



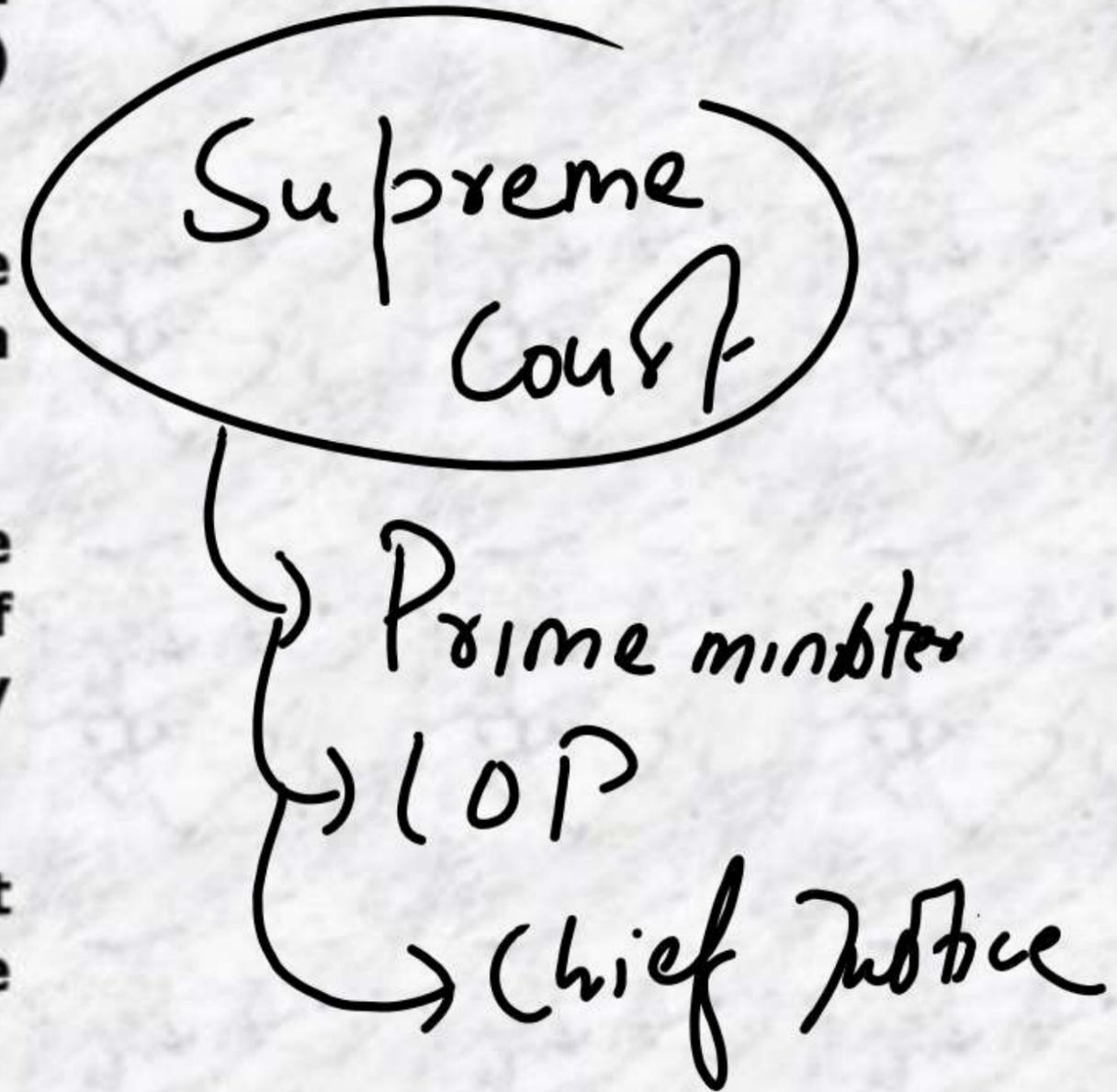


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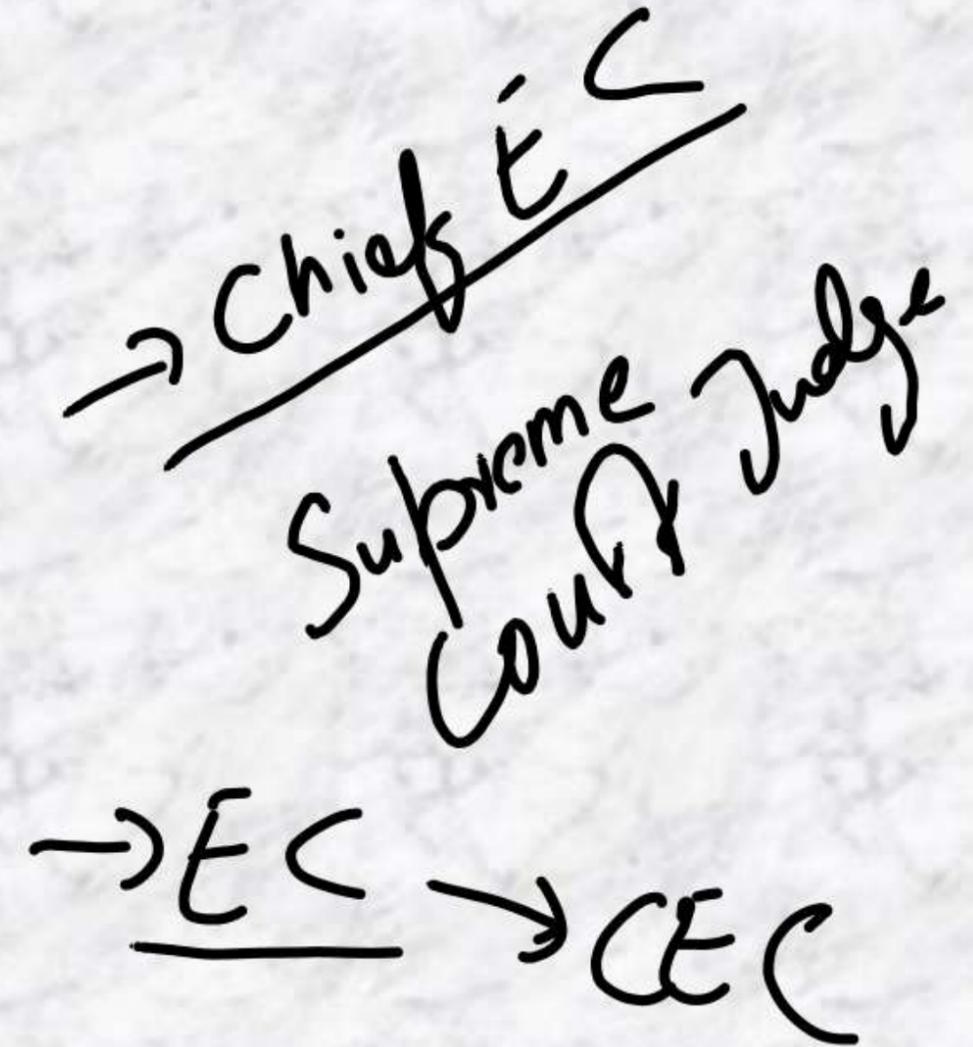
## The Chief Election Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Bill, 2023

- It provides for the appointment, salary, and removal of the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and Election Commissioners (ECs).
- The CEC and ECs will be appointed by the President upon the recommendation of a Selection Committee.
- The Selection Committee will consist of the Prime Minister, a Union Cabinet Minister, and Leader of Opposition/leader of the largest opposition party in Lok Sabha.
- A Search Committee headed by the Cabinet Secretary will propose a panel of names to the Selection Committee.



