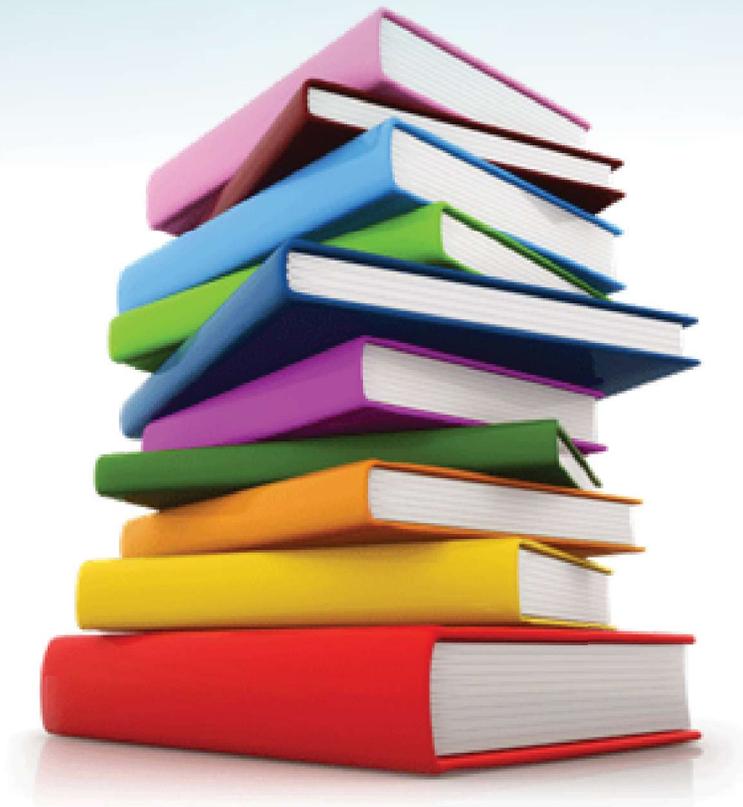




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CURRENT AFFAIRS

AUGUST 2022

UK-India Relations

UK-India Relations

In News, why?

According to the Britain Meets India (BMI) Report by Grant Thornton Bharat in collaboration with The Confederation of Indian Industry, trade between India and the UK is expected to double by 2030 as a result of the proposed free trade agreement, investments in technology, diversification of global supply chains, and ease of doing business (CII).

The top industry that UK firms are looking to invest in in India is business services, with Maharashtra being the top state for investment followed by the National Capital Region and Karnataka.

What are our current understandings of the proposed free trade agreement?

About: The proposed FTA is anticipated to increase Indian exports in labor-intensive industries like education, pharmaceuticals, health care, and the production of leather, textiles, jewellery, processed agri-products, and marine products.

The UK is likely to consider lowering taxes on goods like apples, machinery, and medical devices made in the country.

Additionally, UK businesses anticipate India to take steps to strengthen data protection and uphold agreements.

India and the UK Trade:

With a total of almost USD 31.92 billion invested in India between FY 2000 and FY 22 by the UK, it remained the sixth largest investor in the country.

This made up around 5.4% of all the foreign direct investment (FDI) that India received.

In FY 2022, India's trade with the UK in goods and services totaled USD 31.34 billion,

up from USD 19.51 billion in 2015.

A total of 4.66 lakh people are employed by the 618 UK companies that have been located in India, and they generate a combined annual revenue of Rs 3,634.9 billion.

What recent changes have there been in India's relationship with the UK?

The conclusion of a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership in 2021 is evidence that the India-UK relationship has been improving despite the challenge given by the Ukraine conflict.

In addition, a 2030 Roadmap for India-UK relations was formed, which largely specifies the cooperation goals for the two-way relationship.

Both nations conducted discussions on expanding their defence and cyber security cooperation as well as on trade relating to the military.

In order to safeguard the online infrastructure in both India and the UK, a new cooperative cyber security programme is about to be announced.

The first Strategic Tech Dialogue, a ministerial-level forum on new technologies, will also be held by India and the UK.

The UK will join India's Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative and become a significant partner on marine security problems in Southeast Asia, thereby strengthening the two countries' maritime relations.

India and the UK finished the first phase of negotiations for a free trade agreement in January 2022.

The discussions revealed common goals between the sixth-largest economy in the world (India) and the fifth-largest economy in the world (the UK).

A free trade agreement is what?

It is an agreement between two or more countries to lower import and export restrictions.

Under a free trade policy, there are little to no government tariffs, quotas, subsidies, or prohibitions that prevent the exchange of products and services across international borders.

The idea of free trade is the antithesis of economic or trade protectionism.

FTAs between India and Australia ECTA: Australia will grant India preferential market

access across all of its tariff lines.

Over 70% of India's tariff lines will grant Australia preferential access.

SAFTA, the South Asian Free Trade Area:

an FTA limited to products but not to any services, such as information technology.

By signing this agreement, all traded commodities will have zero customs fees by the year 2016.

What other trade agreements has India signed?

India-UAE CEPA: The Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) establishes a framework for promoting and enhancing commerce between the two nations.

India and Mauritius have a Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Partnership Agreement (CECPA).

It is a form of free trade agreement that intends to offer a formal system for promoting and enhancing trade between the two nations.

Countries decrease or do away with the levies on the products under this agreement. To encourage the trade in services, the nations also ease their regulations.

The South Asia Preferential Trading Agreement (SAPTA), which went into effect in 1995, is a trade promotion agreement for the member nations of South Asia.

APTA: Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement

It was formerly known as the Bangkok Agreement and was a preferential tariff system designed to encourage intra-regional trade through the exchange of mutually acceptable concessions between member nations.

Vivek Raj

Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)

- CSIR was established in September 1942 as an autonomous body.
- CSIR now has become the largest research and development organisation in India with over 38 laboratories/institutes, 39 outreach centers, 3 Innovation Centers and

5 units throughout the nation.

