Ports gear up to haul more cargo after a good year

India's port sector has come out of FY2025 with solid cargo growth and is now positioned for another year of expansion, supported by policy reforms, infrastructure investment, and the country's strategic maritime location. Overall cargo volumes at Indian ports grew about 3.3% year-on-year in FY2025 indicating steady growth. Recent policy and investment support have been directed at strengthening India's position in global trade routes.

Petroleum, oil and lubricants (POL) – including crude, LNG and LPG – form the single largest cargo category with around 28% share, followed by coal at roughly 24% and containers at about 21.5%, while the remaining 27% is iron ore, fertilisers and other cargo. Container volumes surged by about 11% and POL by 3%, offsetting weakness in coal and iron ore, showing that growth is being driven more by higher-value containerised trade and energy imports than by bulk raw materials. FY2025 saw passage of five major maritime Bills – Bills of Lading, Carriage of Goods by Sea, Coastal Shipping, Merchant Shipping and Indian Ports – that collectively modernise legacy shipping and port laws. These reforms aim to boost operational efficiency by simplifying documentation, easing compliance, and providing a clearer regulatory framework for shipping services and port operations. The government is also working to give pre-November 2021 private terminals freedom to set market-based tariffs, creating a level playing field with newer public–private partnership terminals that already enjoy tariff flexibility. India's location astride major East–West sea lanes is highlighted as a natural advantage, enabling the country to function as a trans-shipment and logistics hub for cargo flows between Europe, Africa and Asia. A growing domestic market is providing stable demand for port and shipping services, while relatively lower port-handling charges than some competitors offer a cost advantage for ship calls and cargo routing via India.

The Indian Army's Engineer Task Force works with the Sri Lankan Army and the Sri Lankan Road Development Authority during Operation Sagar Bandhu in Sri Lanka, as widespread flooding, landslides and infrastructure collapse have severely strained the island nation.

As Prime Minister Narendra Modi goes on a three-country tour beginning Monday to Jordan, Ethiopia and Oman, a free-trade pact with Oman, strengthening business and political ties with Jordan, and preparations for an India–Africa Forum summit with Ethiopia are expected to be part of the agenda. This will be PM Modi's first full-fledged bilateral visit to Jordan which coincides with the 75th year of establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Jordan.

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THE PALA CIVIL TIMES

STATE

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Goa tightens noose on illegal establishments ahead of festive rush

- Goa government has launched an intensive drive against illegal or non-compliant nightlife establishments ahead of the Christmas–New Year tourist season, signalling a tightening of regulatory oversight over the coastal State's party economy.
- This crackdown is a direct response to a recent deadly fire at the Birch by Romeo Lane nightclub in Arpora, North Goa, on December 6, which killed 25 people; the political and administrative system is reacting to public outrage and safety concerns by aggressively enforcing norms.
- A multi-agency team comprising district administration, fire and emergency services, and police personnel has been tasked with inspecting all nightclubs in the North Goa tourism belt, indicating a coordinated approach rather than piecemeal checks by individual departments.
- Officials state that they are verifying licences, permissions, and structural safety, and any club found violating norms will be sealed, which shows a shift from tolerance of informal operations to a zero-tolerance, compliance-driven stance.
- The inspection team has already sealed two prominent clubs—Goya Club and Café CO2 Goa— both located at Vagator, a key nightlife hotspot, signalling that enforcement is targeting high-profile venues and not just small operators.
- Café CO2 Goa is specifically mentioned as being situated on a cliff overlooking the Arabian Sea, underscoring the additional safety risks of poorly regulated structures in ecologically and physically fragile locations.
- Officials note that Goya Club was built on agricultural land and Café CO2 Goa lacked a mandatory No-Objection Certificate (NOC) from the Fire and Emergency Services and adequate structural stability, highlighting classic patterns of land-use violations, change-of-use without conversion, and evasion of safety clearances in Goa's tourism sector.
- The Fire and Emergency Services Department has also moved to revoke the NOC granted to Diaz Pool Club and Bar at Anjuna in North Goa, suggesting that even previously cleared venues are being re-evaluated and penalised if found wanting, which can have a chilling effect on operators who assumed earlier clearances insulated them from fresh scrutiny.
- This notes that the inspection team has the power to seal nightclubs immediately upon detecting violations, indicating an emphasis on swift, preventive action rather than protracted legal proceedings that could allow risky establishments to keep operating during the peak festive rush.
- Politically and administratively, the drive reflects the State's attempt to balance Goa's reputation as a liberal nightlife destination with heightened public expectations of safety and rule of law after the fire tragedy, and it may trigger longer-term reforms in licensing, land-use regulation, and fire safety norms for hospitality and entertainment venues.

