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India and China to keep dialogue channels open

The 17th round of senior-level military talks was held on December 20 'in an open, constructive manner', 10 days after the two Armies clashed in the Yangtse area of Arunachal Pradesh

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

India and China held the 17th round of Corps Commander-level talks on December 20, at the Chushul-Moldo border meeting point on the Chinese side, during which they agreed to continue dialogue through military and diplomatic channels and work out a "mutually acceptable resolution of the remaining issues at the earliest," the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on Thursday.

The talks – which were not announced ahead of time, unlike in the past – came 10 days after soldiers of the two Armies clashed at the Yangtse area in the Tawang sector of Arunachal Pradesh, resulting in injuries on both sides.



Keeping peace: A file photo of Army personnel carrying out drills near the LAC in Arunachal Pradesh. PTI

Building on the progress made after the last meeting on July 17, 2022, the two sides exchanged views on the resolution of the relevant issues along the Line of Actual Control in the western sector in an "open and constructive manner," the MEA said. "They had a frank and in-depth discussion, keeping in line with

the guidance provided by the State Leaders to work for the resolution of the remaining issues at the earliest which would help in restoration of peace and tranquillity along the LAC and enable progress in bilateral relations," it stated.

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'Both nations not patrolling several points as agreed'

Dinakar Peri
Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

As several patrolling points in east Ladakh remain inaccessible to Indian troops more than two years after the Galwan clash, a source in the defence establishment told *The Hindu* that after disengagement, in some well-known areas, neither side is patrolling, as per the understanding reached during talks.

CONTINUED ON
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01

India and China to keep dialogue channels open

What's the source of tension?

- China and India share a disputed 3,440km (2,100 mile) long de facto border - called the Line of Actual Control, or LAC - which is poorly demarcated.
- Rivers, lakes and snowcaps along the frontier mean the line can shift, bringing soldiers face to face at many points, sparking a confrontation.
- The two nations are also competing to build infrastructure along the border, which is also known as the Line of Actual Control.
- India's construction of a new road to a high-altitude air base is seen as one of the main triggers for a clash with Chinese troops in June that left at least 20 Indian soldiers dead.

Why wasn't any firearm used in conflict?

- **1996 Agreement**
 - The 1996 agreement is on **Confidence-Building Measures** in the Military Field along the Line of Actual Control in the India-China Border Areas.
 - Article VI (1) of the 1996 agreement says “With a view to preventing dangerous military activities along the line of actual control in the India-China border areas... **Neither side shall open fire**, cause bio-degradation, use hazardous chemicals, conduct blast operations or hunt with guns or explosives within two kilometres from the line of actual control. This prohibition shall not apply to routine firing activities in small arms firing ranges.”
 - However, it is Article VI (4) that is more applicable in the current instance: “If the border personnel of the two sides come in a face-to-face situation due to differences on the alignment of the line of actual control or any other reason, they **shall exercise self-restraint** and take all necessary steps to avoid an escalation of the situation. Both sides shall also enter into immediate consultations through diplomatic and/or other available channels to review the situation and prevent any escalation of tension.”
- **2005 Agreement**
 - In Article 1: “the two sides will resolve the boundary question through peaceful and friendly consultations. **Neither side shall use or threaten to use force** against the other by any means”.
 - The 2013 Agreement on Border Defence Cooperation also stated that **neither side shall use its military capability** against the other.
- Since no round has been fired on the Sino-India border in Ladakh after 1962 and with a view to preventing any escalation, these routines of not firing have been drilled into the soldiers.

13th December THNA

ALJAZEERA



MAPPING INDIA AND CHINA'S DISPUTED BORDERS

Cervical cancer jabs for girls

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Girls aged between nine and 14 years will get vaccination against cervical cancer through schools.

India is expected to roll

out the programme by mid-2023. A one-time catch-up vaccine will be provided for adolescent girls in the 9-14 age group. Subsequently, it will be introduced at the age of nine.

The vaccination will be

provided primarily through schools because of the high enrolment of girls. Those unable to attend school will be given at a health facility.

DETAILS ON
» **PAGE 12**

02

Cervical cancer jabs for girls

Human papillomavirus (HPV)



It is the most common viral infection of the reproductive tract

There are more than 100 types of HPV.

