

Daily Current Affairs



जनसत्ता

The Indian EXPRESS

THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS



6
The Hindu



8
**PIB, PR4 &
Other
newspaper**



1
**The Indian
Express**



0
Jansatta



0
**Financial
Express**


Download class24



PDF



10 MCQ QUIZ

A person is seen from behind, wearing a grey hoodie and a red scarf, looking out at the ocean under a sunset sky. The scene is framed by a white border.

**IN THE END WE ONLY
REGRET THE CHANCES
WE DIDN'T TAKE**

Lewis Carroll

Top 10 MCQ from
today's session

- The **PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan** aims to reduce the cost of logistics in India. What is the target percentage by 2030?

पीएम गति शक्ति राष्ट्रीय मास्टर प्लान का उद्देश्य भारत में लॉजिस्टिक्स लागत को कम करना है। 2030 तक लक्ष्य प्रतिशत क्या है?

- **A. 10%**
- B. 15%**
- C. 12%**
- D. 8%**

- India's **Global Terrorism Index (GTI) 2024** rank has improved. What is India's current rank?
भारत की **वैश्विक आतंकवाद सूचकांक (GTI) 2024** रैंक में सुधार हुआ है।
भारत की वर्तमान रैंक क्या है?
- **A. 11th / 11वीं**
- **B. 13th / 13वीं**
- **C. 14th / 14वीं**
- **D. 16th / 16वीं**

- The **Bhimbetka Rock Shelters**, located within the Ratapani Tiger Reserve, are significant for what reason?

रतापानी बाघ अभयारण्य में स्थित भीमबेटका रॉक शेल्टर्स किस कारण से महत्वपूर्ण हैं?

- A. World Heritage Site / विश्व धरोहर स्थल
- B. Rich in flora and fauna / वनस्पति और जीव-जंतुओं से समृद्ध
- C. Historical and cultural landmarks / ऐतिहासिक और सांस्कृतिक स्थल
- D. All of the above / उपरोक्त सभी

- India has been re-elected to the **UN Peacebuilding Commission (PBC)** for the term 2025-26. When was the PBC established?
भारत को 2025-26 कार्यकाल के लिए **संयुक्त राष्ट्र शांति निर्माण आयोग (PBC)** में फिर से चुना गया है। पीबीसी की स्थापना कब हुई थी?
- **A. 2000**
- **B. 2003**
- **C. 2005**
- **D. 2010**

- The **E-Daakhil portal** simplifies consumer complaint filings in India.

When was it launched?

ई-दाखिल पोर्टल भारत में उपभोक्ता शिकायत दर्ज करने को आसान बनाता है। इसे कब लॉन्च किया गया था?

- **A. September 2020 / सितंबर 2020**
- B. January 2021 / जनवरी 2021**
- C. November 2019 / नवंबर 2019**
- D. December 2020 / दिसंबर 2020**

- The **INS Arighaat**, India's second nuclear ballistic missile submarine, recently tested which missile?

आईएनएस अरिघाट, भारत की दूसरी परमाणु बैलिस्टिक मिसाइल पनडुब्बी, ने हाल ही में कौन सी मिसाइल का परीक्षण किया?

- **A. K4 SLBM with 3,500 km range / 3,500 किमी रेंज वाली K4 एसएलबीएम**
- B. Agni-V / अग्नि-वी**
- C. BrahMos / ब्रह्मोस**
- D. Prithvi-II / पृथ्वी-II**

- The **Ratapani Wildlife Sanctuary** in Madhya Pradesh has been declared a tiger reserve. What is its total area?
मध्य प्रदेश में **रतापानी वन्यजीव अभयारण्य** को एक बाघ अभयारण्य घोषित किया गया है। इसका कुल क्षेत्रफल कितना है?
- **A. 763.8 sq. km / 763.8 वर्ग किमी**
- **B. 1,271.4 sq. km / 1,271.4 वर्ग किमी**
- **C. 507.6 sq. km / 507.6 वर्ग किमी**
- **D. 900 sq. km / 900 वर्ग किमी**

The **Ratapani Wildlife Sanctuary** in Madhya Pradesh has been declared the eighth tiger reserve in the state. Under which section of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, was this notification issued?
मध्य प्रदेश में **रतापानी वन्यजीव अभयारण्य** को राज्य का आठवां बाघ अभयारण्य घोषित किया गया है। यह अधिसूचना वन्यजीव (संरक्षण) अधिनियम, 1972 की किस धारा के तहत जारी की गई थी?

-
- A. Section 35 / धारा 35
 - B. Section 36A / धारा 36A
 - C. Section 38V / धारा 38V
 - D. Section 39 / धारा 39

- The **E-Daakhil portal** simplifies consumer complaint filings in India. Under which act was this portal launched?
ई-दाखिल पोर्टल भारत में उपभोक्ता शिकायत दर्ज करने को सरल बनाता है। यह पोर्टल किस अधिनियम के तहत लॉन्च किया गया था?
- **A. Consumer Protection Act, 2015 / उपभोक्ता संरक्षण अधिनियम, 2015**
B. Consumer Protection Act, 2019 / उपभोक्ता संरक्षण अधिनियम, 2019
C. Consumer Grievance Redressal Act, 2020 / उपभोक्ता शिकायत निवारण अधिनियम, 2020
D. National Consumer Protection Act, 2022 / राष्ट्रीय उपभोक्ता संरक्षण अधिनियम, 2022

- India is negotiating a deal with France for 26 Rafale-M fighter jets and three additional submarines. Which class do these submarines belong to?

भारत फ्रांस के साथ 26 राफेल-एम लड़ाकू विमानों और तीन अतिरिक्त पनडुब्बियों के लिए समझौता कर रहा है। ये पनडुब्बियां किस श्रेणी की हैं?

- **A. Kalvari-Class / कलवरी-श्रेणी**
- B. Scorpene-Class / स्कॉर्पीन-श्रेणी**
- C. Arihant-Class / अरिहंत-श्रेणी**
- D. Akula-Class / अकुला-श्रेणी**



INSIDE



Delhi HC Chief Justice appointed to Supreme Court

NEW DELHI The Centre on Tuesday notified the appointment of Justice H.C. Gokhale, Chief Justice of the Delhi High Court, as a judge of the Supreme Court. His elevation included the top court's judicial strength to 33, one short of the full sanctioned strength. **» PAGE 4**



Centre issues showcause notice to Delhi airport

NEW DELHI The Centre has sent a showcause notice to Delhi International Airport Ltd, over the collapse of a roof in June after an Indian Institute of Technology Delhi audit report found structural deficiencies, an official of the Ministry of Civil Aviation said. **» PAGE 4**

Hamas, Fatah reach deal to run post-war Gaza

HAIFA Palestinian Islamist movement Hamas and the Fatah party have agreed to create a committee to jointly run post-war Gaza, negotiators from both sides said on Tuesday. The committee would be composed of non-partisan figures with authority on different matters. **» PAGE 14**



Militants capture four Syrian towns

AMMAN Militants have captured four Syrian towns, a senior Syrian government official said on Tuesday. The towns are located in the northwestern region of the country. **» PAGE 14**



Let 'commander' killed, say J&K police

Srinagar A militant commander was killed in a gunfight with Indian security forces in Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday. Police officials said the militant was a high-ranking member of a separatist group. **» PAGE 4**



Local action amidst global inertia

National actions are making visible progress
OPINION • PAGE 9



Gukesh lets Ding off the hook in Game 7

SPORTS • PAGE 18

India, China ties set on right track: Jaishankar

External Affairs Minister in Parliament cites continuous diplomatic engagement with Beijing for disengagement along the Line of Actual Control; Lok Sabha Speaker disallows questions by Opposition on the matter; Minister says government took 'firm and principled' stance during the talks and had ensured that India's national security was upheld

Sushant Mehta
NEW DELHI

India and China have set the "direction of some improvement", External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar told Parliament on Tuesday, crediting "continuous diplomatic engagement" and a step-by-step approach with Beijing in achieving disengagement in border areas, where he said the situation had been "almost" since 2023 as a "result of Chinese actions".

"We have been very clear that the restoration of peace and tranquillity would be the basis for the rest of the relationship to move forward," Mr. Jaishankar said.

In a 20-minute answer to a question on the subject, he recounted steps leading to the agreement announced on October 29, in which the Indian Army

and People's Liberation Army (PLA) forces agreed to disengage troops at Demchok and Deshpang, and work towards de-escalating tensions along the Line of Actual Control (LAC). Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla refused requests from the Opposition for any questions or clarifications to the statement.

"As a result of this recent understanding, arrived at after intensive negotiations, resumption of controlling the traditional areas is under way," Mr. Jaishankar said, adding that patrols had conducted the "verification of disengagement on the ground" as well.

He said that disengagement from all friction points at the LAC has now been "fully achieved", and that the next priority would be de-escalation, or the withdrawal of troops from the area, and also the

Next steps

With disengagement fully achieved at the India-China border, the LAC details the developments to follow as per agreement between the two countries.

- Talks on de-escalation of LAC
- Discussions on management of border and confidence-building measures
- Meeting of Special Representative Aftab and Wang Yi
- Meeting of Foreign Secretary Vinay Kumar and his Chinese counterpart

management of border areas. He said the Special Representative and Foreign Secretaries of the two countries would meet soon to take this forward.

String of meetings He said the government's stance during negotiations had been "firm and principled".

Next steps

With disengagement fully achieved at the India-China border, the LAC details the developments to follow as per agreement between the two countries.

- Talks on de-escalation of LAC
- Discussions on management of border and confidence-building measures
- Meeting of Special Representative Aftab and Wang Yi
- Meeting of Foreign Secretary Vinay Kumar and his Chinese counterpart

management of border areas. He said the Special Representative and Foreign Secretaries of the two countries would meet soon to take this forward.

String of meetings He said the government's stance during negotiations had been "firm and principled".

Next steps

With disengagement fully achieved at the India-China border, the LAC details the developments to follow as per agreement between the two countries.

- Talks on de-escalation of LAC
- Discussions on management of border and confidence-building measures
- Meeting of Special Representative Aftab and Wang Yi
- Meeting of Foreign Secretary Vinay Kumar and his Chinese counterpart

management of border areas. He said the Special Representative and Foreign Secretaries of the two countries would meet soon to take this forward.

String of meetings He said the government's stance during negotiations had been "firm and principled".

Next steps

With disengagement fully achieved at the India-China border, the LAC details the developments to follow as per agreement between the two countries.

- Talks on de-escalation of LAC
- Discussions on management of border and confidence-building measures
- Meeting of Special Representative Aftab and Wang Yi
- Meeting of Foreign Secretary Vinay Kumar and his Chinese counterpart

management of border areas. He said the Special Representative and Foreign Secretaries of the two countries would meet soon to take this forward.

String of meetings He said the government's stance during negotiations had been "firm and principled".

Returned to sender



Washing the coast: Plastic waste washed ashore in Visakhapatnam on Tuesday after rains caused by Cyclone Fani. **» PAGE 22**

South Korean President declares martial law, MPs vote to oppose the move

Seoul South Korea's President Yoon Suk Yeol on Tuesday declared martial law, accusing the Opposition of being "anti-state forces" and saying he was acting to protect the country from "threats" posed by the North.

Opposition reacts

Lawmakers quickly voted to oppose the shock declaration but the military backed Mr. Yoon, setting up a stand-off with no clear way forward.

The National Assembly was called late on Tuesday night and helicopters were seen landing on the roof of the parliament building for a short time, while hundreds of protesters gathered outside parliament chanting "Arrest Yoon Suk Yeol" and faced off with security forces guarding parliament.

