, sanitation workers and beneficiaries of social welfare schemes.

Rural Development and Water Resources Minister N. Anand, Revenue and Disaster Management Minister K. A. Sengottaiyan, School Education Minister Rajmohan, Backward Classes Welfare Minister V. Sampath Kumar and Prohibition and Excise Minister K. Vignesh attended the function.

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priority will be given to maintaining essential services, including electricity, transport and road connectivity," he said. Responding to a question about a possible Cabinet reshuffle, Sengottaiyan said there had been no discussions or indications regarding such a move.

TN TARGETS RS. 5,000 CR RURAL BUSINESS LOANS FOR FARMERS

Chennai, 18 Oct 2026: Farmers and those engaged in allied agricultural activities can avail loans of up to Rs 5 lakh at 9% annual interest under the Tamil Nadu govt's new Rural Business Loan scheme, for which a disbursement target of Rs 5,000 crore has been fixed for the 2026-27 financial year. Cooperation Minister V. Gandhiraj said the scheme aims to increase the income of small and marginal farmers by providing financial assistance for agriculture and allied rural businesses.

CM VIJAY MOURNS

Chennai, 18 Oct 2026: Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay on Saturday expressed shock and grief over the demise of veteran Music Director Deva, popularly known as 'Thenisai Thendral', and described his passing as an irreparable loss to the Tamil film industry.

In his condolence message, the Chief

FINE RICE AT RS 30 PER KG IN 250 TN STORES

Chennai, 18 Oct 2026: In a move to check rising rice prices, V. Gandhiraj jointly launched the initiative at the Kamadhenu Cooperative Store (TUCS) in Raja Annamalaipuram, Chennai. Under the scheme, fine-variety rice will be sold through 201 cooperative stores and 49 Amudham stores across Tamil Nadu. The price of Rs 30 per kg includes packaging charges. Each customer can purchase

through District six months may also be norms. Priority will be provided based on given to marginal farmers, women farmers and applicants following an announcement made by the Cooperation Minister during the discussion on the department's demand for grants in the 2026-27 Assembly session.

Model guidelines have been formulated for loan disbursement, and cooperative institutions have been instructed to obtain the necessary approvals and implement the scheme in accordance with the prescribed

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Cooperative institutions have also been directed to verify applicants' eligibility, follow lending norms and regularly monitor loan repayments and recovery. The Minister urged small and marginal farmers engaged in agriculture and allied activities to make use of the scheme to expand their businesses and improve their income.

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BNI CHENNAI CBD B HOSTS ‘SYNERGY 2026’ BUSINESS EXPO AND AWARDS NIGHT

Chennai, 18 Oct and services, providing 2026: Business opportunities for Network International businesses to connect (BNI) Chennai CBD B with potential custo successfully hosted mers, explore collabo ‘Synergy 2026’, its rations and build flagship business strategic partnerships. networking, exhibition Knowledge-sharing sessions and cross-industry networking Chennai Trade Centre. The event brought together entrepreneurs, business owners and industry professionals from across Tamil Nadu, with Thiru A. Srinath, Tamil Nadu Minister for Fisheries and Fishermen Welfare, attending as the Chief Guest.

Held under the theme “Where Business Meets Opportunity”, the event saw participation from over 1,200 members representing 23 BNI chapters. More than 100 exhibition stalls showcased products

Mr. Ajeeth Nahar, Regional Director, BNI Chennai CBD B, and Executive Director, BNI Chennai South, said, “Synergy 2026 brings businesses together to discover new opportunities, build meaningful relationships and create lasting partnerships. Our objective is to transform professional connections into tangible business opportunities and sustainable growth.”

CA Sunil Sethia,



Executive Director, business through BNI Chennai CBD B & member referrals, high South, said, “BNI’s lighting the impact of mission is to help relationship-driven members grow through networking.

Founded in California in 1985, BNI operates across 77 countries, with over 355,000 members globally. Its India network comprises more than 75,000 members across 1,559 chapters. Synergy 2026 reaffirmed BNI Chennai CBD B’s commitment to fostering collaboration, entrepreneurship and sustainable business growth.

