

# DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

By



SOURCES



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1. 'Bharat' replaces 'India' in G-20 invite from President - The Hindu
2. Modi, Biden to hold bilateral talks on Friday: White House - The Hindu
3. 'Xi Jinping skipping G-20 Summit a deliberate signal to India, West' - The Hindu
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5. Centre should remove 50% cap, raise quota by 15% to 16% to include more communities: Pawar - The Hindu
6. Byelections to 7 Assembly seats peaceful; results on September 8 - The Hindu
7. FM flags threats to financial system from crypto, tax havens - The Hindu/ 'Need to set up framework to handle challenges related to crypto assets' - Indian Express
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## Important News Articles

### GS II

#### 1. 'Bharat' replaces 'India' in G-20 invite from President - The Hindu

**Relevance:** Constitution of India —historical underpinnings, evolution, features, amendments, significant provisions and basic structure.

**News:**

- **Invitations sent by the President** to the heads of states and government for an official banquet **on the occasion of the G-20 Summit** in New Delhi created a flutter.
- In the invitation, **Instead of the usual “President of India”, the cards said “President of Bharat”**.
- In 2020, the **Supreme Court had dismissed a PIL seeking to remove “India” from the Constitution** and retain only Bharat in order to “ensure the citizens of this country.
- SC said **“India is already called Bharat in the Constitution itself.”**

#### Prelims Takeaway

- Article 1
- First Schedule.

**History of name BHARAT**

- Bharata' refers to the **“supraregional and subcontinental territory** where the Brahmanical system of society prevails
- Bharata is also the **name of the ancient king of legend** who was the ancestor of the **Rig Vedic tribe of the Bharatas**, and by extension, the progenitor of all peoples of the subcontinent.
- **'India' and 'Hindustan':**
  - The name Hindustan is thought to have derived from 'Hindu', the Persian cognate form of the Sanskrit 'Sindhu' (Indus)
  - It came into currency with the Achaemenid Persian conquest of the Indus valley that began in the 6th century BC.
  - From around the first century of the Christian era, the suffix “stan” came to be used with the name to create “Hindustan”.
- The **Greeks**, who had acquired **knowledge of 'Hind'** from the Achaemenids, **transliterated the name as 'Indus**.
- By the time the **Macedonian king Alexander invaded India** in the 3rd century BC, **'India' had come to be identified with the region beyond the Indus**.
- By the time of the **early Mughals (16th century)**, the name **'Hindustan'** was used to describe the entire Indo-Gangetic plain
- In the **mid-to-late eighteenth century**, **Hindustan** often referred to the territories of the Mughal emperor, which **comprised much of South Asia”**.
- From the late 18th century onwards, **British maps increasingly began to use the name 'India'**, and 'Hindustan' started to lose its association with all of South Asia.

**Constitutional Provision:**

**Article 1 : Name and territory of the Union**

- **India**, that is **Bharat**, shall be a **Union of States**.
- The States and the territories thereof shall be as specified in the **First Schedule**.
- The **territory of India shall comprise -**
  - The territories of the States;
  - The Union territories specified in the First Schedule; and
  - Such other territories as may be acquired.

#### 2. Modi, Biden to hold bilateral talks on Friday: White House - The Hindu

**Relevance:** Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India's interests.

**News:**

- **Indian Prime Minister and U.S. President will hold bilateral talks**.

#### Prelims Takeaway

- QUAD
- G-20

- U.S. will focus on “**delivering for developing countries, making progress on key priorities** for the American people from climate to technology, and showing our commitment to the G 20

#### India's Relations with the US

- The U.S.-India strategic partnership is founded on shared values including a **commitment to democracy and upholding the rules-based international** system.
- Both have shared interests in **promoting global security, stability, and economic prosperity through trade, investment, and connectivity.**

#### Economic Relations:

- The **U.S.** has emerged as **India's biggest trading partner** in 2022-23 on account of increasing economic ties between the two countries.
- The **bilateral trade** between India and the U.S. has **increased by 7.65%** to USD 128.55 in 2022-23 as against USD 119.5 billion in 2021-22.
- Exports to the U.S. rose by 2.81% to USD 78.31 billion in 2022-23 as against USD 76.18 billion in 2021-22, while imports grew by about 16% to USD 50.24 billion.

