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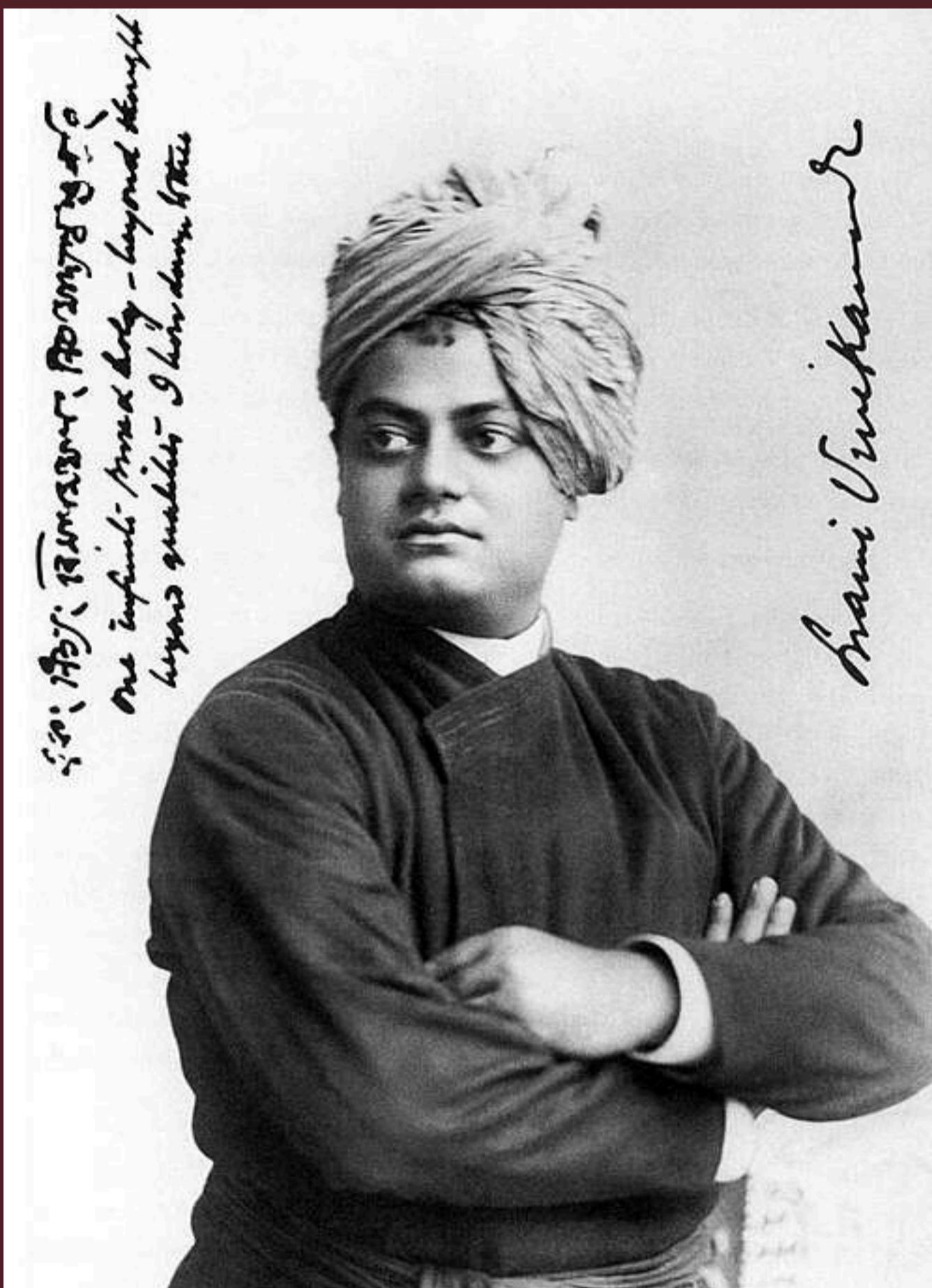
# THE PALA CIVIL TIMES



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NATIONAL YOUTH DAY - SPECIAL EDITION

## National Youth Day



## Celebrating the Spirit of Vivekananda

""The fact of our isolation from all other nations of the world is the cause of our degeneration and its only remedy is getting back into the current of the rest of the world. Motion is the sign of life".

