



Current Affairs of the Day

NDA will admit women: govt

THE HINDU

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Centre informs SC of its decision, to file an affidavit by September 22

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Union government on Wednesday gave the Supreme Court the “good news” that it had taken a decision to allow women entry into the National Defence Academy (NDA), so far a male bastion for recruitment into the armed forces.

If this decision comes through formally on paper, women can prepare for a career in the armed forces immediately after Class 12.

“There is good news. The forces at the highest level and the government has taken a decision last evening to induct girls for permanent commission through the National Defence Academy,” Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati informed a Bench led by Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul and M.M. Sundresh.

The Bench asked the government to file an affidavit in this regard by September 22, the next date of hearing. It said the armed forces was a respected institution, but it



In command: Women officers of the Army have brought laurels to the force, the Supreme Court said. •FILE PHOTO

had more to do regarding gender equality.

The court admitted that it was not a happy situation for it to constantly nudge the authorities into taking action on bettering gender representation. The Bench said the authorities needed to act by themselves.

The court commended Ms. Bhati for taking pro-active measures in favour of women interested in a career in the armed forces.

Ms. Bhati urged the court for the time being to maintain status quo about the ad-

missions to the NDA in the present academic year. She said the NDA exam, originally scheduled for September 5, had been postponed to November.

“Consider granting status quo for this examination and let it continue, as it will need policy, procedure, training and infrastructure changes,” she submitted. On August 18, the court issued an interim order allowing women candidates to take the NDA exam, which was then scheduled on September 5.

The court had also then

questioned why “co-education is a problem” in the armed forces. It had orally observed that it was “absurd” that women were not allowed to appear for the exam even after the Supreme Court, in a judgment, directed permanent commission for women in the Army.

Feb. 2020 ruling

On February 17 last year, the court upheld permanent commission for women officers. It dismissed the government’s submissions that women were physiologically weaker than men as a “sex stereotype”. It declared that Short Service Commission (SSC) women officers were eligible for permanent commission and command posts in the Army irrespective of their years of service.

“Women officers of the Indian Army have brought laurels to the force... Their track record of service to the nation is beyond reproach,” Justice Chandrachud had observed in a 54-page judgment in the Army case.

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Sanctions relief will be based on the Taliban's behaviour, says the U.S.

After the Taliban announced a government in Kabul that included UN-designated terrorists, the U.S. mission to the UN has said the UN Security Council will base any decisions on de-listing terrorists on the Taliban's human rights policies. The U.S. position is of particular importance to India, which is not only a close neighbour of Afghanistan but also the head of the 1988 UNSC Sanctions Committee, the 'Taliban Sanctions Committee'.

Taliban government

1. Among those in the newly formed Taliban government are Prime Minister Hasan Akhund — an UN-designated terrorist — and Interior Minister Sirajuddin Haqqani, who is listed as a terrorist by both the UN and the U.S.
2. The Security Council will take into account any behaviour that disregards the human rights of Afghans as it reviews the travel ban exemption and the status of designations.

Sanctions relief will be based on Taliban's behaviour, says U.S.

'If they harbour terrorists or fail to uphold rights, sanctions will stay in place'

By Staff Writers

Hours after the Taliban announced a government in Kabul that included UN-designated terrorists, the U.S. mission to the UN has said the UN Security Council will base any decisions on de-listing terrorists on the Taliban's human rights policies. The U.S. position is of particular importance to India, which is not only a close neighbour of Afghanistan but also the head of the 1988 UNSC Sanctions Committee, the 'Taliban Sanctions Committee'.

Among those in the newly formed government are Prime Minister Hasan Akhund — a UN-designated terrorist — and Interior Minister Sirajuddin Haqqani, who is listed as a terrorist by both the UN and the U.S.

"We stand by Resolution 2011. We are watching the Taliban's actions closely," a U.S. UN mission spokesperson told The Hindu via email on Tuesday.

Resolution 2011, adopted by the UNSC in March 2011 when the Trump administration was representing the U.S., supported, in part, the de-listing of Taliban leaders in exchange for a return of Afghan refugees and peace.

