

DECEMBER

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MK Yadav Sir



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MINISTRY OF
SCIENCE AND
TECHNOLOGY

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India urged to adopt ASEAN consensus on Myanmar

Suhasini Haidar
BALI

India and other countries should “respect” and follow the ASEAN’s policy on Myanmar rather than taking a “different” path, Indonesian Foreign Minister Retno Marsudi says.

In comments to *The Hindu* about India’s decision to engage the Myanmar military government that came to power in February 2021 after deposing the elected National Unity Government and jailing thousands of leaders, including Aung San Suu Kyi, Ms. Marsudi said that it could make efforts of the 10-member Association of South East Asian Nations towards democracy “less effective”.

Instead, she urged India and other countries to follow the ASEAN “five point consensus”.

Context: Myanmar urged India and other countries to follow the ASEAN “five point consensus”.

ASEAN “five point consensus”

- **About:** It is a **2021 Peace agreement** with the leaders of the regional grouping’s member states which is also known as **Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)’s peace plan for Myanmar**, known as the Five-Point Consensus.
- **ASEAN five-point consensus states that:**
 - There shall be an **immediate cessation of violence** in Myanmar and all parties shall exercise utmost restraint.
 - There shall be a **constructive dialogue** among all parties concerned shall commence to seek a peaceful solution in the interests of the people.
 - A **special envoy** of the ASEAN Chair shall facilitate mediation of the dialogue process, with the assistance of the secretary-general of ASEAN.
 - ASEAN shall **provide humanitarian assistance** through the AHA Centre (ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management).
 - The **special envoy and delegation** shall visit Myanmar to meet with all parties concerned.
- **India’s stand:** In 2021, India chaired a closed UN Security Council meeting on Myanmar and welcomed the ASEAN five-point consensus.
- **Current Status:** A year on, the Myanmar junta has shown **no willingness to implement or cooperate with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)’s peace plan** for Myanmar, known as the Five-Point Consensus, despite agreeing to it at a meeting with the leaders of the regional groupings member states. Key Reasons are:
 - Sharp **rise in violence** against civilians.
 - Call for **dialogue with all parties rejected**.
 - **Refusing access** to detained elected leaders
 - **Hurdles** in Humanitarian assistance.
 - ASEAN was **Engaging the wrong party** (National Unity Government of Myanmar).

Aadhaar's new goal

The govt is now focusing on Aadhaar-enabled payment systems, or AePS, to facilitate financial inclusion in rural areas

SOURABH LEE

Since the first Aadhaar number was issued in September 2010, more than 1.33 billion Aadhaar cards have been generated till June 2022. With the Aadhaar enrolment of adult Indians nearing 100 per cent, the main objective of the Unique Identity Authority of India (UIDAI), which was to give Unique Identification numbers (UID) to all residents of India, is almost achieved, said a senior government official.

"Enrolment will now be much more update-based, because people keep updating their mobile numbers and addresses. If you look at last year's data, Aadhaar had about 200 million enrolments, of which 160 million were updates and just around 35 to 40 million were new enrolments. Adult enrolments were hardly 2-3 million," said the official, adding that "the vision for the next five to 10 years is how Aadhaar can help in the ease of living of people."

Hence, the focus has now turned to Aadhaar's next big offering — Aadhaar-enabled payment systems

(AePS), which was launched in 2016 to facilitate banking services in rural and unbanked areas.

As per official data, the UIDAI records seven to eight crore Aadhaar authentications every day, and AePS currently comprises nearly 40 per cent of them. The total number of authentications related to banking and financial solutions stand at around 35 million, which include verifications done at the time of eKYCs, the opening of new accounts, approval of loans, and so on.

AePS can be of huge help in many ways. Take Madgani, a remote village in Maharashtra's Satara district, for example. The entire commerce of Madgani is limited to a grocery shop. But the grocery shop accepts only cash. Apps such as Paytm, PhonePe and others have not yet reached the remote village. So villagers have to walk 1.5-hours to reach the nearest bank and withdraw cash.

AePS-enabled banking solutions in a village like Madgani can be a new chapter in the journey of Aadhaar. Government officials say that with AePS, a village shop can



CASH CORNER: With AePS, a village shop can function as an ATM

become an ATM, where people can use the payment system to deposit and withdraw money, and check their balance.