Swami Vivekananda

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## NATIONAL YOUTH DAY - SPECIAL EDITION

*On this National Youth Day, let us tap into the energy, passion, and creativity of India's youth! As Swami Vivekananda's vision inspires us, 'Arise, awake, and stop not till the goal is reached.' Let us channel our potential towards building a stronger, more compassionate, and progressive nation.*

*Empowerment, Innovation, and Service are the pillars to shape a brighter future. Let us work together to drive positive change, foster sustainable growth, and create an inclusive society. Whether it is tackling climate change, promoting digital literacy, or bridging social gaps, every effort counts!*

*As we strive towards a developed India by 2047, let us harness technology, creativity, and collaboration to overcome challenges and explore opportunities. Your voice, ideas, and actions can shape the future!*

*Let us be the change we wish to see in the world, as Mahatma Gandhi said.*

*Wishing all the young minds a Happy National Youth Day!*



**Dr. V. V. Georgekutty**  
Principal, Civil Service Institute Pala



## NATIONAL YOUTH DAY - SPECIAL EDITION

*"Dream, dream, dream. Dreams transform into thoughts and thoughts result in action." – Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam*

*On this National Youth Day, let us ignite the spark of purpose and passion in every young heart.. The youth of our nation are not just the hope for tomorrow—they are the strength of today. With courage in your mind and compassion in your heart, rise to take bold steps toward building a just, inclusive, and developed India.*

*Let your education be not just for degrees, but for wisdom. Channel your energy into innovation, service, and leadership that uplifts communities. Remember, no dream is too big when backed by hard work and perseverance.*

*Let this be a call to lead with values and act with vision. Let us commit to learning deeply, thinking critically, and acting fearlessly for the betterment of society. Each step taken with courage, empathy, and integrity shapes not only personal growth but also national development. Stand for what is right, speak for those unheard, and strive to be the change you wish to see. "The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams." – Eleanor Roosevelt*



**Rev. Fr. Sebastian Chamakkalayil**  
Vice Principal, Civil Service Institute Pala



Central board flags major groundwater contamination at A.P.  
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Selfie, 'penny-drop' mandated as KYC for crypto customers in India  
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## Aditya-L1 decoded how solar storms impact earth's magnetic field: ISRO

