

MCD House Elections

❖ Context

- The election for Mayor in the MCD was stalled for the third time, Delhi remains without a Mayor or a Standing Committee, the effective decision-making arm of the civic body.

❖ Key Highlights:

- The Presiding Officer for the mayoral election in the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) mentioned that, the **aldermen who are nominated members** are allowed to vote in the House & elect the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, & members of the Standing Committee.
- The Presiding Officer, who was **last month nominated by Lieutenant Governor**, also proposed that voting for all three elections should be held simultaneously.
- One of the parties had expressed apprehension that this was being done to provide aldermen with voting rights, which they do not have **under the Delhi Municipal Corporation Act, 1957**.

❖ Who Are Aldermen, And How Are They Selected?

- Alderman generally refers to a member of a city council or municipal body; however their particular functions and responsibilities vary according to context.
- Under the **Delhi Municipal Corporation Act**, the administrator can nominate 10 individuals **over the age of 25** to the corporation.
- **These aldermen are expected to** have special knowledge or experience in municipal administration and assist the House in taking decisions of public importance.

❖ What Does The Law Say About Voting Rights For Nominated Members?

- **Delhi Municipal Corporation Act, 1957**, allows for ten people to be nominated by the Administrator: Provided that the persons nominated **shall not have the right to vote in the meetings of the Corporation.**
- **Article 243R** of the Constitution, "The Legislature of a State may, by law, provide for the representation in a Municipality of persons having special knowledge or experience in Municipal administration: **Provided that the person shall not have the right to vote** in the meetings of the Municipality."

❖ Does This Mean Aldermen Have No Voting Rights At All?

- Aldermen **had no voting privileges** in the MCD House or Ward Committees (one from each of the 12 zones) until 2015.
- A single-judge bench of the **Delhi High Court** held that "the petitioners being constituent members of Ward Committees can participate and vote in any meeting of the relevant Wards Committee" after **Congress alderman challenged it**.
- However the verdict stated that-They "**cannot file their nomination or offer their candidature for being elected as Chairperson of the Wards Committee,**" Petitioners may run for Standing Committee membership.
- **If any petitioners** are elected to the Standing Committee, they can vote at any meeting and run for Deputy Chairperson, but not Chairperson of the Standing Committee.
- In 2016, a **two-judge Bench upheld the order** of the single judge.
- ❖ How is the MCD functioning without a Mayor or Standing Committee?
 - **Following the 2022 amendment**, the Centre can appoint a '**Special Officer**' to "exercise the power and discharge the functions of the Corporation until the date on which the first meeting of the Corporation is held after the commencement of the Delhi Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Act, 2022".

Wetlands

❖ Context

- Recently, Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, launched the '**Save Wetlands Campaign**'.

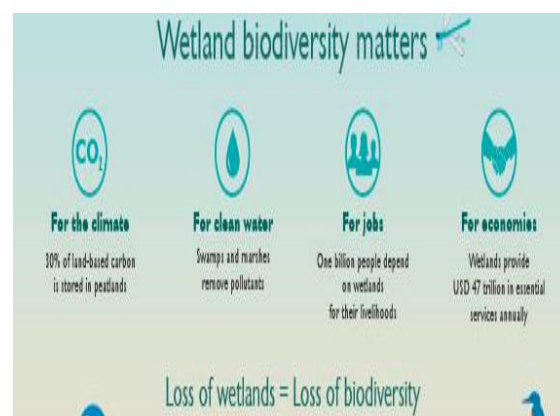
❖ Key Highlights:

- This campaign is structured on a "**whole of society**" approach for wetlands conservation.
- It will enable **affirmative actions for wetlands conservation** at all levels of the society & involving all strata of the society.
- **World Wetlands Day** : It is observed on 2nd February every year worldwide to commemorate the signing of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance in 1971.

