



Fake demand under MGNREGA will not be entertained: Centre to panel

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SC pauses Aravalli ruling, moots new panel

Supreme Court has paused its earlier ruling on the Aravalli hill definition and proposed creating a new expert panel to resolve scientific and ecological concerns. The Court has kept in abeyance its 20 November judgment that had endorsed a government panel's narrow definition of what constitutes the Aravalli hill system. This "stay" means the earlier, more protective regime for Aravalli areas continues until further orders, preventing irreversible administrative or ecological changes based on the new definition.



The November ruling accepted a definition under which only 1,048 out of 12,081 Aravalli hills in Rajasthan met the 100-metre elevation threshold and 500-metre clustering criteria, excluding the rest from the legal category of "Aravalli hills." Such a restrictive approach would strip these excluded hills and hillocks of environmental protection, creating what the Court calls a "significant regulatory lacuna" in safeguarding the Aravalli Range. Environmentalists and activists fear that shrinking the protected area could open the door to unbridled mining and other disruptive activities in terrain that is ecologically critical but technically excluded by the new definition. This highlights that the Aravallis act as a green barrier against eastward expansion of the Thar desert and help limit pollution in cities like Delhi, so weakening protections could have wider regional impacts. A three-judge Bench led by the Chief Justice proposes a high-powered committee to re-examine whether "sustainable mining" or "regulated mining" is possible in the newly demarcated Aravalli areas without compromising ecological integrity. The Court stresses that independent expert opinions on the Aravallis must be obtained after consulting all stakeholders, with multi-temporal evaluation of short-, medium- and long-term impacts of any recommended definition and associated activities. The Bench indicates that the definition of the Aravalli range must be grounded in exhaustive scientific and geological estimations and precise measurements of all hills and hillocks, not just simple elevation cut-offs. It criticises the earlier acceptance of the Environment Ministry committee's recommendations for leading to "misconceptions and misrepresentations" about the court's role, and warns that defining Aravallis only as clusters within 500 m of each other would create a "structural paradox" by narrowing protected territory while enabling wider ecological damage.



China launched its most extensive war games around Taiwan on Monday to showcase Beijing's ability to cut off the island from outside support in a conflict, as U.S. President Donald Trump downplayed the threat behind the drills. The military had initially said artillery firing would be confined to five zones. The Eastern Theatre

Command said it had deployed troops, warships, fighter jets and artillery for its "Justice Mission 2025" exercises to encircle the democratically governed island, conduct live fire and simulated strikes on land and sea targets, and drills to blockade Taiwan's main ports. The live-firing exercises will continue across a record seven zones designated by China's Maritime Safety Administration, making the drills the largest to date by total coverage and in areas closer to Taiwan than previous exercises.

As the nation gears up to welcome the New Year with celebrations, the Border Security Force (BSF) continues its round-the-clock vigil along the Line of Control (LoC) braving snow-covered mountains and subzero temperatures.



Fake demand under MGNREGA will not be entertained: Centre to panel

- Centre is managing the shift from MGNREGA to the new VB-GRAM G Act while trying to prevent “fake demand” and address pending dues, especially to West Bengal.

Policy shift and new scheme

- The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) has been replaced by the Viksit Bharat – Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) Act, 2025 (VB-GRAM G Act).
- The Rural Development Ministry informed the Parliamentary Standing Committee that it is coordinating with States to manage this transition and ensure no fake demand arises under MGNREGA during the interim period.

Concern over “fake demand”

- Since MGNREGA was a demand-driven scheme, MPs asked the government how it would handle demand already generated but not yet met, and how it would distinguish genuine from fake demand.
- Ministry officials reportedly told the committee they were working with States to ensure that no fake demand was raised and that the government would not entertain such claims in the transition phase.

Parliamentary committee's questions

- The Committee on Rural Development, led by Congress MP Saptagiri Ulaka, met soon after Parliament repealed MGNREGA to review the implications of the change.
- Members questioned whether the government could or should suppress real work demand while shifting to the new welfare architecture, and several BJP members also criticised implementation problems and corruption cases in MGNREGA.

