Current Affairs – Notes

8 October 2026

Notes PDF

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1 World Egg Day 2026 (9 October)

Important Days

News

World Egg Day falls on the second Friday of October – 9 Oct in 2026. Begun in Vienna in 1996, it marks its 30th year. 2026 theme: 'Protein that Powers and Protects'.

Key facts

Date	2nd Friday of October (2026: 9 Oct)
Origin	1996, Vienna – International Egg Commission (IEC); 2026 is the 30th year
Theme	Protein that Powers and Protects
Nutrition	Complete protein with all 9 essential amino acids; choline, vitamins D and B12, selenium

Background

- India: second in world egg output (China first). Among States, Andhra Pradesh leads, followed by Tamil Nadu and Telangana.
- The 'Silver Revolution' refers to the rise in egg/poultry output. The National Egg Coordination Committee (NECC, 1982) was founded by Dr B.V. Rao; known for the slogan 'Sunday ho ya Monday, roz khao ande'.
- Science: eggshell is about 95% calcium carbonate; the yolk carries fats and vitamins; the white is mostly albumin protein.
- Nutrition schemes: 'PM POSHAN' (formerly the Mid-Day Meal scheme, 1995) – many States serve eggs; Poshan Abhiyaan (2018) fights malnutrition.
- World Food Day is 16 Oct (FAO, 1945); World Egg Day comes about a week before it.

Tamil Nadu link: Namakkal is the 'Egg City', a leading egg-production and export hub. Tamil Nadu's Nutritious Noon Meal scheme began in 1982 under M.G.R.; schoolchildren are served eggs. Kamaraj expanded the mid-day meal in 1956.

2 World Post Day 2026 (9 October)

Important Days

News

World Post Day, 9 October, marks the founding of the Universal Postal Union (UPU) at Bern, Switzerland, on 9 October 1874. 2026 theme: 'One postal network, infinite possibilities'. India observes National Postal Week on 9–15 October.

Key facts

Date	9 Oct – founding of the UPU (1874, Bern)
Theme 2026	One postal network, infinite possibilities
Declared	By the 1969 UPU Congress in Tokyo
Global network	Over 660,000 offices, 4.6 million staff
India	National Postal Week 9–15 Oct; UPU member since 1 July 1876

Background

- UPU: set up by the 1874 Treaty of Bern as the 'General Postal Union', renamed 'Universal Postal Union' in 1878; a UN specialised agency since 1948; HQ Bern; the second-oldest international body (after the ITU, 1865).
- PIN code: introduced on 15 Aug 1972 by Shriram Bhikaji Velankar; 6 digits; 9 PIN zones (8 geographic + 1 Army Postal Service).
- Law: the Post Office Act 2023 replaced the Indian Post Office Act 1898 (in force from 18 June 2024).
- India Post: the world's largest postal network (about 1.6 lakh post offices); India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) – 1 Sept 2018. National Post Day – 10 Oct.
- History: Asia's first postage stamp, the 'Scinde Dawk' – 1852, Karachi; India's first airmail – 18 Feb 1911, Allahabad–Naini.

Tamil Nadu link: PIN codes starting with '6' cover Tamil Nadu and Keralam (with Puducherry and Lakshadweep). The Chennai GPO building (1884) is a heritage structure; the Tamil Nadu Postal Circle is headquartered in Chennai.

3 Actor Nana Patekar dies at 75

Obituary

News

Veteran Hindi and Marathi actor Nana Patekar (75) died of a severe cardiac arrest at his home in Goa on 8 Oct 2026. He won National Awards for 'Parinda', 'Krantiveer' and 'Agni Sakshi', and the Padma Shri in 2013.