#### International Cooperations:

- India and the United States cooperate closely at **multilateral organizations**, including :
  - The United Nations
  - G-20
  - Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Regional Forum
  - International Monetary Fund
  - World Bank
  - World Trade Organization.
- The **United States welcomed India joining the UN Security Council** in 2021 for a two-year term
- **USA supported a reformed UN Security Council** that includes India as a permanent member.
- Together with **Australia and Japan, the United States and India convene as the Quad** to promote a free and open Indo-Pacific and provide tangible benefits to the region.
- **India is also one of twelve countries partnering** with the United States on the **Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF).**
- **India is a member of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA)**, at which the United States is a dialogue partner.
- In 2021, the **United States joined the International Solar Alliance** headquartered in India, and in 2022 the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

### 3. 'Xi Jinping skipping G-20 Summit a deliberate signal to India, West' - The Hindu

**Relevance:** Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India's interests.

#### News:

- **Chinese President skipping a G-20 summit** for the first time.
- It is sending “**deliberate signals**” to **India and the West** by essentially downgrading its involvement in a key international forum.
- China sees as a “**politicisation**” of the **G-20**, which it believes should be limited to economic issues and **not involve itself with issues such as the war in Ukraine.**

#### Prelims Takeaway

- G20 Troika
- G20

#### G20

- The Group owes its **origin to the Financial Crisis in 1997-98** of the Asian Tigers (Countries of East and Southeast Asia), which caused its establishment in 1999.
- It worked first as a **forum for the Central Bank Governors and Finance Ministers** of the major industrialised and developing economies to discuss global economic and financial stability.
- After the 2008 global financial crisis, it was **upgraded to the level of Heads of State or Government**
- In 2009, it was declared as the “**premier forum for international economic cooperation**”.
- The G20 Leaders have met on a regular basis since then, and the **G20 has emerged as the leading platform for global economic cooperation.**

**G20 India Presidency:**

- India's G20 logo juxtaposes planet Earth with the lotus, India's national flower and the theme is 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' or 'One Earth-One Family-One Future'
- The **G20 Logo draws inspiration from the vibrant colours of India's national flag** – saffron, white and green, and blue.
- **The theme also spotlights LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment)**, with its associated, environmentally sustainable and responsible choices.
- During the course of its G20 Presidency, **India will host about 200 meetings in 32 different sectors in multiple locations across India.**
- The G20 Leaders' Summit at the level of Heads of State/Government is scheduled to be held on September 9 and 10, 2023 in New Delhi.
- During India's Presidency, **Indonesia and Brazil along with India would form the G20 Troika.**
- This would be the **first time when the Troika would consist of three developing countries** and emerging economies.

#### 4. Myanmar won't be allowed to lead ASEAN in 2026, in blow to Generals - The Hindu/ Blow to junta: Myanmar barred from leading ASEAN in 2026 - Indian Express

**Relevance:** Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India's interests.

**News:**

- Southeast Asian leaders decided that Myanmar won't take over the rotating leadership of their regional bloc as scheduled in 2026.
- Western governments led by the U.S. have condemned the Myanmar Army's ouster of Aung San Suu Kyi's democratically elected government in 2021.
- they demanded her immediate release from years-long detention.

**Prelims Takeaway**

- ASEAN
- Myanmar

**Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)**

- It is a regional grouping that promotes **economic, political, and security cooperation.**
- It was established in **August 1967 in Bangkok**, Thailand with the signing of the ASEAN Declaration (Bangkok Declaration).
- The **founding fathers** of ASEAN are **Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.**
- Its **chairmanship rotates annually**, based on the alphabetical order of the English names of Member States.
- **ASEAN countries have a total population of 650 million people and a combined Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of USD 2.8 trillion.**

**Members:**

- ASEAN brings together **ten Southeast Asian states** – Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam – into one organisation.

#### 5. Centre should remove 50% cap, raise quota by 15% to 16% to include more communities: Pawar - The Hindu

**Relevance:** Constitution of India —historical underpinnings, evolution, features, amendments, significant provisions and basic structure.

**News:**

- Amid protests demanding reservation for Marathas, the **Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) president told the Centre to remove the 50% cap on reservation.**
- In May 2021, the **Supreme Court had held Maratha reservation to be unconstitutional.**

**Prelims Takeaway**

- Articles 14
- Indira Sawhney judgement

**Maratha reservation issue:**

- A 11-member commission headed by **Retired Justice N G Gaikwad recommended Marathas should be given reservation** under Socially and Educationally Backward Class (SEBC) in 2017.

