

Daily Defence Current Affairs

20 December 2025

International Human Solidarity Day 2025

- International Human Solidarity Day 2025 is observed every year on 20 December. The day reaffirm the importance of global unity, cooperation, and shared responsibility in addressing common challenges faced by humanity.
- Established by the United Nations this day highlights solidarity as a universal value essential for poverty eradication, better health outcomes, social justice, and inclusive development. In an increasingly interconnected world, the observance reminds nations and individuals that global problems require collective solutions.
- The main objectives of the observance are to promote international cooperation, mobilize collective efforts to reduce poverty and strengthen global commitment to social justice.



World's Oldest Wooden Structure Found

- Deep in the heart of northern Zambia, a fascinating discovery has shed new light on the ingenuity of our ancient ancestors. Beneath the powerful flow of

Kalambo Falls, archaeologists have uncovered a wooden structure dating back an astounding 476,000 years.

- This remarkable find reveals that early humans were not only surviving but actively shaping their environment long before the rise of Homo sapiens. The groundbreaking study, published in Nature, highlights the sophisticated ways in which these early communities interacted with their surroundings.
- The study published in Nature sheds light on a striking discovery: two interlocking wooden logs, dating back over 470,000 years, were found beneath the cliffs of Kalambo Falls.
- The logs were carefully shaped and fitted together, showing marks of deliberate carpentry—indicating a sophisticated understanding of wood and how it could be used to create stable structures.
- Geoff Duller, an expert in dating ancient artifacts, explains the complexity of the dating process: “At this great age, putting a date on finds is very challenging.” Indeed, conventional methods like radiocarbon dating could not be used to measure the age of these ancient materials.
- Instead, scientists employed **luminescence dating**, a technique that measures how long quartz and feldspar grains have been trapped in darkness. This method revealed a pattern of dates, which helped the team establish that the wooden structure is over 476,000 years old, a testament to the remarkable preservation conditions in the area.



Govt. to Increase Reservation for Agniveers in CAPFs to 50%

- Months before the first batch of Agniveers retires from service, the Union Home Ministry has decided to enhance reservation for ex-Agniveers in the Group C posts of the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) from the existing 10% to 50%, a senior government official told.
- On Friday (December 19, 2025), the Ministry notified that 50% vacant constable posts in the BSF will be reserved for ex-Agniveers. Though exempted from Physical Standard Test and Physical Efficiency Test, the notification suggests that the ex-Agniveers will have to appear for written examinations like other regular candidates.
- The official said that the recruitment rules for Group C posts of all CAPFs will be amended gradually in the coming days. This is a significant shift from Ministry's earlier decision to implement 10% reservation for the temporary recruits of the armed forces in the CAPFs.
- The recruitment policy announced in 2022 was met with violent protests and was one of the major issues during the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. Following protests, the Ministry announced that 10% of all vacancies in the CAPFs will be reserved for the armed forces recruits who have completed four years of service under the Agnipath scheme.
- It also announced five years age relaxation in recruitment for the first batch and three years age relaxation for subsequent batches. The first batch of Agniveers will be eligible for recruitment in the CAPFs in 2026.
- For absorption in the rank of constables from among the Combatised Constable (Tradesmen) of the BSF, the age criteria have been relaxed from existing 30 to 35 years, and the minimum service period has been increased from three to five years. The upper age limit for deputation to other forces has been increased from existing 52 years of age to 56 years.
- The CAPFs comprise the Central Industrial Security Force, BSF, Central Reserve Police Force, Indo Tibetan Border Police, Sashastra Seema Bal and the Assam Rifles.



India's Largest Circular Labyrinth Discovered

- A classical 15-circuit labyrinth — the largest such circular maze-like structure discovered in India to date — has been found in Boramani grassland region of Solapur district.
- Identified by archaeologist Sachin Patil from Deccan College, Pune, this discovery sheds new light on the ancient trade links between Ter in Dharashiv and Rome, dating back nearly 2,000 years.
- The finding has garnered international attention and would be detailed in the 2026 edition of Caerdroia, a UK-based journal dedicated to mazes and labyrinths.
- Until this week, the largest recorded circular labyrinth in India featured 11 circuits. This new find, measuring 50 feet by 50 feet, boasts 15 circuits. While a 56-foot square labyrinth in **Gedimedu, Tamil Nadu**, holds the record for the largest overall area, the Solapur discovery is now the second largest in terms of area and the largest in a circular formation.
- Jeff Saward, editor of Caerdroia and a renowned labyrinth researcher, said, "This labyrinth belongs to the classical family, but the addition of a spiral in the center is a feature very specific to India, often called 'chakravyuh'."



