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INDIAN EXPRESS Page 1

SOUTH CHINA SEA

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 – IR)

Beijing, Washington trade charges over US vessel in South China Sea

REUTERS
BEIJING, SHANGHAI, NOVEMBER 26

CHINA AND the United States exchanged accusations at the weekend over disputed South China Sea, after China's military said it had driven away a US warship that US Navy said was on a routine freedom of navigation operation.

According to a post on the official WeChat social media account of the Chinese People's Liberation Army Southern Theatre Command on Saturday, the Chinese military deployed its naval and air forces to "track, monitor and warn away" the US destroyer.



A US guided-missile destroyer transits Philippine Sea, in 2018. *Reuters file*

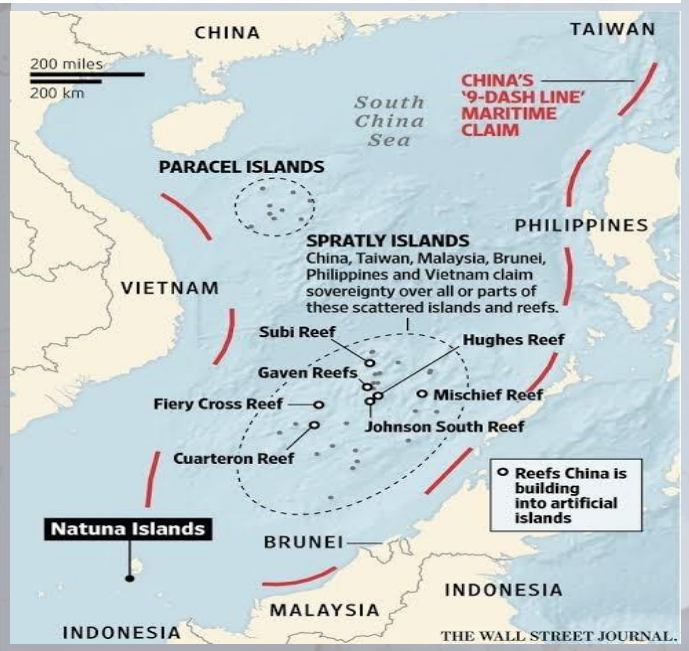
The US Navy said on Sunday that the Hopper had "asserted navigational rights in South China Sea near the Paracel Islands, consistent with international law".

This weekend's incident, China said, "proves that the United States is an out-and-out 'security risk creator' in the South China Sea".

Lieutenant Kristina Weidemann, deputy spokesperson for the US 7th Fleet, said in an emailed statement:

"The United States challenges excessive maritime claims around the world regardless of the identity of the claimant.

"Unlawful and sweeping maritime claims in the South China Sea pose a serious threat to the freedom of the seas."



Context: Recently, **China and the United States traded accusations** over the **disputed South China Sea** following an incident where China's military claimed to have repelled a U.S. warship engaged in what the U.S. Navy described as a routine freedom of navigation operation.

South China Sea

- **About**: It is one of the world's busiest waterways and plays a crucial role in global trade and merchant shipping.
- **Location**: The South China Sea is a marginal sea of the Western Pacific Ocean
- **Bordering Countries**: The People's Republic of China, the Republic of China (Taiwan), the Philippines, Malaysia, Brunei, Indonesia, Singapore and Vietnam.
- **Straits**: Taiwan Strait, connecting to the East China Sea; the Luzon Strait, linking to the Philippine Sea; straits surrounding Palawan, connecting to the Sulu Sea; the Strait of Singapore, providing access to the Strait of Malacca; and the Karimata and Bangka Strait, connecting to the Java Sea.
- **Reason for Dispute**: The South China Sea disputes involve claims over maritime territories and islands by various sovereign states in the region.
- **Countries Party dispute**: China, Brunei, Taiwan, the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Indonesia etc.

Claims Over Islands

- **The Paracel Islands**: Claimed by China, Taiwan and Vietnam.
- **The Spratly Islands**: Claimed by China, Taiwan, Malaysia, Vietnam, Brunei and the Philippines.
- **The Scarborough Shoal**: Claimed by the Philippines, China and Taiwan.

