

Rituals along Padmatheertham pond mark starting of celebrations

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @T'Puram

MARKING the traditional commencement of this year's Navratri celebrations, the idols from Padmanabhapuram Palace arrived in the city on Sunday to a grand reception. Accompanied by traditional musical ensembles and elaborate rituals, the grand welcome transformed Thiruvananthapuram into a vibrant festive space, drawing hundreds of faithful participants.

The grand procession brought the idols of Velimala Kumaraswamy, Goddess Saraswati, and Suchindram Munnuttinaga to the heart of the city. The journey, which officially commenced from Padmanabhapuram on Friday, reached the city after the sacred 'Irakki pooja' rituals held at Kuzhithurai and the Neyyattinkara Sree Krishna Swamy Temple.

Hundreds of devotees lined both sides of the roads at key junctions including Nemom, Karamana, and East Fort with traditional offerings (thattam) to welcome the idols as the procession concluded in front of the Sree Padmanabhaswamy temple. Earlier at the Karamana Avadiyamman Kovil, the traditional arattu ritual was



performed for Goddess Saraswati, while the idol of Kumaraswamy was taken out in a ceremonial procession atop a decorated silver horse.

Upon arriving at the Sree Padmanabhaswamy temple, prominent members of the erstwhile Travancore royal family and senior temple officials ritually received the procession. The ceremonial sword (udaval) brought along with the procession was formally accepted following consecration rituals.

The idol of Goddess Saraswati was placed at the Navratri

mandapam within the temple premises for worship. Meanwhile, Kumaraswamy was seated for traditional worship at the Aryasala Devi Temple, and Munnuttinanga was consecrated at the Chenthitta Bhagavathy Temple.

With rituals successfully performed along the banks of the Padmatheertham pond, it marked the ceremonious commencement of the nine-day-and-night celebrations. Navratri poojas and the renowned classical music festival at the mandapam are set to begin this evening.

If SIR is illegal, Satheesan should resign as CM: BJP

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @T'Puram

SLAMMING Chief Minister V D Satheesan and Leader of Opposition Pinarayi Vijayan for taking part in the Delhi protests demanding the resignation of chief election commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, BJP state general secretary S Suresh said that the chief minister should resign from his post if he considers the SIR of electoral rolls an illegal process.

“Congress president Malikarjun Kharge had opined that SIR is illegal.

If Saatheesan thinks the same, he should resign. If it was legal in Kerala, he should apologise to the people and explain why he took part in the anti-SIR protest," he told reporters on Sunday.

He also asked whether the UDF would proclaim in the assembly that SIR was the reason the Left was voted out of power. Calling the High Court order to register an FIR against Pinarayi Vijayan in the CMRL payoff case a 'slap for both the UDF and LDF', Suresh said that the former chief minister is at the mercy of Satheesan and Ramesh Chennithala.

A man using a wheelchair during an awareness programme organised by CanWalk Society and SP Adarsh Foundation at Manaveeyam Veedhi | **B P DEEPU**

A minute in wheelchair, a lesson in accessibility

ASWIN ASOK KUMAR @ T'Puram

SITTING in a wheelchair for the first time, Natasha Lily, a Class 12 student of the Government Model Girls HSS, Pattom, was initially taken aback. Ahead of her lay a rough surface, a slanting ramp, and a square-shaped step, before she had to navigate the course back to the starting point.

Natasha was not sitting in the wheelchair because of any medical condition; she was taking part in a wheelchair simulation track demonstration, an awareness programme organised by the CanWalk Society and SP Adarsh Foundation at the Manaveeyam Veedhi here on Sunday evening.

"Pushing a wheelchair all by oneself is more difficult than it seems. Since this was a higher quality wheelchair, it was easier for me," she said.

The event was aimed at increasing awareness about the challenges faced by disabled people using wheelchairs and the need for inclusive infrastructure in all systems.

A retired KELTRON official, Prabhakaran, said his one minute in the wheelchair made him realise how poor our infrastructure is in addressing the requirements of the disabled community.