India's UNESCO Ambassador reviews conservation works at Ramappa Temple

- India's Ambassador and Permanent Representative to UNESCO in Paris, Vishal V. Sharma, visited the Rudreshwara (Ramappa) Temple in Palampet village of Mulugu district, Telangana, to review ongoing preservation and conservation work at this UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) and the Telangana government are jointly responsible for these efforts, and the Ambassador's visit signals both international attention and central oversight of how a recently inscribed World Heritage property is being managed on the ground.
- He also recently chaired the 20th session of the Intergovernmental Committee for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage at the Red Fort in Delhi, where "Deepavali" was inscribed on UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage list, illustrating India's simultaneous push on both tangible and intangible heritage fronts.
- An inscription in the temple dates it to the year 1213 and says it was built by a Kakatiya General Recherla Rudra Reddy, during the period of the Kakatiya ruler Ganapati Deva.
- "Ramappa is the main Shiva temple in a larger walled temple complex, which includes several smaller temples and structures. The temple stands as a testimony to the highest level of creative, artistic and engineering talents involving various experimentations in expressive art forms of the Kakatiya period (1123–1323)."
- It is built of sandstone with decorated beams and pillars of carved granite and dolerite, with a distinctive Vimana (inner sanctum) made of lightweight porous bricks, also known as the "floating bricks". The sculptures of the Ramappa Temple, especially its bracket figures, have their lustre intact even after 800 years of construction.
- Symbolically, this underscores the importance India attaches to Ramappa Temple as both a national icon of Kakatiya-era temple architecture and a showcase of India's credibility as a steward of global heritage.

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NATIONAL

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CII proposes reforms to spur investment-led growth in upcoming Union Budget

- Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) has presented a broad reform wishlist for the Union Budget 2026-27 aimed at sustaining investment-led growth across public, private and foreign investors, and at preserving India's position as one of the fastest-growing major economies.
- CII's framing is that the upcoming Budget must simultaneously act as a stabiliser (by preserving fiscal and macroeconomic stability) and as a growth enabler (by catalysing new investment), which it calls "one of the most critical components" of the policy agenda.
- On the public investment side, CII recommends increasing central government capital expenditure by 12% and raising capital support to States by 10% in FY27, signalling that industry wants the government to continue the post-pandemic strategy of capex-driven growth rather than pivoting quickly to fiscal consolidation.
- It also proposes launching a ₹150-lakh-crore National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP) 2.0 for 2026-32, suggesting that the first NIP has created a template and that a second phase can lock in a multi-year pipeline of projects to crowd in private capital.
- To incentivise private corporate investment, CII suggests incremental tax credits or compliance relaxations for firms that achieve significant new investment or production, thereby using the tax system to reward expansion rather than merely providing across-the-board rate cuts.
- It further proposes reinstating accelerated depreciation benefits to encourage fresh capital expenditure and technology upgrades, especially for MSMEs and manufacturing units, on the condition that the design does not trigger higher Minimum Alternate Tax (MAT) liabilities, which have previously blunted such incentives.
- On the financial-sector and external-investment front, CII calls for creation of an NRI Investment Promotion Fund to tap diaspora savings into productive domestic assets, reflecting the view that overseas Indians remain an under-leveraged source of long-term capital.
- It also advises strengthening the National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) by setting up a Sovereign Investment Strategy Council (SIFC) to more closely align sovereign and quasi-sovereign investments with national priorities, emulating models seen in some Gulf economies.
- CII emphasises that fiscal stability should be reinforced through a "cycle-based" public-debt framework instead of rigid annual deficit targets, which would allow more counter-cyclical spending in downturns while committing to consolidation over the economic cycle.
- At the same time, it cautions that bolstering public capex remains vital and points out that government capital spending has been central to India's post-pandemic recovery, implying that premature retrenchment could undercut the very investment-led growth the Budget is expected to deliver.

