



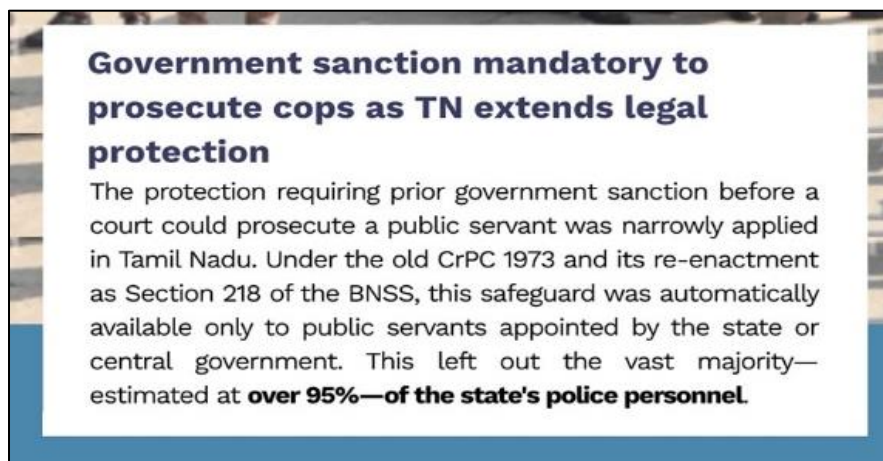
December - 07

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Thailand has formally announced its intention to join BRICS, which now has eleven member countries after its 2024–25 expansion.
- ❖ India exported jet fuel for the first time to the US West Coast from Reliance's Jamnagar refinery to supply Chevron.
- ❖ The 10th edition of the India– Indonesia Joint Special Forces Exercise GARUDA SHAKTI has commenced at Bakloh, Himachal Pradesh.
- ❖ Pakistan's Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir has been appointed as the country's first Chief of Defence Forces (CDF) for a period of five years.
- ❖ The bamboo shrimp (*Atyopsis spinipes*) has been rediscovered in Karnataka and Odisha after 72 years
  - The species is an amphidromous, with larvae developing in brackish water.
- ❖ Indian Navy Day is observed on 4 December every year to honour the Navy's courage and also commemorate Operation Trident (1971), when Indian missile boats successfully attacked Karachi Harbour.
  - The theme for 2025 is "Combat Ready, Cohesive, Self-Reliant."

## TAMIL NADU NEWS

### BNSS Protection

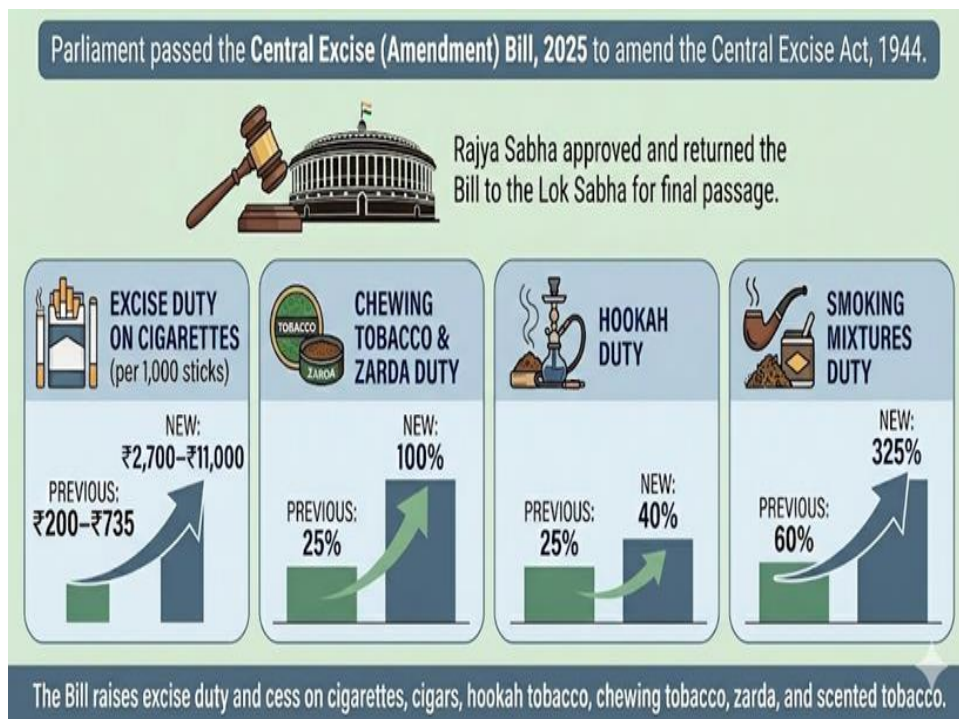


- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government issued a notification extending Section 218(2) of BNSS (Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita) 2023 to all State police personnel.