According to the organisers, the BNI Chennai CBD B and South Region network has generated over ₹6,000 crore in verified

AIADMK TURNS 55TH, EDAPPADI JOINS CADRES IN CELEBRATIONS

Chennai, 18 Oct 2026: The AIADMK’s 55th Foundation Day was celebrated with enthusiasm across Tamil Nadu on Saturday, with party General Secretary Edappadi K. Palaniswami leading the celebrations at the party headquarters in Royapettah, Chennai.

Palaniswami paid floral tributes to the statues of former Chief Ministers M.G. Ramachandran (MGR) and J. Jayalalithaa at the party headquarters. He subsequently hoisted the party flag and distributed sweets to party functionaries, cadres and journalists.

The headquarters was decorated for the occasion, while a large number of party workers gathered to



participate in the celebrations. The premises wore a festive look, with cadres displaying considerable enthusiasm.

As part of the event, Palaniswami released the English book The Dravidian Phoenix, written by Sanjay Senthilnathan. The publication was organised under the arrangements of Dr. V.P.B. Paramasivam, former MLA, secretary of the party’s Youth Brigade and Young Women’s Brigade, and Dindigul West district secretary.

Palaniswami also distributed food and welfare assistance to beneficiaries at the headquarters. The initiative was organised by Aadhirajaram, party organising secretary and South Chennai North (East) district secretary, along with M.K. Maran, also known as Kalai, secretary of the party’s 119th East Ward in the Triplicane West area.

Elaborate arrangements were made to welcome Palaniswami on the occasion. Party flags, decorative festoons and welcome

banners lined both sides of the roads leading to the venue. Cultural programmes were organised, while party cadres and members of the Anna Trade Union carried their respective flags.

Women cadres also gathered in large numbers and accorded Palaniswami a traditional Poorna Kumham welcome.

The celebrations marked the beginning of the AIADMK’s 55th year, with party workers participating in events organised across the State.

SAMSUNG ANNOUNCES ‘BIG, BIGGER, BIGGEST’ DIWALI OFFERS ON VISION AI TVS

Coimbatore, 18 Oct 2026: Samsung India has announced its ‘Big, Bigger, Biggest’ festive campaign, offering exciting deals on its Vision AI-powered big-screen televisions this Diwali.

As part of the offer, customers purchasing select Samsung TVs can receive a free Samsung Soundbar worth up to ₹1,10,990 or a free Samsung Vision AI TV worth up to ₹1,59,990.

INAUGURATION OF PROJECT SEABIRD INFRASTRUCTURE BY VICE ADMIRAL SANJAY VATSAYAN, FOC-IN-C (WNC)

Chennai, 18 Oct 2026: VAdm Sanjay Vatsayan, Flag Officer of augmentation of Commanding-in- existing hospital, Chief, Western Naval INHS Patanjali, to a capacity of 409 beds. These are supported by a Two Lakh Litre Hill Top Water Reservoir and a Sewage Treatment Plant (STP). The growing strength of Karwar Naval Base demands progressive enhancement in its clean environment conformity and smooth access facility. Towards this a contemporary integrated Solid Waste Management Facility and access gate along with bridge infrastructure to facilitate four-lane vehicular traffic with dedicated pedestrian and cycle

The inaugurated residential and hospital facilities include five towers of 300 dwelling units for Naval Defence Civilians and

APPLICATIONS INVITED FOR DIFFERENTLY-ABLED BOARD

Chennai, 18 Oct 2026: The board was constituted under the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, and the Tamil Nadu Rights of Persons with Disabilities Rules, 2018, to advise on matters concerning the welfare and rights of persons with disabilities. With the completion of the existing members’ tenure, the state govt



Consumers can also avail up to 20% cash back, zero down payment options and a three-year comprehensive warranty.

Eligible customers within municipal limits can also benefit from TV installation within four hours of register

ing a request, subject to terms and conditions. Samsung Vision AI TVs feature intelligent picture and sound enhancements, immersive viewing experiences and SmartThings connectivity.