- Its parent institution is the Ministry of Science and Technology, but it operates as an autonomous body through the Societies Registration Act, 1860.
- Its research and development activities include life sciences, aerospace engineering, structural engineering, food, ocean sciences, metallurgy, petroleum, chemicals, mining, leather and environmental science.
- According to the Scimago Institutions Ranking World Report 2021. CSIR ranked 37th among 1587 government institutions worldwide and it is the only Indian organization among the top 100 global government institutions.
- CSIR also holds the 7th rank in Asia and leads the country at the first position.
- CSIR has put in place CSIR@80: Vision & Strategy 2022 – New CSIR for New India. Its mission is “to build a new CSIR for a new India”, and vision is to “Pursue science which strives for global impact, the technology that enables innovation-driven industry and nurtures trans-disciplinary leadership thereby catalyzing inclusive economic development for the people of India”.
- Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar (SSB) Prize for Science and Technology is named after the founder Director of the CSIR, the late Dr. Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar.

Organizational Structure

- **President:** Prime Minister (Ex-Officio)
- **Vice President:** Minister of Science & Technology, India (Ex-Officio)
- **Governing Body:** The Director General is the head of the governing body. The other ex-officio member is the finance secretary (expenditures). Other members' terms are three years.
- **CSIR Advisory Board:** 15-member body composed of prominent members from respective fields of science and technology. Its function is to provide S&T inputs to the governing body. Member terms are three years.

Vision

The changed R&D scenario has inspired CSIR towards:

- Science and Engineering leadership;
- Innovative technology solutions;
- Open innovation and crowdsourcing;
- Nurturing talent in transdisciplinary areas;

- Science-based entrepreneurship; and
- Socio-economic transformation through S&T intervention

Objectives:

- To promote scientific and industrial/applied research of national importance. It covers various areas like radio and space physics, nanotechnology, oceanography, biotechnology etc.
- To establish, maintain, and manage laboratories, institutions, workshops, and organizations to further scientific and industrial research.
- To provide significant technological intervention in different areas with regard to societal efforts which include the health, environment, energy, food, drinking water, housing, farm and non-farm sectors.

Notable achievements of CSIR over the years

- Developed India's first synthetic drug, methaqualone in 1950.
- Design of the first India Tractor – Swaraj – in 1967
- Developed Optical Glass for defense purposes.
- Developed a Bacterial Blight Resistant Rice i.e. Samba Mahsuri Rice Variety.
- Established 'Traditional Knowledge Digital Library' which can be accessed in five languages – English, German, French, Japanese and Spanish.
- Developed Solar Tree which occupies minimum space to produce clean power.
- Successfully completed the sequencing of the Human Genome in 2009.
- Designed India's first ever parallel processing computer, Flosolver.

Anoop Singh

PESA Act – A case of good governance or a hinderance to development

- **GS Paper II**

Gandhiji always said that India lives in its villages. He further argues that village republic is the solution for the independent India to become more prosperous. Keeping that in Mind parliament of India enacted the 73rd and 74th amendment to provide local

self-governance. Later on, PESA act was enacted to expand the scope of 73rd constitutional amendment act 1993 to the 5th schedule states.

PESA Act 1996

- It expands the Panchayats (Part IX of the constitution) to the Fifth Schedule Areas. There are many tribal people living in these locations.
- It guarantees **self-governance** for those residing in Scheduled Areas through **Gram Sabhas (village assemblies)**.

Powers provided to Gram Sabha under PESA:

- It is necessary to consult before the land acquisition, prior approval of all developmental projects and control over tribal sub-plan, maintenance of cultural identity and tradition, control over schemes affecting the tribals etc.
- It also gives gram sabhas judicial powers in form of dispute resolution as per traditional laws and customs.
- Ownership and management of natural resources: E.g. water, forest, common lands ('Jal, Jangal, and Zameen'), minor forest produce, minor minerals, etc.

Status of implementation of PESA:

- Out of 10 states (Andhra, Telangana, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, HP, Jharkhand, MP, Maharashtra, Odisha, and Rajasthan) who have notified 5th Schedule Areas, only 7 states (including Chhattisgarh and Gujarat) have notified Rules to implement the PESA Act.

About 5th Schedule States:

- Every year, the President must receive a **report from the governor of each state with Scheduled Areas (SA)** on how those areas are managed there.
- It allows for the **creation of a Tribes Advisory Council (TAC)** in Scheduled Areas on the direction of the president.
- The Union Government shall have **executive powers to make directions to the States as to the management of the Scheduled Areas**.
 - It must consist of **not more than twenty members** of whom, three-fourths shall be the representatives of the Scheduled Tribes in the Legislative Assembly of the State.
 - If the MLAs of the STs in the Legislative Assembly of the State is less than the number of seats in the TAC, then the **remaining seats shall be filled by other**

members of those Tribes.

- The **Governor may enact regulations governing the Council.**
- The **TAC shall advise the Governor** on the welfare and advancement of the STs in the State.
- The Governor may direct that **any particular Act of Parliament or of the Legislature of the State shall or shall not apply** to a SA.
- The Governor may **enact regulations to maintain the peace and promote good governance** in any SA region, including restrictions on land transfers and rules governing money-lending activities. After receiving the President's approval, the Governor may repeal or modify any Act of the State Legislature or the Parliament.
- No regulations shall be made unless the Governor, in case a TAC exists, consults such TAC.

Issue with respect to PESA Act:

XAXA committee has found out following issues –

- Government notifies rural areas as urban areas to keep them out of PESA coverage.
- The PPP (Public private partnership) model, is simply a backdoor method of tribal land alienation.
- Government agencies acquire land for “public purpose” but later transfer it to private companies at throwaway prices.
- Government has signed such MoUs with companies, Government officials became “dealers and negotiators” of tribal land. “Neutrality of the State” is forgotten.
- In scheduled areas, tribal's land cannot be transferred to non-tribals. YET Cabinet Committee on Investment (CCI) sometimes hastens project files which directly/indirectly violate this provision.
- Development projects lead to influx of outsiders to tribal areas, thus harm tribal interests by money landing activities and pollution.
- They are being subjected to Predatory tourism.
- There are some tribes which do needs protection but are not covered under the three categories viz., ST, SC and OBC. Their population is dwindling fast.
- The creation of dams and subsequent submergence of the nearby tribal areas do account as alteration of boundary.

