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# TODAY'S ANALYSIS

## (15 April 2024)

### TOPICS TO BE COVERED

- ABORTION ISSUE IN USA
- SWITZERLAND TO HOST PEACE TALKS



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## ABORTION ISSUE IN USA

Donald Trump said he believes **abortion limits should be left to individual states** to decide, and declined to endorse a national abortion ban in the United States.

"Many states will be different. At the end of the day, it's all about the will of the people, that's what we want," the Republican presidential candidate said.

The demand in USA is to extend **a national ban on abortion**. It has become one of the hot issues in the presidential elections of 2024.

### ROE V/S WADE JUDGEMENT

Roe v/s Wade is a **1973 landmark Supreme Court case** that **legalized abortion** in the United States. The case recognized that the **right to decide whether to continue or end a pregnancy belongs to the individual, not the government**.

US Supreme Court **struck down its landmark 1973 Roe v/s Wade judgement in June 2022**.

Since then, **15 Republican-governed states have banned nearly all abortion**, the latest being Arizona where the state Supreme Court recently revived a 160-year-old law which even allows for the **prosecution of doctors**.

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## ABORTION IN INDIA

Abortions in India are regulated by the **Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971.**

**(Amd. 2021)**

Features	MTP Act, 1971	MTP (Amendment) Act, 2021
Time upto 12 weeks since conception	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advice of <b>one doctor</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advice of <b>one doctor</b></li> </ul>
Time 12 to 20 weeks since conception	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advice of <b>two doctors</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advice of <b>one doctor</b></li> </ul>
Time 20 to 24 weeks since conception	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Not allowed</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Two doctors</b> for some categories of pregnant women</li> </ul>
Time more than 24 weeks since conception	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Not allowed</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Medical Board</b> in case of substantial foetal abnormality</li> </ul>
Any time during the pregnancy	<b>One doctor</b> , if immediately necessary to save pregnant woman's life, <b>opinion formed in good faith.</b>	
Termination due to failure of contraceptive method or device	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pregnancy may be terminated <b>up to 20 weeks by a married woman</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Any women (irrespective of marital status)</b> can get their pregnancy terminated up to 20 weeks.</li> </ul>

## LANDMARK JUDGEMENTS

- In a landmark decision, which coincided with the **International Safe Abortion Day, (28 September) (in 2022)** the Supreme Court of India (SC) granted **unmarried and single women** with pregnancies ranging from **20 to 24 weeks** access to safe and legal abortion care **on par with married women.**
- India's **Supreme Court, on 9 October, 2023** gave the **go-ahead** for AIIMS doctors to **terminate a 26-week pregnancy.**

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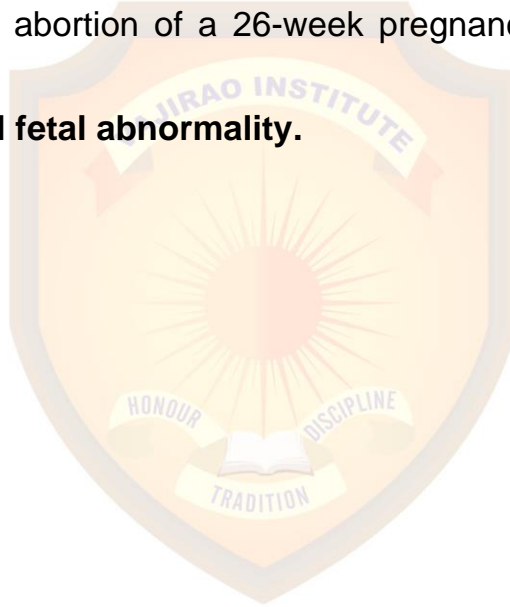


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**But later, a bench led by CJI DY Chandrachud said it needs to balance the rights of a 'living and viable foetus' with its mother's right to autonomy.**

An abortion case has left **India's Supreme Court divided.**

The apex court on **12 October ordered doctors at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS)** to put the abortion of a 26-week pregnancy **on hold & allow abortion only in case of a substantial fetal abnormality.**



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## SWITZERLAND TO HOST PEACE TALKS

With the Russia-Ukraine war in its **third year**, Switzerland will host a peace conference at **Bürgenstock** on **June 15-16**, immediately after the **June 13-15 G7 Summit in Italy**.

Switzerland has taken the initiative at the request of Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, who visited Bern on January 15.

**Switzerland wants India to participate in the conference**, to which some **120 countries will be invited** at the level of **Heads of State/Government**. It remains to be seen whether **US President Joe Biden** will be able to take time out in the middle of his re-election campaign, or whether **Russia's President Vladimir Putin** and **China's President Xi Jinping**, who have announced a "**friendship without limits**", will attend.

### AIMS OF THIS CONFERENCE

- The idea is to "provide a platform for a high-level dialogue on ways to achieve a comprehensive, just and lasting peace for Ukraine based on international law and the UN Charter,".
- The conference will aim to "create a common understanding of the framework conducive to this goal and a concrete roadmap for the peace process",

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Switzerland had earlier hosted a **Ukraine Recovery Conference (URC)** at Lugano in **July 2022**, and a **National Security Advisors Meeting in Davos** at the beginning of this year.

