

Short Selling

- Short selling occurs when an investor borrows a security and sells it on the open market, planning to buy it back later for less money.
- Short sellers bet on, and profit from, a drop in a security's price. This can be contrasted with long investors who want the price to go up.
- Short selling has a high risk/reward ratio: It can offer big profits, but losses can mount quickly and infinitely due to margin calls.

THE HINDU

"Dharma Guardian"

- India-Japan joint training exercise "Dharma Guardian" will be conducted at Camp Imazu in the Shiga province of Japan
- It is the 4th edition of the joint military exercise "Dharma Guardian" between India and Japan.
- "Exercise "Dharma Guardian" will further enhance the level of defence cooperation between the Indian Army and Japanese ground self-defence forces, furthering the bilateral ties between the two nations.
- The scope of this exercise covers platoon level joint training on

operations in jungle and semi urban/urban terrain.

- "Troops of the Garhwal Rifles Regiment of the Indian Army and an Infantry Regiment from the Middle Army of the Japan Ground Self Defence Force (JGSDF) are participating in the exercise this year to share experiences gained during operations in order to enhance inter-operability in planning & execution,



How EC give symbol to political parties?

Under what authority does the EC decide such disputes?

- The Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order, 1968 empowers the EC to recognise political parties and allot symbols. Under Paragraph 15 of the Order, it can decide disputes among rival groups or sections of a recognised political party staking claim to its name and symbol.

What is the legal status of Paragraph 15?

- Under Paragraph 15, the EC is the only authority to decide issues on a dispute or a merger. The Supreme Court upheld its validity in Sadiq Ali and another vs. ECI in 1971.
- What aspects does the EC consider before recognizing one group as the official party?
- The ECI primarily ascertains the support enjoyed by a claimant within a political party in its organizational wing and in its legislative wing.

Ascertain where they stand.

- How does the ECI establish a claim of majority in these wings?
- The Commission examines the party's constitution and its list of office-bearers submitted when the party was united.
- It identifies the apex committee(s) in the organization and finds out how many office-bearers, members or delegates support the rival claimants.
- For the legislative wing, the party goes by the number of MPs and MLAs in the rival camps. It may consider affidavits filed by these members to

What ruling will the EC give after a definite finding?

- The ECI may decide the dispute in favour of one faction by holding that it commands enough support in its organizational and legislative wings to be entitled to the name and symbol of the recognized party.
- It may permit the other group to register itself as a separate political party.
- What happens when there is no certainty about the majority of either faction?
- Where the party is either vertically divided or it is not possible to say with certainty which group has a majority, the EC may freeze the party's symbol and allow the groups to register themselves with new names or add prefixes or suffixes to the party's existing names.

Can a dispute be decided immediately, if elections are round the corner?

- The EC may take time to gather enough material to decide the question.
- For immediate electoral purposes, it may freeze the party's symbol and advise the groups to fight the elections in different names and on temporary symbols.

What happens when rival factions settle their differences in the future?

- If reunited, the claimants may approach the EC again and seek to be recognized as a unified party.
- The EC is also empowered to recognize mergers of groups into one entity.
- It may restore the symbol and name of the original party.

THE HINDU

G20 Meeting

- Judging by the difficulties Indonesia faced last year, where G-7 countries did not attend the reception held in Bali, and the Russian FM then walked out after delivering his speech, the atmosphere at the Delhi FMM is likely to be even more tense,”
- Another diplomat pointed to the fact that there have been no formal “family photos” or group photos at any of the G-20 events in either Indonesia last year, or the events in India held in various cities.
- All eyes will be on how many countries vote in favour of a draft resolution at the UN General Assembly (UNGA) that will see a “just and lasting peace”, and call on Russia to “immediately, completely and

unconditionally” withdraw its forces from Ukraine.

- India, that has abstained from roughly two dozen votes on the Ukraine war in all including at the UN Security Council and UNGA, is expected to continue to walk the tightrope.

THE HINDU

Pangolins

- Pangolins, despite being listed in Schedule I of Wildlife (Protection) Act, of 1972 continues to be the world’s most trafficked mammal.
- The primary demand for its scales in the making of traditional East Asian medicines has led to an estimated illegal trade worth \$2.5 billion every year.



- To enforce the appropriate national and international laws and to track the decline of the species, researchers of the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI), Kolkata, have now developed tools to tell apart the scales of Indian pangolin (Manis

crassicaudata) and Chinese pangolin (Manis pentadactyla).

- They characterized the morphological features and investigated genetic variations between the two species by sequencing 624 scales of pangolins and comparing the sequences with all eight pangolin species.
- Based on the size, shape, weight, and ridge counts on the scales, the team was able to categorize the two species.

THE HINDU

Indian Economy

- Even though the global slowdown in 2023 may be milder than anticipated earlier, the trajectory still remains unpredictable, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) officials observed
- India's economy would likely decouple from the rest of the world.
- In India, domestic consumption and investment would benefit from stronger prospects for agricultural and allied activities, strengthening business and consumer confidence, and strong credit growth,
- The Union Budget 2023-24's emphasis on capital expenditure is expected to crowd-in private investment, strengthen job creation

and demand, and raise India's potential growth

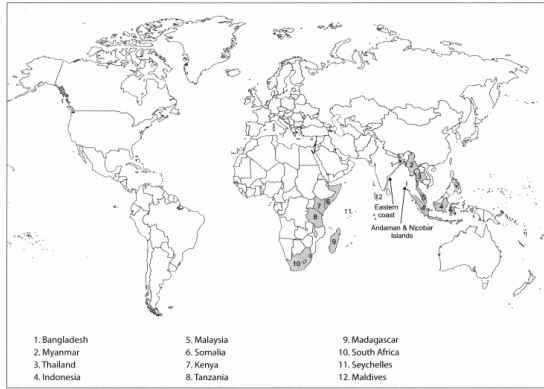
What is crowding out?

- The crowding out effect is an economic theory arguing that rising public sector spending drives down or even eliminates private sector spending.

THE HINDU

Mosi II

- Russia, China, and South Africa are set to begin naval drills off South Africa's Indian Ocean coast in a demonstration of the three countries' close ties amid Russia's invasion of Ukraine and China's tense relationship with the West.
- The 10 days of exercises, named Mosi II, will coincide with the first anniversary of Russia's invasion of Ukraine on Feb. 24.
- A Russian frigate, the Admiral Gorshkov, arrived in Cape Town earlier this week
- It is said to be armed with the Zircon hypersonic missiles, a weapon that Russia says can penetrate any missile defenses.
- It will test fire a Zircon missile during the drills.



THE HINDU

GES
REPORTER