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Kerala's plea to extend SIR enumeration 'just and fair', EC should look into it: SC

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From Honduras to Poland, Trump is meddling in elections

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## Govt. plan to 'pre-install' app triggers storm

**Q** There is no snooping or call monitoring... If you don't want the app, don't activate it. If you do want it on your phone, keep it. If you want to delete it, delete it

**JYOTIRADITYA SCINDIA**  
Union Communications Minister

**Q** ...[this] is yet another attempt by the BJP to strangulate the voice of the people... Unilateral directions to preload this app without taking into confidence various stakeholders is akin to dictatorship

**MALLIKARJUN KHARGE**  
Congress chief

**Q** The app has so far helped detect and disconnect about 1.75 crore fraudulent mobile connections, trace close to 26 lakh stolen/missing phones, and recover 7.5 lakh phones

**SAMBIT PATRA, BJP spokesperson**



The Union government's mandate on Monday for smart phone makers to pre-install the Sanchar Saathi app sparked backlash from the Opposition and from digital rights activists. Sanchar Saathi is an app that the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) launched initially as a web site in 2023 to allow users to flag fraudulent phone calls. Opposition questions unilateral decision, says it is an attempt to 'strangle the voice of people'.

The app also integrates other tools the DoT has launched in the past, such as a feature to check the "genuineness" of the International Mobile Equipment Identity (IMEI) number assigned to a device, and to block a stolen phone by barring telecom operators from working on a blacklisted IMEI. Mandating the Sanchar Saathi app to be installed, as the DoT did in an order to phone makers on Monday, would likely mean that users wouldn't be able to uninstall it, as is the case for private apps pre-installed on many smart phone brands' devices. Some worried about the potential for a pre-installed app like this to be used as a carrier for malware and spyware. Root access refers to privileged access in an operating system, which pre-installed apps usually have; such access allows apps to add to what they have access to without prompting users to accept additional permissions. Last week, the DoT ordered WhatsApp and other platforms like it to restrict users to devices containing the SIM card they used to register. That order also ordered WhatsApp web and similar secondary access mechanisms to be logged out every six hours.

### Strong Dissent



Protesters gather during a demonstration organised by Bulgaria's Opposition PP-DB coalition against the proposed financial framework of the country's Budget, outside Parliament, in Soa, Bulgaria, on Monday.



The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully carried out a high-speed rocket-sled test of an indigenous fighter aircraft escape system at controlled velocity on Tuesday. According to the Defence Ministry, the test was conducted at the Rail Track Rocket Sled facility of the Terminal Ballistics Research Laboratory in Chandigarh. The test validated canopy severance, ejection sequencing and complete aircrew recovery. The trial, conducted with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited and Aeronautical Development Agency, marks a big leap in India's escape-system testing.

## Kerala's plea to extend SIR enumeration 'just and fair', EC should look into it: SC

- Kerala is not challenging the legality of the SIR exercise; it is challenging the timing and seeking postponement/extension of the enumeration phase.
- The state argues that simultaneous conduct of SIR and local body elections to Local Self-Government Institutions (LSGIs) is practically impossible, and that the constitutional and statutory timelines for local body polls must take precedence.

### Constitutional and statutory arguments

- Kerala invokes Articles 243-E and 243-U (tenure and timely elections to panchayats and municipalities) along with provisions of state municipal and panchayat laws to argue that local elections must be completed before December 21, 2025.
- The contention is that diverting staff and administrative bandwidth to SIR during the same period risks non-compliance with these constitutional mandates and undermines democratic continuity at the local level.

### Administrative and human-resource concerns

- The state highlights "overwhelming pressure" on government employees who are already deployed for local body election work, including teachers and lower-level staff.
- It notes that around 1.76 lakh personnel are engaged in election-related duties, and simultaneously expecting them to handle SIR enumeration and digitisation is likely to cause administrative gridlock and errors.

### Political and representational context

- The petitions are not only by the state government but also by major political parties, including ruling and opposition formations, indicating cross-party concern about feasibility and fairness.
- Parties frame the issue as one of grassroots democratic participation, arguing that voters and party workers preoccupied with the polls may miss the SIR window, leading to disenfranchisement or incomplete rolls.