Indian Navy to commission second MH-60R helicopter squadron in Goa

- Indian Navy will commission its second MH-60R Seahawk helicopter squadron, INAS 335 (Ospreys), on December 17 at INS Hansa in Goa, with the Chief of Naval Staff, Admiral Dinesh K. Tripathi, presiding over the ceremony.
- This marks a notable milestone in the Navy's ongoing modernisation and capability-enhancement drive, coming after the first MH-60R squadron was commissioned at Kochi in March of the previous year, signalling a steady roll-out of this new aviation asset.
- The MH-60R is described as a versatile, multi-role platform equipped with advanced weapons, sensors and a state-of-the-art avionics suite, allowing it to tackle both conventional and asymmetric threats at sea.
- The helicopters have already been fully integrated into fleet operations, and the Navy assesses that they have demonstrated high operational effectiveness on several occasions, indicating successful induction and doctrinal adaptation.
- By commissioning INAS 335, the Navy aims to provide a major boost to its integral aviation capabilities, significantly enhancing operational readiness in the Arabian Sea and wider Indian Ocean.
- This emphasises that the MH-60R will strengthen India's "blue-water" power projection by extending the Navy's operational reach, enabling sustained naval operations and more effective anti-submarine warfare, surveillance and search-and-rescue missions.
- Operationally, deployment of these Seahawks in the Indian Ocean Region will reinforce the Navy's maritime presence and deterrence posture, particularly against under-sea and surface threats in key sea lanes.
- Strategically, the step reflects India's continued investment in high-end naval aviation to support carrier battle groups and frontline surface combatants, aligning with broader efforts to counter regional naval competition and secure critical sea lines of communication.
- Indigenous design and manufacture allow platforms to be customised for India's specific maritime theatre in the Indian Ocean Region, including long-range deployments, monsoon conditions and diverse missions from high-end warfighting to humanitarian assistance.
- Naval indigenisation creates a long-term demand pipeline for Indian shipyards, MSMEs and start-ups in areas like metallurgy, marine engineering, electronics, software and unmanned systems, generating high-skill jobs and fostering innovation clusters.

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Bill for overhaul of higher education regulatory framework likely soon

- The Union government plans a major overhaul of the higher-education regulatory architecture through the Viksit Bharat Shiksha Adhishthan Bill, 2025, expected to be introduced in the Winter Session of Parliament.
- The central move is to create a new 12-member umbrella body, the Viksit Bharat Shiksha Adhishthan (VBSA), under which three separate councils for regulation (viniyaman), accreditation (gunvatta), and standards (manak) will function, effectively replacing existing apex regulators.
- The Bill seeks to subsume the University Grants Commission, the All India Council for Technical Education, and the National Council for Teachers' Education, consolidating their powers into the VBSA and its councils.
- It also proposes that disbursal of grants currently handled by the UGC will henceforth be done through mechanisms designed by the Ministry of Education, centralising financial control in the executive rather than an autonomous regulator.
- The Statement of Objects and Reasons links the Bill to the National Education Policy 2020, arguing that the new structure will help universities and other institutions achieve excellence in teaching, research and innovation through better coordination and standard-setting.
- The VBSA's three councils—Viksit Bharat Viniyaman Parishad (regulatory), Viksit Bharat Gunvatta Parishad (accreditation), and Viksit Bharat Manak Parishad (standards)—can each have up to 14 members, and together are meant to rationalise overlapping mandates that currently cause delays and inconsistencies.
- The new framework will apply to all Central and State universities, colleges, and higher-education institutions, including those offering technical education, teacher education, architecture, "institutions of national importance" and "institutes of eminence".
- However, professional programmes in medicine, dentistry, law, pharmacology, nursing and veterinary sciences are kept outside its ambit, presumably because they are governed by separate sectoral councils like NMC or BCI, which raises questions about continued fragmentation.
- On accreditation, the Bill asks the Accreditation Council to develop an "outcome-based institutional accreditation framework" rather than input-based norms, aligning with NEP's emphasis on quality and learning outcomes.
- For foreign universities, it mandates the Regulatory Council to frame standards for Centre-approved foreign institutions to set up campuses in India, facilitate "high-performing universities" to enter, and evolve a "coherent policy to prevent commercialisation of higher education", reflecting both openness to foreign players and anxiety over profit-driven models.
- Structurally, the shift from multiple legacy regulators to a single VBSA with differentiated councils could reduce duplication and make governance more transparent, but it also concentrates power in a new central body and the Education Ministry, raising concerns over institutional autonomy and politicisation.

