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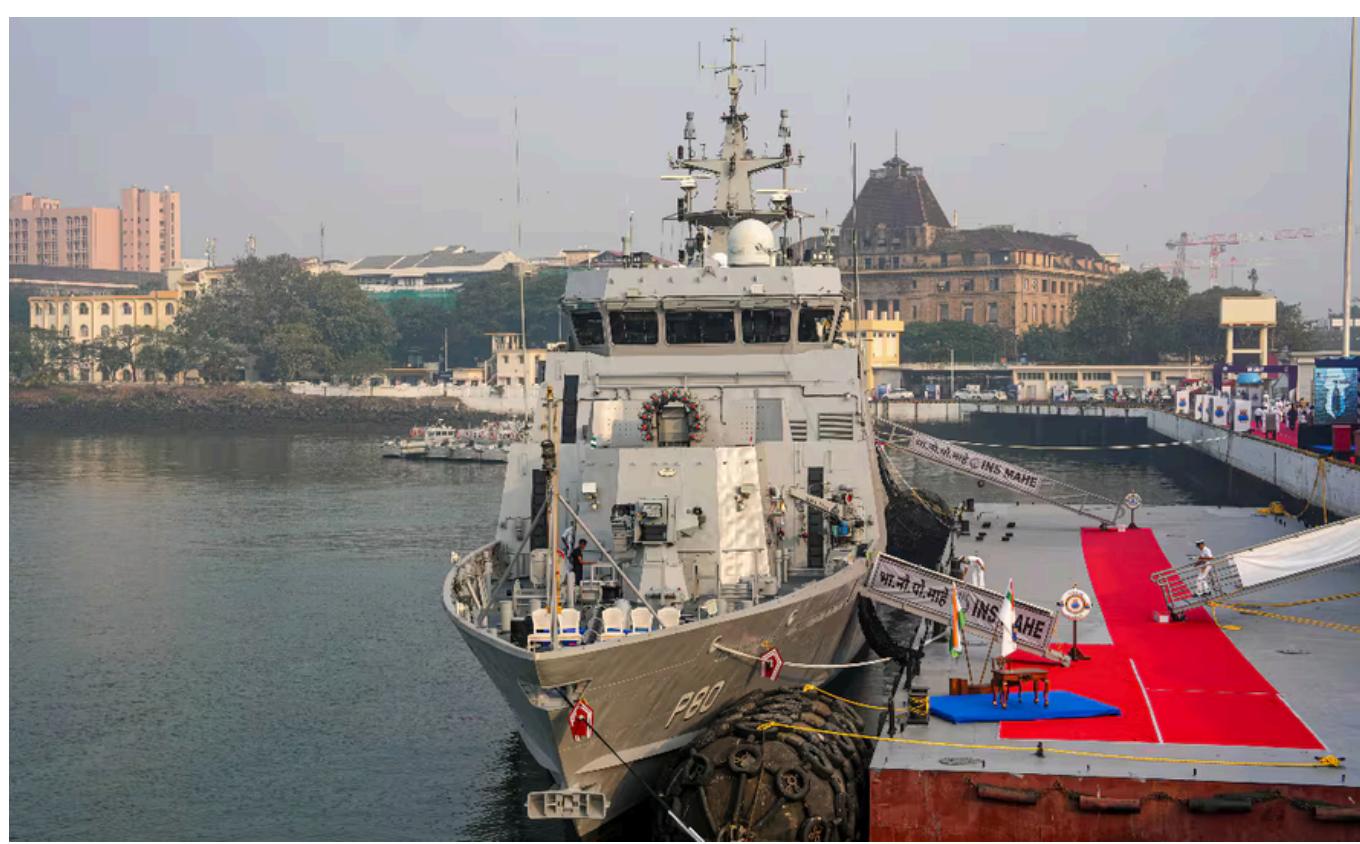
## Goa tops in digitisation of SIR forms, Kerala lags



With 10 days remaining to complete the enumeration phase of the second round of the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, the Election Commission on Monday said more than 47% of the enumeration forms distributed across 12 States and Union Territories have been digitised. Goa has achieved the highest digitisation at 76.89% followed by Rajasthan at 72.20%, while Kerala and Uttar Pradesh have the lowest at 23% and 26.6% respectively. The enumeration phase, which began on November 4, will end on December 4.

The draft list will be published on December 9 following which the period for claims and objections will begin. The whole exercise is being done by booth-level officers (BLOs), making them the most important cog in the wheel. However, the BLOs are racing against time. While some States such as West Bengal have witnessed protests over 'excess workload', there have been some reports of suicides by BLOs over alleged work-related stress. According to the EC, out of the 51 crore voters being covered in this SIR, enumeration forms of 50,50,24,723, or 99.07%, have been collected and 24,13,75,229 (47.35%) have been digitised. The enumeration phase involves distribution of forms, collection of the filled ones, and uploading the data on the commission's website. Currently, the SIR is being held in Chhattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Puducherry, the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, and Lakshadweep. Amid ongoing SIR in Bengal, Matuas stage hunger strike, seek citizenship under CAA. In West Bengal, the community has a considerable presence in border districts such as 24 Parganas, Nadia, Howrah, Cooch Behar and Malda, and are the State's second largest Scheduled Caste community.