### Election Commission of India's stance

- The ECI opposes any deferment of the SIR, asserting that 99% of forms have been distributed and around half digitised, suggesting the exercise is well underway and manageable.
- It also argues that staff deployed for elections are formally exempted from SIR duties and that different personnel can handle the revision, implying there is no genuine administrative clash.

### Kerala State Election Commission's position

- The Kerala State Election Commission (SEC) tells the Court that SIR does not impede the conduct of local body polls, thereby aligning more with the ECI than with the state government and political parties.
- This creates an unusual institutional configuration: the body administering local polls sees no problem, while the state executive and parties claim serious practical difficulties.

## SC gives go-ahead to Kerala to allot prison land to BrahMos unit

- Supreme Court has permitted the Kerala government to reassign a large part of Nettukaltheri open prison land for a BrahMos missile manufacturing unit and related security-justice infrastructure. It frames this as a significant convergence of defence, internal security, and correctional policy considerations.

### Key judicial decision and rationale

- A Bench headed by Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta approved Kerala's proposal to divert 257 acres from the 457-acre Nettukaltheri open prison campus to non-prison uses, primarily BrahMos Aerospace Trivandrum Limited (BATL).
- The Court relied on an *amicus curiae* report which found the reallocation justified and accepted the state's contention that the prison's operational needs could be met with significantly less land than presently held.

### Details of land allocation

- Of the total open-prison campus, 180 acres are to be allotted to BATL for a second manufacturing unit for advanced missiles and strategic hardware.
- An additional 45 acres go to Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) for a battalion headquarters and 32 acres to set up a National Forensic Science University campus, leaving roughly 200 acres with the prison, which the bench considered more than sufficient.

### Defence and strategic implications

- BATL, operating under DRDO and linked to BrahMos Aerospace, will use the land to expand missile and strategic hardware production, reinforcing India's indigenous defence manufacturing capacity.
- The state argued, and the Court implicitly endorsed, that hosting such a facility in Thiruvananthapuram enhances national security while embedding Kerala more deeply in the country's strategic-industrial ecosystem.

### Impact on prison policy and land use

- The decision treats underutilised open-prison land as a resource that can support broader public-interest projects, provided core correctional functions are not impaired.
- Kerala's submissions that the prison effectively uses less than 100 acres, with remaining land mostly under plantations and leases, were crucial in persuading the Court that reallocation would not undermine inmates' welfare or open-prison objectives.

### Economic, security, and local-development angles

- The state projected that the BrahMos unit and SSB presence would bring high-quality jobs, skill development, and associated industrial activity, giving the region a defence-industrial hub status.
- The notes that past slices of the same campus have already been given to institutions like KICMA and the Dairy Development Department, so this judgment consolidates an ongoing trend of converting excess prison land into productive economic and public infrastructure.

## WHO backs use of GLP-1 drugs for weight loss

WHO has issued its first global guideline endorsing GLP-1 class drugs as an effective option for long-term treatment of obesity in adults, marking a major shift in global obesity policy. The article highlights both the promise of these drugs and the challenges of ensuring equitable, affordable access worldwide.

### Key elements of the new WHO guideline

- WHO recognises GLP-1 therapies (such as liraglutide, semaglutide, tirzepatide) as effective and likely to significantly impact global obesity and related health outcomes, but recommends them conditionally due to limited long-term data and system-readiness concerns.
- The guideline explicitly frames obesity as a chronic disease requiring lifelong, comprehensive care, and places GLP-1 drugs as one component within a broader package that includes healthy diet, physical activity and behavioural support.

### Medical and public health rationale

- Obesity already affects more than a billion people and is a major driver of non-communicable diseases such as cardiovascular disease, type 2 diabetes, and some cancers, as well as worse outcomes from infectious diseases.
- WHO projects the global economic cost of obesity to reach around 3 trillion dollars annually by 2030, so improving treatment options, including GLP-1s, is presented as both a health and economic imperative.