Thus, as can be seen from above analysis the PESA act was enacted with the intention of providing self-governance to the tribal regions of the country. However as highlighted by the XAXA committee it has been diluted by the government after government in name of development. Sometime this kind of development breeds separatism, Naxalism and radicalization.

Vikas Gupta

Criminal Procedure (Identification) Act, 2022

Why in the News?

Recently, the **Criminal Procedure (Identification) Act, 2022** has come into force after being passed by the Parliament in April 2022.

- It replaces the **Identification of Prisoners Act, 1920**, and authorizes **police officers to take measurements of people convicted, arrested or facing trial in criminal cases.**

What is the difference between **Identification of Prisoners Act 1920** and **Criminal Procedure Identification Act?**

Comparison of key provisions of the 1920 Act and the Criminal Procedure (Identification) Act, 2022

Identification of Prisoners Act, 1920,	Criminal Procedure (Identification) Act, 2022
Data permitted to be collected	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fingerprints, foot-print impressions, photographs 	Adds: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) biological samples, and their analysis, (ii) behavioural attributes including signatures, handwriting, and (iii) examinations under sections 53 and 53A of CrPC (includes blood, semen, hair samples, and swabs, and analyses such as DNA profiling)

Identification of Prisoners Act, 1920,	Criminal Procedure (Identification) Act, 2022
Persons whose data may be collected	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Convicted or arrested for offences punishable with rigorous imprisonment of one year or more • Persons ordered to give security for good behaviour or maintaining peace • Magistrate may order in other cases collection from any arrested person to aid criminal investigation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Convicted or arrested for any offence. However, biological samples may be taken forcibly only from persons arrested for offences against a woman or a child, or if the offence carries a minimum of seven years imprisonment • Persons detained under any preventive detention law • On the order of Magistrate, from any person (not just an arrested person) to aid investigation
Persons who may require/ direct collection of data	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigating officer, officer in charge of a police station, or of rank Sub-Inspector or above 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Officer in charge of a police station, or of rank Head Constable or above. In addition, a Head Warder of a prison
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Magistrate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Metropolitan Magistrate or Judicial Magistrate of first class. In case of persons required to maintain good behaviour or peace, the Executive Magistrate

Issues to be considered

- **Issues of Privacy:**
 - The Bill permits the collection of certain identifiable information about individuals for the investigation of crime.
 - The information specified under the Bill forms part of the personal data of individuals and is thus protected under the right to privacy of individuals.
 - The right to privacy has been recognised as a fundamental right by the Supreme Court (2017).
 - The Court laid out principles that should govern any law that restricts this right.
 - These include a public purpose, a rational nexus of the law with such purpose, and

that this is the least intrusive way to achieve the purpose.

- **Issues of Equality:** The issue arises due to the fact that:
 - (a) Data can be collected not just from convicted persons but also from persons arrested for any offense and from any other person to aid an investigation
 - (b) The data collected does not need to have any relationship with evidence required for the case
 - (c) The data is stored in a central database which can be accessed widely and not just in the case file
 - (d) The data is stored for 75 years (effectively, for life)
 - (e) Safeguards have been diluted by lowering the level of the official authorised to collect the data

What is the Significance of the Act?

1. **Modern Techniques are employed:** The Act makes **provisions for the use of modern techniques to capture and record** appropriate body measurements.
 - While if we talk about the existing law, it allowed **taking only fingerprint and footprint impressions** of a limited category of convicted persons.

Investigation will become more efficient:

- It provides legal sanction for taking appropriate body measurements of persons who are required to give such measurements and will **make the investigation of crime more efficient and expeditious** and will also help in increasing the conviction rate.

Investing Agencies will have a helping hand:

- It **seeks to expand the 'ambit of persons'** whose measurements can be taken as this will **help the investigating agencies to gather sufficient legally admissible evidence** and establish the crime of the accused person.

The way forward?

The above law may have serious repercussions on the privacy and equality of the people. But since it has now become the law of the land, therefore the efforts are needed from the side of the government that such efforts must align with the Right to privacy as well. This is because privacy is a fundamental right after **KS PUTTASWAMY JUDGEMENT** of the Supreme Court.

Samarth singh

UDAN Scheme

Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik Scheme



Why in News: UDAN Scheme of Ministry of Civil Aviation completes 5 years of success.

More than one crore passengers have flown since the inception of the scheme. 425 New routes started under the scheme. 58 airports, 8 heliports and 2 water aerodromes have been connected. 1000 Routes and 220 airports are planned to be facilitated under the scheme by 2026

Ministry: Ministry of Civil Aviation's flagship program Regional Connectivity Scheme UDAN (UdeDeshkaAamNagrik) has completed 5 years of success since the launch of its first flight by the Prime Minister on **27th April 2017**.

Origin: The scheme was initiated on 21st October 2016 with the objective to fulfill the aspirations of the common citizen by following the vision of 'UdeDeshkaAamNagrik', with an enhanced aviation infrastructure and air connectivity in tier II and tier III cities.

In the last five years, UDAN has significantly increased the regional air-connectivity in the country. There were 74 operational airports in 2014. Because of the UDAN scheme this number has increased to 141 by now.

68 underserved/unserved destinations which include 58 Airports, 8 Heliports & 2 Water Aerodromes have been connected under UDAN scheme. With 425 new routes initiated under the scheme, UDAN has provided air connectivity to more than 29 States/UTs across the length and breadth of the country. More than one crore passengers have availed the benefits of this scheme as on 4th August 2022. The scheme has also provided a much-needed platform to the regional carriers to scale up their operations.

220 destinations (airports/heliports/water aerodromes) under UDAN are targeted to be completed by 2026 with 1000 routes to provide air connectivity to unconnected destinations in the country. Under UDAN, 954 routes have already been awarded to connect 156 airports.

