

PM MODI SPEAKS TO U.K. PM RISHI SUNAK, DISCUSSES INDIA-U.K. TRADE PACT

In News:

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi held a telephone conversation with new British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak.
- During conversation, both the leaders have agreed on the importance of an early conclusion of a “comprehensive and balanced” trade agreement.



India-UK Bilateral Relation

- The bilateral relationship was upgraded to a Strategic partnership in 2004.
- During the May 2021 virtual summit between the PMs of both the countries, an ambitious ‘Roadmap 2030’ was adopted.
- This roadmap will pave a way to elevate bilateral ties to a ‘Comprehensive Strategic Partnership’.
- India was identified as a priority relationship for the UK in the 2021 Integrated Review and was invited by the UK as a guest to last year’s G7 in Carbis Bay.

Economic engagements

- During the May 2021 virtual summit, India and UK launched an ‘Enhanced Trade Partnership’ (ETP).
- This was launched to unleash the trade potential between these two countries.
- **Trade**
- The total trade between India and the UK stood at \$17.5 billion.
- UK is India’s 17th largest trading partner during the period of FY 2021-2022.
- In January 2022, India and the UK formally launched negotiations for an ambitious free trade agreement (FTA).
- The FTA aims to increase the bilateral trade to \$100 billion by 2030.

- Both sides were expected to sign on the FTA by Diwali but they missed the deadline due to lack of consensus and the transition in the UK political leadership.

- **Investment**

- **Indian investment in UK:** India invested in 99 projects and created 4,830 new jobs in the UK to retain the position of second-largest source of FDI after the US in 2020.
- **UK's investment in India:** UK is the 6th largest inward investor in India after Mauritius, Singapore, USA, Netherlands, Japan.
- It has a cumulative equity investment of US \$ 31.6 million (April 2000- December 2021), accounting for around 6% of all FDI into India.

Defence

- During the 2015 visit of PM Modi to UK, a new Defence and International Security Partnership (DISP) was pledged by leaders of both the countries.
- In October 2020, India and the UK reached the final stages of agreeing on a key defence logistics pact which will help in reciprocal use of airfields, bases, spares and supplies.
- After the pact, India can access ports and military bases from the Garrisons in the Gulf to Keeling Island in the South Indian Ocean and strategic military locations such as Busan and Okinawa.

Cultural Linkages

- 2017 was celebrated as the India-UK year of Culture to mark the 70th anniversary of Indian independence.
- Indian PM describes the connection between people of both the countries as a 'living bridge'.
- In August 2020, Britain announced its decision to mint a coin to commemorate Mahatma Gandhi.

Indian Diaspora

- As per 2011 census approximately 1.5 million people of Indian origin are in the UK equating to almost 1.8 percent of the population and contributing 6% of the country's GDP.
- The government of India awarded Pravasi Bhartiya Samman to British MP of Indian origin Priti Patel and British Member of the European Parliament (MEP) of Indian origin Neena Gill in 2017.

INDIA TO SEE HIGHEST GROWTH GLOBALLY IN ENERGY DEMAND THROUGH 2030: IEA

In News:

- The International Energy Agency (IEA) published its World Energy Outlook Report 2022.
- As per the report, energy demand in India is expected to be the highest globally, growing at more than 3 per cent on annual basis, from 2021 to 2030.

About International Energy Agency (IEA):

- The International Energy Agency was born with the 1973-1974 oil crisis, when industrialised countries found they were not adequately equipped to deal with the oil embargo imposed by major producers that pushed prices to historically high levels.
- This first oil shock led to the creation of the IEA in November 1974 with a broad mandate on energy security and energy policy co-operation.
- The IEA was established as the **main international forum for energy co-operation** on a variety of issues associated with energy production.
- This included setting up a collective action mechanism to respond effectively to potential disruptions in oil supply.

About Collective Action Mechanism:

- The Agency's collective response system is designed to mitigate the negative economic impacts of sudden oil supply shortages by providing additional oil to the global market on a short-term basis.
- So far, **it has been activated three times since the Agency's creation** –
 - The first was in January 1991, during the First Gulf War.
 - The second was in 2005, after the hurricanes Katrina and Rita damaged oil infrastructure in the Gulf of Mexico.
 - The third was in 2011, during the Libyan crisis.

Member Countries:

- Only OECD member states can become members of the IEA.