Debate over welfare scheme overlap

- Some BJP MPs reportedly argued that when States already provide schemes offering “free health and free food,” a rural employment guarantee becomes redundant, implicitly justifying phasing out MGNREGA.
- Others, however, flagged corruption and fake job-card issues as key reasons undermining the scheme, thereby shaping the Centre's emphasis on weeding out “fake demand” in the new framework.

West Bengal dues and political angle

- The government told the panel it is in touch with the West Bengal government and will clear dues owed to the State, but did not specify the amount or timeline for release.
- Funds to West Bengal under MGNREGA had been stopped since March 2022 for alleged non-compliance, and that nationwide the Centre owes ₹3,082.52 crore to States, including ₹1,457.22 crore for works completed by registered workers, making the dues issue a politically sensitive aspect of the transition.

DAC gives its nod for defence purchases worth 79,000 cr.

- The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, has approved capital defence acquisitions worth about ₹79,000 crore to upgrade the Army, Navy, and Air Force.

Overall package and intent

- The approvals are in the form of Acceptance of Necessity (AoN), which is the key first step in India's defence procurement cycle, signalling formal intent to buy these systems.
- The package is framed as enhancing joint operational capabilities of all three Services, with emphasis on improved firepower, surveillance, and network-centric warfare.

Army acquisitions and capability impact

- For the Army, the DAC approved loiter munition systems for artillery regiments, Low Level Light Weight Radars, Long Range Guided Rocket Ammunition for the Pinaka Multiple Launch Rocket System (MRLS), and the Integrated Drone Detection and Interdiction System (IDD&IS Mk-II).
- Loiter munitions will strengthen precision strike against tactical targets, low-level radars and drone-interdiction systems will enhance detection and neutralisation of small, low-flying unmanned aerial systems, while long-range guided rockets will extend the reach and accuracy of the Pinaka MRLS against high-value targets.

Navy acquisitions and maritime focus

- For the Navy, AoN has been accorded for procurement of Bollard Pull (BP) tugs, High Frequency Software Defined Radio (HF SDR) Manpack systems, and High Altitude Long Endurance (HALE) Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS).
- BP tugs will support naval ships and submarines in berthing, unberthing and manoeuvring; HF SDR Manpacks will provide secure long-range communications during boarding and landing operations; and HALE RPAS will deliver long-endurance surveillance and reconnaissance, strengthening maritime domain awareness in the Indian Ocean Region.

Air Force acquisitions and air combat enhancements

- For the Air Force, the DAC approved procurement of the Automatic Take-off and Landing Recording System for aircraft, Astra Mk-II beyond-visual-range (BVR) air-to-air missiles, Full Mission Simulators, and SPICE-1000 long-range guidance kits.
- Automatic landing-recording systems will improve flight safety and mission analysis, Astra Mk-II will extend the IAF's ability to engage adversary aircraft at longer ranges, simulators will enhance pilot training for the Light Combat Aircraft Tejas, and SPICE-1000 kits will improve long-range precision strike capability.

DRDO's Pinaka LRGR test and indigenous thrust

- DRDO has conducted the maiden flight test of the Pinaka Long Range Guided Rocket (LRGR-120) at the Integrated Test Range in Chandipur, marking a major step in indigenous rocket artillery development.
- This test complements the DAC's approval of long-range guided rockets for the Pinaka MRLS, underlining a broader push towards self-reliance in advanced munitions and reinforcing the Army's deep-strike potential.

Union govt. gearing up to host mega AI summit in February

Union government is preparing to host a large-scale AI Impact Summit in February, positioning it on a scale comparable to India's G-20 Summit presidency events.

Scale and participation

- Officials expect participation from about 15–20 heads of state, indicating a high-level diplomatic profile for the summit.
- Around 100,000 participants are anticipated for the main event, reflecting ambitions to make it a mass-scale, multi-stakeholder platform rather than a narrow tech conference.

Link to global AI summit process

- The piece situates this event within the series of multilateral AI summits that began at Bletchley Park in the U.K. in 2023, followed by Seoul and Paris, with India assuming a leading role for the 2026 edition.
- The participation has steadily increased over these editions; in the initial summit there were about 27 countries and 28 organisations signing the declaration, but numbers have since grown as more states join the process.

