

### International

#### South Korea lifts President's martial law decree after Parliament votes against it



#### About News:-

- ❖ In a rapidly shifting political landscape, President Yoon Suk Yeol declared "martial law" in South Korea on the evening of December 3, 2024. However, he was forced to withdraw his proclamation after the South Korean Parliament passed a motion against it early on December 4, 2024.
- ❖ The Republic of Korea, sometimes known as South Korea, was mostly governed by the military from 1948 until 1987 when the current democratic system was established.
- ❖ South Korea has had 16 declarations of martial law, the most recent of which was in 1979 following the assassination of Park Chun Hee, the country's president and military dictator.
- ❖ This was the first time martial law has been enforced in the nation since the current constitutional structure was established in 1987.

#### What is Martial Law?

- ❖ The country's constitution is suspended under martial law, and military rule replaces civilian governance.
- ❖ Martial law, sometimes called an "emergency," suspends the regular administration of justice, civil authority, existing laws, and citizens' fundamental rights.
- ❖ Martial law is permitted under practically all constitutions. Martial law, often known as an emergency in India, was last enforced by the Indira Gandhi administration in 1975.

#### Why did President Yoon impose the Martial Law?

- ❖ In a broadcast speech, President Yoon Suk Yeol, who took office in May 2022, declared martial law in the nation and charged opposition groups with having North Korean sympathies and stifling the government through anti-state actions.
- ❖ The Korean peninsula was split into the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea) and the Republic of Korea (South Korea) following the end of World War II.
- ❖ North Korea, a communist state backed by China and the Soviet Union, engaged in a brutal civil war with South Korea, which sided with the United States.
- ❖ A demilitarized zone was created between the two nations in 1953 as part of an armistice signed under UN supervision, and this zone has since constituted their de facto border.
- ❖ Both countries have not signed a peace treaty and are technically at war.

#### Reaction to Martial Law and its revocation

- ❖ The opposition parties achieved a resounding win in the nation's 2024 National Assembly election. The People's Power Party, which was in power under President Yoon Suk Yeol, was relegated to a minority in the Korean Parliament.
- ❖ Since then, the President has continuously vetoed opposition bills and failed to get his legislation passed by the South Korean Parliament.
- ❖ When he said that the opposition had "paralyzed state affairs," he was alluding to this.
- ❖ He and his spouse have been involved in several scandals since 2022, and opposition parties are calling for an investigation into his wife's alleged wrongdoing.
- ❖ His popularity rating in the nation has significantly decreased as a result of corruption allegations.

- ❖ The People's Power Party, the president's party, opposed his decision to declare martial law once it was announced.
- ❖ Lee Myung, the leader of the Democratic Party, the nation's largest opposition party, arrived at the National Assembly with a member of parliament, where thousands of people gathered to call for the lifting of martial law.
- ❖ Early on December 4, 2024, the National Assembly met, and a majority of members passed a resolution against martial law.
- ❖ On the morning of December 4, 2024, the president lifted martial law following the resolution's passage by the parliament and public outcry.

#### **About the Republic of Korea or South Korea**

- ❖ Capital: Seoul
- ❖ Currency: South Korean Won
- ❖ President: Yoon Suk Yeol

#### **National**

#### **2nd India-UK 2+2 Foreign and Defence Dialogue held in New Delhi**

##### **About News:-**

- ❖ On December 3, 2024, the second India-United Kingdom 2+2 Foreign and Defence Dialogue took place in New Delhi. Both nations have decided to hold their third dialogue in the UK next year after the first one, which took place in New Delhi in October 2023.
- ❖ There is a distinction between the 2+2 Foreign and Defence Minister Dialogue and the 2+2 Foreign and Defence Dialogue.
- ❖ All facets of the India-UK Comprehensive Strategic Partnership are reviewed and discussed at the senior official level through the 2+2 Foreign and Defence discussion.
- ❖ The summit-level meeting between the prime ministers of India and the United Kingdom is far more important than the 2+2 Foreign and Defence Minister Dialogue, which is a ministerial-level conversation.
- ❖ India does not hold 2+2 Foreign and Defence Minister Dialogue with the United Kingdom.