Key facts

Real name	Vishwanath Patekar
Born	1 Jan 1951, Murud-Janjira (Raigad district, Maharashtra)
Died	8 Oct 2026, Goa – cardiac arrest
National Awards	Parinda – Best Supporting Actor; Krantiveer – Best Actor; Agni Sakshi – Best Supporting Actor
Other	Debut 'Gaman' (1978); directed 'Prahaar' (1991); Padma Shri 2013; 'NAAM Foundation' (2015)

Background

- Social work: in 2015 he founded the NAAM Foundation with Makarand Anaspure to help drought-hit farmers in Maharashtra and families of farmers who died by suicide.
- Career: films such as 'Salaam Bombay!' (1988), 'Tirangaa', 'Angaar', 'Khamoshi', 'Apaharan' and 'Welcome'; famous for his intense dialogue delivery.
- National Film Awards began in 1954 and are given by the Information and Broadcasting Ministry; the highest honour is the Dadasaheb Phalke Award (since 1969).
- Padma awards: since 1954 – Bharat Ratna, Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan, Padma Shri; announced on Republic Day.
- Geography: Murud-Janjira is a famous sea fort in the Arabian Sea (Siddi dynasty), in Raigad district on Maharashtra's Konkan coast.

Tamil Nadu link: Nana Patekar played the villain 'Hari Dada' in the Tamil film 'Kaala' (2018), directed by Pa. Ranjith and starring Rajinikanth.

4 2026 Nobel Prize in Literature to Canadian writer Anne Carson

Awards

News

On 8 Oct 2026 the Swedish Academy awarded the 2026 Nobel Prize in Literature to Canadian poet, essayist and translator Anne Carson (76), for a bold and inventive body of work whose playful engagement with the classical Greek tradition has reshaped contemporary literature. The prize is 12 million Swedish kronor.

Key facts

Laureate	Anne Carson – born 21 June 1950, Toronto, Canada
Profession	Professor of classics (ancient Greek), poet, translator
Key works	Eros the Bittersweet (1986), Autobiography of Red (1998), If Not, Winter – Sappho (2002), Nox (2010)
Earlier awards	T.S. Eliot Prize (2001 – first woman), Griffin Poetry Prize (twice), Princess of Asturias Award (2020)
Prize	SEK 12 million; presented in Stockholm on 10 Dec

Background

- Classical tradition: Carson translated and reworked the ancient Greek poet Sappho (of Lesbos) and the dramatist Euripides, in a unique mix of poetry, essay and drama.
- The Literature Nobel is chosen by the Swedish Academy and has been given since 1901. The previous Canadian winner was Alice Munro (2013, short stories).
- India's only Literature Nobel: Rabindranath Tagore – 1913, 'Gitanjali'; he was also Asia's first Nobel laureate.
- 2026 Nobel announcements: Chemistry – Henri Kagan and Kenso Soai (7 Oct); Literature – Anne Carson (8 Oct). Prizes are presented on 10 Dec, Alfred Nobel's death anniversary.
- Canada: capital Ottawa; largest city Toronto; official languages English and French.

Tamil Nadu link: like Greek, Tamil is a classical language – declared India's first classical language on 12 Oct 2004. A.K. Ramanujan introduced Sangam poetry (Kurunthogai, Purananuru) to the world through English translation.

5 Weak monsoon: Maharashtra to cut water supply by at least 10% from 16 October

Environment

News

Citing a deficient monsoon, El Niño and fears of drought, Maharashtra will cut water supply by at least 10% in all urban and rural local bodies (corporations, municipalities, gram panchayats) from 16 Oct. Water Resources Minister Girish Mahajan announced it. Dam-wise water planning runs to 31 Aug 2027.

Key facts

Cut	At least 10% from 16 Oct
Applies to	All urban and rural local bodies
Priority	Drinking water first, then livestock and fodder, then irrigation
Industry	Reuse or recycle at least 30% of water
Emergency reserve	10% in every dam
Enforcement	Joint police–revenue teams; illegal pumps seized

Background

- El Niño is unusual warming of the central-eastern Pacific surface; it usually weakens the Indian monsoon. La Niña is the opposite and tends to help rain.
- Geography: Marathwada and parts of Vidarbha lie in the rain shadow of the Western Ghats (Sahyadri) and face frequent drought.
- Water governance: the Maharashtra Water Resources Regulatory Authority (2005) was India's first State water regulator. 'Jalyukt Shivar Abhiyan' builds village water works against drought.
- Constitution: 'Water' (drinking water, irrigation) is State List Entry 17; inter-State rivers are Union List Entry 56; Article 262 covers river-water disputes.
- Jal Jeevan Mission (2019): tap water to every rural home ('Har Ghar Jal'); the Jal Shakti Ministry was formed in 2019.