## INS Mahe Commissioned



India commissions INS Mahe, First Indigenous Mahe-Class Anti-Submarine Warfare Craft boosting near-sea dominance and showcasing major progress in indigenous naval shipbuilding.



Stubble burning incidents in Delhi-NCR, Punjab and Haryana have reduced this year due to government support for farm machinery and other measures, Agriculture Secretary Devesh Chaturvedi said on Monday. Stubble burning by farmers in northern India after harvesting their crops has been a major contributor to severe air pollution in Delhi and surrounding areas during winter months.

## Goa government does a U-turn on 'permanent' tiger presence in State

- The Goa Government previously told a Supreme Court-appointed committee that there was "no permanent presence of tigers" in the State, contradicting its later stance during a dispute over the Mhadei river sharing, where it argued there was evidence of a resident tiger population in Goa.
- The forests of Chorla, Manna, and Kankumbi form a contiguous landscape corridor connecting the Bhimgad Wildlife Sanctuary in Karnataka and the Anshi Dandeli Tiger Reserve, which has around 35 tigers. Goa claimed that restricting water flow would impact the tiger prey base and ecosystem.

### Court Mandates and Legal Challenges

- The 2023 Bombay High Court ordered the State to declare the Mhadei sanctuary and connected regions as a tiger reserve as recommended by the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA). The Goa government filed a special leave petition (SLP) in the Supreme Court against this order, challenging the guidelines and practical feasibility.
- The SLP argued that NTCA rules require a tiger reserve to cover 800-1,000 sq. km, but Goa's sanctuaries only amount to 745 sq. km, making the required area declaration difficult.

### Tiger Population Data and Habitat Concerns

- Official NTCA surveys found only three tigers in Goa using camera trapping in 2018. There was "no evidence" of resident tigers, as these were likely migratory individuals from Maharashtra or Karnataka, not a growing population (no cubs or breeding detected).
- Goa claimed that the area slated for a reserve is densely populated by humans (100,000 individuals in 95 villages), meaning reserve creation would likely result in social and economic disruption or relocation issues.

### Ecological and Policy Implications

- The government contended that the protection area is primarily a corridor for tiger dispersal rather than a stable tiger habitat—suggesting transitory presence due to limited prey, and questioning the ecological value of declaring a reserve.
- Goa's stance also argued that designating the Mhadei area as a tiger reserve would not significantly contribute to conservation or protection, as tiger sightings are infrequent and no significant prey base exists.

### Supreme Court and Ongoing Proceedings

- The Supreme Court's Central Empowered Committee (CEC) has requested stakeholder hearings and a report, extending the timeline for submissions following Goa's request for more time.
- The NTCA has made repeated suggestions to notify the Mhadei Wildlife Sanctuary (WLS) and its buffer as a reserve, but official action has stalled for years.
- Recent petitions and activism continue to push for permanent protection, with conflicting legal, ecological, and administrative perspectives contributing to policy uncertainty in Goa.

## The race for investments

- Despite accusations from leaders in Karnataka and Tamil Nadu of a "race to the bottom," Andhra Pradesh remains a strong magnet for investors, as evidenced by commitments made at the CII Partnership Summit 2025. In this summit, Andhra Pradesh signed 613 MoUs with a committed investment total of ₹13.25 lakh crore.

### Accusations and Regional Rivalry

- Tamil Nadu and Karnataka ministers have criticized Andhra Pradesh and its Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu for using extremely low prices and heavy incentives to lure investments.
- The ministers claim that this aggressive competition and incentive-based approach might be economically and socially unsustainable in the long term.

### Major Investment Announcements

- Investment rivalry was amplified when Google chose Andhra Pradesh for a \$15 billion hyperscale AI data center project in Visakhapatnam, countering Karnataka's accusation that Google had chosen Andhra over Karnataka solely due to incentives.
- Other major investors mentioned include Karan Adani (Adani Ports & SEZ), G. Mallikarjuna Rao (GMR Group, airport development), and Mahindra Group (industrial park). These names indicate investor confidence in Andhra Pradesh's larger projects and potential for job creation.

### Policy Landscape and Incentive Debates

- Andhra Pradesh offers the LIFT Policy (Land Incentive For Tech Hubs), leasing land at just 99 paise per acre as a strategy to attract tech investments.
- Investment promotion is depicted as not just a routine government job but a dynamic balancing act: States need to create jobs, incentivize certain sectors, and address the limitations of land availability and sustainability while maintaining competition.
- Criticism is levelled at policies prioritizing incentives for quantity ("race to the bottom") rather than quality and balanced development.