#### **Who Co-Chaired the 2+2 Dialogue?**

- ❖ The second India-United Kingdom 2+2 Foreign and Defence conversation was co-chaired by representatives from both countries.
- ❖ Vishwesh Negi, Joint Secretary, of International Cooperation, Ministry of Defense, and Piyush Srivastava, Joint Secretary, of Europe West, Ministry of External Affairs, represented India.
- ❖ The United Kingdom delegation was led by Shimon Fhima, Director of Strategic Programs, Ministry of Defense, and Ben Mellor, Director of India, Indian Ocean Directorate, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office.

#### **About the Second Dialogue Agenda**

- ❖ Bilateral, regional, and global topics were discussed by both parties during the conversation.
- ❖ They committed to revitalizing the partnership by identifying new areas of priority for collaboration after reviewing and discussing all of the progress made under the India-UK Roadmap 2030.
- ❖ They were pleased with the advancements made in the introduction of new, important projects including the Defense Industrial Roadmap, the Electric Propulsion Capability Partnership, and the Technology and Security Initiative.
- ❖ In November 2024, India and the United Kingdom signed a framework agreement for the co-design, co-creation, and co-production of Electric Propulsion Systems (engines) for the upcoming generation of Indian naval ships, marking a major advancement in their relationship.



### State

#### Ratapani Tiger Reserve, Madhya Pradesh notified as the 57th Tiger Reserve of the country



#### About News:-

- ❖ Ratapani Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh has been designated as the 57th Tiger Reserve in the nation under the centrally sponsored Project Tiger initiative by the Union Ministry of Environment, Forests, and Climate Change.
- ❖ The Guru Ghasidas-Tamor Pingla Tiger Reserve in Chhattisgarh was announced by the Union Ministry in November of this year as India's 56th Tiger Reserve.
- ❖ On December 3, 2024, Union Minister for Environment, Forests, and Climate Change Bhupendra Yadav provided this information in a social media post.
- ❖ Bhupendra Yadav is in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, for the 16th session of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) Conference of the Parties (COP).

#### About the Ratapani Tiger Reserve, Madhya Pradesh

- ❖ Madhya Pradesh's Raisen and Sehore districts are home to the Ratapani Tiger Reserve.
- ❖ Its total size is 1271.4 sq km, with 763.8 sq km constituting the core of the reserve.
- ❖ The reserve, which is tucked away in the Vindhyan highlands, is home to numerous historical landmarks, including Ginnourgarh Fort, Keri Mahadeo, Ratapani Dam, Jholiyapur Dam, and the UNESCO World Heritage Site "Bhimbetka Rock Shelters."
- ❖ There are two types of deciduous forests in Ratapani: dry and moist.

About 55 percent of the area is covered by teak.

- ❖ There are over 40 tigers, over 35 animal species, 33 reptilian species, 14 fish species, 10 amphibian species, and 104 butterfly species in the reserves.
- ❖ The eighth Madhya Pradesh Tiger Reserve
- ❖ Kanha, Pench, Bandhavgarh, Satpura, Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve, Panna, and Sanjay-Dubri are the state's other eight Tiger Reserves, with the newly announced Ratapani Tiger Reserve coming in eighth.
- ❖ As part of Project Tiger, Madhya Pradesh boasts the nation's largest Tiger Reserves.

### Economic

#### Finance Ministry Reports India's \$2 Billion Contribution to BRICS Bank

#### About News :

- ❖ India has given the BRICS New Development Bank (NDB) close to \$2 billion.
- ❖ The donation was made between the fiscal years 2015-16 and 2021-22 in seven installments.



#### Key Points:

- ❖ Ongoing Externally Aided Projects: The NDB is currently funding 20 externally aided projects in India, totaling \$4,867 million in loans.
- ❖ These initiatives concentrate on issues including rural connectivity, food management, water conservation, and transportation.
- ❖ BRICS Joint Currency and US Dollar: The Finance Ministry explained India's position on a BRICS joint currency in answer to a question from the Lok Sabha.
- ❖ Russia's report from its 2024 BRICS presidency made clear that the goal of BRICS is to provide a workable substitute for the US currency to increase global economic efficiency and advance inclusive globalization, not to replace it.
- ❖ The dominance of the US Dollar: With over 90% of transactions, the US dollar continues



to dominate international trade despite the growth of alternatives.