Tamil Nadu link: in 2003 Tamil Nadu became the first State to make rainwater harvesting compulsory in all buildings. Chennai faced a severe water crisis in 2019.

6 53.4% rain deficit: 21 of Andhra Pradesh's 26 districts declared drought-hit

Environment

News

With a rainfall deficit of about 53.4% during the south-west monsoon (June–August) of the 2026 kharif season, the Andhra Pradesh government declared 388 mandals in 21 districts drought-hit (7 Oct 2026): 283 severely and 105 moderately affected.

Key facts

Districts	21 of 26
Mandals	388 (283 severe, 105 moderate)
Rain deficit	About 53.4% (June–Aug 2026)
Season	Kharif 2026 – south-west monsoon
Declared by	Andhra Pradesh government

Background

- Drought declaration uses the criteria of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare's 'Manual for Drought Management' (2016, revised 2020) – rain deficit, crop condition, soil moisture, reservoir levels; the State government declares it.
- IMD scale: −20% to −59% of normal is 'deficient'; −60% or worse is 'large deficient'. 53.4% falls in 'deficient'.

- Geography: Andhra's Rayalaseema (Anantapur, Kurnool, Kadapa, Chittoor) lies in the rain shadow of the Western Ghats; Anantapur is among India's driest districts.
- Administration: Andhra Pradesh was reorganised from 13 to 26 districts in April 2022. The Disaster Management Act 2005 provides the SDRF and NDRF.
- Economy: a drought declaration opens input subsidy, loan restructuring, extra MGNREGA workdays (up to 150) and PM crop-insurance claims.

Tamil Nadu link: Tamil Nadu depends mainly on the north-east monsoon (Oct–Dec). After the 2016 north-east monsoon failed, the State declared all its districts drought-hit in January 2017. Krishna water from Andhra reaches Chennai through the 'Telugu Ganga' project.

7 GST officers' arrest power removed; prosecution threshold raised to ₹5 crore

Economy

News

The 57th GST Council recommended removing GST officers' power of arrest and raising the threshold for criminal prosecution from ₹1 crore to ₹5 crore. Minimum punishment goes, the general penalty falls from ₹25,000 to ₹10,000, and no notice will issue for tax below ₹10,000. The changes take effect from 1 April 2027.

Key facts

Arrest power	Removed for GST officers (prosecution still possible where criminality exists)
Prosecution threshold	₹1 crore → ₹5 crore
General penalty	₹25,000 → ₹10,000
Minimum punishment	Removed – left to the court
Small amounts	No notice for tax below ₹10,000
Vehicle checks	Only on specific intelligence with Joint Commissioner-level approval
Effective	From 1 April 2027

Background

- Decriminalisation: minor technical lapses are settled through interest and penalties instead of jail – the same approach as the Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Act 2023.
- Nirmala Sitharaman: 'any random GST officer cannot stop a vehicle' – inspection and seizure are limited to officers of the supplier or destination State.
- Other decisions: faceless tax administration; simpler registration for small e-commerce sellers; an officers' committee (report in 3 months) on genuine buyers losing ITC.
- Legal steps: Parliament must amend the CGST Act 2017 and related laws, and State legislatures their SGST Acts.
- Economy: trust-based tax administration improves 'Ease of Doing Business'.

Tamil Nadu link: Tamil Nadu's MSMEs – Tiruppur knitwear, Coimbatore engineering, Sivakasi fireworks and others – can work without fear of prosecution for minor lapses.

8 57th GST Council: no rate change; rates to be reviewed only once a year

Economy

News

At the 57th GST Council meeting in New Delhi on 8 Oct 2026, chaired by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, no tax rates were changed. She announced that rate changes will now be considered only once a year and take effect from 1 April, to give businesses a stable, predictable tax regime.