### Outcomes and Challenges

- The State Industries Minister highlighted the need for investment to drive job creation and infrastructure, but cautioned that mass incentives can distort market realities and lead to unsustainable outcomes.
- Officials have been assigned responsibility for tracking the follow-through of MoUs, indicating greater accountability in Andhra Pradesh compared to the typical bureaucratic inertia seen in similar events elsewhere.
- Andhra Pradesh's investment approach is positioned as aggressive and focused, but faces criticism for ignoring longer-term socioeconomic effects while winning the "race for investments" against regional competitors.

## PRELIMS CORNER :

**1. The Matabari Tourism Circuit which aims to boost cultural, spiritual, and eco-tourism is to be set up in which state?**

- (a) Nagaland
- (b) Tripura
- (c) Assam
- (d) Sikkim

**2. Ramman is a festival celebrated annually in April during Baisakhi in which of the following states?**

- (a) Bihar
- (b) Uttar Pradesh
- (c) Uttarakhand
- (d) Assam

**3. Which one of the following gases is the primary cause of Ocean acidification?**

- (a) Methane
- (b) Carbon monoxide
- (c) Carbon dioxide
- (d) Sulphur dioxide

**4. Which is the only national park that protects endangered Nilgiri tahr?**

- (a) Periyar National Park
- (b) Eravikulam National Park
- (c) Kaziranga National Park
- (d) Gir National Park

**DETAILED ANSWER KEY IN THE CIVIL SERVICE CHRONICLE PAGE**

## **Why do infant deaths persist in tribal-dominated Melghat?**

- The Bombay High Court criticized the Maharashtra and Union governments for a casual approach to infant deaths in Melghat, Amravati—highlighting persistent malnutrition and lack of maternal healthcare in tribal communities.
- From June 2025, 65 infants between 0–6 months died due to malnutrition, and over 220 children fell into the Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) category, with half not receiving help.

### **Trends and Causes of Death**

- Despite three decades of intervention, fatalities in Melghat have fluctuated but remain disturbingly high; from April 2024–March 2025, 96 infant deaths were recorded, with 61 occurring in the first six months of 2025.
- Officials note deaths stem not only from malnutrition but also associated diseases (anemia, pneumonia, delayed health treatments, etc.)—malnutrition exacerbates vulnerability to other health issues.
- Maharashtra's Women and Child Welfare Ministry noted over 1.82 lakh malnourished children across the state as per the Poshan tracker; the state continues to perform poorly on child nutrition metrics, with a considerable percentage of children under five stunted or underweight.

### **Systemic and Peripheral Challenges**

- Difficulty accessing healthcare due to poor roads, lack of hospitals, electricity, and basic services hinders timely care and nutrition interventions for Melghat's tribal population.
- The Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) in Melghat remains high (16.5) compared to Maharashtra's overall IMR (15), with intergenerational malnutrition perpetuating the crisis.
- Inconsistent government support in food, electricity, and education services aggravates underlying socioeconomic constraints.

### **Expert Feedback and Solutions**

- Experts argue for a holistic approach—improved dietary diversity, healthcare, community involvement, and the strengthening of local health workforce (ASHAs, nutrition experts, etc.).
- Solutions include community-centered primary health, better civic infrastructure, regular mid-day meals, and enhanced maternal awareness for sustainable change.
- The problem is driven by malnutrition, disease, poor healthcare access, and persistent inadequacies in government support over decades.
- Peripheral issues like infrastructure gaps and inconsistent service provision compound the mortality problem; the eradication of malnutrition is infeasible without comprehensive, long-term interventions.

## Japanese delegation visits ISRO to review status of Chandrayaan-5/LuPEX mission

- A Japanese delegation visited ISRO and held meetings with senior leadership, including ISRO Chairman V. Narayanan, to review the ongoing status of Chandrayaan-5/LuPEX and explore possibilities for further collaboration.
- The Vice-Chair of Japan's Cabinet Committee on National Space Policy, Saku Tsuneta, participated in these discussions on November 21.

### Mission Overview and Objectives

- Chandrayaan-5/LuPEX is a joint Lunar Polar Exploration mission between ISRO and Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA).
- The mission targets the lunar south pole, aiming to study volatile materials, especially lunar water, in the Permanently Shadowed Region—an area considered vital for future lunar exploration.

### Technical and Collaborative Aspects

- ISRO is responsible for the lunar lander and some scientific instruments, while JAXA will launch the mission aboard H3-24L and provide the lunar rover.
- The project is expected to serve as a precursor for future ISRO lunar sample return missions and may contribute towards sending the first Indian to the moon by 2040.
- Expansion of Indo-Japanese Space Cooperation
- Discussions included possible cooperation in robotics for space stations, shared launches of scientific satellites, and support for joint research and private space firms from both nations.

### Future Implications and Significance

- The LuPEX mission underscores growing strategic and technical collaboration between India and Japan in space, and marks a step forward in India's ambitions for deeper lunar exploration and eventual crewed missions.
- Successful execution would strengthen both countries' roles in global space research and innovation.