A wheelchair user himself, CanWalk founder and chairman Gokul Retnakar said they are planning to conduct similar awareness programmes in the coming months too. "Now that people have begun seeing wheelchair delivery partners along the streets of the city, the next initiative should be aimed at empathising with them and understanding their harsh reality, which was the core idea of the event," he said.

'Destination Expand North Star' roadshow begins today

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @T'Puram

TECHNOPARK will host a founder-focused initiative, 'Destination Expand North Star', on October 12, organised by Dubai-based business hub Zentral to connect Indian technology founders with global capital and international markets.

The initiative seeks to connect Indian tech founders with investors, customers, business leaders, and global technology companies in Dubai during Expand North Star, a staple event at GITEX Global 2026.

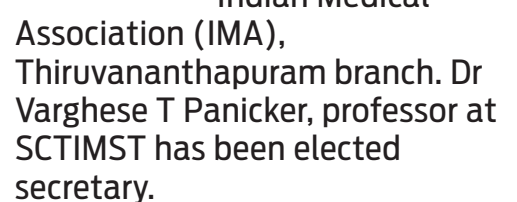
The first phase of the programme will bring together technology founders, startups, business leaders, incubators, accelerators, and wider ecosystem communities across Kozhikode, Kochi, Thiruvananthapuram, Kanyakumari, Coimbatore, Chennai, and Bengaluru.

The event is scheduled for 3 pm at Travancore Hall, Park Centre, Technopark Phase-I, providing a platform for regional founders and ecosystem enablers to explore Dubai's technology and business landscape.

Discussions will focus on potential market opportunities and the value of participating in Expand North Star, recognized as the world's largest startup and investor connector event held alongside GITEX Global 2026 in Dubai.

The initiative will select 100 founders from across India for a curated seven-day experience built around the events.

Dr Althaf elected IMA T'Puram branch prez



Removal of unused overhead cables begins

T'Puram: The corporation will launch a project to remove unused overhead cables, including telephone and internet wires, posing safety risks across the city. The project will be implemented across all 101 wards in phases, with five wards identified for the first phase. Mayor V V Rajesh will inaugurate the project at 5pm on Monday in front of the Martyrs' Memorial at Palayam.

Three youths arrested with 203g MDMA

T'Puram: Three youths were held by Thiruvananthapuram Excise Enforcement and Anti-Narcotics Special Squad on Saturday with 203.22 g of MDMA, suspected for sale. The accused, identified as Abhimanyu R, 21, of Kannetumukku, Abin R, 21, Manacaud and Athul M, 20, of Chamavila, were arrested from Jagathy. The arrests were made as part of Operation Thunder.

Around 600 take part in BSNL mini marathon

T'Puram: Around 600 people participated in a 5-km mini marathon organised by BSNL, in association with Union Ministry of Communications, to mark its 26th anniversary. Held under the slogan 'Run Together with Hamara BSNL', the marathon began and concluded at the BSNL Kerala Circle Office on Sunday. Arjuna Award winner awardee K M Beenameal flagged off the event.


Local Head Office
16, College Lane, Chennai - 600006

EMPANELMENT OF VALUERS

Application invited from qualified professionals having experience as Valuers for movable/immovable assets charged / to be charged to Bank. For application, eligibility criteria, etc., please visit website of SBI (<https://sbi.bank.in>) > **SBI in the News > Show more > Empanelment of Vendors.** The filled application along with supporting documents should be submitted to the nearest SBI branch on or before **26.10.2026** Those who are already in the Panel of Valuers with empanelment valid till **25.03.2027** should apply afresh.

Place: Chennai Date: 21.10.2026	Deputy General Manager & CCO
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Date of Availability of Tender Document in Website as well as CPP Portal: 12.10.2026 and Last Date of submission of Bid (On-Line) is 02.11.2026.

Interested Bidder(s) will have to be enrolled & registered with the Government e-Procurement System; through logging on to <https://eprocure.gov.in>.

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