- **Maharashtra Assembly in 2018**, passed a **Bill** proposing **16% reservation for Maratha community**.
- **The Bombay High Court** in its judgement in 2018 **upheld the reservation**
- HC pointed out that instead of 16% it should be reduced to 12% in education and 13% in jobs.
- A five-judge Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court declared **Maratha quota law as unconstitutional**.

#### **Constitutional Provision:**

- A separate reservation for the Maratha community **violates Articles 14** (right to equality) **and 21 (due process of law)**.
- Reservation breaching the 50% limit **will create a society based on “caste rule”**.
- **The Maratha reservation** of 12% and 13% (in education and jobs) had **increased the overall reservation ceiling to 64% and 65%, respectively**.

#### **Indira Sawhney judgement 1992**

- SC had categorically said **50% shall be the rule for reservation**.
- **Only in certain exceptional and extraordinary situations** for bringing far-flung and remote areas' population into mainstream said **50% rule can be relaxed**.

## **6. Byelections to 7 Assembly seats peaceful; results on September 8 - The Hindu**

**Relevance:** Parliament and State legislatures—structure, functioning, conduct of business, powers & privileges and issues arising out of these.

#### **News:**

- Recently, **bypolls to various Assembly seats in Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Jharkhand, Kerala, Tripura and Uttarakhand** were held by and large peacefully.
- The **Election Commission of India (ECI) officials** said **no major untoward incidents were reported** from the constituencies where polls were held.

#### **Prelims Takeaway**

- Bypolls
- General Elections
- Election Commission of India

#### **By-polls**

- Also called **bye-elections or special elections**, it refers to **elections held to fill vacant seats in the legislative bodies of India**.
- It serves as a **vital component within the broader electoral cycle** and **complements regular elections** by addressing unforeseen vacancies.
- **Purpose:** To ensure the timely filing of vacant seats, enabling the representation of the affected constituency or district in the legislative body.
- **Occurrence:** When a seat in the legislature becomes vacant due to reasons such as
  - Death
  - Resignation
  - Disqualification
  - Expulsion of a sitting member

#### **Timeframe**

- **Section 151A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951**
  - It mandates the Election Commission to fill the casual vacancies through bye elections within six months from the date of occurrence of the vacancy.
  - Provided that the remainder of the term of a member in relation to a vacancy is one year or more.

#### **Impact**

- They often serve as a **litmus test** for political parties and their popularity.
- Bye-election **outcomes can affect the majority of the ruling government**.
  - If the ruling party loses a significant number of by-poll seats, it may lead to a loss of majority in the legislative body.
  - This can impact the government's stability and decision-making.
- They provide an avenue for political parties to **test their electoral strategies** and **fine-tune their campaign approaches**.

## GS III

### 7. FM flags threats to financial system from crypto, tax havens - The Hindu/ 'Need to set up framework to handle challenges related to crypto assets' - Indian Express

**Relevance:** Indian Economy and issues relating to planning, mobilization, of resources, growth, development and employment.

**News:**

- Recently, the Union Finance & Corporate Affairs Minister said **cryptocurrencies, drug mafias, tax havens and cyber threats** among others posed major **threats to the global financial ecosystem**.
- Understanding these global challenges** would help in **building a responsible, inclusive, resilient and sustainable financial ecosystem**.
- She also said that a **global collaborative effort is needed** to counter such challenges.

#### Prelims Takeaway

- Cryptocurrencies
- Cyber Security
- Tax Havens

**Indian Fintech Industry**

- Fintechs in India are **driving more inclusion** and **influencing India's financial ecosystem**.
- Today, fintech has become a **robust and dynamic financial inclusion tool**.
- According to a **2022 BCG Matrix Report**, in lending, fintechs had **36% share** of new-to-credit customers versus the **22% share of brick-and-mortar banks**.
- She urged the fintech industry to **guard against these threats** and **invest heavily to counter cyberthreats**.
- A secured system will build trust and therefore it is a must for the financial ecosystem.

## Bracing for risks

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman calls for a collaborative effort across the globe to counter rising financial threats

■ The FM cites drug mafias, tax havens, round tripping and tax evasion as serious threats to global finance

■ Ms. Sitharaman urges the fintech industry to invest heavily to protect user data and financial transactions

■ Fintechs in India are enhancing financial inclusion and influencing India's financial ecosystem, the minister adds



**Role of India**

- India can lead** in making the financial ecosystem **inclusive, resilient and sustainable**.
- Currently, India's priority is to have an **enhanced cross-border payment arrangement** considering the volume of remittances to the country.