## Navy gets 'silent hunter', 80% home-grown Mahe

- INS Mahe, India's first Mahe-class anti-submarine warfare shallow watercraft, was commissioned at the Naval Dockyard in Mumbai by Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi.
- The ship is over 80% indigenous, designed and built by Cochin Shipyard Limited, emphasizing the Navy's commitment to self-reliance and indigenous technology.

### Strategic Significance and Operational Role

- INS Mahe is part of a broader transformation and modernization in the Indian armed forces, highlighting joint operations across Army, Navy, and Air Force and stressing synergy as key to strategic strength.
- The ship is strategically important for near-sea dominance, coastal security grid enhancement, and safeguarding maritime interests along India's vast coastlines.

### Combat Capabilities

- Mahe-class vessels have stealth capabilities and advanced sensors, weapons, and communications; they are specifically designed for anti-submarine operations in shallow and coastal waters.
- These ships can detect, track, and neutralize sub-surface threats, improving sustained deployment in regional waters with technologically advanced control systems.

### Policy, National Security, and Transformation

- The commissioning marks a major step in integrating surface combatants, aviation, and submarines for round-the-clock vigilance of the nation's maritime domains.
- General Dwivedi emphasized that multi-domain operations and synergy across services are essential to national security, calling INS Mahe's induction a symbol of operational transformation and collaborative defense.

### Future Prospects and Statements

- INS Mahe leads a class of eight ships, forming the first line of coastal defense and reinforcing India's readiness against threats using domestically-developed technology.
- The event and official statements reflect India's increasing ability to field, design, and construct sophisticated platforms, reaffirming strategic self-sufficiency and technological advancement in naval warfare.
- The 78-meter-long vessel is the largest Indian naval warship powered by a diesel engine-waterjet propulsion system.
- This advanced propulsion system ensures superior manoeuvrability and a reduced acoustic signature, crucial in anti-submarine operations carried out in littoral waters.
- Its compact design and high agility make it ideal for operations in shallow waters where conventional destroyers and frigates face navigational constraints.
- These ships are equipped with one RBU-6000 anti-submarine rocket launcher and two sets of light-weight torpedo-tube launchers for launching anti-submarine torpedoes.

# Gavi, UNICEF ink deal to provide easy access to malaria vaccine

- Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, and UNICEF have signed a new deal to improve access to R21/Matrix-M malaria vaccines, making them significantly more affordable and accessible for children globally.
- This initiative aims to protect more children against malaria by expanding vaccination reach and lowering cost barriers.

## Financial and Logistical Details

- The deal is expected to save up to \$90 million over six years for Gavi and eligible countries, equating to over 30 million additional vaccine doses, which could enable nearly seven million more children to be fully vaccinated against malaria.
- Funding is managed through Gavi's advance payment strategy, leveraging the innovative International Finance Facility for Immunisation (IFFIm) mechanism.

## Pricing and Timeline

- The vaccine's price is set at approximately \$2.99 per dose, with the reduced price anticipated to become effective in about a year.
- Gavi supports the process through financial resources, procurement, logistics, and technical support to ensure integration with routine immunisation programs in target countries.

## Impact and Coverage

- To date, over 40 million doses of malaria vaccines have already been delivered via Gavi's malaria vaccination program.
- 24 African countries now have routine malaria vaccination, representing over 70% of the global malaria burden.
- UNICEF is recognized as the largest global vaccine buyer, providing almost three billion doses annually.

## Prequalified Vaccines

- The World Health Organization (WHO) has prequalified two malaria vaccines: R21/Matrix-M (developed by University of Oxford and Serum Institute of India) and RTS,S/AS01 (developed by GlaxoSmithKline and PATH, in partnership).
- R21/Matrix-M leverages adjuvant technology from Novavax and delivers strong protection, representing a major breakthrough in malaria prevention.

## GAVI the Vaccine Alliance

- It is an independent public-private partnership that was created in 2000 to improve access to new and underused vaccines for children living in the world's poorest countries.
- Based in Geneva, Switzerland, Gavi brings together public and private sectors with the shared goal of creating equal access to vaccines for children, wherever they live.

# India braces for disruption of air travel after Ethiopia's Hayli Gubbi volcano erupts

- India is anticipating disruption to air travel because of volcanic ash from the Hayli Gubbi volcano in Ethiopia, which erupted on Sunday.
- The ash plume is forecasted to drift towards mainland India, potentially affecting flight safety and operational schedules.

## DGCA Advisories and Airline Precautions

- The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has issued strict advisories, urging airlines to avoid affected altitudes and regions to safeguard against the risk posed by volcanic ash.
- Volcanic ash can severely damage aircraft by melting onto hot engine components, forming glass-like deposits that can harm engines and stick to turbines. Airlines are to report any impacts on engine performance or unusual cabin conditions.

