

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

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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-



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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.

## DMK governments over the years have built 43 dams across the state, says Stalin

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 Mamallapuram and other minor clusters, which would otherwise drain into the sea, will be diverted to the Mamallapuram reservoir. The CM added that the project will also help store fresh water in areas such as Thiruvananthapuram, Kokilamedu, Mamallapuram, Tirupur, Thandalam and Paiyanur. This will prevent seawater intrusion and improve both groundwater level.

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 Poondi reservoirs along with the newly-built Theruvoy Kandigai.

With the addition of Mamallapuram, the city's water storage capacity will improve. It may be noted that Mamallapuram 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 Mamallapuram, Stalin said, "The Pallavas ruled the Tondai region 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 the desilting of water bodies in the Cauvery delta region to the tune of

₹459 crore and built 121 check dams, the CM said.

Stalin further said the government is happy to present the Best Water Conservation Award to NGOs playing a key role in ensuring sustainable water resource management.

Deputy CM Udhayanidhi Stalin, ministers, Chengalpattu Collector D Snea and officials from the Water Resources Department took part.

As the new reservoir is coming up near Mamallapuram, which was built by Pallava King Narasimhavarman popu-

larly known as "Mamallan", it was appropriate to name it the Mamallapuram reservoir, the CM said.

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



opening the Mettur Dam on time to facilitate agricultural activities, the present DMK government has ensured the desilting of water bodies in the Cauvery delta region to the tune of

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### 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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#### TENDER NOTICE

For more details please visit E-tendering Portal, <https://etenders.kerala.gov.in> or [www.kmml.com](http://www.kmml.com)

Sl.No	Tender Id	Items
1	2026_KMML_825393_1	Establishing technology through pilot study for enrichment of monazite tailings and value addition of monazite upto separation of REEs. Tender submission end date: 03.02.2026
2	2025_KMML_820760_1	Brown field EPC – project for mineral separation plant; corrigendum published for relaxation in Pre-qualification criteria. Tender submission end date 31.01.2026

Chavara 20.01.2026

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