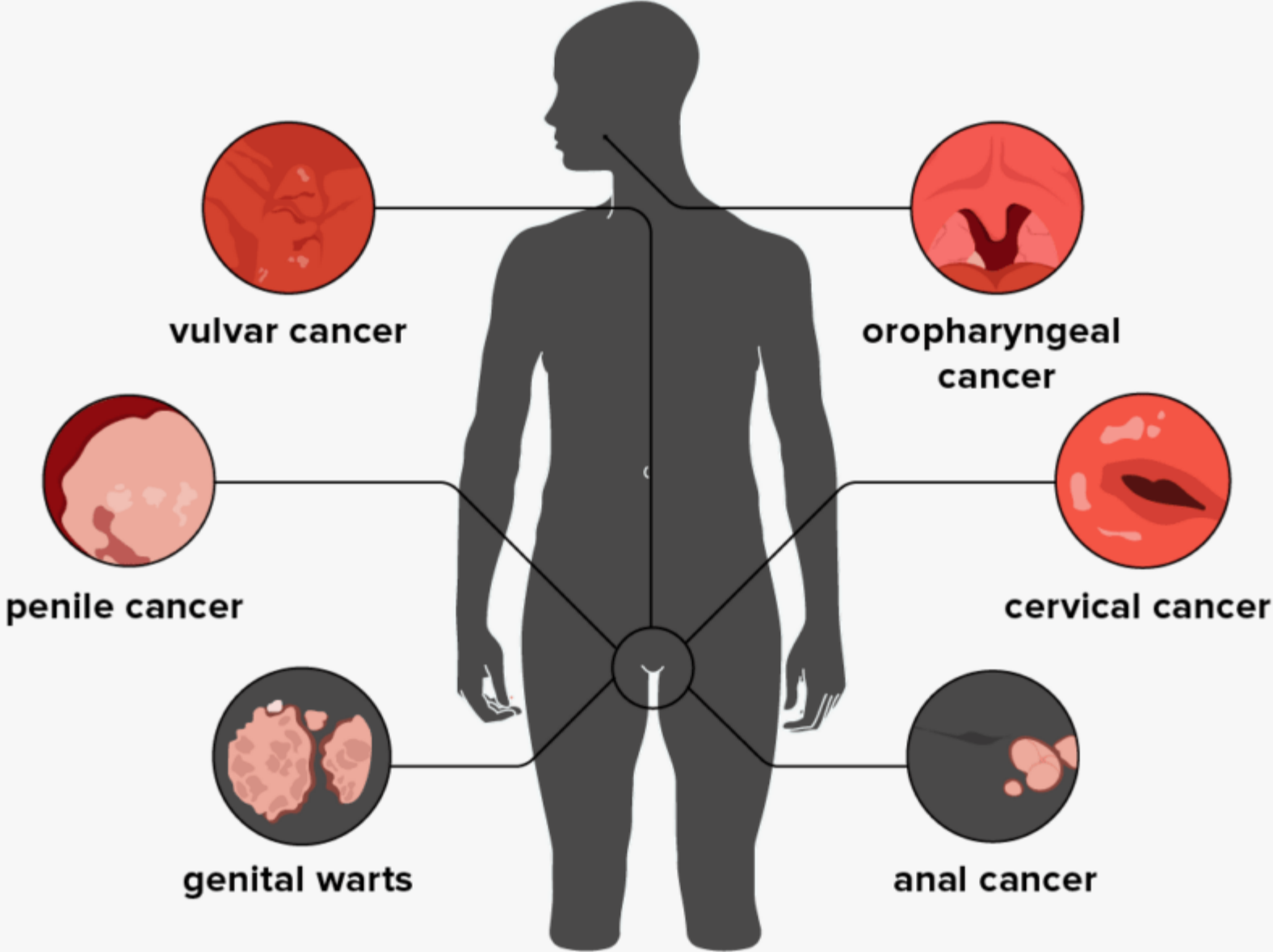
More than 40 types of HPV are spread through direct sexual contact.

Out of these 40, two cause genital warts, while about a dozen of HPV cause different types of cancer including cervical, anal, oropharyngeal, penile, vulvar and vaginal

HPV is a sexually transmitted infection (STI).

