



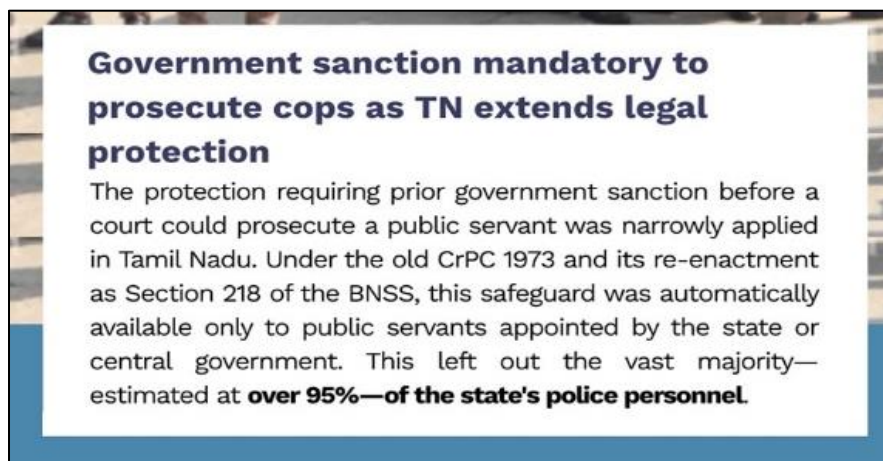
December - 07

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

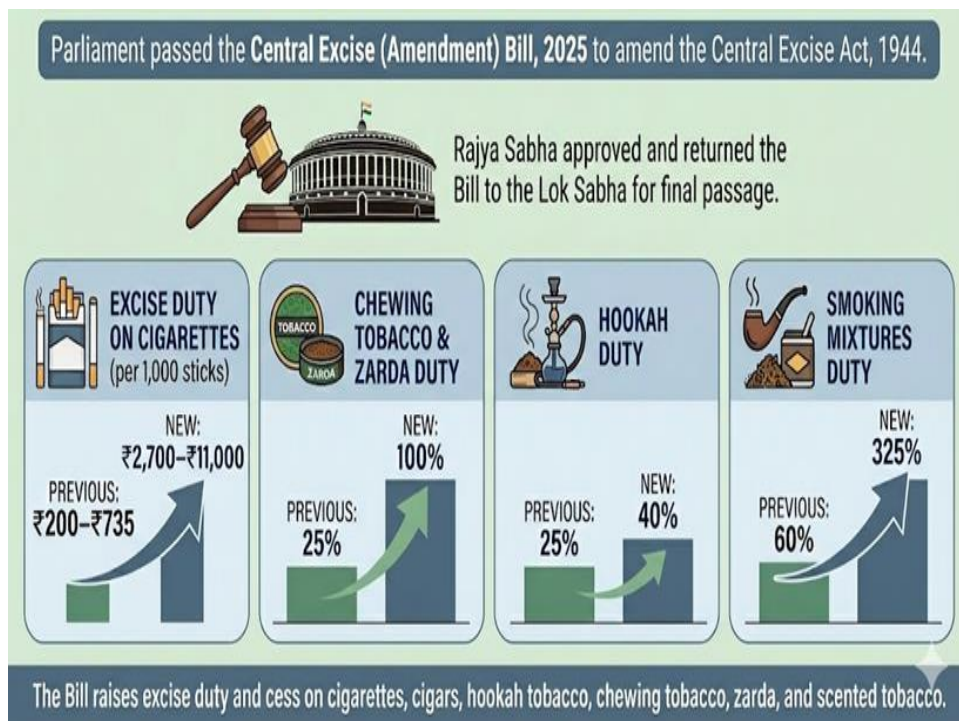


- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government issued a notification extending Section 218(2) of BNSS (Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita) 2023 to all State police personnel.