- ❖ Other important currencies that are used in international trade are the British pound, the euro, and the Japanese yen.
- ❖ Issues with the Current Cross-Border Payments Infrastructure: The BRICS report brought attention to issues with the current cross-border payments infrastructure, specifically its dependence on centralized settlement systems and lack of competition.
- ❖ The weaponization of financial systems (e.g., the exclusion of Iran and Russia from SWIFT) has led to a global push for reducing dependence on the US-led financial system.

### Appointment

**Namibia elects Vice President Nandi-Ndaitwah as the country's first female President**

#### About News:-

- ❖ Namibian Vice President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah has been elected as the country's president" first female president, Al Jazeera reported on Tuesday, citing official results released by the country's electoral commission.
- ❖ The 72-year-old secured 57 percent of the vote



#### Key Points:-

- ❖ After being declared president-elect, Nandi-Ndaitwah stated, "The Namibian nation has voted for peace and stability." Her victory strengthens the South West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO) party's 34-year rule since Namibia's independence from apartheid South Africa in 1990, though the result remains contested.
- ❖ Nandi-Ndaitwah was appointed vice president in February after the death of President Hage Geingob. Although SWAPO has ruled Namibia for decades, it has faced growing discontent, particularly among young voters who are frustrated by high unemployment and persistent inequality.

- ❖ Nandi-Ndaitwah began her political career in the 1970s, joining Namibia's underground independence movement, and returned from the UK to join parliament in 1990. She has held several ministerial positions over the years.

### Science & Technology

**India emerges as the top global target for mobile malware attacks**



#### About News:-

- ❖ A recent Zscaler ThreatLabz 2024 Mobile IoT and OT Threat Study claims that India is now the nation most frequently targeted by mobile malware attacks. The report, which was released on December 3, 2024, by Zscaler Inc., a cloud security company, examined hacker security threats on mobile devices and IoT/OT between June 2023 and May 2024.
- ❖ A program or file that steals data and corrupts or destroys a computer and its system is known as malware or malicious software. Malware is used by hackers and cybercriminals. Computer viruses, worms, spyware, Trojan horses, and ransomware are examples of common malware.

#### Key Takeaways from the Zscaler ThreatLabz 2024 Study

- ❖ India was the reported source of 28% of global mobile phone attacks.
- ❖ The United States came in second, followed by South Africa, Canada, and the Netherlands, after India.
- ❖ After the US and Canada, India came in third place globally in the 2023 survey.
- ❖ Attacks on Internet of Things (IoT) devices continue to target the US the most, with Singapore, the UK, Germany, and Canada following closely behind.
- ❖ India was responsible for 66.5% of mobile malware attacks in the Asia Pacific area.

- ❖ India came in seventh place as the malware's origin in the Asia-Pacific area. It came in sixth place last year.
- ❖ The major source of the origin of the malware in the Asia Pacific region was Singapore, followed by China and South Korea.

### Defence

#### Chennai to Host World Maritime Conference 2024



#### About News:-

Under the sponsorship of the World Maritime Technology Congress, the World Maritime Technology Conference (WMTC) is a prestigious international gathering that takes place every three years. Global leaders, professionals, and specialists in maritime technology and related fields come together for this esteemed event. The Institute of Marine Engineers (India) Chennai Branch will host the 2024 edition of WMTC in Chennai, India, on December 4-6.

#### Key Highlights of WMTC 2024

##### Summary

- ❖ The event was organized by the World Maritime Technology Congress (WMTC Congress).
- ❖ The event takes place every three years.
- ❖ Participants: 21 member organizations from 17 countries represent professionals in maritime technology and related sectors.

#### Chennai's importance as the host

- ❖ Maritime Hub: One of the oldest and most important seaports in India.
- ❖ The location of shipyards, maritime logistics firms, and both large and small ports.
- ❖ Through maritime trade, it makes a substantial contribution to India's GDP.

#### Gateway for Strategic Trade

- ❖ A hub for growing marine commerce that draws logistics companies and ship owners.
- ❖ A center for shipbuilding and related sectors.