Some 100 MPs managed to get in to the Assembly in the middle of Wednesday, where they unanimously voted in favour of a motion to block the martial law declaration and call for its lifting.

Under the constitution, martial law must be lifted by majority in parliament.

Mr. Yoon gave a range of reasons to justify his announcement — North Korea's nuclear threats, the martial law in more than 40 years — "to safeguard a great South Korea from the threats posed by North Korea and to eliminate anti-state elements plundering people's freedom and democracy. I hereby declare martial law."

The President labelled the Opposition, which holds a majority in the 300-member parliament, as an "anti-state forces intent on overthrowing the regime."

"I will restore the country to normalcy by getting rid of anti-state forces as soon as possible," he said, without elaborating further.

The National Assembly has become a haven for criminals, a den of legislative dictatorship that seeks to paralyse the judicial and administrative systems and overturn our liberal democratic order," Mr. Yoon said.

"Charge of collapse" He criticised the current situation as South Korea "on the verge of collapse," with the National Assembly acting as a monster liberal South Korea, "a state of emergency, a state of martial law was 'inevitable' to guarantee the continuity of a liberal South Korea," adding that it would ensure the country's foreign policy.

Democratic South Korea

Bangladesh summons Indian envoy to protest entry of rioters into mission premises at Agartala

Kolko Bhattacharya
NEW DELHI The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) of Bangladesh summoned the Indian envoy on Tuesday to convey Dhaka's concerns about the breach of security at the Assistant High Commission of Bangladesh in Agartala.

Indian High Commissioner Pranay Vora was called to meet Acting Foreign Secretary Binay Haldar, even as Bangladesh suspended consular and visa activities as it maintains in Agartala.

Bangladesh Foreign Ministry, in an interview, cited "security situation" as the reason for the suspension of consular and visa activities.

"We have wide-ranging, multi-faceted relationship

and you cannot reduce it to one issue and one agenda. We have so many inter-dependencies and we want to build on those inter-dependencies. A number of positive developments in the relationship in the last few months, like trade, power transmission, supply of essential commodities, have taken place," Mr. Vora said after the meeting. "We are interested in working with the Government of Bangladesh to build our shared aspiration for peace, security and development."

Protests continue On Tuesday, protests against alleged atrocities targeting minority Hindus in Bangladesh continued in Agartala, Assam, and West Bengal, as a right-wing youth organisation, held a protest

rally in Agartala under Hindu security protection. Anti-Bangladesh sentiment was on display across Assam.

Congress members gathered outside the Bangladesh mission in Guwahati to protest against attacks targeting minority Hindus in Bangladesh.

Protests were staged by the members of Lok Jagan Manch in the State's Nalbari, Chirang, Hojai, and Jorhat districts.

Anti-Bangladesh sentiment had reacted angrily on Monday after the mission, CRPF and Tripura State Rifle troops have been deployed, and two checkpoints have been set up outside as a security measure.

Opposition reacts

Lawmakers quickly voted to oppose the shock declaration but the military backed Mr. Yoon, setting up a stand-off with no clear way forward.

The National Assembly was called late on Tuesday night and helicopters were seen landing on the roof of the parliament building for a short time, while hundreds of protesters gathered outside parliament chanting "Arrest Yoon Suk Yeol" and faced off with security forces guarding parliament.

Some 100 MPs managed to get in to the Assembly in the middle of Wednesday, where they unanimously voted in favour of a motion to block the martial law declaration and call for its lifting.

Under the constitution, martial law must be lifted by majority in parliament.

Mr. Yoon gave a range of reasons to justify his announcement — North Korea's nuclear threats, the martial law in more than 40 years — "to safeguard a great South Korea from the threats posed by North Korea and to eliminate anti-state elements plundering people's freedom and democracy. I hereby declare martial law."

The President labelled the Opposition, which holds a majority in the 300-member parliament, as an "anti-state forces intent on overthrowing the regime."

"I will restore the country to normalcy by getting rid of anti-state forces as soon as possible," he said, without elaborating further.

The National Assembly has become a haven for criminals, a den of legislative dictatorship that seeks to paralyse the judicial and administrative systems and overturn our liberal democratic order," Mr. Yoon said.

"Charge of collapse" He criticised the current situation as South Korea "on the verge of collapse," with the National Assembly acting as a monster liberal South Korea, "a state of emergency, a state of martial law was 'inevitable' to guarantee the continuity of a liberal South Korea," adding that it would ensure the country's foreign policy.

Democratic South Korea

South Korean President declares martial law, MPs vote to oppose the move

Agence France-Presse
SEOUL

South Korea's President Yoon Suk Yeol on Tuesday declared martial law, accusing the Opposition of being "anti-state forces" and saying he was acting to protect the country from "threats" posed by the North.

Lawmakers quickly voted to oppose the shock declaration but the military backed Mr. Yoon, setting up a stand-off with no clear way forward.

The National Assembly was sealed late on Tuesday night and helicopters were seen landing on the roof.

Troops entered the building for a short time, while hundreds of protesters gathered outside parliament chanting "Arrest Yoon Suk Yeol" and faced off with security forces guarding parliament.

Some 190 MPs managed to get in to the Assembly in the early hours of Wednesday, where they unanimously voted in favour of a motion to block the martial law declaration and call for its lifting.

Under the constitution, martial law must be lifted when a majority in parliament demands it.

Mr. Yoon gave a range of reasons to justify his announcement – South Korea's first declaration of martial law in more than 40 years. "To safeguard a liberal South Korea from the threats posed by North Korea's communist forces and to eliminate anti-state elements plundering people's freedom and happiness, I hereby declare emergency martial law," Mr. Yoon said.

The President labelled



Rights curtailed: The police stand guard in front of the National Assembly in Seoul on Tuesday after martial law was declared. AFP

the Opposition, which holds a majority in the 300-member parliament, as "anti-state forces intent on overthrowing the regime".

"I will restore the country to normalcy by getting rid of anti-state forces as soon as possible," he said, without elaborating further.

"Our National Assembly has become a haven for criminals, a den of legislative dictatorship that seeks to paralyse the judicial and administrative systems and overturn our liberal democratic order," Mr. Yoon said.

'Verge of collapse'

He described the current situation as South Korea "on the verge of collapse, with the National Assembly acting as a monster intent on bringing down liberal democracy".

He said the imposition of martial law was "inevitable to guarantee the continuity of a liberal South Korea," adding that it would not impact the country's foreign policy.

Democratic South Korea

is a major ally for the United States in Asia, and the U.S. State Department said it had "grave concern" about the situation.

China, a key ally of North Korea, urged its nationals in the South to stay calm and exercise caution, while Britain said it was "closely monitoring developments".

With martial law imposed, all military units in the South have been ordered to strengthen their emergency alert and readiness postures, Yonhap news agency reported.

Army chief General Park An-su took charge as martial law commander and immediately issued a decree banning "all political activities".

The decree also banned "actions that deny or seek to overthrow the liberal democratic system, including the spread of fake news, public opinion manipulation, and false propaganda".

The imposition of martial law came after Mr. Yoon's approval rating dropped to 19% in the latest Gallup poll last week.

- **Martial Law Declaration**

- President Yoon Suk Yeol declared **martial law**, citing threats from North Korea and "anti-state forces."

राष्ट्रपति यून सुक-योल ने मार्शल लॉ लागू किया, उत्तर कोरिया और "राज्य विरोधी ताकतों" से खतरे का हवाला देते हुए।

- This is South Korea's first martial law declaration in over 40 years.
यह दक्षिण कोरिया में 40 साल में पहली बार मार्शल लॉ लागू किया गया है।

- Justification included safeguarding a liberal South Korea and eliminating anti-state elements.

इसका कारण था एक स्वतंत्र दक्षिण कोरिया की सुरक्षा और राज्य विरोधी तत्वों का उन्मूलन।

- **Opposition's Reaction**

- The Opposition, holding a majority in the **300-member National Assembly**, quickly voted against the declaration.

300-सदस्यीय नेशनल असेंबली में बहुमत रखने वाले विपक्ष ने तुरंत घोषणा के खिलाफ मतदान किया।

- MPs unanimously demanded lifting the martial law under constitutional provisions. सांसदों ने संवैधानिक प्रावधानों के तहत मार्शल लॉ हटाने की सर्वसम्मति से मांग की।

- Protesters gathered outside the Assembly chanting slogans like "**Arrest Yoon Suk Yeol.**" प्रदर्शनकारी असेंबली के बाहर "यून सुक-योल को गिरफ्तार करो" जैसे नारे लगाते हुए इकट्ठा हुए।

- **Military and Security Measures**

- Military units in the south were ordered to **strengthen emergency readiness**.
दक्षिण में सैन्य इकाइयों को आपातकालीन तैयारी को मजबूत करने का आदेश दिया गया।

- Army Chief General Park An-su took charge as **martial law commander**, issuing a decree banning all political activities.
सेना प्रमुख जनरल पार्क अन-सू ने "मार्शल लॉ कमांडर" का पद संभालते हुए सभी राजनीतिक गतिविधियों पर प्रतिबंध लगाने का आदेश जारी किया।

- **National Assembly Standoff**

- The National Assembly was sealed off, with troops and helicopters landing on the roof.
नेशनल असेंबली को सील कर दिया गया, और सैनिक और हेलीकॉप्टर छत पर उतरे।

- President Yoon labeled the National Assembly a "**haven for criminals**" and accused it of undermining democracy.
राष्ट्रपति यून ने नेशनल असेंबली को "अपराधियों का अड्डा" कहा और इसे लोकतंत्र को कमजोर करने का आरोप लगाया।

- **President's Perspective**

- Yoon described South Korea as being "**on the verge of collapse.**"

यून ने दक्षिण कोरिया को "ढहने के कगार पर" बताया।

- Stated that martial law was essential to **guarantee continuity of democracy** and would not affect foreign policy.

कहा कि मार्शल लॉ लोकतंत्र की निरंतरता सुनिश्चित करने के लिए आवश्यक था और इससे विदेश नीति पर कोई प्रभाव नहीं पड़ेगा।

- **International Reactions**

- The **U.S. State Department** expressed "grave concern."
अमेरिकी विदेश विभाग ने "गंभीर चिंता" व्यक्त की।
- **China** urged calm and caution among its nationals in South Korea.
चीन ने दक्षिण कोरिया में अपने नागरिकों से शांत और सतर्क रहने का आग्रह किया।
- **Britain** stated it was closely monitoring developments.
ब्रिटेन ने कहा कि वह घटनाक्रम पर कड़ी नजर रख रहा है।

The diagram consists of two rounded rectangular boxes. The left box is orange and contains the text 'Public Sentiment'. The right box is light gray and contains text in English and Hindi. Two curved arrows connect the boxes: one at the top pointing from the orange box to the gray box, and one at the bottom pointing from the gray box back to the orange box, indicating a reciprocal relationship.