- The **Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)** is an intergovernmental economic organisation with **38 member countries**, founded in 1961 to stimulate economic progress and world trade.
 - IEA member countries are required to maintain total oil stock levels equivalent to at least 90 days of the previous year's net imports.
 - Currently, there are 31 IEA member countries. India is one of the 8 associate member countries.
 - **Headquarters:** Paris, France
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[BCCI BATS FOR PAY PARITY, SAME MATCH FEES FOR WOMEN & MEN: 'NEW ERA OF EQUALITY'](#)

In News:

- In a significant decision, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) announced a pay equity policy, saying that its centrally-contracted men and women players would get the same match fees.
- With this, India has become the second country in international cricket to implement equal pay.
- Earlier this year, New Zealand Cricket had announced equal match fees for its women players.

Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)

- BCCI is the central body that governs over Indian Cricket. The board was founded in the year 1928 with 6 regional cricket associations as its first members.
- Today it has 30 full-time members, and is worth Rs 3,308 crore.
- It was established with a vision to control and develop the sport of Cricket in India.
- The BCCI headquarters are located in the famous Wankhede Stadium, Mumbai.

Role Of BCCI

- The role of BCCI is to regulate and overlook the growth and development of everything related to Indian Cricket.
- The cricket board has set rules and regulations in its constitution that behave as guidelines for the National team.

- The board decides where the national team will play and with whom.
- It looks over the development of the national team and youth teams.
- It controls the IPL and various domestic competitions like the Ranji Trophy, Duleep Trophy, and Challenger series are conducted by state associations in consultation with the BCCI.
- Another role of BCCI is the granting of media rights and sponsors.

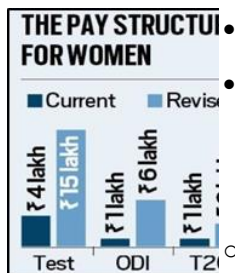
Status of BCCI

- The BCCI is an autonomous, private organisation and does not fall under the purview of the National Sports Federation of India.
- It is registered under the Tamil Nadu Societies Registration Act, 1975 and hence it considers itself as a private body.

News Summary

- BCCI announces the implementation of a pay equity policy for contracted Indian women cricketers.
- With this announcement, the match fee for both Men and Women Cricketers will be the same.

Key Highlights



- This means the women players will now get Rs 15 lakh per Test match, Rs 6 lakh for a One-Day International (ODI), and Rs 3 lakh for a T20 International.
- Till now, they were paid Rs 1 lakh for a white-ball match, and Rs 4 lakh for a Test.
- However, the annual retainership for women cricketers remains the same — Rs 50 lakh for Grade A, Rs 30 lakh for Grade B and Rs 10 lakh for Grade C.
- The men, who play more games, are paid Rs 1-7 crore, depending on their grade.

FLOATING TRASH BARRIER

A floating trash barrier (FTB), developed by AlphaMERS Ltd.'s and deployed in eight cities across India to trap trash in water bodies, has won the Cleaning and Restoring India's Water Bodies Challenge.



About:

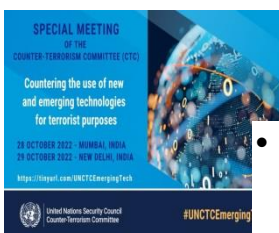
- Floating trash barrier could address the serious environmental issue of floating solid waste pollution plaguing India's water bodies.
- The FTB uses the natural flow of water to bring the trash to the riverbank where it is deployed and from there the trash is manually or mechanically removed.
- The FTB is deployed in eight cities — Bengaluru, Chennai, Puducherry, Hyderabad, Mysuru, Thanjavur, Tuticorin and Coimbatore.
- The FTB is said to be successful in cleaning up the Cooum in Chennai and the Musi in Hyderabad.
- In Bengaluru, it has been deployed in some storm-water drains, and Nagawara and Dasarahalli lakes.

Cleaning and Restoring India's Water Bodies Challenge:

- Cleaning and Restoring India's Water Bodies Challenge was conducted by the Office of the Principal Scientific Advisor (PSA).
- The challenge was conducted by the **Waste to Wealth Mission — Swachh Bharat Unnat Bharat Mission** under the Office of the PSA during November 27, 2020 and February 17, 2021.

UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL COUNTER-TERRORISM COMMITTEE

The UNSC's counter-terrorism meeting will be hosted in Mumbai and Delhi on 28 and 29 October, respectively.



About:

- This will be the first such meeting of the UNSC-CTC in India since its establishment in 2001.
- The Permanent Representative of India to the UN serves as the Chair of the CTC for 2022.
- The overarching theme of the meeting would be '**countering the use of new and emerging technologies for terrorist purposes**'.

