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TAMIL NADU NEWS

Timelines for disposal of representations

- ❖ The Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court has directed Tamil Nadu Chief Secretary and Secretary to Human Resources Management Department to issue instructions to all the departments to scrupulously adhere to the prescribed timelines for receipt, consideration and disposal of representations submitted by retired government employees, their family members and the public.
- ❖ Article 350 of the Constitution provides that every person shall be entitled to submit a representation for the redressal of any grievance to any officer or authority of the Union or a State in any of the languages used in the Union or in the State.
- ❖ The right to submit a representation to the authorities for the redressal of grievances is a constitutional right.
- ❖ The court said the instructions issued by the government, in the form of government orders, circulars and office manuals, prescribing the time limits for disposal of such representations were intended to ensure that the right was meaningfully exercised and grievances brought before the authorities were dealt with within a reasonable time.



TIMELINES FOR DISPOSAL OF REPRESENTATIONS
Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court Directive

A Constitutional Right
The right to submit a representation is a constitutional right. Article 350 guarantees every person the entitlement to submit a representation for grievance redressal to any Union or State officer/authority in any of the languages used.

Target Groups
Retired Employees, Family Members, The General Public

High Court directs Tamil Nadu Chief Secretary & HRM Department to issue strict guidelines to all departments for scrupulously adhering to timelines regarding representations submitted by these groups.

Ensure Timely Resolution
Government orders, circulars, and office manuals prescribing time limits are intended to ensure grievances are dealt with within a reasonable time, allowing rights to be meaningfully exercised.

Upholding Justice through Prompt Grievance Redressal

NATIONAL NEWS

Strategy for Environmental-Economic Accounts 2026–2030

- ❖ The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) released the Strategy for Environmental-Economic Accounts in India 2026–2030.

- ❖ The strategy aims to improve natural resource accounting, fill data gaps and integrate environmental information into economic planning.
- ❖ It covers forests, minerals, soil, land, water, carbon stocks, biodiversity and environment-related activities.
- ❖ It follows the previous 2022–2026 strategy and builds on India's environmental accounting work under the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA) since 2018.
- ❖ SEEA is an internationally agreed framework endorsed by the United Nations Statistical Commission to connect environmental data with economic statistics.
- ❖ Unlike Gross Domestic Product (GDP), which measures economic production, environmental accounts also track natural resources, ecosystem services and environmental changes.



International Bharat 6G Symposium 2026

- ❖ The 3rd International Bharat 6G Symposium 2026 concluded at Dwarka, New Delhi.
- ❖ Organised by the Bharat 6G Alliance (B6GA) alongside India Mobile Congress 2026, the symposium discussed the roadmap towards International Mobile Telecommunications (IMT)-2030 and beyond.
- ❖ Five Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) were exchanged with GSMA, one6G, GTI Alliance, 6G Innovation Forum (Taiwan) and VOICE to strengthen international cooperation.
- ❖ B6GA released 10 white papers and reports on 6G research, standards, security, sustainability and inclusive connectivity.
- ❖ The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) highlighted ESTIC (Emerging Science, Technology and Innovation Conclave) 2026, scheduled for 27–29 October

at New Delhi, with the theme “Creative Minds, Catalyzing Science, Empowering Technologies.”



US-Led Excess Capacity Initiative



India Joins US-led Excess Capacity Initiative
Amid US Section 301 Scrutiny
15 countries to tackle excess manufacturing capacity in key sectors

15-COUNTRY GROUPING
India joins 14 other economies, including the US, to address structural excess manufacturing capacity.

India, US, EU, Japan, South Korea, Mexico, Argentina, Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Poland, Türkiye, UK

KEY SECTORS IN FOCUS
Initial focus on sectors facing excess manufacturing capacity

Automobiles & Electric Vehicles, Batteries, Solar Panels, Chemicals, Semiconductors

US SECTION 301 INVESTIGATION
US is investigating structural excess capacity in 16 economies, including India, over concerns of market distortions.

WHAT THE INITIATIVE AIMS TO DO

- End non-market policies and practices
- Share information and assess impact of excess capacity
- Explore complementary action

CURRENT STATUS

- No specific tariffs or quotas announced yet
- Officials to meet at technical level before December
- Will develop terms of reference and share information
- Other non-OECD countries also invited to join

THE KEY QUESTION FOR INDIA

- Balance global cooperation with domestic manufacturing ambitions
- Ensure the initiative does not give greater legitimacy to challenge India's industrial expansion

“ Signing the declaration should not amount to accepting the case against Indian manufacturing. **”**
— Ajay Srivastava
Founder, Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI)

- ❖ India joined the United States and 13 other economies in a joint statement to address structural excess capacity in key industries.
- ❖ The group focuses on five sectors: automobiles and electric vehicles (EVs), batteries, chemicals, foundational semiconductors and solar panels.