On the occasion, Minister of Civil Aviation Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia said, "The Suc-

cess of RCS UDAN is a demonstration of the government's commitment to the Prime Minister's vision of 'Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik'.

It has played a great role in the transformation of the Indian aviation industry. So far under this scheme, we have 425 routes aiming to go up to 1000 routes, 68 new airports aiming to touch 100 airports. In the next 4 years we are expecting 40 crore travelers through Civil Aviation in India.

That day is not far when along with rail transport and road transport Civil Aviation will become the bulwark of the transportation in India."

RCS-UDAN was formulated based on the review of The National Civil Aviation Policy (NCAP)-2016 and it was planned to remain in force for a period of 10 years. It has a self-financing mechanism with the development of Regional Connectivity Fund (RCF). Under this Scheme, RCF was created, which funds the VGF requirements of the scheme through a levy on certain domestic flights. This way, funds generated from the sector themselves stimulate the growth and development of the sector.

The UDAN Scheme has benefitted a diverse set of stakeholders. Passengers have got the benefits of air connectivity, airlines have received concessions for operating regional routes, unserved regions have received the direct and indirect benefits of air connectivity for their economic development.

UDAN created a framework based on the need and led to the formulation of:

- Lifeline UDAN (for transportation of medical cargo during pandemic).
- Krishi UDAN (value realization of agriculture products especially in Northeastern Region {NER} and tribal districts).
- International UDAN routes for NER to explore International Connectivity from / to Guwahati and Imphal.

Lifeline UDAN – Lifeline UDAN initiative commenced in March 2020 during COVID-19 period and it helped to operate 588 flights transporting almost 1000 Tones of voluminous cargo and essential medical services to various parts of the country.

RCS-UDAN was awarded the Prime Minister's Award for Excellence in Public Administration under Innovation Category for the year 2020.

Republic Day Tableau for 26th January 2022 on UDAN was adjudged as the Best Tableau by the Ministry of Defense.

Phases Under the Scheme:

UDAN 1.0 and 2.0: During RCS-UDAN version 1.0 & 2.0, 66 airports were identified and 31 heliports (28 unserved heliports and 3 unserved airports).

UDAN 3.0: During UDAN version 3.0, to increase the tourism potential at the coastal areas, Tourism routes in coordination with the Ministry of Tourism and Seaplanes for connecting Water Aerodromes were included.

UDAN 4.0: The focus of UDAN 4.0 is on priority areas like the NorthEast Region, Hilly States, Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh and Islands.

Salient Features of UDAN Scheme

- The plan calls for the revival of existing airstrips and airports to provide connectivity to the country's underserved and unserved airports. The scheme is in place for a ten-year period.
- Airports that have fewer than one flight per day are considered **underserved**, while airports that have no operations are considered **unserved**.
- Selected airlines are given **financial incentives** from the central government, state governments, and airport operators.
- These incentives are given to encourage operations from unserved and under-served airports while keeping airfares low.
- Airlines are awarded routes through a bidding process and must offer airfares of 2,500 per hour of flight.
- A **minimum** of **50%** of an aircraft's total **seats** must be available at a **lower cost**.
- The government provides a **three-year subsidy** to airlines in order to enable them to offer low-cost flights.
- In the first three years, the government had set aside \$4,500 crore for the revival of 50 airports.
- A **competitive bidding** process is used to select the participating airlines.
- The maximum fare for the fixed-wing aircraft is Rs. 2500 per hour, which covers 50% of the seating capacity for unserved and under-developed regional airports.
- The **remaining 50%** of seating capacity is **charged at market rate**.
- The scheme was decided to be **updated quarterly** in accordance with the Consumer Price Index.
- The cargo flights will be provided with the same services as this scheme, but the VGP service will not be available.

Puneet Bhatia

WTO – Analysis in view of present economic crisis

The World Trade Organisation (WTO) is the primary body for establishing regulations for global trade. Over the course of its twenty years, it has assisted in lowering trade barriers for both commodities and services and developed a dispute settlement mechanism that has lessened the risk of trade wars.

The institution is, nevertheless, under a lot of pressure. The global economy is currently under pressure from protectionism, trade conflicts (such as those between the United States and China), the Russia-Ukraine wars and subsequent sanctions, Brexit etc. The functioning of the WTO has been hampered by disagreements over intellectual property rights and agricultural subsidies, as well as by other bilateral and regional free trade agreements..

Continuing Relevance of WTO due to its important mandate:

- Trade agreements: It oversees the Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) Agreement and other current multilateral trade agreements.
- Dispute resolution: It uses its Dispute Settlement Mechanism to resolve conflicts among its members and avoid trade wars.
- New negotiations: It acts as a stage and coordinator for talks on fresh international trade accords.
- Establishes rule-based multilateral trading system: The World Trade Organisation (WTO) makes certain that international trade is governed by standards that are appropriate for and widely accepted.
- Facilitates growth: The removal of trade barriers opens up new markets for the world's resources, hence promoting global growth.
- Arbitration function: The WTO serves as an arbitrator between warring nations and seeks to establish uniformity in practices and rules.
- Promotes standardisation: The WTO and its members establish rules for the exchange of goods, services, and IP protection that close the quality gap between what is produced and what is desired.

Successes of WTO:

- A significant increase in cross-border economic activity has been made possible by binding laws for international trade in products and services. While the actual amount of global trade has increased by 2.7 times since 1995, its monetary worth has nearly quadrupled. This is much greater than the global GDP's two-fold increase during that time.
- Tariffs on average have decreased by almost 50%, from 10.5% to 6.4%. The dozens of economies that joined the WTO after it was founded were required to make extensive changes and commitments to open their markets, which, according to studies, have been linked to a long-lasting increase in national GDP.
- Global value chains have been made possible by the development of predictable market conditions encouraged by the WTO and better communications. Almost 70% of all merchandise commerce today occurs within these value chains.
- In recent years, WTO members have agreed to simplify border processes through a historic trade facilitation pact that is expected to increase trade by more than \$1 trillion annually.
- The trade in goods related to information technology has also been liberalised.
- For developing countries, COVID vaccination intellectual property rights were waived.
- An agreement to reduce fishing subsidies, which have supported overfishing and resulted in declining fish stocks has been reached. The agreement forbids WTO members from providing subsidies to any operator engaged in overfishing or fishing in waters that are illegal, unreported, or unregulated.

