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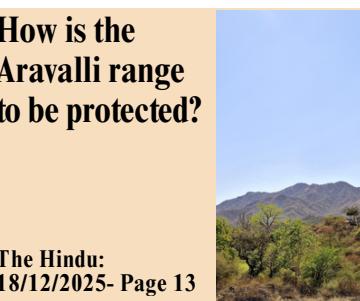
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LS clears nuclear Bill allowing privatisation

Lok Sabha has passed the Sustainable Harnessing and Advancement of Nuclear Energy for Transforming India (SHANTI) Bill, 2025, which allows substantial private participation in India's civil nuclear power sector and alters the liability framework for nuclear accidents. The SHANTI Bill aims to incentivise domestic and foreign private sector investment in nuclear power generation to boost India's installed nuclear capacity as part of its long-term net-zero and energy-security goals.

It replaces/repeals existing legislation governing nuclear activity and is presented by the government as essential to meet ambitious targets for expanding nuclear power (8.8 GW by 2047 and associated investments in reactors like small modular reactors). Private companies are now allowed to build and operate nuclear power plants, ending the earlier near-monopoly of state-owned entities like NPCIL. The Bill places operational responsibility for managing nuclear plants on the "operator" of the facility, while the government retains control over nuclear waste management. Operator liability for a nuclear accident is capped at the "capacity of the plant", and a previous clause enabling the operator to claim recourse from equipment suppliers for faulty components has been removed. Opposition MPs highlight that deleting the supplier-liability clause from the Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act, 2010 means equipment manufacturers escape financial responsibility even if their defective equipment causes an accident. Critics argue that the new cap of ₹3,000 crore on operator liability is arbitrary, not indexed to inflation, and extremely low when compared to the astronomically high costs of disasters like Chernobyl or Fukushima, whose clean-up and economic losses run into hundreds of billions of dollars. The Bill thus marks a strategic shift towards privatisation and liberalisation of the nuclear sector, but also intensifies debates on safety, accountability, and the appropriate balance between attracting investment and protecting citizens from low-probability, high-impact risks.

Myanmar's junta said on Tuesday that detained former leader Aung San Suu Kyi is "in good health", a day after her son told Reuters he has received little information about the 80-year-old's condition and fears she could die without him knowing. The statement offered no evidence or details about her condition.

Ms. Suu Kyi, a Nobel Peace Prize laureate, was detained after a 2021 military coup that ousted her elected civilian government and sparked a civil war. She is serving a 27 year sentence for charges including incitement, corruption and election fraud —all of which she denies. Ms. Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy, Myanmar's largest political party, remains dissolved and several other anti-junta political groups are boycotting the polls.

The Indian Army inducted tanks and artillery guns into the Kashmir valley by a 'Military special train' on December 16 over the Chenab Bridge.

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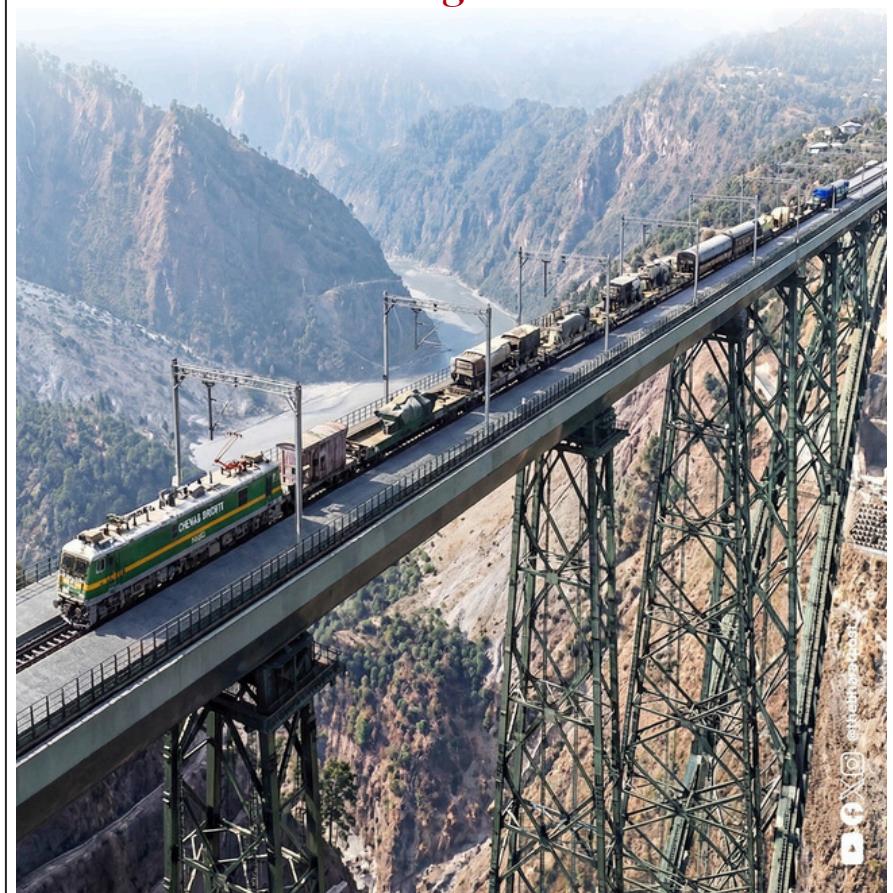
Kerala eyes freight electrification with e-truck corridor under PM E-DRIVE