The resolution linked a review of the listing decision to the actions of the Taliban in supporting peace and stability in Afghanistan.

"The Security Council will take into account any behaviour that disregards the human rights of Afghans as it reviews the travel ban exemption and the status of designations. We continue to review all UN sanctions pro-



Taliban leader Mullah Mohammad Hassan Akhund, right, in Islamabad on August 25, 2021.

grammes and are prepared to adjust them in light of evolving circumstances. Needless to say, however, should the Taliban support or harbour terrorists who threaten the security of the international community, we will not hesitate to take action to uphold human rights in Afghanistan, including for women and girls, sanctions will remain in place," the mission spokesperson said on Tuesday.

India's Permanent Representative to the UN, T. Suresh, said no requests had been discussed as of Wednesday morning.

"There have been no de-listing requests yet. The sanctions committee will take a decision on the request if and when they are made. It is premature for me at this stage to predict what the Committee will decide," he told The Hindu on Wednesday.

India is following a 'wait and watch' approach with the Taliban, including on matters related to the UNSC Committee on based on

concerns. Foreign Secretary Sushant Kishore said reports in Washington last Friday which asked about whether the Security Council would de-list Taliban terrorists.

"There's hope that we are one step off if UNSC members and we have to discuss what the rest of the international community is saying," he said, adding that no de-listing requests had been discussed.

The resignation of the Taliban is "a start. That's a step by Member States, not by the Taliban," said Deputy Undersecretary for the Security Council, said an report by the Press Trust of India.

The UNSC Committee is expected to meet on Wednesday. This might coincide with the September 17 resignation of the UN Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights.

U.S. policy
The U.S. government, across its agencies, appears not to have a clear policy yet on de-

listing the existing situation in Afghanistan as well as other countries' actions, such as China in the designation.

Asked whether he is concerned about China listing the Taliban, U.S. President Joe Biden on Tuesday said that China, like other countries, will try and work out an arrangement with the group.

"Well, China has a real problem with the Taliban, as they're going to work out some arrangement with the Taliban. In our — in our Pakistan, so they have, as they say," he said.

"They're all trying to figure out what they do next. So it will be interesting to see what happens."

On Tuesday, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken, in India on a visit, said the U.S. would be "looking very, very carefully" at whether the Taliban were living up to their commitments (such as upholding human rights of Afghans, especially women and girls, and allowing women).



- Needless to say, however, should the Taliban support or harbour terrorists who threaten the security of the international community, or fail to uphold human rights in Afghanistan, including for women and girls, sanctions will remain in place.

1988 Committee/Taliban Sanctions Committee

- In 1999, the UNSC Committee was established pursuant to Resolution 1267 (1999), which imposed a limited air embargo and asset freeze on the Taliban. Over time, measures became a targeted asset freeze, travel ban and arms embargo against designated individuals and entities.
- In June 2011, after the adoption of resolution 1988 (2011), the Committee split into two.
- The 1267 Committee was henceforth known as the Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee, mandated to oversee implementation of the measures against individuals and entities associated with Al-Qaida.
- A separate Committee was established pursuant to resolution 1988 (2011) to oversee the implementation of the measures against individuals and entities associated with the Taliban.
- The Committee comprises all 15 members of the Security Council and makes its decision by consensus. The current Chair of the Committee, for the period ending 31st December 2021, is India.

Govt. clears ₹10,683 cr. textiles PLI plan

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Govt. clears ₹10,683 cr. textiles PLI plan

Incentives aim to boost investment in new capacities in man-made fibre apparel, technical textiles

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved a ₹10,683 crore Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for the textile sector with a view to "helping India regain its historical dominant status in global textiles trade".

The incentives are designed to encourage investment in new capacities in man-made fibre (MMF) apparel, MMF fabrics, and 3D organosols or products of technical textiles. The government expects the scheme to help attract fresh investment of more than ₹9,000 crore, creating an additional 7.5 lakh direct jobs.