The system operates on Point of Sale (PoS) machines developed by the UIDAI and the National Payments Corporation of India. These machines are normal card readers with a biometric reader attached to them. A person can input his or her number, and through fingerprint, confirm access to their account. After entering the amount, they can send it to the account of the grocery shop owner, who may provide them with cash.

There are about 5 million such AePS-enabled "micro ATMs" serving in areas where brick-and-mortar banks cannot operate. Banking and

verifies if the number matches the Aadhaar holder's information.

Apart from AePS and other financial authentications, around 1,000 government schemes — 650 from state governments and 315 from the Centre — use Aadhaar authentications to avoid duplication and for the removal of ghost beneficiaries. The Public Distribution System accounts for 20 per cent of the total authentication, the telecom sector 6 per cent, while the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme accounts for 2 per cent of the authentications.

"We are continuously looking for new use-cases of the PoS machines and ways to improve their user-friendliness. The best thing is that we use an encrypted QR code, which enables secure authentication. It ensures that no duplicate or photoshopped card is used. It also asks that person to verify themselves using a biometric — either fingerprint or iris or face," the official quoted above said.

However, Shenoy cautioned that there was a need to build awareness to maintain security during AePS transactions. "Awareness creation among the bottom of the pyramid regarding locking the biometrics after the transaction and unlocking the same before transaction is crucial. Even the Aadhaar number can be locked. I wonder how many of us know about this functionality," he said.

financial services experts say that the impact of AePS is already visible in the growing volume of transactions. "Doorstep banking combined with AePS has been a boon for the unbanked population. The reach of AePS has been further expanded by the postal services who are bringing the service to the user's door," said Nanda Mohan Shenoy, chairman and managing director at Bestfit Business Solutions, a firm which deals with information and cyber security.

Aadhaar authentication is the process wherein the Aadhaar number, along with the Aadhaar holder's identity data, such as biometric or demographic information, is submitted to the UIDAI for matching. The UIDAI

AADHAAR ENABLED PAYMENT SYSTEMS

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy)

Context: With the Aadhaar enrolment of adult Indians nearing 100 per cent, the main objective of the **Unique Identity Authority of India (UIDAI)**, which was to give Unique Identification numbers (UID) to all residents of India, is almost achieved.

Aadhaar enabled payment systems (AePS)

- **About:** A payment service **empowering a bank customer to use Aadhaar as his/her identity** to access his/ her respective Aadhaar enabled bank account and perform basic banking transactions like balance enquiry, cash deposit, cash withdrawal, remittances through a Business Correspondent.
- **Nodal Agency:** This initiative has been taken up by **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)**, which is an umbrella organization for all retail payments system in India and was started by joint efforts of **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** and **Indian Banks' Association (IBA)**.
- **Significance:** This system **adds another layer of security** to financial transactions as bank details would no longer be required to be furnished while carrying out these transactions.
- **Working Mechanism:** The AEPS system leverages Aadhaar online authentication and enables **Aadhaar Enabled Bank Accounts (AEBA)** to be operated in anytime-anywhere banking mode through Micro ATMs.
- **Two forms of payment systems:**
 - The first facilitates **crediting money into the beneficiary accounts**.
 - The second enables account-holders to **withdraw their cash**.

Aadhaar Enabled Payment System



BIENNALE

The fifth edition of the Kochi-Muziris Biennale opens on December 12

VANDANA KALRA
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 11

THE FIFTH edition of the Kochi-Muziris Biennale opens today, displaying works of over 90 artists from across the globe in varied media. In its 10th year, curated by Singapore-based Indian-origin artist Shubigi Rao, the central exhibition of the showcase will be around the theme "In Our Views Flow Ink and Fire".

What are art biennales?

A biennale is an international large-scale showcase of art that takes place every two years at a particular site, centred around a curatorial theme. Unlike art fairs, a biennale is usually a non-commercial enterprise. One of the most prestigious and oldest biennales in the world is the Venice Biennale, which was established through a resolution by the city council in 1893 to celebrate national artistic talent.

As the Venice event's popularity rose, the 1900s saw the emergence of Biennales across the world, with Bienal de São Paulo being instituted as the first non-European biennial in 1951.