India's strategic positioning

- The government aims to use the summit to establish India as a central hub for deliberations on global AI governance and policy, akin to its role during the G-20.
- Officials have been keen to position India between major AI powers by hosting a wide spectrum of AI-related events both domestically and abroad, signalling an aspiration for norm-shaping influence.

Expected attendees and stakeholders

- Besides heads of state, the event will feature leading researchers and business figures from AI firms such as Anthropic and Google DeepMind, along with other major players expected to confirm.
- This highlights that several new Global South countries are likely to participate, which would broaden representation beyond traditional tech powers.

Thematic focus and objectives

- The summit is expected to deliberate on multiple themes including AI's impact on work, trust and safety, and protocols for AI models and usage in different sectors.
- By emphasising issues like safety protocols and societal impact, the government appears to frame the summit not only as a technology showcase but as a forum for setting global standards and cooperative frameworks.

Indian Navy's stitched sailing vessel INSV Kaundinya sets off for Oman

The maiden overseas voyage of INSV Kaundinya, an indigenously built traditional stitched sailing vessel of the Indian Navy, from Porbandar in Gujarat to Muscat in Oman.

Heritage vessel and construction

- INSV Kaundinya has been constructed using traditional stitched shipbuilding techniques, with natural materials and methods that date back centuries.
- Drawing inspiration from historical sources, the vessel reflects India's legacy of indigenous shipbuilding, seamanship and oceanic navigation, making it a symbolic project to revive ancient maritime traditions.

Cultural diplomacy and voyage route

- The voyage retraces ancient maritime routes that once linked India's western coast with Oman, historically used for trade, cultural exchange and civilisational interactions across the Indian Ocean.
- The expedition is intended to strengthen bilateral ties between India and Oman by reinforcing shared maritime heritage and highlighting longstanding linkages between Gujarat and Oman.

Ceremonial send-off and crew

- The vessel was formally flagged off by Vice Admiral Krishna Swaminathan, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Western Naval Command, in the presence of Oman's Ambassador to India and senior naval officers.

Strategic signalling and soft power

- The Navy describes the expedition as a significant milestone in efforts to understand and celebrate India's ancient maritime heritage while deepening cultural ties with Oman.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi's message praising the voyage as a "memorable journey" that retraces historic links with the Gulf region indicates the government's use of such heritage missions for soft-power projection and regional outreach.



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) Malaysia
- (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

India's industrial growth accelerated to 6.7% in November 2025, the highest in two years

Growth Acceleration

- The Index of Industrial Production (IIP) for manufacturing surged to 6.7% year-on-year in November, up from 3.2% in October, marking the strongest monthly pace since November 2023.
- This rebound follows a low base from the previous year and reflects robust restocking after the Diwali festival season, which boosted consumer goods output.

Sectoral Breakdown

- Manufacturing led the growth at 6.7%, with primary goods up 5.4%, capital goods at 4.1%, and both consumer durables (7.2%) and non-durables (4.0%) showing gains.
- Mining output grew 4.3% and electricity generation rose 5.2%, contributing to the overall Index of Eight Core Industries expansion of 4.0%.

Base Effect Influence

- A favourable statistical base effect played a key role, as November 2024 had recorded subdued growth of just 0.2% due to softer demand and inventory adjustments.
- Analysts note that while the headline numbers look strong, underlying momentum needs sustained demand and investment to avoid reversal in coming months.

Economic Implications

- The pickup signals resilience in industrial activity amid global headwinds, supporting GDP estimates for Q3 FY26 and easing concerns over post-monsoon slowdowns.
- However, sustainability hinges on private capex revival, export demand, and moderating input costs, with December and January data critical for confirming the trend.

What is Index of Industrial Production (IIP)?