## THE SWISS HISTORY OF MEDIATION

Neutrality is a foundational principle of Switzerland's foreign policy.

- It acted as the protecting power during the two World Wars, and held nearly 200 protective power mandates during World War II.
- Switzerland represented **India's interests in Pakistan** and **Pakistan's in India** between **1971 and 1976**.
- Over the last two decades, Switzerland has been the protecting power between **Saudi Arabia and Iran, the US and Iran, Russia and Georgia**, and other pairs of mutually hostile governments.
- It hosted talks between the government in Colombo and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam in 2006.

During the Russia-Ukraine war, however, **Switzerland has leaned towards Ukraine**, and has **joined the Western sanctions regime against Russia**.

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## VIEWPOINTS OF RUSSIA & UKRAINE

- **UKRAINE:** Zelenskiy has sought India's support on a **10-point "peace formula"**, which calls for the withdrawal of Russian troops from Ukraine, release of prisoners, restoration of Ukraine's territorial integrity, and guarantees on nuclear safety, food and energy security.
- **RUSSIA:** For Russia, this formula is a non-starter. Moscow says it is "pointless", and the peace effort is doomed to fail if it doesn't take Russia's interests into account. It has said it is willing to enter talks about Ukraine, but these must respect Russia's security interests and reflect the "new realities" on the ground.

Russian forces control a little less than a fifth of Ukraine, and Moscow has claimed four Ukrainian regions as its own.

## INDIA, RUSSIA & UKRAINE

From the beginning of the Ukraine conflict, India has been emphasising on dialogue and diplomacy. India is ready to contribute to any peace process.

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## EVOLUTION OF INDIA'S POSITION:

- Since the outbreak of the war in February 2022, India has walked a diplomatic tightrope between Russia and Ukraine.
- It **did not explicitly condemn the invasion**, but it did call for an **international probe into the Bucha massacre** and **expressed concern over nuclear threats issued by Russian leaders**.
- India **abstained from voting against Russia** in several resolutions at the UN Security Council.
- In **September 2022**, Prime Minister Narendra Modi told Putin that **“this is not the era of war”** — a formulation that found an echo at the **G20 Summit statement in Bali in November 2022**.
- At the **G20 Summit in New Delhi** in September 2023, India was **able to forge a consensus**, and get a **joint declaration** to which both the **US-led West and Russia, backed by China, agreed**.

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- Modi has had **at least five phone conversations with Putin** and **at least four with Zelenskiy** since the beginning of the war. He has also met both leaders in person on the sidelines of multilateral summits.
  - During their telephone conversation last month, the Ukrainian President thanked India for its support for his country's sovereignty, and said it would be important for Kyiv to see New Delhi attend the peace conference in Switzerland.

For India, which **aspires to be a permanent member of the UN Security Council**, the conference presents an opportunity to shape the conversation at the global high table.

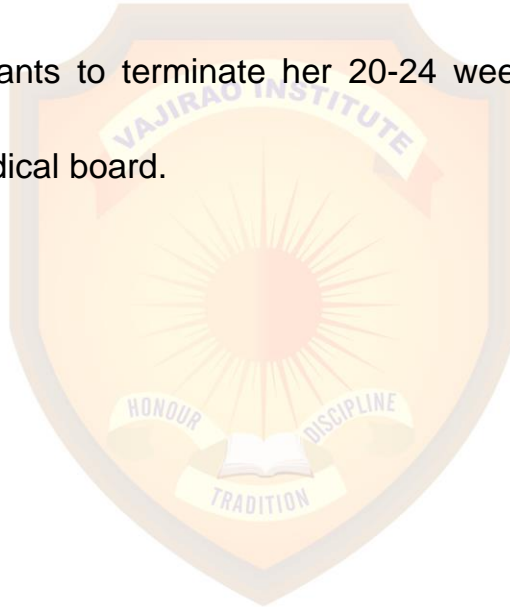
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## MCQs

1. Consider the following statements & mark the correct one.
    1. Medical Termination of Pregnancy act, 1971 allows abortion for 20 weeks for any category of women.
    2. If any woman wants to terminate her 20-24 weeks pregnancy, she has to be advised by a medical board.
- (A) Only 1  
(B) Only 2  
(C) Both 1 & 2  
(D) Neither 1 nor 2



**Ans. (A)**

2. The International Safe Abortion Day is celebrated on which day?
  - (A) 26 September
  - (B) 24 September
  - (C) 28 October
  - (D) None of the above

**Ans. (D)**

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3. The Russia Ukraine peace talks are expected to be conducted in which city?

- (A) Davos
- (B) Berlin
- (C) Bürgenstock
- (D) None of the above

**Ans. (C)**

4. Switzerland has not mediated in which of the following conflicts?

- (A) Indo-China conflict of 1962
- (B) Iran Saudi Arabia conflict
- (C) USA-Iran conflict
- (D) India Pakistan conflict of 1971

**Ans. (A)**

5. Which of the countries hosted the Ukraine Recovery Conference in 2022?

- (A) Germany
- (B) Poland
- (C) Finland
- (D) None of the above

**Ans. (D)**

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