"Turning the sector a game changer", Union Minister for Textiles, Commerce and Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution



Spinning support: The plan may help draw investment of more ₹9,000 crore, adding 7.5 lakh jobs. AP, THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Piyush Goyal said the PLI plan that any investment in the sector would have a multiplier effect especially in job creation. "The PLI as a whole is a game changer. And, for textiles it will be a big, big boost. Because, you create maximum employment in the textile sector, for every rupee invested," he added. Two-thirds of India's textile exports now are cotton-based whereas 86-90% of world trade in textiles and apparel is MMF-based and technical textiles. India's focus on the manufacture of

textiles in the MMF sector is expected to help boost its ability to compete globally.

Two categories

The scheme envisages two levels of investment with different sets of incentives. While any person or firm can invest a minimum ₹300 crore in plant, machinery, and civil works to produce the identified products to receive incentives for the PLI, in the second category a minimum investment of ₹100 crore would enable an individual or firm eligible to apply for the incentives.

Priority would be given for investment in agricultural districts, tier-three, tier-four towns and rural areas. The scheme is expected to benefit states such as Gujarat, U.P., Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Punjab, Andhra, Te-

lengana and Odisha. Textiles Secretary Prashant Singh said guidelines for implementation of the scheme would be notified by the end of this month. A portal would be opened to receive applications and the plan is to allow two months time to the units to apply for benefits under the scheme.

Applicants would have two years as investment period and 2024-2025 would be the 'performance' year. The incentive flow would start in 2023-2024 and extend for five years.

S.K. Sankararaman, chairman of the Indian Technical Textile Association, said the PLI plan, along with other schemes, was a boost to the MMF sector. It would help accelerate decisions by firms opening the sector.



investment in new capacities in man-made fibre (MMF) apparel, MMF fabrics, and 10 segments or products of technical textiles.

3. The government expects the scheme to help attract fresh investment of more than ₹19,000 crores, creating an additional 7.5 lakh direct jobs.
4. Two-thirds of India's textile exports now are cotton-based whereas 66-70% of world trade in textiles and apparel is MMF-based and technical textiles. India's focus on the manufacture of textiles in the MMF sector is expected to help boost its ability to compete globally.

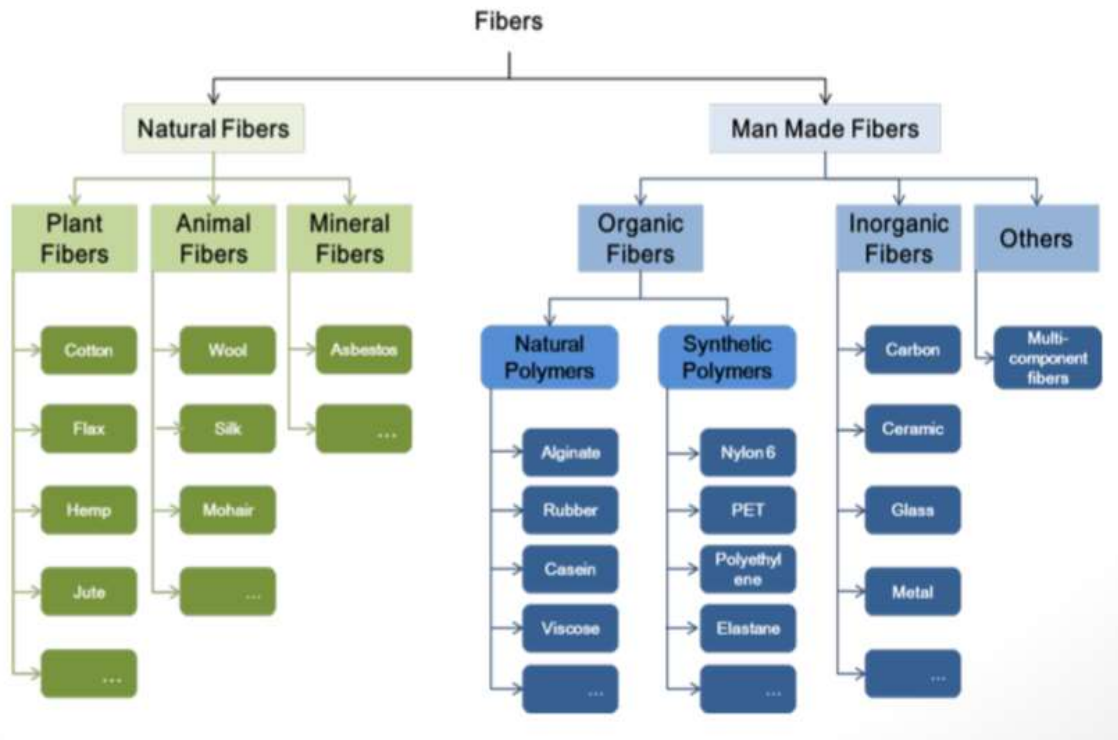
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Fibres are classified into 2 groups; natural fibres and man-made fibres (MMF). Natural fibres are fibres made by nature. Typical examples are cotton and wool, which are mainly used in textile clothing but there are many other natural fibres produced in smaller quantities such as e.g. silk, flax or hemp.