### Scope and limits of GLP-1 use

- The guideline allows GLP-1 therapies for adults with obesity, excluding pregnant women, for long-term treatment, emphasising that continuous use is often necessary to sustain weight loss and metabolic benefits.
- WHO stresses that stopping these drugs frequently leads to weight regain, so their use must be planned with realistic expectations, robust follow-up, and strong counselling that medicines alone are not a cure.

### Equity and access concerns

- WHO and external experts warn that high prices, supply constraints, and limited health-system capacity risk concentrating access to GLP-1 drugs among wealthy individuals and countries, widening existing health inequalities.
- To prevent this, WHO calls for policies such as tiered pricing, pooled procurement, generic development, and prioritisation frameworks so that those at highest medical need are reached first.

### Policy implications for countries

- Countries are urged to integrate GLP-1 drugs into wider obesity strategies that also tackle food environments, physical-activity promotion, and prevention-focused interventions, rather than treating them as a stand-alone “magic bullet”.
- National health systems will have to prepare for issues such as long-term financing, rational prescribing, monitoring of safety and misuse, and balancing investment in high-cost drugs with population-level prevention measures.

## Military presence in Lakshadweep to increase with new naval detachment

- India is set to significantly increase its military presence in Lakshadweep through a new naval detachment on Bitra island and parallel Air Force expansion on Agatti and Minicoy. The article links these moves to rising maritime threats, Chinese activity in the Indian Ocean, and piracy in the Arabian Sea, which together heighten the archipelago's strategic value.

### Key operational developments

- A new naval detachment on Bitra island is nearing completion, with manpower already positioned and full functionality expected in the near term.
- The Navy already has footprints in Minicoy and Agatti, and the Air Force is upgrading facilities on Agatti and planning a new air base on Minicoy, indicating a coordinated tri-service build-up over time.

### Strategic rationale and threat environment

- Lakshadweep lies close to arterial shipping lanes in the Arabian Sea, making it a natural forward outpost for monitoring sea lines of communication and securing trade flows.
- Increased shipping traffic, expanding Chinese presence in the Indian Ocean Region, and persistent Arabian Sea piracy are cited as key drivers for enhancing surveillance, deterrence, and rapid-response capabilities from these islands.

### Approach to infrastructure and environmental concerns

- Vice Admiral Sameer Saxena stresses that infrastructure development will be “measured” because Lakshadweep is a fragile ecosystem, signalling an official recognition that military build-up must be balanced with ecological sensitivity and local livelihoods.
- This careful framing aims to pre-empt criticism that militarisation will damage coral reefs and the island environment, presenting the expansion instead as calibrated strengthening of existing facilities rather than a sudden, large-scale transformation.

### Long-term capability vision

- In the coming years, the Air Force is considering operating long-range aircraft and heavy payload platforms from Lakshadweep, which would extend India's reach deep into the western Indian Ocean and improve responsiveness to contingencies such as piracy, narcotics trafficking, or hostile naval activity.
- Together with bases like INS Jatayu and INS Dweeprakshak, the new detachment at Bitra fits into a broader plan to turn Lakshadweep into a robust western seaboard security hub complementing the Andaman and Nicobar posture in the east.



## Only 20% of candidates accepted PM Internship Scheme offers: data

- The Prime Minister Internship Scheme (PMIS), announced in Union Budget 2024-25, aims to provide one crore internships over five years, targeting 1.25 lakh internships annually through about 500 companies.
- In the pilot phase, starting October 2024, companies posted over 1.27 lakh internship opportunities in round one and 1.18 lakh in round two via the scheme portal, indicating high company-side participation and availability of positions.

### Offers versus acceptances

- Across both rounds, companies made 1.65 lakh internship offers to candidates, but only 33,300 offers (about 20.2%) were accepted, meaning four out of five eligible candidates turned the offers down.
- In round one, 82,000 offers were made, but just 8,700 (10.6%) were accepted; in round two, 83,000 offers led to 24,600 acceptances (30%), showing some improvement but still a structurally low conversion rate.