## Impact on Airports and Operations

- Airports have been instructed to closely inspect runways for ash contamination and be ready to restrict or suspend operations if needed.
- Initial ash clouds were observed over Ethiopia and later detected while passing over Yemen and Oman, before entering Indian airspace through western Rajasthan.

## Expected Spread and Flight Risks

- Ash clouds moved northeast from western Rajasthan, crossing Delhi close to midnight, then spreading over Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Sikkim, and Arunachal Pradesh throughout the night.
- The widespread nature of the ash plume increases risk for aircraft in multiple regions, particularly due to its abrasive, glass-like particles harmful at high temperatures.

## Broader Implications

- The situation highlights the complex safety challenges posed by transboundary air pollution events, requiring close inter-agency coordination to monitor and mitigate risks to public safety and air travel continuity.
- Hayli Gubbi is a shield volcano located in the Afar Region of Ethiopia. It is the southernmost volcano of the Erta Ale Range. Until November 2025, there was no known record of any eruptions of this volcano within the past 12,000 years since the beginning of the Holocene era.



## Moss spores survive space exposure, testing life's bounds

- The study investigated if moss spores can survive harsh space conditions, including exposure to cosmic radiation, microgravity, and temperature extremes, in low Earth orbit.
- Moss spores were among the first plant organisms sent to the International Space Station (ISS) and remained exposed outside the ISS for about a year.

### Findings on Moss Spores' Survival

- Moss spores showed a surprising ability to survive outer space exposure, enduring conditions far more severe than on Earth. They withstood vacuum, intense solar and cosmic rays, temperature fluctuations, and DNA-breaking UV light.
- The spores maintained their viability after space travel, and germination tests on Earth confirmed their continued life functions.

### Implications for Life and Panspermia

- The study reinforced the concept that hardy life forms such as moss spores could potentially endure interplanetary travel, lending credibility to the panspermia theory—the idea that life could transfer between planets or beyond Earth via natural processes.
- The spores' resilience suggests that simple plant life could survive accidental journeys through space, such as on meteorites, or deliberate missions to test life's boundaries.

### Mechanisms of Survival

- Moss spores possess natural protection mechanisms: tough walls shielding inner cells, efficient DNA repair after radiation damage, and dormant states that allow them to withstand dehydration and extreme cold.
- Damage observed after space exposure was repairable, indicating highly evolved biological defenses that allow recovery under more favorable conditions.

### Broader Significance

- The experiment expands understanding of biological limits in extreme environments, opening possibilities for astrobiology, interplanetary agriculture, and future investigations into life's cosmic migration.
- The results suggest that such robust plant spores might survive and spread life beyond Earth, emphasizing the need for new planetary protection and astrobiology research.

## What does the SC's advisory opinion imply?

- The Supreme Court has provided an advisory opinion on a Presidential reference made under Article 143, negating much of a two-judge Bench ruling from April 2025 concerning timelines for Governors and the President to act on Bills passed by State legislatures.
- The reference was prompted by the State of Tamil Nadu vs Governor of Tamil Nadu case, which had outlined a three-month limit for constitutional action on Bills.

### Questions Raised

- The reference sought clarity on the permissible powers of courts to specify time limits for the Governor and the President to act on State Bills, and the possible extent of judicial review, especially regarding the exercise of Article 142 and "deemed assent" to Bills not signed by Governors.
- Four constitutional questions were raised around the interpretation of Articles 200 and 201, and the justiciability of executive actions at different stages of lawmaking.

### Supreme Court's Advisory Opinion

- The Supreme Court held that while Governors and Presidents do have constitutional obligations, the judicial imposition of rigid time limits on their decision-making may not always be warranted, as the Constitution prescribes only broad frameworks and not specifics.
- It underscored that Governors must act on the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers and not as discretionary agents except in narrowly-defined circumstances.
- The court cited prior cases (Shamsher Singh, Nabam Rebia) supporting this view, warning that too much discretion could undermine the authority and democratic mandate of elected State legislatures.

### Time Limits and Recommendations

- The court acknowledged recommendations (such as the Punchhi Commission, R.K. Singh case) for a six-month time frame to act on Bills, but did not endorse the judicially fixed three-month limit laid out in the earlier Tamil Nadu Bench judgment.
- The opinion viewed the earlier verdict as purposive and progressive but lacking a clear constitutional mandate for such prescriptive timelines.

### Implications and Way Forward

- The SC's opinion stresses that excessive gubernatorial discretion should not obstruct legislative intent or delay governance based on popular mandates.
- It advocates federal balance, urging Governors to act promptly on Bills and avoid unnecessary political delays, reinforcing principles of elected governance and constitutional norms.
- The ruling is expected to shape future debates and legislative functioning, aiming to curtail politicization and streamline lawmaking processes at the State level.

## Ukraine dismayed over amnesty without accountability in U.S.-led peace plan

- This discusses widespread dismay in Ukraine over a U.S.-led peace proposal that would offer amnesty for perpetrators of Russian atrocities, especially following the traumatic events in Bucha, Kyiv suburb.
- Mass graves and bullet-scarred churches symbolize ongoing grief, and survivors of war crimes see amnesty as a source of disillusionment rather than reconciliation.

