



December - 13

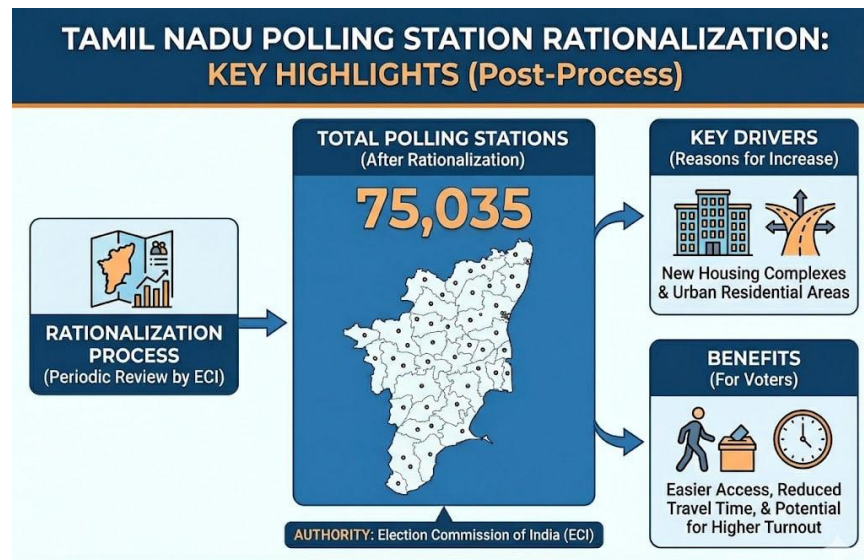
TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Supriya Sahu, TN additional chief secretary, Environment, Climate Change and Forests, has won the UN Environment Programme's 2025 Champions of the Earth award.
- ❖ Neal Mohan, Indian-American CEO of YouTube, has been named TIME magazine's 2025 CEO of the Year.
- ❖ India Post opened Kerala's first Gen-Z Post Office Extension Counter at CMS College, Kottayam.
- ❖ India inaugurated its first megawatt-hour (MWh) scale Vanadium Redox Flow Battery (VRFB) in Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh.
- ❖ Three-year-old Indian boy Sarwagya Singh Kushwaha became the world's youngest FIDE-rated chess player in 2025.
- ❖ Praggnanandhaa Rameshbabu has won the FIDE Circuit 2025, securing a spot in the 2026 Candidates Tournament, Cyprus.
- ❖ A Bengal tiger was spotted at nearly 10,000 ft in Kumaon Himalayas in the Sunderdhunga Glacier Valley, Uttarakhand.
- ❖ The Society for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (SINE) at IIT Bombay has launched India's first incubator-linked deep tech venture capital fund with 250 Crores.
- ❖ Bollywood actor Raveena Tandon was named PETA India's Person of the Year 2025 for her commitment to animal rights and wildlife protection.
- ❖ The United Arab Emirates (UAE) passport is named World's 8th strongest passports for 2025 with access to 184 destinations.
 - UAE's passport rose from 42nd in 2015 to 8th in 2025.
- ❖ The DRI (Directorate of Revenue Intelligence) has busted an illegal Mephedrone manufacturing unit in Wardha, Maharashtra, under Operation Hinterland Brew.
 - Mephedrone is a synthetic stimulant drug chemically known as 4-MMC (4-Methylmethcathinone).
- ❖ AstraZeneca Pharma India and Sun Pharmaceutical Industries partnered to market Sodium Zirconium Cyclosilicate (SZC) in India.
 - SZC is used to manage hyperkalaemia in patients with chronic kidney disease and heart failure.