- IIP is a monthly volume index that measures short-term changes in industrial output.
- Formula used: The index is calculated as a simple weighted arithmetic mean using Laspeyres' formula.
- Sectors covered: It tracks production in key industrial sectors and shows whether activity is expanding or contracting over a period.
- IIP covers three broad sectors: Manufacturing (77.6% weight), Mining (14.4%), and Electricity (8%).
- The eight core industries together account for about 40.27% of the weight of items included in the IIP.
- These are refinery products, electricity, steel, coal, crude oil, natural gas, cement, and fertilizers, listed in descending order of their share.
- It is published by the Central Statistics Office (CSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI).
- India's new base year for the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) is being updated from 2011-12 to 2022-23, with the new series slated for release by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) around May 28, 2026.

Gross NPAs of banks fall to multi-decade low of 2.1% as of end September 2025: RBI report

India's banking sector achieved a multi-decade low Gross Non-Performing Assets (GNPA) ratio of 2.1% as of end-September 2025, reflecting sustained asset quality improvements.

GNPA Trend Decline

- The GNPA ratio fell to 2.1% in September 2025 from 2.5% in March 2025 and significantly lower than peaks of 11.3% in March 2018, marking the cleanest balance sheets in over a decade.
- This decline occurred despite economic pressures, driven by proactive restructuring, better recovery mechanisms, and write-offs of legacy bad loans.

Key Metrics Improvement

- Net NPA ratio dropped to 0.6% from 0.7% in March 2025, while the Provision Coverage Ratio (PCR) rose to 92.9%, indicating banks hold strong buffers against potential losses.
- Credit-deposit ratio remained stable at around 80%, with slippage ratio (new bad loans) at 0.95%, lower than the previous quarter's 1.0%.

Sectoral and Recovery Factors

- Public sector banks led the improvement with GNPA at 3.2% (down from higher levels), aided by loan recasts under schemes like the 2020 COVID restructuring window and enhanced insolvency processes.
- Private banks showed even stronger metrics at 1.5% GNPA, benefiting from conservative lending and quicker resolutions, though both segments improved due to higher recoveries (₹2.4 lakh crore in FY25).

Implications for Economy

- Lower NPAs free up capital for fresh lending, supporting credit growth targets of 15-16% and easing pressure on profitability amid rising interest costs.
- RBI credits sustained vigilance, digital monitoring, and early warning systems, but warns of risks from unsecured retail loans and external shocks requiring continued caution.

• Gross NPA ratio

FINANCIAL YEAR	GNPA RATIO (%)
2010-11	2.2
2011-12	2.8
2012-13	3.2
2013-14	3.8
2014-15	4.3
2015-16	7.5
2016-17	9.3
2017-18	11.2
2018-19	9.1
2019-20	8.2
2020-21	7.3
2021-22	5.8
2022-23	3.9
2023-24	2.7
2024-25	2.2

SOURCE: RBI

Reserve Bank of India net sold \$31.98 billion to defend rupee in Jan-Oct 2025

- Aimed at stabilising the rupee amid persistent global and domestic pressures, the Reserve Bank of India sold dollars worth \$31.98 billion on a net basis during the first ten months of 2025, marking a sharp turnaround from a net purchase of \$23.03 billion in the January–October period of 2024.
- The intervention underscores the central bank's efforts to curb excessive volatility in the foreign exchange market at a time of a strong US dollar, shifting global capital flows and uncertainty over interest rate trajectories.
- Despite these interventions, the rupee depreciated by 3.3 per cent between January and October 2025, compared with a 2.2 per cent decline in the corresponding period of 2024, reflecting the continued impact of external headwinds even as the RBI sought to smooth movements in the currency rather than defend any specific level.
- According to latest RBI data, during the first 10 months of 2025, the central bank sold \$207.96 billion worth of dollars on a gross basis, signaling higher spot forex interventions to manage rupee volatility. This marks a sharp 35 per cent jump from \$154.5 billion sold in January–October 2024.
- India's forex reserves were \$ 693.3 billion as on December 19, 2025. "In 2024, RBI's net purchase position reflected a bias towards reserve accumulation and curbing excessive rupee appreciation.
- In contrast, 2025 intervention has been far more two-way and tactical, indicating RBI's intent to smooth volatility rather than defend any specific level of the rupee.
- "The sharp increase in RBI's net forward dollar sales, up nearly 30 per cent year-on-year, marks a significant shift in the intervention mix. This highlights RBI's greater reliance on the forward and swap markets rather than outright spot intervention," Chitale said.
- This approach allows the RBI to manage rupee liquidity more efficiently, smoothes the impact on foreign exchange reserves by avoiding abrupt drawdowns in the spot market and reduces market disruption by spreading dollar supply over time, she said.