❖ About Wetlands:

- Wetlands are **ecosystems saturated with water, either seasonally or permanently**.
- They include mangroves, marshes, rivers, lakes, deltas, floodplains & flooded forests, rice-fields, coral reefs, marine areas **no deeper than 6 meters** at low tide, as well as human-made wetlands such as waste-water treatment ponds & reservoirs.

- **Importance of Wetlands** : 40% of the world's species **live or breed** in wetlands.




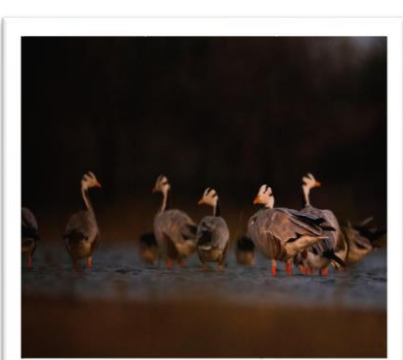
- Wetlands are "**nurseries of life**" – 40% of animals breed in wetlands.
- Wetlands are "**kidneys of the earth**" – they clean the environment of pollutants.
- Wetlands "**matter for climate change**" – they store 30% of land based carbon.
- Wetlands "**minimize disaster risks**" – they absorb storm surge.

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<p>❖ About Ramsar Convention:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Ramsar Convention is the intergovernmental treaty that provides the framework for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources. The Convention was adopted in the Iranian city of Ramsar in 1971 and came into force in 1975. Since then, almost 90% of UN member states have become “Contracting Parties” and committed to the Convention’s three pillars: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work towards the wise use of all their wetlands. Designate suitable wetlands for the list of Wetlands International Importance and ensure their effective management. Cooperate internationally on transboundary wetlands, shared wetland systems & shared species. The convention entered into force in India on 1 February 1982. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Montreux Record : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is maintained as part of the Ramsar List. Two wetlands of India are in Montreux Record- Keoladeo National Park (Rajasthan) and Loktak Lake (Manipur). Chilka lake (Odisha) was placed in the record but was later removed from it. Side Note : India has so far declared 75 wetlands as Ramsar sites covering 23 states and Union Territories. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mission Sahbhagita : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEFCC) launched it in 2022. Its objective is to healthy and effectively manage the network of 75 wetlands of national and international significance.
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News in Between the Lines

<p>PM-KUSUM (Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha Evam Uttham Mahabhiyan)</p> 	<p>❖ Context</p> <p>➤ Recently, The deadline for a key scheme by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy to install 30,000 MW solar power capacity in rural India by 2022, has now been pushed to March 2026.</p> <p>❖ Key Highlights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The pace of implementation of the PM-KUSUM was significantly affected due to the COVID-19 pandemic and State implementing agencies sought extension in the time-line for execution of projects under the scheme. <p>❖ PM- KUSUM:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was launched in March 2019. This Scheme is aimed at : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensuring energy security for farmers in India. Honouring India’s commitment to increase the share of installed capacity of electric power from non-fossil-fuel sources to 40% by 2030 as part of Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs). The PM-KUSUM under which ₹34,422 crore will be spent by the Centre, has three parts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Having farmers or farmer groups install solar power plants worth 10,000 MW. Installing 20 lakh solar-powered agriculture pumps that aren’t connected to the grid (off-grid). Converting 15 lakh agriculture pumps, already connected to the grid, into solar. Nodal Ministry- Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE). Side Note : Rajasthan, with 62.5 MW, led the States with installed power plants by a wide margin while Himachal Pradesh finished second with 19.7 MW.
<p>Bar-Headed Goose</p> 	<p>❖ Context</p> <p>➤ A bar-headed goose, which was tagged in Mongolia in July 2014 has been spotted in Koonthankulam - Kadankulam Bird Sanctuary in Tirunelveli district.</p> <p>❖ Key Highlights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is one of the winter migratory bird species regularly coming to this sanctuary. It can be identified by its signature white and grey plumage with distinct black bars on the head and orange-yellow beak and legs. The Bar-headed Goose can cover distances of more than 1,600 km in one day. It is known for reaching extreme altitudes of 29,500 feet during its twice-yearly migrations across the Himalayas. It breeds in Central Asia in colonies of thousands near mountain lakes and winters in South Asia, as far south as peninsular India. It lays three to eight eggs at a time in a ground nest. Conservation Status : IUCN Red List- Least Concern.