- ❖ 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

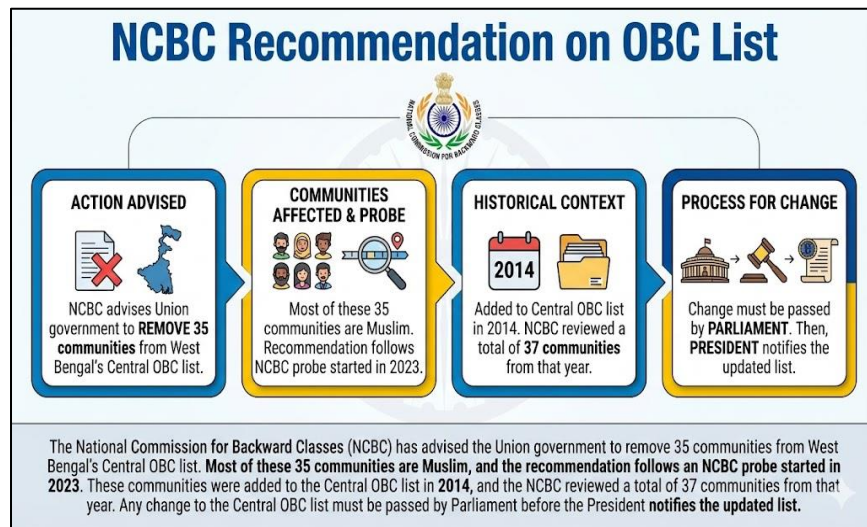
| PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN UNDER 5 YEARS CLASSIFIED AS MALNOURISHED | | | |
|---|---------|-------------|--------|
| District | Stunted | Underweight | Wasted |
| BAHRAICH  | 52.1 % | 38 % | 14.3 % |
| SHRAVASTI  | 50.9 % | 40.8 % | 20.3 % |
| BALRAMPUR  | 41.1 % | 37.2 % | 24.9 % |
| UTTAR PRADESH | 39.7 % | 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



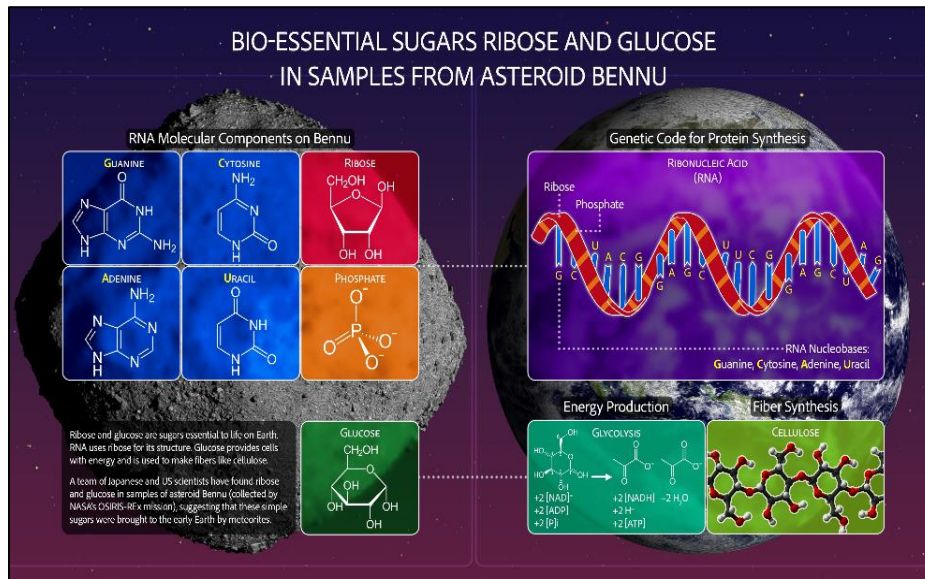
- ❖ Russia has approved the Reciprocal Exchange of Logistics Support (RELOS) agreement with India in 2025.
- ❖ RELOS allows both countries' armed forces to access each other's military bases, ports, and airfields for refuelling, repairs, supplies, and maintenance.
- ❖ The agreement enhances defence cooperation, 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.