THE HINDU

Page 1

CITIZENSHIP AMENDMENT ACT

Syllabus GS Paper 2 - Polity)

Rules of Citizenship Amendment Act will be framed by March, says Minister

The Hindu Bureau
KOLKATA

Rules of the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) will be framed by March 2024, Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Ajay Kumar Mishra said on Sunday.

Addressing a gathering in North 24 Parganas district of West Bengal, Mr. Mishra tried to allay fears of the Matua community over the delay in framing the rules, and said the Act passed by Parliament in December 2019 ensured that members of the community became citizens.

"You will get the full rights of citizenship. Even in the absence of proper documents, no action can be initiated against you. This we have included in the Act," the Minister said.



Ajay Kumar Mishra at an event of the Matua community in West Bengal's North 24 Parganas on Sunday. FACEBOOK/AJAYMISHRTENI

By the latest information he had, the Parliamentary Committee on Subordinate Legislation in the Lok Sabha had fixed time till January 9, 2024 and the committee in the Rajya Sabha till March 30, 2024 for framing the CAA rules.

"We are hopeful that the rules of the CAA will be framed by then. In case there are issues, some more time may be required. The CAA has been implemented in the country. It is the promise and commitment of the Government of India to provide [you] citizenship," Mr. Mishra said. The Minister's remarks assume significance ahead of the Lok Sabha election.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 12

Context: Recently, the **Minister of State for Home Affairs announced** that rules for the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) will be formulated by March 2024.

Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) 2019

- **It amended**: The act amended the Citizenship Act, 1955 to make illegal migrants eligible for citizenship of India.
- **Citizenship on the basis of religion**: The CAA provides citizenship on the basis of religion to six undocumented non-Muslim communities (Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians) from Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh who entered India on or before 31st December, 2014.
- **Definition**: Under the Act, an illegal migrant is a foreigner who:
  - Enters the country without valid travel documents like a passport and visa, or
  - Enters with valid documents, but stays beyond the permitted time period.
- **Citizenship by registration or naturalisation:** The Act allows a person to apply for citizenship by registration or naturalisation if the person meets certain qualifications.
- **Citizenship by registration or naturalisation:** The Act allows a person to apply for citizenship by registration or naturalisation if the person meets certain qualifications.
- **Non-applicability:** These provisions on citizenship for illegal migrants will not apply to the tribal areas of Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram, and Tripura, included in the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution.

Methods of Acquiring Citizenship of India prescribed in the Citizenship Act, 1955:

- By Birth, By Acquisition or Incorporation of Territory, By Descent, By Registration, By Naturalisation.

Why is the northeast against CAA?

- **Prolonged large-scale migration from neighboring countries** has been a persistent issue in the north-eastern states.
- **Indigenous residents have expressed their discontent through protests**, citing concerns about the impact of this migration on the social, economic, and political aspects of the region.

PIB Nov 26

CONSTITUTION DAY
(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 – Polity)

PRESIDENT OF INDIA GRACES THE CONSTITUTION DAY CELEBRATIONS ORGANISED BY THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA

Context: Recently, the P**resident of India attended the Constitution Day Celebrations** organized by the Supreme Court of India in New Delhi.

Constitution Day

- **About**: Constitution Day also known as **'Samvidhan Divas',** is celebrated in India on 26th November every year to commemorate the adoption of the Constitution of India.
- **Declaration:** The Government of India declared 26 November as Constitution Day on 19 November 2015 by a gazette notification.
- **Adoption of theConstitution**: On 26th November 1949, the Constituent Assembly of India adopted the Constitution of India, which came into effect on 26th January 1950.
- **Aim**: To promote constitutional values among citizens.
- **Note:** Constitution Day is not a public holiday.