TAMIL NADU NEWS

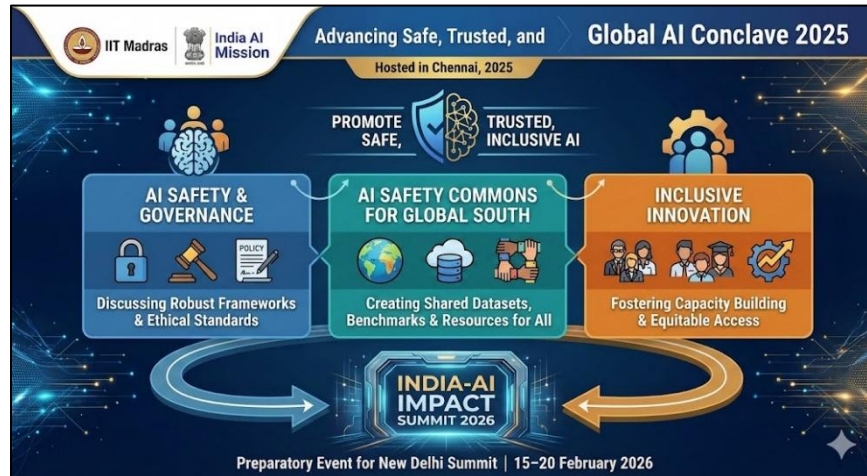
Polling stations in TN

- ❖ Tamil Nadu has a total of 75,035 polling stations after the rationalization process.
- ❖ This is an increase of 6,568 from the earlier 68,467 stations.
- ❖ After the rationalization process, a total of 6,648 stations were created and 80 were merged.
- ❖ While the location was changed for 2,509 polling stations, re-arrangement of sections was undertaken in 7,752.
- ❖ The number of electors has been limited to 1,200 per polling station and a station was within two-kilometre radius.
- ❖ No polling station is located in police stations, hospitals, temples or places having religious significance.



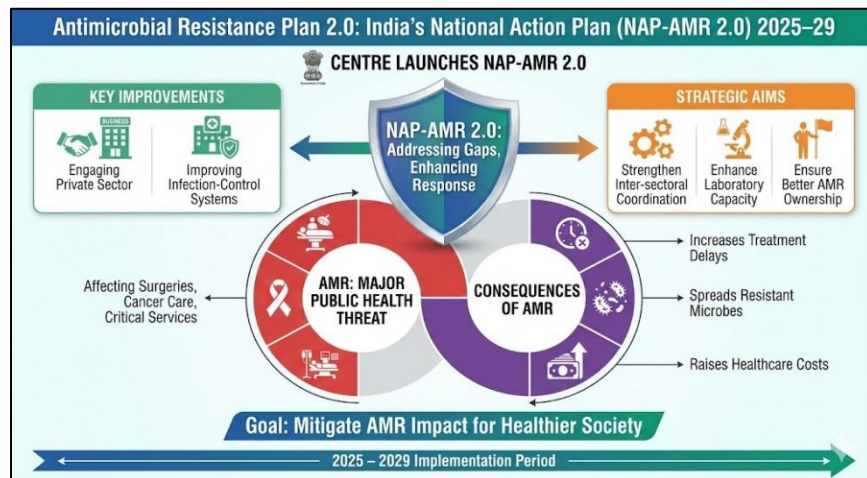
Global AI Conclave 2025

- ❖ IIT Madras and the India AI Mission will host the Global AI Conclave in Chennai.
- ❖ The event aims to promote safe, trusted, and inclusive Artificial Intelligence (AI).
- ❖ The conclave discussed AI safety, governance frameworks, and the idea of an AI Safety Commons for the Global South.
- ❖ This conclave acts as a preparatory event for the India-AI Impact Summit 2026, scheduled from 15–20 February 2026 in New Delhi.
- ❖ The goal is to create AI systems that are globally interoperable but suitable for India's social and technological needs.



NATIONAL NEWS

Antimicrobial Resistance Plan 2.0



- ❖ The Centre has launched the second version of the National Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance (NAP-AMR 2.0) for 2025-29.
- ❖ The plan addresses gaps in the previous version by engaging the private sector and improving infection-control systems.
- ❖ It aims to strengthen inter-sectoral coordination, enhance laboratory capacity, and ensure better AMR ownership.
- ❖ Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is a major public health threat affecting surgeries, cancer care, and critical healthcare services.
- ❖ AMR increases treatment delays, spreads resistant microbes, and raises healthcare costs for families and society.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

BRICS Digital Trade Currency - The Unit

- ❖ The Unit is a pilot digital settlement currency developed by IRIAS (International Research Institute for Advanced Systems) with the informal support from BRICS members.
- ❖ It is designed for BRICS cross-border trade and is backed by 40% physical gold and 60% BRICS currency basket.
- ❖ Transactions operate on a permissioned Cardano blockchain, ensuring secure and transparent settlements.
- ❖ It aims to reduce dependence on the US dollar and create a neutral, stable trade-settlement option for the Global South.
- ❖ It is not meant to replace national currencies but only to support international trade payments within BRICS.