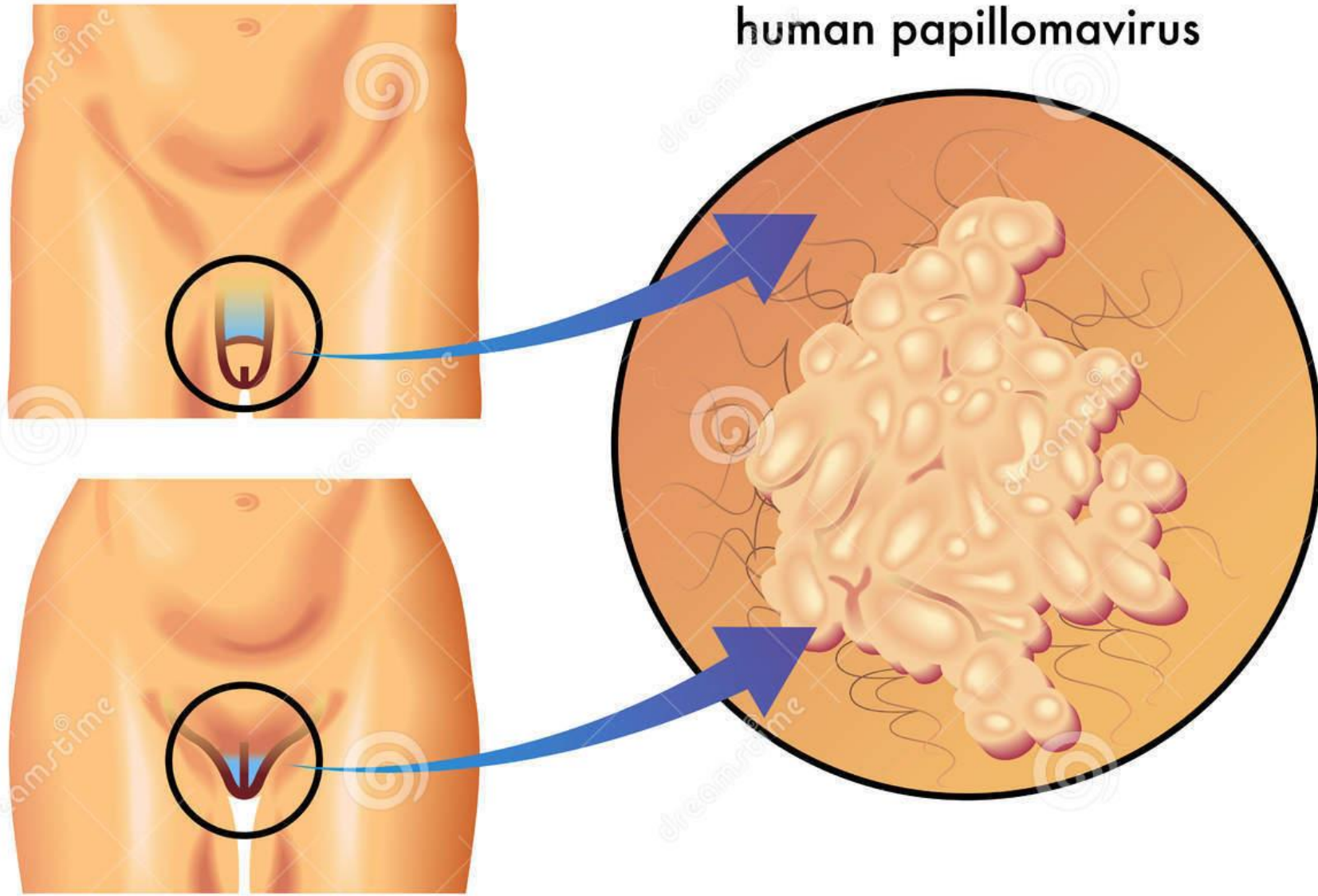
High Risk Papilomavirus (HPV)