Kerala plans to develop an electric truck freight corridor on NH-66 under the Centre's PM E-DRIVE scheme, positioning the State as a leader in freight electrification and low-carbon logistics.

Policy objective and scheme framework

- Kerala aims to create a model e-truck corridor along National Highway 66 as part of efforts to electrify freight movement under the PM Electric Drive Revolution in Innovative Vehicle Enhancement (PM E-DRIVE) scheme.
- The initiative is framed as a key step in the State's broader decarbonisation and sustainability strategy, moving beyond passenger EVs to the harder-to-abate freight sector.

Institutional roles and collaborations

- The Kerala State Electricity Board (KSEB) and the International Council on Clean Transportation (ICCT) jointly organised a workshop on "Driving E-Truck Ecosystem with PM E-DRIVE Scheme" to map out how Kerala can become a frontrunner in freight electrification.
- ICCT is working closely with KSEB and its EV Accelerator Cell to provide evidence-based planning support, including demand projections, infrastructure needs, and policy design.

Existing EV base and infrastructure plans

- Kerala already has around three lakh electric vehicles on its roads, largely passenger vehicles, and is now pivoting to freight, especially e-trucks and other commercial vehicles.
- The State is preparing to lay high-capacity charging infrastructure and related facilities along freight corridors, which will be critical to making long-haul e-trucking viable.

Government views on freight as "next frontier"

- Additional Chief Secretary (Power) Puneet Kumar calls freight and logistics the "next critical frontier" for decarbonisation, signalling that merely electrifying private cars will not deliver the State's climate goals.
- The plan includes corridor-driven charging requirements, grid-integration strategies, and early pilot designs, ensuring that infrastructure roll-out is coordinated with power-system planning.

Economic, environmental and planning implications

- Electrifying trucks and freight carriers is seen as vital to cutting carbon emissions and reducing air pollution, especially as freight vehicles are disproportionately responsible for transport-sector emissions.
- The collaboration aims to make Kerala's approach data-driven and aligned with international best practices, while being tailored to local operational realities, enhancing both climate benefits and logistics competitiveness.

India reminds Bangladesh of security pledges amid march on Dhaka mission

- A radical outfit in Dhaka, the Mulyo Jono Mancha, announced a protest march to the Indian High Commission, accusing India of interference in Bangladesh's internal politics and demanding changes to India's visa policy.
- In response, India's Ministry of External Affairs summoned Bangladesh's High Commissioner in New Delhi, Riaz Hamidullah, to remind Dhaka of its obligation to protect the Indian mission and personnel under existing security assurances.

India's message and expectations

- India conveyed that it "completely rejects" allegations of Indian interference and criticised "false narratives" being spread by extremist elements about recent events in Bangladesh, such as protests and political developments.
- New Delhi told the envoy it expects the interim government in Bangladesh to ensure the safety of Indian diplomatic premises and staff, and to honour commitments regarding the security of missions and foreign postings.

