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India-Iran Agreement on Seafarers

Why in Newspapers?

India and Iran have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to facilitate the movement of seafarers from both countries in accordance with the provisions of the International Convention on Training, Certification and Monitoring Standards (STCW) for Seafarers (1978).

Quick Issue?

- It sets eligibility standards for owners, officers and surveillance personnel on merchant ships going to sea.
- The STCW was adopted by a convention at the International Maritime Organization (IMO) in London in the year 1978 and came into force in the year 1984. In 1995, the convention was extensively amended.
- The 1978 STCW Convention was the first to establish basic requirements on training, certification and monitoring for seafarers at the international level.
- It sets minimum standards related to training, certification and monitoring for seafarers that countries are obliged to meet or exceed.
- A particularly important feature of the Convention is that it applies to ships from non-Party States when visiting ports in States that are Parties to the Convention.

Other Key Facts?

Energy Security

- The Iran-Oman-India Gas Pipeline (IOI) is also an ambitious project that has been stalled for a long time. It is expected that Iran and Oman have signed agreements to develop two gas pipelines and an oil field along their maritime borders during the recent visit of new Iranian President Ibrahim Raisi.
- If this project goes ahead then in future the pipeline can be extended to India also. It will facilitate the supply of natural gas to India while providing an alternative to the failed Iran-Pakistan-India (IPI) pipeline.

Historical Background?

- India and Iran have close civilizational ties since the era of the Persian Empire and the Indian Empires, Iran is an important country in India's neighbourhood. In fact, before the independence and partition of India in the year 1947, both the countries also shared the border.
- The Tehran Declaration, signed during Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's visit to Iran, reaffirmed the shared vision of the two countries for an "equitable, pluralistic and cooperative international order".
- It marked the then Iranian President Mohammad Khatami's vision of a "dialogue between civilizations" as a paradigm of international relations based on the principles of tolerance, pluralism and respect for diversity.

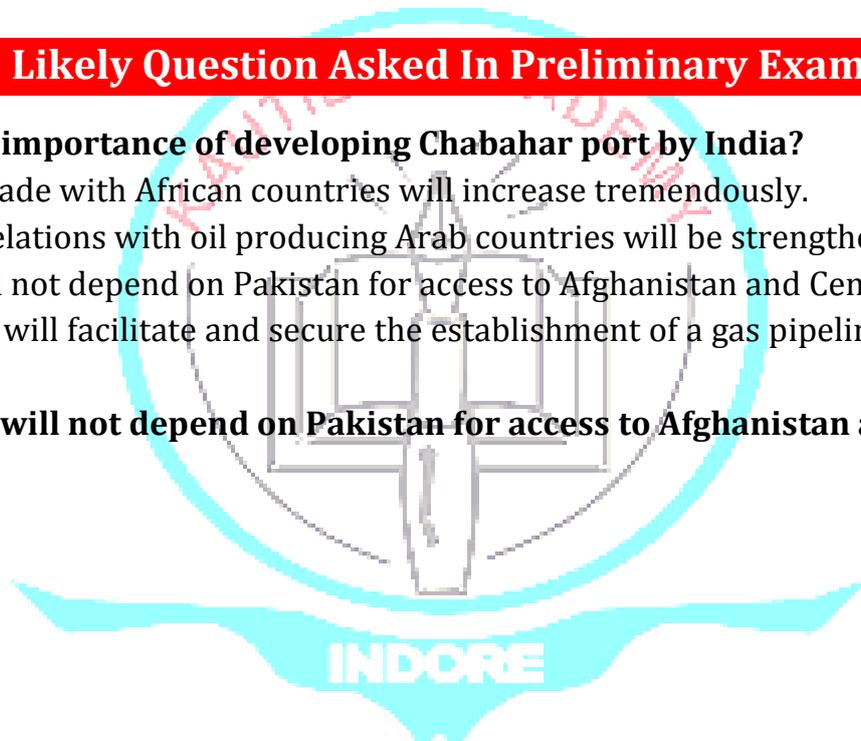
- **Location and connectivity:** Iran occupies a strategic and important geographical position between the Persian Gulf and the Caspian Sea.
- **Cheaper supply of crude oil:-** India may consider resuming oil imports from Iran. Policy changes by India and the resumption of Iranian oil imports could potentially encourage other countries to follow the path and make additional oil available in the market (which could ultimately bring down crude oil prices).
- **Connectivity with Eurasia:-** International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) is an ambitious project launched at the beginning of this century, which aims to connect India, Iran, Afghanistan, Russia, Central Asia and Europe as multi-modal transport. This means that the transit time of goods can be significantly reduced. Although part of it has been implemented, its full potential has not been realized due to sanctions on Iran. India and Iran can play a major role in providing the necessary impetus to INSTC to reap the benefits of the resultant trade.