- ❖ The rule requires government sanction before prosecuting any police officer for offences allegedly committed while on duty.
- ❖ Similar protection existed earlier under Section 197 of the CrPC (Criminal Procedure Code), but old extension orders could not be traced.
- ❖ The State used powers under Section 218(3) of BNSS 2023 to apply this protection to all police ranks involved in maintaining public order.
- ❖ The new notification does not change the rules for private complaints or cases under the Prevention of Corruption Act 1988.

## NATIONAL NEWS

### Central Excise Bill, 2025



- ❖ Parliament passed the Central Excise (Amendment) Bill 2025 to amend the Central Excise Act, 1944.
- ❖ The Bill raises the excise duty and cess on cigarettes, cigars, hookah tobacco, chewing tobacco, zarda, and scented tobacco.
- ❖ Excise duty on cigarettes increases from ₹200–₹735 per 1,000 sticks to ₹2,700–₹11,000 per 1,000 sticks.
- ❖ Chewing tobacco duty rises from 25% to 100%, and hookah duty from 25% to 40%.
- ❖ Duty on smoking mixtures for pipes and cigarettes increases from 60% to 325%.




- ❖ The Rajya Sabha approved and returned the Bill to the Lok Sabha for final passage.

## Bharat Taxi

- ❖ Bharat Taxi has begun pilot tests in Delhi and Gujarat under a driver-owned cooperative model.
- ❖ Drivers keep 100% of the fare because the platform follows a zero-commission policy.
- ❖ There is no surge pricing, and fares stay fixed and transparent for all passengers.
- ❖ The cooperative is supported by the Ministry of Cooperation and the National e-Governance Division (NeGD — National e-Governance Division).



## Child Malnutrition in India

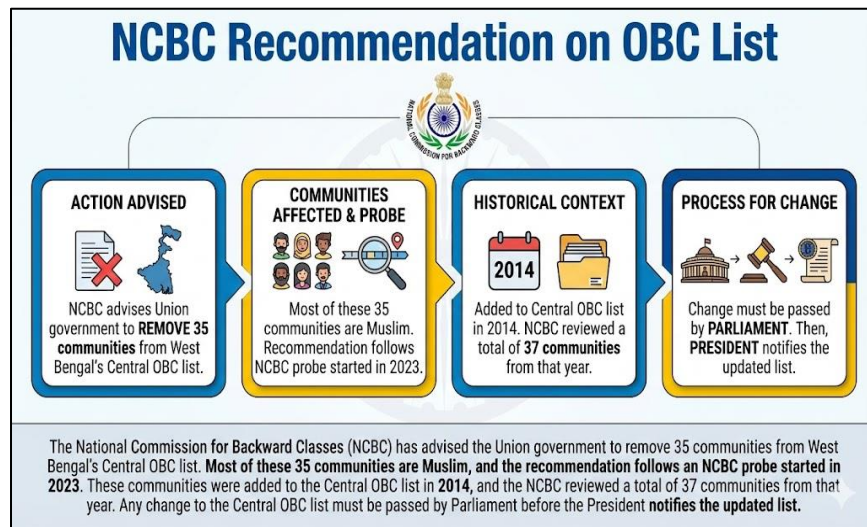
PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN UNDER 5 YEARS CLASSIFIED AS MALNOURISHED			
District	Stunted	Underweight	Wasted
BAHRAICH 	52.1 %	38 %	14.3 %
SHRAVASTI 	50.9 %	40.8 %	20.3 %
BALRAMPUR 	41.1 %	37.2 %	24.9 %
UTTAR PRADESH	39.7 %	32.1 %	17.3 %
ALL INDIA	35.5 %	32.1 %	19.3 %

SOURCE: NATIONAL FAMILY HEALTH SURVEY-5 (2019-21)

- ❖ Government data shows 33.54% of children under five are stunted in India.