Developments around the Dhaka rally

- The Mulyo Jono Mancha rally, planned as a large protest in Dhaka, involved slogans against India and accusations that New Delhi backs domination over Bangladesh; it was being amplified on social media.
- Police initially stopped the march in the afternoon, and there were indications it might be rescheduled, but the crowd still approached the vicinity of the Indian mission before being blocked and tensions managed.

Bangladeshi domestic political context

- Several Bangladeshi political actors, including radical or nationalist groups, have been invoking anti-India rhetoric, alleging New Delhi supports particular forces in Bangladesh politics and is responsible for internal developments.

Security concerns and rhetoric escalation

- Indian officials emphasised that any attack or serious security incident at the mission would be unacceptable and that the Bangladesh authorities must prevent extremist or terrorist groups from harming Indian interests.
- The report notes inflammatory speeches by some Bangladeshi leaders accusing India of "occupation" or interference, which heightens the risk of violence and complicates the security environment for Indian diplomats.

Broader bilateral implications

- The episode underscores how India–Bangladesh ties, otherwise strong in trade and connectivity, remain vulnerable to domestic political contestation within Bangladesh, particularly when India is portrayed as backing specific factions.
- New Delhi's swift démarche signals that it will treat the security of its mission and personnel as a red line and that it expects even an interim government in Dhaka to act decisively against anti-India mobilisations that could turn violent.

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India, Ethiopia 'natural partners' in regional peace,connectivity: Modi

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi's address to the Ethiopian Parliament, where he framed India and Ethiopia as "natural partners" in regional peace, security, and connectivity, and underscored growing defence and economic ties.

Political and diplomatic framing

- Modi presents India–Ethiopia relations as part of a broader vision for a "more just, more equal, and more peaceful" world, situating the partnership within Global South solidarity rather than a narrow bilateral frame.
- His maiden bilateral visit to Ethiopia is portrayed as symbolically important, signalling India's effort to deepen political engagement in the Horn of Africa amid wider geopolitical competition.

Security and defence cooperation

- Modi notes that mutual security cooperation gained momentum with the signing of a Defence Cooperation Agreement earlier in the year, which formalises closer military collaboration.
- The agreement covers areas such as cybersecurity, defence industries, joint research, and capacity building, indicating a shift from traditional training links to more comprehensive, technology-centric cooperation.

Global South and normative messaging

- Modi emphasises that the "Global South is writing its own destiny" and that India and Ethiopia share a common vision for this process, positioning both countries as co-authors of a new, multipolar order rather than aid-recipients.
- This rhetoric is aimed at building normative alignment, portraying India as a partner in sovereignty, development, and peace rather than as a patron, which also counters narratives pushed by other major powers in Africa.

Symbolism of Ethiopia's highest award

- Modi receives the Grand Honour, Nishan of Ethiopia, becoming the first global head of state to be given the country's highest award, which underlines the political value Addis Ababa attaches to the relationship.
- In his response, Modi accepts the award "on behalf of the people of India," projecting the honour as recognition of India's role and goodwill across Africa, not just bilateral ties.

Economic engagement and development impact

- Modi states that Indian companies have invested more than 5 billion dollars in Ethiopia across sectors such as textiles, manufacturing, agriculture, health and information technology.
- These investments are credited with creating over 75,000 local jobs, reinforcing India's narrative that its economic presence in Africa is development-oriented and employment-generating, differentiating it from resource-extractive models.

Navy commissions second MH-60R copter squadron, the Ospreys, at INS Hansa

The commissioning of INAS 335, the second Indian Naval Air Squadron equipped with MH-60R "Osprey" multi-role helicopters, at INS Hansa in Goa, marking a significant enhancement of the Navy's rotary-wing capabilities and broader naval aviation modernisation.

Commissioning details and significance

- INAS 335, nicknamed the Ospreys, is the second squadron of MH-60R helicopters, with the ceremony at INS Hansa presided over by Admiral Dinesh K. Tripathi, Chief of Naval Staff.
- This follows the induction of the first MH-60R squadron at Kochi in March 2024, creating a distributed basing pattern on both the western seaboard and strengthening operational flexibility.