Issues faced by the WTO which reduce its relevance:

- **Increasing economic uncertainty:** In recent years, nations have imposed trade restrictions that affect a sizable portion of global trade. Businesses are delaying investments due to the increasing market uncertainty, which is reducing growth and our economies' potential going forward.

- **Ineffective appellate body:** Because of U.S. policy, the Appellate Body (AB) is crippled, giving nations an easy way to ignore the WTO panel's rulings by appealing into the void.
 - Dispute settlement cases continue to be filed for the time being and are being litigated.
- **Structural issues:** Technical functioning is currently completely insufficient to address the primary obstacles preventing the WTO from remaining strategically relevant in the 21st century. The organisation hasn't delivered in crucial areas, responded, or changed.
 - Its structures and operations are in parts fragile, creaky, and deteriorating.
- **Subsidy issue:** Agricultural and industrial subsidies have clogged the system and sparked protectionist responses in a number of WTO members.
- **Issue of public stockholding for food security purposes:** Despite a clear directive to do so at the 2015 Nairobi ministerial meeting, there has been no resolution to the public stockholding for food security purposes issue. For nations like India that rely on mechanisms supported by the Minimum Support Price (MSP) to purchase foodgrains, this is of the utmost importance.
- **Fragmentation of global governance due to plurilateral trade agreements:** The rise of large plurilateral trade accords like the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) and Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) agreement, which push the multilateral order to the periphery, is a result of the impasse at the WTO.
- **Institutional imbalance:** The WTO missed the crucial balance between its role as an entity created to encourage, bind, and support economic transformation in order to counteract harmful protectionism and its role as an agency for litigation-based dispute settlement.
- **Tariff issue:** The unilateral tariffs that the United States and China have threatened to impose on one another in the impending trade war do not follow the WTO's established processes, eroding its authority.

Suggestions to increase effectiveness of the organization:

- Recognizing that worries about food security will not go away, begin

conversations to resolve the interrelated issues of agricultural subsidies and market access.

- It is important to encourage multilateral negotiations because members with similar political ideologies have a chance to form coalitions.
- It is necessary to remove political influence from the selection procedure for the dispute resolution body.
- Instead of being resolved by the WTO, the issue of the misuse of the national-security exemption to support trade restrictions should be addressed at the political level.
- For the purpose of reducing willful non-compliance, the WTO should be given sanctioning authority.
- A consensus-based dispute resolution process is essential for a reliable trading system.
- Engage in rigorous negotiations to balance the situation.
- In a number of areas, GATT/WTO rules need to be updated. To stay up with advancements in technology and the industry, new rules are necessary.
- Liberal multilateralism and non-discriminatory pillars will need to be the cornerstone of a reformed WTO.

Conclusion

The WTO's future function is crucial to maintaining the post-World War II global liberalised economic order. India and other emerging economies with expanding economies like Brazil, South Africa, and others can lay a solid foundation for a successful WTO while defending the interests of developing nations.

Vikas Gupta

ROHINGYA ISSUE

Why in the news?

- **Hardeep Puri** , the Union minister recently claimed that Government of India will be giving the EWS flats for the Rohingya's resettlement , till the time they are deported back to their home country i.e. Bangladesh.
- However this statement was later refuted by the Ministry Of Home Affairs.

Who are Rohingyas?

- Rohingyas are an ethnic group, mostly Muslims. They were not granted full citizenship by Myanmar.
- Rohingyas were classified as "resident foreigners or associate citizens".
- They fled from their native country after facing severe persecution from the Army of Myanmar , who considered this as a religious war of Muslims v/s Buddhist.
- They were described by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres as "**one of, if not the, most discriminated people in the world**".

What is India's position?

- **India is not a party to the 1951 Refugee Convention or its 1967 Protocol and does not have a national refugee protection framework.**
- Because of this India is not bound to give refuge to the Rohingyas in our country.
- **Threat to National Security:** Because of the continuity in the illegal immigration of Rohingyas into our country and their continued stay here , it was found to be having serious national security ramifications, thus posing threat to national security.
- **Human trafficking:** Trafficking of females and human smuggling inside the border has become a rampant activity.
- **Rising Militancy:** Because of the persistent attacks against the Muslims perceived as illegal migrants have given way to radicalisation.
- **Clash of Interests:** It impacts the interests of local populations and giving rise to

the xenophobic tendencies.

- **Political Instability:** It increases the political instability when leaders start mobilizing the perception of the citizens of the country against the migrants by the elites to grab political power.
- **Disturbance in Law and Order:** The rule of law and integrity of the country are undermined by the illegal migrants who are engaged in illegal and anti-national activities.

Geopolitical Ramifications

- Rohingya issue has become a bone of contention between India and Bangladesh.
- Indian government at times have reiterated their stand that will deport the rohingyas back to Bangladesh.
- However , India don't have any agreement with Bangladesh regarding this.
- The population of Bangladesh has considered this as an anti Islamic stance which has enhanced the **ANTIINDIA** and **ANTI HINDU** sentiment in Bangladesh.