# The Chief Election Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Bill, 2023

- The salary and conditions of service of the CEC and ECs will be equivalent to that of the Cabinet Secretary. Under the 1991 Act, it was equivalent to the salary of a Supreme Court Judge.
- Eligibility criteria: The CEC and ECs must: (i) be persons of integrity, (ii) have knowledge and experience in the management and conduct of elections, and (iii) be or have been Secretary (or equivalent) to the government.
- Term and reappointment: Members of the Election Commission will hold office for six years, or until they attain the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier. Members of the Commission cannot be re-appointed. If an EC is appointed as a CEC, the overall period of the term may not be more than six years.
- Removal: The Bill retains the manner of removal of CEC and ECs as specified in the Constitution. The CEC may be removed in the same manner and on the same grounds as a Supreme Court Judge. ECs may be removed only upon the recommendation of the CEC.



## ARMED FORCES (SPECIAL POWERS) ACT

- AFSPA gives armed forces the power to maintain public order in "disturbed areas".
- They have the authority to prohibit a gathering of five or more persons in an area
- They can use force or even open fire after giving due warning if they feel a person is in contravention of the law.
- If reasonable suspicion exists, the army can also arrest a person without a warrant.
- They can enter or search a premises without a warrant; and ban the possession of firearms.

Central govt  
State govt

Local Police

## ARMED FORCES (SPECIAL POWERS) ACT

- **A disturbed area is one which is declared by notification under Section 3 of the AFSPA.**
- **The Central Government, or the Governor of the State or administrator of the Union Territory can declare the whole or part of the State or Union Territory as a disturbed area**

# International Criminal Court

→ UN

Feature	International Criminal Court (ICC)	International Court of Justice (ICJ)
Establishment Year	Established in 2002 ✓	Established in 1945 ✓
Nature	Criminal Court ✓	General Court ✓
Jurisdiction	Primarily focuses on prosecuting individuals for <u>genocide</u> , crimes against <u>humanity</u> , <u>war crimes</u> , and <u>aggression</u>	Adjudicates disputes between states ✓
Applicability	Applies to individuals	Applies to states
Prosecutor	Has an independent prosecutor	No independent prosecutor; cases brought by states

# International Criminal Court

Feature	International Criminal Court (ICC)	International Court of Justice (ICJ)
Advisory Opinions	Can issue advisory opinions on legal questions referred to it by the UN General Assembly, the Security Council, or other specialized agencies	✓ Can issue advisory opinions on legal questions referred to it by the UN General Assembly, the Security Council, or other specialized agencies
Compulsory Jurisdiction	Jurisdiction is not compulsory; individuals and states must accept its jurisdiction voluntarily	Jurisdiction is compulsory for states that are parties to the ICJ Statute unless they make a specific declaration excluding such jurisdiction
Judges	18 judges elected for 9-year terms	✓ 15 judges elected for 9-year terms
Seat	The Hague, Netherlands	The Hague, Netherlands
Enforcement Mechanism	Relies on cooperation of states for enforcement; has no independent enforcement arm	Relies on the UN Security Council for enforcement; has no independent enforcement arm
Membership	India, the US and Russia are not members	India is a member

## NEW START Treaty

- Recently, Russia has decided to suspend the New START treaty.
- The New START treaty was signed in 2010 by former U.S. President Barack Obama and Russian President Dmitry Medvedev and came into force in February 2011.
- It was extended for five years when current U.S. President Joe Biden took office in 2021.
- Under the Treaty, America and Russia cannot deploy more than 1,550 strategic nuclear warheads and more than 700 long-range missiles and bombers.
- It also limits each country to 800 deployed and non-deployed launchers and delivery vehicles.
- It allows each side to carry out up to 18 short-notice (32 hours) on-site inspections of strategic nuclear weapons sites annually to ensure the other has not crossed the limits of the treaty.