In 2009, a global Biennale Foundation was established with an "aim to create a platform for dialogue, networking, and knowledge sharing among contemporary art biennials around the world". It lists a di-

rectory of over 200 biennales that are held at present.

What is the significance of art biennales?

Though most biennales do not allow for direct purchase of art, invitation and participation in the showcase is often viewed as recognition of an artists' work. Frequented by the powerful and the important in art, a Biennale participation can open opportunities for future museum exhibitions, gallery representation and acquisitions.

Additionally, biennales, often named after the host city, become a reason for local pride, promoting cultural tourism and generating revenue through visitors.

How did the Kochi-Muziris Biennale begin?

An artist-led endeavour, the Kochi-Muziris Biennale was founded in 2011 by Kerala-born, Mumbai-based artists Bose Krishnamachari and Riyas Komu, with an aim to "create a platform that will introduce contemporary, global visual art theory and practice to India."

Borrowing from the location, it sought to "create a new language of cosmopolitanism and modernity that is rooted in the lived and living experience of this old trading port, which, for more than six centuries, has been a crucible of numerous communal identities."

KOCHI-MUZIRIS BIENNALE (Syllabus: GS Paper 1 - Art & Culture)

Context: Postponed twice due to the pandemic, as the fifth edition of the Kochi-Muziris Biennale opens on December 12, it will have on display the works of over 90 artists from across the globe in varied media.

Kochi-Muziris Biennale

- **About:** An international exhibition of contemporary art held in the city of Kochi in Kerala, India.
 - The Kochi-Muziris Biennale is an initiative of the Kochi Biennale Foundation with support from the Government of Kerala.
 - It is the largest art exhibition in the country[2] and the biggest contemporary art festival in Asia.
- **Origin:** One of the most prestigious and oldest biennales in the world, the Venice Biennale was established through a resolution by the city council in 1893 to celebrate national artistic talent.
 - Coinciding with the silver anniversary of King Umberto and Margherita of Savoy, it had in attendance artists, critics, curators and patrons. With its rising popularity, the 1900s saw the emergence of Biennales across the world, with Bienal de São Paulo being instituted as the first non-European biennial in 1951.
 - In 2009, a global Biennale Foundation was established with an "aim to create a platform for dialogue, networking, and knowledge sharing among contemporary art biennials around the world".
 - It lists a directory of over 200 biennales that are held at present.
 - The Kochi-Muziris Biennale was founded in 2011 by Kerala-born, Mumbai-based artists Bose Krishnamachari and Riyas Komu with an aim to "create a platform that will introduce contemporary, global visual art theory and practice to India."
- **Theme of 2022:** In its tenth year, curated by Singapore-based Indian-origin artist Shubigi Rao, the central exhibition of the showcase will centre on the theme "In Our Views Flow Ink and Fire".
 - While the first edition, which took place in 2012, was curated by its founding members, the subsequent editions had as its curators Jitish Kallat, Sudarshan Shetty and Anita Dube.
- **Significance:** Frequented by the powerful and important in art, a Biennale participation can open opportunities for future museum exhibitions, gallery representation and acquisitions.

India to showcase architectural heritage to G20 delegates

From Ajanta and Ellora Caves in Maharashtra to Qutub archaeological park in Delhi, India will showcase its centuries-old architectural heritage to G20 delegates by hosting excursions and gala dinners at many of the ASI sites, starting mid-December, official sources said.

India assumed the year-long presidency of G20 on 1 December. More than 200 meetings will be held in India across 55 locations.

The first meeting was held in the first week of December in Udaipur when the G20 Sherpa met. Besides experiencing the rich cultural heritage and hospitality of Rajasthan, delegates were also taken on a half-day excursion to the Kumbhalgarh Fort, a UNESCO World Heritage site, officials said.

"Now, an itinerary has been drawn for the events that will take place at some of the very well-known ASI sites from December-March as part of the G20 meetings in India to showcase our cultural and architectural wealth to the delegates. These event will include excursion and gala dinners hosted with a monument in the backdrop," an official source said.



PTI More than 200 meetings will be held in India across 55 locations. AFP

Context: From Ajanta and Ellora Caves in Maharashtra to Qutub archaeological park in Delhi, India will showcase its centuries-old architectural heritage to G20 delegates by hosting excursions and gala dinners at many of the ASI sites, starting mid-December.

