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# Fraudulent tenders, fake permits: Details of Tamil Nadu's 'Rs. 1,427 crore sand looting scam'

CHENNAI – 19 Nov, 2026 Rs. 1,427.34 crore, and it is still increasing. As the Directorate of Vigilance and Anti-Corruption (DVAC) of Tamil Nadu investigates sand mining activities at 28 quarry sites across the state, the estimated loss to the government is increasing. So far, only four out of 28 sites have been thoroughly inspected. These include Echchambadi, Kandaneri, Madhavaperumal Temple, and Oruvanthur.

At the center of these allegations is Duraimurugan, a senior leader of the DMK. He was in charge of the Water Resources Department in the party's 2021-26 government.

The sand quarry allocation rules require the Water Resources Department to identify a suitable riverbed and prepare an excavation plan specifying the area and the permitted excavation. Then, operations can only begin after the proposal has passed through environmental assessment, pollution control approvals, and district-level review. Extracted sand, digital booking, money It is transported to warehouses for sale through the government regulatory system by means of payment and permits.



The DVAC investigation indicates that almost all of these requirements were violated by a network of politicians, officials, and private contractors who allegedly engaged in fraudulent practices in awarding contracts, allowed mining beyond authorized boundaries, and created false records to conceal mining activities.