Where cancer can occur



MEDICALNEWS TODAY

HPV
human papillomavirus



Cervical cancer



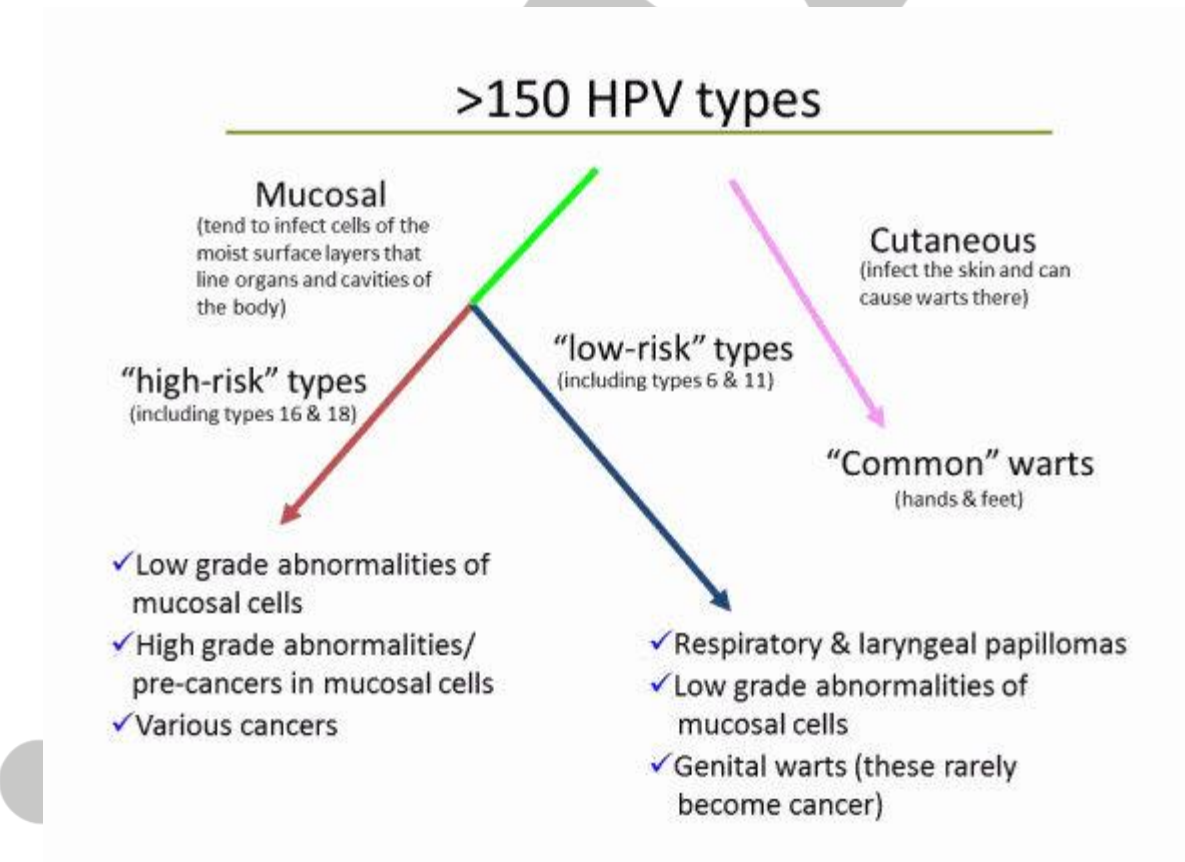
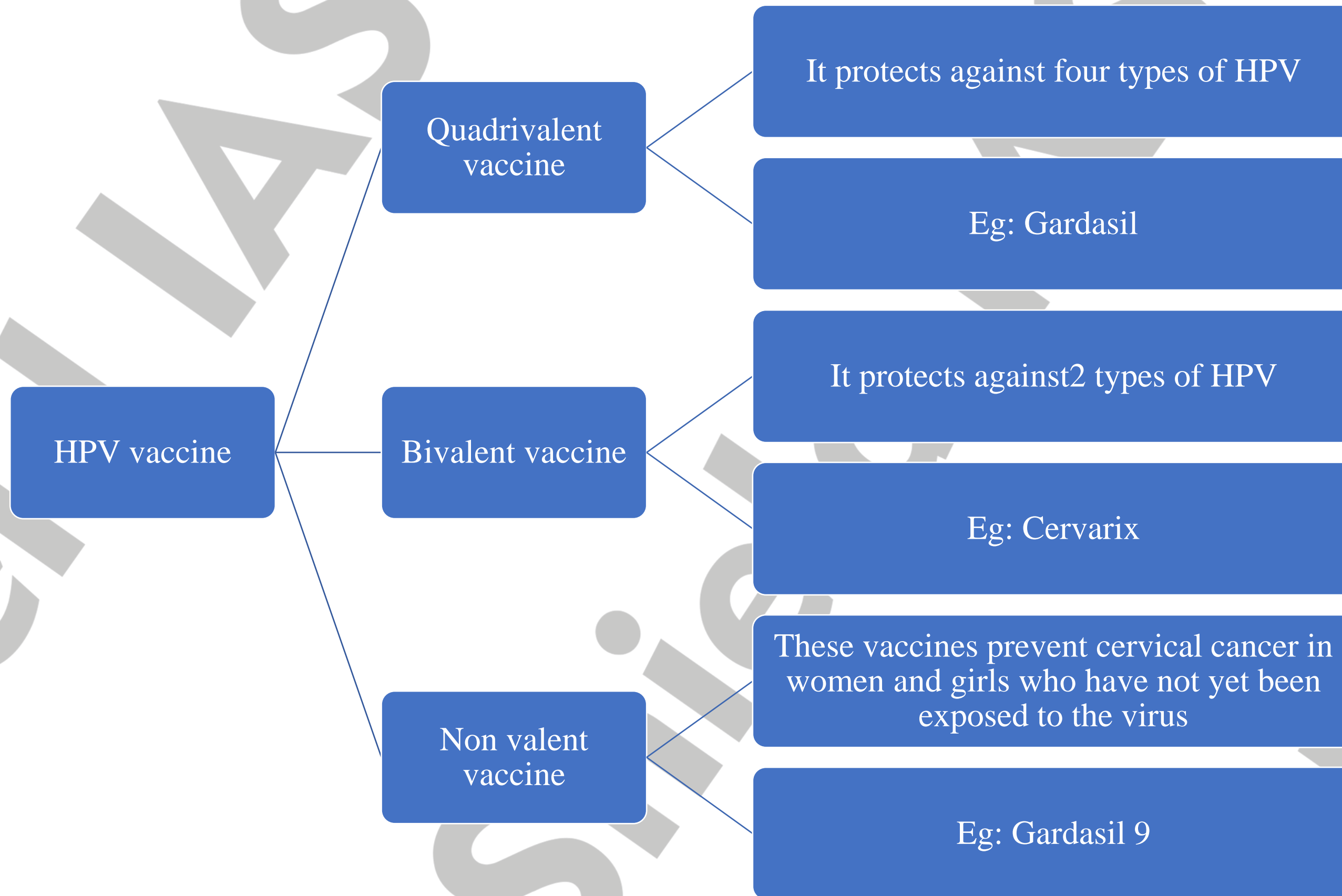
It is a common sexually transmitted infection.

