Renewable Energy Application Portal launched for quick approvals of solar & wind projects; TN BESS Policy 2026 released

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News

Tamil Nadu Electricity Minister Nirmal Kumar on 3 Nov 2026 in Chennai launched the 'Renewable Energy Application Portal' and released the 'Tamil Nadu Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) Policy 2026'. Grid-connectivity approvals for solar, wind and hybrid projects now go through one portal – registration, documents, fee payment and status tracking, with a timeline for each application. The BESS policy targets at least 2,500 MW / 10,000 MWh (10 GWh) of storage by 2029; new solar and solar-hybrid projects of 1 MW and above must add storage of at least 10% of capacity with 4 hours' discharge.

Key facts

Launch	3 Nov 2026 – Electricity Minister Nirmal Kumar, Chennai
Portal	Renewable Energy Application Portal – single window for grid-connectivity approvals; agency TNGECL
BESS target	≥2,500 MW / 10 GWh by 2029
Mandate	New projects (≥1 MW): 10% of capacity, 4 hours; existing: 5% by 2027-28 + 5% by 2028-29
Incentive	10-year waiver of wheeling and transmission charges; TNPDCL buys the stored power

Status	Solar about 14,000 MW; wind 9,000–10,000 MW; 3,000–4,000 MW of daytime solar cannot be used

Background

- Administration: under the 'Tamil Nadu Electricity Restructuring and Transfer Scheme, 2024', TANGEDCO was split into three – TNPGCL (thermal generation), TNGECL (hydro, pumped storage and renewables) and TNPDCL (distribution), under TNEB Ltd. Transmission is with TANTRANSCO.
- Law: the Electricity Act 2003 is the core law of the power sector; State Electricity Regulatory Commissions (TNERC in Tamil Nadu) fix tariffs and connectivity procedures under it.
- Science: solar power comes only by day and wind varies with the season (intermittency). Batteries or pumped-storage hydro (pumping water uphill when power is cheap and releasing it to generate when needed) balance this.
- Economy: 'wheeling charges' are paid by a generator for using the utility's network to carry its power to a consumer elsewhere.

Tamil Nadu link: the Kadamparai pumped-storage hydro station near Valparai, Coimbatore district (400 MW – 4 × 100 MW; 1987) works like a 'natural battery' for Tamil Nadu; in the 2024 restructuring, hydro and pumped-storage stations went to TNGECL.

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