October - 31

TNPSC BITS

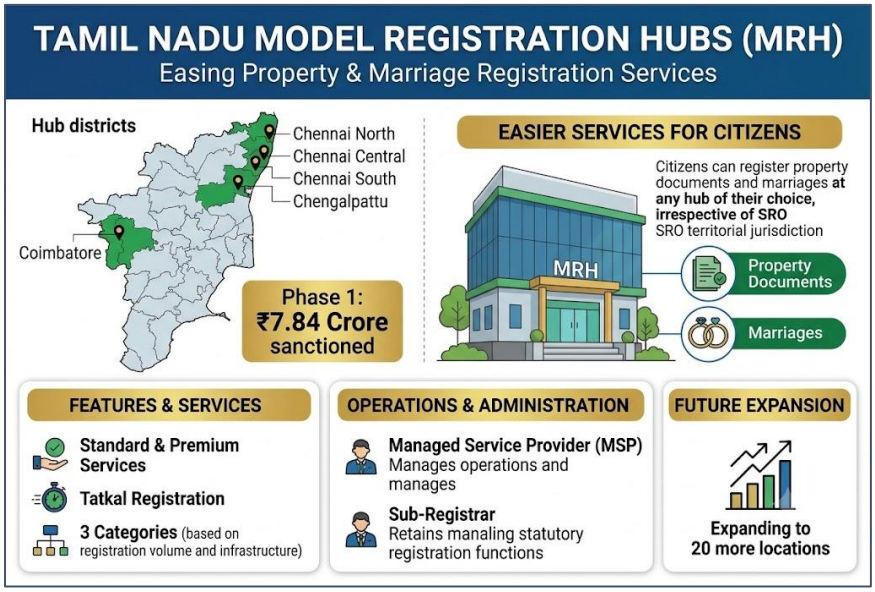
- e-Sanjeevani, India's National Telemedicine Service, has facilitated nearly 50 crore teleconsultations across the country.
  - It was launched in November 2019 by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) under the Ayushman Bharat programme.
- France and the United Kingdom conducted their first joint exercise simulating a nuclear strike, codenamed "Rummy," over the Mediterranean Sea.
  - France and the UK are the only nuclear-weapon states in Western Europe and are both permanent members of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC).
- The World Health Organization (WHO) supported the launch of the Tumaini trial in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) to test whether Ervebo, an approved vaccine against the Zaire ebolavirus strain, also protects against the Bundibugyo virus.
  - The Bundibugyo virus, a species of Ebolavirus that causes severe illness and death, was first identified in Bundibugyo District, Uganda, in 2007.
- The United Nations observes the International Day of Care and Support every year on October 29 to recognise paid and unpaid care work and promote better care systems.
  - The theme for the year 2026 is "Building Sustainable Care and Support Systems through Decent Work."
- The United Nations observes Disarmament Week 2026 from 24–30 October to raise awareness of disarmament and arms control.
  - The theme for United Nations Disarmament Week 2026 is "Disarm for Peace: Fewer Weapons, Safer Communities."

TAMIL NADU NEWS

Tamil Nadu Model Registration Hubs

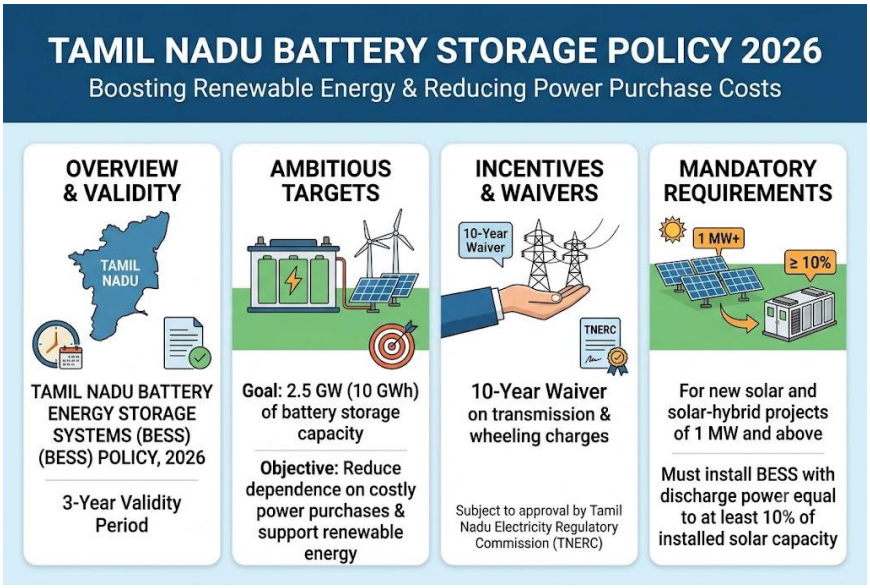
- The Tamil Nadu government has sanctioned the establishment of five Model Registration Hubs (MRH) in the first phase at a cost of ₹7.84 crore to provide easier property and marriage registration services.
- The five hubs will be established in Chennai North, Chennai Central, Chennai South, Chengalpattu and Coimbatore registration districts.