Man-made fibres (MMF) are fibres made by man. MMF can be organic or inorganic. Organic MMF can be made from natural materials like wood, or are made from synthetic polymers. Manmade fibres are made from various chemicals or are regenerated from plant fibres. Examples of manmade fibres are polyester; polyamide - (nylon); acrylics; viscose, made from wood bark; Kevlar, a high-performance fibre; and Nomex, a high-performance fibre.

Viscose is a typical example and an important MMF, which is made from wood pulp, a cellulose material. Other MMF are petroleum-based synthetic fibres such as polyamide, polyester, acrylic, aramids, etc.



A reality check for higher education dreams

The proposed academic bank of credits, multiple entry-exit options will require infrastructure, manpower and budget that the Indian education system simply does not possess

Indian Dream of Higher Education:

1. Imagine a student doing a physics course from Panjab University, mathematics from TIFR, chemistry from IISc, an astronomy course from Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences and a course in AI from IIIT Hyderabad, drop out for a year and still have a career in astrophysics — all enabled by a virtual online entity.
2. All this could be a possibility when the UGC starts implementing its two recent regulations — the Academic Bank of Credits and Multiple Entry and Exit.





Relevance and Need of NEP 2020

1. The National Education Policy (NEP), released in July 2020, rightly observes that the education delivery system in India is too structured, rigid and expensive.
2. Students tend to drop out because of its lack of relevance, its failing to sustain their interest or because of affordability. The two regulations could change all this by promoting flexibility of curriculum framework, interdisciplinarity and academic mobility for students across higher education institutions, with appropriate credit transfer mechanisms.
3. Most importantly, they can facilitate students choosing their learning path to attain a degree, diploma or certification with multiple entry-multiple exit options.
4. Above all, the regulations aim at student-centric learning, customised for each student's strengths, needs, skills, and interests. The regulations are, therefore, being showcased as star recommendations of NEP and game-changers for higher education.

Concerns in implementation on the ground:

1. To believe a young student of 15 or 16 meaningfully selecting the best courses or combination of courses to suit her aptitude or her future seems a bit difficult.
2. She may not be able to tailor her degrees as she wishes, as the control over the nomenclature of the degree rests solely with the UGC.
3. Besides, it does not make sense to issue the same degree to students following different curricula.
4. Multiple entry/exits for students to complete degrees at their pace with the flexibility to choose courses across disciplines is a great thought but difficult to implement.
5. Besides, if a student chooses to drop a year or two into a degree programme, the issue of his employability remains unresolved.

Not so flexible:

1. Regarding flexibility in the choice of subjects, if 50 per cent of the curriculum must be carried out within the degree-granting institute, then there is actually little flexibility left for the student.
2. If flexibility with quality were the tenets, why limit courses only to those available on SWAYAM, NPTEL, V-Lab, etc, for credit transfer and credit accumulation? One must recognise that quality is not restricted to government portals.