Capability enhancement and platform role

- The versatile MH-60R is a multi-role helicopter capable of anti-submarine warfare, anti-surface warfare, search and rescue, and maritime surveillance, and its induction has "significantly enhanced" the Navy's rotary-wing combat and surveillance capabilities.
- Deploying these aircraft from the western seaboard improves the Navy's ability to protect sea lines of communication, support fleet operations, and plug gaps in long-range maritime domain awareness.

Historical context of the Fleet Air Arm

- Admiral Tripathi links the commissioning to the 75th anniversary of the Government of India's decision in 1948–49 to create the Fleet Air Arm, which institutionalised naval aviation as a core component of maritime power.
- This frames the new squadron as part of a continuum of decisions that "gave wings to naval aviation," underlining how modern platforms like the MH-60R build on that legacy.

Complementary assets at INS Hansa

- The Chief of Naval Staff recalls that INS Hansa has already seen the induction of a second P-8I maritime patrol aircraft squadron in 2022, making the base a hub for high-end airborne maritime surveillance and anti-submarine warfare.
- In addition to the P-8I fleet, the Navy is expanding its remotely piloted capabilities with 15 MQ-9B Sea Guardian drones, which, together with MH-60R helicopters, create a layered surveillance and response architecture.

Strategic and operational implications

- The commissioning of INAS 335 strengthens India's ability to monitor and respond to threats in the Arabian Sea and wider Indian Ocean Region, supporting deterrence and sea control missions.
- By combining manned and unmanned platforms at INS Hansa, the Navy is moving towards a networked, multi-platform concept of operations that enhances situational awareness and responsiveness across its maritime theatre.

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EXPLAINED

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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

How is the Aravalli range to be protected?

Ecological significance and threats

- The Aravallis, nearly two billion years old and India's oldest mountain range, act as an ecological barrier preventing desertification of the Indo-Gangetic plains, stabilising climate, supporting biodiversity, and recharging groundwater for major river systems such as the Yamuna, Chambal, Sabarmati and Luni.
- Rich in minerals and stones, the range has suffered extensive damage from decades of quarrying, illegal mining and land degradation, prompting international concern under the UN Convention to Combat Desertification and making its protection a national priority.

Background to the SC case and CEC role

- Since the early 1990s, the Environment Ministry has allowed mining in the Aravallis only under restrictive norms, but enforcement has been weak, and in 2009 the Supreme Court imposed a mining ban in parts of Haryana's Aravallis after evidence of rampant illegal extraction.
- In May 2024, the Court again halted the grant of fresh mining leases and asked the CEC to undertake a detailed examination, including macro-level environmental impact assessments, leading to comprehensive recommendations submitted in March 2024.

CEC recommendations and 'Green Wall' project

- The CEC proposed a scientific, landscape-scale approach: creating an Aravalli range atlas for all four States, prohibiting mining in ecologically sensitive areas such as protected habitats and water bodies, and tightening norms for stone-crushing units.
- In June 2025, the Centre launched the "Aravalli Green Wall" project to create a green cover buffer around the range in 29 districts across Gujarat, Rajasthan, Haryana and Delhi, aiming to restore about 26 million hectares of degraded land by 2030.

Need for a uniform definition of the Aravallis

- The Court found that different States were using inconsistent criteria to identify Aravalli hills, allowing some areas to be left out of protection and opened for mining or construction.
- To fix this, the CEC was asked to frame a nationwide, scientifically grounded definition, and it recommended that only hills above 100 metres with certain slope, foothill and valley characteristics be classified as part of the Aravalli system.

Supreme Court's final definition and clarifications

- The Court largely accepted the committee's definition but rejected objections that it was too narrow, stressing that excluding hills below 100 metres would compromise the continuity and integrity of the range; it therefore allowed for a more inclusive interpretation where necessary to protect ecology.
- The Court clarified that mining is not completely banned throughout the Aravallis; instead, mining will be strictly prohibited or heavily limited in high-sensitivity zones, while other areas may see regulated activity subject to stringent cumulative impact assessment and rehabilitation obligations.

