

December - 23

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Elon Musk became the first person in the world to have a net worth of over 600 billion US dollars in December 2025.
- ❖ Jharkhand won their first Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy title in the 2025–26 season, defeating Haryana in the final in Inter-State Twenty-20 final.
- ❖ The Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER), Chandigarh, has won India's Best Health Technology Assessment (HTA) Institute award for the second consecutive year.

TAMIL NADU NEWS

Porunai Archaeological Museum



- ❖ TN Chief Minister has inaugurated the Porunai Archaeological Museum near Palayamkottai in Tirunelveli district.
- ❖ The museum is built on 13 acres at a cost of ₹56.36 crore and was sanctioned by the Tamil Nadu Government in 2021.
- ❖ It displays artefacts excavated from Adichanallur, Sivakalai, and Korkai in the Thoothukudi district, and Thulukkarpatti in the Tirunelveli district.
- ❖ Exhibits include burial urns, iron tools, bronze and gold ornaments, coins, pottery, and artefacts with Thamizhi (ancient Tamil script) letters.

- ❖ Carbon dating shows iron use by Tamils as early as 3300 BC at Sivakalai and 2613 BC at Adichanallur.

NATIONAL NEWS

Bureau of Port Security

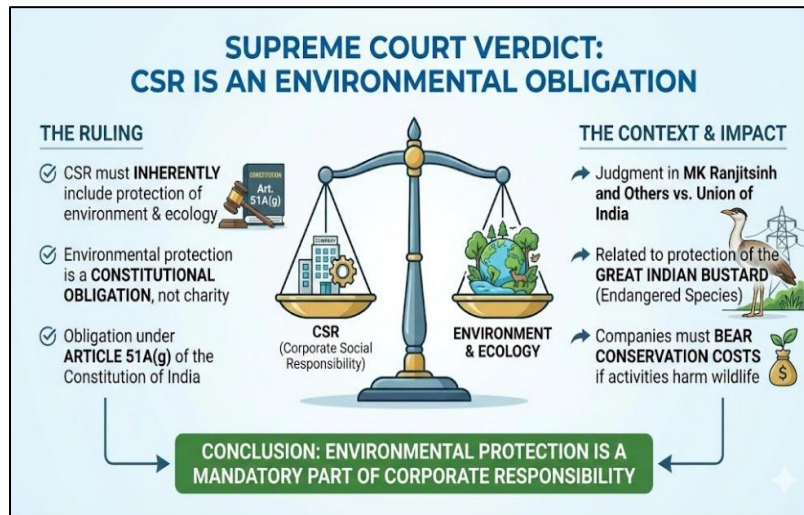
- ❖ The Bureau of Port Security (BoPS) will be created to oversee the security of vessels and port facilities.
- ❖ BoPS will collect, analyse, and exchange security-related information, with a focus on cybersecurity and port IT infrastructure.
- ❖ BoPS will be a statutory body under Section 13 of the Merchant Shipping Act, 2025.
- ❖ It will function under the Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways (MoPSW).
- ❖ BoPS will perform regulatory and oversight functions for the security of ships and port facilities.



SC Verdict on CSR and Environment

- ❖ The Supreme Court of India ruled that Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) must inherently include protection of the environment and ecology.
- ❖ The Court held that CSR spending on environmental protection is a constitutional obligation and not charity.
- ❖ This obligation arises under Article 51A(g) of the Constitution of India.

- ❖ The judgment was delivered in the case of MK Ranjitsinh and Others versus Union of India.
- ❖ The case was related to the protection of the Great Indian Bustard, an endangered bird species.
- ❖ The Court stated that companies must bear conservation costs if their activities harm wildlife and ecosystems.