### Accountability and Justice Demands

- Ukrainian clergy and survivors emphasize that justice is about accountability, not just identifying criminals; fears persist that broad amnesty could legitimize further violence and undermine confidence in future security.
- There is reluctance to accept peace without holding Russian perpetrators accountable, with families of victims expressing anger over the idea of forgiving war criminals without consequences.

### Details of Proposed Peace Plan

- The 28-point peace plan would require Ukraine to give up claims to territory currently controlled by Moscow, reduce its military, and relinquish NATO membership aspirations in exchange for security guarantees and reconstruction assistance.
- Many Ukrainians view the plan's trade-offs, including territorial loss and amnesty, as unacceptable, and feel it reflects Western political fatigue and desire for quick resolution.
- Ukrainian President Zelensky considers this moment one of the war's most difficult decisions and remains committed to securing guarantees while seeking international support.

### Broader Political and Social Responses

- European leaders insist that accountability must be included in any peace settlement to protect sovereignty and deter future war crimes.
- In Bucha and other war-affected areas, anger and distrust about amnesty without justice persist, influencing public opinion and shaping funeral and remembrance events.

### Uncertainty and Enduring Grief

- The funerals of servicemen and the remembrance of civilian losses reflect Ukrainian resistance and persistent skepticism about the durability of any future peace without accountability.
- Many expect the war to continue, with prevailing sentiments that only justice and sovereignty can ensure lasting stability for Ukraine.

## Southeast Asia's rivers, people at risk from toxic mines: study

- Over 2,400 mines—many illegal and unregulated—operate across mainland Southeast Asia, releasing toxic chemicals like cyanide and mercury into rivers such as the Mekong, Kok, Salween, and Irrawaddy.
- Satellite imagery identifies hundreds of alluvial mining sites, leach sites, and rare earth mining operations along major river basins, posing risks to water quality, agriculture, fisheries, and millions of people living downstream.

### Health and Environmental Impacts

- Chemical pollutants from mining (cyanide, mercury, ammonium sulfate, sodium cyanide) are used in gold and rare earth mining, severely contaminating water; toxins are linked to severe health risks, including heavy metals (dysprosium, terbium) and chronic diseases in affected communities.
- Toxic exposures threaten food safety, farm productivity, and drinking water, and have triggered warnings for farmers to avoid using polluted river water.
- National authorities are coordinating responses, but regulating cross-border pollution and protecting river communities remains a huge challenge.

### Economic and Geopolitical Dynamics

- Myanmar's rare earth sites are globally significant, feeding raw materials into China's manufacturing supply chains for electronics, EVs, and defense systems; China controls much of the downstream processing.
- Beijing's rare earth monopoly is powerful in global markets and leveraged in geopolitical disputes, making pollution issues harder to address via international cooperation.

### Community Response and Resistance

- Residents, especially in northern Thailand, are increasingly turning to groundwater and alternative water sources due to authorities warning them about surface water contamination linked to mining operations in Myanmar and upstream Thailand.
- Villagers have protested, calling for mine shutdowns and restoration of clean water, reflecting growing grass-roots activism against unchecked mining.

### Governance and Policy Challenges

- Weak local enforcement, cross-border pollution, and slow policy reforms mean mining continues to threaten river systems across multiple countries; technical fixes alone are not sufficient.
- Scientists emphasize the need for cross-national agreements and emergency monitoring to mitigate toxic exposures and protect both local communities and global food consumers.

# Prelims Corner: Explanations

## Q1. Ans b

To transform Tripura into a vibrant hub of cultural, spiritual and eco-tourism by connecting key heritage and nature sites across the state. The project forms part of the Prime Minister Modi's vision of transforming Northeast India into a vibrant global tourism hub. It is a 4-night, 5-day itinerary designed to showcase Tripura's rich cultural heritage, scenic landscapes, and spiritual landmarks. It includes: Agartala – the state capital and gateway to Tripura; Neer Mahal – a stunning lake palace blending Hindu and Mughal architecture; Sepahijala – known for its wildlife sanctuary and botanical gardens; Udaipur – home to the revered Tripura Sundari Temple (Matabari); Chabimura – famous for its rock carvings on steep hill faces; Dumboor Lake – a picturesque spot with islands and boating options.