- Citizens can register property documents and marriages at any hub of their choice, irrespective of the territorial jurisdiction of the concerned Sub-Registrar Office (SRO).
- The hubs will provide standard and premium services, including tatkal registration, and will be classified into three categories based on registration volume and infrastructure.
- A Managed Service Provider (MSP) selected through competitive tendering will manage operations, while statutory registration functions will remain with the concerned Sub-Registrar.
- The government plans to expand the initiative to 20 more locations.



TN Battery Storage Policy 2026

- Tamil Nadu has introduced the Tamil Nadu Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) Policy, 2026.
- It aims to achieve 2.5 GW of battery storage capacity to reduce dependence on costly power purchases and support renewable energy.
- The policy targets at least 2.5 GW (10 GWh) of battery storage capacity during its three-year validity period.
- It offers a 10-year waiver of transmission and wheeling charges, subject to approval by the Tamil Nadu Electricity Regulatory Commission (TNERC).
- New solar and solar-hybrid projects of 1 MW and above must install Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) with discharge power equal to at least 10% of the installed solar capacity.



NATIONAL NEWS

Container Manufacturing Promotion Scheme



- The Union Cabinet approved the Container Manufacturing Promotion Scheme (CMPS) on 28 October 2026 to boost domestic container manufacturing.
- The scheme was announced in the Union Budget 2026–27, with a total outlay of ₹10,000 crore up to Financial Year (FY) 2039–40.
- It aims to reduce import dependence, strengthen supply chains and establish India as a global shipping-container manufacturing hub.
- The scheme allocates ₹859 crore for 3% interest support on eligible loans, ₹8,891 crore for operational costs of standard-compliant containers and ₹150 crore for testing and certification.

- It aims to increase annual domestic manufacturing capacity nearly 10-fold to 7.5 lakh Twenty-foot Equivalent Units (TEUs).

Siang Upper Multipurpose Project - Arunachal Pradesh

- The proposed Siang Upper Multipurpose Project in Arunachal Pradesh faces opposition from local communities over displacement, livelihoods and cultural heritage.
- The proposed 11,200-megawatt (MW) project is planned on the Siang River in Arunachal Pradesh.
- The State Government considers it important to counter China's proposed upstream dam and strengthen national security.
- Members of the indigenous Adi community and riverbank residents fear the loss of ancestral land, livelihoods and cultural heritage.
- The Siang River is part of the Brahmaputra River system; the Brahmaputra is known as the Yarlung Tsangpo in Tibet.



Pradhan Mantri Viksit Gram Swaraj Yojana

- The Union Cabinet approved the Pradhan Mantri Viksit Gram Swaraj Yojana to strengthen rural local governance.
- It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for 2026–27 to 2030–31, with a total outlay of ₹7,395.55 crore.
- It aims to strengthen Gram Panchayats through integrated planning, digital governance, capacity building, public participation and financial accountability.
- Annual targets include over 2.55 lakh Gram Panchayat Development Plans (GPDPs), 2.55 lakh online audit plans and awareness campaigns reaching at least 1 crore citizens per campaign.

- Digital tools include eGramSwaraj for Panchayat planning and accounting, PANCHAM (Panchayat Assistance and Messaging Chatbot) for communication, and AuditOnline for online audits.
- It supports around 32 lakh elected representatives, Panchayat officials and other stakeholders, including traditional rural local bodies in areas where regular Panchayats do not exist.