Long-lasting infection with certain types of HPV is the main cause of cervical cancer

Worldwide, cervical cancer is the second most common cancer type and the second most common cause of cancer death in women of reproductive age (15–44)

Cervical cancer is preventable, but kills one woman every eight minutes in the country

Screening and vaccination are two powerful tools that are available for preventive cervical cancer



Cervavac



is India's first quadrivalent human papillomavirus vaccine (qHPV) vaccine.

It is intended to protect women against cervical cancer

Although HPV vaccination was introduced in 2008, it has yet to be included in the national immunisation programme

The vaccine is based on VLP (virus like particles), similar to the hepatitis B vaccine, and provides protection by generating antibodies against the HPV virus's L1 protein

National Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (NTAGI)

It was established by an order of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) in 2001.

As India's apex advisory body on immunization, the NTAGI provides guidance and advice to the MoHFW on provision of vaccination and immunization services for the effective control of vaccine preventable diseases in the country.

NTAGI of India fulfils a need for informing decision-making concerning the introduction of new vaccines and strengthening the Universal Immunisation Programme (UIP).

The role and membership of NTAGI have expanded over the years in tune with the emerging needs and priorities of the Government of India.

The NTAGI includes a Standing Technical Sub-Committee (STSC).

The STSC is tasked with undertaking technical review of scientific evidence on matters related to immunization policy and programmes.

Final recommendations are drafted by the NTAGI taking into account the scientific review by the STSC and any other relevant evidence.

India abstains from UNSC vote on Myanmar, calls for quiet and constructive diplomacy


Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

India, along with Russia and China, abstained from a UN Security Council resolution criticising Myanmar's military regime, and instead called for "quiet, patient" and "constructive" diplomacy with the junta.

The vote, which marked the first Security Council resolution on the situation in Myanmar in decades, and in particular, since the military overthrew the National Unity Government (NUG) in February 2021, demanded an end to the violence and the release of all political prisoners, including State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi.

The resolution (S/



 In view of our commitment to the democratic process and the well-being of Myanmar people, India has decided to abstain on this Resolution

RUCHIRA KAMBOJ
UN Representative

RES/2669 (2022)) proposed by the United Kingdom, which was passed by 12 votes, made several references to the importance of the "ASEAN" process, referring to the "five-point consensus" passed by the 10-nation Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) last year.

"We believe that the complex situation in Myanmar calls for an approach

of quiet and patient diplomacy. Any other course will not help in resolving the long-standing issues which have prevented enduring peace, stability, progress and democratic governance," India's Permanent Representative to the UN, Ruchira Kamboj, said. She added that the Resolution would only "entrench" the parties concerned in Myanmar, and its

neighbours such as India would be among those most affected by the instability in that country.