Public Sentiment

President Yoon's approval ratings dropped to **19%**, highlighting growing public discontent.
राष्ट्रपति यून की अनुमोदन रेटिंग घटकर 19% रह गई, जो बढ़ते सार्वजनिक असंतोष को दर्शाती है।



Capital and largest city	Seoul 37°33′N 126°58′E
Administrative center	Sejong City ^[a] 36.487002°N 127.282234°E
Official languages	Korean (Pyojuneo) Korean Sign Language ^[1]
Official script	Hangul
Ethnic groups (2019) ^[2]	95.1% Korean 4.9% other
Religion (2023) ^[3]	51% no religion 31% Christianity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> └ 21% Protestantism └ 10% Catholicism 17% Buddhism 2% other religion
Demonym(s)	South Korean · Korean
Government	Unitary presidential republic <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • President Yoon Suk Yeol • Prime Minister Han Duck-soo • Speaker of the National Assembly Woo Won-shik • Chief Justice of the Supreme Court Cho Hee-dae • President of the Constitutional Court Lee Jongseok

Establishment history	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gojoseon October 3, 2333 BCE (mythological) • Three Kingdoms 57 BCE • Balhae and Silla Kingdoms 668 • Goryeo dynasty July 25, 918 • Joseon dynasty August 13, 1392 • Korean Empire October 12, 1897 • Japanese annexation August 22, 1910 • Independence from Japan declared March 1, 1919 • Provisional Government 11 April 1919 • Liberation from Japanese occupation August 15, 1945 • US administration of Korea south of the 38th parallel September 8, 1945 • ROK established August 15, 1948 • Current constitution February 25, 1988
Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excl. North Korea 100,363^{[4][5][6]} km² (38,750 sq mi) (107th) • Water (%) 0.3
Population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2024 estimate ▲ 52,081,799^[7] (28th) • Density 507/km² (1,313.1/sq mi) (15th)
GDP (PPP)	2024 estimate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total ▲ \$3.258 trillion^[8] (14th) • Per capita ▲ \$62,960^[8] (28th)
GDP (nominal)	2024 estimate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total ▲ \$1.869 trillion^[8] (14th) • Per capita ▲ \$36,131^[8] (33rd)



- **History in brief**
- **Goryeo Dynasty (918–1392)** and then the **Joseon Dynasty (1392–1897)**.



NORTH



SOUTH



Bank Bill passes LS, allows one account, 4 nominees

Finance Minister says proposed amendments will strengthen governance and enhance customer convenience; Opposition criticises government over inflation being higher than economic growth

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Lok Sabha on Tuesday passed the Banking Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024, the first Bill of the Winter Session after the week-long logjam ended.

The Bill, piloted by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, was approved by a voice vote.

The Bill allows bank account holders to have up to four nominees in their accounts and also proposes changes related to redefining "substantial interest" for directorships, which could increase to ₹2 crore instead of the current limit of ₹5 lakh.

It proposes to increase the tenure of directors (excluding the chairman and whole-time director) in cooperative banks from eight years to 10 years, so as to align with the Constitution (Ninety-Seventh Amendment) Act, 2011.

Once passed, the Bill will allow a director of a Central Cooperative Bank to serve on the Board of a State Cooperative Bank. The Bill also seeks to give greater freedom to banks



Discussions begin: Union Minister Nirmala Sitharaman speaks in the Lok Sabha during the Winter Session of Parliament. PTI

in deciding the remuneration to be paid to statutory auditors.

It also seeks to redefine the reporting dates for banks for regulatory compliance to the 15th and last day of every month instead of the second and fourth Fridays.

"The proposed amendments will strengthen governance in the banking sector and enhance customer convenience with respect to nomination and protection of investors," Ms. Sitharaman said while moving the Bill for consid-

eration and passing.

Depositors will have the option of successive or simultaneous nomination facility, while locker holders will have only successive nomination. "The intention is to keep our banks safe, stable, healthy, and after 10 years you are seeing the outcome," Ms. Sitharaman said.

Participating in the debate earlier, the Opposition parties criticised the Bill.

Gaurav Gogoi, Deputy Leader of the Congress in the Lok Sabha, questioned the rising imports from

China at a time when relations between the two countries were strained. He also questioned the government over demonetisation and electoral bonds.

Rani Srikumar of the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam questioned the fees for basic banking services such as ATM withdrawals and SMS alerts and expressed concern over the vulnerability of senior citizens to cyberfraud.

Nationalist Congress Party (Sharadchandra Pawar) leader Supriya Sule proposed a stricter approach to tackling financial fraud, and suggested that perpetrators compensate victims before serving prison sentences.

Congress MP Karti Chidambaram said the Indian rupee against the US dollar was at ₹84.73, and the growth rate in quarter two of FY25 was 5.4%, the lowest in seven quarters, while the inflation was 6.21%. "Whenever inflation is greater than economic growth, it will lead to stagflation. Against this backdrop, this government has brought about the Banking Laws Amendment Bill," he said.

Account Holders' Rights

Account holders can now nominate up to **four nominees** for their accounts.

Locker holders will only have the option of **successive nomination**, not simultaneous.

खाताधारक अब अपने खातों के लिए चार नामांकित व्यक्ति रख सकते हैं।

Directorship Rules

The definition of "**substantial interest**" for directorships has been revised.

Cooperative bank directors' tenure extended from **eight years to 10 years** under the 97th Amendment.

निदेशक बनने के लिए नए मानदंड तय किए गए हैं।

Improved Governance

Enhanced governance for regulatory compliance with deadlines set for the **15th and last day of each month** instead of the second and fourth Fridays.

नियमों का पालन करने के लिए बेहतर समय सीमा तय की गई है।

Director Appointment

A director of the **Central Cooperative Bank** will now serve on the board of a State Cooperative Bank.

Objectives of the Bill



Strengthen governance and improve **customer convenience**.

- बैंकिंग क्षेत्र में ग्राहकों की सुविधा को बढ़ाने का प्रयास।

Increase trust in banks through **nomination processes** and **regulation clarity**.

- नामांकन और नियमों को स्पष्ट करने से बैंकों में विश्वास बढ़ाना।

U.S. approves \$1.17-bn deal for equipment for MH-60R helicopters

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

The United States has approved a possible \$1.17-billion deal to sell India support equipment for MH-60R multi-role helicopters under its Foreign Military Sales programme.

Nine of the 24 choppers contracted under a \$2.2-billion deal with Lockheed Martin in February 2020 have been inducted into India's armed services so far, officials said.

The U.S. Defence Security Cooperation Agency (DSCA) delivered the required certification notifying the U.S. Congress of this possible sale of follow-on systems. "The Government of India has requested to buy 30 Multifunctional Information Distribution System-Joint Tactical Radio Systems," the DSCA said.

To deter threats

"The proposed sale will improve the Government of India's capability to deter current and future threats by upgrading anti-submarine warfare capabilities. India will have no difficulty absorbing this equipment and services in-



The principal contractor will be Lockheed Martin.

to its armed forces," the notification said.

The principal contractor will be Lockheed Martin and any offset agreement will be defined in further negotiations.

Other items which do not fall in the major defence equipment category and are part of the prospective sale include advanced data transfer systems; external fuel tanks; forward-looking infrared systems; an operator machine interface assistant; spare containers; facilities study, design, construction and support; support and test equipment; munitions; integration and test support; spare and repair parts; and intermediate and depot-level repair capabilities and spares.

Quick Facts:

- Mission Areas: Anti-submarine warfare, anti-surface warfare, search and rescue and logistics (vertical replenishment, personnel transfer, etc.)

- Weapons Capability:

- MK 46, MK 50, and MK 54 torpedos

- AGM-114 Hellfire missiles

- GAU-21 .50-caliber automatic machine gun

- M240 machine gun

- Date deployed:
2006

- 64 feet, 10 inches long by 17 feet high
- Max airspeed of 180 knots

MH-60R

Sea Hawk





Deal done

India and the U.S. concluded agreements for the purchase of 24 MH-60R Seahawk and six AH-64E attack helicopters

The six Apaches and associated equipment will cost about **\$800 million**

MH-60R SEAHAWK HELICOPTERS

- The procurement is through the Foreign Military Sales (FMS) route of the U.S. government and is worth **\$2.12 bn**
- MH-60R is the mainstay of the U.S. Navy's Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) capability
- These helicopters are being procured as replacement for 15 Sea King Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) helicopters de-inducted in 1991 and one Sea King 42B MRH lost in an accident. The current MRHs in service, Sea King 42Bs, were inducted in the 1980s and are in need of replacement
- They are capable of carrying out anti-ship, anti-submarine, electronic warfare, net-centric over-the-horizon offensive and defensive roles



APACHE

- These will be operated by the Army and deployed with its strike Corps in the western sector
- In September 2015, India contracted 22 AH-64E attack helicopters at a cost of **₹13,951.57 crore** for the IAF and the entire fleet will be in service in 2020
- In August 2017, the government approved the procurement of six Apaches under the optional clause for the Army
- On June 12, 2018, the Defence Security Cooperation Agency notified the U.S. Congress of the possible sale to India
- Apache is a heavy attack helicopter and the most advanced craft currently in service globally
- India is the 16th nation to select the Apache and the AH-64E is its most advanced variant, Boeing said
- The Apache is the most advanced multi-role heavy attack helicopter in the world



Year	Equipment Purchased	Quantity	Purpose	Value	Additional Details
2020	MH-60R Seahawk Multi-Role Helicopters	24	Anti-submarine and anti-surface warfare	\$2.6 billion	Contract signed in February 2020; first two helicopters delivered in July 2021. WIKIPEDIA
2023	MQ-9B Predator Drones (SkyGuardian and SeaGuardian variants)	31	Intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance	\$3 billion	Deal approved in June 2023; includes 15 SeaGuardian drones for the Navy and 16 SkyGuardian drones for the Army and Air Force. REUTERS
2024	GE F414 Jet Engines	Not specified	Indigenous fighter aircraft development	Not disclosed	Memorandum of Understanding signed for joint production of engines in India to power advanced fighter jets. TIMES OF INDIA

- **Overview of the Deal**

- The **United States** approved a **\$1.17-billion deal** to supply equipment for India's MH-60R multi-role helicopters under the **Foreign Military Sales programme**.

- संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका ने भारत के MH-60R मल्टी-रोल हेलीकॉप्टरों के लिए उपकरण आपूर्ति के लिए \$1.17 बिलियन के सौदे को मंजूरी दी है।

- The equipment is intended to upgrade India's **anti-submarine warfare capabilities**.


- यह उपकरण भारत की पनडुब्बी रोधी युद्ध क्षमताओं को उन्नत करने के लिए है।

Previous Helicopter Deal



India had earlier contracted **24 MH-60R helicopters** in February 2020 under a **\$2.2 billion agreement** with Lockheed Martin.

भारत ने फरवरी 2020 में लॉकहीड मार्टिन के साथ \$2.2 बिलियन के समझौते के तहत 24 MH-60R हेलीकॉप्टरों का अनुबंध किया था।



Nine helicopters from this deal have already been inducted into India's armed forces.

इस सौदे में से नौ हेलीकॉप्टर पहले ही भारतीय सशस्त्र बलों में शामिल किए जा चुके हैं।

Key Provisions of the Current Sale

Includes advanced data transfer systems, external fuel tanks, infrared systems, and spare parts.

- इसमें उन्नत डेटा ट्रांसफर सिस्टम, बाहरी ईंधन टैंक, इंफ्रारेड सिस्टम और स्पेयर पार्ट्स शामिल हैं।

Also includes support and test equipment, munitions, and repair capabilities.

- इसमें परीक्षण उपकरण, गोला-बारूद और मरम्मत क्षमताएं भी शामिल हैं।

Benefits for India

Enhances India's ability to **deter current and future threats**, especially in anti-submarine warfare.

The **Lockheed Martin** will serve as the principal contractor for this deal.

- भारत की वर्तमान और भविष्य की खतरों को रोकने की क्षमता में वृद्धि करेगा, विशेष रूप से पनडुब्बी रोधी युद्ध में।
- लॉकहीड मार्टिन इस सौदे के लिए मुख्य ठेकेदार के रूप में कार्य करेगा।

- **DSCA's Role**

- The **Defense Security Cooperation Agency (DSCA)** delivered the required certification for this sale.

- रक्षा सुरक्षा सहयोग एजेंसी (DSCA) ने इस बिक्री के लिए आवश्यक प्रमाणन दिया।

- India also requested **30 Multifunctional Information Distribution Systems-Joint Tactical Radio Systems** as part of the equipment.