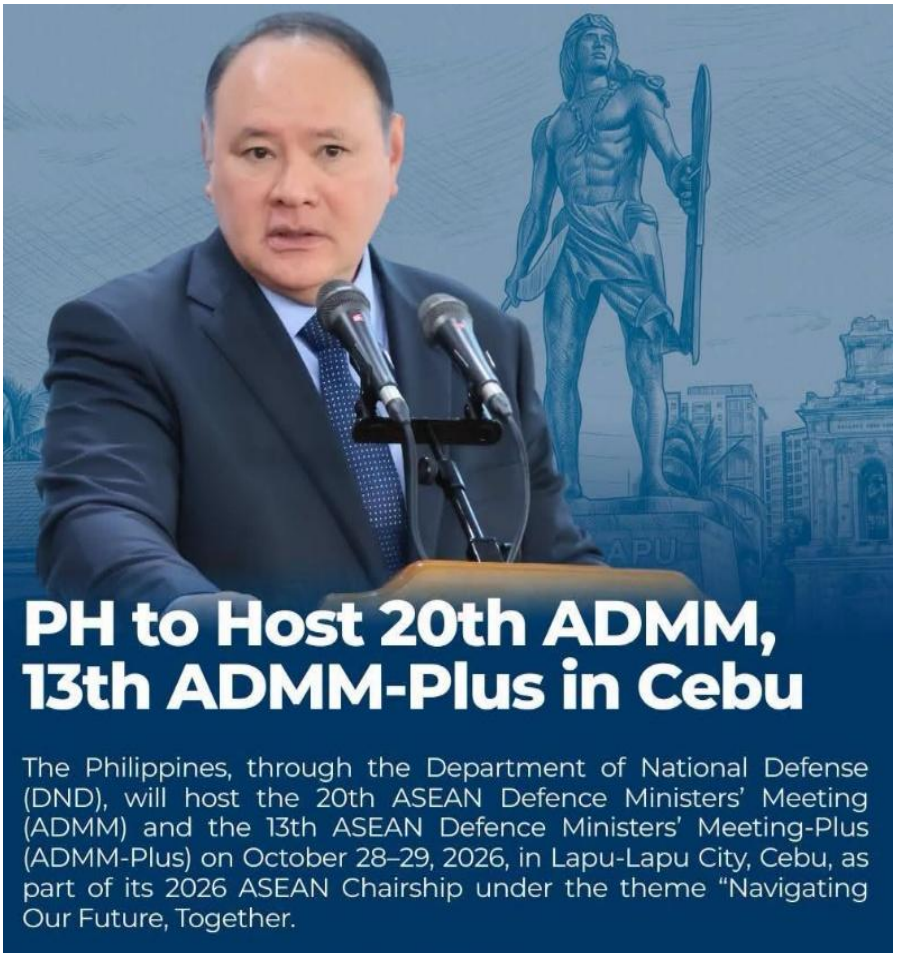


INTERNATIONAL NEWS

ADMM-Plus Meeting 2026

- 13th ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus held in Lapu-Lapu City, Cebu, Philippines.
- The meeting was held under the Philippines' 2026 ASEAN Chairmanship with the theme "Navigating Our Future, together."
- ADMM-Plus brings together 11 ASEAN member states and 8 dialogue partners: India, the United States, China, Russia, Japan, South Korea, Australia and New Zealand.
- It was established in 2010, and the first meeting was held in Hanoi, Vietnam, on 12 October 2010.

- The meeting provides a platform to discuss regional and international security issues and strengthen defence cooperation.
- India reiterated its commitment to ASEAN centrality and Indo-Pacific peace and stability under the Act East Policy.
- A joint statement on Youth, Peace and Security was adopted at the meeting.



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

New Dwarf Planet - 2026 ED138

- The International Astronomical Union's (IAU) Minor Planet Center announced 2026 ED138 as a possible dwarf planet.
- It is located beyond Pluto's orbit in the trans-Neptunian region, at an estimated distance of 46 Astronomical Units (AU) from the Sun.
- Its estimated diameter is 600–1,500 km.

- The five officially recognised dwarf planets are Ceres, Pluto, Haumea, Makemake and Eris.
- The IAU introduced the dwarf planet classification in 2006.



REPORTS AND INDICES

Rule of Law Index 2026



- The World Justice Project (WJP) released its Rule of Law Index 2026, in which India ranked 88th out of 143 countries and jurisdictions, falling two places from 86th in 2025, with a score of 0.48.

- Top three countries: Denmark (1st), Norway (2nd) and Finland (3rd).
- The United States ranked 30th, China 92nd and Russia 121st.
- The rule of law declined globally for the ninth consecutive year, with scores falling in 62% of countries.
- The index assesses eight factors: constraints on government powers, absence of corruption, open government, fundamental rights, order and security, regulatory enforcement, civil justice and criminal justice.

IMPORTANT DAYS

National Unity Day 2026 - October 31



- National Unity Day (Rashtriya Ekta Diwas) is observed on October 31 to mark the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.
- In 2026, his 151st birth anniversary will be celebrated.
- Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel (1875–1950) was a freedom fighter and senior leader of the Indian National Congress.
- He led the Bardoli Satyagraha (1928) in Gujarat, after which he became popularly known as “Sardar”.
- He played a key role in integrating more than 560 princely states into the Indian Union after Independence in 1947, with the help of V. P. Menon.
- He served as India's first Deputy Prime Minister and Home Minister from 1947 to 1950 and is popularly known as the “Iron Man of India.”
- The 2026 theme is “Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat”.

- He also led the Kheda Satyagraha (1918), supporting farmers who were unable to pay land revenue due to crop failure.
- He served as the President of the Indian National Congress (INC) during its Karachi Session in 1931.
- He was posthumously awarded the Bharat Ratna in 1991.
- The Statue of Unity, inaugurated in 2018 at Kevadia (Ekta Nagar), Gujarat, was built in his honour and is the world's tallest statue.

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

World's 100 Best Museums 2026

- The Bihar Museum in Patna ranked 9th globally and 1st in Asia in The World's 100 Best Museums 2026, published by Germany-based Worth a Journey.
- Bihar Museum is the only Indian museum included in the 2026 list.
- The top three museums are Museo Nacional de Antropología (Mexico), Museo del Prado (Spain) and Louisiana Museum of Modern Art (Denmark).
- The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, ranked 10th, while the Louvre Museum, Paris, ranked 31st.
- Designed by architect Fumihiko Maki and Mumbai-based Opolis Architects, the Bihar Museum is located on Nehru Path in Patna.



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