

NAME OF THE NATION - INDIA OR BHARAT

Why in News?

- Opposition politicians have been posting images of an official invitation to a G20 dinner hosted by “**The President of Bharat**” instead of the usual “President of India”.
- There is **speculation of an official change in the name of the country** from India to Bharat, even though Article 1 of the Constitution uses the two names interchangeably: “India, that is Bharat, shall be a Union of States.”

1	MELUHA Appears in ancient texts of Mesopotamia to refer to the Indus Valley Civilization
2	BHARAT/ BHARATVARSHA Appears in Puranas as the land between the 'sea in the south and the abode of snow in the north'.
3	ARYAVARTA Appears in the Manusmriti as the land occupied by the Indo-Aryans
4	JAMBUDVIPA Appears in Vedic texts and is still used in a few Southeast Asian countries to describe subcontinent
5	HIND/HINDUSTAN First used by Persians to refer to the land across river Sindhu.
6	INDIA First used by the Greeks, who transliterated 'Hind' as 'Indus'

How did ‘Bharat’ and ‘India’ Come into the Constitution of India?

- In his ‘Discovery of India’, Nehru referred to “India”, “Bharata” and “Hindustan”, but when the question of naming India in the Constitution arose, ‘**Hindustan**’ was **dropped and both ‘Bharat’ and ‘India’ were retained.**
- **During the Constituent Assembly debates** the “Name and territory of the Union” was taken up for discussion on **September 17, 1949.**
- Right from the time **Article 1** was read out as “India, that is Bharat, shall be a Union of States”, **a division arose among the members.**
- There were quite a few members who were **against the use of the name ‘India’**, which they saw as being a reminder of the **colonial past.**
- **HV Kamath** suggested that the first article should read, “**Bharat, or in the English language, India, shall be...**”.
- **Hargovind Pant**, who represented the hill districts of the United Provinces, made it clear that the people of Northern India “wanted **Bharatvarsha** and nothing else”.
- None of the suggestions were accepted, illustrating contrasting visions of the budding nation.
- **The draft Article 1 of the Constitution** - “India, that is Bharat, shall be a Union of States” - was adopted by the Constituent Assembly on **September 18, 1949.**

- The five-day special session of Parliament starts on **September 18, 2023**, and this fuelled speculation of an official change in the name of the country from India to Bharat, especially among Opposition parties.

Recent Attempts of Name Change of the Nation:

- **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 get over the colonial past.
 - The apex court held that **“India is already called Bharat in the Constitution itself.”**
- In his Independence Day address (2022), the Indian PM had spoken about the **“Panch Pran”**, stressing the need to decolonise minds and taking pride in India’s civilisational heritage.
- A government booklet on the Indian PM’s upcoming visit to Indonesia for the **20th ASEAN-India Summit and the 18th East Asia Summit** referred to him as the **“Prime Minister of Bharat”**.

INDIAN GREEN BUILDING COUNCIL

Vijayawada Railway Station was awarded the ‘Green Railway Station’ certification with the highest rating of Platinum by the Indian Green Building Council (IGBC).



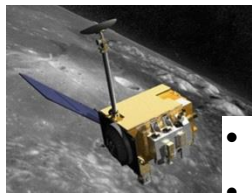
About Indian Green Building Council:

- The Indian Green Building Council (IGBC) is **part of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)** and was formed in the year 2001.
- It is India's **Premier certification body**.
- The council offers a wide array of services, which include **developing new green building rating programmes, certification services** and green building training programmes.
- The council 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.
 - **Headquarter:** Hyderabad.
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LUNAR RECONNAISSANCE ORBITER (LRO)

NASA's Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter (LRO) recently captured the image of India's Chandrayaan-3 lander.



About Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter (LRO):

- It is a NASA spacecraft that was launched on June 18, 2009.
 - **Primary Objective:** To make a 3D map of the Moon's surface from lunar polar orbit.
 - It has also been used to study the **Moon's geology, mineralogy, and environment**.
 - It orbits the Moon in an eccentric polar mapping orbit.
 - LRO is equipped with 7 science instruments, the most well-known of which is a 195-millimeter (7.7-inch) telescope and camera system that can see details up to 2.5 meters across.
 - LRO is equipped with a laser altimeter that produces 3D maps by shooting lasers at the surface and measuring reflection times.
 - The spacecraft also carries two instruments suited to peering into dark craters to search for signs of water ice and a temperature instrument that led to the discovery of the coldest place in the solar system.
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WHAT IS PROJECT NAMAN?

