

'Seizing' Raja shot dead in police encounter off ECR

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CHENNAI: In the second encounter killing in six days, the Chennai police on Monday gunned down 'seizing' Raja, an A-Plus category rowdy facing 39 cases, including six of murder, at an isolated location off East Coast Road (ECR). Last Wednesday, police had shot dead gangster 'Kakkathope' Balaji at Perambur.

Joint commissioner of police (south Chennai), Sibi Chakravarthi, told reporters that Raja was picked up from a hideout at Rampet near Kadapa in Andhra Pradesh on Sunday night, brought to the city and handed over to the Velachery police. During interrogation, he told police that he had hidden a gun on the banks of Buckingham Canal near the ISKCON temple on ECR. He was taken there to retrieve the weapon, Chakravarthi said.

"Five police personnel led by inspectors Ilangkani and Vimal escorted him to the canal. Raja dug up the gun wrapped in a plastic cover and suddenly opened fire twice at inspector Ilangkani. The shots hit the police vehicle. Inspector Vimal opened fire in self-defence. Two shots hit Raja on the chest and abdomen," said Chakravarthi.

Raja was taken to Govt Royapettah Hospital where he was declared brought dead. JAACT condemns encounter A magistrate, Karthik, visited and examined the encounter location. He also visited the GRH where Raja's body was kept for autopsy.

Police said Raja, 51, of East Tambaram had 10 non-bailable arrest warrants pending against him, and that he was wanted in connection with an extortion bid, wherein he had threatened a Tasmac employee at gunpoint last month.

This is the third encounter-killing by the city police since the July 5 murder of BSP leader K Armstrong. On July 14, police had shot dead Thiruvengadam, an accused in the Armstrong

16 KILLED SINCE MAY 2021

Aug 2023 | Two rowdies Chotta Vinod and Ramesh were killed at Karanai Puducherry near Tambaram

Dec | Raguvan and Karuppu Batcha killed near Kancheepuram

July 2024 | Durai was killed near Alangudi, Pudukottai; Thiruvengadam was shot dead near Madhavaram

Oct | Rowdies Muthu Saravanan and Gnyayiru Satish killed in encounter near Sholavaram



Nov | Rowdy Viswa killed near Sriperumbudur; Komban Jagan killed near Samayapuram

Sept | Kakkathope Balaji shot dead near Vyasarpadi Jeeva railway station; **'Seizing' Raja** killed off ECR near Chennai



murder case. A total of 16 history-sheeters have been gunned down in police encounters across the state since May 2021 when the DMK govt came to power in Tamil Nadu.

Joint Action Against Custodial Torture (JAACT) has condemned the extrajudicial killing of Raja saying it is 'extremely concerning and against the rule of law'.

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/chennai/seizing-raja-shot-dead-in-police-encounter-off-ecr/articleshow/113630572.cms>