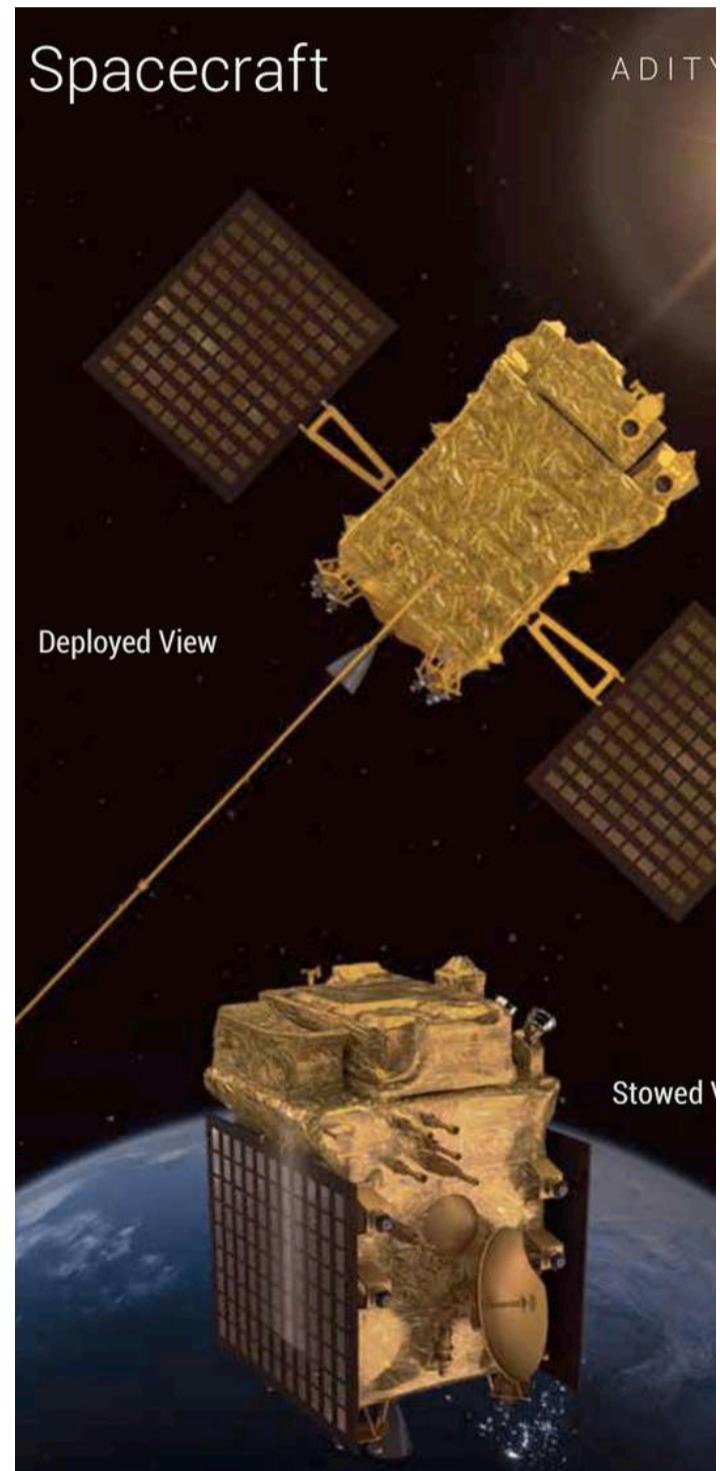
The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has revealed that its Aditya-L1 solar mission has provided new insights into how powerful solar storms affect Earth's magnetic shield.

A study published in The Astrophysical Journal in December analysed a major space weather event that struck Earth in October 2024, using data from Aditya-L1 along with international space missions.

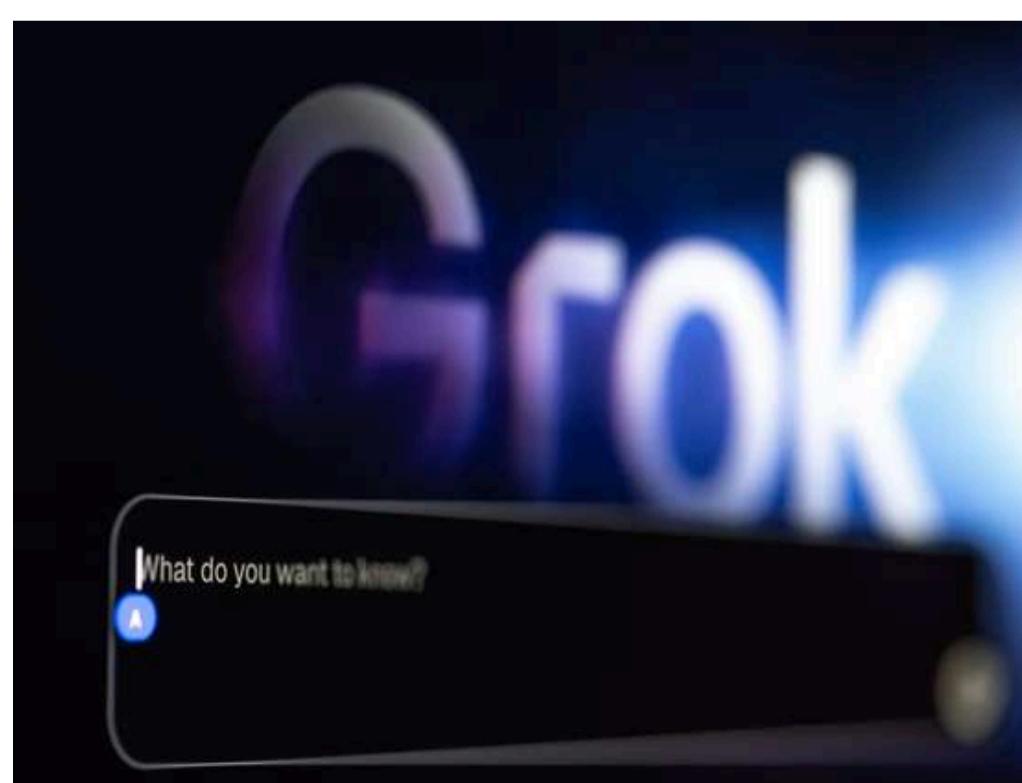
According to ISRO, the turbulent region of the solar storm compressed Earth's magnetic field, briefly exposing some geostationary satellites to extreme space conditions — a phenomenon that occurs only during severe space weather events.