- भारत ने उपकरण के हिस्से के रूप में 30 मल्टीफंक्शनल इंफॉर्मेशन डिस्ट्रीब्यूशन सिस्टम-जाइंट टैक्टिकल रेडियो सिस्टम का भी अनुरोध किया।

On World Wildlife Day, making a clarion call to protect India's critically endangered species

The Hindu Bureau

Despite possessing only 2.4% of the world's land area, India accounts for 7-8% of all recorded species, which includes 45,000 species of plants and 91,000 of animals. This rich biodiversity is one of the reasons that it has been historically identified as a megadiverse country.

World Wildlife Conservation Day (December 4) serves as an occasion to not only celebrate the country's rich biodiversity but also evaluate if enough is being done to protect the critically endangered species that find a home here.

India has 10 biogeographic zones and is home to 8.58% of the mammalian species documented so far, with the corresponding figures for avian species being 13.66%, for reptiles 7.91%, for amphibians 4.66%, for fish 11.72% and for plants 11.8%.

Four of the 34 globally identified biodiversity hotspots, namely the Hima-



layas, Indo-Burma, the Western Ghats-Sri Lanka and Sundaland, are located in India.

With only about 2.4% of the world's total land surface, India punches far above its weight in encompassing the breadth that evolution has to offer. However, the natural bounty is often at odds with India's economic trajectory.

As the most populous country in the world and with 65% of the population aged under 35, India's growth trajectory implies a hunger for natural resources: land, wood, timber, forest produce, precious metals, coal and more. This unfortunately conflicts with wildlife habitat, bringing several species – of the land and air – too close to

comfort with human settlements.

Indian civilisation has absorbed a tolerance, even reverence for several wild animals as is evidenced in its religious mythology. The wildlife reserves and sanctuaries in India, set up to conserve certain endangered species, are unfenced, unlike the big game reserves in Africa and neither is hunting permissible in India as a licensed, recreational sport.

Risk of extinction

However this doesn't imply that India is a haven for wildlife. There are 73 "critically endangered" species in India as of 2022 – the most updated estimates made available by the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change. The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) classifies species as critically endangered when they are at the highest risk of extinction in the wild. The number of critically endangered species has risen from 47 in

2011, though this also due to improvements in data availability and monitoring and not entirely due to animals of a species getting decimated.

Of the nine species of mammals considered critically endangered, eight are endemic, which means that their habitat is limited to a small geographic area within India. These include the Kashmir stag or Hangul, Malabar large-spotted civet, Andaman Shrew, Jenkin's shrew, Nicobar shrew, Namdapha flying squirrel, large rock rat and Leafletted leaf-nosed bat.

While the carnivores of the cat family – lions, tigers, cheetahs – garner considerable attention because of their appeal to tourism, they are only three on the list of critically endangered animals.

Birds such as the Great Indian Bustard face threats from sources such as powerlines in Rajasthan and often fail to garner the attention they deserve for their conservation.



- **India's Biodiversity**

- Despite having only **2.4% of the world's land area**, India accounts for **7-8% of all recorded species**.
 - इसमें 45,000 पौधों और 91,000 पशुओं की प्रजातियाँ शामिल हैं।
- **10 biogeographic zones** and **four global biodiversity hotspots** (Himalayas, Indo-Burma, Western Ghats-Sri Lanka, Sundaland) exist in India.
 - भारत के पास 10 जैव भौगोलिक क्षेत्र और चार वैश्विक जैव विविधता हॉटस्पॉट हैं।
- Home to **13.66% avian species**, **7.91% reptiles**, **4.66% amphibians**, **11.72% fish**, and **11.8% plants** globally.
 - पक्षी, सरीसृप, उभयचर, और मछलियों के कई प्रतिशत में वैश्विक योगदान।

Importance of Wildlife Reserves

Wildlife reserves in India are unfenced and do not promote hunting as a sport, unlike African reserves.

- भारत में वन्यजीव अभयारण्य बाड़ रहित हैं और खेल के रूप में शिकार की अनुमति नहीं देते।

Indian civilization reflects reverence for animals, often showcased in religious mythology.

- भारतीय सभ्यता में पशुओं का सम्मान धार्मिक पौराणिक कथाओं में झलकता है।



- **Critically Endangered Species in India**
- As of 2022, **47 critically endangered species** exist, based on the Ministry of Environment's updated data.
 - भारत में 2022 तक 47 गंभीर रूप से संकटग्रस्त प्रजातियाँ पाई जाती हैं।
- Of the **nine critically endangered mammals, eight are endemic**, including:
 - **Kashmir Stag (Hangul), Malabar Civet, Nicobar Shrew, Jenkin's Shrew, Namdapha Flying Squirrel, and others.**
 - इन प्रजातियों में कश्मीर का हंगुल, मालाबार सिवेट, और निकोबार श्रू जैसी प्रजातियाँ शामिल हैं।
- **Great Indian Bustards** face threats like power lines in Rajasthan.
 - ग्रेट इंडियन बस्टर्ड को राजस्थान में बिजली लाइनों से खतरा है।

Risks and Challenges

The number of critically endangered species has risen from **47 in 2011** to **57 now**, partly due to better monitoring and data availability.

- संकटग्रस्त प्रजातियों की संख्या बढ़ी है, लेकिन डेटा निगरानी में सुधार भी इसका कारण है।

India's growing population and hunger for resources create challenges for conservation.

- बढ़ती जनसंख्या और संसाधनों की मांग संरक्षण के लिए चुनौती उत्पन्न करती है।

Role of World Wildlife Conservation Day

Observed on **December 4**, it highlights India's efforts to conserve species and evaluate ongoing initiatives.

- दिसंबर 4 को वन्यजीव संरक्षण दिवस भारत की जैव विविधता को संरक्षित करने के प्रयासों पर ध्यान केंद्रित करता है।

Encourages evaluating India's ability to sustain habitats for its rich biodiversity.

- जैव विविधता के संरक्षण के लिए भारत की क्षमता को परखने का आह्वान।

TEHRAN
Georgia PM accuses political rivals of backing violence at protests



Georgia Prime Minister Irakli Kobakhidze threatened to punish his political opponents, accusing them of using violent violence at mass protests, as Tbilisi's top court rejected a key lawsuit to annul the result of a contested October vote. He also suggested he would take retribution on public servants if they took part in protests, said.

BEIJING
China's Xi vows to support Nepal's infrastructure development bids



President Xi Jinping told Nepal Prime Minister K.P. Sharma Oli that China will offer more support to developing Nepal's infrastructure. China was ready to "deepen cooperation with Nepal, build the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), and enhance connectivity in areas such as ports, power grids and telecommunications", Mr. Xi said.

BANGKOK
China bans exports of gallium, germanium, antimony to the U.S.



China announced on Tuesday that it is banning exports to the U.S. of gallium, germanium, antimony and other high-tech materials with potential military applications. Beijing announced the move after the Washington expanded its list of Chinese companies subject to export controls on computer chip-making equipment, said.

LUANDA
Biden announces \$1 billion for Africa during maiden trip



U.S. President Joe Biden announced more than \$1 billion in new aid to an assistance to Africa during a visit to Angola, where Washington is showcasing a major infrastructure project aimed at countering China's investments on the continent. Mr. Biden said the United States was "fulfilling its obligation" as a "pledged financial aid, said."

NATO chief avoids talk of Ukraine's membership

Associated Press BRUSSELS

NATO Secretary-General Mark Rutte on Tuesday sidestepped questions about Ukraine's possible membership of the military alliance, saying that the priority now must be to strengthen the country's hands in any future peace talks with Russia by sending it more weapons. "The front is not moving southwards. It is slowly moving westwards," Mr. Rutte said. "So we have to make sure Ukraine gets into a position of strength, and then it should be for the Ukrainian government to decide on the next steps, in terms of opening peace talks and how to conduct them."

Militants capture four Syrian towns, Army reclaims some lost territory

As the gains put insurgents 10 km from Hama, the country's fourth largest city, they kill more than 50 government forces during the battle for the towns of Halfaya, Taybat al-Man, Maardis and Soran; military reclaims the village of Khanaser

Associated Press BEIRUT

Syrian Islamist militants captured four new towns early on Tuesday, bringing them closer to the coastal city of Hama, opposition activists said, while government forces retook some territory they lost last week. The capture of the towns is the latest in the push by insurgents led by the salafist jihadist Hayat Tahrir al-Islam, as well as Turkic-backed opposition fighters. Insurgents now are about 10 km from Hama, the country's fourth largest city.



Insurgents capture a militant firing atop a tank abandoned by the Syrian Army on the highway to Damascus on Tuesday.

northwestern idlib province. The insurgent military operations administration said government forces as they captured the central towns of Halfaya, Taybat al-Man, Maardis and Soran. The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, an opposition war monitor, confirmed that the towns were taken. The long war between Mr. Assad and his foreign backers and the array of armed opposition forces seeking his overthrow has killed an estimated half-million people over the past 13 years.

Joint strike The pro-government Damascus media outlet reported intense clashes in and around the towns, adding that Syrian troops are firing artillery shells at insurgents in the area. State media reported in some attacks by Syrian and Russian air forces in the area.

Iran President shows apprehensions about a planned hijab law

Agence France Press TEHRAN

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian has expressed doubts about new legislation imposing tougher penalties on women who flout mandatory hijab regulations. Since the 1979 Islamic Revolution, women in Iran have been required to wear a headscarf in public. However, increasing numbers are appearing without hijabs, especially since protests erupted following Mahsa Amini's death in custody in September 2022. She had been arrested for allegedly violating the dress code. Parliament has approved the new "hijab and chastity" law, but it requires the President's signature on December 11 to take effect. "As the person responsible for promulgating this law, I have many reservations about it," Mr. Pezeshkian said. Iranian media reports say the legislation imposes fines equivalent to up to 20 months' average salary for women who improperly wear a hijab or forgo it altogether in public or on social media. "We risk losing a lot of things in society because of this law," the Iranian President said, adding that leaders must avoid actions that could alienate the public.

Starting over



A technician helps a man put on a prosthetic limb donated by the Indonesian government to mark the International Day of Persons with Disabilities in Banda Aceh on Tuesday.

Hamas and Fatah agree to create a joint committee to run post-war Gaza

Agence France Press CAIRO

Palestinian Islamist movement Hamas and Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas's Fatah party have agreed to create a committee to jointly run post-war Gaza, negotiators from both sides said on Tuesday. Under the plan, which needs Mr. Abbas's approval, the committee would be composed of 10 to 15 non-partisan figures with authority on matters related to the economy, education, health, humanitarian aid and reconstruction. Following talks in Cairo brokered by Egypt, the two rival factions agreed the committee would administer the Palestinian side of the Rafah checkpoint on the border with Egypt.



Little left to enter Displaced Palestinians take shelter at a school in Khan Younis in the southern Gaza Strip on Tuesday.

lowed Hamas's reconquering victory in a 2006 election. Hamas seized control of Gaza in 2007, while the secularist Fatah movement controls the Palestinian Authority and has partial administrative control in the Israeli-occupied West Bank. An U.S. President Joe Biden's administration prepares to hand over power in January to presidential elect Donald Trump, Palestinians face intense U.S. pressure to ensure Hamas will have no role in Gaza once the war ends. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government, one of the most right-wing in Israel's history, made Hamas's destruction in Gaza one of its main war objectives following the October 7 attack.