- The planned G20 meetings are to be hosted not just in big metros but **even in tier-2 and tier-3 cities.**

Shortlisted monuments for delegation-level visit:

- Ajanta and Ellora Caves in Maharashtra.
- Qutub archaeological park in Delhi.
- Bhoga Nandeeshwara Temple in Karnataka.
- Charminar and Golconda Fort in Hyderabad.
- Shore Temple of Mamallapuram in Tamil Nadu.
- Mandore Fort and Mandore Garden in Rajasthan.
- Imambara in Lucknow Uttar Pradesh.
- Matthancherry Palace and St Francis Church in Kochi.
- Elephanta Caves in Mahārāshtra.
- Aga Khan Palace, Shaniwar Wada and Shivneri Fort in Pune.
- Kanheri Caves, Mumbai.
- Sanchi Stupa in Madhya Pradesh.
- Rani ki Vav in Patan, Gujarat.
- Sun Temple in Modhera, Gujarat.
- Teen Darwaza or Tripolia Gate in Ahmedabad, Gujarat.
- Adalaj Stepwell near Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- Taj Mahal in Agra, UP.
- Khajuraho in Madhya Pradesh.
- Dholavira in Kutch, Gujarat.
- Mandu Fort in Madhya Pradesh
- Nalanda university ruins, Rajgir and Gaya in Bihar.



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RESOLVING INCONSISTENCY

Budget '23 may take up GIFT City AIFs' Tax Snags

IFSC a quasi-foreign territory as viewed under FEMA but local for tax, other laws

Sugata.Ghosh@timesgroup.com

Mumbai: The budget may tackle some hurdles that crop up as one looks at the International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) in GIFT City as a quasi-foreign territory through the prism of the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), but a domestic area under tax laws and other regulations.

One of the businesses where this inconsistency surfaces is when a fund set up to invest and trade in listed stocks receives money from local investors.

Such a fund, which could be open ended and focused on the public market, is called a category 3 alternative investment fund (AIF), with categories 1 and 2 being venture capital and private equity funds largely betting on unlisted stocks.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) allowed domestic investment in a GIFT City fund using the Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS), under which a resident Indian can invest up to \$250,000 a year in stocks and

A GIFT for Funds

GIFT City AIFs focused on public markets face tax issues

Tax clarity will help such funds receive LRS money

Easier rules on derivative instruments/ P-notes in GIFT City proposed

Banks, funds, aircraft leasing, insurance cos have set up shop in GIFT City



properties abroad. But administrators of category 3 AIFs receiving such LRS money may have a tough time dealing with the taxman.

Parul Jain, head of international tax practice at law firm Nishith Desai Associates, said, "Under the provisions of the Indian Income Tax Act, a 'specified fund' includes a GIFT City AIF category 3, which has only foreign investors."

No 'Pass Through' Tax Treatment ►► 11

INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL SERVICES CENTRE

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy)

Context: The budget may tackle some hurdles that crop up as one looks at the International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) in GIFT City as a quasi-foreign territory through the prism of the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), but a domestic area under tax laws and other regulations.

International Financial Services Centre (IFSC)

- **About:** A financial centre that caters to customers outside the jurisdiction of the domestic economy.
 - It is also known as an offshore financial centre since it deals with flow of finance, financial products and services across borders.
- **Objectives:** IFSCs are intended to provide Indian corporates with easier access to global financial markets, and to complement and promote further development of financial markets in India.
- **Nodal Agency:** The International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) was established by the Government of India to develop and regulate international financial services centres in the country.
 - The first IFSC in India has been set up at the Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City) in Gandhinagar.
- **IFSCA:** It is a statutory authority established in April 2020 under the International Financial Services Centres Authority Act, 2019.
 - Before the IFSCA was established, the financial services and institutions were regulated by the domestic financial regulators such as SEBI, RBI, IRDAI, PFRDA, etc.
 - The Special Economic Zone Act, 2005 provides for the establishment of an IFSC in India.
 - As per the SEZ Act, the government approved GIFT City as a Multi Services Special Economic Zone ("GIFT SEZ") in Gandhinagar.
- **IFSCA Functions:**
 - **Regulate financial products** such as securities, deposits or contracts of insurance, financial services, and financial institutions which have been previously approved by any appropriate regulator such as Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) etc., in an IFSC.
 - **Regulate any other financial products**, financial services, or financial institutions in an IFSC, which may be notified by the central government.
 - **Recommend to the central government any other financial products**, financial services, or financial institutions, which may be permitted in an IFSC.
- **IFSCA Members:** The IFSCA consists of nine members appointed by GOI.
 - **The members are:** Chairperson, 1 member from RBI, 1 member from SEBI, 1 member from PFRDA, 1 member from IRDAI, 2 members from the Finance Ministry and 2 members appointed on recommendation of a Selection Committee.
 - **Term:** The term of each member is three years subject to reappointment.