The range spans screen sizes from 32

inches to 115 inches and includes benefits such as Samsung TV Plus, Samsung Care+, Samsung Art+, Samsung Sound+, Samsung Finance+ and up to seven years of OS upgrades on eligible models, enhancing the overall home entertainment experience.



pathways were also inaugurated.

These infrastructure developments are part of ongoing Phase IIA of Project Seabird whose scope includes construction of a dual-use Naval Air Station, a full-fledged Naval Dockyard and logistics facilities for ships and aircraft. The Naval base housing approx.

10,000 uniformed and civilian personnel with families, will significantly boost the local economy, industry and tourism and create

numerous direct and indirect job opportunities for the Uttara Kannada region. The Project conforms to extant norms of Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF & CC), Indian Green Building Council (IGBC) and upon completion would be IGBC Gold rated.

The Project aligns with the concept of Aatmanirbhar Bharat, sourcing over 90% of materials and equipment domestically.



has initiated the selection process on the official website, <https://www.scd.tn.gov.in/>. Applicants have been advised to submit their applications before the deadline.

HEAVY VEHICLES DIVERTED NEAR KILAMBAKKAM TILL OCT 21

Chennai, 18 Oct 2026: Tambaram City Traffic Police have announced temporary traffic diversions for heavy and commercial vehicles heading towards Kilambakkam bus terminus till Oct 21 to ease congestion on GST Road amid the Ayudha Pooja and Vijayadashami holiday rush.

The restrictions will be in force from 2 pm to 2 am tomorrow Oct 18 and 19. On October 20, the diversions will begin at 2 pm and continue until noon on October 21.

Police said the arrangements were aimed at ensuring smooth movement of special buses and other vehicles as thousands of passengers travel to their hometowns during the extended holidays.

Heavy and commercial vehicles travelling from Red Hills towards Kilambakkam via the Outer Ring Road will be diverted at the Madha Engineering College service road

TN ALLOCATES RS. 13.66 CR FOR WEAVERS' WAGE HIKE

Chennai, 18 Oct 2026: Weavers engaged in producing free dhotis and sarees for Pongal 2027 will receive higher wages, with the Tamil Nadu Government issuing a Government Order sanctioning an additional Rs 13.66 crore for the revision. The revised rates cover pedal loom and power loom workers involved in the scheme.

Handlooms and Textiles Minister Vijay Balaji announced the decision on Friday after attending a community baby shower programme at Pernambut in the Gudiyatham Assembly



about towards the Tiruporur-Chengal pattu Road.

Vehicles coming from Chengalpattu along GST Road will be diverted near the Singaperumal Koil flyover towards the Oragadam Sriperumbudur Road.

Police have also advised motorists to consider alternative routes through Old Mahabalipuram Road (OMR) and East Coast Road (ECR), depending on their destinations, to avoid congestion.

Tambaram City Traffic Police appealed to motorists and commercial vehicle operators to follow traffic instructions and cooperate with personnel deployed at diversion points to ensure smooth movement during the festival holidays. The Tamil Nadu

ment officials and weavers before approving the revision.

The Handlooms, Handicrafts, Textiles and Khadi Department subsequently issued a Government Order authorising the wage increase.

According to the order, the additional expenditure of Rs 13.66 crore will be met from the allocation made for the free dhoti and saree distribution scheme in the 2026-27 State Budget. The Director of Handlooms has been authorised to utilise the funds for implementing the revised rates.

'JO JO MAA' FROM 'SIGNAL AT 11.30': D. IMMAN STRIKES AN EMOTIONAL CHORD WITH A SOUL-STIRRING FATHER-DAUGHTER MELODY!

Chennai, 18 Oct 2026: Alar Studios' Signal at 11.30, written and directed by Malarvizhi Natesan, unveils Jo Jo Maa, a beautiful father-daughter melody that celebrates the tenderness of a parent's love through music. Composed and produced by National Award-winning music director D. Imman, sung soulfully by Haricharan and penned by lyricist Mohanrajan, the song strikes a deeply emotional chord, bringing together warmth, affection and the unspoken bond between a father and his daughter.

