CM Vijay opens ₹19.20-crore integrated government silk cocoon market complex at Sokkathur, Dharmapuri

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News

On 4 Nov 2026, CM C. Joseph Vijay, by video link from the Secretariat in Chennai, opened the 'Integrated Government Silk Cocoon Market Complex' built at Sokkathur, Dharmapuri district, for ₹19.20 crore on about 80,000 sq ft. It has a dedicated cocoon sales hall, separate waiting halls for men and women farmers and reelers, a canteen, parking, drinking water and a sericulture-inputs sales centre; 9 old buildings were renovated and a 1,110 m compound wall built. Cocoons will be sold through transparent e-auctions. MSME Minister P. Madhanraja and Chief Secretary M. Saikumar were among those present.

Key facts

Place	Sokkathur, Dharmapuri district
Cost / area	₹19.20 crore; about 80,000 sq ft
Opened	4 Nov 2026 – CM C. Joseph Vijay (video link, Secretariat)
Sales mode	E-auction
Market record	About 40 years old; average 600 MT of cocoons a year; farmers from 15–20 districts

Officials	Handlooms, Handicrafts, Textiles & Khadi Secretary R. Lilly; Director of Sericulture R. Satheesh

Background

- Sericulture is rearing silkworms to produce silk. Life cycle: egg → larva → pupa (inside the cocoon) → moth. Cocoons are heated and reeled before the moth emerges. The silk filament is made of the protein fibroin, coated with the gummy protein sericin.
- Silk varieties in India (MoSPI): Mulberry – Karnataka, West Bengal, J&K, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh; Tasar – Jharkhand, Bihar, Chhattisgarh etc.; Eri – Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya etc.; Muga – Assam only. India is the world's second-largest silk producer (after China).
- Central Silk Board (CSB): a statutory body set up by an Act of Parliament in 1948, under the Union Ministry of Textiles; headquarters Bengaluru. The mulberry silkworm is Bombyx mori, which feeds only on mulberry leaves.

Tamil Nadu link: Tamil Nadu's Department of Sericulture is headquartered at Salem and has functioned as a separate department since 1979. In 1956 sericulture was confined to pockets of Coimbatore and Dharmapuri districts and later spread to the plains (TNAU). Tamil Nadu is in the forefront in India in bivoltine silk (TNAU). Kancheepuram and Arani silk sarees hold GI tags. The government aims to make Tamil Nadu India's top silk-producing State.

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