The study also found that currents in the auroral region intensified, potentially heating the upper atmosphere and increasing atmospheric escape.

ISRO explained that space weather, caused by eruptions of solar plasma, can disrupt satellites, communication and navigation systems, and even power grids on Earth. The findings from Aditya-L1 are expected to help improve forecasting and mitigation strategies for such events.



## X accepts mistake, says it will comply with laws



Microblogging platform X has acknowledged its lapse and assured compliance with Indian laws after the Centre warned the Elon Musk-owned company over the circulation of obscene content linked to its Grok AI feature. Government sources said the platform has accepted its mistake and committed to ensuring that such content will not be allowed in the future.



## Fear looms over Himachal apple growers as dry spell, lack of snow continue in the State



Himachal Pradesh is facing a prolonged dry spell and lack of snowfall, raising concerns among apple growers and horticulture experts about potential losses in yield and quality. According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), dry weather is likely to persist over the State in the coming week, with minimum temperatures rising 2–5°C. November rainfall was 95% below normal and December 99% below normal, with little chance of snow or rain in the near term.

Apple growers warn that new plantations are especially vulnerable, and inadequate cold and snow could lead to poor flowering, uneven bud break, reduced fruit set, and higher pest infestations.

Apple is the most important fruit crop in Himachal Pradesh, covering nearly 49% of the total fruit crop area and contributing about 85% of fruit production. The industry supports over 1.5 lakh families and generates an annual revenue of ₹5,000–6,000 crore, making it a key component of the State's economy.

## Central board flags major groundwater contamination at A.P

The Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), in its Annual Ground Water Quality Report 2025, has flagged Andhra Pradesh as one of the States facing widespread groundwater contamination as per BIS standards, though it noted some post-monsoon improvement in areas affected by high electrical conductivity and fluoride.

The report recorded sporadic uranium contamination above the safe limit of 30 ppb in Andhra Pradesh and four other States, with 16 villages in Sri Sathya Sai district and three in Tirupati district identified as uranium hotspots. Arsenic contamination above 10 ppb was found in five villages, while fluoride levels exceeding 1.5 mg/l, especially in hard rock aquifers, remain a major concern.

The CGWB's alerts for June 2024–March 2025 also highlighted high levels of nitrate, iron, chromium, manganese, nickel, zinc, selenium, cadmium, lead, and uranium across several States. Andhra Pradesh and some coastal States were also found to be facing seawater intrusion into coastal aquifers due to high electrical conductivity. Additionally, high residual sodium carbonate beyond permissible limits was reported in about 27% of samples from Andhra Pradesh.