Norway Parliament votes to extend women's abortion rights from 12 to 18 weeks

Agence France Press OSLO

Norway's parliament on Tuesday adopted legislation extending the legal limit for abortion from 12 to 18 weeks in the Scandinavian country. Legislators voted by a broad majority in favour of a proposal by the centre-left minority government that has been split on the issue. The new law, which will replace a 1978 legislation, will give women until the 18th week of pregnancy to decide whether they want an abortion. Currently, women in Norway have an abortion after the 12th week but

81% of abortions in Norway in 2022 occurred before the ninth week of pregnancy.

only with the approval of a medical committee made up two doctors, one male and one female. Referrals are extremely rare. Supporters of the new legislation called the old system "discriminatory and paternalist", saying the new law allowed women to decide their own fates over their own bodies. Opponents, including the small Christian demo-

U.K. does not have to choose between U.S. and Europe: Starmer

Siriam Lakshman LONDON



U.K. Prime Minister Keir Starmer strongly rejected the idea that Britain had to choose between the U.S. and its allies in Europe. Mr. Starmer is one of several European leaders negotiating Mr. Trump's imminent return to power. Mr. Trump is expected to meet several Heads of State on Saturday when he visits Paris for the re-opening of the Notre Dame Cathedral. As U.S. President, Mr. Trump had a rocky relationship with the EU, over trade, defence expenditure and positions on Russia and Ukraine. "The relationship we are with either America or Europe is plain wrong. It just is utterly," Mr. Starmer said during a foreign policy speech at the Lord Mayor's Banquet in London on Monday evening. "The national interest demands that we work with both," he added.

Mr. Starmer said the U.K. would "never" turn away from its relationship with the U.S., calling the bilateral relationship the "cornerstone" of the U.K.'s security and prosperity for over a century.

"Hard-headed realism" The Prime Minister said the two countries being close was not based on sentimentality but "hard-headed realism", as he highlighted areas of cooperation that were important in current times such as AI, security and military cooperation.

At a dinner at the Trump Tower in Manhattan on September 26, Mr. Starmer had told Mr. Trump, then a presidential candidate, that his government "would invest more

deeply than ever" in the U.K.-U.S. relationship. "And we will rebuild our ties with Europe too," Mr. Starmer said during his speech on Monday night, as he thanked the Conservative for the state of ties with Europe.

New envoy to U.K. Mr. Trump announced the appointment of billionaire Warren Stephens for the post of U.S. Ambassador to the U.K. Mr. Stephens, the CEO of financial services company Stephens Inc., was initially a donor to Mr. Trump's Republican rivals in the latest election cycle before donating to the Trump campaign.

Mr. Stephens had also donated in support of Mr. Trump's campaign in 2016 and 2020. The Consumer Finance Protection Bureau had taken action against Integrity Advance, a payday loan company in which Mr. Stephens had a 40% stake, according to reporting from the Guardian in 2022. "Warren has always dreamed of serving the U.S. full time. I am thrilled that he will now have that opportunity as the top diplomat, representing the U.S. to one of America's most cherished and loved Allies," Mr. Trump said on Truth Social, his social media platform.

Macron resigns calls to slams as 'political fiction'

Agence France Press BRUXELLES

French President Emmanuel Macron on Tuesday rejected calls to resign to break a political impasse in the country, saying such a scenario amounted to "political fiction". "I don't make sense... it's frankly not up to scratch to say these things," Mr. Macron, whose government faces a confidence vote in parliament on Wednesday, said during a visit to Saudi Arabia. "Pre-emptive opposition figures and some voices closer to the presidential faction have suggestions regarding what I should do as Mr. Macron's only viable option,

Norway Parliament votes to extend women's abortion rights from 12 to 18 weeks

Agence France-Presse
OSLO

Norway's parliament on Tuesday adopted legislation extending the legal limit for abortion from 12 to 18 weeks in the Scandinavian country.

Legislators voted by a broad majority in favour of a proposal by the centre-left minority government that has been split on the issue.

The new law, which will replace a 1978 legislation, will give women until the 18th week of pregnancy to decide whether they want an abortion.

Currently, women in Norway can have an abortion after the 12th week but

83% of abortions in Norway in 2023 occurred before the ninth week of pregnancy

only with the approval of a medical committee made up of two doctors, one male and one female.

Refusals are extremely rare.

Supporters of the new legislation called the old system obsolete, conservative and "paternalist", saying the new law allowed "women to decide themselves over their own bodies."

Opponents, including the small Christian Demo-

cratic party, argued that late abortions were often linked to foetus viability and abortion therefore amounted to "eliminating the patient" rather than "eliminating the illness".

A majority of lawmakers also voted in favour of giving women up to 18 weeks to decide themselves about reducing the number of foetuses, in the event of a multiple pregnancy.

According to the Norwegian Institute of Public Health, 83% of abortions in Norway in 2023 occurred before the ninth week of pregnancy.

Only 4.7% took place after week 12, after receiving approval from a medical committee.

Time Since Conception	MTP Act, 1971	MTP (Amendment) Act, 2021
Up to 12 weeks	On the advice of one doctor	On advice of one doctor
12 to 20 weeks	On advice of two doctors	On advice of one doctor
20 to 24 weeks	Not allowed	On advice of two doctors for special categories of pregnant women
More than 24 weeks	Not allowed	On advice of medical board in case of substantial fetal abnormality
Any time during the pregnancy	On advice of one doctor, if immediately necessary to save pregnant woman's life	On advice of one doctor, if immediately necessary to save pregnant woman's life



HOW RESTRICTIVE ARE ABORTION LAWS?

● Stage till abortion is legal ● Exception

US

- Any stage
- None

UK

- 24 weeks
- Depends on risks

AUSTRALIA

- Any stage
- States have own laws

CANADA

- 24 weeks
- Doctors advice

FRANCE

- 14 weeks
- Depends on risks

GERMANY

- 12 weeks
- Up to 23 weeks if doctors advice

JAPAN

- Not allowed
- Depends on risks

BRAZIL

- Not allowed
- Depends on risks

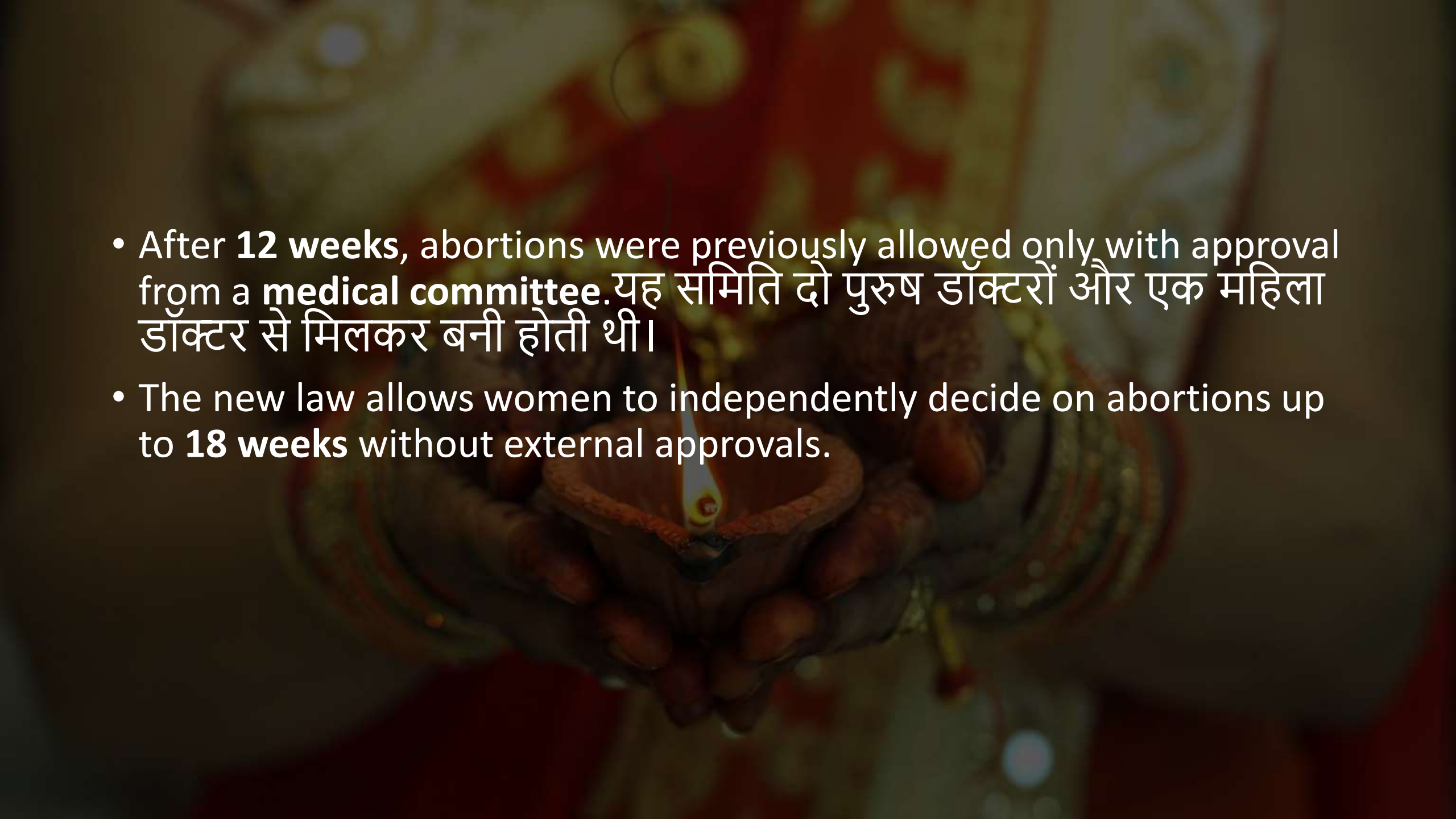
INDIA: Abortion is legal till **20 weeks**

Legislative Change

Norway's parliament voted to extend the legal abortion limit from **12 weeks to 18 weeks**.

- महिलाएं अब गर्भावस्था के 18वें सप्ताह तक गर्भपात का निर्णय ले सकती हैं।

The law replaces the **1978 legislation** and grants women more autonomy over their reproductive rights.

- 
- A hand holding a lit diya (oil lamp) against a background of a decorated Indian flag. The diya is lit, and the flame is visible. The background is a blurred image of the Indian national flag with garlands.
- After **12 weeks**, abortions were previously allowed only with approval from a **medical committee**. यह समिति दो पुरुष डॉक्टरों और एक महिला डॉक्टर से मिलकर बनी होती थी।
 - The new law allows women to independently decide on abortions up to **18 weeks** without external approvals.

Statistics on Abortions in Norway

83% of abortions in 2023 occurred before the ninth week of pregnancy.

- 2023 में 83% गर्भपात गर्भाविस्था के 9वें सप्ताह से पहले हुए।

Only 4.7% of abortions occurred after 12 weeks, with approval from a medical committee.

Supporters' Views

Advocates of the legislation described the older system as **conservative and paternalistic**.

- समर्थकों ने पुराने नियमों को रूढ़िवादी और पितृसत्तात्मक बताया।

The law is viewed as a move toward **greater women's autonomy**.

- महिलाओं को अपने शरीर पर अधिक अधिकार देने की दिशा में एक कदम।

- **Opposition and Criticism**

- Opponents, including the **Christian Democratic Party**, argued that late abortions might conflict with fetal viability and ethical concerns.

- विरोधियों का तर्क है कि देर से गर्भपात नैतिकता और भ्रूण की जीवित रहने की संभावना पर सवाल खड़ा कर सकता है।

- **Broader Implications**

- This change aligns with efforts to ensure **reproductive rights** in Scandinavian countries.

- स्कैंडिनेवियाई देशों में प्रजनन अधिकारों को बढ़ावा देने की दिशा में यह कदम।

- Legislators emphasized that this move will empower women to make choices about their **own bodies**.