**Global Cooperation**

- One of the priority areas for the G20 under India's presidency was **information sharing and seeking cooperation**.
- India has put on table issues relating to **regulation and undertaking a framework for handling issues relating to crypto assets**.

- **Consultative papers were being discussed** on various issues.
  - On crypto, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and Financial Stability Board (FSB) have released their synthesis papers.

#### Cryptocurrency

- A **digital or virtual currency** that **uses cryptography for security**.
- It is a **decentralized currency** i.e. it is not controlled by any government or institution.
- **Examples:** Bitcoin, Ethereum, and Litecoin.
- To use cryptocurrency, one must first **acquire a digital wallet**, which is a software program that **stores the user's public and private keys**.
  - These **keys are used to send and receive cryptocurrency**.
  - They are also used to **verify transactions on the blockchain**.
- Users can **acquire cryptocurrency** through a process called "**mining**".
  - It involves using computer power to solve complex mathematical equations.
  - This validates and records transactions on the blockchain, in return for a certain amount of cryptocurrency.

#### Secured Transactions

- Transactions with cryptocurrency are **recorded on a public digital ledger called blockchain**.
- This ledger is **maintained by a network of computers** around the world.
- Each **new transaction is verified and added to the blockchain** by these computers.
- This decentralization and use of cryptography **makes it difficult for anyone to manipulate the currency or the transactions recorded** on the blockchain.

## 8. August services PMI shows momentum sustaining, tad slower - The Hindu

**Relevance:** Indian Economy and issues relating to planning, mobilization, of resources, growth, development and employment.

#### News:

- Recently, **India's services sector output eased** from a **13-year high of 62.3 in July** to 60.1 in August as measured by the **S&P Global India Services Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI)**.
- However, **new export orders grew at the fastest pace** in almost nine years.
- To cope with the additional workflow, firms ramped up **hiring at the strongest pace**.
- However, favourable demand trends also led to the **joint-fastest increase in prices charged for Indian services** in over six years.
- This may **prompt attention from policymakers** and potentially **delay cuts to the benchmark repo rate**.

#### Prelims Takeaway

- Purchasing Managers Index
- Sovereign Credit Ratings
- S & P Global

#### Purchasing Managers Index

- It is a **survey-based measure** that asks the respondents about **changes in their perception** about key business variables as compared with the previous month.
- **Purpose:** To provide information about current and future business conditions to company decision makers, analysts, and investors.
- It is **calculated separately** for the manufacturing and services sectors and then a **composite index** is also constructed.
- The PMI is a number from **0 to 100**.
  - A print above 50 means expansion, while a score below that denotes contraction.
  - A reading at 50 indicates no change.
- It is considered a **good leading indicator** of economic activity.
  - It is usually released at the start of every month.
- PMI is compiled by **IHS Markit** for more than 40 economies worldwide.

#### IHS Markit

- IHS Markit is part of **S&P Global**.
- It is a **global leader in information, analytics and solutions** for the major industries and markets that drive economies worldwide.



## Editorials, Gists and Explainers

### 1. Better for voter, better for citizen - Indian Express

**Relevance:** Constitution of India —historical underpinnings, evolution, features, amendments, significant provisions and basic structure.

**Context**

- Recently, the **Central Government** set up a panel headed by the **former President** Ram Nath Kovind to explore the feasibility of the **'one nation, one election' plan**.
- The idea of 'one nation, one election' centres refers to **synchronising the timing of Lok Sabha and State Assembly elections across all States** to reduce the frequency of polls throughout the country.