'Early gestational diabetes affects about one in five pregnant women'

- The findings from the STRiDE study, conducted at seven antenatal clinics and involving over 3,000 women, which show that early gestational diabetes mellitus (GDM) affects about one in five pregnant women in the sample—around 21.5%—and that this early-onset group faces a distinctly higher lifetime risk of diabetes compared with women who develop GDM later in pregnancy.
- The results, published in the journal Diabetes Research and Clinical Practice, highlight that both early and late GDM rates are rising, but the burden of early GDM is particularly worrying for India, already known to have a diabetes prevalence three to four times that of many Western countries.
- Among 2,700-plus pregnant women attending clinics in Chennai, Hyderabad and Puducherry, the study classified women as having early GDM if their fasting blood sugar lay between 92–125 mg/dl and late GDM if the reading was under 92 mg/dl at first but crossed diagnostic thresholds when re-tested later.
- GDM is described as glucose intolerance first detected during pregnancy, affecting about 14% of pregnancies worldwide; it is typically diagnosed between 24–28 weeks as late GDM, while diagnosis before 20 weeks is termed early GDM, suggesting a continuum between undiagnosed pre-existing diabetes and pregnancy-induced metabolic stress.
- STRiDE's core aim was to assess the prevalence and risk factors of early GDM in Asian Indian women and to develop a risk-scoring system that can predict late GDM based on parameters available in early pregnancy itself.
- Women underwent screening before 16 weeks of gestation using fasting plasma glucose and HbA1c (three-month average blood sugar); if tests were high, they were re-screened at 24–28 weeks, allowing the researchers to distinguish early from late GDM patterns.
- The study found that women with early GDM tended to have higher early-pregnancy weight and BMI, larger waist circumference, elevated blood pressure, higher HbA1c and a stronger family history of diabetes, indicating that early GDM is more closely linked to underlying metabolic syndrome than to pregnancy alone.
- Late GDM, by contrast, was more often associated with a family history of diabetes but to a lesser degree, reinforcing the argument that early GDM could represent "unmasked" pre-existing dysglycaemia that pregnancy brings to clinical attention.
- V. Mohan of the Madras Diabetes Research Foundation, a co-author of the study, as stressing the need for further research to decide the ideal timing and method for GDM testing that optimises maternal–foetal outcomes while limiting unnecessary interventions.
- He notes that another ICMR study on 1,000 women found early GDM in 19.2% and late GDM in 23.4%, figures consistent with STRiDE and reinforcing the message that, in a country where diabetes prevalence is several times higher than in the West, antenatal services must be prepared for widespread early-onset GDM and design screening strategies accordingly.

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EDITORIAL

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PRELIMS CORNER :

1.He was a saint&social reformer of Medieval India who founded Gaudiya Vaishnavism.He popularised 'Sankirtan' or public singing of God's name and opposed the inequalities of the caste system. Which one of the following personalities is described above?

(a) Vallabhacharya

(b) Vidyaranya

(c) Nimbarka

(d) Chaitanya Mahaprabhu

2.The Tehran Convention, 2006 is an overarching legal instrument for the environmental protection of which one of the following water bodies?

(a) Red Sea

(b) South China Sea

(c) Caspian Sea

(d) Arabian Sea

3.Which of the following is Brunei's only land neighbour?