Directions on management planning and future regulation

- The Court directed preparation of a detailed Management Plan for Sustainable Mining (MPSM) covering the entire range, identifying zones where mining must be absolutely prohibited, where it may be allowed with tight caps, and where restoration must be prioritised.
- Citing past experience that blanket bans triggered illegal mining and criminal syndicates, the Court opted for a calibrated regime with strong monitoring, stating that environmentally sensitive areas remain off-limits but new mining in permissible zones can occur only under strict, scientifically informed regulation.

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SEBI's overhaul of mutual fund norms and expense ratios

- Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has approved sweeping reforms to mutual fund regulations, centred on revising base expense ratio limits and reducing various fees paid by mutual fund investors.
- At its board meeting, SEBI considered recommendations from the High-Level Committee on conflicts of interest, investment and liabilities of intermediaries and senior officials, but decided these wider governance suggestions need further deliberation before being incorporated into public-disclosure rules.
- SEBI Chairman Tuhin Kanta Pandey stated that, under the new framework, expense ratio limits will be re-cast as Base Expense Ratio (BER), excluding statutory levies such as STT/CTT, GST and stamp duty, which will continue to be charged separately to investors.
- For open-ended mutual funds, base expense ratio limits for equity-oriented schemes and non-equity schemes have been reduced, while an additional 1 basis point service allowance is permitted for schemes with exit loads structured as a transaction-based measure.
- In index funds and exchange-traded funds, the base expense ratio cap has been revised down to 0.9 per cent of assets, and in close-ended schemes the BER limit has been tightened as well, reducing maximum trail commissions and brokerage costs passed on to investors.
- SEBI is also cutting the maximum permissible brokerage, regulatory and statutory fees that can be charged at the scheme level, including capping transaction charges on cash market trades and trimming permissible additional expenses for B-15 and other incentive categories.
- The revised framework aims to improve investor protection and transparency while enforcing higher governance standards across the mutual fund ecosystem, particularly by insisting that all costs be explicitly disclosed and justified.
- Separately, the SEBI board approved amendments to the Issue of Capital and Disclosure Requirements (ICDR) Regulations to streamline public-issue norms, especially around lock-in of pre-issue capital held by promoters and non-promoter shareholders.
- The board allowed pledged shares that are locked-in to be treated as "non-transferable" during the lock-in period if specific conditions are met, easing some compliance challenges while retaining protections against misuse of pledged promoter holdings.
- Addressing concerns that the rising share of Offer for Sale (OFS) in IPOs might signal promoters cashing out rather than raising genuine expansion capital, Pandey argued such worries are overstated, saying India's IPO market is mature, pricing is well regulated, and OFS ultimately contributes to better public float and price discovery.

RBI Governor signals prolonged low interest rate regime

- RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra assessed that policy interest rates in India are likely to "remain low for a long period" as the economy posts strong growth with contained inflation, creating a favourable environment for borrowing and investment.
- Malhotra links this outlook to ongoing trade and investment agreements being negotiated with the US and Europe, which he expects will add an extra layer of growth momentum and support a benign rate environment.
- He argues that recent repo rate cuts under his tenure have helped engineer a "Goldilocks phase" of brisk growth with low inflation; RBI projections suggest rates should stay low for an extended period, reinforcing accommodative financial conditions.
- On December 5, the RBI cut the repo rate by 25 basis points to 5.25 per cent, taking the cumulative reduction since December 2024 to 125 basis points and lowering lending and deposit rates across the banking system.
- Malhotra describes the current conjuncture as one where inflation is well below the RBI's upper tolerance band, growth is robust, and there is room to keep real interest rates supportive without risking an inflation flare-up.
- Goldilocks phase as a period when the economy is "just right" – neither overheating nor stalling – which allows central banks to maintain stable or low interest rates that encourage investment without fuelling high inflation.
- India's retail inflation in November was 4.07 per cent, comfortably under the RBI's 4 per cent target plus/minus 2 per cent band, while growth forecasts for the January–March quarter remain strong, underpinning Malhotra's confidence that current policy settings are appropriate.
- The Governor notes that RBI staff forecasts had previously underestimated growth and overestimated inflation, implying that the central bank now sees more space to remain accommodative, though he acknowledges that projections will be revised as new data arrive.
- Barring unexpected shocks, borrowers and markets can reasonably expect a prolonged phase of low interest rates, which should support credit expansion, investment and consumption, but also requires vigilance against potential asset-price excesses.