- यह कदम महिलाओं को अपने शरीर के बारे में निर्णय लेने का अधिकार देगा।



V-P to Chouhan: Was there any promise to farmers, why wasn't it met?



V-P Jagdeep Dhankhar with Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan in Mumbai on Tuesday. **PTI**

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 3

AMBI-FARMERS' protest in parts of the country, Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar on Tuesday asked Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan if any promise had been made to farmers and why it had not been fulfilled. Saying that farmers were "suffering" and there was a farmers' agitation last year too, Dhankhar said "we are doing nothing".
Dhankhar was speaking at a ceremony to mark the anniversary **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

STATEMENT IN LOK SABHA

Disengagement over, ties with China looking up: Jaishankar

Says Special Representatives, Foreign Secy mechanisms to convene soon

SHUBHAJIT ROY, DIVYA A & DEEPTIMAN TIWARY
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 3



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar in U.S. **AP**

IN HIS first statement to Parliament since India and China reached an agreement on border on patrolling arrangements in the Dejiang Plains and Demchok — two hotly contested areas along the line of Actual Control (LAC) — External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said on Tuesday that the "mechanism of disengagement" has not Delhi-Beijing ties "in the direction of some improvement".

"Recent developments that reflect our continuous diplomatic engagement... have set our **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

DAY AFTER BANGLA MISSION VANDALISM

Dhaka calls India envoy, its mission in Agartala suspends visa services

SHUBHAJIT ROY & DEBRAJ DEB
NEW DELHI, AGARTALA, DEC 3

Bangladesh summoned Indian High Commissioner Pranay Verma to the Foreign Affairs Ministry in Dhaka on Tuesday. In Agartala, the Bangladesh Assistant High Commission suspended all its visa and consular services "until further notice", citing a "security situation", even **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**



HOURLY OF GUARD DUTY

SAI leaders Sukhvir Singh Badal (right) and Sukhdev Singh Dhillon on guard duty at Golden Temple on Tuesday as part of the punishment awarded by Akal Takht. **NEWS THROUGH SAI**

CUMULATIVE JOB TARGET 16.2 LAKH

In 3-yr PLI push, phones, pharma, food dominate new jobs creation

3/4th of 5.84 lakh jobs from 3 sectors; challenge in textiles, auto

YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW

AN EXPRESS RTI APPLICATION

JOB'S CREATED (TILL JUNE 2024)

BEST PERFORMING SECTORS	YET TO MAKE A MARK SECTORS
Mobile Phones 1,22,613 (61.3%) (3 years, 3 months)	Textiles 12,607 (5%) (2 years, 3 months)
Pharmaceuticals 77,139 (38.4%) (2 years, 3 months)	Solar 9,521 (4.8%) (2 years, 3 months)
Food processing 2,44 lakh (108%) (3 years, 3 months)	Auto and auto components 32,081 (22.1%) (2 years, 3 months)

*including a 2 year graceless period

SOURJYARENDRA BARKER
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 3

THE GOVERNMENT'S flagship Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme to boost domestic manufacturing has been a mixed bag so far in terms of job creation. A stark lack of the PLI schemes based on data obtained under the Right to Information (RTI) Act reveals that sectors such as textiles and advanced chemical cells are yet to make any mark, some others such as mobile phones, food processing and pharma have done very well, and some like auto, IT hardware and specialty steel are slow to gain momentum. **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

from various ministries by The Indian Express through separate Right to Information (RTI) applications. **WHY SOME SECTORS IN SLOW LANE** **PTI**



MAHARASHTRA GOVT FORMATION

Fadnavis reaches out, Eknath Shinde likely to take oath as Dy CM

SHUBHANGI KHAPRE & VALLABH DZARRAR
MUMBAI, DECEMBER 3



Chief Minister Eknath Shinde leaves a Thane hospital after check-up Tuesday. **PTI/AN**

SENIOR BJP leader Devendra Fadnavis Tuesday evening reached Mumbai and then met Chief Eknath Shinde at his official residence 'Vaicha', signalling that talks have been cleared for the oath-taking ceremony of Maharashtra's new Chief Minister and two Deputy Chief Ministers at Mumbai's Asaf Mulla on Thursday. **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

Fadnavis and Shinde stayed for around 30 minutes. A state-level leader said, "A basic discussion on the swearing-in took place between the two leaders. Details regarding distribution of portfolios and Cabinet composition formula would be decided in **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

For resolution of your complaints against RBI Regulated Entities (RE)* follow these steps

- Lodge your complaint first with the RE
- Get acknowledgement/reference number
- If no resolution is received from the RE in 30 days or you are not satisfied with it, you may file your complaint with the RBI Ombudsman on RBI's CMS portal (cms.rbi.org.in) or by post to CRPC**

RBI Kehta Hai... Jaankaar Baniye, Satark Rahiye!

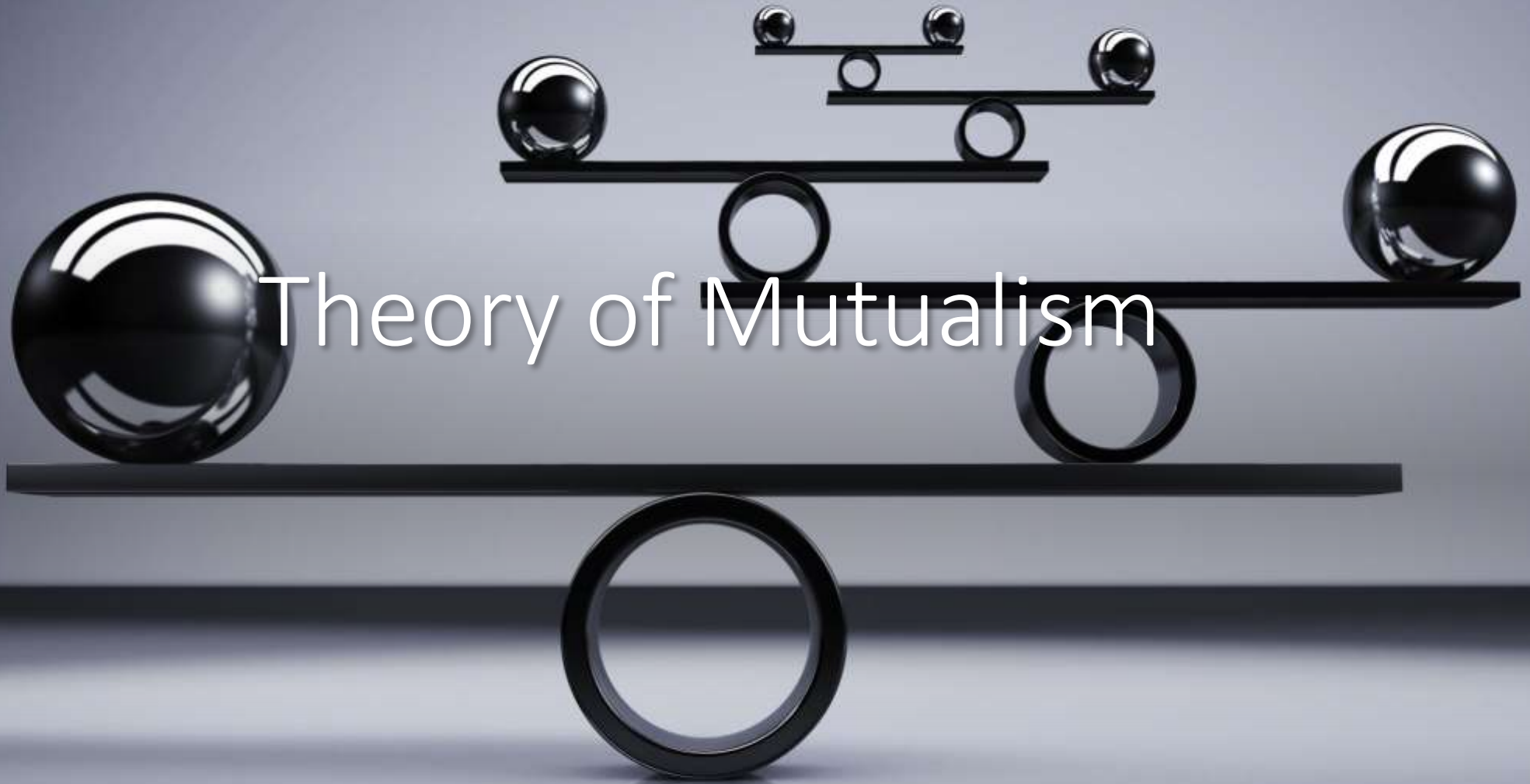
Filing complaints directly with the RBI Ombudsman may lead to rejection.



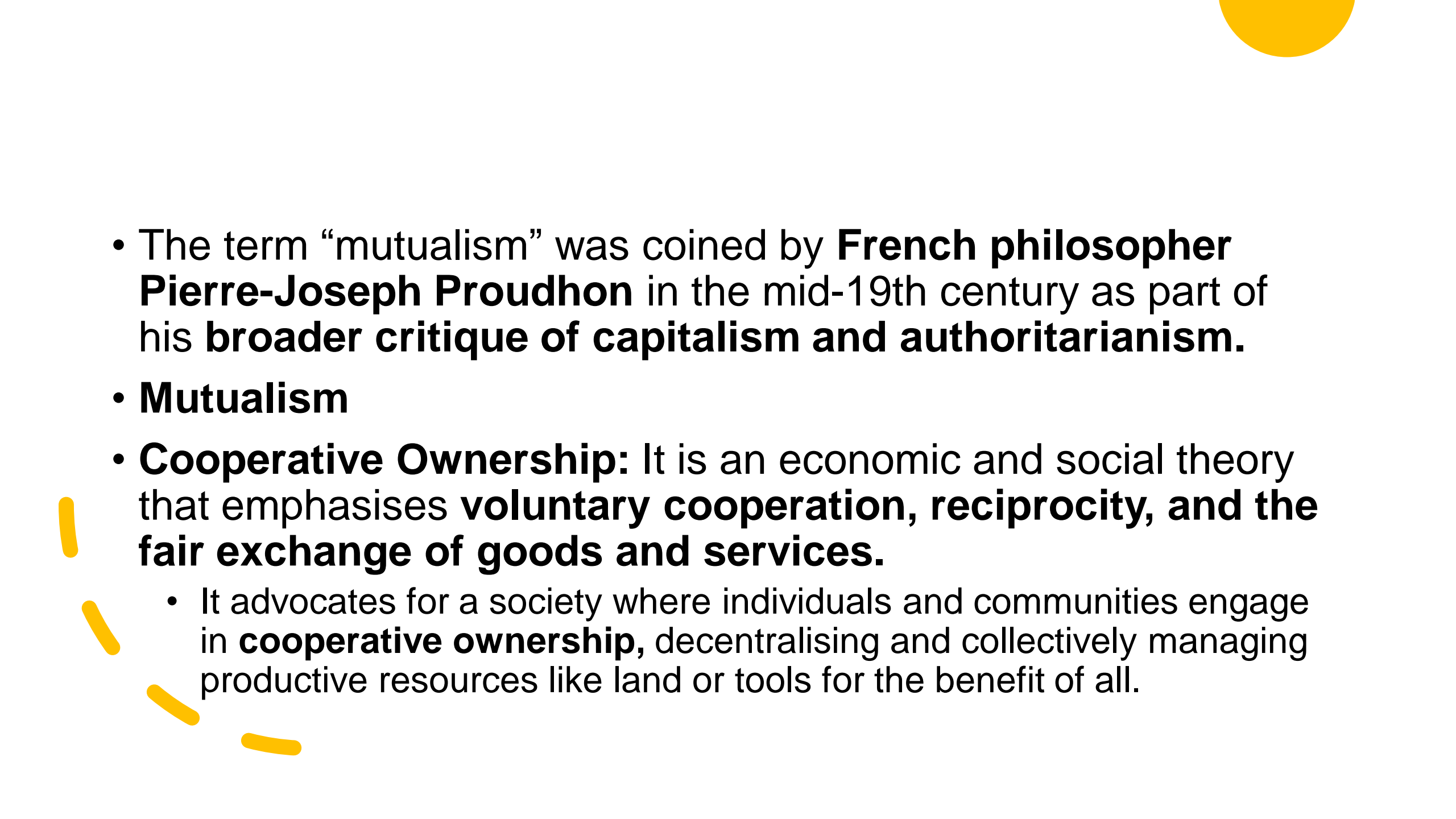
Captain Avhilash Rawat receives IMO Award in London. *PTI*

