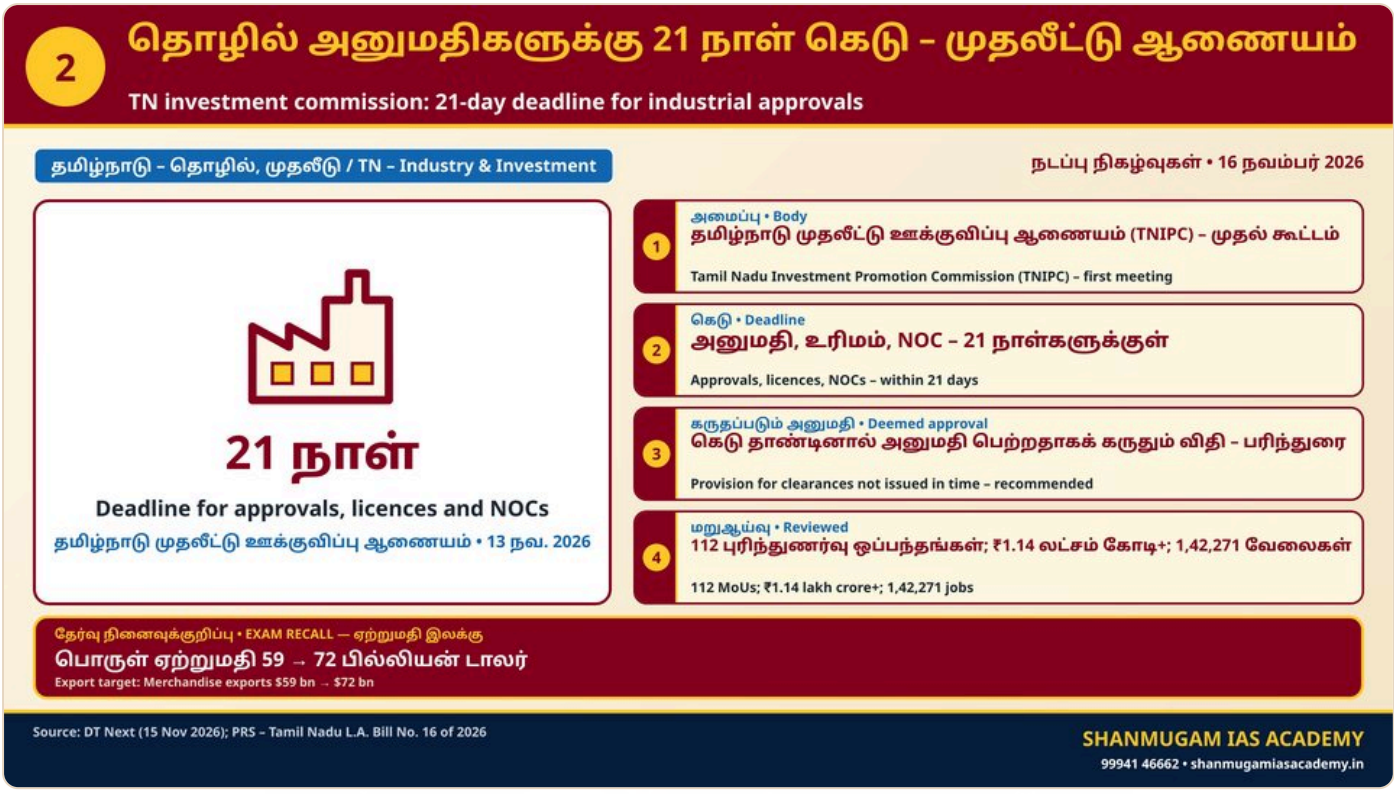
TN investment commission: 21-day deadline for industrial approvals

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News

The first meeting of the Tamil Nadu Investment Promotion Commission (TNIPC) was held at the Secretariat, Chennai, on Friday, 13 November 2026, chaired by Chief Secretary M. Saikumar. It told all departments to strictly meet the 21-day deadline for granting approvals, licences and no-objection certificates (NOCs) for industrial projects. It recommended bringing in 'deemed approval' provisions for clearances not issued in time, and action against the officials responsible (DT Next). It reviewed 112 MoUs signed since May 2026, worth over ₹1.14 lakh crore with 1,42,271 projected jobs. It asked for faster preparation of 'Industrial Policy 2027' and an additional ₹1,600 crore in subsidies. The 21-day limit was announced by Industries Minister S. Keerthana in August 2026 and is now law: the Tamil Nadu Business Facilitation (Amendment) Act, 2026 (new Section 11) caps clearance time at 21 days (public and local holidays excluded; a longer limit in a Central Act prevails). Deemed approval is not in the Act – it is only the commission's recommendation.