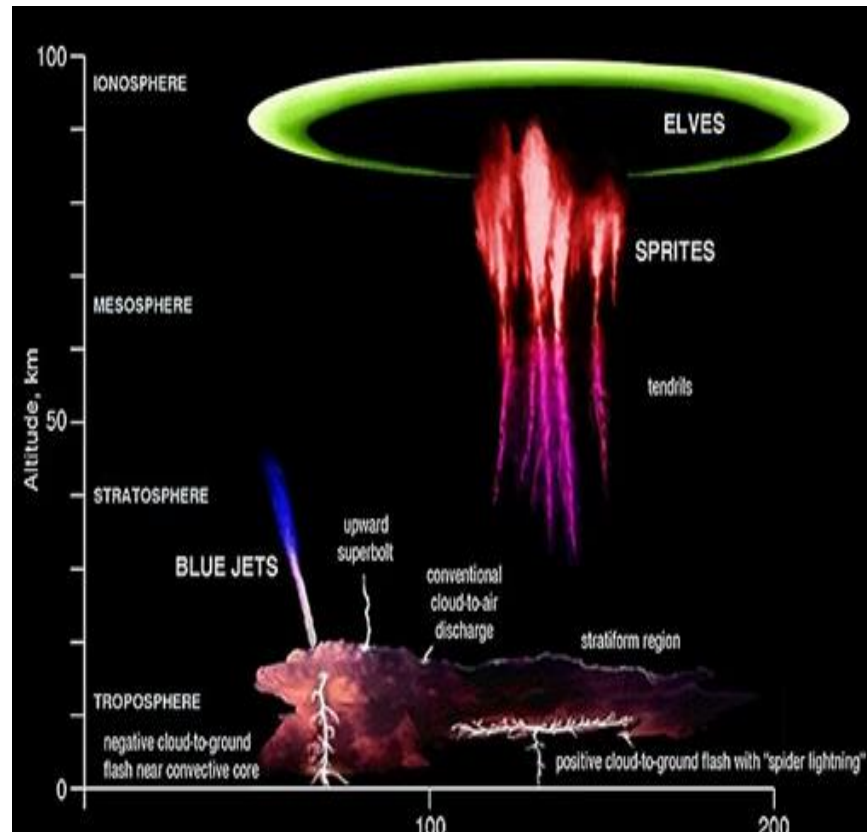
- ❖ Nuclear power can provide continuous energy during lunar nights and in areas with limited sunlight.
- ❖ Compact fission reactors can generate tens to hundreds of kilowatts for life support, laboratories, and industrial operations.
- ❖ Nuclear reactors can support lunar habitats, ice processing, and 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

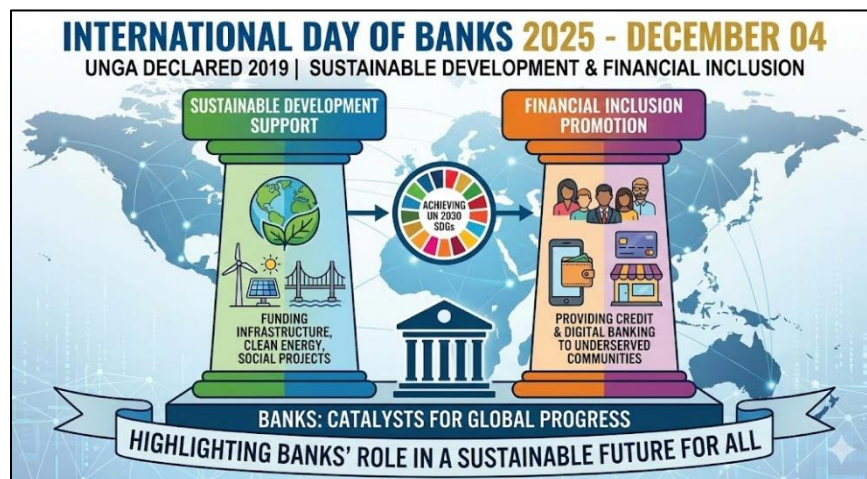
International Day Against Unilateral Coercive Measures 2025 - December 04

- ❖ 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.