Key facts

Meeting	57th GST Council, 8 Oct 2026, New Delhi
Rates	No change
New practice	Rate changes once a year, effective 1 April
ITC	Extended to employee health/life insurance, telecom towers, pipelines outside factories
Refunds	Acknowledgement 15 → 10 days; 90% of eligible claims auto-sanctioned
Small business	Optional scheme for B2C sellers up to ₹5 crore turnover – annual return, quarterly tax (approved in principle)

Background

- Constitution: GST came through the 101st Amendment (2016) and began on 1 July 2017. Article 246A – power to make GST laws; 269A – IGST on inter-State trade; 279A – GST Council.
- GST Council: chaired by the Union Finance Minister; members – the Union MoS Finance and all State finance ministers. Votes: Centre 1/3, States 2/3; decisions need a 3/4 majority; quorum is half the members.
- GST 2.0: from 22 Sept 2025, two main slabs – 5% and 18% – and 40% for luxury and sin goods. After its first year, the focus has moved to process reforms.
- History: GST was recommended by the Vijay Kelkar Task Force (on implementing the FRBM Act, 2004); the Empowered Committee of State Finance Ministers led by Asim Dasgupta shaped it. 'One Nation, One Tax'.
- GST types: CGST (Centre), SGST (State), UTGST (UT) for intra-State sales; IGST for inter-State sales and imports.

Tamil Nadu link: Tamil Nadu's Finance Minister is a member of the GST Council, and Tamil Nadu is among the top States in GST collection. Chennai hosts a zonal GST Principal Chief Commissionerate.

9 MNRE event in New Delhi on World Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Day

Energy

News

For World Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Day (8 Oct), the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) held an event at Atal Akshay Urja Bhawan, New Delhi. Prof. Ajay Kumar Sood, Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India, was chief guest. Panels discussed hydrogen standards and safety, and a report, 'India's Hydrogen Standards: Gap Assessment and Preliminary Action Framework', was released.

Key facts

Date	8 Oct – reflects hydrogen's atomic weight, 1.008
Venue	Atal Akshay Urja Bhawan, New Delhi
Chief guest	Prof. Ajay Kumar Sood (Principal Scientific Adviser)
Report	Hydrogen standards gap assessment (prepared with BCG)
Bodies	BIS, PNGRB, PESO, OISD, CEEW, SECI, NISE

Background

- National Green Hydrogen Mission: approved in January 2023 with ₹19,744 crore; target of 5 million metric tonnes a year of green hydrogen capacity by 2030. The 'SIGHT' programme gives incentives for electrolyser making and hydrogen production.
- Hydrogen 'colours': green – from electrolysis of water using renewable power; grey – from natural gas (emits CO_2); blue – grey plus carbon capture.
- Science: in a fuel cell, hydrogen and oxygen combine to produce electricity with only water as by-product. Hydrogen is element 1 of the periodic table and the most abundant in the universe.
- Regulators: PESO (Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organisation, Nagpur) licenses hydrogen storage safety; BIS sets standards; PNGRB regulates pipelines.
- Goal: net zero by 2070 (COP26 Panchamrit) – replacing grey hydrogen with green in fertiliser, steel and refining.

Tamil Nadu link: V.O. Chidambaranar Port, Thoothukudi, was chosen with Deendayal (Kandla) and Paradip ports to be developed as a green hydrogen hub; green hydrogen and ammonia projects are coming up there.

10 Keralam Police sets up 'Speak Up' task force against domestic violence

Governance

News

Keralam Police set up a special task force, 'Speak Up', to prevent domestic violence and give survivors safety, legal aid, counselling and livelihood support (8 Oct 2026). On the State Home Department's order, Inspector General of Police Ajitha Begum heads it. Home Minister Ramesh Chennithala announced it.

Key facts

Name	'Speak Up' special task force
In charge	IGP Ajitha Begum IPS
Access	Digital helpline, WhatsApp, dedicated app; central command centre
Features	One officer per case with weekly review; privacy; responding officers in plain clothes
Context	92 women died of domestic violence in the past 7 years

Background

- Name change: by the Kerala (Alteration of Name) Act 2026, the State officially became 'Keralam' from 25 Aug 2026. The Lok Sabha passed it on 11 Aug and the Rajya Sabha on 12 Aug 2026.