- ❖ Measurements were taken from over 6.44 crore children using the Poshan Tracker (real-time nutrition monitoring system).
- ❖ NFHS-5 (National Family Health Survey-5, 2019–21) had earlier reported stunting at 35.5% and underweight at 32.1%.
- ❖ Poshan Tracker was launched in March 2021 to monitor stunting, wasting, and underweight cases.
- ❖ Mission Poshan 2.0 includes Anganwadi Services and Poshan Abhiyaan for improving nutrition delivery.

### NCBC Recommendation on OBC List



- ❖ The National Commission for Backwards Classes (NCBC) has advised the Union government to remove 35 communities from West Bengal's Central OBC list.
- ❖ Most of these 35 communities are Muslim, and the recommendation follows an NCBC probe started in 2023.
- ❖ These communities were added to the Central OBC list in 2014, and the NCBC reviewed a total of 37 communities from that year.
- ❖ Any change to the Central OBC list must be passed by Parliament before the President notifies the updated list.

### Regional AI Impact Conference 2025

- ❖ The Regional Artificial Intelligence (AI) Impact Conference 2025 was held in Shillong, Meghalaya.
- ❖ It is a preparatory event for the India AI Impact Summit 2026 scheduled in February 2026.

- ❖ The conference focuses on AI development, technology access, productivity improvement, and skill training across India.
- ❖ The Government of India has allocated ₹10,300 crore for AI initiatives.
- ❖ A total of 570 data and AI labs have been established so far.



### India's Inclusive Finance Framework 2025-30



- ❖ The National Strategy for Financial Inclusion (NSFI) 2025-30 was launched on December 1, 2025.
- ❖ It was approved by the Sub-Committee of the Financial Stability and the Development Council (FSDC-SC).
- ❖ The strategy aims to improve access, usage, and delivery of financial services across India, especially for underserved households and enterprises.

- ❖ NSFI 2025–30 introduces Panch-Jyoti, a five-objective framework with 47 action points.
- ❖ Focus areas include financial literacy, customer protection, gender-sensitive inclusion, skill development, and last-mile access.

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### RELOS Agreement



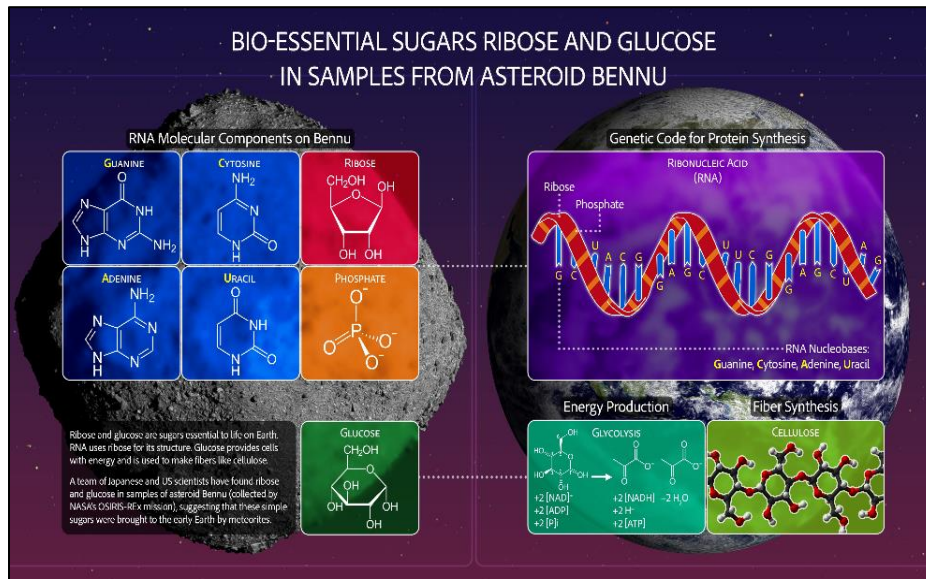
- ❖ Russia has approved the Reciprocal Exchange of Logistics Support (RELOS) agreement with India in 2025.
- ❖ RELOS allows both countries' armed forces to access each other's military bases, ports, and airfields for refuelling, repairs, supplies, and maintenance.
- ❖ The agreement enhances defence cooperation, joint exercises, and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR) operations.
- ❖ India gains access to over 40 Russian naval and air bases, including Arctic and Pacific facilities.
- ❖ RELOS supports maintenance of military equipment like Su-30MKI aircraft, T-90 tanks, MiG and Sukhoi fleets, and S-400 air defence systems.

- ❖ The agreement complements India's other defence pacts with the United States:
  - LEMOA (Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement),
  - COMCASA (Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement), and
  - BECA (Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement).