**Significance of one nation, one election**

- It enables the government to **concentrate on governance** once the elections are over.
  - Due to frequent elections, the entire attention of the country becomes focused on these elections.
  - There is a virtual paralysis of administration at various levels in varying degrees which compromise India's growth.
- **Prevents delays in major decisions**
  - Key policy decisions get delayed both at the Centre and in the states and local bodies.
  - As by and large, no decisions are taken during elections due to the code of conduct.
- **Prevents delays of ongoing projects**
  - Even when no fresh policy decision is necessary, implementation of ongoing projects gets derailed during election periods.
  - The political executive as well as government officials become engaged with election duties, neglecting routine administration.
- **Checks political corruption**
  - One of the main reasons for political corruption is frequent elections.
  - Election expenses of political parties can be reduced drastically if elections are held simultaneously.
  - There would be no duplication of fundraising.
- **Reduces expenses incurred by EC**
  - Expenses incurred by the EC can be reduced if elections are held simultaneously.
  - The EC would have to invest a considerable amount of money initially to put in place the necessary infrastructure.
- **Reduces burden on personnel and army**
  - A Large number of police personnel and para-military forces are engaged to ensure that elections are conducted peacefully.
  - This involves massive redeployment, involving huge costs.
  - It also diverts key law enforcement personnel from their critical functions.
  - Such deployment can be curtailed with simultaneous elections.
- **Checks defection of members**
  - If elections are held only at specific periods, horse trading by elected representatives could come to an end, by and large.
  - Today, even with the anti-defection law in force, loopholes lead to horse-trading.
- **Checks populist policies of government**
  - Frequent elections lead to governments taking policy decisions to woo the electorate at every election.
  - Even though this cannot be stopped fully, the frequency with which governments have to announce freebies will come down.
- The **same electoral rolls can be used for all the elections**.
  - This will save a tremendous amount of time and money spent in updating electoral rolls.
  - Citizens would not have to worry about their names missing from electoral rolls once they are enlisted.

- It is a **global practice** to have national and state elections together.

### Conclusion

- The government should adopt '**one nation, one election**' only after **sufficient discussions on it in the legislative bodies** while considering its pros and cons.

## 2. India is the bridge that connects the world - Indian Express

**Relevance:** World Affairs

### Context:

- Recently, India set the **vision of India's G20 presidency** as **inclusive, ambitious, decisive and action-oriented**.
- The Prime Minister underscored **India's deep commitment to democracy and multilateralism**.
- The G20 is built on tenets such as **collective action and inclusive partnership** between developed and emerging economies.
- India at the **helm of the intergovernmental forum** is truly a watershed moment for finding **pragmatic global solutions for the well-being of all**.

#### Digital infrastructure

- India, with its various initiatives, has unlocked the potential to overcome the imbalance between different cohorts of the population and enable inclusive growth.
- The Unified Payments Interface (UPI) is an excellent example of India's digital infrastructural success.
  - It has witnessed a 58% year-on-year volume growth this year.
- India's experience in digital public infrastructure in unlocking inclusive growth can be positioned as a global solution for other emerging economies.
- Financial institutions play a key role in further enhancing India's digital growth.
- The digital initiatives have enabled citizen engagement, providing convenient digital services across the nation
- Digital pathways have enabled a smooth provision of essential services, driven economic growth, and fostered a more inclusive digital economy.
- Suitable models of governance and regulation are needed to ensure that everyone can reap the benefits of a data-driven economy.

#### Multilateral Financial Institutions

- Multilateral financial institutions should be reformed to ensure that finance is accessible to those in need.
- The G20 nations are looking to enhance the agility of multilateral development banks (MDBs)
  - To tackle 21st-century challenges
  - To ensure prompt resolution of debt and debt-related matters.
  - Another critical step will be to establish a global regulatory framework for crypto assets beyond central bank jurisdiction.

#### Climate Change

- Climate change is causing natural disasters on a gigantic scale.
- This has disrupted human life and the biodiversity of our planet.
- It is now time for India to lead the world on sustainability.
- Our traditional ways of living in balance with the environment have much to teach the modern world.
- The priority must be to focus on
  - building cities for tomorrow
  - climate-resilient infrastructure
  - new methods of growing food
  - new economic systems that balance growth and sustainability

#### Sustainable way of living

- India can use its strengths in technology and an intrinsic understanding of digital innovation and circularity to show what a sustainability-first economy really looks like.
- Artificial intelligence and different tenets of sustainability can both be harnessed for a greener and yet more prosperous India.
- Global Value Chains (GVCs) are one of the key drivers of sustainable growth, jobs and living standards.
- Low-carbon manufacturing is now becoming a competitive advantage.
- India has always excelled in frugal innovation, and our vast pool of skilled resources has the potential to address the market need.
- Top Indian companies have already started looking deeply at net zero targets in the context of India's ambition to be net zero by 2070.
- At the same time, India's vast MSME sector, in which the country's vast population works, needs support.
- We must be cognisant of the fact that creating a low-carbon economy needs people and skills; mandating climate legislation can impact livelihoods at scale.