- Constitution: Article 3 empowers Parliament to form States and change their boundaries or names; it needs the President's recommendation and the State legislature's views (which are not binding).
- Law: the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act 2005 (in force 26 Oct 2006) – protection officers, protection orders, right to residence. Section 85 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita 2023 – cruelty by husband or relatives (formerly IPC 498A).
- Helplines: 181 – women's helpline; 1091 – women's helpline (police); 112 – emergency.
- History: India's first all-women police station opened at Kozhikode in 1973.

Tamil Nadu link: by the Madras State (Alteration of Name) Act 1968, Madras State became 'Tamil Nadu' from 14 January 1969 (CM C.N. Annadurai). Tamil Nadu's first all-women police station opened in Chennai in 1992.

11 PM Modi opens 10th India Mobile Congress at Yashobhoomi

Technology

News

PM Narendra Modi inaugurated the 10th edition of the India Mobile Congress (IMC), Asia's largest telecom and technology event, at Yashobhoomi, New Delhi, on 8 Oct 2026. Dates: 7–10 Oct. Theme: 'Scale Without Boundaries'. It is organised jointly by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) and the Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI).

Key facts

Edition	10th; 7–10 Oct 2026
Venue	Yashobhoomi (India International Convention & Expo Centre), Dwarka, New Delhi
Theme	Scale Without Boundaries
4 pillars	Srishti, Samvardhan, Sashakt, Suraksha
Focus	5G/6G, AI networks, semiconductors, non-terrestrial networks, cybersecurity, quantum communication
Scale	100+ countries, 1.5 lakh+ visitors, 600+ start-ups

Background

- PM Modi launched 5G services in India at the 6th IMC on 1 Oct 2022. The 'Bharat 6G Vision' document came out in March 2023.
- Law: the Telecommunications Act 2023 replaced the Indian Telegraph Act 1885. The regulator is the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI, 1997).
- Yashobhoomi is the India International Convention and Expo Centre (IICC) at Dwarka, opened in 2023. Bharat Mandapam is a separate venue at Pragati Maidan (G20, 2023).
- Digital public infrastructure: Aadhaar, UPI and BharatNet (optical fibre to villages); 'Sanchar Saathi' (2023) is the portal against fraud calls and lost phones.
- Science: 5G uses higher frequencies, including millimetre waves, for high speed and very low latency; 6G aims at terahertz bands.

Tamil Nadu link: Sriperumbudur–Oragadam–Hosur are hubs of mobile and electronics manufacturing; the 5G Testbed built by IIT Madras and other institutes was dedicated in 2022.

12 World Space Week: ISRO Propulsion Complex space exhibition in Coimbatore

Science

News

For World Space Week, the ISRO Propulsion Complex (IPRC), Mahendragiri, with Sri Krishna College of Engineering and Technology, Coimbatore, held a three-day space exhibition on 5–7 Oct 2026. It had models, videos, expert talks on human spaceflight, launch vehicles and propulsion, and telescope sky-watching; entry was free for students and the public.

Key facts

Organisers	ISRO Propulsion Complex (IPRC), Mahendragiri + Sri Krishna College of Engineering
Dates	5–7 Oct 2026
World Space Week	4–10 Oct; 2026 theme – 'Rocket Revolution'
Events	Exhibition, expert talks, drawing/elocution/quiz contests, sky-watching

Background

- World Space Week was declared by the UN General Assembly in 1999. 4 Oct – launch of Sputnik-1 (1957); 10 Oct – the Outer Space Treaty came into force (1967).
- IPRC is at Mahendragiri, Tirunelveli district; once part of the Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LPSC), it became a separate centre in 2014. It tests cryogenic, liquid and semi-cryogenic engines and rocket stages.
- ISRO was founded on 15 Aug 1969, is headquartered in Bengaluru and works under the Department of Space. India's first satellite, Aryabhata (1975), was launched from the Soviet Union.
- History: India's first rocket was launched on 21 Nov 1963 from the Thumba Equatorial Rocket Launching Station (TERLS) in Keralam.
- Gaganyaan is India's human spaceflight programme; human-rating tests of its engines are done at Mahendragiri.