(a) Thailand

(b) Malayasia

(c) Indonesia

(d) Vietnam

4.Optical fibre cables work on the principle of:

(a) Doppler Effect

(b) Photoelectric Effect

(c) Quantum Tunnelling

(d) Total Internal Reflection

DETAILED ANSWER KEY IN THE CIVIL SERVICE CHRONICLE PAGE

Are methane emissions in India being missed?

- India may be significantly under-estimating methane emissions from landfills, with new satellite data suggesting that actual emissions at some key sites can be up to ten times higher than current official estimates.

- Methane is highlighted as a super-potent greenhouse gas—84 times more powerful than carbon dioxide over a 20-year period—and a major driver of landfill fires, making accurate measurement central both to climate policy and urban safety.

- Around 15% of India's methane emissions are attributed to the waste sector, but unlike agriculture or energy, this is an area where relatively modest, targeted interventions can yield quick climate gains because policy frameworks such as Swachh Bharat already exist.

- The challenge is that methane is invisible; effective action needs precise knowledge of where and how much is leaking, something traditional inventories based on waste volumes and rough decomposition assumptions cannot provide.

- The piece explains that advances in satellite technology now fill this gap: regional sensors that can monitor methane over a few kilometres reveal persistent hotspots, while high-resolution platforms can pinpoint emissions to areas as small as a few square metres, critical for targeted municipal action.

- India has begun using such tools: a paper based on ISRO satellite data for 2023 quantified anthropogenic methane across the country and identified major landfill "plumes" in cities such as Ahmedabad, Deonar in Mumbai and Ghazipur in Delhi, revealing large, previously under-recognised sources.

- By comparing these satellite-derived fluxes with official inventory numbers, researchers find striking discrepancies; for example, in some cases satellite-based annual methane emissions from a landfill are almost as high as what the entire sector reports nationwide.

- In Mumbai, estimates for the Kanjurmarg landfill using satellite data are roughly double the reported figure, while in Delhi, Ghazipur and Bhalswa show emissions in the range of 0.85–0.96 million tonnes of CO_2-equivalent annually, far exceeding earlier calculations and illustrating how much was being "missed".

- This stresses that satellite observations alone are not enough, because they can be complex and may not capture every event; the real value emerges when they are combined with ground-based measurements and operational knowledge of waste flows.

- Such integrated data allow authorities to distinguish between chronic high-emitting sites that need structural solutions (like biogas capture or engineered landfills) and sporadic spikes linked to fires or illegal dumping, enabling more cost-effective interventions.

- At present, Indian municipal bodies lack the institutional arrangements to use this new information; data are scattered across agencies like CPCB, State Pollution Control Boards and local bodies, and there is no centralised methane-monitoring platform or standardised landfill reporting protocol.

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INTERNATIONAL

Zelenskyy drops aim to join NATO as talks in Berlin commence

- Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has formally dropped Kyiv's bid to join NATO, signalling willingness to accept alternative Western security guarantees as part of a compromise to end the war with Russia, just as peace talks begin in Berlin.
- This marks a major strategic shift, because joining NATO had long been a core Ukrainian objective and was written into its Constitution; abandoning it addresses one of Moscow's central grievances and could reshape the post-war European security order.
- Zelenskyy announced the concession en route to Berlin, where he is meeting U.S. President Donald Trump's envoy Steve Wiktor and Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner, who are trying to broker an end to what the article calls Europe's bloodiest conflict since the Second World War.
- His comments came in response to questions from journalists on a messaging app, where he emphasised that current bilateral security guarantees between Ukraine and the U.S., plus Article 5-like assurances from European partners, already provide de facto protection against another Russian invasion.
- Zelenskyy frames the move as pragmatic rather than purely concessional, saying it offers Western colleagues an opportunity to "prevent another Russian invasion" through explicit security guarantees rather than waiting for NATO membership that has remained politically blocked.
- He also insists that such guarantees should be "stronger than NATO" in practice, underscoring Kyiv's concern that any settlement must not leave Ukraine vulnerable to renewed aggression after it relinquishes its alliance aspiration.
- On the Russian side, President Vladimir Putin has repeatedly demanded that Ukraine formally renounce NATO membership, accept neutrality, and withdraw troops from around 80% of Donbas where Kyiv still holds territory, in exchange for a ceasefire and troop pullback.
- Moscow has also insisted on no NATO troops or bases on Ukrainian soil, making Zelenskyy's announcement a potential opening to meet at least one major Russian precondition while leaving other issues—territory and sanctions—unresolved.