Tamil cinema has gifted music lovers several unforgettable father-daughter songs, with Kannana Kanney

ISRO SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETES GAGANYAAN TESTS

Chennai, 18 Oct 2026: The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has successfully completed a series of Crew Module (CM)-Service Module (SM) Separation Tests for the maiden Gaganyaan human flight manned mission.

Gaganyaan Orbital Module comprises of Crew Module (CM) and Service Module (SM) which are connected using a separation system. Electrical & fluid servicing between CM & SM is ensured through umbilical connections. These modules are integrated prior to the launch and function as a single integrated module from launch till the completion of the on-orbit phase of the mission.

Prior to commenting re-entry into the earth's atmosphere, the CM is separated from



Carrying an intriguing sense of urgency and anticipation, the title invites audiences to wonder what significance lies behind that particular time. With the release of this emotionally rich single, the film offers another glimpse into its world, building interest around the story that

Malarvizhi Natesan has written and directed.

Featuring Santhosh Prathap, Bhavya Trikha, Pujita Ponnada, Jayaprakash, Munishkanth and Aryan, Signal at 11.30



Inertial Navigation Control System. This Systems, Thermal Protection System in confidence in the the Aft & Conical Heat Shield, Crew Module Deployable Umbilical Shield as well as the upcoming 1st pyrotechnic devices of uncrewed Gaganyaan Crew Module Upright Mission (G1) mission ing System and which is targeted for Thermal & Humidity launch in 2027.

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‘ONDRA RENDA - 25 YEARS OF GVM’ ENCHANTS KUALA LUMPUR WITH OVER 5,000 FANS, CELEBRATING THE TIMELESS MUSIC OF GAUTHAM VASUDEV MENON'S CINEMA:

Chennai, 18 Oct of this creative identity 2026: Celebrating 25 has been the music remarkable years of accompanying his filmmaker Gautham films, with soulful Vasudev Menon’s melodies, romantic distinctive contribu anthems and energetic tion to Indian cinema, chartbusters becoming ‘Ondra Renda – 25 inseparable from the Years of GVM’ drew an emotions and experi enthusiastic gathering ences of countless of over 5,000 fans in moviegoers. Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on October 10, 2026. Following the grand success of its Chennai edition earlier this year, the musical extravaganza travelled beyond Indian shores, transforming the evening into an unforgettable tribute to the filmmaker’s cinematic legacy and the songs that have touched generations of audiences.

Over the past two and a half decades, Gautham Vasudev Menon has carved a distinctive place for himself in Indian cinema through his nuanced storytelling, evocative portrayal of relationships, memorable characters and signature visual sensibility. An integral part



concert offered fans an and emotions that have opportunity to revisit defined Gautham cherished songs and Vasudev Menon’s cine relive the emotions matic journey. Their associated with some performances breathed of his most memorable fresh energy into cinematic moments. familiar favourites, The overwhelming taking the audience turnout of more than through a captivating 5,000 people reflected musical experience the widespread spanning soulful affection for GVM’s romance, nostalgia and high-energy numbers. films and the timeless appeal of their music, which continues to resonate with audi ences across geogra phical and cultural boundaries.

The evening featured an exciting between cinema and line-up of celebrated music.

As the journey prepares to reach more cities, it carries forward a simple yet timeless sentiment: films may end when the credits roll, but the music and memories they leave behind continue to live on in the hearts of audiences.

VETERAN BJP LEADER ADVANI HOSPITALISED WITH CHEST INFECTION

Chennai, 18 Oct remained under sion and growing 2 0 2 6 : Veteran observation. Further Bharatiya Janata Party details about his treat leader and former ment and the expected Deputy Prime Minister duration of his hospital Lal Krishna Advani stay were not immedi ately available. was admitted to Apollo Hospital in New Delhi on Friday evening due to a chest infection, according to media reports.

