

Medical Termination of Pregnancy: Definition and Law

Class 12 Biology / NEET High-Yield Revision

Definition: What is an MTP?

Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP), or induced abortion, is the intentional or voluntary termination of pregnancy before full term.

Common NEET Trap

Don't confuse abortion with miscarriage.

- MTP is an *intentional* medical procedure.
- A spontaneous abortion (miscarriage) is an *unintentional*, natural loss of pregnancy.

45–50 Million

MTPs performed
worldwide every year.



$\sim 1/5$ (20%)

Of all conceived
pregnancies globally
end in an MTP.



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1971

Indian Legal Framework
**The Medical Termination of
Pregnancy Act** was passed in **1971**.



India was one of the first countries to legalize MTP under strict conditions. The law was further refined in the 2017 Amendment to ensure safer practices and strict compliance.

Purpose of the MTP Act



Eradicate Quackery

Reduce unsafe, illegal abortions performed by unqualified personnel.



Protect Mothers

Drastically reduce maternal mortality and pregnancy-related morbidity.



Provide Legal Grounds

Allow safe medical termination in cases of rape, risk to the mother's life, or severe foetal abnormalities.

Medical Approval: The Trimester Rule (2017 Amendment)

0–12 Weeks
(First Trimester)

Risk: Relatively Safe

Requirement: Approval of **ONE** Registered Medical Practitioner (RMP).

13–24 Weeks
(Second Trimester)

Risk: Much Riskier

Requirement: Approval of **TWO** RMPs acting in good faith.

>24 Weeks

Risk: Extremely High Risk

Requirement: Generally not permitted (except under extreme medical anomalies).

KEY TAKEAWAY

MTP was legalised in India in 1971 under strict conditions to prevent illegal procedures and maternal mortality.

NEET Diagnostic Recall

How many RMPs are required to legally approve an MTP at 16 weeks of pregnancy?



2 RMPs

(Because 16 weeks falls within the second trimester / 13–24 week risk window).



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