Thailand declares a curfew along coast amid Cambodia border clash

- Thailand has imposed a curfew in its south-eastern Trat province after clashes with Cambodia along a disputed border region spilled over to coastal areas, underscoring an escalation from land skirmishes to a broader security crisis affecting civilians and tourism zones.
- The curfew comes just two days after U.S. President Donald Trump claimed to have brokered a ceasefire, highlighting the fragility of externally mediated truces and the limited leverage of great-power diplomacy over entrenched local disputes.
- The conflict was triggered earlier by the killing of a Cambodian soldier in May, which reignited long-standing tensions and has since displaced hundreds of thousands of people on both sides of the border, indicating the humanitarian stakes involved.
- Thai officials describe the clashes as "continuous" since Cambodia allegedly began shelling Thai territory again, suggesting that confidence in any ceasefire is very low and that both governments are locked into a blame game.
- Despite announcing the curfew, Thailand publicly reiterates openness to a diplomatic solution but insists that Cambodia must "cease hostility first" before negotiations can proceed, effectively placing pre-conditions on talks and signalling domestic political constraints on appearing conciliatory.
- Thai forces claim to have destroyed a bridge that Cambodia used to transport heavy weapons and other supplies into the contested area and to have targeted Cambodian artillery in Koh Kong province, implying a strategy of degrading Cambodia's logistical routes and coastal firepower.
- Cambodia, for its part, accuses Thailand of striking civilian infrastructure, indicating that both sides are pushing competing narratives of victimhood to shape international opinion and justify continued military action.
- Thailand's curfew in Trat covers five districts but excludes the main tourist islands of Koh Chang and Koh Kood, revealing an attempt to balance security imperatives with the economic importance of tourism, especially amid fears of adverse effects on local livelihoods.
- This notes that this is not the first curfew; earlier, the Thai military had already imposed one in the eastern Sakeo province, showing that the conflict is geographically spread across multiple border segments and not confined to a single flashpoint.

Prelims Corner: Explanations

Q1. Ans d

Chaitanya Mahaprabhu was Bengal's most prominent Vaishnava saint. He popularised Krishna-bhakti in many parts of Eastern India. The advent of Chaitanya marks the shifting of the focus of the Bengal Vaishnava bhakti from devotional literary compositions to a full-fledged reform movement with a broad social base. Chaitanya disregarded all distinctions of caste, creed and sex to give a popular base to Krishna-bhakti. His followers belonged to all castes and communities. One of his favourite disciples was Haridas, who was a Muslim. He popularised the sankirtan (group devotional songs accompanied by ecstatic dancing). Chaitanya's exposition of Rasalila is one of his most profound contributions to Indian philosophy.