Key facts for the exam

Point	Details
Body	Tamil Nadu Investment Promotion Commission (TNIPC) – first meeting
Date, venue	13 Nov 2026 (Friday), Secretariat, Chennai

Point	Details
Chair	Chief Secretary M. Saikumar
Deadline	Approvals, licences, NOCs – within 21 days
Deemed approval	Provision for clearances not issued in time – recommended
Reviewed	112 MoUs; ₹1.14 lakh crore+; 1,42,271 jobs
Subsidy	₹2,000 crore paid in 6 months; extra ₹1,600 crore sought
Export target	Merchandise exports $59 bn → $72 bn
Other reforms	Single window: 19,323 of 21,753 applications (96.4%) disposed; 83 projects at land-acquisition stage or beyond (74.11%)

Background

- What deemed approval means: if a department does not decide an application within the set time, the approval is legally treated as granted ('silence is consent'). It shifts the cost of official delay from the investor to the government. The idea is related to public-services guarantee laws, first enacted by Madhya Pradesh in 2010, which fine officials who miss deadlines.
- Economy: The 1991 'New Industrial Policy' (PM P.V. Narasimha Rao, Finance Minister Manmohan Singh) ended licensing for most industries. Later, for ease of doing business, the National Single Window System (NSWS) was launched in September 2021 to give investors central and State approvals in one place. The Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Act, 2023 removed or eased jail terms for minor lapses in 183 provisions of 42 central Acts.
- Tamil Nadu's industrial set-up: key bodies are TIDCO (1965), SIPCOT (1971), which builds industrial parks, TIIC, which lends to industry, and the investment-promotion agency Guidance Tamil Nadu. The Tamil Nadu Business Facilitation Act, 2018 provides the single-window system; this commission was set up under its 2026 amendment, introduced in the Assembly as L.A. Bill No. 16 of 2026. The State's goal is a USD 1.5 trillion economy by 2036.

Tamil Nadu link: This is a Tamil Nadu Government decision. With the 21-day deadline already law, if deemed approval also takes effect, delays in applications through the single-window portal should fall, helping units in industrial parks (SIPCOT) and large projects start faster. As reported, deemed approval is so far at the stage of a recommendation by the commission.

Frequently asked questions

What is this news about?

The first meeting of the Tamil Nadu Investment Promotion Commission (TNIPC) was held at the Secretariat, Chennai, on Friday, 13 November 2026, chaired by Chief Secretary M. Saikumar.

What are the key facts to remember for the exam?

Body: Tamil Nadu Investment Promotion Commission (TNIPC) – first meeting; Date, venue: 13 Nov 2026 (Friday), Secretariat, Chennai; Chair: Chief Secretary M. Saikumar; Deadline: Approvals, licences, NOCs – within 21 days.

What is the background to this news?

What deemed approval means: if a department does not decide an application within the set time, the approval is legally treated as granted ('silence is consent').

Practice questions (with answers)

1. Which national portal, launched in 2021, gives investors central and State approvals at one place?

A) Udyam

B) GeM

C) PARIVESH

D) NSWS

Answer: D – Explanation: National Single Window System (NSWS) – Sept 2021. Udyam is MSME registration; GeM is public procurement; PARIVESH is green clearance.

2. Which State was the first to enact a Public Services Guarantee Act, in 2010, for time-bound delivery of services?

A) Bihar

B) Keralam

C) Madhya Pradesh

D) Punjab

Answer: C – Explanation: Madhya Pradesh – officials who delay are fined; the law won a 2012 UN Public Service Award. Many States followed.

3. What is the main aim of the Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Act, 2023, passed for ease of doing business?

A) Privatising PSUs

B) Cutting GST rates

C) Decriminalisation

D) Merging labour laws

Answer: C – Explanation: It removed or eased jail terms in 183 provisions of 42 central Acts, often replacing them with penalties. Merging labour laws into 4 Codes was a separate reform.

4. Which Tamil Nadu Government agency, set up in 1971, develops industrial parks such as Sriperumbudur and Hosur?

A) SIPCOT

B) TIDCO

C) TIIC

D) TANSIDCO

Answer: A – Explanation: SIPCOT – State Industries Promotion Corporation. TIDCO (1965) – joint ventures; TIIC – industrial loans; TANSIDCO – small industries.

5. Who was Prime Minister when the New Industrial Policy of 1991, which ended licensing for most industries, was announced?

A) Rajiv Gandhi

B) P.V. Narasimha Rao

C) V.P. Singh

D) Chandra Shekhar

Answer: B – Explanation: P.V. Narasimha Rao (24 July 1991); Finance Minister Manmohan Singh. It launched the LPG reforms – liberalisation, privatisation, globalisation.

Sources: DT Next; Deccan Chronicle; Deccan Chronicle (14 Aug 2026); Govt of Madhya Pradesh – MP Lok Sewaon ke Pradan ki Guarantee Adhiniyam, 2010; PRS – Tamil Nadu L.A. Bill No. 16 of 2026 (prsindia.org); Business Standard/PTI (UN award, 2012). © Shanmugam IAS Academy.