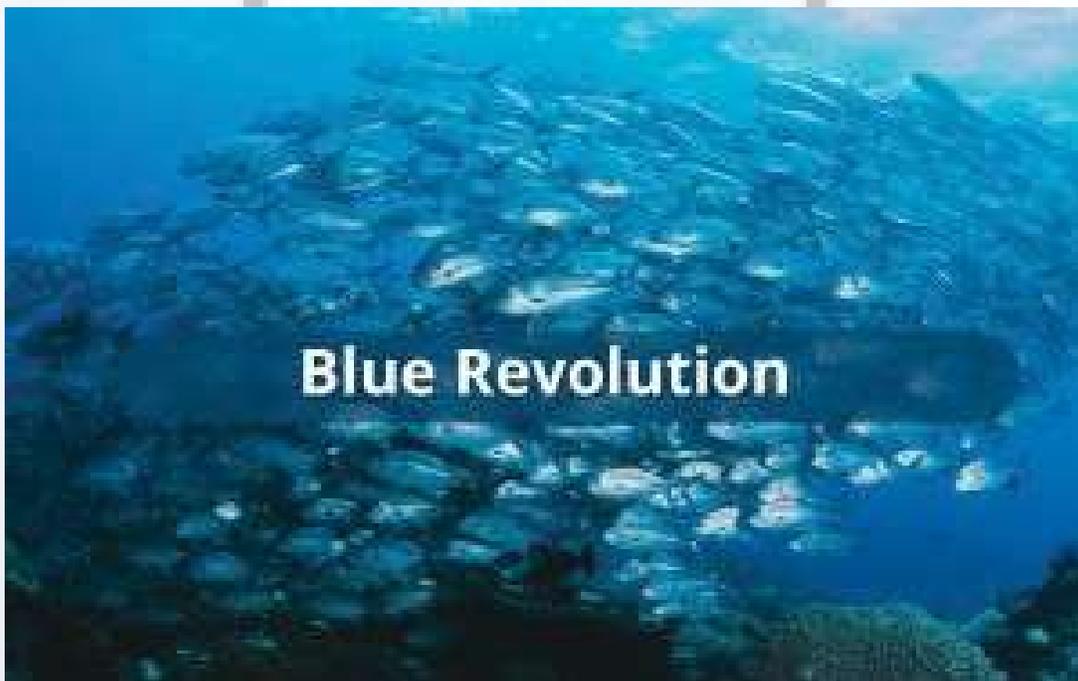
Way ahead

- India should maintain a healthy balance between the internal security and human rights requirements.
- Protecting the local population while at the same time maintaining the image of being a tolerant country is the need of the hour.
- This would be in line with India's "**Vasudhev Kutumbkam**" ideology and Prime Ministers call of "**SABKA SATH, SABKA VIKAS aur SABKA VISHWAS**"

Samarth singh

Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana

Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana, and Blue Revolution



Why in News: Inspired by Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana, and to bring 'Blue Revolution' TDB-DST (**Technology Development Board, a statutory body under Department of Science and Technology, Govt**) supports its first aquaculture project.

TDB-DST contributes to the 'Blue Revolution' through technology intervention, supporting sustainable & responsible development of the fisheries sector in India. TDB-DST enters a new domain, funds its first ever 'Aquaculture' project using 'state of the art' Israeli technology for production of Tilapia Fish.

TDB-DST supports M/s Fountainhead Agro Farms Private Limited, Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra for 'Advanced, Intensive, All Male Tilapia Aquaculture Project with Israeli Technology

Fisheries is one of the fastest growing sectors amongst the primary producing sectors. The sector plays a vital role in economic and overall development of the country, also referred as the "sunrise sector", it is poised to bring in immense potential through equitable and inclusive growth.

The sector is recognized as a powerful engine for providing employment to 14.5 million people and sustaining livelihood for the 28 million fishermen community of the country. Thus, the sector urges young entrepreneurs of the country to come forward and offer solutions, resolving on-ground challenges through technology interventions and innovative solutions.

To promote this, the cabinet under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Prime Minister, came up with 'Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)' to bring about 'Blue Revolution' through sustainable and responsible development of the fisheries sector in India. The scheme targets to enhance fish production to 220 lakh metric tons by 2024-25, at an average annual growth rate of about 9%. The ambitious scheme also aims to double the export earnings to Rs.1,00,000 crore and generate about 55 lakhs direct and indirect employment opportunities in the fisheries sector over a period of next five years.

Realizing the potential of Fisheries sector, **Technology Development Board, a statutory body under Department of Science and Technology, Govt. of India** supports M/s Fountainhead Agro Farms Private Limited, Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra for 'Advanced, Intensive, All Male Tilapia Aquaculture Project with Israeli Technology'. The board has penned an mutual agreement, to provide loan assistance of Rs. 8.42 crores out of the total project cost of Rs. 29.78 crores to the company.

'Tilapia' has emerged to be one of the most productive and internationally traded food fish in the world. The culture of tilapia has become com-

mercially popular in many parts of the world and the fishery experts have dubbed the tilapia as “aquatic chicken” due to its quick growth and low maintenance cultivation. Today, if any fish that could be named as global fish, no better name can be thought of than Tilapia.

In order to facilitate the culture of Tilapia in India in a responsible manner, M/s Fountainhead Agro Farms Private Limited envisages setting up of a complete production line (from breeding to full fish) in Mudhol (Karnataka).

The company aims to produce 500 tons of Tilapia, to be grown from the imported parent broodstock ‘Hermon’ from Nir David Fish Breeding Farm, Israel.

Hermon is a hybrid of two selected strains of Tilapia, namely *Oreochromis Niloticus* (Male) and *Oreochromis Aureus* (Female), and is known for special characteristics such as high growth rate; resistance to low temperature; light (attractive) color; all hybrid fry progeny of males only, without the conventional system of usage of hormones.

The company has adopted advanced Israeli Technology from Aquaculture Production Technology Limited (APTIL), Israel (under Technology Service Agreement signed in October, 2020) for landlocked locations through closed loop farming for arid zone with seasonal water supply from rivers, which may be replicated throughout India in multiple arid landlocked locations with reasonable water sources.

In order to suit Indian conditions, the complete engineering of the facility is tuned as per the requirement of site conditions such as land availability, water availability, weather conditions, availability of the surrounding resources, soil conditions, topography.

Sh. Rajesh Kumar Pathak, IP&TAFS, Secretary, TDB said that, “The Govt. of India has placed special attention to the fisheries sector with a view to uplift the fishermen community of India economically through ‘Blue Revolution’.