Q2. Ans c

The Tehran Convention (formally the Framework Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Caspian Sea), which entered into force in 2006, is the overarching legal instrument for the environmental protection of the Caspian Sea. It is the first legally binding regional agreement signed by all five Caspian littoral states: the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Russian Federation, and Turkmenistan. The Caspian Sea is a unique natural reservoir on our planet. It is a land locked water body located between two major parts of the Eurasian continent. Economic activities in the Caspian Sea include oil production, fishing, and shipping.
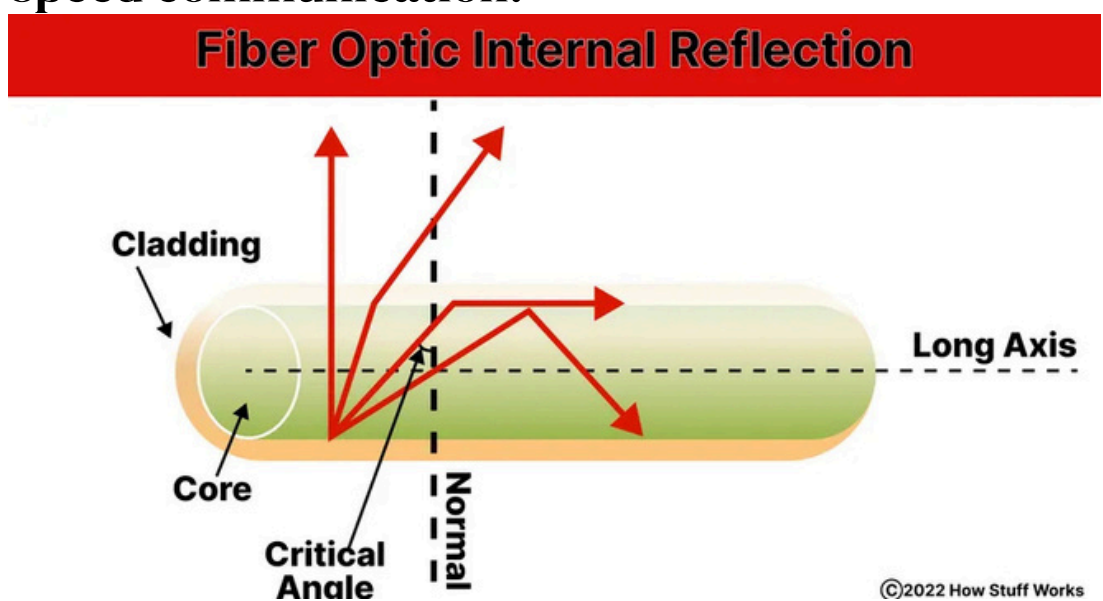
Q3. Ans b

Brunei is a sovereign state located on the northern coast of the island of Borneo in Southeast Asia. It is bordered by the South China Sea to the north and is completely surrounded by the Malaysian state of Sarawak on all other land sides. Brunei consists of two disconnected territories that occupy a total land area of 2,226 square miles and are separated by the state of Sarawak. The segment to the west is significantly larger than the part on to the east and is home to the nation's capital of Bandar Seri Begawan. The nation gained its independence from the British in 1984.