### Conclusion

- India's G20 Presidency aims to strive for **just and equitable growth for all** in the world, in a **sustainable, holistic, responsible and inclusive manner**.
- The challenge ahead is to adopt a unique approach of living in harmony with the surrounding ecosystem and foster the true spirit of "vasudhaiva kutumbakam" (One earth, one family, one future).

## Quick Look

### 1. Indian Green Building Council

- Constituted in 2002, it is a part of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).
- It offers a wide array of services, which include developing new green building rating programmes, certification services and green building training programmes.
- It also organises the Green Building Congress, its annual flagship event on green buildings.
- It is also among the 5 countries that are on the board of the World Green Building Council, discussing global issues at COP and similar global platforms.
- The rating is based on six environmental categories, which include sustainable station facility, health, hygiene and sanitation, energy efficiency, water efficiency, smart and green initiatives and innovation and development.
- Headquarters: Hyderabad.

### 2. One-hour trade settlement

- In a one-hour settlement, if an investor sells a share, the money will be credited to their account in an hour, and the buyer will get the shares in their demat account within an hour.
- Settlement is a two-way process that involves the transfer of funds and securities on the settlement date.
- A trade settlement is said to be complete once purchased securities of a listed company are delivered to the buyer and the seller gets the money.
- The current cycle of T+1 means trade-related settlements happen within a day or 24 hours of the actual transactions.

### 3. Comets

- Comets are cosmic snowballs of frozen gases, rock and dust that orbit the Sun.
- They are leftovers from the formation of the solar system.
- Typically, they range from a few kilometres to tens of kilometres wide.
- As they orbit closer to the Sun, they spew out gases and dust, which form the tails that they are famous for.

### 4. Project Naman

- The Project will entail establishing facilitation and grievance redressal centres for veterans and the kin of personnel who have lost their lives.
- The first such centre will be established in Delhi Cantonment.
- It will house a Common Service Centre, which will facilitate the veterans and their relatives.
- It will offer all government-to-customer services and also facilitate the updating of pensioners' accounts on the SPARSH portal of veterans, next of kin and dependents.

### 5. Chitala Fish

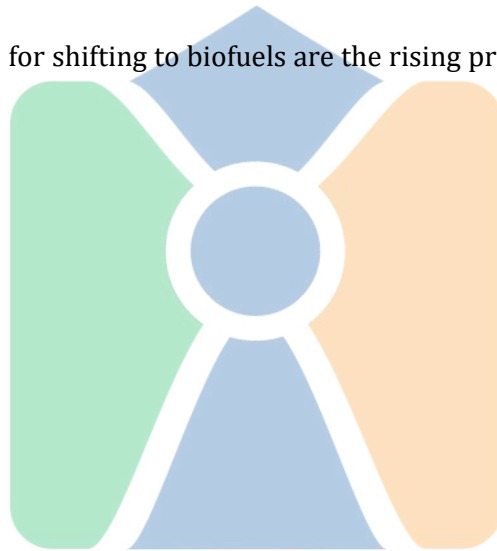
- It is an obligate, typically nocturnal, predator feeding on smaller fishes.
- Although often reported to range throughout most of southern Asia, this species is probably restricted to the Indian subcontinent in Pakistan, India (records from the states of Manipur, Uttaranchal, West Bengal, Assam, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, and Bihar), Nepal, and Bangladesh.
- It is mostly known from major river channels and freshwater lakes but has also been observed in swamps.
- It is found in the Indus, Ganges-Brahmaputra and Mahanadi river basins in India.
- Conservation status- Near Threatened

## 6. Comet Nishimura

- The comet was discovered in mid-August by amateur astronaut Hideo Nishimura.
- The comet is angularly near the Sun, so even if it is visible, it will only be able to spot it early before sunrise or late before sunset.
- The comet is currently located in the constellation Leo.
- It completes an orbit around the Sun once every 435 years.

## 7. Biofuels

- Any hydrocarbon fuel that is produced from an organic matter (living or once living material) in a short period of time (days, weeks, or even months) is considered a biofuel.
- Biofuels may be solid, liquid or gaseous in nature.
- Solid: Wood, dried plant material, and manure
- Liquid: Bioethanol and Biodiesel
- Gaseous: Biogas
- These can be used to replace or can be used in addition to diesel, petrol or other fossil fuels for transport.
- Some of the main reasons for shifting to biofuels are the rising prices of oil, emission of greenhouse gases from fossil fuels.