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

### Sugars in Asteroid Bennu

- ❖ NASA's OSIRIS-REx (Origins, Spectral Interpretation, Resource Identification, Security-Regolith Explorer) spacecraft returned samples from asteroid Bennu in 2023.
- ❖ Scientists detected glucose, a six-carbon sugar used as energy.
- ❖ Ribose, a five-carbon sugar essential for RNA (Ribonucleic Acid), was also found.
- ❖ Other organic compounds identified include amino acids, nucleobases, and carboxylic acids.
- ❖ Deoxyribose, the sugar in DNA (Deoxyribonucleic Acid), was not detected.



### US Lunar Nuclear Project

- ❖ The United States plans to deploy a small nuclear reactor on the Moon by the early 2030s.
- ❖ The reactor is part of the Lunar Fission Surface Power Project.

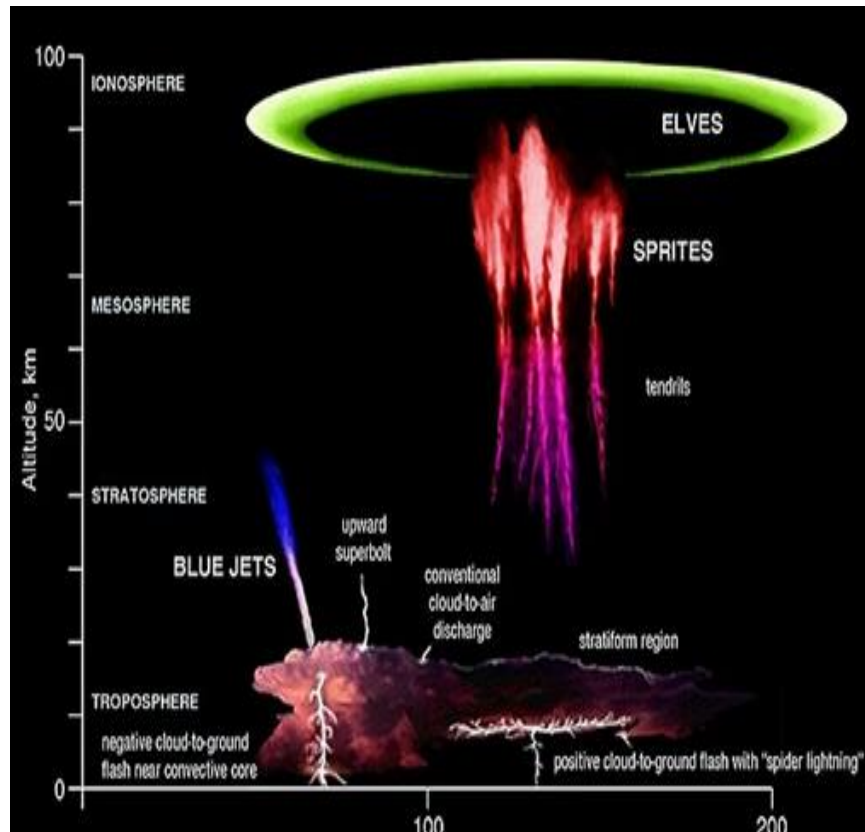
- ❖ Nuclear power can provide continuous energy during lunar nights and in areas with limited sunlight.
- ❖ Compact fission reactors can generate tens to hundreds of kilowatts for life support, laboratories, and industrial operations.
- ❖ Nuclear reactors can support lunar habitats, ice processing, and battery charging for mobility vehicles.
- ❖ Nuclear propulsion technologies include nuclear thermal and nuclear electric systems for deep-space missions.



### **Red ELVE Halo in Italy**

- ❖ A red ELVE halo appeared over Possagno in northern Italy on November 17, 2025.
- ❖ The halo spanned approximately 200 kilometres and occurred at an altitude of about 100 kilometres.
- ❖ ELVE stands for Emissions of Light and Very Low-Frequency Perturbations due to Electromagnetic Pulse.
- ❖ They are caused by lightning-generated electromagnetic pulses in the lower ionosphere.

- ❖ ELVEs are classified as Transient Luminous Events (TLEs) by NASA.
- ❖ The red colour of ELVEs on Earth is due to the interaction of emitted energy with nitrogen molecules in the atmosphere.
- ❖ Two ELVEs have now been observed above Possagno, northern Italy, within three years.