Indian ship captain receives maritime bravery award in UK

London: Captain Avhilash Rawat has received the 2024 International Maritime Organisation's (IMO) Award for Exceptional Bravery at Sea for the "extraordinary courage" shown in a Red Sea rescue mission earlier this year. At an awards ceremony at the IMO headquarters in London on Monday, Rawat accepted the award on behalf of his crew of the oil tanker Marlin Luanda, who had been named winners in July of the prestigious maritime award. The captain and crew were lauded for the "determination and endurance" they demonstrated while coordinating firefighting and damage control efforts to combat a fire that broke out after an anti-ship ballistic missile struck their vessel back in January. **PTI**



Theory of Mutualism

- 
- The term “mutualism” was coined by **French philosopher Pierre-Joseph Proudhon** in the mid-19th century as part of his **broader critique of capitalism and authoritarianism.**
 - **Mutualism**
 - **Cooperative Ownership:** It is an economic and social theory that emphasises **voluntary cooperation, reciprocity, and the fair exchange of goods and services.**
 - It advocates for a society where individuals and communities engage in **cooperative ownership**, decentralising and collectively managing productive resources like land or tools for the benefit of all.



Free From Authority: Such systems would be free from central authority and capitalist exploitation.



Mutualism and Property: It did not call for the complete elimination of ownership.



13th Edition of National Seed Congress (NSC)

- Scientists, policymakers and industry representatives participated in the 13th edition of the three-day **National Seed Congress (NSC)**.
 - NSC is an annual confluence of researchers, policymakers, farmers, and representatives to strengthen the agricultural sector in India and globally.
- **About**
- **Theme:** Innovating for a Sustainable Seed Ecosystem.

The biofortified varieties have been licensed to various private seed companies and Farmers Producer Organizations (FPOs)

Sr. No.	Crop	Name of cultivar	No. of licenses
1.	Wheat	DBW 187	229
		DBW 303	204
		DBW 173	54
2.	Rice	DRR Dhan 45	4
		CR Dhan 310	2
3.	Maize	LQMH 1	2
4.	Pearl millet	HHB 299	5
		HHB 311	4
5.	Mustard	Pusa Mustard 30	6
		Pusa Double Zero Mustard 31	3
		Pusa Mustard 32	1
6.	Soybean	NRC 127	4
7.	Potato	Kufri Neekanth	5
		Kufri Manic	1
8.	Pomegrante	Sholapur Lal	7
Total			531



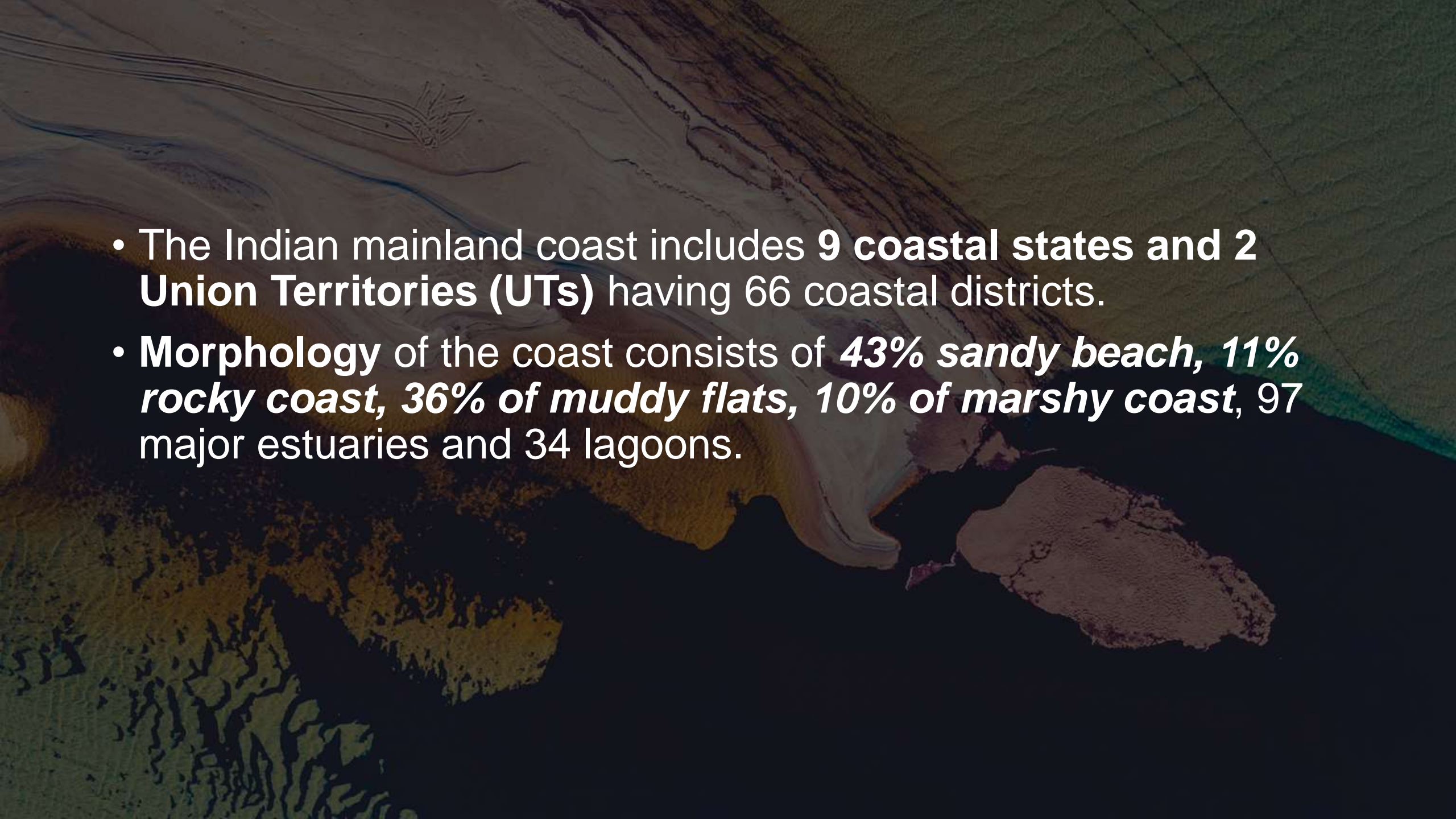
- **Merits of biofortification:**

- It is regarded as the **most sustainable approach** to alleviate malnutrition.
- It provides **nutrients in natural form**.
- **Biofortified food is affordable** as it does not involve any additional price.
- ‘Biofortified varieties’ are as **high yielding** as ‘traditional varieties’, thus no loss is incurred to the farmers.
- It does **not require elaborate infrastructure** facilities as required in ‘food fortification’.
- It does not involve **additional cost** on preparing the enriched food grains.

An aerial photograph of a coastal region showing severe erosion. The land is characterized by deep, winding channels and large, irregularly shaped areas of exposed earth and rock, indicating significant land loss. The surrounding areas appear to be a mix of natural terrain and some human-made structures, though they are less distinct due to the overall desolation and erosion. The text is overlaid in white, centered on the image.

Coastal Crisis: 33.6% of India's
Coastline Threatened by Erosion

-
- In a recent Lok Sabha session, the Union Environment Ministry revealed that about one-third of India's coastline is threatened by erosion, highlighting the urgent need for comprehensive coastal management strategies.
 - **About the Coastal Erosion**
 - It is a significant environmental issue affecting India's extensive coastline, which spans **over 7,500 kilometers**.

- 
- An aerial photograph of a coastal region, likely a river delta or estuary. The image shows a complex network of water channels and land parcels. The water is a dark, almost black color, while the land is a mix of light brown, tan, and greenish-yellow, indicating different types of terrain such as sandy areas, muddy flats, and marshes. The overall scene is a dense, intricate pattern of natural and possibly human-made features.
- The Indian mainland coast includes **9 coastal states and 2 Union Territories (UTs)** having 66 coastal districts.
 - **Morphology** of the coast consists of **43% sandy beach, 11% rocky coast, 36% of muddy flats, 10% of marshy coast, 97 major estuaries and 34 lagoons.**

Indian States by Coastline Length

1. Gujarat: ~1,600 km
2. Andhra Pradesh: ~972 km
3. Tamil Nadu: ~1,076 km
4. Maharashtra: ~720 km
5. Kerala: ~590 km
6. Odisha: ~485 km
7. Karnataka: ~300 km
8. West Bengal: ~210 km
9. Goa: ~160 km

Union Territories by Coastline Length

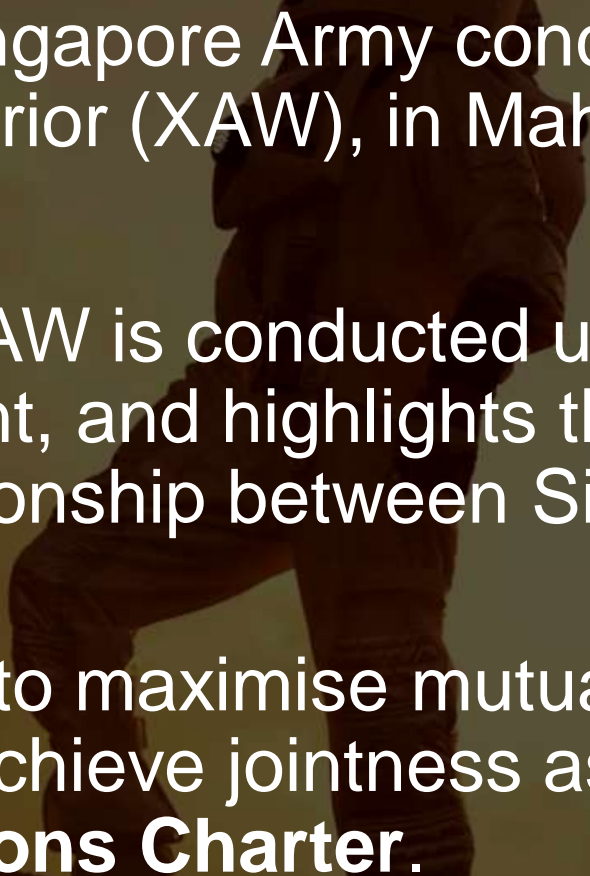
1. Andaman and Nicobar Islands: ~1,962 km (longest coastline among UTs)
2. Lakshadweep: ~132 km
3. Daman and Diu: ~42 km
4. Puducherry: ~45 km
5. Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu (Daman): Combined with Gujarat coastline.