India's abstention is being criticised by human rights advocates in Myanmar as indicative of a soft position on the junta that has not only imprisoned most of the democratic leadership but has also prosecuted them on charges of treason. In an interview to *The Hindu* this month, Indonesian Foreign Minister Retno Marsudi appealed to India to "support ASEAN efforts", adding that distancing from the ASEAN-led process would not be effective in helping Myanmar.

Ms. Kamboj complimented the U.K. for taking the views of Myanmar's

neighbours and ASEAN countries into account while drafting the UNSC resolution but said India could not support it.

"Quiet and constructive diplomacy is the desirable recourse for seeking constructive and enduring solutions in Myanmar... In view of these concerns and our firm commitment to the democratic process and the well-being of the people in Myanmar, India has decided to abstain on this Resolution," she said.



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In focus: India and the UNSC
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03

India abstains from UNSC vote on Myanmar, calls for quiet and constructive diplomacy



What is the situation in Myanmar?

- General Min Aung Hlaing - commander-in-chief of the Tatmadaw, or military, is in charge.
- He and his junta (group of military leaders) took charge after ousting the elected, civilian government.
- He declared a state of emergency but has promised a "free and fair" election in the future.

Significance of Myanmar

Geopolitically significant to India as it stands at the center of the India-Southeast Asia geography

Only Southeast Asian country that shares a land border with northeastern India

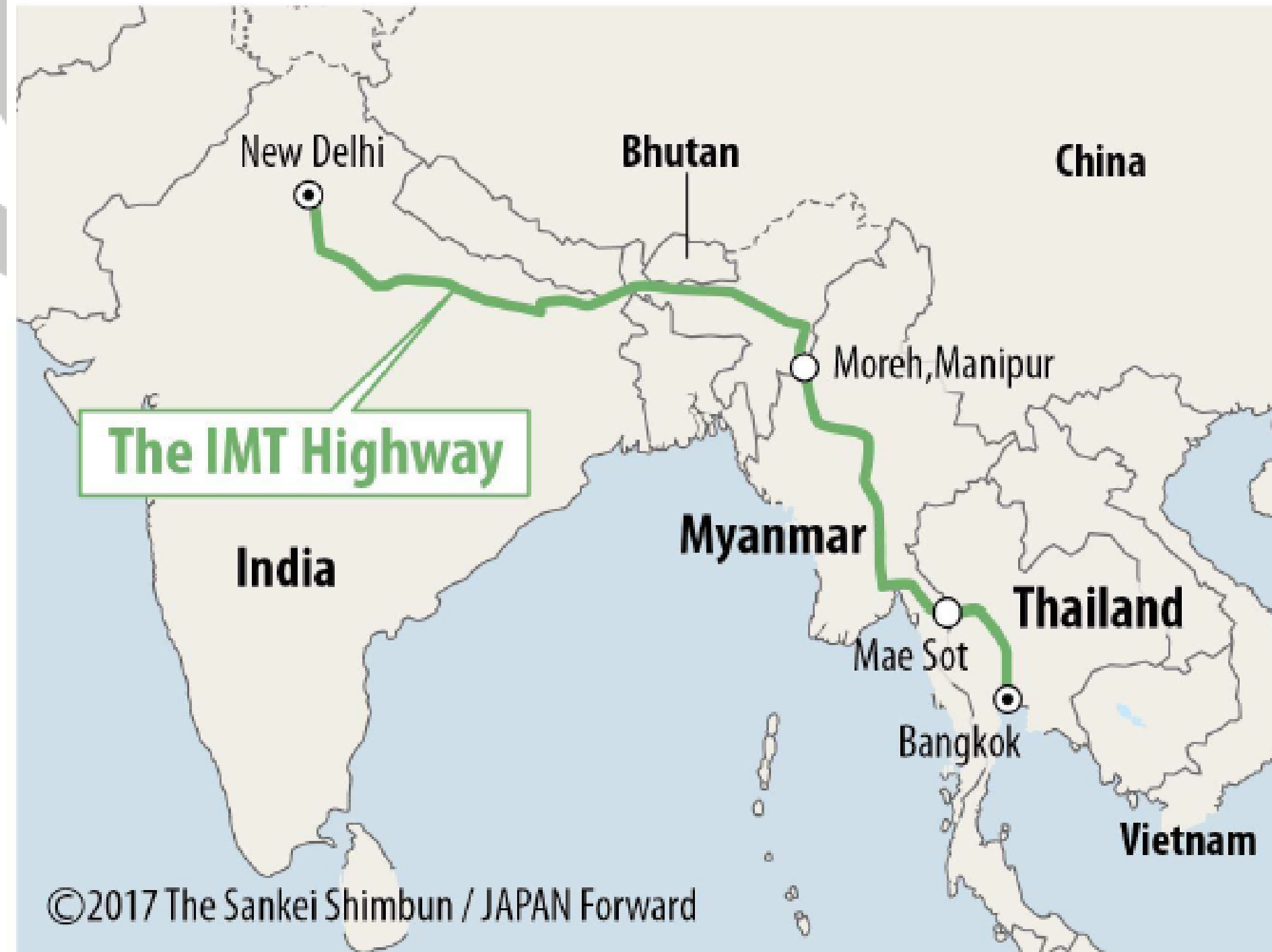
Sits at the intersection of India's "Neighborhood First" policy and its "Act East" policy