## Govt proposes phone makers to give source code, firms push back



The Union government is considering imposing a new set of telecom security standards that would require smartphone manufacturers to share source code with Indian authorities and make key software changes to strengthen user data security. The proposals, framed under the Indian Telecom Security Assurance Requirements, include mandatory source code review, prior intimation of major software updates to the National Centre for Communication Security, periodic malware scanning, and provisions to block background access to cameras and microphones.

The move, aimed at curbing rising cyber fraud and data breaches in India's nearly 750-million-user smartphone market, has drawn strong opposition from global firms such as Apple, Samsung, Google, and Xiaomi, which argue that such requirements have no global precedent and risk exposing proprietary technology. Industry body MAIT has urged the government to drop the proposals, citing concerns over feasibility, privacy, and operational delays.

The standards, drafted in 2023, are currently under consultation, with the government indicating that industry concerns will be examined before any legal mandate is imposed.

## Telengana orders halt on cough syrup laced with ethylene glycol

The Telangana Drug Control Administration (DCA) has issued a stop-use alert for a batch of Almont-Kid Syrup after it was found to be contaminated with toxic ethylene glycol (EG), following testing at the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) laboratory in Kolkata. The affected batch (No. AL-24002), manufactured in January 2025 by Tridus Remedies of Bihar, is prescribed for children to treat allergy-related symptoms. The DCA has ordered an immediate freeze on the sale and distribution of the batch across the State and directed all drug inspectors to alert retailers, wholesalers, hospitals, and distributors. The regulator has also advised the public to stop using the syrup and report any stock to the nearest drug control authority. Enforcement action has been initiated, and the situation is being monitored to prevent any public health risk.