PM Modi Launched Ayush Mark

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched Ayush Mark, which is envisioned as a global benchmark for the quality of products and services of the traditional medicine system, during the closing ceremony of the Second WHO Global Summit on Traditional Medicine.
- He will also felicitate the recipients of the Prime Minister's Awards for Outstanding Contribution to the Promotion and Development of Yoga for the years 2021-2025. The prime minister will also address the gathering during the closing ceremony at Bharat Mandapam here.
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- Jointly organised by the WHO and the Ministry of Ayush, the summit is being held from December 17 to 19 under the theme "**Restoring balance: The science and practice of health and well-being**" at Bharat Mandapam.



Operation Hawkeye

- The United States on Friday (local time) launched Operation Hawkeye Strike targeting Islamic State fighters in Syria in retaliation to the deaths of 2 American soldiers earlier this month. US President Donald Trump called it a "very serious retaliation" on the "murderous terrorists responsible".
- "Because of ISIS's vicious killing of brave American Patriots in Syria, whose beautiful souls I welcomed home to American soil earlier this week in a very dignified ceremony, I am hereby announcing that the United States is inflicting very serious retaliation, just as I promised, on the murderous terrorists responsible," he said in a post on Truth Social.
- "We are striking very strongly against ISIS strongholds in Syria, a place soaked in blood which has many problems, but one that has a bright future if ISIS can be eradicated.
- The Government of Syria, led by a man who is working very hard to bring Greatness back to Syria, and is fully in support. All terrorists who are evil enough to attack Americans are hereby warned — YOU WILL BE HIT HARDER THAN YOU HAVE EVER BEEN HIT BEFORE IF YOU, IN ANY WAY, ATTACK OR THREATEN THE USA," he added.



Secretary of War Pete Hegseth  
@SecWar

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Earlier today, U.S. forces commenced OPERATION HAWKEYE STRIKE in Syria to eliminate ISIS fighters, infrastructure, and weapons sites in direct response to the attack on U.S. forces that occurred on December 13th in Palmyra, Syria.

This is not the beginning of a war — it is a declaration of vengeance. The United States of America, under President Trump's leadership, will never hesitate and never relent to defend our people.

As we said directly following the savage attack, if you target Americans — anywhere in the world — you will spend the rest of your brief, anxious life knowing the United States will hunt you, find you, and ruthlessly kill you.

Today, we hunted and we killed our enemies. Lots of them. And we will continue.

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REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Operation Hawkeye Strike, launched by the United States, targeted which terrorist organisation?

- A. Al-Qaeda
- B. Taliban
- C. Islamic State
- D. Boko Haram

Answer: C. Islamic State

2. Operation Hawkeye Strike was launched by the United States in which country?

- A. Iraq
- B. Afghanistan
- C. Libya
- D. Syria

Answer: D. Syria

3. The Union Home Ministry enhanced reservation for ex-Agniveers in Group C posts of CAPFs from 10% to:

- A. 25%
- B. 40%
- C. 45%
- D. 50%

Answer: D. 50%

4. The enhanced reservation for ex-Agniveers applies to which organisations?

- A. Indian Army only
- B. State Police Forces
- C. Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs)
- D. Indian Coast Guard

Answer: C. Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs)

5. The ancient wooden structure discovered beneath Kalambo Falls dates back approximately:

- A. 50,000 years
- B. 120,000 years
- C. 300,000 years
- D. 476,000 years

Answer: D. 476,000 years

6. Kalambo Falls, where the ancient wooden structure was discovered, is located in:

- A. Southern Kenya
- B. Northern Zambia
- C. Eastern Ethiopia
- D. Western Tanzania

Answer: B. Northern Zambia

7. The largest classical 15-circuit labyrinth discovered in India was found in which district?

- A. Pune
- B. Dharashiv
- C. Solapur
- D. Satara

Answer: C. Solapur

8. The Boramani grassland labyrinth discovery highlights ancient trade links between Ter and which civilisation?

- A. Greek
- B. Egyptian
- C. Persian
- D. Roman

Answer: D. Roman

9. The archaeologist who identified the Boramani grassland discovery belongs to which institution?

- A. Archaeological Survey of India
- B. Jawaharlal Nehru University
- C. Deccan College, Pune
- D. Banaras Hindu University

Answer: C. Deccan College, Pune

10. International Human Solidarity Day is observed every year on:

- A. 18 December
- B. 19 December
- C. 20 December
- D. 21 December

Answer: C. 20 December