Strategic  
nuclear warhead

Tactical  
nuclear  
warhead

## WINDSOR FRAMEWORK

- The Northern Ireland Protocol problem
- After the UK left the European Union, Northern Ireland remained its only constituent that shared a land border with an EU-member, the Republic of Ireland.
- Since the EU and the UK have different product standards, border checks would be necessary before goods could move from Northern Ireland to Ireland.
- It was decided the checks would be conducted between Great Britain (England, Scotland and Wales) and Northern Ireland (which together with Great Britain forms the United Kingdom).
- This was called the Northern Ireland Protocol.

# WINDSOR FRAMEWORK

- The Windsor Framework is a legal agreement between the European Union and the United Kingdom that adjusts the Northern Ireland Protocol.
- It was announced on February 27, 2023, formally adopted on March 24, 2023, and came into effect on October 1, 2023.
- The framework has two crucial aspects – the introduction of a green lane and red lane system for goods that will stay in Northern Ireland and those that will go to the EU respectively
- Stormont Brake allows Northern Ireland lawmakers and London to veto any EU regulation they believe affects the region adversely.

Byeexit  
UK



Great Britain

EU

## Evergreening of Patents

- Indian Patent Office rejected U.S. pharmaceutical giant Johnson & Johnson's (J&J) attempt to extend its monopoly on manufacturing the drug in India beyond July 2023.
- Section 3(d) of the Patents Act states that salt forms and derivatives of known substances are not patentable.
- "The applicant cannot claim a patent on these methods and compositions of salt forms that have been known in scientific world for more than three decades"

## Vital intervention

\$400

Bedaquiline, manufactured by J&J, is a crucial anti-TB drug



around \$400 for a six-month treatment regimen, the prices are likely to fall

- India has rejected J&J's appeal to extend its patent beyond July 2023 ✓

- Currently priced at

- After July, generic producers like Lupin and Macleods are likely to manufacture the drug

- Over 55,000 patients, in whom other drugs have stopped working, may benefit from Bedaquiline access

- Till March 2020, only a little over 10,000 patients received the drug

Generic drug

Patent

20 years

Evergreening of patent

X'