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BRICS shifts gears as Brazil passes the gavel to India amid global tensions

- Brazil received a steel gavel from Russia in 2024, symbolising industrial strength, and is now passing a carved wooden gavel from the Amazon rainforest to India, representing sustainability and deepening cooperation among Global South powers.
- Brazilian sherpa Mauricio Lyrio says this gesture reflects Brazil's emphasis on environmental protection and solidarity, and hopes India will carry forward these values during its presidency.

Brazil's priorities and achievements as BRICS chair

- Brazil's chairmanship pushed BRICS towards a more visible agenda on artificial intelligence governance, climate finance, and partnership with international institutions, culminating in three Rio de Janeiro summit declarations.
- It worked to make BRICS more socially oriented by stressing inclusive, sustainable development, while also defending multilateralism and resisting unilateral sanctions and trade wars driven by major powers.

Challenges faced during Brazil's tenure

- Brazil's presidency coincided with multiple external shocks: trade tensions, Trump-era tariffs, and a volatile global financial system, all of which complicated consensus-building among member states.

Evolving vision of BRICS and global governance

- Brazilian leaders argue that BRICS must champion a governance framework that is "fair, inclusive and equitable", ensuring AI and digital technologies do not become tools for manipulation by a handful of actors.
- Former President Dilma Rousseff, now heading the New Development Bank, highlights BRICS' role in financing infrastructure, innovation and social projects as part of an alternative development model to Western-dominated financial institutions.

Roadmap and expectations as India takes over

- Brazil leaves behind a "clear roadmap" for continuity, including strengthening the NDB, deepening cooperation with the World Bank and IMF, and pushing for reforms in global financial architecture to better represent developing countries.
- As India assumes the presidency, Brazilian officials expect New Delhi to prioritise resilience, innovation, AI governance, climate action and South-South cooperation, building on Brazil's work while adapting to new geopolitical tensions.

U.S. aid cuts contribute to exploitation of Rohingya children in refugee camps

The cuts in U.S. aid under the Trump administration have worsened the vulnerability and exploitation of Rohingya children in Bangladeshi refugee camps, leading to school closures, child labour, trafficking and recruitment by armed groups.

- U.S. funding cuts, combined with similar reductions from other donors, shuttered thousands of camp schools and youth programmes, crippling child-protection activities and leaving children without safe spaces to learn or play.
- With education and structured activities withdrawn, many children—some as young as 10—are pushed into back-breaking manual labour, domestic work and, in the case of some girls, prostitution, while others wander unsafe camp areas where they face kidnapping and trafficking risks.
- The decision by President Trump in January to dismantle the U.S. Agency for International Development's main education programme for the roughly 600,000 Rohingya children in the camps has intensified already dire conditions, according to interviews with families, teachers, aid workers and community leaders.
- UNICEF data cited in the article show that between January and mid-November reports of child abduction and kidnapping more than quadrupled, and the number of children trafficked rose from 52 to 560 in a single year, while 817 children were affected by armed-group recruitment and use.
- Aid workers say the camps have become fertile ground for recruitment by extremist groups, which exploit the lack of schooling and protection, targeting idle and desperate youths for indoctrination and militant training.
- This notes that although the U.S. previously spent only about 15% of its budget on Rohingya children, Trump labelled the aid "wasteful" and shut it down, a move critics say punishes the most vulnerable and contradicts stated U.S. commitments to child rights.
- In Myanmar, the abrupt halt in U.S. funds has also forced closure of nearly 200 schools and undermined life-saving nutrition and health programmes; globally, U.S. cuts are linked to a projected 14 million child deaths, mostly under age five, by 2030.
- Conditions in the Cox's Bazar camps have deteriorated to the point where families like Hasina's face stark choices between early marriage, labour or starvation for their children, highlighting how geopolitical decisions on aid translate directly into everyday harm and exploitation.

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.