3. Just as the jurisdiction of a university defeats the very purpose of offering quality education to anyone who wants it, limiting the number of students registering for a course in a certain university also defeats the purpose of accumulating credits. Also, why prevent credits from good foreign institutions from being recognised.


Manpower, Infrastructure and Budget Challenges


1. Student-centric learning customised for each student's strengths comes at a cost. It implies huge budgetary allocations in terms of improving the teacher-student ratio from the present 1:30 to 1:5. The faculty will need to be reoriented to become guides and mentors, from just teachers.
2. Besides improving record maintenance, the conduct of credible assessment, transfer of credits and award of degrees with similar quality levels across institutions will require substantial funds both for manpower as well as IT infrastructure.

The Academic Bank of Credits and its accompanying regulations are perhaps not the solutions for all evil but the proposal does have some innovative ideas, including one on a fee structure based on credits earned. It is an idea whose time has come. In times to come, the level and quality of its implementation will be an indicator of the health of higher education in the country.

NEP at Glance:

NATIONAL EDUCATION POLICY 2020



Universalization of Education from pre-school to secondary level with 100% GER in school education by 2030			
	GER in higher education to be raised to 50% by 2035 ; 3.5 crore seats to be added in higher education	NEP 2020 will bring 2 crore out of school children back into the main stream	New 5+3+3+4 school curriculum with 12 years of schooling and 3 years of Anganwadi/Pre-schooling
	No rigid separation between academic streams, extracurricular, vocational streams in schools	Vocational Education to start from Class 6 with Internships	Teaching upto at least Grade 5 to be in mother tongue/regional language



National Education Policy 2020

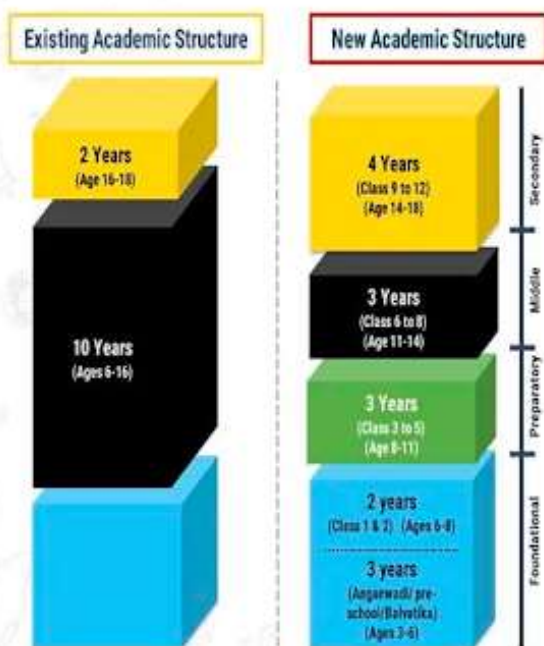
TRANSFORMATIONAL REFORMS IN EDUCATION SYSTEM

School Education



- **Universal Access from pre-primary school to Grade 12**
Target to achieve 100% Gross Enrollment Ratio in school education by 2030
- **Early Childhood Care Education**
Education for all children between 3-6 years by 2025
- **Replacing 10+2 with 5+3+3+4**
After five years in pre-primary, students to aim at enhanced skills in new pedagogical system
- **National Mission on Foundational Literacy and Numeracy**
Focus on early language and mathematical skills from Grades 1-3 by 2025
- **Multilingualism and the power of language**
Medium of instruction till Class 5, preferably till 8, to be home language/mother tongue
- **Reforms in exams**
Board exams to be broken into two, to test core capabilities
- **New National Assessment Centre PARAKH**
A standard-setting body for assessment of students pan-India
- **Equitable and inclusive education**
Emphasis on socially disadvantaged, girls, socio-cultural identity children for education
- **Teacher recruitment and career path**
National Professional Standards for Teachers (NPST) to be developed by 2022 for teachers
- **Standard-setting and Accreditation for School Education**
State School Standards Authority to be set up in all States/UTs
- **Vocational Education**
By 2025, at least 50% of students to have exposure to vocational education