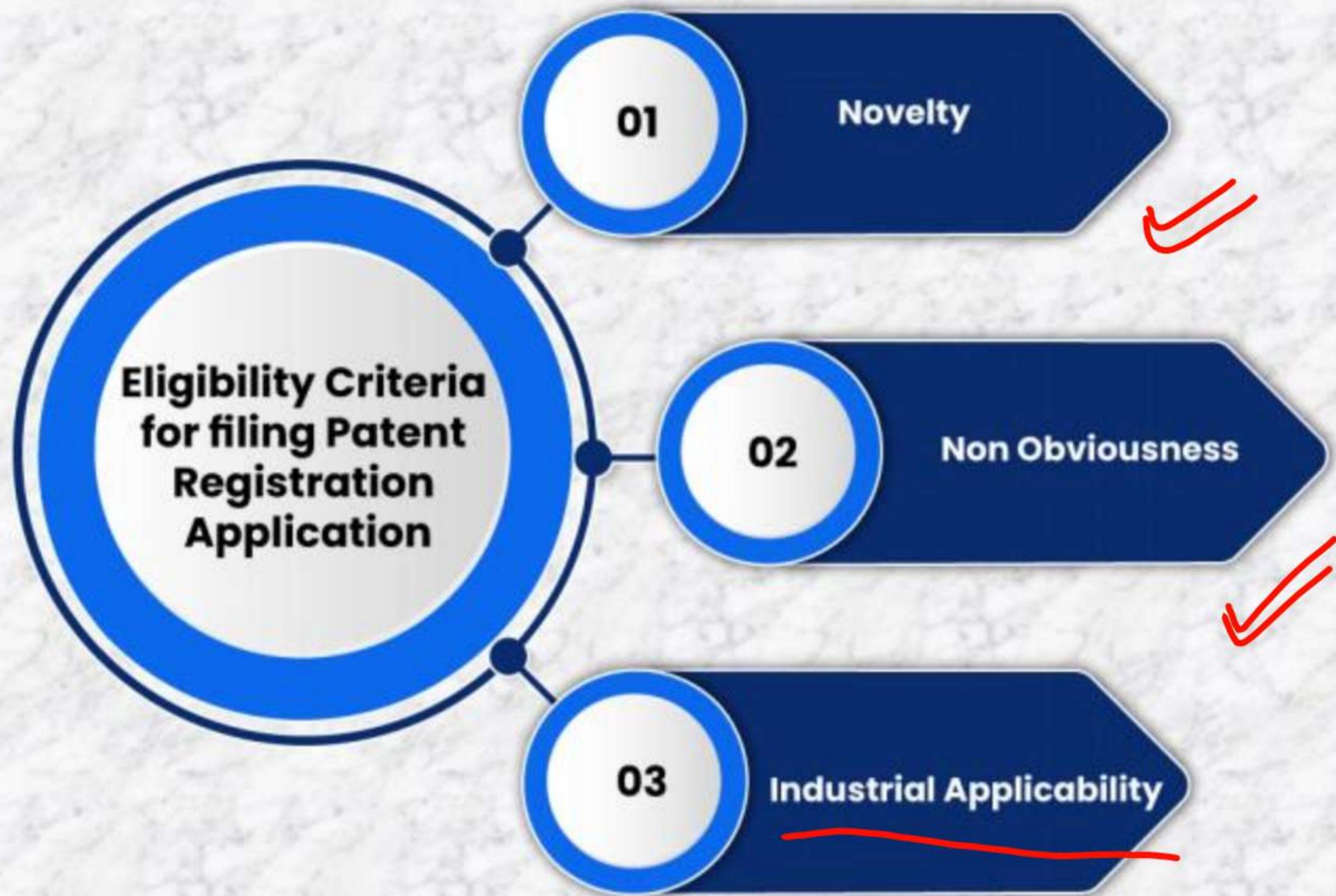
TB

ABC

X

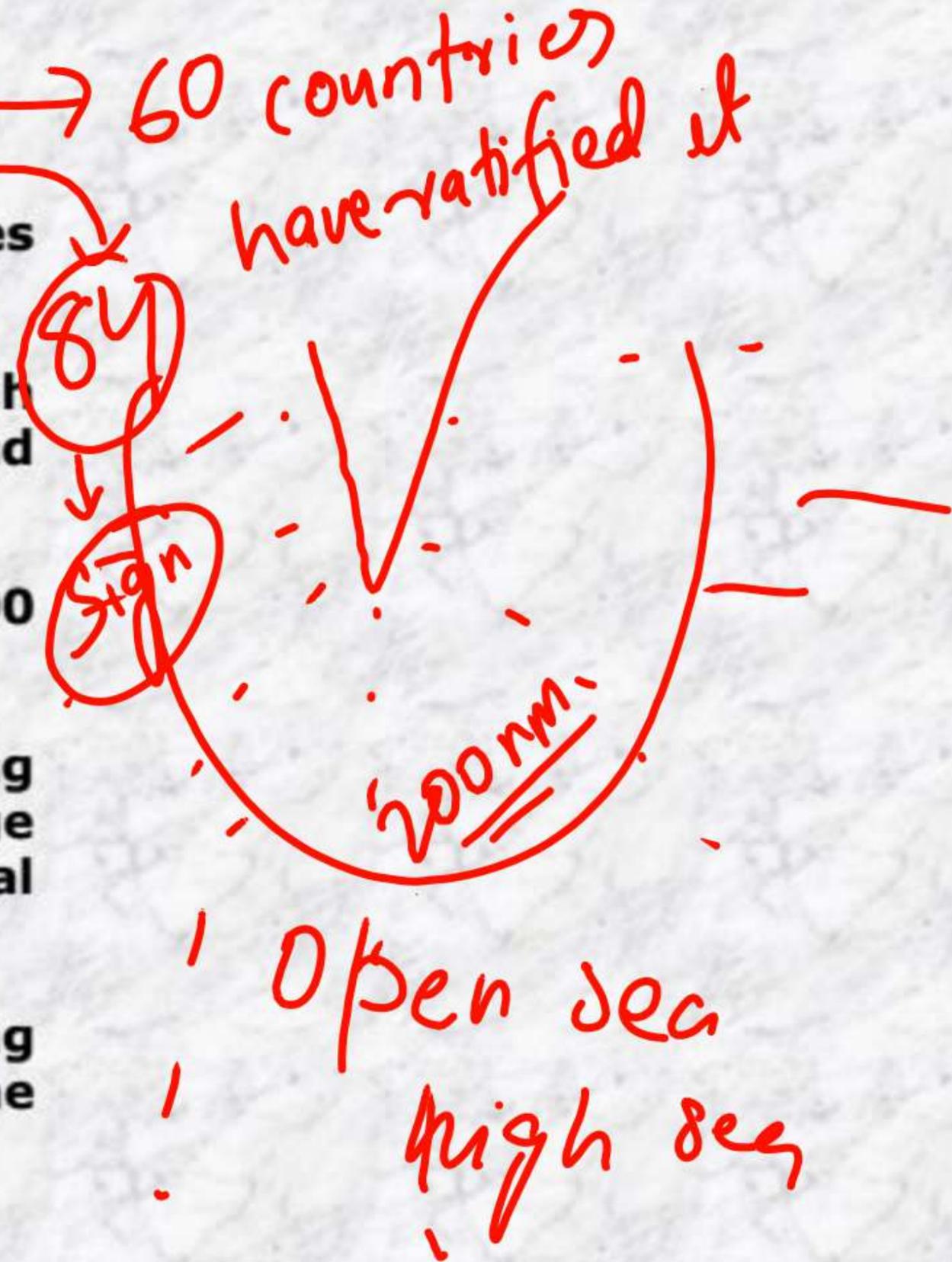
drug

~~20 years~~



# UNITED NATION HIGH SEAS TREATY

- Around two-thirds of the Earth's ocean lies beyond national boundaries.
- This expansive area is referred to as the "high seas", "international waters", or "areas beyond national jurisdiction."
- The high seas typically start at a distance of 200 nautical miles from the coast
- It is the first international legally binding instrument to conserve and sustainably manage marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction.
- It provides a legal framework for addressing various stressors affecting the marine environment in the high seas.



# UNITED NATION HIGH SEAS TREATY

- It will play a crucial role in achieving the recent ambitious "30x30" initiative to protect 30% of marine ecosystems by 2030.
- The treaty aims to address critical issues such as the increasing sea surface temperatures, overexploitation of marine biodiversity, overfishing, coastal pollution, and unsustainable practices beyond national jurisdiction.
- India is not a signatory as of January 2024

2030  
→ Marine Protected Area

## Global Greenhouse Gas Monitoring Infrastructure

- The U.N.'s World Meteorological Organisation has come up with a new Global Greenhouse Gas Monitoring Infrastructure.
- It aims to provide better ways of measuring planet-warming pollution and help inform policy choices.
- It will integrate space-based and surface-based observing systems, and seek to clarify uncertainties about where greenhouse gas emissions end up.
- The three major greenhouse gases are carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide. Of those, CO<sub>2</sub> accounts for around 66% of the warming effect on the climate.