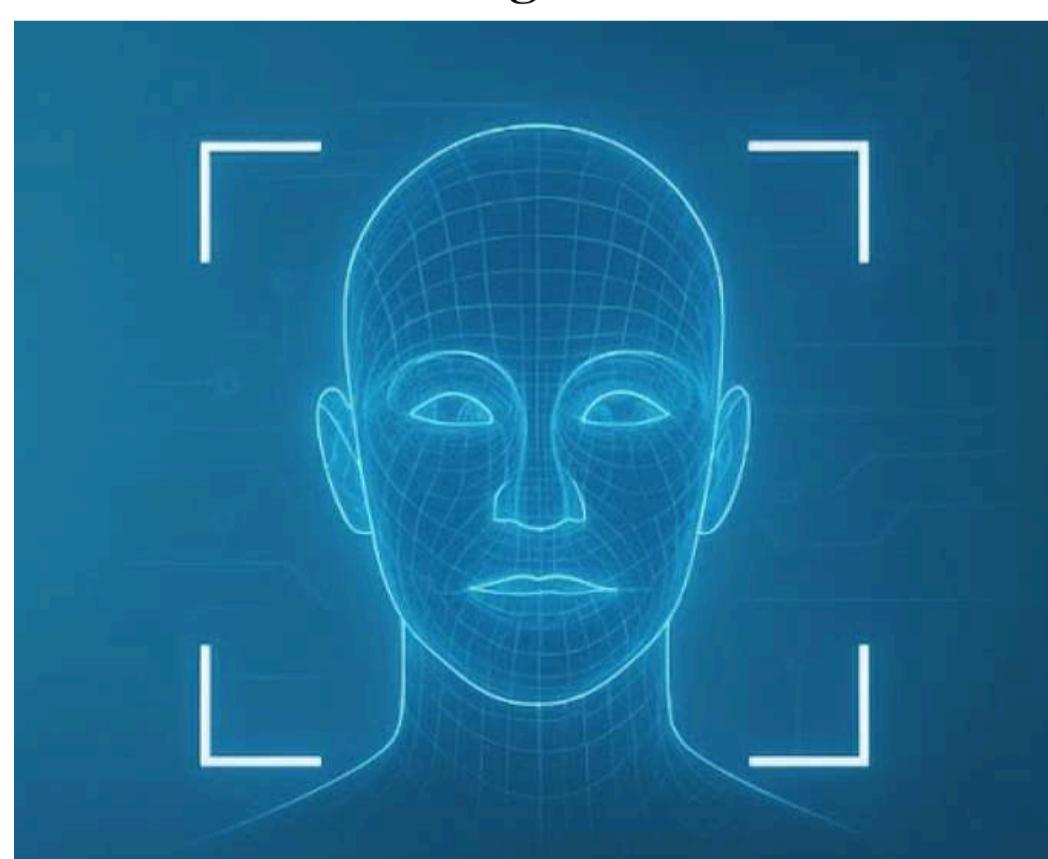


## Selfie, 'penny-drop' mandated as KYC for crypto customers in India.

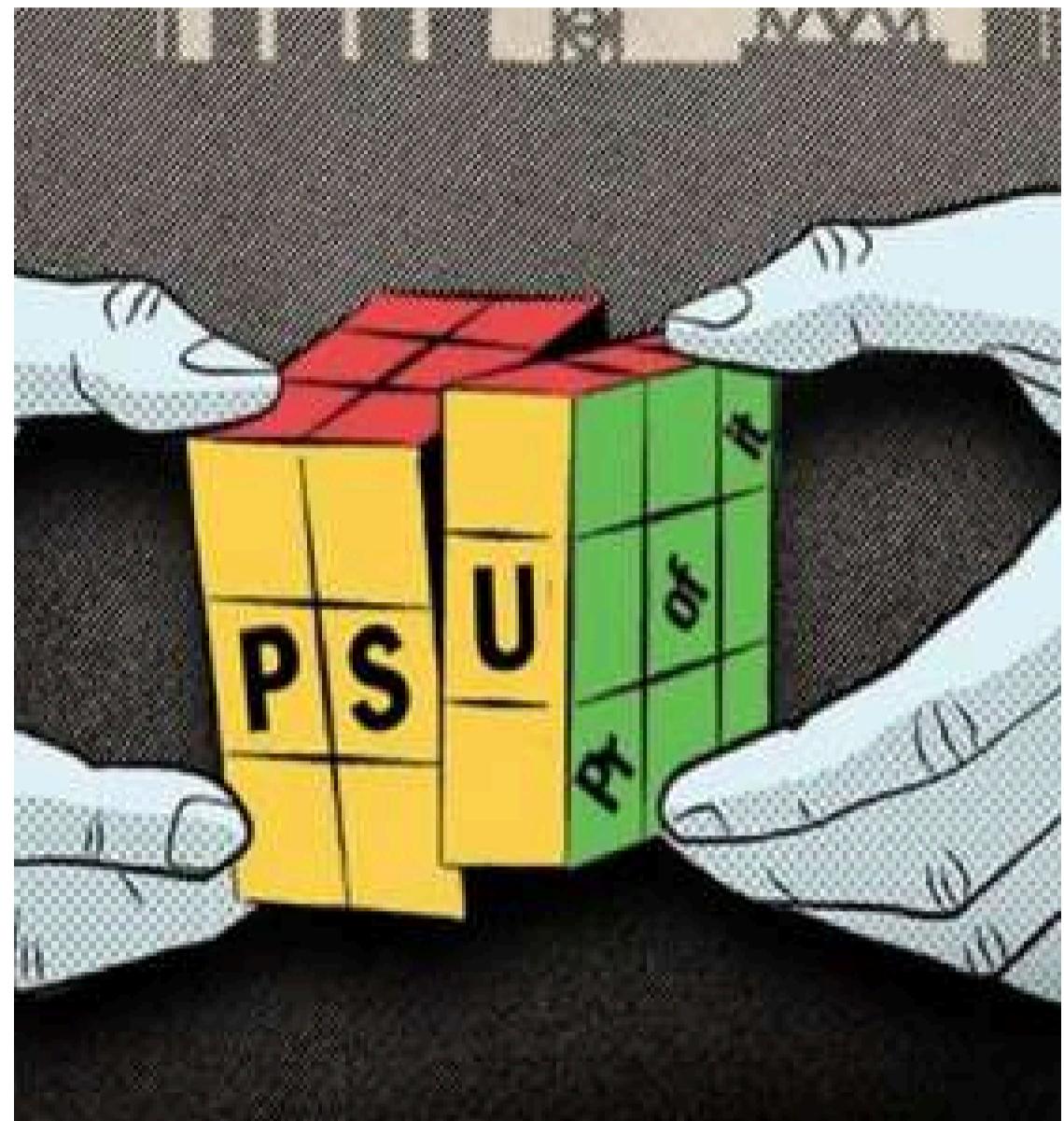
The Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU), under the Union Finance Ministry, has issued updated anti-money laundering (AML) and counter-terror financing (CFT) guidelines for cryptocurrency exchanges, mandating stricter KYC and reporting norms. The new rules require exchanges to verify users through PAN, selfie with liveness detection, geo-location coordinates, IP address, and bank account verification using the 'penny-drop' method.