ECONOMY NEWS

Your Money, Your Right Campaign

- ❖ The Government of India launched the “Your Money, Your Right” campaign to help citizens claim unclaimed financial assets.
- ❖ The campaign is based on the ‘3A framework - Awareness, Accessibility and Action’.
- ❖ The district-level camps were held in 477 districts across all States and Union Territories.
- ❖ The drive covers unclaimed bank deposits, insurance, dividends, shares, mutual funds and pension amounts.

- ❖ Existing platforms such as RBI's UDGAM (for unclaimed bank deposits), IRDAI's Bima Bharosa (for unclaimed insurance proceeds) and SEBI's MITRA (for unclaimed mutual funds) have empowered citizens to trace their unclaimed assets more efficiently.

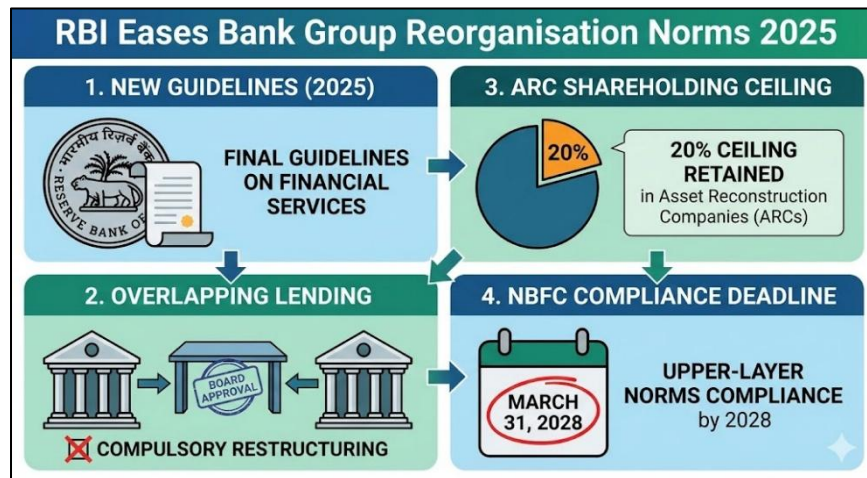
Campaign for efficient and quick settlement of unclaimed assets in the financial sector

October - December 2025

Covering all the States and UTs

“आपकी पूँजी, आपका अधिकार”
Your Money, Your Right

Bank Group Reorganization Norms - RBI



- ❖ The RBI issued final guidelines on the financial services activities of commercial banks in 2025.
- ❖ Bank groups are now allowed to continue overlapping lending operations with board approval, avoiding compulsory restructuring.
- ❖ The 20% ceiling on bank group shareholding in Asset Reconstruction Companies (ARCs) has been retained.
- ❖ Upper-layer regulatory norms for Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) within bank groups must be complied with by March 31, 2028.

- ❖ The guidelines strengthen compliance and governance by aligning risk norms across banks, NBFCs, and Housing Finance Companies (HFCs), preventing regulatory arbitrage.

RBI's 5-Billion-Dollar Swap

- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced a 5-billion-dollar buy-sell swap to manage the rupee.
- ❖ The rupee crossed ₹90 per dollar in December 2025.
- ❖ India's foreign exchange (forex) reserves stand at 686.23 billion dollars as of November 28, 2025.
- ❖ The swap means the RBI will buy dollars now and sell them after three years.
- ❖ The move helps RBI support the rupee without reducing forex reserves.