The 98-year-old leader was brought to the hospital at around 7.30 p.m. and admitted to the pulmonary department, where a team of specialist doctors is monitoring his condition.

Hospital officials said Advani's condition was stable and that he

highest civilian award, in 2024.

Born on November 8, 1927, Advani played a prominent role in shaping the BJP's political direction and organ- isational structure over several decades. His political journey included the party's expansion beyond its traditional strongholds and its emergence as a central force in national politics. He gradually withdrew from active electoral politics in his later years. In recogni tion of his contribution to public life, Advani was conferred the Bharat Ratna, India's

Advani's hospitali sation has drawn atten tion to the health of the veteran politician, who remains an important figure in the BJP's history. Doctors are continuing to monitor his condition at Apollo Hospital, with the available information indicating that he is stable and under observation.

MARKING KEERTHY SURESH’S BIRTHDAY, THE AKKA TEASER INTRODUCES BHAVANI, RUDRA AND THE KINGDOM OF PERNURU

Chennai, 18 Oct makes this day 2026: Netflix unveils incredibly meaningful, the teaser for Akka, and being able to cele released today as a brate it by unveiling the special birthday treat teaser of Akka, a for Keerthy Suresh and project so close to my her fans, the teaser heart, feels truly introduces Keerthy as special. Bhavani is one Bhavani and Radhika of the most unique and Apte as Rudra, two memorable characters I formidable women at have had the oppor the heart of Pernuru, a tunity to play. It was kingdom shaped by lovely working with deep-rooted traditions, Radhika. Our charac ters bring such compell shifting power dyna mics and simmering ing dynamics to the rivalries. story and the interplay between them adds an intriguing edge to the narrative. Akka marks my first series with Netflix and YRF Enter tainment and what drew me to this project was the distinc tiveness of its story and the world it inhabits. I am looking forward to audiences immersing themselves in this world and discovering the many facets of Bhavani as her story unfolds.”

Produced by YRF Entertainment, Akka is an epic gangster saga where women take centerstage, the show marks the directorial debut of Dharmaraj Shetty, who has also written the series. Set in the 1980s, Akka unfolds in a richly imagined kingdom shaped by generations of women who built, governed and protected Pernuru. Celebrating her birthday alongside the special announce ment of Akka,

Keerthy Suresh said, “The love I receive from the audience every year

FIRST TRAINING SQUADRON DEPARTS SEYCHELLES, REINFORCING MARITIME COOPERATION

Chennai, 18 Oct and maritime 2026: Ships of the community.

During the port call, Senior Officer, First Training Squadron, along with the Commanding Officers of the visiting ships, called on Maj Gen Michael Rosette, Chief of Defence Forces, Seychelles Defence Force (SDF). Discussions focused on the endur ing partnership and bilateral cooperation between the two forces.

The programme reinforced the long standing India- Seychelles partnership through professional training, capacity building, and inter actions with the country’s leadership



birthday. I am sure it is layered characters has going to be lucky for been a rewarding us. Rudra is a experience, and I look fascinating character, forward to audiences driven by her own discovering Rudra and convictions and an the many dimensions of her journey.”

Filled with compelling characters, intense rivalries and a world shaped by its own rules, Akka premieres October 30, only on Netflix.

Title Information

Director: Dharmaraj Shetty, Writer: Dharmaraj Shetty, Producer: YRF Enter tainment, Execu Tive Producer: Aditya Chopra, Yogendra Mogre, Akshaye Widhani, Key Cast: Keerthy Suresh, Radhika Apte, Tanvi Azmi.

Collaborating with YRF Entertainment on a story with such



SDF personnel. and a musical performance by the Indian Navy Band.

The deployment underscores the strong bonds of friendship between India and Seychelles and reflects the Indian Navy’s commitment to coordinated mano capacity building and euvres. Outreach regional partnerships initiatives included a in line with the vision medical camp, of MAHASAGAR distribution of essential (Mutual and Holistic supplies at the Point La Advancement for Rue elderly home, a Security and Growth visit by schoolchildren, Across Regions).