About Constituent Assembly (CA)

- **Formation**: The Constituent Assembly was established in 1946 under the Cabinet Mission Plan of 1946.
- **Assembly Session**: On December 9, 1946, the Assembly convened its first meeting and elected Dr. Sachhidanand Sinha as the Provisional President.
- **Chairman Election**: Rajendra Prasad was elected as the permanent Chairman of the Constituent Assembly on December 11, 1946.
- **Drafting Period**: The drafting of the Constitution spanned three years, from 1946 to 1949.
- **Composition**: The CA comprised 299 elected members from provincial legislative assemblies.
- **Committee Structure**: The Constituent Assembly featured 13 committees, with B.R. Ambedkar heading the drafting committee.
- **Adoption of the Constitution**: In 1949, the Constitution was adopted, marked by the signing of 284 members, signifying the completion of the Constitution-making process.

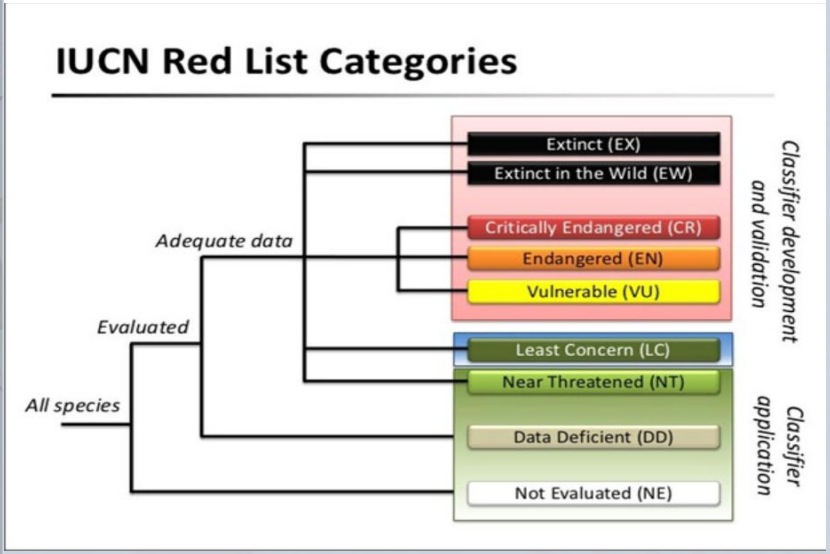
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Nov 26

IUCN

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 – Env and Eco)

Time for version 2.0: IUCN Red List outdated and unreliable, claim scientists in new paper



Importance of IUCN Red List

- **Guiding Scientific Research**: is a frequent citation in peer-reviewed scientific journals, with numerous conservation articles each year.
- **Informing Policy and Conventions**: The IUCN Red List plays a pivotal role in informing decisions related to Multilateral Environmental Agreements.

Context: Recently, **scientists and conservationists globally have voiced apprehensions** about the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species, citing its outdated and unreliable nature.

International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

- **About**: IUCN was founded in 1948 as the International Union for the Protection of Nature (IUPN).
- In 1956, the organization was renamed IUCN.
- **Headquarters**: Gland, Switzerland.
- **IUCN Red List**: The most extensive record of the worldwide conservation status of plant and animal species across the globe.
- **IUCN Red Data Book**: It is a publicly available document designed to record endangered and rare species of plants, animals, fungi, and certain local subspecies found in a specific region.

IUCN Classification

- **Extinct (EX)**: No reasonable doubt that the last individual of a taxon has died.
- **Extinct in the Wild (EW):** Survive only in cultivation, captivity, or as a naturalized population well outside its historic range.
- **Critically Endangered (CR)**: Faces an extremely high risk of extinction in its natural habitat.
- **Endangered (EN):** Faces a very high risk of extinction in the wild.
- **Vulnerable (VU)**: When it faces a high risk of extinction in its natural habitat.
- **Near Threatened (NT)**: This status is applied when a taxon is close to meeting the criteria for a threatened category or is likely to do so in the near future.
- **Least Concern (LC)**: This classification is given when a taxon does not qualify for a threatened category.
- **Data Deficient (DD)**: When there is insufficient knowledge to determine a taxon's risk of extinction, it is categorized as having data deficiencies.

LIVEMINT

Page 8

UNIFIED PAYMENTS INTERFACE

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 – Economy)

PM Modi bats for UPI payments

Prime Minister Narendra Modi urged people to stop making cash payments and go digital instead, in line with the government's digital economy push.

