

Daily Defence Current Affairs

12 December 2025

International Universal Health Coverage Day

- Every year on 12 December, the world observes International Universal Health Coverage Day (UHC Day) — a global reminder that quality, affordable healthcare is a right, not a privilege. The day calls on leaders, governments, and communities to work together toward health systems that protect everyone, everywhere.
- The theme for UHC Day 2025, **“Unaffordable health costs? We’re sick of it!”**
- The journey began on 12 December 2012, when the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) passed a landmark resolution urging countries to accelerate progress toward universal health coverage (UHC)..



International Day of Neutrality

- Every year on **12 December**, the world observes the International Day of Neutrality, a significant day declared by the United Nations General Assembly

(UNGA). This day highlights the importance of neutrality, a principle that helps countries stay impartial in conflicts and encourages peaceful solutions.

- For students preparing for government exams and general readers, this day is important because it connects directly to international peace efforts, UN initiatives, and global diplomacy.
- The day was officially declared on 2 February 2017, when the UNGA adopted Resolution 71/275 without a vote.
- The resolution was introduced by Turkmenistan, a country recognized as permanently neutral since 12 December 1995.



World Inequality Report 2026

- The World Inequality Report 2026, released by the World Inequality Lab and edited by economists Lucas Chancel, Ricardo Gómez-Carrera, Rowaida Moshrif, and Thomas Piketty, reveals a stark picture of rising global inequality.
- Written against a backdrop of weakening multilateralism and widening social divides, the 2026 report underscores how inequality continues to deepen across income, wealth, gender, geography, and even climate impact.
- The top one-in-a-million group collectively holds 3% of global wealth, while the top one-in-100 million (only 56 people worldwide) have average wealth of **€53 billion each**.
- **Income Inequality**

- The top 10% in India capture 58% of national income.
- The bottom 50% receives only 15%.
- In 2021 (WIR 2022), these shares were 57% and 13%, indicating growing disparity.
- **Wealth Inequality**
- The richest 10% own 65% of total wealth.
- The top 1% alone holds 40% of wealth.



DBS Named Global Bank of the Year 2025

- In December 2025, DBS Bank, headquartered in Singapore, was honoured as the Global Bank of the Year 2025 by The Banker, a prestigious publication of the Financial Times Group. The award was presented during the annual Bank of the Year Awards 2025 ceremony held in London, United Kingdom.
- This marks DBS's third global win in this category, after securing the title previously in 2018 and 2021—underscoring its rising influence and consistent excellence in the global banking sector.
- DBS stood out among 294 participating banks worldwide, with entries spanning 132 countries. Its strategic resilience, digital innovation, customer service excellence, and strong financial performance positioned it ahead of its competitors.
- The recognition also strengthens DBS's standing as it now holds two of the world's most prestigious global best bank titles simultaneously—one from Euromoney and another from The Banker.
- This milestone makes it DBS's ninth major global Best Bank award since 2018.



Germany Defeats Spain to Win FIH

- The **14th edition** of the FIH Men's Junior Hockey World Cup 2025 concluded in spectacular fashion in Chennai and Madurai, Tamil Nadu, with Germany emerging as the champion.
- The tournament was held from 28 November to 10 December 2025 across the Mayor Radhakrishnan Hockey Stadium, Chennai, and the Madurai International Hockey Stadium.
- Germany claimed its eighth Junior Hockey World Cup title by defeating Spain 3–2 in a shoot-out, after a tense 1–1 draw in regular time. Meanwhile, India secured the bronze medal, staging a remarkable comeback to beat Argentina 4–2.

Rank	Team	Medal
1	Germany	Gold
2	Spain	Silver
3	India	Bronze



Vigyanika 2025

- Science Literature Festival 2025 was organised on 8–9 December 2025 in New Delhi as a major part of the India International Science Festival (IISF). The event was hosted by CSIR–NIScPR along with Vijnana Bharti (VIBHA), the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune, and Panjab University, Chandigarh.
- The festival celebrated how science can be shared through simple language, creative writing, and Indian cultural forms. Many well-known scientists, writers, editors, and science communicators took part.
- The festival began with an inaugural session titled **“Bhartiya Vigyan Vimarsh me Sahitya aur Sanchar Madhyamo ki Bhoomika.”**



Indian Railways to Launch Its First Hydrogen Train

- Indian Railways has started an important new project to run its first hydrogen-powered train. This train has been created as a pilot model to show how hydrogen can be used as a clean fuel for future rail travel.
- The project follows the standards prepared by the Research, Design & Standards Organisation (RDSO). The information about this new development was shared by Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw in the Lok Sabha.
- The Minister informed that the making of India's hydrogen train is now fully finished. To ensure smooth operation, a special hydrogen plant has also been planned in Jind.
- According to the Minister, this hydrogen train is currently the longest in the world with 10 coaches and also the most powerful, producing 2400 kW on a broad-gauge railway line. It includes two Driving Power Cars, each producing 1200 kW, and eight coaches for passengers.



India's First Zero-Emission Electric Tug Project

- India has taken an important step toward clean and modern port operations. Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal virtually launched the steel-cutting ceremony for the **country's first fully electric green tug**. This project is part of India's effort to make its ports cleaner, greener and ready for the future.
- The new tug is being built for the Deendayal Port Authority (DPA) in Kandla under the Green Tug Transition Programme (GTTP).
- It will include:
- 60-ton bollard pull capacity

- Zero carbon emissions
- Quiet and smooth operations
- Advanced navigation systems
- High energy efficiency



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. International Universal Health Coverage (UHC) Day is observed every year on which date?

- A. 10 December
- B. 12 December
- C. 15 December
- D. 5 December

Answer: B. 12 December

2. What is the theme for UHC Day 2025?

- A. Health for All: Now or Never
- B. Universal Health, Universal Rights
- C. Affordable Care for Everyone
- D. *"Unaffordable health costs? We're sick of it!"*

Answer: D. "Unaffordable health costs? We're sick of it!"

3. The International Day of Neutrality is observed annually on:

- A. 15 December
- B. 9 December
- C. 12 December
- D. 18 December

Answer: C. 12 December

4. Which organisation declared the International Day of Neutrality?

- A. WHO
- B. UNESCO
- C. UNGA
- D. UNDP

Answer: C. UNGA

5. The World Inequality Report 2026 was released by:

- A. World Bank
- B. IMF
- C. World Inequality Lab
- D. UNDP

Answer: C. World Inequality Lab

6. Who among the following is *not* one of the editors of the World Inequality Report 2026?

- A. Lucas Chancel
- B. Thomas Piketty
- C. Ricardo Gómez-Carrera
- D. Jeffrey Sachs

Answer: D. Jeffrey Sachs

7. Which bank was honoured as the Global Bank of the Year 2025?

- A. HSBC
- B. DBS Bank
- C. Standard Chartered
- D. JP Morgan

Answer: B. DBS Bank

8. The 14th FIH Men's Junior Hockey World Cup 2025 was hosted in:

- A. Mumbai and Pune
- B. Delhi and Chandigarh
- C. Chennai and Madurai
- D. Hyderabad and Visakhapatnam

Answer: C. Chennai and Madurai

9. Science Literature Festival 2025 was organised in which city?

- A. Bengaluru
- B. New Delhi
- C. Hyderabad
- D. Kolkata

Answer: B. New Delhi

10. India's first hydrogen-powered train pilot model was developed under the standards of:

- A. DRDO
- B. ISRO
- C. RDSO
- D. CSIR

Answer: C. RDSO