**Mentorship**  
India

**Prelims Track Question**

**Q1. Consider the following statements:**

1. Article 1 of the Indian constitution mentions the term Bharat and India both.
2. The territory of India shall comprise the territories of the States and the Union territories specified in the First Schedule only.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- (a) Only 1
- (b) Only 2
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Q2. With reference to the 'Trans-Pacific Partnership', consider the following statements**

1. It is an agreement among all the Pacific Rim countries except China and Russia.
2. It is a strategic alliance for the purpose of maritime security only.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- (a) Only 1
- (b) Only 2
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Q3. Consider the following statements with reference to G20 Summit 2023:**

1. The theme of the summit is 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' or 'One Earth-One Family-One Future'.
2. The theme of the summit spotlight LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment), with its associated, environmentally sustainable and responsible choices.
3. During India's Presidency, Indonesia and Brazil along with India would form the G20 Troika.

**How many of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

**Q4. Consider the following statements about Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN):**

1. It was established in August 1967 in Bangkok, Thailand with the signing of the ASEAN Declaration (Bangkok Declaration).
2. It was formed to promote economic, political, and security cooperation.

**Which one of the following statements is correct?**

- (a) Statement I is correct but statement II is incorrect
- (b) Statement I is incorrect but Statement II is correct
- (c) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct and Statement II is the correct explanation for Statement I
- (d) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct and Statement II is not the correct explanation for Statement I

**Q5. With reference to Article 21, consider the following statements:**

1. The term "Due Process of Law" is mentioned in the constitution.
2. Under this principle, the government must follow fair and just procedures before depriving an individual of life, liberty, or property.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- (a) Only 1
- (b) Only 2
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Q6. Consider the following statements with reference to By-polls**

1. The Constitution of India explicitly mentions the procedure for conducting byelections.
2. They are typically held when a legislative seat becomes vacant before the regular election cycle.
3. In India, byelections are held only for Lok Sabha seats.

**How many of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- (a) Only one

- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

**Q7. Which of the following statements best defines a tax haven?**

- (a) A country that imposes high taxes on its citizens and foreign businesses.
- (b) A nation that enforces strict tax regulations to prevent tax evasion.
- (c) A nation that offers favorable tax rates and financial secrecy to attract foreign investors.
- (d) A country that cooperates fully with international tax authorities to combat tax fraud.

**Q8. Consider the following statements on Purchasing Managers Index**

1. It aims to provide information about current and future business conditions to company decision makers, analysts, and investors.
2. It is calculated separately for the manufacturing and services sectors and then a composite index is constructed.
3. It is an annual survey compiled by IHS Markit.

**How many of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

**Q9. Consider the following statements regarding simultaneous elections in India?**

1. It refers to the conduct of Lok Sabha and state legislative assembly elections at the same time.
2. It can help in reducing the impact of policy paralysis due to frequent elections.
3. The Constitution of India mandates simultaneous elections at the national and state levels.

**How many of the statements given above is/are not correct?**

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

**Q10. Consider the following statements regarding Startup20 Engagement Group**

1. It will be established under India's G20 presidency for the first time.
2. It recognises the role of startups in driving innovation that responds to a rapidly changing global scenario.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- (a) Only 1
- (b) Only 2
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

## Prelims Track Answer

**Ans. 1 Option A is correct**

**Explanation**

**Article 1 : Name and territory of the Union**

- India, that is Bharat, shall be a Union of States. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- The States and the territories thereof shall be as specified in the First Schedule.
- The territory of India shall comprise -the territories of the States, the Union territories specified in the First Schedule; and such other territories as may be acquired. **Hence statement 2 is incorrect.**

**Ans. 2 Option D is correct**

**Explanation**

- The Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), also called the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement, was a proposed trade agreement between Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, Vietnam, and the United States signed on 4 February 2016 in Auckland. **Hence statement 2 is incorrect.**
- The founding members of the Pacific Rim group are - Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, the United States and Vietnam. The 12 nations account for some 40% of the world's economy. **Hence statement 1 is incorrect**

**Ans. 3 Option C is correct**

**Explanation**

- India's G20 logo juxtaposes planet Earth with the lotus, India's national flower and the theme is 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' or 'One Earth-One Family-One Future' **Hence statement 1 is correct**
- The G20 Logo draws inspiration from the vibrant colours of India's national flag - saffron, white and green, and blue.
- The theme also spotlights LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment), with its associated, environmentally sustainable and responsible choices. **Hence statement 2 is correct**
- During the course of its G20 Presidency, India will host about 200 meetings in 32 different sectors in multiple locations across India.
- The G20 Leaders' Summit at the level of Heads of State/Government is scheduled to be held on September 9 and 10, 2023 in New Delhi.