Securities Market Code Bill 2025

SECURITIES MARKET CODE 2025

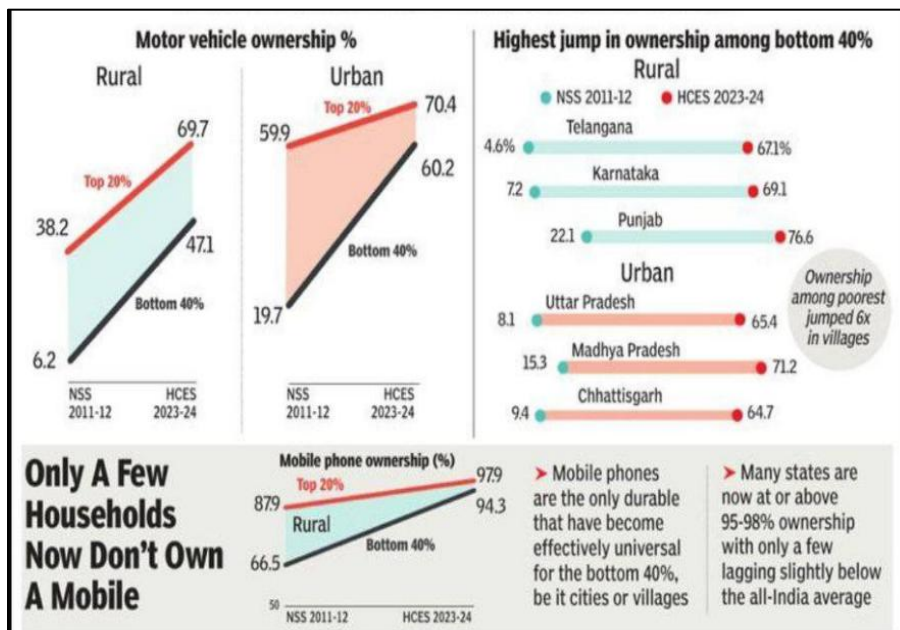
ALERT: SECURITIES MARKET CODE 2025 TO REPEAL SEBI ACT 1992, DEPOSITORIES ACT 1996 & SECURITIES CONTRACT (REGULATION) ACT 1956 ; MERGE THEM INTO ONE

- **Proposed Bill Envisages To Put In Place A Framework To Further Strengthen SEBI**
- **Bill Envisages To Facilitate A More Efficient Securities Markets**
- **Code Enables Board To Establish A Regulatory Sandbox To Facilitate Innovation In Fin Pdt**
- **Ensure That All Quasi-Judicial Actions Are Undertaken Through A Single Adjudication Process**
- **Code Converts Minor Criminal & Procedural Contraventions Into Civil Penalties To Ease Compliance**
- **Criminal Offences Are Only Provided For Mkt Abuse, Non-Compliance Of Quasi-Judicial Orders, Non-Cooperation During The Investigation**

- ❖ The finance minister introduced the Securities Market Code Bill 2025 in the Lok Sabha.

- ❖ The Bill will be referred to the department-related standing committee for further discussion.
- ❖ It merges the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992; the Depositories Act, 1996; and the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Act, 1956 into one code.
- ❖ The Bill proposes to increase the number of Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) Board members from 9 to 15.
- ❖ It aims to reduce compliance burden, improve regulatory governance, and support technology-driven securities markets.
- ❖ The Bill focuses on strengthening investor protection and improving the ease of doing business in financial markets.

Asset Ownership in India



- ❖ India's poorest households are increasingly buying durable goods like bikes, cars, and refrigerators.
- ❖ Mobile phones are now nearly universal across all households.
- ❖ Ownership of motor vehicles among the bottom 40% (B40) has risen from less than 10% a decade ago to almost 50% in rural areas.
- ❖ Refrigerators are becoming common, especially in urban B40 households, though rural ownership remains low in some states like Jharkhand, Bihar, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Assam, and Chhattisgarh.
- ❖ Spending on non-food items, especially durables, has increased while food expenditure has decreased.

- ❖ Ownership gaps between the bottom 40% (B40) and top 20% (T20) have narrowed, especially in urban areas.
- ❖ Access to vehicles is aided by better road connectivity, market access, and easier finance options.
- ❖ Rising durable ownership reflects improved living standards, productivity, and mobility, and reduces “asset poverty.”

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

India – Oman Employment Concession

- ❖ Oman, has allowing companies to employ up to 50% Indians in their workforce, instead of 20% at present.
- ❖ The decision forms part of the broader Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) between the two countries.
- ❖ The CEPA includes a parity clause, under which any labour-related concession granted by Oman to SAARC countries will automatically extend to India.
- ❖ Oman currently hosts around seven lakh Indian nationals, who remit more than \$2 billion annually to India.



UNAOC Forum

- ❖ The 11th United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) Forum meeting was held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

- ❖ India has reaffirmed its commitment to Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam and religious harmony at the forum.
- ❖ The main theme was “UNAOC: Two Decades of Dialogue for Humanity — Advancing a New Era of Mutual Respect and Understanding in Multipolar World.”
- ❖ UNAOC was established on July 14, 2005, by UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, co-sponsored by Spain and Turkey.
- ❖ The headquarters and secretariat of UNAOC are located in New York, USA.
- ❖ The forum also marked the 20th anniversary of UNAOC and focused on planning its future path for sustainable peace.