Counter-Terrorism Committee:

- The Counter-Terrorism Committee was established by **Security Council resolution 1373** adopted unanimously on **28 September 2001** in the wake of the 9/11 terror attacks in the US.
- The Committee was tasked with monitoring implementation of resolution 1373 which requested countries to implement a number of measures aimed at enhancing their legal and institutional ability to counter terrorist activities at home and around the world.
- This includes taking steps to criminalize the financing of terrorism, freezing any funds related to persons involved in acts of terrorism, deny all forms of financial support for terrorist groups, suppress the provision of safe haven, sustenance or support for terrorists and share information with other governments on any groups practicing or planning terrorist acts.
- Besides, the Committee monitors steps taken to cooperate with other governments in the investigation, detection, arrest, extradition and prosecution of those involved in terror acts and criminalizes active and passive assistance for terrorism.

NATIONAL INVESTIGATION AGENCY (NIA)

Union Home and Cooperation Minister recently said that National Investigation Agency (NIA) agency to have offices in all states by 2024.



About:

- National Investigation Agency (NIA) is the Central Counter Terrorism Law Enforcement Agency of India.
- **Parent agency:** Union Ministry of Home Affairs.
- **Establishment:** NIA was created after the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks with the enactment of the National Investigation Agency Act 2008.
- **Jurisdiction:**
 - The agency is empowered to deal with terror related crimes across states without special permission from the states.

- A State Government may request the Central Government to hand over the investigation of a case to the NIA, provided the case has been registered for the offences as contained in the schedule to the NIA Act.
- **NIA special courts:**
 - Various Special Courts have been notified by the Govt. of India for trial of the cases arising out of offences committed in various states of the Union.
 - These are presided over by a judge appointed by the Central Government on the recommendation of the Chief Justice of the High Court with jurisdiction in that region.
- **Offices:**
 - It is headquartered in **Delhi**.
 - **Branches:** Hyderabad, Guwahati, Kochi, Lucknow, Mumbai, Kolkata, Raipur, Jammu, Chandigarh, Ranchi, Chennai and Imphal.

OVERHAUSER MAGNETOMETER

Indian scientists have recently developed an Overhauser Magnetometer.



About:

- The Indian Institute of Geomagnetism (IIG), an autonomous research institution under Department of Science & Technology, Government of India, has developed the magnetometer as part of its technology development program.
- It will pave way for reducing the cost of sampling and sensing experiments essential for geomagnetic sampling.
- The performance of this indigenously made magnetometer is at par with a commercial OVH sensor that is currently installed at the magnetic observatories of IIG.
- Overhauser Magnetometer is one of the most accurate magnetometers extensively used by all magnetic observatories around the world.
- They are known for their higher accuracy, higher sensitivity, and efficient power consumption and hence find applications in all magnetic observatories worldwide as well as in international space programs.

- It has so far been imported for such purposes in India.
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INFANTRY DAY

Infantry Day is commemorated on 27 October every year.



About:

- It aims to acknowledge the contributions of Infantry, the **largest fighting arm of the Indian Army**.
 - This day is commemorated to honour the brave soldiers of the infantry who fought and laid down their lives during the **India-Pakistan war in 1947**.
 - The operation was started on October 27, 1947; to protect the people of **Kashmir** from the Pakistani invaders after Maharaja Hari Singh of Kashmir had signed the Instrument of Accession of Kashmir to India.
 - The Indian Air force carried out the task of flying the troops of 1st Sikh Regiment into Srinagar on this day.
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PRADHANMANTRI SANGRAHALAYA

Pradhanmantri Sangrahalaya received 1,15,161 visitors upto 30th September, 2022. The Sangrahalaya was opened for public on 21st April 2022.



About:

- The Pradhanmantri Sangrahalaya is a tribute to every Prime Minister of India since Independence, and a narrative record of how each one has contributed to the development of our nation over the last 75 years.
 - The logo of the Sangrahalaya shows hands holding the dharma chakra, symbolising the nation and democracy.
 - The Sangrahalaya will also include the **Nehru Museum**.
 - It is located at the iconic **Teen Murti complex**.
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Display:

- From the freedom struggle to the framing of the Constitution, the museum will have displays that showcase stories of how the respective Prime Ministers steered the nation.
- Personal items, gifts and memorabilia like medals, commemorative stamps, speeches of PMs and anecdotal representations of ideologies will be on display at the museum.

History:

- The **Teen Murti Bhawan**, the site of the new museum, was the official residence of Jawaharlal Nehru, the first Prime Minister of India.
 - The Nehru Memorial Museum and Library (NMML) was set up in his memory on its premises as an **autonomous institution under the Union Culture Ministry**.
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