Sl. No	State	Landforms and features
East coast of India		
1	Tamil Nadu	Deltas, long narrow beaches, spits, tidal flats, mangroves, coral reefs, sand dunes, Ridge swale complex etc.
2	Andhra Pradesh	Deltas, long narrow beaches, spits, mangroves, cliffs, long sand dunes, Ridge swale complex etc.
3	Odisha	Deltas, long beaches, spits, tidal flats, long sand dunes, ridges etc.
4	West Bengal	Large delta, very thick mangroves, tidal channels, islands, dunes, tidal flat, beaches etc

Exercise CINBAX


- The 1st edition of joint table top exercise CINBAX, between the Indian Army and the Cambodian Army commenced at Foreign Training Node, Pune (India).
- **About**
- Exercise CINBAX is a **planning exercise** designed to simulate joint Counter Terrorism (CT) operations conducted under **Chapter VII** of the United Nations Charter.

Exercise AGNI WARRIOR (XAW- 2024)

- 
- The Indian Army and the Singapore Army concluded the 13th edition of Exercise Agni Warrior (XAW), in Maharashtra (India).
 - **About**
 - Held in India **since 2004**, XAW is conducted under the ambit of the Army Bilateral Agreement, and highlights the warm and long-standing defence relationship between Singapore and India.
 - The **aim of XAW-2024** was to maximise mutual understanding of drills and procedures to achieve jointness as a multinational force under the **United Nations Charter**.

A collection of various colored pencils and pens scattered across a dark, gradient background. The items include yellow pencils, blue pencils, an orange pencil, a white pencil, and a blue pen. Some pencils are sharpened, while others are unsharpened. The arrangement is dynamic and artistic.

PENCiL Portal

- 
- The PENCiL (Platform for Effective Enforcement for No Child Labour) portal was launched in 2017 by the Ministry of Labour and Employment to ensure effective enforcement of the provisions of the Child and Adolescent Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986.



Five key components of the portal include:



Central Government State Government District
Project Societies Child Tracking System
Complaint Corner

- **Other Initiatives to Curb Child Labour: Child Labour: Constitutional And Legal Provisions:**

- **Article 24** states that a child under 14 years cannot be employed to perform any hazardous work.
- **Article 39** states that “the health and strength of workers, men and women, and the tender age of children are not abused”.

CHILD LABOUR

in INDIA

10.1 million Children engaged in work in **INDIA**

Number of **Children** engaged in work between 5 to 14 years

4.5 million | **5.6 million**

(According to 2011 Census)

• **Child Labour** most prevalent in:

2.1 M | Uttar Pradesh
1.0 M | Bihar
0.84 M | Rajasthan
0.7 M | Madhya Pradesh
0.72 M | Maharashtra



Child labour constitutes for **13%** of the workforce in **INDIA** (2011 Census)

Census report 2001 vs 2011

Rural	11.3 million	↓	8.1 million
Urban	1.3 million	↑	2 million

A RECENT CHANGE

Child labour is now invisible because the location of the work has changed from factories to the homes of business owners and workers.


Children are engaged in manual work which includes:






Paryatan Mitra and Paryatan Didi

- **Recently, the Ministry of Tourism highlighted a national responsible tourism initiative called Paryatan Mitra/Paryatan Didi in the Lok Sabha.**
- **Paryatan Mitra/Paryatan Didi launched in September 2024, aims to provide a better tourist experience through training local stakeholders to be tourist-friendly ambassadors and storytellers**

- 
- A person is holding a large, round, hand-woven basket. The basket is made of blue and white threads, with a central panel of colorful threads in shades of orange, yellow, and green. The person's hands are visible at the bottom of the basket. The background is a blurred pattern of colorful threads, suggesting a traditional weaving environment.
- It Special emphasis on training women and youth to create innovative tourism products like heritage walks, food tours, and nature treks.
 - The initiative was piloted in 6 tourist destinations across India namely - Orchha (Madhya Pradesh), Gandikota (Andhra Pradesh), Bodh Gaya (Bihar), Aizawl (Mizoram), Jodhpur (Rajasthan) and Sri Vijaya Puram (Andaman & Nicobar Islands).
 -

A hand holding a compass over a road in a desert landscape. The hand is wearing a light blue long-sleeved shirt. The compass is a standard analog compass with a white face and black markings. The background shows a paved road with white lines, leading into a vast, arid desert landscape under a clear sky. The overall tone is warm and slightly desaturated.

World Diabetes Day 2024

Recently, World Diabetes Day was celebrated on 14th November to raise awareness about diabetes, which affects millions globally.

The 2024 theme, "Breaking Barriers, Bridging Gaps," highlights the need for inclusive healthcare and equitable access to diabetes management

Diabetes: Type 1 vs. Type 2

Diabetes is on the climb — but there is a difference between Type 1 and Type 2. Do you know it?

Type 1 Diabetes

Your body is no longer able to produce insulin



Usually develops during childhood, but can develop at any age



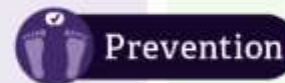
Family history



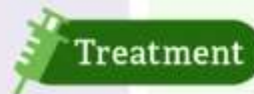
- Bedwetting
- Blurry vision
- Frequent urination
- Increased appetite and thirst
- Mood changes and irritability
- Tiredness and weakness
- Unexplained weight loss



No known prevention methods



Insulin injections



Type 2 Diabetes

Your body still produces insulin, but it doesn't make enough of it or it doesn't use it efficiently

Can develop at any age but is most common in adults over 45

- Overweight and/or inactive
- Family history
- High blood pressure

- Increased appetite and thirst
- Dark patches on armpits/neck
- Frequent urination
- Blurry vision
- Tiredness and weakness
- Unexplained weight loss

Healthy lifestyle

Healthy living,
possible insulin support

Word of the day

Equable:

not easily irritated; not varying

Synonyms: even-tempered, good-tempered, placid

Usage: *The climate is equable, with pleasant springs and cool winters.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/equablepro

International Phonetic

Alphabet: /'ɛk.wə.bəl/

Top 10 MCQ from
today's session

- South Korea declared **martial law** for the first time in over 40 years.
What was the stated reason for this declaration?
दक्षिण कोरिया ने 40 वर्षों में पहली बार **मार्शल लॉ** लागू किया। इस घोषणा का मुख्य कारण क्या था?
- **A. Threats from North Korea and anti-state forces / उत्तर कोरिया और राज्य विरोधी ताकतों से खतरा**
- **B. Economic instability / आर्थिक अस्थिरता**
- **C. Public protests against the government / सरकार के खिलाफ सार्वजनिक प्रदर्शन**
- **D. Cybersecurity breaches / साइबर सुरक्षा उल्लंघन**

- India's **MH-60R multi-role helicopter deal** with the United States aims to enhance which capability?
संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका के साथ भारत के **MH-60R मल्टी-रोल हेलीकॉप्टर सौदे** का उद्देश्य किस क्षमता को बढ़ाना है?
- **A. Anti-submarine warfare / पनडुब्बी रोधी युद्ध**
- **B. Air-to-air combat / हवा से हवा में लड़ाई**
- **C. Strategic airlift / सामरिक हवाई परिवहन**
- **D. Border surveillance / सीमा निगरानी**

- . India accounts for **7-8% of all recorded species** globally. How many biogeographic zones does India have?

भारत वैश्विक स्तर पर **7-8% दर्ज प्रजातियों** के लिए जिम्मेदार है। भारत में कितने जैव भौगोलिक क्षेत्र हैं?

- **A. 8**
- **B. 9**
- **C. 10**
- **D. 12**

- The **13th edition of the National Seed Congress (NSC)** was recently held. What was its theme?
हाल ही में **राष्ट्रीय बीज कांग्रेस (NSC) के 13वें संस्करण** का आयोजन किया गया। इसका विषय क्या था?
- **A. Innovating for a Sustainable Seed Ecosystem / स्थायी बीज पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र के लिए नवाचार**
- **B. Enhancing Farmer Productivity / किसान उत्पादकता बढ़ाना**
- **C. Towards a Climate-Resilient Agriculture / जलवायु लचीला कृषि की ओर**
- **D. Sustainable Crop Diversification / स्थायी फसल विविधीकरण**

- The **PENCiL Portal** was launched to combat child labour. Under which act does this portal function?

PENCiL पोर्टल बाल श्रम से निपटने के लिए लॉन्च किया गया था। यह पोर्टल किस अधिनियम के तहत कार्य करता है?

- **A. Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 / बाल श्रम (प्रतिषेध और विनियमन) अधिनियम, 1986**
- B. Juvenile Justice Act, 2015 / किशोर न्याय अधिनियम, 2015**
- C. National Child Policy Act, 2009 / राष्ट्रीय बाल नीति अधिनियम, 2009**
- D. Education and Child Welfare Act, 2012 / शिक्षा और बाल कल्याण अधिनियम, 2012**

- India accounts for **7-8% of all recorded species globally**. How many global biodiversity hotspots are present in India?
भारत वैश्विक स्तर पर **7-8% दुर्ज प्रजातियों** के लिए जिम्मेदार है। भारत में कितने वैश्विक जैव विविधता हाटस्पॉट हैं?
- **A. 2**
- **B. 3**
- **C. 4**
- **D. 5**

- The **National Seed Congress (NSC)** focused on strengthening India's agricultural sector. What was the theme of its 13th edition?
राष्ट्रीय बीज कांग्रेस (NSC) का उद्देश्य भारत के कृषि क्षेत्र को मजबूत करना है। इसके 13वें संस्करण का विषय क्या था?
- **A. Innovating for a Sustainable Seed Ecosystem / स्थायी बीज पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र के लिए नवाचार**
- **B. Seeds for Future Farming / भविष्य की खेती के लिए बीज**
- **C. Climate-Resilient Agriculture / जलवायु-लचीला कृषि**
- **D. Advancing Agri-Tech Solutions / एग्री-टेक समाधान को बढ़ावा देना**

- The **Coastal Erosion Report** highlighted that **33.6% of India's coastline** is threatened. Which ministry presented this data?

तटीय कटाव रिपोर्ट ने उजागर किया कि भारत के **33.6% तटीय क्षेत्र** को खतरा है। यह डेटा किस मंत्रालय द्वारा प्रस्तुत किया गया?

- **A. Ministry of Earth Sciences / पृथ्वी विज्ञान मंत्रालय**
- **B. Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change / पर्यावरण, वन और जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय**
- **C. Ministry of Water Resources / जल संसाधन मंत्रालय**
- **D. Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs / आवास और शहरी कार्य मंत्रालय**

- The **Paryatan Mitra/Paryatan Didi initiative** aims to enhance tourism in India. How many pilot destinations were selected for this initiative?
पर्यटन मित्र/पर्यटन दीदी पहल का उद्देश्य भारत में पर्यटन को बढ़ावा देना है। इस पहल के लिए कितने पायलट स्थलों का चयन किया गया था?
- **A. 4**
- **B. 5**
- **C. 6**
- **D. 7**


- The **13th edition of Exercise Agni Warrior (XAW-2024)** between India and Singapore was conducted in Maharashtra. What is the primary focus of this exercise?

भारत और सिंगापुर के बीच अभ्यास अग्नि योद्धा (XAW-2024) के 13वें संस्करण का आयोजन महाराष्ट्र में किया गया। इस अभ्यास का मुख्य उद्देश्य क्या है?

- **A. Maritime security cooperation / समुद्री सुरक्षा सहयोग**
- **B. Joint counter-terrorism operations / संयुक्त आतंकवाद विरोधी अभियान**
- **C. Cybersecurity readiness / साइबर सुरक्षा तैयारी**
- **D. Border patrol tactics / सीमा गश्ती रणनीतियाँ**

- **Myth:** Fingernails grow after death.
Burst: Like the hair myth, this is an illusion caused by the skin retracting as it dries out after death, making nails appear longer.



A group of people are clapping in a dimly lit room. The focus is on the hands and forearms of several individuals, some wearing suits. The background is blurred, showing more people and a window with light coming through. The overall mood is celebratory and professional.

Thank you
guys.