ENVIRONMENT NEWS

Hornbill Population Survey

Tamil Nadu to Begin Statewide Hornbill Population Survey Under Conservation Drive



- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Forest Department will conduct a field survey to assess hornbill populations in forest landscapes.

- ❖ The survey will start in late December 2025 and continue until March or early April 2026, during the hornbill breeding season.
- ❖ The first phase will cover Anamalai, Srivilliputhur–Megamalai, and Kalakkad–Mundathurai Tiger Reserves, and Karamadai and Mettupalayam ranges under Coimbatore Forest Division.
- ❖ The survey will use the line transect method, where forest personnel, biologists, and researchers walk through selected habitats to record sightings and estimate population density.
- ❖ Four hornbill species will be documented - Great Hornbill, Malabar Grey Hornbill, Indian Grey Hornbill, and Malabar Pied Hornbill.
- ❖ In July 2025, the Tamil Nadu Government announced India's first Centre of Excellence for Hornbill Conservation at Anamalai Tiger Reserve (ATR), Coimbatore district.

Human Elephant Conflict Control Centre - Nilgiris



- ❖ A command-and-control centre was inaugurated at Nadugani Range in the Gudalur Forest Division to manage human–elephant conflict.
- ❖ The centre was built at a cost of ₹6 crore under the Modernisation of Tamil Nadu Forest Force Scheme.
- ❖ A total of 46 human–wildlife conflict (HWC) zones were identified.
- ❖ 34 zones are having AI-enabled cameras and 12 zones are having advanced AI monitoring systems.
- ❖ Wildlife movement will be monitored round the clock, and real-time alerts will be sent to field staff through speakers and SMS.

- ❖ The Forest Department has introduced a toll-free helpline (1800-425-4353), upgraded wireless networks, thermal imaging drones, and radio collars for elephant tracking.
- ❖ Temporary watchers were deployed to support frontline staff, with additional personnel engaged during the peak elephant migration season from June to September.

First State-Level Tiger Corridor

- ❖ Madhya Pradesh will develop the country's first state-level, multi-national park tiger corridor.
- ❖ The corridor is being created in coordination with the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) and the Public Works Department (PWD).
- ❖ It will include underpasses in forest areas, slow-traffic zones, and wildlife-safe designs to balance tiger movement, tourism, and connectivity.
- ❖ The corridor aims to promote eco-tourism and strengthen the local economy.