The Indian Army recently launched 'Project Naman', which will entail establishing facilitation and grievance redressal centres for veterans and the kin of personnel who have lost their lives.



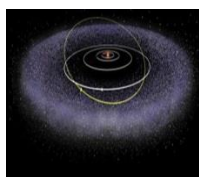
About Project Naman:

- 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**.
- '**Naman**' 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.

What is the SPARSH portal?

- It is being **implemented by the Ministry of Defence** to meet the pension sanction and disbursement requirements for Armed Forces viz. Army, Navy, Air Force and Defence Civilians.
- The Defence Pensioner will be given a completely transparent view of his pension account through this portal, which will capture and maintain a complete history of events and entitlements the pensioner right from the date of commencement of pension to the date of cessation of pension due to his/her last eligible beneficiary.
- This system will be administered by the Defence Accounts Department through the Principal Controller of Defence Accounts (Pensions).
- The system would cater to all activities of the pension cycle, namely:
 - Initiation and Sanction
 - Disbursement
 - Revision
 - Service and Grievance Request Management

WHAT IS THE KUIPER BELT?



Astronomers have recently found compelling evidence suggesting the existence of an Earth-like planet in the distant Kuiper Belt of our solar system.

About Kuiper Belt:

- The Kuiper belt, also called the Edgeworth-Kuiper belt, is a flat **ring of small icy bodies that revolve around the Sun** beyond the orbit of the planet Neptune.
- It is named after **Gerard Kuiper, a Dutch-American astronomer** who hypothesised the existence of such a region in the 1950s.
- There are millions of these icy objects, collectively referred to as **Kuiper Belt** objects (KBOs) or trans-Neptunian objects (TNOs), in this belt.
- The Kuiper Belt is a region of **leftovers from the solar system's early history**.
- It is thought to be the source of most of the observed short-period comets, particularly those that orbit the Sun in less than 20 years.

Composition: The Kuiper Belt is primarily composed of small icy bodies, such as dwarf planets, asteroids, and comets.

- **Pluto:**
 - Pluto, once considered the ninth planet in our solar system, is one of the most well-known Kuiper Belt objects.
 - In 2006, the International Astronomical Union (IAU) reclassified Pluto as a dwarf planet, partly because of its location within the Kuiper Belt.

WHAT ARE ARMoured RECOVERY VEHICLES (ARVS)?

The Indian Army recently began the process to procure 170 Armoured Recovery Vehicles (ARVs) to enhance its operational capabilities.



About Armoured Recovery Vehicles:

- They are specialised military vehicles designed to **recover and maintain armoured vehicles** on the battlefield.
- These vehicles are crucial for keeping armoured units operational by recovering damaged or disabled tanks and other armoured vehicles, performing field repairs, and evacuating casualties.

- They are normally built on the chassis of a **main battle tank (MBT)**, but some are also constructed on the basis of other armoured fighting vehicles, mostly armoured personnel carriers (APCs).
- **Functions:**
 - **Towing and Recovery:** They can recover vehicles stuck in mud, water, or other obstacles and tow them to safety or repair depots.
 - **Maintenance and Repair:** ARVs often have workshops and tools on board to perform basic repairs and maintenance tasks on armoured vehicles.
 - **Crew and Casualty Transport:** Some ARVs are configured to transport injured personnel from the battlefield to medical facilities.
 - **Armament:** Many ARVs are armed with a defensive weapon, such as a machine gun or anti-aircraft gun, to provide self-defence capabilities.
 - **Communication Equipment:** They are typically equipped with advanced communication systems to coordinate recovery and maintenance operations with other units and command centres.
 - **Bridge Layers:** Some ARVs can be modified to carry and deploy portable bridge sections, allowing them to create temporary bridges over obstacles like rivers and ditches, enabling the movement of armoured vehicles.

MQ-9B PREDATOR DRONE

India is in the final stages of drafting the Letter of Request (LoR) to send to the United States government for the acquisition of 31 MQ-9B Predator drones from General Atomics (GA).



About MQ-9B Predator Drone:

- The MQ-9B drone is a variant of the MQ-9 "Reaper", an **unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV)** capable of remotely controlled or autonomous flight operations.
- These are **high-altitude, long-endurance drones** armed with strike missiles that can take out enemy targets with high accuracy.