India restoring Angkor Wat temple, says Jaishankar

Varanasi: The Angkor Wat temple complex in Cambodia is being restored by India because our civilisation is not limited to India and is spread across countries, external affairs minister S Jaishankar said on Sunday.

Temples are the keepers of the country's heritage and the wheels of history are turning in a rising India in which its rich culture will not be neglected, he said addressing the Kashi Tamil Sangamam on the topic 'Contribution of temples in society and nation building'. "There are temples not only in India, not only in the Indian subcontinent, but in many regions beyond," he added.

"...Today, we are restoring and renovating the temples in Angkor Wat. These are contributions which we are making outside because the civilisation of India has gone beyond India," he said.

"Temples are not just places for faith and worship but are social community centres. They are places for gathering and centres for knowledge. They are promoters of art and craft," Jaishankar said. He said temples "are our way of life" and "we will not be who we are without" them. "People are understanding that there are different societies, different people, and different faiths. Each faith has to have its place in the world," he added. TNN & AGENCIES

Context: The Angkor Wat temple complex in Cambodia is being restored by India because our civilisation is not limited to India and is spread across countries.

Angkor Wat Temple

- **About:** A temple complex in **Cambodia** and is the largest religious monument in the world.
 - The original name of the temple was **Vrah Viṣṇuloka** or **Parama Viṣṇuloka** meaning "the sacred dwelling of Vishnu".
 - The modern name Angkor Wat, alternatively **Nokor Wat**, means "Temple City" or "City of Temples" in Khmer.
 - Angkor meaning "city" or "capital city", is a vernacular form of the word nokor, which comes from the Sanskrit/Pali word nagara.
 - "Wat" is the word for "temple grounds", also derived from Sanskrit/Pali vāṭa, meaning "enclosure".
- **Hindu-Buddhist temple:** Originally constructed as a Hindu temple **dedicated to the god Vishnu**, it was gradually transformed into a Buddhist temple towards the end of the 12th century.
 - Temple was dedicated to **Theravada Buddhism** around the 14th Century.
- **Built by:** Angkor Wat was built at the behest of the **Khmer King Suryavarman II** in the early 12th century in Yaśodharapura (present-day Angkor), the **capital of the Khmer Empire**, as his state temple and eventual mausoleum.
- **Key Features:**
 - Angkor Wat combines **two basic plans of Khmer temple architecture**: the temple-mountain and the later galleried temple.
 - It is designed to **represent Mount Meru**, home of the devas in Hindu mythology.
 - Unlike most Angkorian temples, **Angkor Wat is oriented to the west**; scholars are divided as to the significance of this.
 - It is made of **sandstone**, with more than 1800 carved apsaras and hundreds of meters of bas relief.
 - The temple is admired for the **grandeur and harmony of the architecture**, its extensive bas-reliefs, and for the numerous devatas adorning its walls.

39TH EDITION OF INDIA-INDONESIA COORDINATED PATROL

Posted On: 11 DEC 2022 1:46PM by PIB Delhi

Context: The 39th edition of India-Indonesia Coordinated Patrol (IND-INDO CORPAT) between the Indian Navy and the Indonesian Navy is being conducted from 08 - 19 December 2022.

