

Daily Defence Current Affairs

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International Day Against Unilateral Coercive Measures 2025

- On December 4, 2025, the world marks the first-ever International Day Against Unilateral Coercive Measures, following a declaration by the United Nations General Assembly in June 2025.
- This global observance brings attention to the harmful effects of sanctions and economic restrictions imposed unilaterally—i.e., by one State against another—outside the bounds of international law and the UN Charter.
- According to the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), unilateral coercive measures (UCMs) are economic, financial, or trade restrictions imposed by one state to influence the internal policies of another.



Indian Navy Day 2025

- Indian Navy Day is observed every year on December 4 to commemorate the Indian Navy's courage and strategic excellence. The celebration not only honours the sacrifices of naval personnel but also showcases the force's operational capabilities, indigenous technologies, and commitment to maritime security.
- For 2025, the day is themed "Combat Ready, Cohesive, Self-Reliant", aligning with India's vision of Atmanirbharta (self-reliance) in defence.
- Navy Day in India is celebrated on **4 December** every year to recognize the achievements of the Indian Navy and its role in the country. 4 December was chosen as on that day in 1971, during Operation Trident, the Indian Navy sank four Pakistani vessels including **PNS Khaibar**, defeating the Pakistani Navy.



Bharat Taxi Begins Trials in Delhi and Gujarat

- Bharat Taxi, India's ambitious cooperative ride-hailing platform, has begun pilot operations in Delhi and Gujarat, marking a disruptive shift in how cab services are structured in the country.
- Operated by Sahakar Taxi Cooperative Limited, the platform is being pitched as an Uber and Ola alternative — but with a people-first approach rooted in driver ownership, zero commission, and no-surge transparent pricing.
- Backed by the Union Ministry of Cooperation and the National e-Governance Division (NeGD), Bharat Taxi is part of a broader effort to create cooperative economic models under the government's "Sahakar Se Samridhi" vision.



Lok Sabha Passes Central Excise (Amendment) Bill 2025

- The Lok Sabha has passed the Central Excise (Amendment) Bill, 2025, along with the Health and National Security Cess Bill, 2025, introducing a revised tax structure on so-called 'sin goods' such as tobacco, cigarettes, and pan masala.
- These bills are a crucial step toward replacing the GST compensation cess, which is scheduled to be phased out by March 31, 2026. The new taxation regime will maintain the high tax incidence on such goods while introducing structural clarity and ensuring the continuation of revenue for health and security-related expenditures.
- The reform aims to,
 - Ensure revenue continuity after the phaseout of GST compensation cess.
 - Maintain high taxation on demerit goods like tobacco and pan masala.
 - Shift tax proceeds from general use to targeted public health and national security spending.
- Support the loan repayment taken by the Centre to compensate states during the COVID-19 fiscal crunch.
- When the Goods and Services Tax (GST) was introduced on July 1, 2017, the Centre promised compensation to states for any revenue losses, funded through a compensation cess on sin and luxury goods. Initially planned for 5 years till June 30, 2022, the cess was extended till March 31, 2026, to help repay loans taken during the pandemic.



Archery Premier League Wins Big at India Sports Awards 2025

- The Archery Premier League (APL) has made a stellar impact on India's sports landscape by winning the title of 'Emerging Professional Sports Event of the Year' at the prestigious India Sports Awards 2025, held during FICCI TURF 2025, the 15th Global Sports Summit in New Delhi.
- This recognition comes just weeks after the league completed its inaugural season, highlighting its quick rise as a pathbreaking venture that has reshaped how archery is perceived and presented in India.
- The Archery Premier League is the world's first professional franchise-based archery league, launched by the Archery Association of India (AAI). The idea was to turn archery, a traditional and often underrepresented Olympic sport, into a fast-paced, spectator-friendly competition, aligned with modern broadcast standards.



India Clinches \$2 Billion Russia Submarine Deal

- India will pay about \$2 billion to lease a nuclear-powered submarine from Russia, finalizing delivery of the vessel after roughly a decade of talks just as President Vladimir Putin makes a visit to New Delhi this week.
- Modi has moved to boost ties with Russia and China in recent months, asserting India's strategic autonomy after US President Donald Trump hit the nation's goods with punitive tariff rates of 50%.
- India has developed nuclear-capable submarine-launched ballistic missiles (SLBMs), which in theory give it the so-called triad of atomic weapons that can be delivered from land, sea and air, the Nuclear Threat Initiative said in a report.
- As the Indian Ocean region draws more attention, interest in such vessels has grown. Australia is teaming up with the UK and US to build similar boats under the AUKUS security partnership. Until now, only a few nations — the US, UK, France, China and Russia — have had the technology to deploy and operate nuclear-powered submarines.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Bharat Taxi, launched as a cooperative ride-hailing platform, is operated by which organisation?

- A. Jan Dhan Mobility Services
- B. Sahakar Taxi Cooperative Limited

- C. National Transport Federation
- D. Bharat Mobility Trust

Answer: B

2. Bharat Taxi differentiates itself from Uber and Ola primarily through which feature?

- A. Luxury cab-only service
- B. Surge pricing during peak hours
- C. Zero commission and driver ownership
- D. Exclusive prepaid bookings

Answer: C

3. The pilot operations of Bharat Taxi have started in which two regions?

- A. Maharashtra and Karnataka
- B. Delhi and Gujarat
- C. Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan
- D. Punjab and Haryana

Answer: B

4. The Central Excise (Amendment) Bill, 2025 focuses on revised taxation of which category of goods?

- A. Essential commodities
- B. Agricultural goods
- C. Sin goods like tobacco and pan masala
- D. Imported machinery

Answer: C

5. Which event won the 'Emerging Professional Sports Event of the Year' at India Sports Awards 2025?

- A. Pro Kabaddi League
- B. Archery Premier League (APL)

- C. Indian Super League
- D. Ultimate Kho-Kho League

Answer: B

6. The International Day Against Unilateral Coercive Measures was observed for the first time on which date?

- A. 2 December 2025
- B. 4 December 2025
- C. 5 December 2025
- D. 1 December 2025

Answer: B

7. Indian Navy Day is celebrated on 4 December to commemorate which historic operation?

- A. Operation Vijay
- B. Operation Meghdoot
- C. Operation Trident
- D. Operation Shakti

Answer: C

8. During Operation Trident (1971), the Indian Navy sank how many Pakistani vessels?

- A. Two
- B. Three
- C. Five
- D. Four

Answer: D

9. India will pay approximately how much to lease a nuclear-powered submarine from Russia?

- A. \$1 billion
- B. \$2 billion

- C. \$3 billion
- D. \$4 billion

Answer: B

10. World Day of the Handicapped, also known as the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, is observed on which date?

- A. 1 December
- B. 2 December
- C. 3 December
- D. 4 December

Answer: C