### Attrition among those who joined

- Of the 33,300 candidates who accepted offers, 6,618 (about 19.9%) quit their internships before completing the 12-month term.
- The first round saw 4,565 candidates drop out and the second round 2,053, implying that more than half of the first-round joiners and a smaller but still notable share of second-round joiners exited early.

### Reasons for low acceptance and dropouts

- Feedback gathered by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs points to three main deterrents: distance/location of internships, the one-year duration, and mismatch between job roles and candidates' interests.
- Many candidates indicated an ideal commuting distance of only 5–10 km from their residence, found a 12-month internship longer than typical skilling programmes, and, in some cases, were simply not interested in the roles or sectors offered.

### Interpretation of "few takers" despite high demand

- The portal received large application volumes (over 6.2 lakh in the first round and 4.55 lakh in the second), showing strong initial interest in internships, but the sharp drop between applications, offers, acceptances, and completions reveals a severe funnel problem.
- The data suggests that students are aspirational and willing to apply, but when faced with specific constraints—relocation, low pay relative to cost, or role misfit—they prefer to forgo the opportunity, indicating a gap between policy assumptions and youth preferences.

### Fiscal utilisation and policy stakes

- The government initially budgeted about ₹840 crore for the pilot under a larger multi-year outlay, but has so far spent approximately ₹73.72 crore, reflecting under-utilisation of funds due to low actual participation.
- Since PMIS is positioned as a flagship skilling and employability intervention for one crore youth, persistent low take-up and high attrition risk undermining its credibility unless key features—location flexibility, duration, incentives to firms and interns—are redesigned.

## Russia wants to increase trade with India: Peskov

Russia is signalling that it wants not just to maintain but significantly expand trade and economic cooperation with India, while jointly resisting Western sanctions and political pressure.

### Target of \$100-billion trade and de-risking from sanctions

- Peskov says Moscow and New Delhi aim to raise bilateral trade to about \$100 billion in the next five years, a sharp increase from current levels of roughly \$60–65 billion, much of it driven by Russian energy exports.
- He argues that Western sanctions on Russia are "illegal" and have created hurdles for India–Russia trade, so both sides are working on arrangements that can keep trade growing despite external pressure.

### Narrative of "obstacles" and autonomy

- Peskov claims "some countries" are trying to place obstacles in the path of India–Russia trade, framing this as third-party interference that both Moscow and New Delhi should jointly resist.
- His rhetoric about sticking to "our own interests" and ensuring that India "shares this approach" is meant to portray the partnership as sovereign and insulated from Western political leverage, especially over oil and defence deals.

### Shift away from the U.S. dollar and payment issues

- He notes that the share of the U.S. dollar in global trade is declining and stresses the importance of conducting India–Russia trade in national currencies, so that settlements are not vulnerable to sanctions on Western financial infrastructure.
- At the same time, he acknowledges that the choice of payment mechanisms, and ways to handle issues like India's large trade deficit with Russia, will be a central topic during Putin's visit, implying that technical obstacles in rupee-ruble (or other) arrangements remain unresolved.

### Energy and nuclear cooperation as flagship pillars

- Peskov cites Kudankulam nuclear power plant as a success story of bilateral civil nuclear cooperation and signals that Russia wants to build on this record.
- He reveals that Rosatom chief Alexey Likhachev will accompany Putin with proposals for small modular reactors (SMRs), positioning Russia as a long-term partner in India's clean-energy transition and grid-flexible nuclear expansion.

### Response to Western corporate and policy pressure

- Peskov says some Western companies are deliberately slowing or curtailing transactions with Russia, while others are quietly continuing or expanding purchases, presenting sanctions compliance as fragmented and inconsistent.
- By highlighting that nearly the entire volume of India–Russia trade is already being settled in national currencies, he suggests that Moscow has adapted to the sanctions environment and that trade with India is now more politically insulated than before.

### Strategic messaging and implications for India

- Russia sees India both as a critical buyer of its energy and as a diversified market for Russian exports and technology, and is ready to adjust trade patterns (for example by buying more Indian goods) to make the relationship more balanced.
- For India, the messaging reinforces its role as an autonomous actor pursuing multi-vector ties: continuing deep energy and nuclear cooperation with Russia while navigating Western pressure, managing trade imbalance, and seeking payment systems that minimise exposure to sanctions risk.