Transforming Curricular & Pedagogical Structure



New pedagogical and curricular structure of school education (5+3+3+4): 3 years in Anganwadi/pre-school and 12 years in school

- **Secondary Stage(4)** multidisciplinary study, greater critical thinking, flexibility and student choice of subjects
- **Middle Stage (3)** experiential learning in the sciences, mathematics, arts, social sciences, and humanities
- **Preparatory Stage (3)** play, discovery, and activity-based and interactive classroom learning
- **Foundational stage (5)** multilevel, play/activity-based learning



Higher Education Reform Proposed in NEP 2020

- Gross Enrolment Ratio in higher education to be raised to 50 % by 2035; 3.5 crore seats to be added in higher education.
- The policy envisages broad-based, multi-disciplinary, holistic Under Graduate education with flexible curricula, creative combinations of subjects, integration of vocational education and multiple entries and exit points with appropriate certification.
- UG education can be of 3 or 4 years with multiple exit options and appropriate certification within this period.
- Academic Bank of Credits to be established to facilitate Transfer of Credits
- Multidisciplinary Education and Research Universities (MERUs), at par with IITs, IIMs, to be set up as models of best multidisciplinary education of global standards in the country.
- The National Research Foundation will be created as an apex body for fostering a strong research culture and building research capacity across higher education.
- Higher Education Commission of India(HECI) will be set up as a single overarching umbrella body for entire higher education, excluding medical and legal education. HECI to have four independent verticals - National Higher Education Regulatory Council (NHERC) for regulation, General Education Council (GEC) for standard-setting, Higher Education Grants Council (HEGC) for funding, and National Accreditation Council(NAC) for accreditation.
- Public and private higher education institutions will be governed by the same set of norms for regulation, accreditation and academic standards.
- Affiliation of colleges is to be phased out in 15 years and a stage-wise mechanism is to be established for granting graded autonomy to colleges. Over a period of time, it is envisaged that every college would develop into either an Autonomous degree-granting College or a constituent college of a university.



How India's food systems must respond to the climate crisis

The narrative of Indian agriculture has to be changed towards more diversified high-value production, better remunerative prices and farm incomes. It must be inclusive in terms of women and small farmers; it must be nutrition-sensitive, environment friendly and sustainable.



Sustainability of Food production systems:

1. This month, the UN Secretary-General will convene the Food Systems Summit, which aims for a transformation of global food systems in order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030.
2. There are five action tracks to achieve the objectives. These are: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all; shift to sustainable consumption patterns; boost nature-positive production; advance equitable livelihoods; build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress.
3. According to the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), “food systems encompass the entire range of actors involved in the production, aggregation, processing, distribution, consumption and disposal of food products that originate from agriculture, forestry or fisheries, and parts of the broader economic, societal and natural environments in which they are embedded”.
4. India also has to transform its food systems, which have to be inclusive and sustainable for higher farm incomes and nutrition security. In this context, it would be useful to look at India's policies across food systems.



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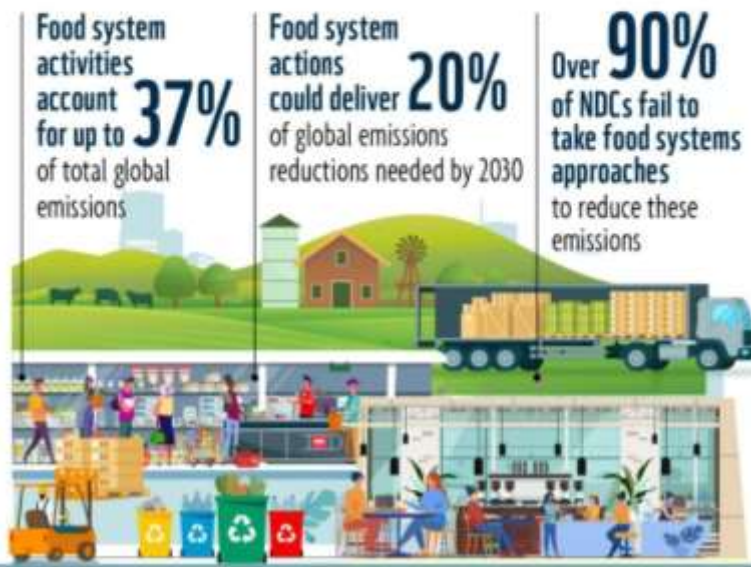
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Food Systems: Emissions and Solutions