Part of India's Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR)

5Bs-Buddhism, Business, Bollywood, Bharatnatyam, and Burma teak

India–Myanmar–Thailand Trilateral Highway

- It is a highway under construction under India's Look East policy that will connect Moreh, India with Mae Sot, Thailand via Myanmar
- It is aimed at opening the gate to ASEAN through the land



Kaladan Multimodal Project

- The Kaladan multimodal project is a joint project between India and Myanmar
- Connects Kolkata port with Myanmar's Sittwe Port by sea

Benefits

- Northeastern regions of India are rich in natural resources, with one-fifth country's hydrocarbon reserves
- It will open up new business, transport, and shipments from Myanmar's eastern ports to the northeastern parts of the country
- It will help in countering China's expansion in the region
- Alternative to Chicken's Neck



Centre received feedback on 'lack of transparency' in Collegium system, says Rijiju

Govt. has sent suggestions for supplementing procedure for appointment of judges, Law Minister tells Rajya Sabha; he recently said that issue of vacancies would linger till a new system comes in

Sandeep Phukan
NEW DELHI

The Union government has received various "representations" on the lack of transparency, objectivity and social diversity in the Collegium system of appointment of Supreme Court and High Court judges, Union Law Minister Kiren Rijiju told the Rajya Sabha on Thursday.

In a written reply, Mr. Rijiju said the government had sent suggestions for supplementing the Memorandum of Procedure (MoP) for appointment of judges to the High Courts and the Supreme Court.

The MoP is a document which guides the appointment and transfer of judges



Judicial appointments: Kiren Rijiju has said that there is no plan to bring back the National Judicial Appointments Commission. PTI

in the higher judiciary.

The Law Minister made these remarks in response to a question by CPI(M) member John Brittas, who asked if the government was planning to reintroduce the National Judicial Appointments Commis-

sion (NJAC).

Mr. Rijiju said the government had brought the Constitution (Ninety-Ninth Amendment) Act, 2014 and the NJAC Act on April 13, 2015 to make the Collegium system of appointments of judges "more

broad-based, transparent, accountable and bring objectivity in the system".

However, both the Acts were challenged in the Supreme Court, which eventually declared both the laws unconstitutional and void on October 16, 2015. On December 8, in response to a written question by Mr. Brittas and Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge, Mr. Rijiju had said there was no plan to bring back the NJAC with suitable modifications.

Apart from regularly targeting the judiciary, Mr. Rijiju recently told the Rajya Sabha that the issue of vacancies in the higher judiciary would linger till a new system of appointment was created.

04

Centre received feedback on 'lack of transparency' in Collegium system, says Rijiju

What is Collegium system?

9th December THNA



Art. 124

(2) Every Judge of the Supreme Court shall be appointed by the President by warrant under his hand and seal after consultation with such of the Judges of the Supreme Court and of the High Courts in the States as the President may deem necessary for the purpose and shall hold office until he attains the age of sixty-five years:

Provided that in the case of appointment of a Judge other than the Chief Justice, the Chief Justice of India shall always be consulted

First Judges Case (1981)

- S.P. Gupta v Union of India
- Consultation doesn't mean concurrence

9th December THNA



Second Judges Case (1993)

- Consultation means concurrence



Advice of SC

- President under the provisions of Art. 143 asked advice on whether the advice of CJI is his sole opinion or not?