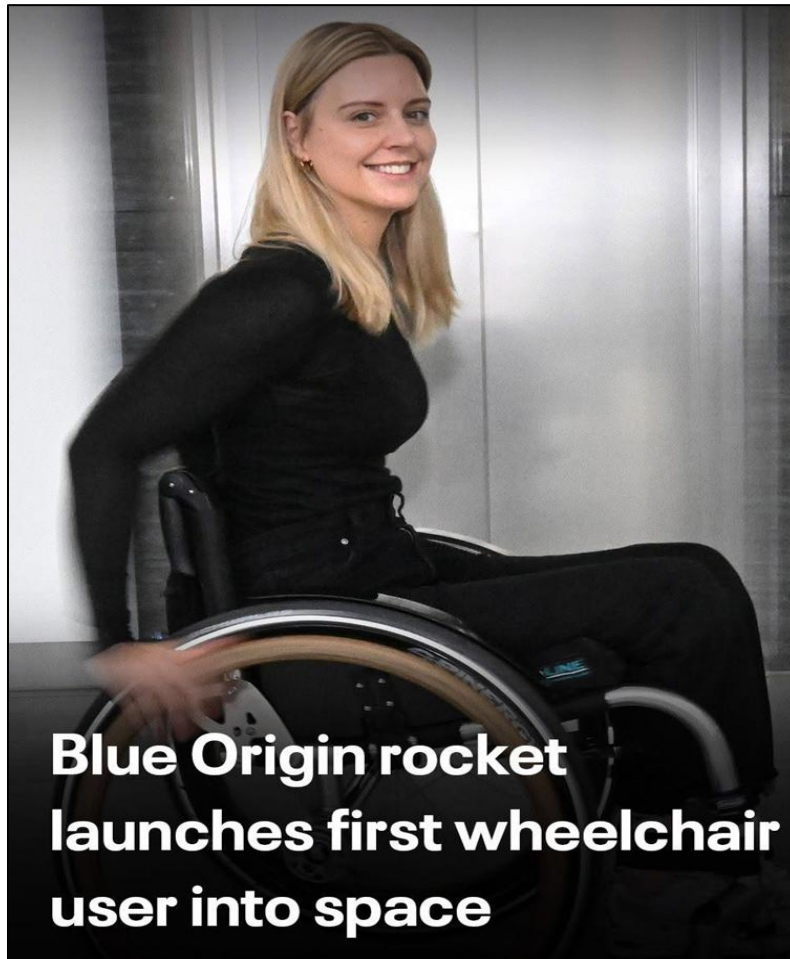


PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

First Wheelchair Passenger in Space

- ❖ Michaela Benthaus, a German engineer, became the first wheelchair user to travel to space.

- ❖ She crossed the Kármán Line, located 100 kilometres above sea level, which marks the edge of outer space.
- ❖ The mission was called NS-37 and launched from Van Horn, Texas, United States.
- ❖ Michaela Benthaus is an aerospace and mechatronics engineer at the European Space Agency (ESA).



Lokmat Parliamentary Awards 2025

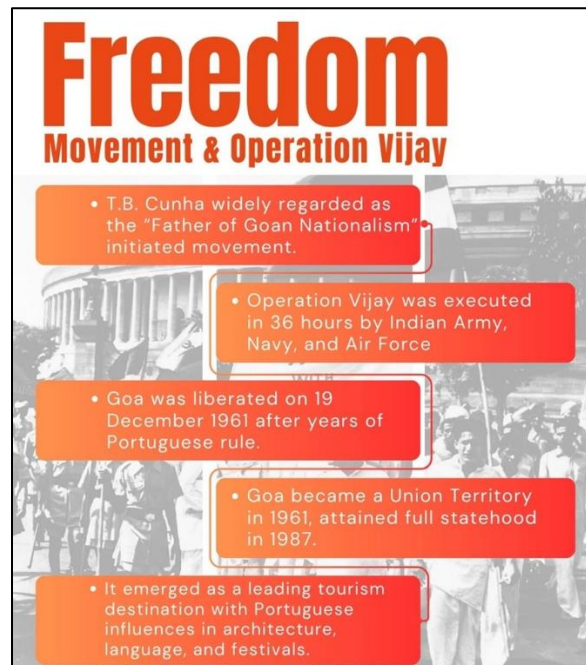
- ❖ The 6th Lokmat Parliamentary Awards held in New Delhi.
- ❖ The awards recognise outstanding performance by MPs from the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha.
- ❖ Eight MPs received awards, including Digvijaya Singh and Sudha Murty from the Rajya Sabha.
- ❖ Senior DMK leader and MP T. R. Baalu received the Lifetime Achievement Award (Lok Sabha).

- ❖ The Lokmat Parliamentary Awards were started in 2017 to recognise outstanding work by Members of Parliament.

Lokmat Parliamentary Awards 2025 Winners	
Award	Winner
Lifetime Achievement Award (Lok Sabha)	T. R. Baalu
Best Parliamentarian Award (Lok Sabha)	Jagdambika Pal
Best Woman Parliamentarian Award (Lok Sabha)	Sangeeta Kumar Singh Deo
Best Debutant Parliamentarian Award (Lok Sabha)	Iqra Choudhary
Lifetime Achievement Award (Rajya Sabha)	Digvijaya Singh
Best Parliamentarian Award (Rajya Sabha)	Sanjay Singh
Best Woman Parliamentarian Award (Rajya Sabha)	Dola Sen
Best Debutant Parliamentarian Award (Rajya Sabha)	Sudha Murty

IMPORTANT DAYS

Goa Liberation Day 2025 - December 19



Freedom

Movement & Operation Vijay

- T.B. Cunha widely regarded as the "Father of Goan Nationalism" initiated movement.
- Operation Vijay was executed in 36 hours by Indian Army, Navy, and Air Force
- Goa was liberated on 19 December 1961 after years of Portuguese rule.
- Goa became a Union Territory in 1961, attained full statehood in 1987.
- It emerged as a leading tourism destination with Portuguese influences in architecture, language, and festivals.

- ❖ It is observed every year to remember the liberation of Goa from Portuguese rule in 1961.