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Self Employed Women's Association (SEWA)

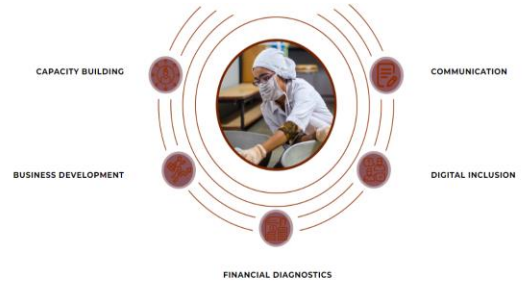


❖ Context

- Former US secretary of state Hillary Clinton Sunday announced that a global Climate Resilience Fund, in partnership with Self Employed Women's Association (SEWA) will work to tackle challenges faced due to rising temperatures due to climate change.

❖ About SEWA:

- Self Employed Women's Association (SEWA) is the **single largest Central Trade union** registered on 12th April, 1972.
- It has membership of over 2.1 million (2021) **poor, self-employed women workers** from the informal economy across 18 states in India.
- SEWA has been working on **Gandhian principles of Satya, Ahinsa, Sarvadharm** with the twin goals of:
 - **Full Employment:** Achieve work security, income security, food security and social security viz. healthcare, childcare, nutrition and shelter.
 - **Self-Reliance:** Autonomous and self-reliant at both individual and community levels in terms of economic as well as decision making abilities.
- SEWA has worked towards strengthening the livelihoods of poor self-employed women workers in **7 South-Asian countries viz Afghanistan, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Myanmar, Bhutan and Bangladesh.**



North Star



❖ Context

- Recently, Vice President of India said Parliament is the “**North Star**” of democracy, “a place of discussion and deliberation to realise the aspirations and dreams of the people”.

❖ North Star:

- **Polaris**, known as the North Star or Pole Star, is a very bright star - around **2,500 times more luminous than the Sun.**
- It is part of the constellation Ursa Minor, & is around 323 light years away from the Earth.
- Since Polaris is less than 1° away from the north celestial pole, almost in direct line with the Earth's rotational axis, it appears to sit motionless in the northern sky, with all the other stars appearing to rotate around it.
- Its position and brightness have **allowed humans to use it for navigation since late antiquity.**
- Simply the elevation of the **star above the horizon gives the approximate latitude of the observer.**
- In the northern hemisphere, if you can spot Polaris, you can tell the north - and by extension, the other three directions as well.
- Upon crossing the equator to the south, however, the North Star is lost over the horizon, and hence stops being a useful navigational aid.

Additional Judges To High Courts



❖ Context

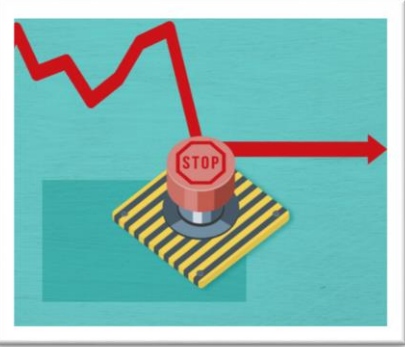
- Centre Notifies Appointment **Of 13 Additional Judges To High Courts** Of Allahabad, Karnataka & Madras.

❖ Additional Judges and Acting Judges:

- **Additional Judges** can be appointed by the President under clause (1) of **Article 224** of the Constitution.
- **The President** can appoint duly qualified persons as **additional judges of a high court** for a temporary period **not exceeding two years** when:
 - There is a temporary increase in the business of the high court: **or**
 - There are arrears of work in the high court.
- The President **can also appoint** a duly qualified person as an **acting judge of a high court** when a judge of that high court (other than the chief justice) is:
 - Unable to perform the duties of his office due to absence or any other reason; **or**
 - Appointed to act temporarily as chief justice of that high court.
- An acting judge holds **office until the permanent judge resumes his office**; however, both the additional or acting judge **cannot hold office after attaining the age of 62 years.**

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Circuit Breaker



❖ Context

- On the back of the Hindenburg revelations, many of Adani Group companies' stocks have hit the lower circuits in subsequent trading sessions.