- ❖ Historical and Cultural Diversity
- ❖ Provides a Southern Indian fusion of custom, culture, and hospitality.
- ❖ Regarded in India's economic and historical narrative as a marine success story.

#### The conference's objectives

- ❖ Encourage international marine professionals to exchange knowledge.
- ❖ Highlight developments in logistics, port operations, and shipbuilding.
- ❖ Talk about the prospects and difficulties facing the maritime industry.
- ❖ Boost global collaboration in sustainability and maritime technologies.

### Award

#### GAIL Wins "Initiatives in Promoting Hydrogen Company of the Year" Award at FIPI Oil & Gas Awards 2023

#### About News:-

- ❖ At the 2023 FIPI Oil & Gas Awards, GAIL (India) Limited received the esteemed "Initiatives in Promoting Hydrogen Company of the Year" award.
- ❖ At a ceremony in New Delhi, Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas Hardeep S. Puri gave out the award.
- ❖ Pankaj Jain, Secretary, of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG), and Suresh Gopi, Union Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas, also attended the occasion.
- ❖ Several important GAIL executives attended the event, including CMD Sandeep Kumar Gupta, RK Jain (Director, Finance), Deepak Gupta (Director, Projects), and Ayush Gupta (Director, HR).



#### Key Highlights of the Award and GAIL's Achievements:

- ❖ Hydrogen Technology Leadership: GAIL's groundbreaking work in developing hydrogen technology, which included large R&D investments, is acknowledged with this honor.

- ❖ Green Hydrogen Pilot Project: GAIL's 4.3 TPD Green Hydrogen pilot project in Vijaipur, Madhya Pradesh, received special recognition. Based on a 10 MW Proton Exchange Membrane (PEM) electrolyzer, this proposal generates 99.999% ultra-pure hydrogen.
- ❖ Alignment with National Green Hydrogen Mission: The project supports India's clean energy objectives by being in line with the National Green Hydrogen Mission (NHGM).
- ❖ Support for Net-Zero Emissions: The project is a crucial component of GAIL's plan to attain net-zero emissions and is crucial to the development of India's hydrogen ecosystem.

### Sport

#### Pavan Kampelli Wins Bronze in eFootball at Asian Esports Games



#### About News:-

- ❖ Pavan Kampelli took home India's first-ever Asian Esports Games medal. At the 2024 Asian Esports Games in Bangkok, Thailand, Pavan Kampelli, commonly known as "Mr. Tomboy," took home a bronze in the e-football competition.
- ❖ From November 25 to December 1, 2024, Bangkok, Thailand hosted the Asian Esports Games.
- ❖ Esports, in which players use electronic devices like gaming consoles and smartphones to play games online, is growing in popularity worldwide.
- ❖ In 2025, Saudi Arabia will host the first Olympic Esports Games, organized by the International Olympic Committee.

#### Pavan Kampelli received a bronze medal.

- ❖ In the e-football competition, Pavan Kampelli earned India an unprecedented bronze medal. He won the bronze medal by defeating Indonesia's Asgard Azizi, the 2022 eFootball World Finals Winner (Mobile), 2-1.
- ❖ For winning the bronze medal in the Games, Pavan Kampelli received a \$500 cash award.

- ❖ In addition, an Indian has won a medal in an international e-football competition for the first time.
- ❖ Ahmad Muhaimin "Minbappe" Abdul Razak of Malaysia took home the silver medal, while Nattawat Namburee of Team Thailand took home the gold.

#### About Asian Electronic Sports Federation (AESF)

- ❖ Headquarters: Hong Kong
- ❖ Members 45 countries and Territories

### Important Day

#### World Soil Day – 5 December

#### About Day:-

- ❖ World Soil Day is an international observance that is held every year on December 5, while highlighting the critical importance of soil for life on Earth. With over 95% of our food originating from the soil, the health of this resource is directly tied to the survival of humanity and the planet.
  - ❖ This year's theme for Soil Day is "Caring for Soils: Measure, Monitor, Manage".
- #### History
- ❖ The International Union of Soil Sciences (IUSS) presented the concept of World Soil Day in 2002, which was officially endorsed by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in 2013.
  - ❖ The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted it in December 2013, choosing December 5 to honour the late King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand, a key supporter of this initiative.