**PRELIMS CORNER :**

**1.The term “Auramine” recently seen in news is?**

- (a) A dormant Volcano
- (b) Nuclear Submarine
- (c) Malware used in cyberattacks
- (d) A banned hazardous dye used as food additive

**2.According to the Fifth Schedule of the Constitution of India, the expression “Scheduled Areas” means such areas as declared by:**

- (a) President
- (b) Parliament
- (c) Governor of a state
- (d) State legislature

**3.Hayli Gubbi volcano recently seen in news located at?**

- (a) Ethiopia
- (b) Eritrea
- (c) Kenya
- (d) Tanzania

**4.The Changthang plateau of Ladakh region is known for the production of:**

- (a) Saffron
- (b) Pashmina Wool
- (c) Golden Silk
- (d) Wheat

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

## **Finland to hold road shows on circular economy in India**

- Finland plans to use a series of road shows across major Indian cities to promote the circular economy ahead of India hosting the World Circular Economy Forum (WCEF) in 2026. The initiative aims to link Finnish expertise with India's large circular-economy potential, especially in sectors beyond traditional waste management.

**Key objectives of the Finnish road shows**

- The road shows will raise awareness of circular economy concepts among Indian stakeholders, not just as waste management but across product design, production processes, and extending product lifespans.
- Different cities will spotlight different sectors (for example, textiles in Ahmedabad, IT in Bengaluru), signalling a tailored engagement strategy rather than a generic outreach.

**Link to WCEF 2026 and India's ambitions**

- India is confirmed to host WCEF 2026, with Sitra (Finland's Innovation Fund) and Indian agencies partnering, making the road shows a lead-up to a major global convening on circularity.
- For India, this dovetails with its stated goal of positioning itself as a global hub for circular solutions, aligning national initiatives (such as Circular Economy Action Plans for multiple waste streams) with international networks.

**Economic potential and job creation**

- This highlights Indian government's estimates that a circular economy could generate a market value of over 2 trillion dollars and around 10 million jobs by 2050, underscoring the scale of opportunity.
- At the global level, UNDP-linked assessments cited by Finnish experts suggest that a shift to circular models could unlock about 4.5 trillion dollars in economic benefits by 2030, cut emissions, and open green markets, situating India's ambitions within a broader macroeconomic story.

**Broadening India's current focus**

- Present Indian policy is still heavily oriented toward waste management and recycling; the Finnish side argues that real value lies “upstream” in designing products and business models for reuse, repair, and longer lifecycles.
- By stressing that circular opportunities exist “everywhere” and that many CEOs already see business potential in circularity, the article frames the transition as an industrial strategy and competitiveness issue, not only an environmental one.

**Strategic significance of Finland–India collaboration**

- Finland, through Sitra and WCEF, has positioned itself as a global thought leader on circular economy; partnering with India allows it to scale solutions in a large emerging market and co-develop standards, technologies, and financing models.
- For India, collaboration with Finland offers access to advanced circular technologies, policy know-how, and international visibility, helping translate domestic targets on jobs, emissions, and resource efficiency into investable projects and stronger global standing in sustainability forums.

## From Honduras to Poland, Trump is meddling in elections

U.S. political intervention abroad has entered a new phase under President Donald Trump, who is openly trying to sway foreign voters toward his preferred right-wing allies rather than relying on covert statecraft.

**Historical backdrop and what is new**

- Political scientist Dov Levin's research is cited to show that the U.S. has intervened in foreign elections more than 80 times since the end of the Second World War, more than any other country, with Russia/Soviet Union coming a distant second.
- What distinguishes Trump is not the fact of interference but the style: instead of covert CIA operations or discreet funding, he and his team publicly endorse candidates, attack opponents, and even threaten economic or military consequences via speeches and social media.