Likely Question Asked In Preliminary Exam

Que. What is the importance of developing Chabahar port by India?

- (a) India's trade with African countries will increase tremendously.
- (b) India's relations with oil producing Arab countries will be strengthened.
- (c) India will not depend on Pakistan for access to Afghanistan and Central Asia.
- (d) Pakistan will facilitate and secure the establishment of a gas pipeline between Iraq and India.

Answer: (c) India will not depend on Pakistan for access to Afghanistan and Central Asia.



Online Marketplace Aqua Bazar

Why in Newspapers?

Recently the Union Minister for Fisheries launched Aqua Bazar, an online market place feature in the Matsya Setu mobile app, during the Ninth General Body Meeting of the National Fisheries Development Board.

Quick Issue?

- This app is developed by 'National Fisheries Development Board' (NFDB) by 'Indian Council of Agricultural Research-Central Freshwater Aquaculture Research Institute' (ICAR-CIFA) Bhubaneswar through Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY).

Historical Background?

- Any registered seller can list his/her input material through this platform.
- The listed items will be displayed in the market based on the geographic proximity of the app user.
- The listing is categorized into the following major categories like Fish Seeds, Input Materials, Services, Employment and Table Fish etc. ; ,
- Each listing will contain detailed information about the product, price, quantity available, supply area, etc. along with seller's contact details.
- Needy farmers/stakeholders can contact the seller to complete their purchase.
- Items listed for App users will be displayed in the market based on their geographical proximity. The listed items are classified into the following major categories; Fish Seeds, Input Materials, Services, Employment and Table Fish.
- Interested fish buyers will contact the farmers and give their prices.
- The online marketplace will help fish farmers and stakeholders to buy necessities like fish seeds, feed, medicines, etc. Along with the services required for fish farming, farmers can also list table-size fish for sale.
- Marketplace aims to connect all stakeholders. Quality information available at the right place and at the right time is very important for the success and development of aquaculture in the country.
- This will certainly help the farmers to get more business inquiries from the buyers or buyer agents procuring fish, raising awareness about the market situation and paving the way for better price realization of the farmers' produce.

Other Key Facts?

National Fisheries Development Board

- It was established in the year 2006 as an autonomous organization under the administrative control of Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.
- Now it works under the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying.
- Its objective is to increase fish production and productivity in the country and to coordinate fish development in an integrated and holistic manner.
- Headquarters: Telangana, Hyderabad.



- Sometimes fish farmers face problems in getting important quality inputs like small fish, feed, food stuff, fertilisers, nutraceuticals, additives, medicines etc.
- Any delay in obtaining these inputs affects the productivity of their fisheries operations. Sometimes farmers also look for services like farm construction, rental services, manpower for harvesting etc.
- Similarly, fish farmers have to face difficulties in selling their produce in the market at certain times or they depend on limited number of buyers/agents for the purchase of their produced fish.

Likely Question Asked In Preliminary Exam

Que. Recently which Union Minister has launched an online marketplace application 'Aqua Bazaar'?

- (a) Purushottam Rupala (b) Amit Shah
(c) Rajnath Singh (d) Gajendra Singh Shekhawat

Answer (a) Purushottam Rupala

Que. National Fisheries Development Board is located in

- (a) Hyderabad (b) Goa
(c) Mumbai (d) Chennai

Answer (a) Hyderabad