Delivering his '*Maan ki Baat*' radio address, Modi urged Indians to make payments only through the digital mode for at least a month.

"Decide for yourself that for one month you will make payments only through UPI (Unified Payments Interface) or any digital medium, and not through cash," he said. "The success of the digital revolution in India has made this absolutely possible." UPI transactions are gradually becoming more widespread across the country, and cash in circulation is finally seeing a decline. In October, as the festive season leading up to Diwali began, India registered more than 11 billion UPI transactions worth ₹17.16 trillion, according to the National Payments Corporation of India.

RHIK KUNDU



Context: Recently, the **Prime Minister of India encouraged citizens** to abandon cash transactions and **embrace digital payments** as part of the government's ongoing push towards a digital economy.

- **UPI transactions are gradually becoming more widespread** across the country, and cash in circulation is finally seeing a decline.

Unified Payments Interface UPI

- **About**: UPI is a system that powers multiple bank accounts into a single mobile application (of any participating bank), merging several banking features, seamless fund routing & merchant payments into one hood.
- **Developed by**: National Payments Corporation of India in 2016.
- **Participants in UPI**: Payer Payment Service Provider (PSP), Payee PSP, Remitter Bank, Beneficiary Bank, NPCI, Bank Account holders, and Merchants.
- **Global Recognition of UPI**: UPI had already established itself in countries like Singapore, Bhutan, Nepal, and the UAE.
- **International Adoption of Indian Payment Systems**: France, UAE, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Singapore, Maldives, Bhutan, and Oman.

Benefits of UPI

- Single-click Two Factor authentication
- Universal Application for transaction
- No risk of storing customer's virtual address like in Cards.
- Safer, Secured and Innovative

PIB Nov 26

YUVA SANGAM
(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 – Govt Schemes)

Ministry of Education kick-starts the third phase of Yuva Sangam under Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat initiative

Context: The **Ministry of Education kick-started the 3rd phase of Yuva Sangam** with a delegation of 50 students belonging to diverse parts of Madhya Pradesh traveling to West Bengal for a cultural cum education tour.

Yuva Sangam

- **About**: Yuva Sangam initiative endeavors to promote experiential learning and introduce youth to the rich diversity of our country.
- **Aim**: To provide an immersive experience into the unique facets of life, development landmarks, architectural and engineering marvels, industrial progress and recent achievements in the host state with the focus being on people to people connect.
- **Part of**: **Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat.**

Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat

- **About**: The initiative 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat' was announced by Hon'ble Prime Minister on 31st October, 2015 on the occasion of the 140th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.
- **Ministry**: Ministry of Education.
- **Aim**: To enhance interaction & promote mutual understanding between people of different states/UTs through the concept of state/UT pairing.
- **Activities**: Each state and union territory in the nation will be matched with another state/union territory for a designated period, during which they will engage in organized interactions encompassing language, literature, cuisine, festivals, cultural events, tourism, and more.

HINDUSTAN TIMES

Page 8

BASIC ANIMAL HUSBANDRY STATISTICS REPORT

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 – Economy)

Milk output slowed in 2022-23: Report

Zia Haq

zia.haq@htlive.com

NEW DELHI: The pace of milk output in India slowed in 2022-23, mainly due to the lumpy skin disease epidemic, but the country remains the largest producer in the world, official statistics released on Sunday showed.

India's milk production is estimated to be 230.58 million tonnes in 2022-23, a growth of 3.83% over the preceding year, according to the Basic Animal Husbandry Statistics 2023 report released by fisheries and dairying minister Parshottam Rupala at an event in Guwahati.

India has one of the largest national livestock populations in the world at 536.76 million, according to the 2019 livestock census, and dairying is a key source of income for nearly 80 million farmers.

Production had clocked annual growth rates of 6.47% in 2018-19; 5.69% in 2019-20; 5.81% in 2020-21; and 5.77% in 2021-22. Livestock accounts for 30% of the country's gross value added (GVA) in the farm sector. GVA is a measure of income that subtracts net taxes from gross domestic product.

In 2021 and 2022, India battled a lumpy skin disease epidemic among its milch cattle, which is estimated to have killed or emaciated nearly 300,000 cattle, hurting milk production and farm incomes.