Tamil Nadu link: the foundation stone for India's second spaceport, for Small Satellite Launch Vehicles (SSLV), was laid at Kulasekarapattinam, Thoothukudi district, in Feb 2024. IPRC Mahendragiri tests Gaganyaan engines.

13 Centre moves to cut cancer drug prices

Health

News

The Centre has decided to cap trade margins at 30% of MRP for 110 non-scheduled anti-cancer drugs (reported 8 Oct 2026). Officials said prices of some drugs could fall by up to 70%, saving about ₹2,500 crore a year. Margins of 170% to 700% were found at some outlets.

Key facts

Measure	Trade margin capped at 30% of MRP
Drugs	110 non-scheduled anti-cancer drugs (35 patented)
Impact	Prices down by up to 70%; ₹2,500 crore saved a year
Earlier step	2019: 30% cap on 42 cancer drugs – 526 brands, ₹984 crore saved
Bodies	Department of Pharmaceuticals (DoP), National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA)

Background

- Scheduled vs non-scheduled: the NPPA fixes ceiling prices for drugs in the National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM 2022 – 384 medicines). For non-scheduled drugs, makers may raise prices by up to 10% a year.
- Law: the Drugs (Prices Control) Order (DPCO) 2013 is issued under the Essential Commodities Act 1955. The NPPA was set up in 1997 under the Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers.
- Trade margin is the gap between the price a maker charges distributors and what consumers pay. Adding 'Trade Margin Rationalisation' (TMR) to the DPCO is under study.
- Other steps: the 2025–26 Budget exempted 36 life-saving drugs (including cancer drugs) from basic customs duty and announced day-care cancer centres in district hospitals.
- Supreme Court: a bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta is hearing a case on the scheduled/non-scheduled distinction.

Tamil Nadu link: the Adyar Cancer Institute, Chennai, was founded in 1954 by Dr Muthulakshmi Reddy; Dr V. Shanta built it into a world-famous centre (Ramon Magsaysay Award 2005). Tamil Nadu's Chief Minister's Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme covers cancer treatment.

14 Ladakh launches India's first high-altitude snow leopard safari

Environment

News

During Wildlife Week, Lt Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena flagged off six specially designed open vehicles for India's first high-altitude snow leopard safari at Leh on 7 Oct 2026. It is run by the SHAN Society with Ladakh's Department of Forest, Ecology and Environment. First areas: Rumbak, Shang and Uley.

Key facts

Launch	7 Oct 2026, Leh – LG Vinai Kumar Saxena
First areas	Rumbak, Shang, Uley
Next routes	Hemis NP, Changthang, Karakoram WLS, Nubra, Zanskar, Kargil, Drass
Population	India about 718; Ladakh 477 (highest)
Scientific name	Panthera uncia
Aims	Responsible tourism, community conservation, local livelihoods

Background

- Snow Leopard Population Assessment in India (SPAI), released in 2024: 718 in India – Ladakh 477, Uttarakhand 124, Himachal 51, Arunachal 36, Sikkim 21, J&K 9.

- Protection: IUCN 'Vulnerable'; Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972. State animal of Ladakh and Himachal Pradesh. 'Project Snow Leopard' began in 2009.
- Geography: Hemis National Park is India's largest national park and called the 'snow leopard capital'. Ladakh is a cold desert in the Trans-Himalaya.
- Polity: under the J&K Reorganisation Act 2019, Ladakh became a Union Territory without a legislature on 31 Oct 2019, run by a Lieutenant Governor.
- Wildlife Week: 2–8 October in India, an initiative of the Indian Board for Wildlife (1952); observed as a week since 1955 (2024 was the 70th Wildlife Week).

Tamil Nadu link: Tamil Nadu's State animal is the Nilgiri tahr – 'Project Nilgiri Tahr' began in 2023. The Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve (1986) is India's first; the State has the Mudumalai, Anamalai, Kalakad–Mundanthurai, Sathyamangalam and Srivilliputhur–Megamalai tiger reserves.