**Open endorsements and pressure in Latin America**

- In Honduras, Trump used his social media platform to endorse a right-wing presidential candidate as a "friend of freedom" and signal future cooperation, intervening directly in a tightly fought contest.
- In Argentina, he promised a hypothetical 20-billion-dollar bailout to stabilise the economy but warned that support would evaporate if voters did not back President Javier Milei's coalition in mid-term elections, effectively tying economic lifelines to electoral choices.
- In Venezuela, where no elections are currently at stake, Trump has floated the idea of U.S. military action to remove President Nicolás Maduro, illustrating how the administration mixes rhetorical interference with threats of hard power.

**Extension of tactics to Europe**

- In Poland, a senior Trump ally publicly backed a conservative presidential candidate who later won, while in Romania, support for a far-right figure failed after a contentious annulment of an earlier vote, showing that these interventions are opportunistic but not always effective.
- Trump and his team have also praised or defended prominent European right-wingers such as Britain's Nigel Farage, Germany's Alternative für Deutschland, France's Marine Le Pen, and Hungary's Viktor Orbán, normalising overt partisan signalling in European politics.

**Retreat from democracy promotion and diplomatic norms**

- Trump administration pulled back long-standing U.S. efforts to comment on the fairness of foreign elections, instructing embassies to downplay democracy concerns, which aligns with a broader shift from values-based diplomacy to transactional backing of ideological allies.
- Analysts argue that this mirrors Trump's domestic stance: his refusal to accept the 2020 U.S. election result and subsequent legal troubles over alleged election subversion reinforce a political style that delegitimises opponents at home and abroad.



## Why is there no peace in Ukraine?

Ukraine remains elusive because both the military situation and the main political "peace plans" on offer would require Kyiv to accept terms that look like defeat, while Moscow still believes time and the battlefield favour it. It highlights how an earlier, more balanced Istanbul track and the new 28-point Trump plan both revolve around limiting Ukraine's sovereignty, especially on territory and NATO, making any ceasefire politically toxic for President Zelenskyy.

- Soon after the February 2022 invasion, Turkey brokered negotiations in Antalya and Istanbul where Ukraine signalled readiness for neutrality and security guarantees in exchange for Russian withdrawal, but Russia's draft demanded drastic limits on Ukraine's forces and recognition of Moscow's control over parts of Donbas, amounting to effective capitulation.
- Western capitals and Kyiv also doubted Russia's credibility, given its history of violating earlier agreements, while battlefield dynamics were fluid, so Ukraine preferred to keep fighting rather than lock in harsh terms that might become unnecessary if its counter-offensives succeeded.

**Trump's 28-point plan and why it is controversial**

- The Trump administration's new 28-point peace proposal would recognise Crimea, Luhansk and Donetsk as de facto Russian, freeze the front line in Kherson and Zaporizhzhia, cap Ukraine's military at around 600,000 troops, bar NATO membership, and gradually lift sanctions on Russia.
- The plan offers vague "security guarantees" to Ukraine but ties them to good behaviour clauses and a threat that Western military aid will be cut if Kyiv refuses, which critics see as using U.S. leverage to push Ukraine into accepting territorial losses and a downgraded security status.

**Why Zelenskyy faces a no-win dilemma**

- Militarily, Ukraine is under strain after failed or limited offensives, shortages of ammunition and air defence, and steady Russian gains in the east; yet politically, any deal that recognises Russian gains or blocks NATO membership would be seen domestically as betrayal and could topple Zelenskyy.
- Western support is increasingly conditional and fragmented: some European states want a ceasefire to contain costs, while hawks in the U.S. and Eastern Europe oppose a deal that rewards Russian aggression, leaving Kyiv caught between allies' conflicting preferences and its own red lines.

**Moscow's incentives to keep fighting**

- Russia currently occupies about one-fifth of Ukrainian territory and has adapted its economy to a long war; its leadership believes that continued attrition, combined with Western fatigue, will eventually force Ukraine to accept something close to Moscow's original demands.
- The Kremlin publicly signals openness to talks "based on 2022 Istanbul terms" or the Trump plan, but these frameworks essentially lock in Russia's territorial gains and limit Ukraine's future alliances, so from Moscow's perspective time and negotiations both can consolidate its advantages.