The guidelines also bar facilitation of privacy-enhancing tools such as tumblers, mixers, and anonymity-focused tokens, and discourage Initial Coin Offerings (ICOs) and Initial Token Offerings (ITOs).

Under the updated framework, all crypto exchanges must register with the FIU as reporting entities and submit regular reports on suspicious transactions while maintaining detailed client records. The FIU, which is the single regulator for crypto exchanges under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), said the measures aim to curb risks related to money laundering, terror financing, and proliferation financing linked to virtual digital assets, which are taxed in India but are not legal tender.



## Faster, demand-led approach needed for PSE privatisation ; CII



The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) has proposed a four-pronged, accelerated strategy to unlock value from public sector enterprise (PSE) disinvestment, urging the Centre to adopt a demand-driven and predictable privatisation roadmap in the Union Budget 2026–27. The industry body called for a rolling three-year privatisation pipeline to improve investor confidence, valuation, and price discovery, while recognising that full privatisation of all non-strategic PSEs is a gradual process.

CII suggested a calibrated stake sale approach, under which the government could initially reduce its shareholding in listed PSEs to 51%, retaining management control, and later bring it down to 33–26%. According to CII's estimates, lowering the government's stake to 51% in 78 listed PSEs could unlock nearly ₹10 lakh crore. The body said the resources could be used to sustain capital expenditure, support infrastructure development, and aid fiscal consolidation amid global economic uncertainty.

## Honouring Swami Vivekananda on National Youth Day



Swami Vivekananda is remembered as one of the most influential spiritual and social thinkers of modern India, who gave a dynamic and socially engaged interpretation of Indian spirituality. He played a decisive role in carrying India's spiritual ideas to the world and in linking spiritual life with national and social regeneration. Born as Narendranath Datta in Kolkata on 12 January 1863, he met Sri Ramakrishna in 1881 at Dakshineshwar and became his disciple. After the death of Sri Ramakrishna in 1886, his disciples formed a new monastic brotherhood, and Narendranath took sannyasa, assuming the name Swami Vivekananda.

Swami Vivekananda gave a new social meaning to spirituality through the idea of Practical Vedanta, which linked spiritual awakening with social service. To institutionalise this ideal, he founded the Ramakrishna Mission in 1897 to carry out humanitarian relief and social work. He placed education at the centre of national regeneration, emphasising a system that combined secular knowledge with spiritual strength for the upliftment of the masses.

He also emerged as India's first great cultural ambassador to the West. His famous Chicago address in 1893 universalised India's spiritual message and established him as the foremost interpreter of Vedanta in the Western world. At a time of colonial inferiority, his work helped restore India's civilisational self-confidence.