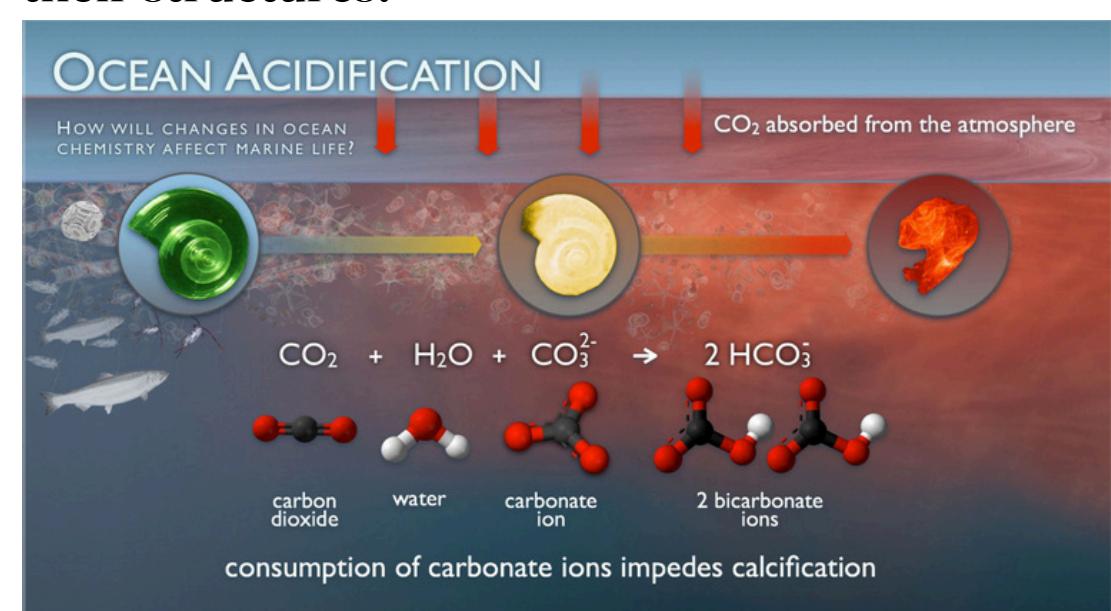


## Q2. Ans c

Ramman is a festival celebrated annually in April during Baisakhi at the twin villages of Saloor-Dungra in Uttarakhand's Chamoli. It is a unique blend of ritual, theatre, music, and dance, deeply rooted in the local traditions of the Garhwal Himalayas. Community - It is dedicated to the custodial god, Bhumiyal Devta, a local divinity whose temple houses most of the festivities. The festival involves theatrical performances of the Ramayana and local legends, in which people sing songs and wear masks while dancing. There are 18 different types of masks made of Bhojpatra, Himalayan birch, that performers wear during the event, represent different deities and mythological figures.

## Q3. Ans c

The primary cause of ocean acidification is carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>). When increased amounts of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere dissolve in seawater, it reacts with water to form carbonic acid, which lowers the ocean's pH, making it more acidic. Most of the increased CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere is due to burning fossil fuels for energy production and transportation. Ocean acidification can negatively affect many marine organisms, particularly those with calcium carbonate shells or skeletons, as it can make it difficult for them to build and maintain their structures.



## Q4. Ans b

Eravikulam National Park is the only national park that primarily protects the endangered Nilgiri tahr. It is home to the largest population of Nilgiri tahrs in the world. The park was established to protect the indigenous population of the Nilgiri tahr, which is an endangered mountain goat species. It is located in the Western Ghats of Kerala and is a critical stronghold for the species' conservation. The park was declared a sanctuary in 1975 and upgraded to a National Park in 1978, specifically with the objective of protecting the Nilgiri tahr population.