The sector holds vast potential for export, especially the ‘Tilapia Fish’ considering its huge demand in the global market. Also, the imported technology being ‘one of its kind’ will be a great addition to Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY), the ambitious scheme of Hon’ble PM, which aims to double the export earnings to Rs.1,00,000 crore from fisheries sector.

Objectives

- PMMSY is designed to address critical gaps in fish production and productivity, quality, technology, post-harvest infrastructure and management, modernization and strengthening of value chain, traceability, establishing a robust fisheries management framework and fishers' welfare.

While aiming to consolidate the achievements of Blue Revolution Scheme, PMMSY envisages many new interventions such as

- fishing vessel insurance,
- support for new/up-gradation of fishing vessels/boats, Bio-toilets,
- Aquaculture in saline/alkaline areas, Sagar Mitras, FFPOs/Cs,
- Nucleus Breeding Centers,
- Fisheries and Aquaculture start-ups,
- Incubators,
- Integrated Aqua parks,
- Integrated coastal fishing villages development etc
- PMMSY scheme primarily focuses on adopting 'Cluster or Area based approaches' and creation of Fisheries clusters through backward and forward linkages.
- Special focus will be given for employment generation activities such as seaweed and ornamental fish cultivation.
- It emphasizes interventions for quality brood, seed and feed, special focus on species diversification, critical infrastructure, marketing networks etc.

The Blue Revolution

The Blue Revolution in India was launched during the 7th Five Year Plan (1985-1990) during the sponsorship of the Fish Farmers Development Agency (FFDA) by the Central Government of India. Later, during the 8th Five Year Plan (1992-97), the Intensive Marine Fisheries Program was launched, and eventually, the fishing harbors in Visakhapatnam, Kochi, Tuticorin, Porbandar,

and Port Blair were also established over the time.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare along with the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries planned to restructure this scheme along with the other ongoing schemes by merging it under a single umbrella of 'Blue Revolution'. This scheme focused on the development and management of fisheries controlled by the National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB).

The components that are included under the Blue Revolution Schemes are :

- National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB) and its activities
- Strengthening of Database & Geographical Information System of the Fisheries Sector
- Development of Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture
- National Scheme of Welfare of Fishermen
- Development of Marine Fisheries, Infrastructure and Post-Harvest Operations
- Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) and other need-based Interventions
- Institutional Arrangement for the Fisheries Sector

Blue Revolution/Neel Kranti Mission

The Nili Kranti Mission aimed to enhance the economic condition of India through the augmentation of fisheries and thus contributing towards food and nutritional security. The utilization of the water resources for the development of fisheries was done by the Neel Kranti Mission in a sustainable manner.

The objectives of the Nili Kranti mission are:

1. Completely tapping the total fish potential of India on both islands as well as in the marine sector and to triple the production by the year 2020.

2. Transforming the fisheries sector into a modern industry through the utilization of new technologies and processes.
3. Doubling the income of the fishers through increased productivity and improving the post-harvest marketing infrastructure including e-commerce, technologies, and global best innovators.
4. To ensure the active participation of the fishers and the fish farmers in income enhancement.
5. Tripling the export earnings by the year 2020 with a major focus on the benefits covering the institutional mechanisms.
6. Developing the nutritional and food security of the nation.

Puneet Bhatia

Har Ghar Jal Utsav

The Har Ghar Jal Utsav under Jal Jeevan Mission



Why in News: The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi addressed the Har Ghar Jal Utsav under Jal Jeevan Mission via a video message and Explained the Mission.

10 crore rural households of the country have been connected to piped clean water facilities. Goa becomes the first Har Ghar Jal certified state. Dadra Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu become the first Union territories to achieve the feat.

One lakh villages in different states of the country have turned ODF plus. There cannot be a better beginning for Amrit Kaal.

7 crore rural households connected with piped water in just 3 years compared to just 3 crore households in 7 decades. This is an example of the same human-centered development.

Jal Jeevan Abhiyan is not just a government scheme, but it is a scheme run by the community, for the community. People's power, women power, and power of technology are powering the Jal Jeevan Mission

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi addressed the Har Ghar Jal Utsav under Jal Jeevan Mission via a video message. The event took place at Panaji Goa. Chief Minister of Goa Shri Pramod Sawant, Union Minister Shri Gajendra Singh Shekawat were among those present on the occasion. The Prime Minister greeted Shri Krishna devotees on the auspicious occasion of Janmashtami.

At the outset, the Prime Minister shared every Indian's pride in three important milestones related to the huge goals that India is working on in Amrit Kaal, that were accomplished.

He said "**Firstly**, today 10 crore rural households of the country have been connected to piped clean water facilities. This is a big success of the government's campaign to deliver water to every household. This is a great example of 'Sabka Prayas'".

Secondly, he congratulated Goa for becoming the first Har Ghar Jal certified state where every household is connected to piped water. He also acknowledged Dadra Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu as first Union territories to achieve the feat.

The Prime Minister lauded the people, government and local self-government institutions for their efforts. He informed that many states are going to join the list very soon.

The third achievement, the Prime Minister informed, is that one lakh villages in different states of the country have turned ODF plus. After the country was

declared Open Defecation Free (ODF) a few years ago, the next resolution was to achieve ODF plus status for villages i.e. they should have community toilets, plastic waste management, grey water management and Gobardhan projects.

Underlining the water security challenge that the world is facing, the Prime Minister said that water scarcity can become a huge obstacle in accomplishing the resolution of Developed India – Viksit Bharat. “Our government has been working relentlessly for the last 8 years for the projects of water security”, he said. Reiterating the need for a long-term approach above selfish short-term approach, the Prime Minister emphasized “It is true that to form a government, one does not have to work that hard as one has to work to build a country. We have all chosen to work for nation building.

That is why we are working on the challenges of the present and the future. Those who do not care about the country, are not bothered about spoiling the present or future of the country. Such people can definitely talk big, but can never work with a big vision for water.”

