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+918171181080



+919068806410

www.vajiraoinstitute.com



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TODAY'S ANALYSIS

(06 September 2023)

TOPICS TO BE COVERED

- INDIA TO BHARAT?
- ASEAN
- EAST ASIA SUMMIT



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INDIA TO BHARAT?

Is India going to be renamed Bharat?

After dinner invites by Draupadi Murmu for world leaders coming for the **G20 Summit** referred to her as the **President of Bharat**, reports emerged that the Narendra Modi-led government may bring a resolution during the **five-day Special Session of Parliament** that begins on **18 September** to **rename the country**.

However, the **Centre** has said that the buzz around name change is a **mere rumour**.

On the occasion of G20 Summit


सत्यमेव जयते

The President of Bharat
requests the pleasure of the company of

at Dinner
on **Saturday, September 09, 2023** at **2000 hrs**

RSVP Protocol Section Ministry of External Affairs	Venue Multifunction Hall, Level-3, Bharat Mandapam,
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THE QUESTIONS IN FRONT OF US

But, what would it take to change India's name to 'Bharat'?

What constitutional amendments would be required, and What do legal experts think?

What are international implications? As we are known as India everywhere.

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ARTICLE 1 (VIEWPOINTS)

According to **P D T Achary (A constitutional expert & former sec. Gen of Lok Sabha)**, **'India, that is Bharat'** written in Article 1 of the Constitution is **only descriptive** and the two **cannot be used interchangeably.**

He also underlined that any change in name from the **Republic of India** will require **several amendments.**

Where (in the constitution) will the amendments be required?

We will have to amend the Constitution. **Article 1** (will have to be changed) and then there will be **resultant changes in all the other articles.**"

"Wherever India is used will have to go. You can have only one name for the country. **There cannot be two names** interchangeable, **that will create a lot of confusion** not only in india **but outside also,**"

Abhishek Manu Singhvi (Opposition member & SC Lawyer) says:

"the fact is that the terms **Bharat and India can be used interchangeably**, especially in view of the authorised Hindi version of the Indian Constitution, but the **government cannot stipulate that everyone use only one name:** either is permissible and usable interchangeably."

An **amendment would be required only if the government insisted on the use of any one term or wanted to remove a particular term.**

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P Wilson says “If they wish to drop the word ‘India’ entirely, it would necessitate **amendments to all the laws where the word India is present.**”

Given the number of laws and sections involved, this will be a **massive legislative exercise**, similar to the **IPC/CRPC/Evidence Act**, which they have dubbed **Bharatiya Nyay Sanhita, Bhartiya Nagrik Suraksha Sanhita, and the Bharatiya Sakshya Bill.**”

Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan explained the move by claiming that the President merely **prioritised Bharat** among the two names mentioned in the Constitution.

“**This should have happened earlier.** This gives great satisfaction to the mind. ‘Bharat’ is our introduction. We are proud of it. The President has given priority to ‘Bharat’. This is the biggest statement to come out of the colonial mindset,”

One view advanced by **government officials** is that the **President’s invitation just reflects the President’s desire to use the word Bharat more** frequently in governance.

Because the name is already in the Constitution under Article 1, such usage **would not necessitate constitutional revisions.**

HOW WILL THE AMENDMENT BE DONE?

A new constitutional amendment law will be required if the government chooses to change the name.

The bill **must be passed by a two-thirds majority** in both the **Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha**, and it must be **ratified by the states.** (by simple majority)

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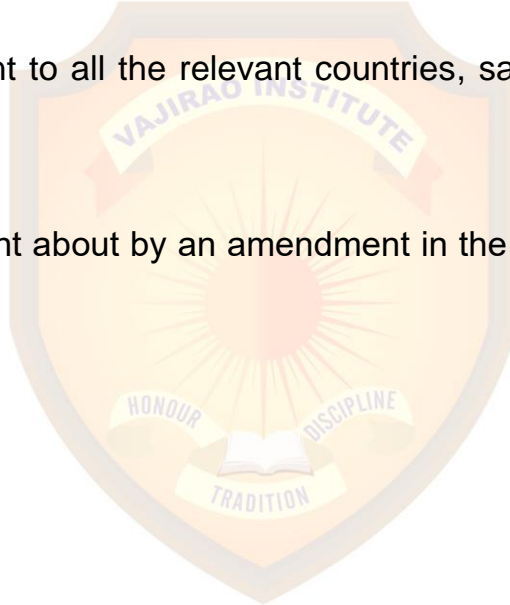
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Article 368 authorises the amending of the Constitution (by either a simple majority amendment or a special majority amendment.)

INTERNATIONAL IMPLICATIONS

In the **United Nations**, India's name is the **Republic of India**, and tomorrow if it has to be written as the Republic of Bharat then the Constitution has to be amended and communication has to be sent to all the relevant countries, saying that "our name has been changed".

"that change has to be brought about by an amendment in the Constitution, otherwise India's name is India only.



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ASEAN & EAST ASIA SUMMIT

Prime Minister Narendra Modi leaves for a two day visit to **Jakarta** to attend the **annual ASEAN India Summit** and the **East Asia Summit** hosted by **Indonesian President Joko Widodo**.

The visit is seen as a **diplomatic gesture to Indonesia**, as Mr. Modi was originally reluctant to travel **just before the G20 summit**.

After India conveyed its concerns, Indonesian officials rescheduled both summits to be convened back to back on Thursday morning, with only a short break in between.

AGENDA

- Future cooperation on the IndoPacific.
- Trade issues.
- The situation in Myanmar and
- The recent controversy over China's map.
- Review progress on issues such as strategic cooperation and military exercises as well as connectivity, including physical, digital and people to people ties. (India & ASEAN upgraded their partnership to special strategic partnership)

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ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS (ASEAN)



ABOUT ASEAN

- It is a political and economic union of 10 Asian countries aimed at promoting the economic growth, political stability of individual countries, and regional stability among its members.

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- Apart from economic and political growth it also focuses on social progress, social-cultural evolution among member countries, and provision of mechanisms and strategies to resolve differences peacefully.
- **History:** It was formed in 1967, by Thailand, Singapore, Philippines, Malaysia, and Indonesia. Membership has been extended to include Vietnam, Burma/Myanmar, Laos, Cambodia, and Brunei.

DIALOGUE PARTNERS & HQ

It includes eight dialogue partners -

- i. India, China, Japan,
- ii. The Republic of Korea,
- iii. Australia,
- iv. New Zealand,
- v. The United States and Russia.



Secretariat: Jakarta, Indonesia.

ECONOMIC LINKAGE

Trade with ASEAN in 1992: 2 billion USD.

FTA signed with ASEAN in 2010 (in goods) & 2014 (in services).

Trade with ASEAN in 2021-22 was around **110 bn USD**.

https://www.mea.gov.in/Portal/ForeignRelation/ASEAN_India_Brief_May_2022.pdf

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EAST ASIA SUMMIT

The EAS has **18 members** - the ten ASEAN countries (Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam) along with Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea, Russia and the United States.

ASEAN leads the forum, and the chair position rotates between ASEAN Member States annually.

SIX PRIORITY AREAS:

- Environment and Energy,
- Education,
- Finance,
- Global Health Issues and Pandemic Diseases,
- Natural Disaster Management
- ASEAN Connectivity

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