## REPORTS AND INDICES

### Women, Peace and Security Index 2025/26

- ❖ The index is released by Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security (GIWPS) and the Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO).
- ❖ The WPS Index measures women's status in 181 countries across Inclusion, Justice, and Security.
- ❖ Denmark ranks 1st with a score of 0.939; Afghanistan ranks 181st with 0.279.
- ❖ India ranks 131st with a score of 0.607.
- ❖ A total of 676 million women faced conflict exposure in the past year.
- ❖ Nine of the ten lowest-ranked countries are conflict-affected or fragile states.

- ❖ The United States ranks 31st after improving due to a decline in maternal mortality.

#### WOMEN, PEACE & SECURITY INDEX 2025/26: TOP 10 COUNTRIES

RANK	COUNTRY	SCORE (0.000-1.000)
1	Denmark 	0.939
2	Iceland 	0.932
Tied	Norway 	0.924
Tied	Sweden 	0.924
5	Finland 	0.921
6	Luxembourg 	0.918
7	Belgium 	0.912
8	Netherlands 	0.905
Tied	Austria 	0.898
Tied	New Zealand 	0.898

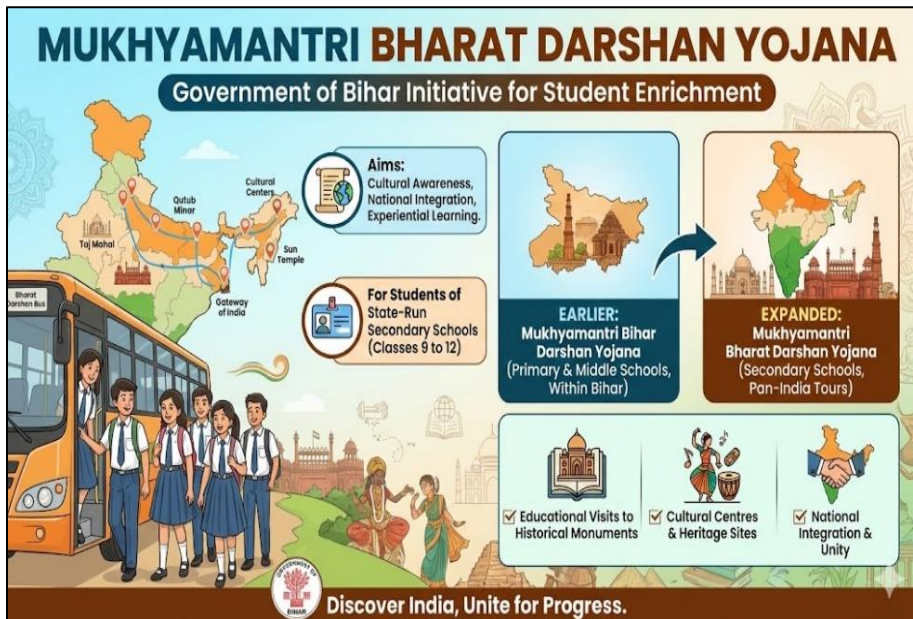
Note: Ranks 3 and 9 are ties. Australia ranks 11th with a score of 0.896. Source: Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security (GIWPS) and Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO).

## STATES' NEWS

### Mukhyamantri Bharat Darshan Yojana

## MUKHYAMANTRI BHARAT DARSHAN YOJANA

Government of Bihar Initiative for Student Enrichment



**Aims:**  
Cultural Awareness,  
National Integration,  
Experiential Learning.

**For Students of**  
State-Run  
Secondary Schools  
(Classes 9 to 12)

**EARLIER:**  
Mukhyamantri Bihar  
Darshan Yojana  
(Primary & Middle Schools,  
Within Bihar)

**EXPANDED:**  
Mukhyamantri  
Bharat Darshan Yojana  
(Secondary Schools,  
Pan-India Tours)

✓ Educational Visits to  
Historical Monuments

✓ Cultural Centres  
& Heritage Sites

✓ National  
Integration &  
Unity

Discover India, Unite for Progress.

- ❖ Bihar Government launched this scheme for students of state-run secondary schools.

- ❖ The scheme aims to promote cultural awareness, national integration, and experiential learning.
- ❖ Students of Classes 9 to 12 will visit historical monuments, cultural centres, and major sites across India.
- ❖ The scheme expands the earlier Mukhyamantri Bihar Darshan Yojana, which covered tours within Bihar for primary and middle school students.