• RBI purchase/sale of dollars (\$ billion)

PERIOD	GROSS PURCHASE	GROSS SALES	NET
Jan-Oct 2024	177.53	154.5	23.03
Jan-Oct 2025	175.97	207.96	-31.98



Why is Myanmar voting amid conflict?

Context since the 2021 coup

- The military (Tatmadaw) seized power in February 2021, ousted the elected government, and has since faced armed resistance from the People's Defence Forces and ethnic armed organisations.
- Despite failing to stabilise the country or crush opposition, the junta is moving ahead with elections as a way to legitimise continued military dominance, even as large parts of the country remain conflict-ridden.

How and under what conditions elections will be held

- Elections are to be conducted under a highly securitised environment, with strict control over political activity, arrests of opposition leaders, and banning of key parties such as the National League for Democracy (NLD).
- The junta has amended electoral laws, enforced new party registration requirements, and redrawn constituencies, which together tilt the playing field heavily in favour of military-aligned parties.

Reconfiguration of party system and parliament

- Several major parties, including the NLD and some ethnic parties, have been deregistered for refusing to participate under the junta's rules, while the military-backed Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP) remains central.
- The seats previously won by the NLD and others will effectively be redistributed through a proportional representation system that reserves a large share of seats for military-linked parties and continues the 25% military quota in legislatures.

Domestic opposition and international response

- Many pro-democracy forces and ethnic armed groups reject the elections as a sham and continue to fight militarily or politically outside the junta's framework.
- Regionally, ASEAN has barred Myanmar's military leaders from high-level meetings, and Western states plus the UN have criticised the electoral plan, though China, Russia and some neighbours maintain engagement, creating a fragmented external environment.

Implications for Myanmar's future

- The elections are portrayed as an attempt to convert de facto military control into de jure constitutional authority, locking in the Tatmadaw's role rather than enabling a transition.
- Without an inclusive political process, cessation of hostilities, and meaningful dialogue with democratic and ethnic forces, the polls are unlikely to resolve Myanmar's crisis and may instead deepen conflict and fragmentation.

What is the India-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement?

Core features of the FTA

- India will receive near-total zero-duty access for its exports to New Zealand over a transitional period, while India will gradually cut tariffs on about 55% of imports from New Zealand, with 57% of those becoming duty-free by year 15.
- New Zealand has committed to investing 250 billion NZD into the Indian economy by 2030 and easing work and study opportunities for Indians, including easier visas for students and professionals.

Sectors included and excluded

- The deal opens opportunities for Indian exports in textiles, garments, leather, gems and jewellery, engineering goods, and processed food items, especially for MSMEs that gain better market access.
- Sensitive sectors such as most dairy, fruits, several agricultural products, and labour-intensive sectors like some auto parts and toys have been kept outside, reflecting India's defensive interests in protecting farmers and small manufacturers.

Strategic and economic rationale

- The FTA is presented as part of India's broader strategy to diversify trade ties beyond China and the U.S., deepen engagement with the Pacific and West Asia, and integrate Indian firms into global value chains.
- It builds on India's recent FTAs with countries such as Australia and the U.K., and is seen as a way to attract investment, technology, and high-skill jobs while leveraging India's large market to negotiate favourable concessions.

New Zealand's perspective and domestic criticism

- In New Zealand, the agreement is promoted as providing Indian market access for its high-value goods and services, and for making it a gateway for New Zealand businesses into the wider Indo-Pacific.
- However, some New Zealand sectors—especially parts of agriculture and labour groups—criticise the FTA for insufficient safeguards, potential job displacement, and fears that India may maintain non-tariff barriers that blunt real market opening.