- It was developed by General Atomics Aeronautical Systems (GA-ASI), primarily for the United States Air Force (USAF).
- The MQ-9B has two variants — **SkyGuardian and its sibling SeaGuardian.**
- The Indian Navy has been operating the MQ-9B Sea Guardian since 2020.

Features:

- It can carry up to 5,670 kg and has a fuel capacity of 2,721 kg.
- The drone can operate at over 40,000 feet.
- The Predator also has a maximum endurance of 40 hours, making it useful for long-hour surveillance.
- It can support land, maritime surveillance, anti-submarine warfare, anti-surface warfare, strike, electronic warfare and expeditionary roles.
- It is also capable of automatic take-offs and landings.
- It can safely integrate into civil airspace, enabling joint forces and civil authorities to deliver real-time situational awareness anywhere in the maritime domain -- day or night.

UPI QR CODE-CENTRAL BANK DIGITAL CURRENCY INTEROPERABILITY

Why in news?

- Banks are enabling the interoperability of Unified Payments Interface's (UPI) Quick Response (QR) code with their central bank digital currency (CBDC) or e₹ application.
- Interoperability is the technical compatibility that enables a payment system to be used in conjunction with other payment systems.
- It allows system providers and participants in different systems to undertake, clear and settle payment transactions across systems without participating in multiple systems.
- With this, users of retail digital rupee will be able to make transactions by scanning any UPI QR at a merchant outlet.
- Merchants can also accept **digital rupee payments** through their existing UPI QR codes.
- This integration of UPI and CBDC is part of the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) ongoing pilot project on pushing the retail digital rupee (e₹-R).

What is Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC)?

• About

- CBDC is the legal tender issued by a central bank in a digital form.
- The digital rupee (e-Rupee) is the digital currency launched by Reserve Bank of India.
- It is the same as a fiat currency and is exchangeable one-to-one with the fiat currency, only its form is different.

• Launch of Digital Rupee

- RBI has demarcated the digital rupee into **two broad categories: general purpose (retail) and wholesale.**
- This demarcation is based on the usage and the functions performed by the digital rupee and considering the different levels of accessibility.
- From November 1, 2022, RBI launched its first pilot project to use digital rupee in the **wholesale market for secondary trade in government securities (G-secs).**
- Wholesale CBDC has the potential to transform the settlement systems for financial transactions undertaken by banks in the government securities (G-Sec) segment, inter-bank market and capital market more efficient and secure in terms of operational costs, use of collateral and liquidity management.
- From December 1, 2022, **retail digital rupee (e-R)** pilot was launched.
- In effect, the retail e-rupee is an electronic version of cash, and will be primarily meant for retail transactions.
- It is available for use by all — the private sector, non-financial consumers and businesses.
- It will be distributed through intermediaries, i.e., banks.
- It will not earn any interest and can be converted to other forms of money, like deposits with banks.

News Summary: UPI QR Code-Central Bank Digital Currency interoperability

What is UPI QR code-CBDC interoperability?

- Interoperability of UPI with the digital rupee means all UPI QR codes are compatible with CBDC apps.
- Initially, when the pilot for the retail digital rupee was launched, the e₹-R users had to scan a specific QR code to undertake transactions.
- However, with the interoperability of the two, payments can be made using a single QR code.
 - The e₹ is held in a digital wallet, which is linked to a customer's existing savings bank account.
 - UPI is directly linked to a customer's account.

How will it benefit customers and merchants?

- The interoperability of UPI and CBDC will ensure seamless transactions between a customer and merchant without having the need to switch between multiple digital platforms.
- It will allow a digital rupee user to make payments for their daily needs, such as groceries and medicines, by scanning any UPI QR codes at any merchant outlet.
- Even merchants are not required to keep a **separate QR code** to accept the digital rupee payments. They can accept CBDC payments on their existing QR code.
 - If the merchant has a CBDC account, the payment will be settled in the CBDC wallet.
 - If a merchant does not have a CBDC account, then there will be an option to make payment using UPI.

What is a QR code?

- A Quick Response (QR) code consists of black squares arranged in a square grid on a white background, which can be read by an imaging device such as a camera.
- It contains information about the item to which it is attached.
- QR code is an alternate contactless channel of payments. It allows merchants or businesses to accept payments from their customers directly into their bank accounts.