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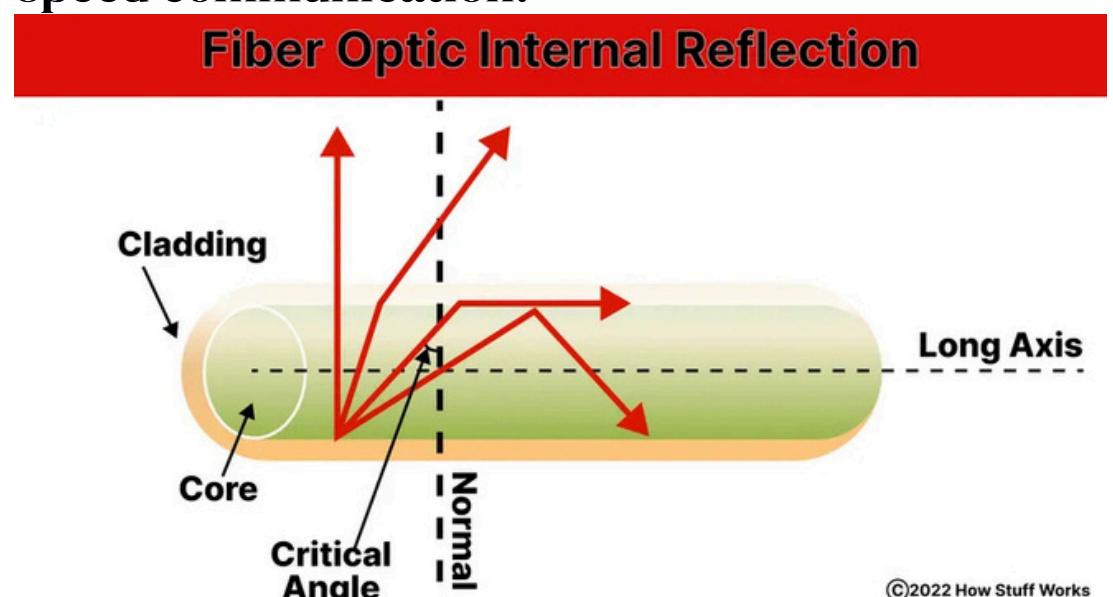
Case Study:

'Bondi beach attack: one man's bravery moves a nation

Like many Australians strolling at Bondi Beach on long, warm summer evenings, Ahmed al Ahmed just wanted a cup of coffee with a friend. Around him, a bloody massacre erupted as two gunmen targeted Jews during Hanukkah festivities at a park close to the shore. Soon Mr. al Ahmed was creeping, bent over, between two parked cars, before barreling directly toward one of the unsuspecting shooters. In footage that has been viewed millions of times around the world, he can be seen tackling one of the gunmen, wrestling the man's shotgun from his grip and turning it on the attacker. The story of the Syrian-Australian Muslim shop owner has been seized upon by a country desperately seeking comfort after one of its darkest hours: the slaying of 15 people as they celebrated their Jewish faith. "At a moment where we have seen evil perpetrated, he shines out as an example of the strength of humanity," Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said Tuesday, as he left a Sydney hospital where Mr. al Ahmed is being treated for gunshot wounds. "We are a brave country. Ahmed al Ahmed represents the best of our country."

Context: On Vijay Diwas 2025, President Droupadi Murmu inaugurated the 'Param Vir Dirgha' at Rashtrapati Bhavan, where portraits of all 21 Param Vir Chakra awardees were displayed. This replaced portraits of British Aide-de-Camps, symbolising India's continued effort to shed colonial legacies. The Param Vir Chakra is India's highest military gallantry award, conferred for the most conspicuous bravery, valour, and supreme sacrifice in the presence of the enemy during wartime. Instituted in: 26 January 1950, coinciding with the enforcement of the Constitution of India. Open to personnel of all ranks of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Territorial Army and other lawfully constituted armed forces. Can be awarded posthumously; the majority of recipients have received it after martyrdom. Comes with a monthly honorarium of ₹3,000, with an additional ₹3,000 for each bar awarded.