- ❖ The participating economies aim to address excess production and non-market policies that distort global trade.
- ❖ The countries plan to meet at the technical level before December 2026 to share data and develop a framework for joint action.
- ❖ The initiative follows earlier discussions on industrial excess capacity at the Group of Twenty (G20) in 2016.

Central Armed Police Forces Act 2026

- ❖ The Ministry of Home Affairs brought the Central Armed Police Forces (General Administration) Act, 2026, into force on 8 October 2026, while its constitutional validity is being challenged in the Supreme Court.
- ❖ The Act concerns cadre management and the deputation of Indian Police Service (IPS) officers to senior posts in the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs).
- ❖ On 23 May 2025, the Supreme Court recognised CAPF Group A officers as Organised Services and directed a gradual reduction in IPS deputation to senior posts within two years.
- ❖ The 2025 judgment also directed a review of the cadre structure and service rules within six months.
- ❖ The Supreme Court scheduled the petitions challenging the Act and related contempt proceedings for 15 October 2026.



JOSH Initiative 2026

- ❖ The Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare launched Joint Squad for Health (JOSH) Teams under the TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan on 8 October 2026 in New Delhi.

- ❖ The initiative aims to eliminate tuberculosis (TB) through youth participation, early detection, treatment support and stigma reduction.
- ❖ In the first phase, it covers 55 districts across 11 States and Union Territories.
- ❖ Each JOSH Team comprises five MY Bharat Volunteers and five National Cadet Corps (NCC) cadets, supervised by a Class-I officer.
- ❖ Volunteers promote TB screening, nutritional counselling and regular treatment, supported by the TB Mukht Bharat App and an Artificial Intelligence (AI) assistant called Khushi Avatar (e-Sangini).
- ❖ The initiative aims to accelerate India's progress towards a TB-free nation before the 2030 Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) deadline.



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

Nuclear Clock Breakthrough

- ❖ Scientists from Europe and China reported the world's first working nuclear clocks.
- ❖ Nuclear clocks use the nucleus of an atom to measure time, while atomic clocks use electrons.
- ❖ The clocks use the thorium-229 isotope, whose nucleus can be excited using an ultraviolet laser.
- ❖ Chinese teams embedded thorium-229 nuclei in calcium fluoride crystals to develop compact, portable clocks.
- ❖ Austrian and German teams used a thorium-229 nuclear clock to search for dark matter but found no signal.

- ❖ Nuclear clocks could eventually surpass atomic clocks in precision and help detect changes in fundamental forces.



ENVIRONMENT NEWS

Phoenix Species Project



- ❖ Re:wild and the Bezos Earth Fund launched the Phoenix Species Project on 4 August 2026, pledging \$200 million to support the recovery of 100 threatened species.
- ❖ The project covers 100 species across 30 countries, including mammals, amphibians, reptiles, birds, fish, invertebrates and plants.

- ❖ The Bezos Earth Fund and Re:wild each pledged \$100 million; Re:wild was co-founded by actor Leonardo DiCaprio.
- ❖ More than 100 partners, including Indigenous Peoples, local communities, scientists and governments, are involved; the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Species Survival Commission is the global knowledge partner.
- ❖ Each species will receive five years of support, with progress monitored through population recovery and reduction of threats.
- ❖ Examples include the golden-crowned sifaka (Critically Endangered), night parrot (Critically Endangered), Malayan pangolin (Critically Endangered), Visayan warty pig (Critically Endangered), bowmouth guitarfish (Critically Endangered) and Charco Azul pupfish (Extinct in the Wild).

REPORTS AND INDICES

World Development Report 2026



- ❖ The Union Minister for Electronics and Information Technology launched the World Bank Group's World Development Report 2026: The Promise of Artificial Intelligence in New Delhi.
- ❖ The report examines the opportunities and challenges of Artificial Intelligence (AI) for low- and middle-income countries.
- ❖ It recommends adopting existing AI models and adapting them to local languages and development needs instead of building expensive models from scratch.

- ❖ Just over 4% of Indian jobs face immediate automation risks, compared with over one-third of jobs in advanced economies.
- ❖ India had approximately 50,460 AI professionals in 2025, but lost 200 leading AI researchers and inventors during 2011–2024, according to the report.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Arthritis Day 2026 - October 12

- ❖ Arthritis is a condition that affects the joints and may cause pain, swelling, stiffness and difficulty moving.
- ❖ The theme for 2026 is “Achieve Your Dreams.”
- ❖ The day aims to promote early diagnosis, proper treatment and support for people living with arthritis.
- ❖ Arthritis can affect people of all ages, including children and young adults.
- ❖ Common types include osteoarthritis, rheumatoid arthritis and gout.
- ❖ Causes vary by type and may include joint wear and tear, autoimmune reactions, genetics and previous injuries.