Key Points

- Indian Naval Ship (INS) **Karmuk**, an indigenously built Missile Corvette participated in the pre-deployment briefing at Belawan, Indonesia.
- The CORPAT will be executed along the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL) from 15 to 16 December 2022 and will conclude with a debrief at Port Blair.
- Along with **INS Karmuk, L-58 (indigenously built Landing Craft Utility vessel)** and **Dornier Maritime Patrol Aircraft will be participating in the CORPAT.**
- KRI Cut Nyak Dien, a Kapitan Pattimura Class Corvette, would represent the Indonesian side.

IND-INDO CORPAT

- **About:** India and Indonesia Navies have been carrying out CORPAT along their **International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL) since 2002.**
- **Objectives:** It is aimed at keeping the **Indian Ocean Region safe and secure for commercial shipping**, international trade and conduct of legitimate maritime activities.
- **Significance:** CORPATs help build understanding and interoperability between navies, and facilitate institution of measures to prevent and suppress **Illegal Unreported Unregulated (IUU) fishing, drug trafficking, maritime terrorism, armed robbery and piracy.**

Other Exercises between India and Indonesia

- **Samudra Shakti:** A maritime exercise between India and Indonesia which aims to strengthen the bilateral relationship, enhance mutual understanding and interoperability in maritime operations between the two navies.
- **Garuda Shakti:** A bilateral exercise between special forces of armies of India and Indonesia which is a part of India and Indonesia defence cooperation.

PM condoles the demise of renowned Marathi Lavani singer Sulochana Tai Chavan

Context: The Prime Minister has expressed deep grief over the demise of **renowned Marathi Lavani (folk music of Maharashtra) singer Sulochana Tai Chavan**.

- Renowned Lavani singer Sulochana Chavan, a **Padmashree awardee**, died due to **age-related ailments** in Mumbai on Saturday. She was 92.

Sulochana Tai Chavan

- Known as '**Lavani Samradnyi**' (**Queen of Lavani**), Sulochana Chavan was one of the most well-known singers in this traditional Maharashtrian musical genre closely associated with the folk theatre form **Tamasha**.
 - Tamasha is a **traditional form of Marathi theatre**, often with singing and dancing, widely performed by local or travelling theatre groups within the state of Maharashtra, India.
- **Aunda Lagin Karachain, Kasan Kay Patil Baran Hi Ka', 'Kalidar Kapuri Paan', 'Khelatan Rang Bai Holicha', 'Padarawarti Zartarichi Mor Nachra Hawa'** and many more of Chavan's songs are popular even today.
- She was honoured with the **Lata Mangeshkar Award**, instituted by the Government of Maharashtra, in 2010.
- She was awarded the **Sangeet Natak Akademi Award** in 2012.
- Chavan was awarded the **Lokshahir Patthe Bapurao Puraskar** instituted by the Pune Municipal Corporation in 2007 and two years later, was bestowed with the Ram Kadam Puraskar.



POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Env & Eco)

COP15 Montreal: Why are human rights in brackets in the post-2020 GBF, asks civil society

Members of various non-profits call out negotiators on greenwashing and slow pace of negotiations even after two years' delay



A focused, quantifiable, and communicable **goal** so the world clearly understands the value of nature.

Quantified **objectives** for the state of biodiversity: e.g., for species abundance, ecosystems, nature's contributions to people, etc. These targets are indicative of the state of the world we want to see in 2030.

Priority **actions** needed for implementation. The level of ambition and implementation would need to be raised over time to impact the "Objectives".

Supporting and **enabling conditions** that are needed across interventions for actions to be effective. Examples of these means of implementation include good governance, financing, capacity building and communications.

2030 Goal

Elements of a
Post-2020
Biodiversity
Framework

Objectives

Actions

Enabling Conditions

Context: Non-profits called out the negotiators of different countries present at the **15th Conference of Parties (COP15) to the United Nations Convention on Biodiversity in Montreal, Canada, December 10, 2022** about human rights being in brackets in the **post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF)**.

Key Points

- **Indigenous communities** were being the worst hit because of the biodiversity loss, and even now they were just mentioned in the post-2020 GBF as **'stakeholders' and not 'right holders'**.
- Women, young people and Indigenous peoples were not being considered as rights holders and were being merged as stakeholders with corporations.

Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF)

- **About:** It **define targets and pathways** for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity for the next decade and beyond.
 - It is being **negotiated under the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)**.
 - The GBF post-2020 is actually an **attempt to advance the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020** (including the Aichi Biodiversity Target).
- **Objectives:** The aim of the working group was to reach a consensus on the text of the Biodiversity Framework (GBF) post-2020, but without success.
- **Goals:** The new frameworks have four goals to achieve by 2050.
 - To halt the **extinction and decline** of biodiversity.
 - To enhance and retain **nature's services** to humans by conserving.
 - To ensure **fair and equitable benefits** to all from use of genetic resources.
 - To close the **gap between available financial and other means of implementation** and those necessary to achieve the 2050 Vision.
- **Targets:** The framework has 21 action-oriented targets for urgent action over the decade to 2030, which includes:
 - To bring at least **30% of land and sea** under the world's protected areas.
 - **A 50% greater reduction in the rate of introduction of invasive alien species**, and controls or eradication of such species to eliminate or reduce their impacts.
 - **Reducing nutrients lost** to the environment by at least half, and pesticides by at least two thirds, and eliminating the discharge of plastic waste.
 - **Nature-based contributions** to global climate change mitigation efforts of at least 10 GtCO₂e (gigatonnes of equivalent carbon dioxide) per year, and that all mitigation and adaptation efforts avoid negative impacts on biodiversity.

COP15 Montreal: Abalone, dugong, pillar coral threatened with extinction

As many as 44 per cent of all abalone shellfish species threatened with extinction; dugongs and pillar coral added to the IUCN Red List



NEXT NEWS >

By Vibha Varshney
Published: Saturday 10 December 2022



ABALONE



- Abalone meat is rich, sweet and tender
- A gastropod related to snails
- Follow regulations if fishing, or buy from reputable farms
- Must be shucked, trimmed, and tenderized before cooking

Shucking



Trimming



Tenderizing



ABALONE

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Env & Eco)

Context: As many as 44 per cent of all abalone shellfish species are now threatened with extinction according to the assessment by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

Key Points

- **Abalone species:** These are among the **world's most expensive seafoods and are considered a culinary delicacy**. Abalone is sold live in the shell, frozen, or canned and is revered for its sweet, salty, and buttery taste.
 - Unfortunately, **unsustainable extraction and poaching** along with climate change, disease and pollution have put twenty of the world's 54 abalone species at risk of extinction
 - Over the last few years, there have been instances of marine heatwaves that have resulted in **mass mortalities of Roe's abalones in Western Australia** in 2011.
 - **Marine heatwaves have exacerbated abalone diseases worldwide**, affecting the Critically Endangered black abalone in California and Mexico, and the Vulnerable green ormer, ranging from the English Channel to northwest Africa.
- **Dugong:** Dugong populations in east Africa and New Caledonia have entered the IUCN Red List as Critically Endangered and Endangered respectively; the **species remains Vulnerable globally**.
 - Dugong is an **aquatic, herbivorous**, usually brownish-gray mammal (Dugong dugon) that inhabits warm coastal waters chiefly of **southern Asia, Australia, and eastern Africa** and resembles the related manatee but differs in having a notched tail divided into two lobes and upper incisors which grow into small tusks in the male.
- **Pillar coral:** The pillar coral found throughout the Caribbean from the Yucatan Peninsula and Florida to Trinidad and Tobago, has **moved from Vulnerable to Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List**.
 - Pillar coral is a **hard coral found in the western Atlantic Ocean and the Caribbean Sea**. It often resembles fingers or a cluster of cigars, growing up from the sea floor.

Abalone

- **About:** A common name for any of a group of small to very large marine gastropod molluscs in the family **Haliotidae**.
 - Other common names are **ear shells, sea ears, and, rarely, muttonfish or muttonshells** in parts of Australia, ormer in the UK, perlemoen in South Africa, and paua in New Zealand.
 - Abalones are **marine snails**.
- **Distribution:** The haliotid family has a worldwide distribution, along the coastal waters of every continent, except the **Pacific coast of South America, the Atlantic coast of North America, the Arctic, and Antarctica**.
 - The majority of abalone species are found in cold waters, such as off the **coasts of New Zealand, South Africa, Australia, Western North America, and Japan**.
- **Usage:** The flesh of abalones is **widely considered to be a desirable food**, and is consumed raw or cooked by a variety of cultures.

THANK YOU!



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