Talking about the multi-pronged approach of the government to ensure water security, the Prime Minister listed initiatives like ‘Catch the Rain’, Atal Bhujal Scheme, 75 Amrit Sarovars in every district, river-linking and Jal Jeevan Mission. He said that the number of **Ramsar wetland Sites** in India has gone up to 75, out of which 50 were added in the last 8 years.

“There cannot be a better beginning of Amrit Kaal”, the Prime Minister said, lauding the feat of connecting 7 crore rural households with piped water in just 3 years whereas in 7 decades since Independence only 3 crore households had this facility. He said “There were about 16 crore rural households in the country, who had to depend on outside sources for water. We could not have left such a large population of the village fighting for this basic need.

That’s why 3 years ago I had announced from the Red Fort that every house would get piped water. 3 lakh 60 thousand crore rupees are being spent on this campaign. Despite the interruptions caused by the biggest epidemic of 100 years, the pace of this campaign did not slow down. The result of this continuous effort is that in just 3 years, the country has done more than double the work done in 7 decades. This is an example of the same human-centered development, which I talked about this time from the Red Fort”

The Prime Minister highlighted the benefit of Har Ghar Jal for the future generation and women. He said as the main sufferer of the problems related to water, women are at the center of the government's efforts. It is improving the ease of living for women and giving them a key role in water governance. "Jal Jeevan Abhiyan is not just a government scheme, but it is a scheme run by the community, for the community", he said.

The Prime Minister said that **four pillars are at the basis of the success of Jal Jeevan Mission** i.e. people's participation, stakeholder participation, political will and optimum utilization of Resources. Local people and Gram Sabhas and other institutions of local governance have been given an unprecedented role in the campaign.

Local women are trained for water testing and are members of 'Paani Samitis'. Stakeholder participation is evident in enthusiasm shown by panchayats, NGOs, educational institutions and all the ministries. Similarly, achieving much more in just 7 years than what was achieved in the last 7 decades indicates political will. Optimum utilization of resources is reflected in synergizing with schemes like **MGNREGA**.

Saturation of piped water will also eliminate possibility of any discrimination, he added.

Referring to use of technology like geo-tagging of water assets and Internet of things solutions for water supply and quality control, the Prime Minister pointed out that people's power, women power, and power of technology are powering the Jal Jeevan Mission.

Puneet Bhatia

Bilkis Bano Case and the mechanism of Remission

Why in the news?

Eleven convicts in 2002 Bilkis Bano case, sentenced to life imprisonment, were released from Godhra sub-jail on August 15 this year, under **Gujarat government's remission policy**.

What is Bilkis Bano Case?

- On February 27, 2002, Godhara riots erupted in Gujarat after Sabarmati train was burnt and over 50 karsevaks were killed on that train.
- Fearing the outbreak of this violence during that time, Bilkis fled from her village with her three year-old daughter and 15 other family members.
- Bilkis, her mother and her daughter were raped and brutally assaulted. Among the family members, only Bilkis, a man, and a three-year-old survived the attack.
- After the trial in 2008, the Special CBI Court sentenced 11 men to **life imprisonment** on the charges of conspiring to rape a pregnant woman, murder unlawful assembly under the Indian Penal Code.
- The court acquitted seven other accused for lack of evidence. One of the accused had died during the trial.

What is contemporary development?

- Gujarat government has recently granted **remission** to all the 11 accused.
- Premature release of 11 convicts in the Bilkis Bano case by the Gujarat Government has generated some critical reactions throughout the country.

What is mechanism of remission?

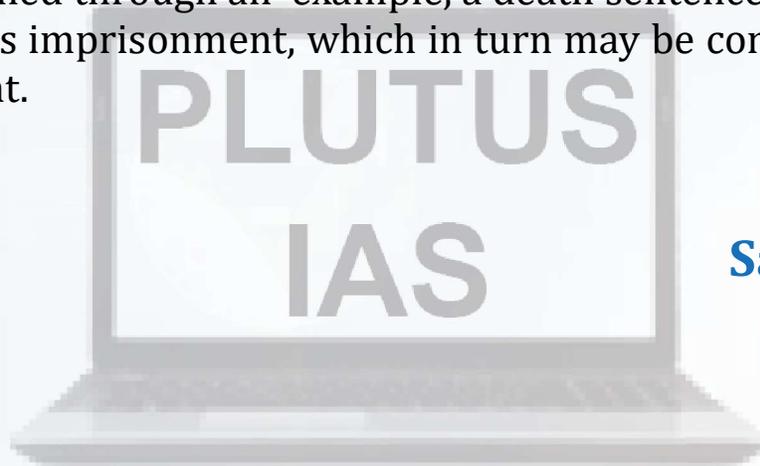
- The Constitution of India conferred the power on the President of India and the Governors of the States by **Articles 72** and **161** respectively.
- When the President or the state Governor chooses the pardoning power of Remission, he acts to reduce the period of the sentence but the character of the sentence remains the same. For example, a sentence of rigorous imprisonment for two years may be remitted to rigorous imprisonment for one year but the imprisonment remains rigorous.

Other pardoning powers

1. **Pardon**– When the President pardons, both the sentence and the conviction of the convict completely absolve the sentences, punishments and

disqualifications.

2. **Reprieve**– When the President chooses the pardoning power of ‘Reprieve’; he stays the execution of a sentence (especially that of death) for a temporary period. By doing this, he enables the convict to have time to seek pardon or commutation from him
3. **Respite**– When the President uses the pardoning power of ‘Respite’, he chooses to award a lesser sentence in place of one originally awarded to the convict. For example, due to some special fact, such as the physical disability of a convict or the pregnancy of a woman offender, the President can use this power.
4. **Commute**– When the President chooses to use this pardoning power of ‘Commute’; he substitutes one form of punishment for a lighter form. It can be explained through an example, a death sentence may be commuted to rigorous imprisonment, which in turn may be commuted to simple imprisonment.



Samarth singh