At 230.58 million tonnes in 2022-23, milk output has registered a growth of 22.81% compared to 2018-19, when production was 187.75 million tonnes, the data showed.

A slower pace of growth in milk output in 2022-23 has pushed up domestic prices to a record. In April, retail milk prices rose 15% over the past year, the fastest clip in a decade, due to higher fodder prices, a shortage of milch cattle due to the epidemic and a slowdown in productivity in the world's largest producer.

The top milk-producing state in 2022-23 was Uttar Pradesh with a share of 15.72%, followed by Rajasthan at 14.44% and Madhya Pradesh at 8.73%. Gujarat came fourth with a 7.49% share.

Context: The recently released **Basic Animal Husbandry Statistics 2023 report** indicates that the pace of milk output in India decelerated in 2022-23, primarily attributed to the lumpy skin disease epidemic; nevertheless, the country continues to hold its position as the world's largest producer.

Key Facts as per Basic Animal Husbandry Statistics 2023 report :

- **Dairy Sector in India (Major facts)**: The **largest agri commodity** in India is milk. It **contributes 5% to the national economy** and employs 80 million dairy farmers directly.
  - India is **ranked 1st in milk production** contributing 23 % of global milk production.
  - India is **first among all countries in both production and consumption** of milk.
  - **Top Milk-Producing State**: Uttar Pradesh (15.72%), followed by Rajasthan(14.44%) and Madhya Pradesh (8.73%).
- **Livestock Population**: India has one of the largest national livestock populations in the world according to the 2019 livestock census.
- **Egg production**: During 2022-23 registered a growth of **33.31% growth over the past 5 years** as compared to 2018-19.
  - **Major contributors**: Andhra Pradesh>Tamil Nadu>Telangana>West Bengal>Karnataka (6.51 %).
  - **In terms of AGR**: West Bengal>Sikkim>Uttar Pradesh.
- **Meat Production**: During 2022-23 registered a growth of 20.39 % over the past 5 years.
  - **Major contributors**: Uttar Pradesh>West Bengal>Maharashtra>Andhra Pradesh>Telangana.
  - **In terms of Annual Growth Rate (AGR):** Sikkim>Meghalaya>Goa.
- **Wool Production**: During 2022-23 registered a negative growth of 16.84% over the past 5 years.
  - **Major contributors**: Rajasthan with a share of 47.98% followed by Jammu & Kashmir (22.55%), Gujarat (6.01%), Maharashtra (4.73%) and Himachal Pradesh (4.27%).
  - **In terms of Annual Growth Rate (AGR):** Arunachal Pradesh (35.75%) followed by Rajasthan (6.06%) and Jharkhand (2.36%).

ECONOMIC TIMES

Nov 26

FOOD GRAIN STORAGE IN INDIA

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 – Economy)

At 47%, India struggles to bridge the food grain storage gap

Context: India is the **third-largest producer of food grains** but has the **capacity to store only 47% of a year's grain output.** The space shortage is a big impediment to the growth of the economy **that was featured 111th on the Global Hunger Index recently.**

Key Points

- According to FAO Statistical Data of 2021, the **country's food grain production is 311 million tonnes (mt)** and storage capacity is only 145 mt a shortage of 166 mt in storage.
- **Some countries** have a storage **surplus of 130% of their output.**
- **Causes to Wastage**: According to a 2021 report by the World Bank, India's infrastructure deficit is estimated to be around $1.5 trillion.
- **Poor Infrastructure**: The **report also states that roads are in a poor state**, and this is a **major constraint to agricultural productivity**.
- **Power Supply: India's power supply is unreliable**, and this makes it difficult for farmers to store and process their crops.
- **Distribution of Agri Warehouses**: Around 60% of modern warehousing capacity is concentrated in and around Ahmedabad, Kolkata, Bengaluru, Chennai, Mumbai, and the National Capital Region (NCR).