15 Asia's largest seawater desalination plant near Mamallapuram

Tamil Nadu

News

Construction is in full swing on a 400 MLD (400 million litres a day) seawater desalination plant at Perur (Nemmeli panchayat) on East Coast Road near Mamallapuram, Chengalpattu district – on a scale not found elsewhere in Asia. It covers 85.51 acres, is funded by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and implemented by the Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (CMWSSB).

Key facts

Place	Perur, Nemmeli panchayat, ECR, Chengalpattu district
Capacity	400 million litres a day (400 MLD)
Technology	Seawater reverse osmosis (SWRO)
Funding	JICA loan
Implementer	CMWSSB (Chennai Metrowater); contractor – VA Tech Wabag–Metito JV
Foundation	21 August 2023
Beneficiaries	About 22.67 lakh people in Chennai, Tambaram and nearby areas

Background

- Science: reverse osmosis pushes seawater under high pressure through a semi-permeable membrane, leaving the salt behind. Seawater averages about 35 g of salt per litre (3.5%).
- Chennai's desalination plants: Minjur (Kattupalli) – 100 MLD (2010, the first); Nemmeli – 100 MLD (2013). The existing plants meet a sizeable share of the city's drinking-water need.
- Geography: Chennai has no large river; it relies on the Poondi, Puzhal, Chembarambakkam, Cholavaram and Kannankottai–Thervoy Kandigai lakes, Veeranam, and Krishna water (Telugu Ganga), and depends heavily on the north-east monsoon.
- History: Mamallapuram was the Pallava port city (Narasimhavarman I 'Mamalla'); the Shore Temple and Five Rathas became a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1984.
- Environment: the concentrated brine from desalination must be diffused far out at sea to protect marine life, and the plants need a lot of electricity.

Tamil Nadu link: in 2019 Chennai faced an acute water crisis (water was brought by train from Jolarpettai). Desalination gives a steady source that does not depend on rain.

16 ₹212.58 crore for modernising Tamil Nadu Police

Tamil Nadu

News

A High Powered Committee approved ₹212.58 crore to modernise the Tamil Nadu Police (Oct 2026). The biggest share is for communication equipment (₹99.03 crore). It also covers 500 special vehicles for the Emergency Response Support System (ERSS), CCTV monitoring of police stations, bomb-detection gear and weapons.

Key facts

Total	₹212.58 crore
Communication	₹99.03 crore (largest share)
ERSS vehicles	₹55 crore – 500 special-purpose four-wheelers
CCTV	₹30.51 crore – VPN for 877 police stations, CCTV in 46 cyber-crime stations
IT	₹13.43 crore
Security	₹11.28 crore – Security Branch CID, bomb detection and disposal
Weapons	₹3.33 crore

Background

- ERSS (Emergency Response Support System): a single nationwide emergency number '112' for police, fire and ambulance, implemented under the 'Nirbhaya Fund'.
- Nirbhaya Fund: announced in the 2013 Budget for women's safety projects; ERSS and Safe City projects come under it.
- Central support: through the umbrella scheme 'Assistance to States for Modernisation of Police', the Home Ministry funds weapons, communication and forensics.
- Constitution: police is in the State List (List II, Entry 2), so modernisation is mainly the State's responsibility.
- Technology: a VPN (virtual private network) securely carries police-station CCTV feeds to a central control room; the Supreme Court ordered CCTV in police stations in the Paramvir Singh Saini case (2020).

Tamil Nadu link: the Tamil Nadu Police 'Kaaval Uthavi' app lets people seek emergency help; the State has cyber-crime police stations in every district.

17 Minister Arunraj releases field manual on tuberculosis

Tamil Nadu

News

On 8 Oct 2026 Dr Arunraj, Minister for Medicine, Medical Education and Public Health, released a field manual on tuberculosis and launched the State-level 'TB-Free JOSH' (Joint Squad for Health) team. It uses young people for awareness, community mobilisation, and early identification and referral of people with TB symptoms.