## **PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS**

### **Ramoji Excellence Awards 2025**



- ❖ Amla Ashok Ruia received the top honour in rural development at the inaugural Ramoji Excellence Awards 2025 in Hyderabad.
- ❖ She is known as “Water Mother”.
- ❖ Ruia’s work through the Aakar Charitable Trust focuses on water-harvesting and improving livelihoods in drought-affected regions.
- ❖ Ruia’s initiatives involve building check dams and supporting agricultural resilience across multiple drought-prone villages.

- ❖ Other awardees included Jaideep Hardikar (journalism), Srikanth Bolla (Youth Icon), Pallabi Ghosh (women's achievements), and Prof Madhavi Latha Gali (science and technology).
- ❖ The Ramoji Excellence Awards were launched in 2025 to honour contributions in service, discipline, and nation-building.

### **World Athlete Awards 2025**

- ❖ Armand Duplantis of Sweden and Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone of the United States were named World Athletes of the Year 2025.
- ❖ The awards were presented by World Athletics after their dominant performances at the World Championships in Tokyo, Japan.
- ❖ Duplantis, a pole vault specialist, cleared 6.30 meters, breaking his own world record four times in 2025.
- ❖ He remained unbeaten in all 16 competitions he participated in and won his fifth consecutive Diamond League title.
- ❖ McLaughlin-Levrone ran the 400m hurdles in 47.78 seconds at the World Championships.
- ❖ Other awardees included Nicola Olyslagers (high jump), Emmanuel Wanyonyi (800m), Maria Perez (20km & 35km race walk), and Sebastian Sawe (marathons).



### **IMPORTANT DAYS**

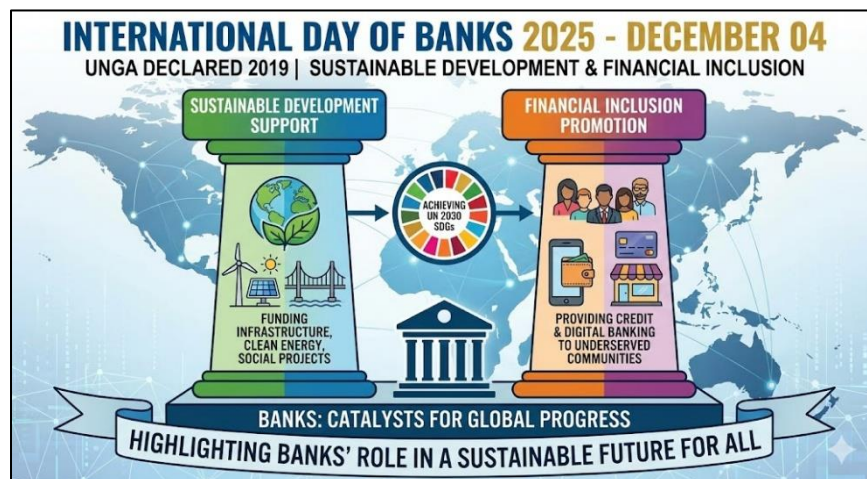
#### **International Day Against Unilateral Coercive Measures 2025 - December 04**

- ❖ The United Nations General Assembly declared this day in June 2025.

- ❖ The day aims to spread awareness about the negative effects of sanctions imposed without the approval of the UN.
- ❖ Unilateral coercive measures include trade embargoes, asset freezes, investment restrictions, travel bans, and blocked financial transactions.



### International Day of Banks 2025 - December 04



- ❖ The day aims to highlight the role of banks in supporting sustainable development and financial inclusion.
- ❖ Banks help achieve the UN 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by funding infrastructure, clean energy, and social projects.

- ❖ They also promote financial inclusion by providing credit and digital banking services to underserved communities.

## MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

### India's Heritage Footfall Rankings 2024–25

- ❖ The Rankings were released by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) under the Ministry of Culture.
- ❖ The Taj Mahal in Agra, Uttar Pradesh is India's most visited monument.
- ❖ In 2024–25, it received 6.26 million domestic and 0.65 million foreign tourists.
- ❖ Other top domestic monuments include Sun Temple (Konark, Odisha), Qutub Minar (Delhi), Red Fort (Delhi), and Bibi Ka Maqbara (Aurangabad, Maharashtra).
- ❖ Top foreign tourist sites are concentrated in the Agra–Delhi circuit, including Agra Fort, Humayun's Tomb, Fatehpur Sikri, and Itimad-ud-Daulah.