Food Grain Storage Capacity in India

- India's food grain storage capacity **stands at 145 million metric tonnes** (MMT) in contrast to the total food production of 311 MMT, resulting in a gap of 166 MMT.
- The **storage capacity equates to 47% of India's total food grain** production.
- **Regional Disparities**: At the regional level, only a handful of southern states boast a storage capacity exceeding 90%.
- Conversely, in northern states such as UP and Bihar, the storage capacity falls below 50%.

World's Largest Grain Storage Plan

- **About**: The plan centers on establishing storage facilities and agricultural infrastructure at the Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) level.
- **Aim**: To bolster food security and minimize wastage.

OPEC+

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - IR)



India cautions Opec+ on market turbulence

High Prices Can Lead To Fall In Demand: Puri

Varanasi: Petroleum minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Sunday cautioned the Opec+ grouping of oil exporting countries to watch out for market turbulence at their forthcoming meeting to discuss production plan, saying high prices due to the uncertainties will lead to a drop in demand, reports **Sanjay Dutta**.

"It is their legitimate right... whatever they want to produce, not produce, or sell. But be very careful. If we reach a situation where turbulence leads to very high prices, then demand will fall," Puri told **TOI** after launching GAIL's second floating CNG refuelling facility for boats in Varanasi.

On expectations from the grouping's meeting scheduled for November 30, Puri declined to comment saying he was aware it was postponed last week. "Let's see what happens. But we are fully prepared (to deal with the grouping's decision)," he said.

Puri had put across these views at the 6th meeting of the Indian-Opec Energy Dialogue in November. Leveraging India's position as the world's third-largest oil guzzler, Puri spoke for the buyers, arguing that a stable market benefits both producers and consumers.

"I took the opportunity to tell my friend (Opec secretary-general Haitham Al Ghais) — and we work very closely — that high prices will impact global economy and oil demand. I think they understood the message," Puri said.

Analysts expect Opec+ to discuss a further cut in production to prop up prices, which dropped below $80 per barrel after the meeting was pushed back from November 26. Benchmark Brent slid to $79 per barrel from this year's high of nearly seen $98 in September on demand concerns and a possible surplus next year.

iStock

The Opec+ grouping will meet on November 30 to discuss the production plan



Context: Petroleum minister of **India cautioned the Opec+ grouping of oil exporting countries** to **watch out for market turbulence** at their forthcoming meeting to discuss production plan, saying high prices due to the uncertainties will lead to a drop in demand.

OPEC+

- **About**: It is a group of 23 oil-exporting countries that meets regularly to decide how much crude oil to sell on the world market.
- **Aim**: To work together on adjusting crude oil production to bring stability to the oil market.
- At the **core of this group are the 13 members of OPEC** (the Organization of the Oil Exporting Countries), which are mainly Middle Eastern and African countries.
- **Members**: 13 members of OPEC (Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Algeria, Angola, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Libya, Nigeria, the Republic of the Congo, and Venezuela) and 10 other oil-producing countries (Russia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Brunei, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Mexico, Oman, South Sudan and Sudan).
- **Russia, a major oil producer surpassing** even Saudi Arabia, holds a pivotal position alongside OPEC in shaping worldwide crude oil price trends.

OPEC

- **About**: It is a permanent, intergovernmental organization of 13 countries, created at the Baghdad Conference in 1960, by Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and Venezuela.
- **Headquarters**: Vienna, Austria.
- **Aim**: To regulate oil supply with the aim of stabilizing the global oil price, thus preventing volatility that could negatively impact the economies of both oil-producing and oil-importing nations.

THE PRINT

Page 4

DISPUTE SETTLEMENT SYSTEM

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 – IR)



WTO dispute talks a pain point for SA, India, Egypt

ASIT RANJAN MISHRA

New Delhi, 26 November

India, South Africa, and Egypt have expressed concern about the nature of discussions regarding reforms in the dispute settlement system at the World Trade Organization (WTO) ahead of the 13th ministerial conference (MC13) scheduled for February next year.

WTO members have engaged in informal delegate-level discussions since April 2022, initiated by the US, which is seeking consensus in the upcoming MC13 in Abu Dhabi for reforms in the dispute settlement system.