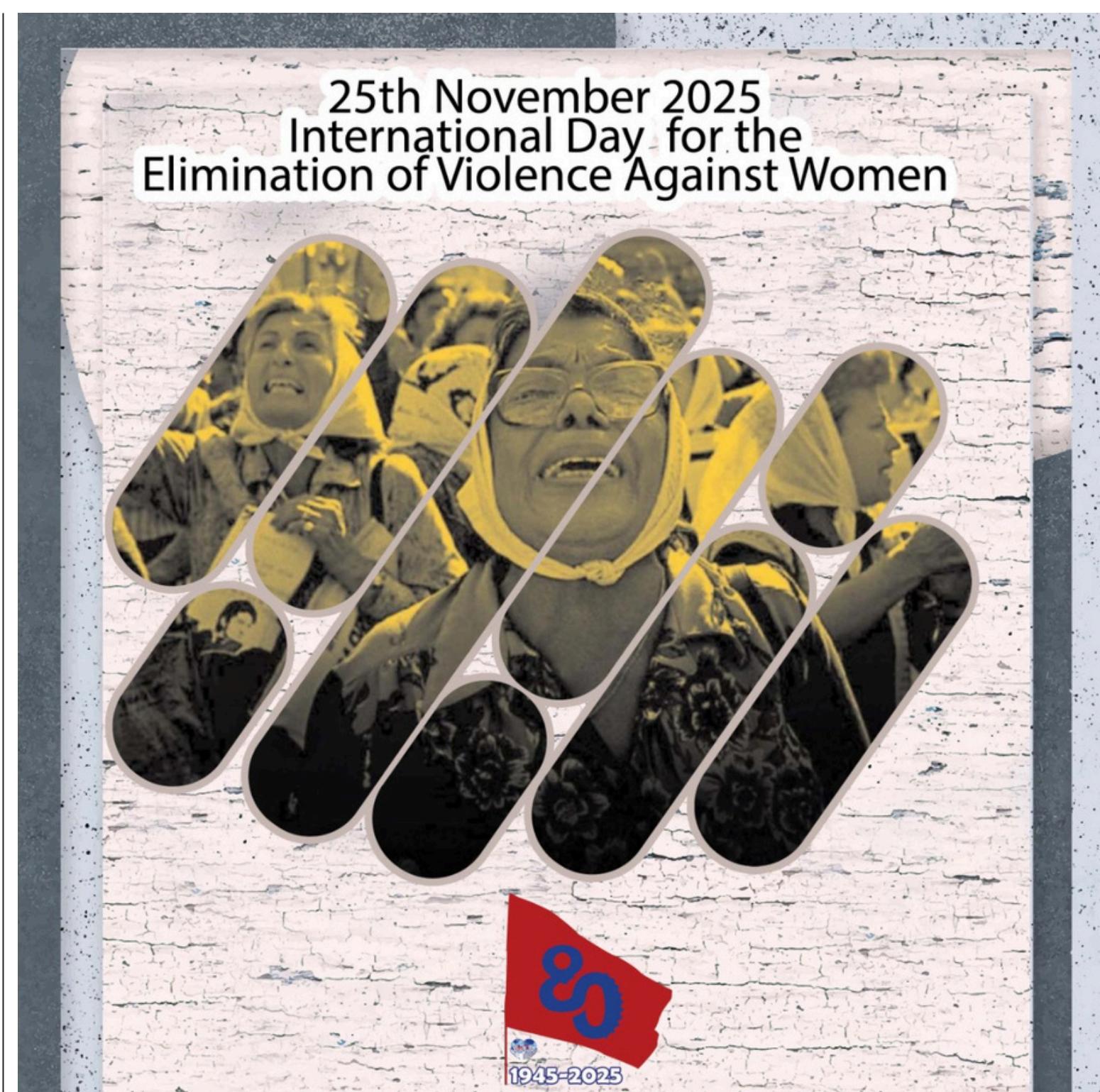


## Case Study:



### Rivers of salt: life on Bangladesh's climate frontline

On Bangladesh's coast, where mighty Himalayan rivers meet the sea, water defines every rhythm of life, and every struggle. Rising seas driven by climate change are swallowing low-lying areas, while stronger storms push saltwater further inland, turning wells and lakes brackish, according to government scientists. For the millions living in the ecologically sensitive deltas of mud flats and mangrove forests, finding clean drinking water has become an escalating challenge. Cyclone Aila in 2009 was a turning point. Embankments broke and saltwater swept inland, flooding not only homes, but seeping into once fertile land. The water that once sustained communities became undrinkable, and the land began to crack under layers of salt. The people of Khulna and Satkhira districts today live in a fragile balancing act between land and sea. Many families live in houses built on bamboo stilts to escape tidal floods. Children bathe in yellow, saline water and grow up in a landscape of constant change, where rivers erode their homes and schools, and displacement has become the norm. Men migrate for months seeking work. Women and children walk for hours across parched, cracked soil to fetch water from distant ponds, or harvest rainwater, and store it in tanks supplied by charities.



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- Selection: No Exam (Merit Based)
- Last Date: 24 December 2025

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RRC SER  
Apprentice  
Recruitment 2025

- Eligibility: 10th Pass + ITI
- Selection: Merit Based (No Exam)
- Last Date: 17 December 2025

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Vacancies  
1785

IB MTS  
Recruitment 2025

- Eligibility: 10th Pass
- Salary: Level-1 (₹18,000 – ₹56,900) + 20% SSA
- Last Date: 14 December 2025 (23:59 hrs)

No. of  
Vacancies  
362

ISRO SAC  
Apprentice  
Recruitment 2025

- Eligibility: 10th+ITI / Diploma / BE / B.Tech / Degree
- Stipend: ₹10,560 – ₹12,300 per month
- Last Date: 04 December 2025

No. of  
Vacancies  
Multiple



### RRB NTPC Graduate Level Recruitment 2025

CLICK HERE ➡ <https://www.cbse.gov.in>

### RRC Northern Railway Apprentice Recruitment 2025

CLICK HERE ➡ <https://bankofbaroda.bank.in>

### RRC SER Apprentice Recruitment 2025

CLICK HERE ➡ <https://govtjobsalert.org/RRB-NTPC-Graduate-Level-2025-Notification-In-English.pdf>

### ISRO SAC Apprentice Recruitment 2025

CLICK HERE ➡ <https://govtjobsalert.in/isro-sac-apprentice-recruitment-2025/>

### IB MTS Recruitment 2025 - ONLINE APPLICATIONS OUT

CLICK HERE ➡ <https://govtjobsalert.in/ib-mts-recruitment-2025/>

“My Best Friend is a person who will give me a book I have not read.”

— Abraham Lincoln