Global GHG  
Watch  
CO<sub>2</sub> → CH<sub>4</sub> → N<sub>2</sub>O  
Carbon dioxide → Methane  
Nitrous oxide

# Global Greenhouse Gas Monitoring Infrastructure

- **The GHG watch will consist of four main components:**
- **A comprehensive, sustained, global set of surface-based and satellite-based observations of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), methane (CH<sub>4</sub>) and nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O) concentrations.**
- **Prior estimates of the GHG emissions based on activity data and process-based models;**
- **A set of global high-resolution Earth System models representing GHG cycles;**
- **Associated with the models, data assimilation systems that optimally combine the observations with model calculations to generate products of higher accuracy**

→ Projection

# The World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

- It is a specialized agency of the United Nations.
- It is the UN system's authoritative voice on the state and behavior of the Earth's atmosphere, its interaction with the oceans, the climate it produces and the resulting distribution of water resources.
- As of 2023, WMO has 193 Members, including 187 Member States and 6 Territories, maintaining their own meteorological services.
- It originated from the International Meteorological Organization (IMO), which was founded in 1873

C → General Assembly  
S → Security Council  
I → ICJ  
S → Secretariat

ECONOMICS  
UN Social and Economic Council

## The World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

- **WMO facilitates the unrestricted exchange of data and information, products and services in real- or near-real time on matters relating to the safety and security of society, economic welfare and the protection of the environment.**
- **It contributes to policy formulation in these areas at national and international levels.**

## Species in News: Dinoflagellate algae

- There has been regular incidents of Bioluminescent nights in Kerala's Kumbalangi
- According the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI), Kochi, the phenomenon is caused by dinoflagellate algae (Gymnodinium sp.), which have luminescent properties.
- Any movement on the surface of the water — waves, a sudden surge, fish swimming, or a disturbance on the surface of the water can trigger the luminescence.
- A combination of environmental factors leads to the multiplication of the algae in a particular area.



## Species in News: Dinoflagellate algae

- **Nutrient-rich water, favourable temperature and salinity causes the algae to multiply at a faster rate.**
- **Changes in wind, and current patterns, level of nutrients or any other factors in the water can alter the multiplication of the algae.**

Algal bloom

Lonar lake → Maharashtra

## ISRO releases the Landslide Atlas of India

- **What causes landslides?**
- **Landslides are natural disasters occurring mainly in mountainous terrains where there are conducive conditions of soil, rock, geology and slope.**
- **A sudden movement of rock, boulders, earth or debris down a slope is termed as a landslide.**
- **Natural causes that trigger it include heavy rainfall, earthquakes, snowmelting and undercutting of slopes due to flooding.**
- **Landslides can also be caused by anthropogenic activities such as excavation, cutting of hills and trees, excessive infrastructure development, and overgrazing by cattle.**

## ISRO releases the Landslide Atlas of India



- **About the Atlas**
- **India is considered among the top five landslide-prone countries globally, where at least one death per 100 sq km is reported in a year due to a landslide event.**
- **Rainfall variability pattern is the single biggest cause for landslides in the country, with the Himalayas and the Western Ghats remaining highly vulnerable.**
- **Excluding snow covered areas, approximately 12.6 per cent of the country's geographical land area (0.42 million sq km) is prone to landslides.**
- **As many as 66.5 per cent of the landslides are reported from the North-western Himalayas, about 18.8 per cent from the North-eastern Himalayas, and about 14.7 per cent from the Western Ghats**

## ISRO releases the Landslide Atlas of India

- **Rudraprayag in Uttarakhand is at the top of 147 vulnerable districts.**
- **It has the highest landslide density in the country, along with having the highest exposure to total population and number of houses.**

# UPSC

State	Total no. of landslide events	State	Total no. of landslide events
Mizoram ✓	12,385	Nagaland	2,132
Uttarakhand ✓	11,219	Sikkim	1,569
Tripura	8,070	Himachal Pradesh	1,561
Arunachal Pradesh	7,689	Karnataka	1,904
Jammu and Kashmir	7,280	Tamil Nadu	690
Kerala	6,039	West Bengal	172
Manipur	5,494	Haryana	100
Maharashtra	5,112	Ladakh	23
Meghalaya	2,639	Goa	03
Assam	2,569	Total	80,933



# KHAN GLOBAL STUDIES

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**THANKS FOR WATCHING**