- ❖ Goa remained under Portuguese control even after India became independent in 1947.
- ❖ The Portuguese ruled Goa for more than 450 years, starting from 1510.
- ❖ Operation Vijay (1961) was a military action by the Indian Army, Navy, and Air Force to liberate Goa, Daman, and Diu.
- ❖ The operation was completed in about 36 hours, and the Portuguese Governor surrendered on 19 December 1961.

International Human Solidarity Day 2025 - December 20

- ❖ It was first established by the UN after the creation of the World Solidarity Fund in 2002.
- ❖ It aims to support poverty eradication, health equity, social justice, and inclusive development.
- ❖ The day is celebrated to promote global unity, shared responsibility, and cooperation among countries.
- ❖ The theme of 2025 is “Unity for Better Health and Inclusive Development”.



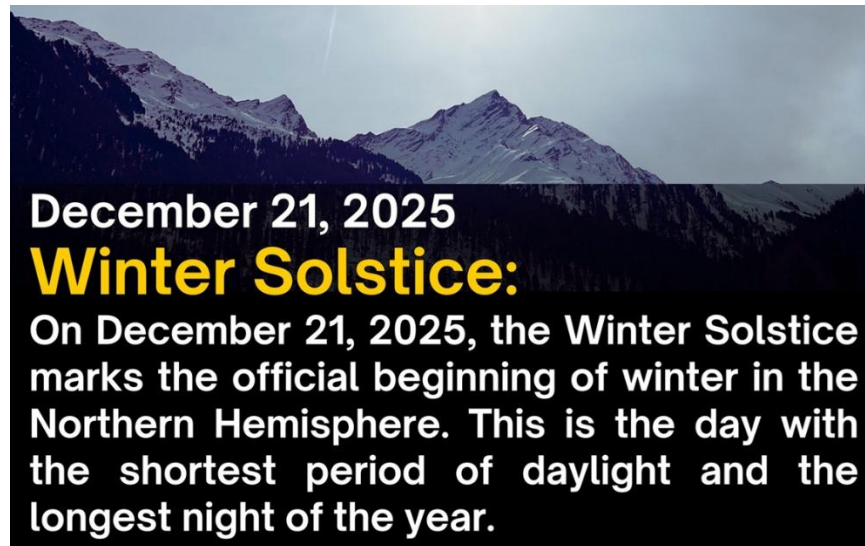
World Meditation Day 2025 - December 21

- ❖ The day aims to promote inner peace, mental well-being, and global harmony through meditation.
- ❖ It was first declared by the UNGA on 6 December 2024.
- ❖ The day is celebrated to recognise meditation as a practice that supports peace and well-being at individual and social levels.

- ❖ The United Nations marked the second World Meditation Day in 2025 at its headquarters in New York.
- ❖ The theme of 2025 is “Promoting Inner Peace Worldwide”.



Winter Solstice 2025 - December 21



- ❖ It marks the shortest day and longest night in the Northern Hemisphere.
- ❖ The event happens when the North Pole tilts furthest away from the Sun.



- ❖ This day signals the official start of astronomical winter.
- ❖ After December 21, daylight hours gradually increase as the Northern Hemisphere moves toward spring.

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

World's Richest Families Report 2025

- ❖ Bloomberg released the World's Richest Families 2025 report.
- ❖ The report tracks the 25 wealthiest family fortunes globally and their aggregate wealth growth.
- ❖ The Walton family (Walmart, USA) ranks 1st with USD 513.4 billion.
- ❖ It is followed by the Al Nahyan family (UAE) with USD 335.9 billion, and the Al Saud family (Saudi Arabia) with USD 213.6 billion.
- ❖ The Ambani family (Reliance Industries Limited) ranks 8th with USD 105.6 billion, the only Indian family on the list.
- ❖ The combined wealth of the top 25 families is approximately USD 2.9 trillion, up USD 358.7 billion from 2024.

World's Richest Families 2025			
Rank	Family	Country / Region	Estimated Net Worth
1	Walton Family	United States	\$513.4 Billion
2	Al Nahyan Family	United Arab Emirates	\$335.9 Billion
3	Al Saud Family	Saudi Arabia	\$213.6 Billion
4	Hermés Family	France	\$184.5 Billion
5	Koch Family	United States	\$150.5 Billion
6	Mars Family	United States	\$143.4 Billion
7	Al Thani Family	Qatar	\$110 Billion
8	Ambani Family	India	\$105.6 Billion