The two-tier dispute settlement system of the WTO, involving consultation and adjudication, has remained non-functional since December 2019 as the US refused to agree to the appointment of fresh members to the seven-member appellate body, the highest adjudicating authority.

The US claims that the present system has often overreached its mandate and has hinted at its preference for a single-tier system and more scope for bilaterally resolving disputes.

MC12 had mandated member countries to "conduct discussions with the view to having a fully and well-functioning dispute settlement system accessible to all members by 2024".

The three members, including India, said that these 'informal discussions' were meant to contribute to multilateral talks on dispute settlement reformsas mandated by the MC12 Ministerial Declaration, rather than to substitute for such discussions.

"The format and pace of the discussions have made it challenging for most developing countries, including least developed countries (LDCs), to effectively participate, consult with capitals to thoroughly prepare and present their views and suggestions, submit comprehensive proposals, and review progress. The informal and fragmented nature of the process, with its multiple meetings and lack of record-keeping, creates information asymmetry, particularly for capacity-constrained delegations," they said.

The three members claimed that the current discussion and drafting process as favour the participation of resource-rich delegations and deviate substantially from accepted WTO practices.

They pointed out that members cannot submit their own textual submissions on any aspect that is important to them. The input received by the drafting groups from commentators and peer reviewers was initially not shared with all delegates, resulting in differential access for delegations to the evolving text and discussions.

The members demanded full, effective, and equal participation in the WTO membership through an inclusive, equitable, and transparent process, preferably under the guidance of the Chair of the dispute settlement body.

They stressed the importance of remaining rooted in consensus-based decision-making and being facilitated by multilaterally mandated Chairs or co-Chairs, as is the current practice in the WTO.

The methods of work should facilitate the participation of developing countries, including LDCs, and delegations with limited resources.

The members highlighted that meaningfully addressing issues concerning the accessibility of developing countries and LDCs, including issues pertaining to third-party rights, compliance, retaliation, technical and financial assistance, litigation costs, and capacity building, are indispensable to the outcome of any reform of the dispute settlement system.

They also underscored the need to ensure special and differential treatment, which is currently missing in the discussions.

While maintaining that developing countries have long-standing interests in reforming the dispute settlement system, they insisted on maintaining a fully and well-functioning two-tier dispute settlement system accessible to all members, with the appellate body at its core.

"A reformed dispute settlement system should recognise that developing countries, including LDCs, face challenges such as capacity constraints, resource limitations, and limited access to legal expertise. The reform process and the changes it brings about should not make the dispute settlement system more onerous, in practice, for developing countries, including LDCs," they added.

They have flagged US-initiated 'informal discussions' among WTO members, seeking consensus in the upcoming MC13 in Abu Dhabi for reforms in the dispute settlement system

Context: India, South Africa, and Egypt have expressed concern about the nature of discussions regarding reforms in the **dispute settlement system** at the **World Trade Organization (WTO)** ahead of the 13th ministerial conference (MC13) scheduled for February next year.

- The members demanded full, effective, and equal participation in the WTO membership through an inclusive, equitable, and transparent process, preferably under the guidance of the Chair of the dispute settlement body.

Dispute Settlement System (DSS)

- **About:** Dispute settlement or DSS is regarded by the World Trade Organization (WTO) as the central pillar of the multilateral trading system, and as the organization's "unique contribution to the stability of the global economy".
- **Dispute Settlement Body**: The DSB of the World Trade Organization (WTO) **makes decisions on trade disputes** between governments **that are adjudicated by the Organization**.
- **Dispute Settlement Process**
  - Consultations between the parties;
  - Adjudication by panels and, if applicable, by the Appellate Body;
  - Implementation of the ruling, which includes the possibility of countermeasures in the event of failure by the losing party to implement the ruling.

World Trade Organization (WTO)

- **Background**: The WTO is the successor to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), which was created in 1947.
- It officially commenced operations on 1 January 1995, pursuant to the 1994 Marrakesh Agreement.
- **Created by**: Uruguay Round negotiations (1986-94).
- **Work**: It is the only global international organization dealing with the rules of trade between nations.
- **Headquarter**: Geneva, Switzerland.
- **Membership**: Total 164 countries. China became a member only in 2001.

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