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## **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.

# 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 **ANTI INDIA** 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 commercially 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
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- 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.

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