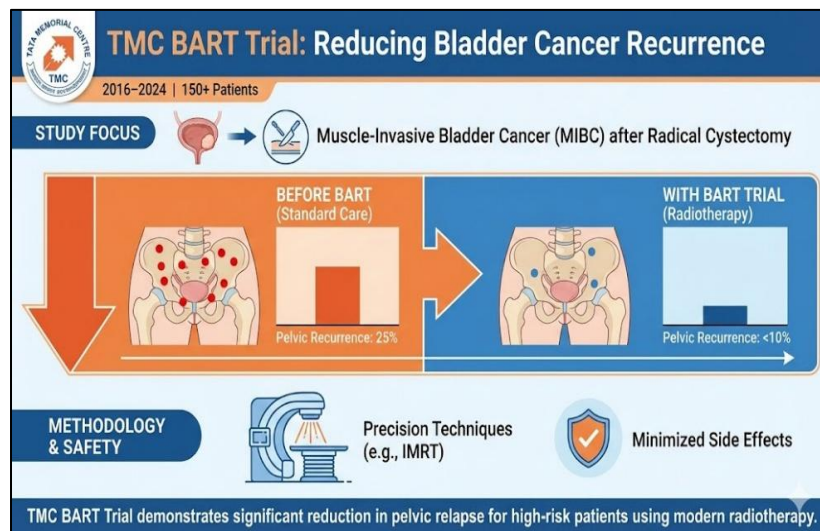
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

Fuel Adulteration Detection – PSOG

- ❖ IIT Guwahati developed a material called Phase-Selective Organogelator (PSOG).
- ❖ PSOG detects kerosene mixed in petrol and removes oil spills from water.
- ❖ It turns the oil into a solid gel that can be easily collected.
- ❖ PSOG works through supramolecular self-assembly, giving it selectivity for oils.
- ❖ It offers a low-cost and eco-friendly method for fuel safety and oil-spill cleanup.



TMC BART Trial



- ❖ Tata Memorial Centre (TMC) researchers have showed in the Bladder Adjuvant Radiotherapy (BART) trial that post-surgery radiation therapy significantly lowers pelvic recurrence in high-risk bladder cancer patients.
- ❖ The BART trial was conducted from 2016 to 2024 and included over 150 patients.

- ❖ The study focused on muscle-invasive bladder cancer (MIBC) following radical cystectomy (surgical removal of the bladder).
- ❖ Radiation therapy reduced pelvic cancer relapse from 25% to under 10%.
- ❖ Modern precision techniques, such as Intensity Modulated Radiation Therapy (IMRT), minimized side effects.
- ❖ High-risk patients benefiting most were those with advanced tumour stages, positive lymph nodes, or positive surgical margins.

Vikas engine



- ❖ Godrej Aerospace delivered the first human-rated Vikas engine to the ISRO for the Gaganyaan mission.
- ❖ The engine will power the L110 stage of the LVM-3 rocket, India's launch vehicle for its first manned spaceflight.
- ❖ Human-rating ensures enhanced safety, reliability, and performance for carrying astronauts.
- ❖ Gaganyaan aims to carry three Indian astronauts into low Earth orbit for up to three days.

- ❖ Godrej Aerospace has previously contributed engines for PSLV, GSLV, LVM-3, and components for Chandrayaan and Mangalyaan missions.

Iron Oxide on the Moon

- ❖ China's Chang'e-6 mission discovered tiny iron oxide crystals in lunar soil.
- ❖ Hematite and maghemite were detected in samples from the South Pole–Aitken Basin.
- ❖ The basin is the oldest and largest known impact zone in the Solar System.
- ❖ Iron oxide formation is linked to oxygen-rich vapour from massive ancient impacts.
- ❖ Chang'e-6 returned deep-region lunar samples to Earth in 2024.