Broader implications and challenges

- For India, implementation will test its ability to improve trade facilitation, upgrade infrastructure, and support domestic industries to withstand greater competition while using rules of origin and safeguards effectively.
- This notes that the FTA must be read in the context of shifting global supply chains, regional trade pacts, and India's attempt to balance protection of vulnerable sectors with ambitions for export-led growth and strategic partnerships.

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.

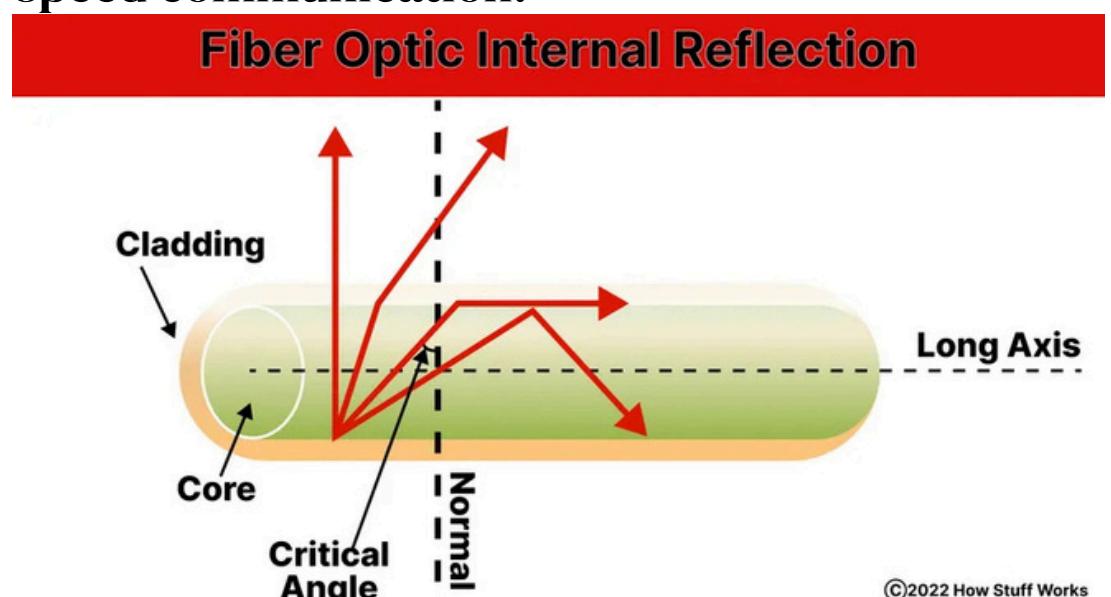
Q3. Ans b

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.



Case Study:



Waymo's outage raises doubts over robotaxi

A widespread power outage in San Francisco that led to Waymo robotaxis stalling and snarling traffic earlier this month has raised concerns about the readiness of autonomous vehicle operators to tackle major emergencies like earthquakes and floods. Driverless taxis from Alphabet unit Waymo, a ubiquitous feature on the city's streets, were stuck at intersections with their hazard lights turned on as traffic lights stopped working following a fire at a PG&E substation that knocked out power to roughly one-third of the city on December 20, videos posted on social media showed. Waymo halted operations, resuming a day later. The incident renewed calls for stricter regulation of the nascent but fast-growing industry as other companies, including Tesla and Amazon's Zoox race to expand robotaxi services in several cities. "If you get a response to a blackout wrong, regulators are derelict if they do not respond to that by requiring some sort of proof that the earthquake scenario will be handled properly," said Philip Koopman, a Carnegie Mellon University computer-engineering professor and autonomous-technology expert.

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EXPRESS explained.
HISTORY

100 Years of CPI: The Communist Party of India (CPI) considers December 26, 1925 as its foundation date. On that date, Communist groups from the country met in Cawnpore (now Kanpur) in what is recognised as the first concerted effort on Indian soil toward forming an all-India Communist party. During the period after 1945, the Communists led crucial peasant struggles, the Tebhaga movement in Bengal, demanding a greater share of the agricultural produce for cultivators, and the Telangana struggle in the princely state of Hyderabad, for a redistribution of land to cultivators. They also supported the spontaneous struggles of the common people against British imperialism.