Third Judges Case (1998)

- SC clarified that it is not the sole opinion of CJI and he must consult 4 other senior most SC judges.
- Expanded the Collegium to a five-member body, comprising the CJI and four of his senior-most colleagues



99th Amendment

- Parliament enacted 99th CAA and formed National Judicial appointments committee to make judicial appointments



Fourth Judges Case (2015)

- The NJAC Act was termed unconstitutional and was struck down, citing it as having affected the independence of the judiciary

Issues with the current collegium system

9th December THNA

The collegium system does not provide any guidelines or criteria for the appointment of the Supreme Court judges and it increases the ambit of favouritism.

In the collegium system, there are no criteria for testing the candidate or for doing a background check to establish the credibility of the candidate. The absence of an administrative body is also a reason for worry because it means that the members of the collegium system are not answerable for the selection of any of the judges.

The 'Second Judges Case' established the supremacy of the judiciary over the executive. This system disturbs the principle of check and balance. The check and balance principle is necessary because it ensures that no organ of democracy is exercising its power in an excessive manner.

NJAC was struck down for its unconstitutionality, but a closer look at the collegium system tells us that even though the collegium system is not mentioned anywhere in the Constitution, rather it has evolved over a period of time from different landmark cases.

The collegium system lacks transparency.

Nepotism has been often witnessed in the judiciary due to a lack of criteria for the appointment of judges. Nepotism leads to mediocrity due to biases in the judicial setup.

Need taxonomy, definitions to avoid 'greenwashing': Rao

Green infrastructure investment trusts, green bonds can help financing of green projects, says RBI Deputy Governor; stresses need for regulated entities to assess climate-linked financial risks

Press Trust of India
MUMBAI

Reserve Bank Deputy Governor M. Rajeshwar Rao on Thursday called for a taxonomy on green finance to avoid the risk of "greenwashing". Green financing refers to lending to environmentally sustainable economic activities.

Speaking at an event here, Mr. Rao said a formal definition of green finance along with a taxonomy "is the need of hour" and added that it will enable more precise tracking of finance flows to green sectors.

"A taxonomy would

Climate caution

With India looking to increase green financing to help mitigate climate change impacts, risks of 'greenwashing' also rise

■ Clear definitions, taxonomy will help lenders better assess climate risk in their loan portfolio

■ A list of environmentally sustainable activities will aid flow of financing to the sector



■ Given India's climate commitments, green infrastructure investment trusts can help scale up financing, says RBI's Rao

help banks and financial institutions in better assessing the climate risk in their loan portfolio, scaling up... sustainable finance and mitigating the risk of greenwashing," he said.

The call for clear definitions and a classification system, establishing a list of environmentally sustainable economic activities, comes at a time when India is looking at increas-

ing green finance to help the climate. Greenwashing refers to dishonest practices aimed at duping people.

Mr. Rao also said that green infrastructure investment trusts could help scale up green finance, given the need to rapidly scale up finance because of the country's climate commitments.

"There is a need for regulated entities to develop and implement comprehensive frameworks for understanding and assessing the potential impact of climate-related financial risks in their business strategy and operations," the senior RBI official added.

05

Need taxonomy, definitions to avoid 'greenwashing': Rao

Greenwashing

What is it?

- Greenwashing is the process of conveying a false impression or misleading information about how a company's products are environmentally sound. Greenwashing involves making an unsubstantiated claim to deceive consumers into believing that a company's products are environmentally friendly or have a greater positive environmental impact than they actually do.
- The term greenwashing was first used in 1986 by Jay Westerveld, an American environmentalist and researcher.

How Greenwashing Works

- Also known as “green sheen,” greenwashing is an attempt to capitalize on the growing demand for environmentally sound products, whether that means they are more natural, healthier, free of chemicals, recyclable, or less wasteful of natural resources.
- More recently, some of the world's biggest carbon emitters, such as conventional energy companies, have attempted to rebrand themselves as champions of the environment. Products are greenwashed through a process of renaming, rebranding, or repackaging them. Greenwashed products might convey the idea that they're more natural, wholesome, or free of chemicals than competing brands.

Examples of Greenwashing

- A trash bag is labeled “recyclable.” Trash bags are not ordinarily separated from other trash at the landfill or incinerator, so they are highly unlikely to be used again for any purpose. The claim is deceptive because it asserts an environmental benefit where no meaningful benefit exists.



QUIZ OF THE DAY

Q1. Panchamrit is related to which of the following sector?

- a) Education
- b) Health
- c) Energy
- d) National Security

Q2. Which of the following is/are the likely consequences of farm loan waiver schemes:

1. It may increase fiscal deficits for States.
2. Cost of borrowing for States may increase.
3. It may limit the ability to undertake productive capital expenditure in the agriculture sector.

Choose the correct answer using the code given below:

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3