Key facts

Team	TB-Free JOSH (Joint Squad for Health)
First-phase districts	Cuddalore, Dharmapuri, Tiruchi, Theni, Thoothukudi
TB-free panchayats	2,390 village panchayats – recognised after verification under national guidelines
Minister	Dr Arunraj
Goal	TB-free Tamil Nadu, TB-free India

Background

- Science: TB is caused by the bacterium Mycobacterium tuberculosis and spreads through the air. Robert Koch announced the bacterium on 24 March 1882 – now World TB Day. Vaccine: BCG.
- India's programme: the National TB Elimination Programme (NTEP – RNTCP renamed in 2020); 'Ni-kshay Poshan Yojana' gives patients nutrition support (₹1,000 a month since Nov 2024); 'Pradhan Mantri TB Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan' (2022) with Ni-kshay Mitra volunteers.
- Target: the UN SDG goal is ending TB by 2030; India set an earlier target of 2025. India has the world's highest TB burden.
- 'TB Mukt Panchayat' recognises village panchayats that meet set criteria. Tamil Nadu has about 12,525 village panchayats.
- Tamil Nadu initiative: the 'Tamil Nadu Kasanoi Erappilla Thittam' (TN-KET, 2022) reduces deaths through differentiated care based on how sick each patient is.

Tamil Nadu link: ICMR's National Institute for Research in Tuberculosis (NIRT), Chennai, began in 1956 as the Tuberculosis Chemotherapy Centre; the famous 'Madras study', which proved home treatment works, was done here. The Tambaram TB sanatorium opened in 1928.

18 Tamil Nadu issues two Government Orders on building permits

Tamil Nadu

News

The Housing and Urban Development Department issued two Government Orders. G.O. (Ms) No. 179 (07.10.2026) allows permits through 'third-party certification' for buildings up to set sizes. G.O. (Ms) No. 180 (08.10.2026) raises the floor-area limits up to which local bodies themselves can approve buildings. Both were announced in the 2026–27 Assembly demand for grants.

Key facts

Department	Housing and Urban Development
GO 179 – residential	Up to 750 sq m (8,070 sq ft) floor area – third-party certificate
GO 179 – commercial	Up to 300 sq m (3,230 sq ft)
GO 179 – factories	Up to 2,500 sq m (26,900 sq ft) in SIDCO, SIPCOT, ELCOT estates
Certifier	Architect registered on the Single Window portal / Grade-I engineer
GO 180 – corporations, municipalities	Residential: 10,000 → 16,140 sq ft (1,500 sq m)
GO 180 – town / village panchayats	Residential: 10,000 → 12,912 sq ft (1,200 sq m)
GO 180 – commercial	All local bodies: 2,000 → 5,380 sq ft (500 sq m)

Background

- Third-party certification: without visiting the local body office, a registered architect or engineer inspects the site, checks documents and rule compliance, and issues an electronic certificate.
- Constitution: the 12th Schedule added by the 74th Amendment (1992) lists 'urban planning including town planning' and 'regulation of land use and construction of buildings' as municipal functions. The 73rd Amendment added the 11th Schedule (panchayats, 29 subjects).
- Tamil Nadu bodies: the Tamil Nadu Town and Country Planning Act 1971; the Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority (CMDA); the Directorate of Town and Country Planning (DTCP); the Tamil Nadu Combined Development and Building Rules 2019 (TNCDBR).
- Industrial agencies: SIPCOT – State Industries Promotion Corporation of Tamil Nadu (1971); SIDCO – Small Industries Development Corporation (1970); ELCOT – Electronics Corporation of Tamil Nadu (1977).
- Unit conversion: 1 sq m ≈ 10.764 sq ft, so 750 sq m ≈ 8,070 sq ft and 1,500 sq m ≈ 16,140 sq ft.
- Economy: under 'Ease of Doing Business', faster approvals save time and cost for home builders, small traders and entrepreneurs.

Tamil Nadu link: GO 180 follows the announcement of 'more devolution of powers to local bodies'. Factory builders in SIPCOT, SIDCO and ELCOT estates need not visit district offices.

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