The NDC re-submission by 2021 offers an opportunity for countries to address food systems emissions comprehensively and concretely including by:

- | | | |
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| Reducing land-use change | Adopting nature-positive production technique | Encouraging agroforestry systems |
| Reducing emissions from livestock | Improving handling and storage of food | Reducing post harvest food loss |
| Reduce food waste by consumers and retailers | Increasing consumption of healthy and sustainable food | Reducing emissions from rice paddies |

Learn 16 ways policymakers can take more action from farm to fork at www.panda.org/NDCs



The NDC re-submission by 2021 offers an opportunity for countries to address food systems emissions comprehensively and concretely including by:



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Food security to Food production sustainability:

1. There has been significant progress in the country's agricultural development since Independence, from a food-deficit country to a country self-sufficient in food.
2. However, the Green Revolution also led to water-logging, soil erosion, groundwater depletion and the unsustainability of agriculture. Current policies are still based on the "deficit" mindset of the 1960s. The procurement, subsidies and water policies are biased towards rice and wheat.



3. Three crops (rice, wheat and sugarcane) corner 75 to 80 per cent of irrigated water. Diversification of cropping patterns towards millets, pulses, oilseeds, horticulture is needed for more equal distribution of water, sustainable and climate-resilient agriculture.
4. The narrative of Indian agriculture has to be changed towards more diversified high-value production, better remunerative prices and farm incomes. It must be inclusive in terms of women and small farmers; it must be nutrition-sensitive, environment friendly and sustainable.

The way forward and Success stories:

1. Small farmers require special support, public goods and links to input and output markets. Many technological and institutional innovations can enable them to increase incomes through diversification, and benefit from value chains.
2. Best institutional practices have to be followed in agricultural marketing. Farmer producer organisations help get better prices for inputs and outputs for smallholders. The ITC's E-Choupal is an example of technology benefiting small farmers.
3. Similarly, women's empowerment is important particularly for raising incomes and nutrition. Women's cooperatives and groups like Kudumbashree in Kerala would be helpful.
4. One of the successful examples of a value chain that helped smallholders, women and consumers are Amul (Anand Milk Union Ltd) created by Verghese Kurien. Such innovations are needed in other activities of food systems.

The sustainability of food systems

1. The sustainability of food systems is equally important. Estimates show that the food sector emits around 30 per cent of the world's greenhouse gases. This is going to be crucial in the years to come due to climate change.
2. Sustainability has to be achieved in production, value chains and consumption. Climate-resilient cropping patterns have to be promoted. Instead of giving input subsidies, cash transfers can be given to farmers for sustainable agriculture.

To conclude, at the global level, there is a proposal to have an International Panel on Food and Nutritional Security (IPFN) — an “IPCC for food,” similar to the panel on climate change. The UN food systems summit this month is a great opportunity to boost policies for achieving SDGs. Science and technology



are important drivers to achieve these goals. India should also aim for a food systems transformation, which can be inclusive and sustainable, ensure growing farm incomes and nutrition security.

Mains Answer Writing practice

Discuss Food systems emission and their crucial role in climate change mitigation efforts. Suggest various measures to reduce food systems emissions.

Practice MCQs

Q. Which of the following is/are man-made fibres?

1. Polyester
2. Kevlar
3. Viscose
4. Flax
5. Silk

Select the correct answer from the codes given below

- a. 1 and 4 only
- b. 1, 2 and 3 only
- c. 2, 3 and 4 only
- d. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5