**Structural obstacles to a durable settlement**

- Any sustainable peace would need to reconcile three incompatible objectives: Ukraine's demand for full territorial integrity and strong security guarantees, Russia's insistence on recognised control over at least some occupied regions and a NATO-free Ukraine, and Western states' desire to both deter aggression and avoid open-ended escalation.
- Because current proposals tilt clearly towards Russian preferences on territory and alliances, while the battlefield offers no decisive victory to either side, the article concludes that Ukraine is trapped in a "war it cannot win, a peace it cannot accept," making a prolonged, grinding conflict more likely than a genuine peace in the near term.

# Prelims Corner: Explanations

## Q1. Ans d

**Auramine O** – It is a synthetic yellow dye, produced from compounds such as dimethylaniline and formaldehyde. The dye appears as yellow flakes or powder and dissolves easily when mixed with solvents. Used in – Industry, including textile and leather processing, printing inks, paper manufacturing, etc. Banned for food use – It is bright in colour, easily available and low-cost, yet remains unapproved for use as a food additive. International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) – classifies auramine as a substance that is possibly carcinogenic to humans. Commonly found in – Sweets, turmeric powder, and street food snacks, gives a bright yellow hue that looks more appealing to consumers.

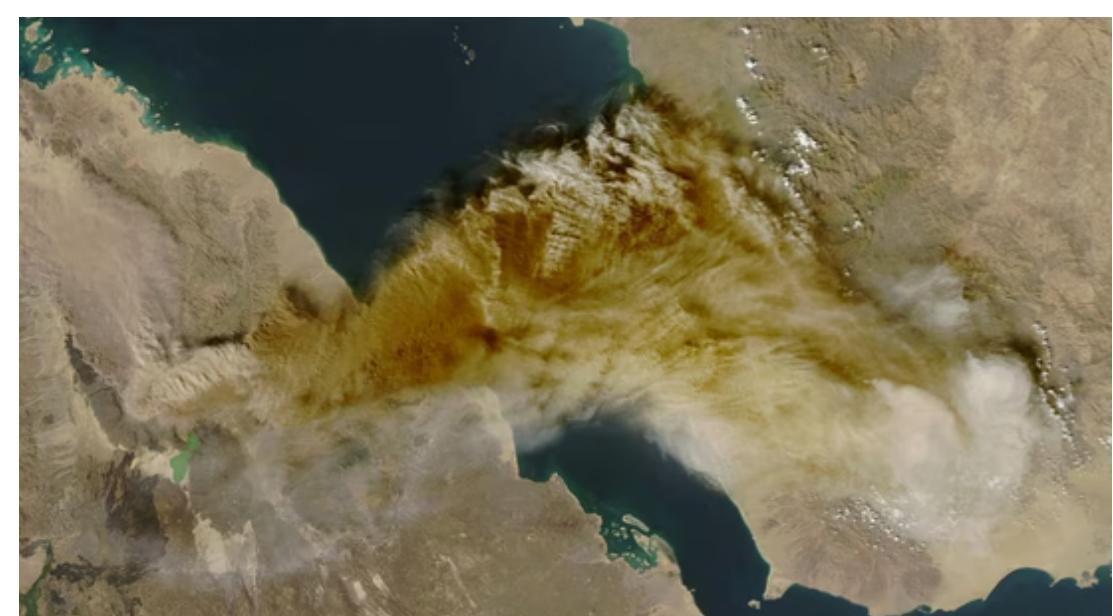


## Q2. Ans a

Article 244 in Part X of the Constitution of India envisages a special system of administration for certain areas designated as 'Scheduled Areas' and 'Tribal Areas'. In the Constitution of India, the expression "Scheduled Areas" means such areas as the President may by order declare to be Scheduled Areas. The President is empowered to declare an area to be a scheduled area. He can also increase or decrease its area, alter its boundary lines, rescind such designation or make fresh orders for such re designation on an area in consultation with the Governor of the State concerned. Recently, the Supreme Court has held that Parliamentary or State law wouldn't apply to Scheduled Areas only if the Governor notifies so.