PARAM VIR CHAKRA AWARD

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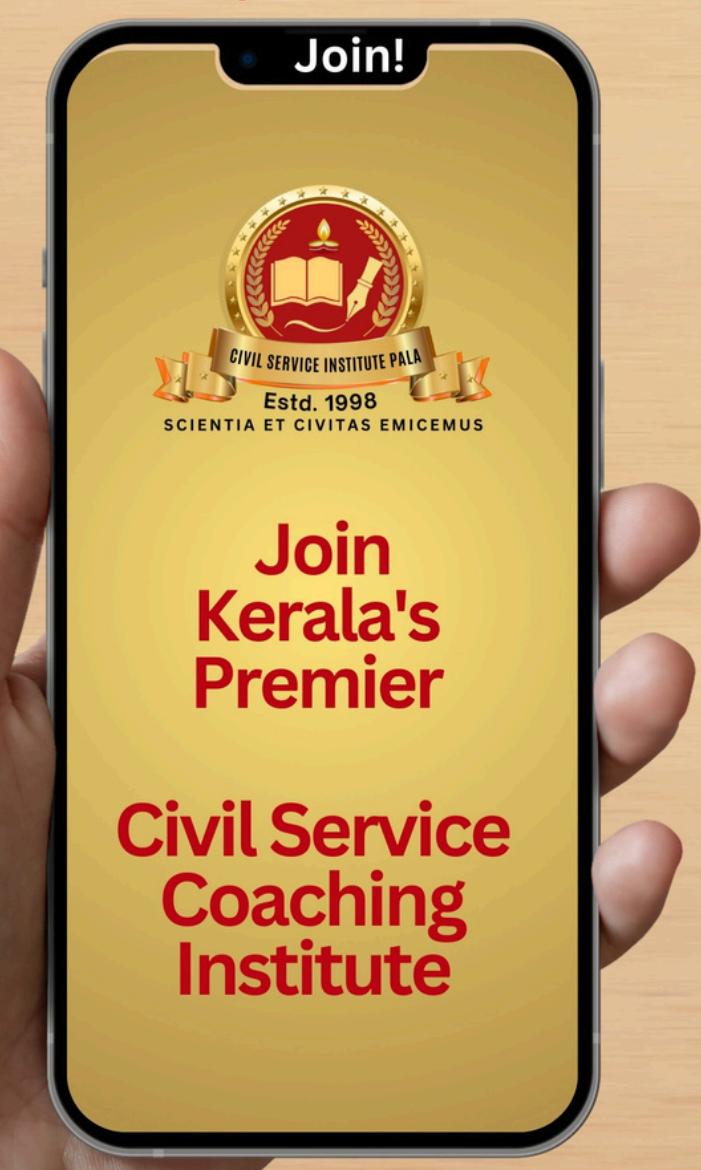
RRC Northern Railway Apprentice Recruitment 2025
• Eligibility: 10th Pass / ITI
• Selection: No Exam (Merit Based)
• Last Date: 24 December 2025

No. of Vacancies
4116

IIT Bhubaneswar Recruitment 2025
• Posts: Jr. Assistant, Technician, MTS, JE & more
• Eligibility: 10th / Degree / Diploma / ITI
• Salary: Level-1 to Level-14
• Last Date: 08 January 2026

No. of Vacancies
101

BDL Management Trainee Recruitment 2025
• Eligibility: B.E/B.Tech / MBA / CA
• CTC: ₹15.55 Lakhs PA
• Last Date: 29 Dec 2025
• Exam Date: 11 Jan 2026

No. of Vacancies
80

DRDO DERL Apprenticeship 2025
• Role: Graduate & Technician Apprentice
• Selection Through: Walk-In Interview
• Eligibility:B.E/B.Tech/Diploma/B.Sc/
• B.Com
• Walk-in Date: 22 & 23 Dec 2025

No. of Vacancies
46

IIMC Non-Teaching Recruitment 2025
• Posts: Assistant, UDC, Steno, Registrar & more
• Eligibility: Degree / PG / Experience
• Salary: Level-4 to Level-11
• Last Date: 12 January 2026

No. of Vacancies
51

More details 📞 **+91 95393 81100** 🌐 **www.civilservicepala.org**

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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