- During India's Presidency, Indonesia and Brazil along with India would form the G20 Troika. **Hence statement 3 is correct**
- This would be the first time when the Troika would consist of three developing countries and emerging economies.

**Ans.4 Option C is correct**

**Explanation**

**Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)**

- It is a regional grouping that promotes economic, political, and security cooperation. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- It was established in August 1967 in Bangkok, Thailand with the signing of the ASEAN Declaration (Bangkok Declaration). **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The founding fathers of ASEAN are Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.
- Its chairmanship rotates annually, based on the alphabetical order of the English names of Member States.
- ASEAN countries have a total population of 650 million people and a combined Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of USD 2.8 trillion.
- ASEAN brings together ten Southeast Asian states - Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam - into one organisation.

**Ans. 5 Option B is correct**

**Explanation**

- The concept has been enshrined in Article 21 of the Indian Constitution, which states that "No person shall be deprived of his life or personal liberty except according to the procedure established by law." **Hence, statement 1 is incorrect**
- "Due Process of Law" is a legal principle commonly found in legal systems based on the common law tradition, particularly in countries like the United States.
- Under this principle, the government must follow fair and just procedures before depriving an individual of life, liberty, or property.
- **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Due process ensures that individuals have the right to be heard, to present evidence,

and to be treated fairly before any government action is taken against them.

**Ans. 6 Option A is correct**

**Explanation**

- Bye-elections refers to elections held to fill vacant seats in the legislative bodies of India.
- Purpose: To ensure the timely filing of vacant seats, enabling the representation of the affected constituency or district in the legislative body. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Occurrence: When a seat in the legislature becomes vacant due to reasons such as Death, Resignation, Disqualification and Expulsion of a sitting member
- The byelections are held for both Lok Sabha and State Assembly seats. **Hence, statement 3 is incorrect.**
- Section 151A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 mandates the Election Commission to fill the casual vacancies through bye elections within six months from the date of occurrence of the vacancy. **Hence, statement 1 is incorrect.**
- Provided that the remainder of the term of a member in relation to a vacancy is one year or more.

**Ans. 7 Option C is correct**

**Explanation**

- A tax haven is typically a jurisdiction or country that provides favourable tax rates, exemptions, or financial secrecy laws. **Hence, Option C is correct.**
- This is done to attract foreign individuals and businesses seeking to minimize their tax liabilities.

**Ans. 8 Option B is correct**

**Explanation**

- Purchasing Managers Index is a survey-based measure that asks the respondents about changes in their perception about key business variables as compared with the previous month.
- Purpose: To provide information about current and future business conditions to company decision makers, analysts, and investors. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- It is calculated separately for the manufacturing and services sectors and then a composite index is also constructed. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

- The PMI is a number from 0 to 100.
- A print above 50 means expansion, while a score below that denotes contraction.
- A reading at 50 indicates no change.
- It is usually released at the start of every month and is compiled by IHS Markit for more than 40 economies worldwide. **Hence, statement 3 is incorrect.**

**Ans. 9 Option A is correct**

**Explanation**

- Simultaneous elections refer to the conduct of Lok Sabha and state legislative assembly elections at the same time. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The Constitution of India, however, does not mandate simultaneous elections at the national and state levels. **Hence, statement 3 is incorrect.**
- It is a matter of policy and requires legal and political consensus.
- One of the arguments in favour of simultaneous elections is to reduce the overall cost of conducting elections by holding them together.
- Another argument in favour of simultaneous elections is that it can help in reducing the impact of policy paralysis due to frequent elections. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- One of the challenges in implementing simultaneous elections is the synchronisation of the electoral cycles of all states.

**Ans. 10 Option C is correct**

**Explanation**

- The Startup20 Engagement Group will be established under India's G20 presidency for the first time. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It recognises the role of startups in driving innovation that responds to a rapidly changing global scenario. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**



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