ENVIRONMENT NEWS

50 Years of CITES

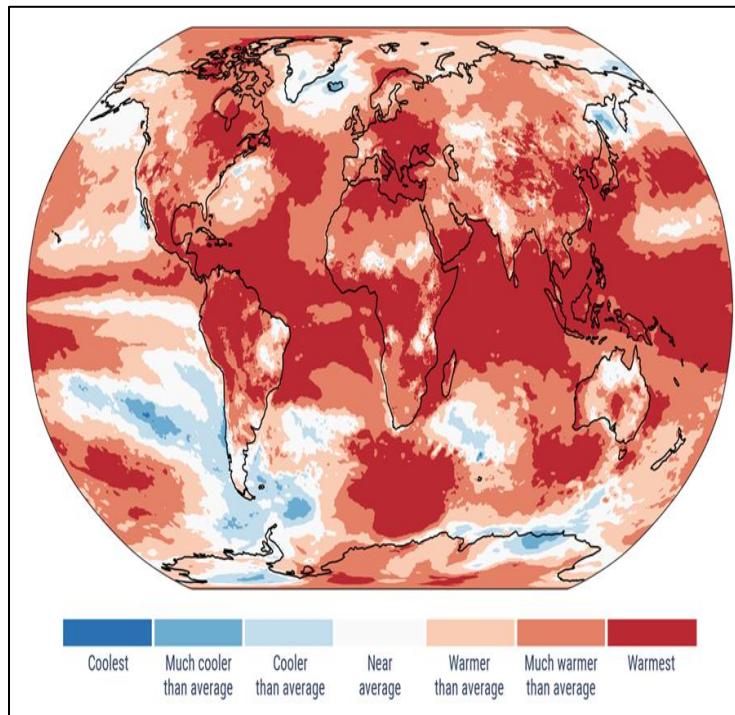
- ❖ CITES marked its 50th anniversary at CoP20 in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, where major new species-protection decisions were adopted.
- ❖ CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) is a global treaty that regulates wildlife trade to protect species.
- ❖ It was conceived by IUCN in 1963, signed in 1973, and came to force on 1 July 1975.

- ❖ The treaty has 185 member countries (as of 2025) and uses three Appendices to control trade levels.
- ❖ CoP20 added 77 species to the Appendices, including sharks, rays, Galápagos iguanas, and African reptiles in Appendix I.



REPORTS AND INDICES

Global Environment Outlook 2025



- ❖ UNEP released the 7th Global Environment Outlook during the 7th UNEP session in Nairobi.
- ❖ The report says greenhouse gas emissions keep rising, and the world reached 1.55°C warming in 2024.

- ❖ One million species are at risk of extinction, and up to 40% of land is degraded.
- ❖ Climate disasters cost about USD 143 billion every year, and pollution causes 9 million deaths.
- ❖ The world has 8,000 million tonnes of plastic waste, causing heavy health and economic losses.
- ❖ UNEP was founded on 5 June 1972 and is the main global body for environmental protection.

IMPORTANT DAYS

Human Rights Day 2025 - December 10



- ❖ The day aims to remind everyone that all people are born free, equal, and deserve dignity and justice.
- ❖ The day is to mark the 1948 adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) by the United Nations.
- ❖ In 1950, the UN formally invited all nations to celebrate the day and promote human rights education.
- ❖ The 2025's theme is "Our Everyday Essentials".
- ❖ The UDHR is one of the most translated documents in the world and has inspired many national laws and rights movements.

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

UNESCO Heritage List 2025 - Deepavali

- ❖ Deepavali, India's festival of lights, was added to the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage List in 2025.

- ❖ The list aims to protect living cultural traditions such as festivals, rituals, arts, and community practices.
- ❖ Deepavali was chosen for its long-standing rituals, community celebrations, traditional crafts, and lighting of lamps.
- ❖ The 2025 list includes 20 elements, such as bagpipe playing (Bulgaria), Cuarteto music (Argentina), and Christmas Bram and Sambai (Belize).
- ❖ India's earlier entries include Durga Puja, Kumbh Mela, Vedic chanting, Ramlila, Kutiyattam, and Kalbelia dance.