❖ Key Highlights:

- In 2001, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) implemented index-based market-wide circuit breakers.
- **Circuit breakers are triggered to prevent markets from crashing due to a panic induced sale of stocks.**
- This can happen due to many reasons which lead to stockholders in the market feeling that their stocks are overvalued. Thus they enter into a sell-off.
- Circuit breakers **temporarily halt trading and thus stop the sell-off.**
- Effectively, circuit-breakers cap how much the value of a stock can fall in a single day/trading session and in doing so, **create a more stable market overall.**

Bard



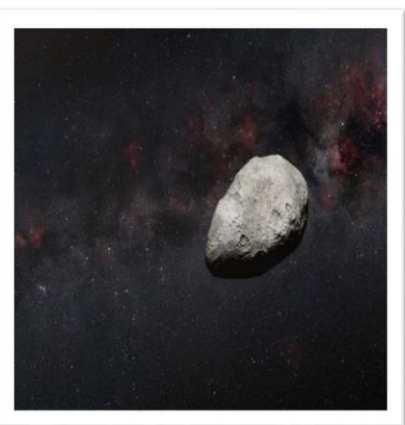
❖ Context

- Google confirmed it will soon start public testing for a new AI chatbot of its own called **Bard**, based on the company's Language Model for Dialogue Application or LaMDA.

❖ What is Bard?

- **Bard seeks to combine** the breadth of the world's knowledge with the power, intelligence, and creativity of our large language models.
- Google's Bard is based on LaMDA, the firm's **Language Model for Dialogue Applications system**, and has been in development for several years.
- "It draws on information **from the web to provide fresh, high-quality responses,**" the app would give up-to-date responses; something ChatGPT is unable to do.
- It can also perform other **more mundane tasks**, such as providing tips for planning a party, or lunch ideas based on what food is left in a refrigerator.
- Google's Chabot is supposed to be able to explain complex subjects such as outer space discoveries **in terms simple enough for a child to understand.**

Asteroid



❖ Context

- James Webb Space Telescope **detects an asteroid the size of Rome's Colosseum.**

❖ Key Highlights:

- Astronomers have used data **from the James Webb Space Telescope's** Mid-Infrared Instrument (MIRI) to detect an asteroid that is about the size of Rome's Colosseum.
- According to the **European Space Agency (ESA)**, the **asteroid is likely the smallest object** observed to date by Webb.

❖ About Asteroid:

- Asteroids, **sometimes called minor planets**, are rocky, airless remnants left over from the early formation of our solar system about 4.6 billion years ago.
- Most of this ancient space rubble can be found orbiting the Sun **between Mars and Jupiter within the main asteroid belt.**
- Asteroids range in size from **Vesta-the largest** at about 329 miles (530 kilometers) in diameter – to bodies that are less than 33 feet (10 meters) across.
- The **total mass of all the asteroids combined** is less than that of Earth's Moon.

Indore becomes First Civic Body to Launch Green Bonds

MCQ Quiz

[Daily Pre PARE Daily](#)
[Daily Current Affairs](#)

❖ Context

- Recently, Indore Municipal Corporation, ranked top in cleanliness survey for six consecutive years, has become the country's first civic body to launch green bonds, seeking to raise Rs 244 crore for a 60-mw solar plant at its water pumping station.

❖ What is meant by green bonds?

- Green bonds work like regular bonds with one key difference: the money raised from investors is used exclusively to finance projects that have a positive environmental impact, such as renewable energy and green buildings.

❖ Where are the green bond funds used?

- The green bonds funds are used to finance climate and environment-friendly projects.



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