Q4. Ans d

Optical fibre cables work on the principle of Total Internal Reflection (TIR), where light signals, converted from digital data, bounce repeatedly within the fibre's core (a glass/plastic strand) by striking the boundary with the surrounding cladding at angles greater than the critical angle, allowing data transmission over long distances with minimal loss. This principle ensures that light signals, carrying vast amounts of data, stay trapped and travel efficiently from one end to the other, making fibre optics a superior choice for high-speed communication.
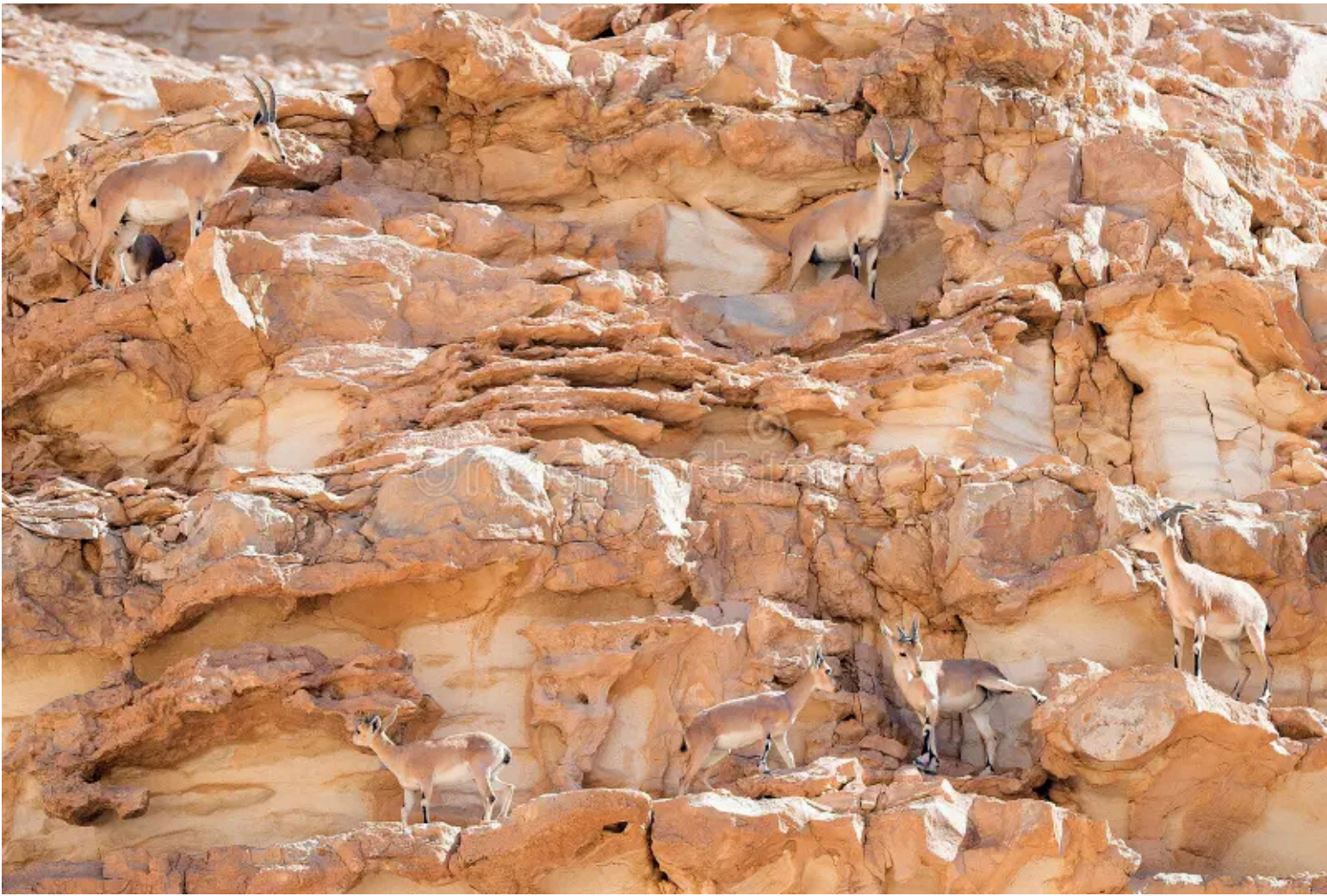

Fiber Optic Internal Reflection

Case Study:

Anti-immigrant rhetoric intensifies across Europe

In the past year, tens of thousands hostile to immigrants marched through London, chanting, "send them home!" A British lawmaker complained of seeing too many non-white faces on TV. And senior politicians advocated the deportation of long time U.K. residents born abroad. The overt demonisation of immigrants and those with immigrant roots is intensifying in the U.K. — and Europe — as migration shoots up the political agenda and right-wing parties gain popularity. In several European nations, parties that favour deportations and depict immigration as a threat to national identity come at or near the top of opinion polls — Reform U.K., the AfD, or Alternative for Germany and France's National Rally. President Donald Trump, who recently called Somali immigrants in the U.S. "garbage" and whose national security strategy depicts European countries as threatened by immigration, appears to be endorsing and emboldening Europe's coarse, anti-immigrant sentiments. Immigration has risen dramatically over the past decade in some European countries, driven in part by millions of asylum-seekers who have come to Europe fleeing conflicts in Africa, the Middle East and Ukraine.

Nubian ibexes are masters of climbing steep, rocky terrain in Israel's Negev Desert, near Faran and Mitzpe Ramon, using their specialized hooves to navigate cliffs for food, water, and protection from predators, showcasing incredible agility in their harsh, arid habitat where they're a vulnerable but resilient symbol of desert wildlife. They are listed as a vulnerable species in the IUCN Red List. Around 1,000 ibex live in Israel, part of a worldwide population of about 2,500 mature individuals.

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- Exam Date: 11 Jan 2026

No. of Vacancies **80**

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- Walk-in Date: 22 & 23 Dec 2025

No. of Vacancies **46**

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"Take up one idea. Make that one idea your life; think of it, dream of it, live on that idea."

Swami Vivekananda