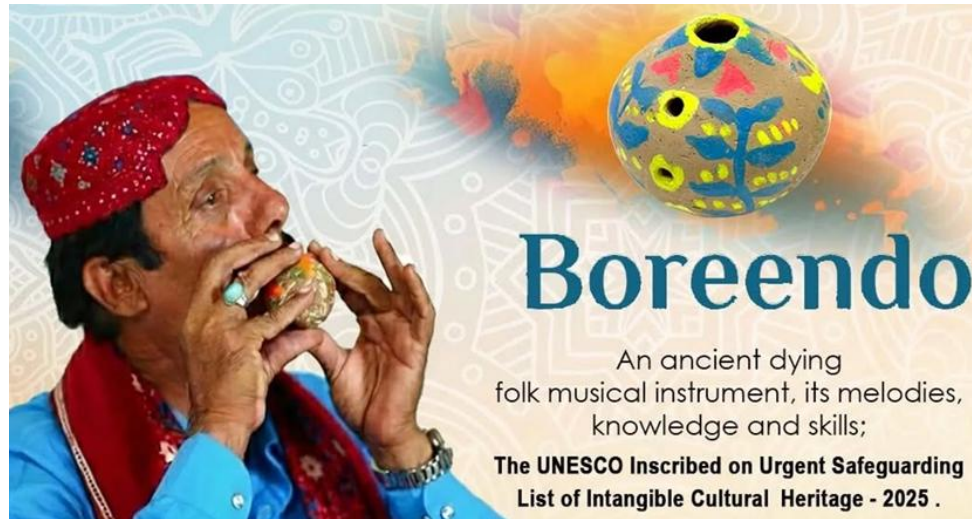
ON UNESCO HERITAGE LIST

<p>India on Unesco Intangible Cultural Heritage list</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Koodiyattam A Sanskrit theatre of Kerala ➤ Mudiyett A ritual theatre and dance drama of Kerala ➤ Vedic chanting Recitation of sacred Hindu texts ➤ Ramlila The traditional performance of the Ramayana ➤ Ramman A religious festival and ritual theatre of Garhwal, Uttarakhand ➤ Kalbelia Folk songs and dances of Rajasthan ➤ Chhau dance A classical dance form of West Bengal and Odisha ➤ Ladakh Buddhist chanting Recitation of sacred Buddhist texts in Ladakh ➤ Manipuri Sankirtana A ritual singing, drumming and dancing of Manipur ➤ Traditional brass and copper craft of utensil making among the Thatheras of Jandiala Guru, Punjab ➤ Yoga Ancient Indian physical, mental and spiritual practices originating in ancient India 	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Kumbh Mela Mass Hindu pilgrimage held at Haridwar of Uttarakhand, Nashik of Maharashtra, Prayagraj of Uttar Pradesh and Ujjain of Madhya Pradesh <p>The world on UNESCO ICH list</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Tango, Argentina and Uruguay ➤ Baul songs, Bangladesh ➤ Samba de Roda of the Recôncavo of Bahia, Brazil ➤ Frevo, performing arts of the Carnival of Recife, Brazil ➤ Royal Bellet, Vietnam ➤ Dragon boat festival, China ➤ Flamenco, Spain ➤ Carnival of Barranquilla, Colombia ➤ Gastronomic meal of the French ➤ Three genres of traditional dance in Bali, Indonesia ➤ Reggae music of Jamaica
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UNESCO Safeguarding List 2025 - Boreendo

- ❖ UNESCO added Pakistan's Boreendo to the Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding list in 2025.

- ❖ The Boreendo is a clay vessel-flute from Sindh linked to musical traditions of the Indus Valley Civilization.
- ❖ It is handmade from terracotta, has a round hollow body, and produces soft, breathy musical tones.
- ❖ Archaeological sites like Mohenjo-daro and Harappa have shown that similar clay and bone flutes existed in the Indus Valley Civilization (3300–1300 BCE).



UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage List 2025 - Tangail Saree



- ❖ Bangladesh's Tangail saree weaving craft was inscribed on the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage list during the 20th Committee session.



- ❖ The recognition highlights the two-century-old weaving tradition of the Tangail district, known for its fine handloom work.
- ❖ India had earlier given a GI tag to the “Tangail Saree of Bengal” in 2024, citing long-term production by migrant weavers in West Bengal.
- ❖ Bangladesh stated that the UNESCO recognition and India’s GI tag do not conflict, as both countries are parties to the international convention.