At the philosophical level, Swami Vivekananda proclaimed the doctrine of the potential divinity of the soul, placing self-confidence and self-realisation as the foundation of human progress. His ideas thus brought together spirituality, social responsibility, and national regeneration into a single, coherent vision.

*"It may be that I shall find it good to get outside my body, to cast it off like a worn out garment. But I shall not cease to work. I shall inspire men everywhere until the whole world shall know that it is one with God."*

- Swami Vivekananda

## PRELIMS CORNER :

1) Wellesley established the Fort William College Calcutta because (2020)

- (a) He was asked by the Board of Directors at London to do so
- (b) He wanted to revive interest in oriental learning in India
- (c) He wanted to provide William Carey and his associates with employment
- (d) He wanted to train British civilians for administrative purpose in India

2) Which one of the following regions of India has a combination of mangrove forest, evergreen forest and deciduous forest? (2015)

- a) North Coastal Andhra Pradesh
- b) South-West Bengal
- c) Southern Saurashtra
- d) Andaman and Nicobar Islands

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## Humanism, Practical Vedanta, and Social Reform



Swami Vivekananda was a great humanist. Shocked by the poverty, suffering, and oppression faced by the common people, he famously wrote: “The only god in whom I believe, the sum total of all souls, and above all, my god the wicked, my god the afflicted, my god the poor of all races.”

Vivekananda's Practical Vedanta bridged spiritual awakening with social service. Criticising the caste system and urging free thinking, he emphasized education as the key tool for mass upliftment and advocated for universal access to hospitals, libraries, and vocational training. He insisted that knowledge unaccompanied by action is useless, inspiring individuals to translate spiritual insight into practical efforts for social improvement.

He also sought to restore India's civilisational self-confidence, presenting India's spiritual heritage in a modern, universal, and rational manner, and acting as a cultural ambassador to the West. To institutionalize his ideals, he founded the Ramakrishna Mission, combining monastic discipline with large-scale social service in education, healthcare, and disaster relief.

# Prelims Corner: Explanations

## 1) Answer is option d

Lord Wellesley established Fort William College in 1800 in Calcutta as part of his efforts to improve the quality of governance in British India by training young British recruits in the administrative and cultural aspects of the region.

(a) He was asked by the Board of Directors at London to do so. This statement is incorrect. The establishment of Fort William College was an independent initiative of Lord Wellesley.

(b) He wanted to revive interest in oriental learning in India. This statement is Incorrect. The college's primary aim was not to promote oriental learning, although it did house a department for oriental studies. Wellesley's focus was on training administrators in Indian languages, laws, and customs for better governance.

(c) He wanted to provide William Carey and his associates with employment. This statement is incorrect. William Carey, a missionary and scholar, was not the primary reason for establishing the college. While Carey did work as a professor at Fort William College, his employment was incidental and not the purpose of its creation.

(d) He wanted to train British civilians for administrative purposes in India. This statement is correct. Fort William College was set up to train British civil servants in Indian languages, culture, and governance. Wellesley recognized that effective administration required knowledge of local customs, laws, and languages. The college provided instruction in languages like Persian, Bengali, and Sanskrit, as well as Indian law and revenue systems.

## 2) Answer is option d

The South Andaman forests have a profuse growth of epiphytic vegetation, mostly ferns and orchids. The Middle Andamans harbours mostly moist deciduous forests. North Andamans is characterised by the wet evergreen type, with plenty of woody climbers. This atypical forest coverage of Andaman & Nicobar is made-up of twelve types namely

- (1) Giant evergreen forest
- (2) Andamans tropical evergreen forest
- (3) Southern hilltop tropical evergreen forest
- (4) Cane brakes
- (5) Wet bamboo brakes
- (6) Andamans semi-evergreen forest
- (7) Andamans moist deciduous forest
- (8) Andamans secondary moist deciduous forest
- (9) Littoral forest
- (10) Mangrove forest
- (11) Brackish water mixed forest
- (12) Submontane hill valley swamp forest.

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will determine your altitude."

Zig Ziglar