## Q3. Ans a

**Ethiopia's Hayli Gubbi volcano** , dormant for over 12,000 years, erupted, sending a massive ash cloud across the Red Sea and South Asia. The thick ash cloud reached India, resulting in the diversion of several flights. **Type and Location:** Hayli Gubbi is a shield volcano in Afar, Ethiopia, part of the Erta Ale Range. Situated at the edge of the East African Rift, where the African and Arabian plates are slowly diverging. Shield volcanoes are broad, gently sloping, formed by thin, fluid lava flows. Eruptions are usually less explosive, with lava spreading wide like a warrior's shield.



## Q4. Ans b

**The Changthang plateau** of the Ladakh region is primarily known for the production of Pashmina wool. This fine cashmere wool is sourced from the undercoat of a specific breed of goat known as the Changthangi or Changra goat, which is native to the high-altitude region. The local nomadic community, the Changpa tribe, are semi-nomadic pastoralists who have herded these goats, along with sheep and yaks, for centuries. Their livelihood and the regional economy are largely dependent on the trade of this world-class fiber.



## Case Study:



Indonesia's floods were made worse by loss of forests

The deadly flooding that has killed hundreds in Indonesia was largely the result of monsoon rains and a rare tropical storm. But something else may have played a role: deforestation. Environmentalists, experts and even Indonesia's government have pointed to the role forest loss played in flash flooding and landslides that washed torrents of mud into villages and stranded residents on roofs. Indonesia is regularly among the countries in the world with the largest annual forest loss. Mining, plantations and fires have caused the clearance of large tracts of the country's lush rainforest over recent decades. In 2024, over 240,000 hectares of primary forest was lost, and that was less than the year before, according to conservation start-up The Tree Map's Nusantara Atlas project. Indonesia's forests are also home to enormous biodiversity and some of the world's most threatened species, including orangutans. And in the wake of the flooding, even the country's president urged action. "We must truly prevent deforestation and forest destruction," President Prabowo Subianto said on Friday. The floods carried not only collapsed hillsides and torrents of mud, but also timber that fuelled speculation about the link between deforestation and the disaster.

**Annually celebrated on December 3, with the global observance being first celebrated annually in 1992, following its proclamation by the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 47/3. In 2006, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) was adopted. It seeks to provide equality of opportunity for people with disabilities by implementing the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.**



International  
Day of  
Persons with  
Disabilities

3 DECEMBER



**The Argentine footballer will be in India as part of what's being promoted as GOAT Tour 2025, a privately organised event. Mr. Messi last came to India in 2011 to captain Argentina in a friendly match against Venezuela at the Salt Lake City stadium, the same venue for the upcoming event that will include a celebrity match. With Lionel Messi set to land on December 13, the promoters of the GOAT Tour are inspecting the different venues.**

JOB ALERTS #94  
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- Stipend Rs.30,000 - Rs. 45,000 (Per Month)
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No. of  
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### WBSEDCL Recruitment 2025

- Eligibility: Diploma (Electrical) / Graduate + MBA/CA
- Salary: Level-6 & Level-8 (Up to ₹1.6 Lakh)
- Last Date: 29 December 2025

No. of  
Vacancies  
447

### Kerala Police Recruitment 2025

- Eligibility : Higher Secondary Examination or its equivalent
- Salary: Rs.31,100-Rs 66,800
- Last Date: 03.12.2025

No. of  
Vacancies  
108

### JKSSB SI (Telecommunication) Recruitment 2025

- Eligibility: B.E. / B.Tech
- Salary: Level-6C (₹35,700 - ₹1,13,100)
- Last Date: 13 January 2026

No. of  
Vacancies  
83

### GSSSB Royalty Inspector Recruitment 2025

- Eligibility: PG in Geology OR B.E. Mining
- Salary: ₹49,600 (Fixed for 5 Years)
- Last Date: 09 December 2025

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Vacancies  
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More details

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Success is the sum of small efforts,  
repeated day in and day out.

Robert Collier