

**GOVERNANCE**❖ **Are foreign law firms now allowed in India?**

➤ **CONTEXT:** Five years after the Supreme Court allowed foreign law firms and foreign lawyers to visit India on a temporary period for giving legal advice to their clients, the Bar Council of India (BCI), a statutory body governing legal practice in India, has framed Rules that allowed them to open offices in India.

➤ **What did the Supreme Court say?**

- On March 13, 2018, a division bench of Justices A.K. Goel and U.U. Lalit had ruled that foreign law firms or foreign lawyers cannot practise law in the country either on the litigation or non-litigation side.
- However, the court said that there was no bar on foreign law firms or foreign lawyers visiting India for a temporary period for giving legal advice to their clients. The court had also asked the BCI to make appropriate rules in this regard.

➤ **What are the Rules?**

- On March 10 2022, the BCI notified the Rules for Registration and Regulation of Foreign Lawyers and Foreign Law Firms in India. This will enable foreign lawyers and law firms to practise foreign law, international law, international arbitration, joint ventures, mergers and acquisitions, intellectual property matters etc on a reciprocal basis.
- The Rules mention, “This would also help to address the concerns expressed about the flow of Foreign Direct Investment into the country and would help make India a hub for international commercial arbitration.
- Foreign lawyers and firms have to submit an undertaking that they shall not practise Indian law in any form or before any court of law, tribunal, board or any other authority legally entitled to record evidence on oath”.
- The legal fraternity in India is not likely to suffer any disadvantage in case law practice in India is opened up to foreign lawyers in a restricted and regulated manner. This is mainly because the principle of reciprocity in the Rules ensures that it would be mutually beneficial for lawyers from India and abroad.

➤ **What powers does the BCI have?**

- For foreign lawyers and firms to practise in India, a primary qualification is required in the form of a certificate by a competent authority of their country which states that they are entitled to practise law in that country.
- Their registration in India with the BCI is mandatory and must be renewed every five years. Moreover, the BCI has the right to refuse to register any foreign lawyer or law firm if it is likely to become disproportionate to the number of Indian lawyers or law firms registered or allowed to practise law in the corresponding foreign country.

➤ **What are the implications?**

- Some clarity is required around what ‘reciprocity’ means before we see foreign law firms registering in India. If the foreign law firms do set up, it would be huge for the corporate legal practice in India as competition can only lead to improvement in legal services.
- Foreign law firms will now be allowed to hire Indian lawyers and advocates registered as foreign lawyers, expanding the legal job market. This move will definitely bring in AI (artificial intelligence) based technology into legal service delivery, pushing the Indian law firms to adopt.
- This will lead to lawyers deserting the real need in India. “This is going to add to the “corporatisation” of law practice. Already it finds that students burdened with high fees of private colleges are turning away from litigation and joining corporate firms. It will see more Indian lawyers going abroad and deserting the real need in India — defending and fighting for the rights of the poor.

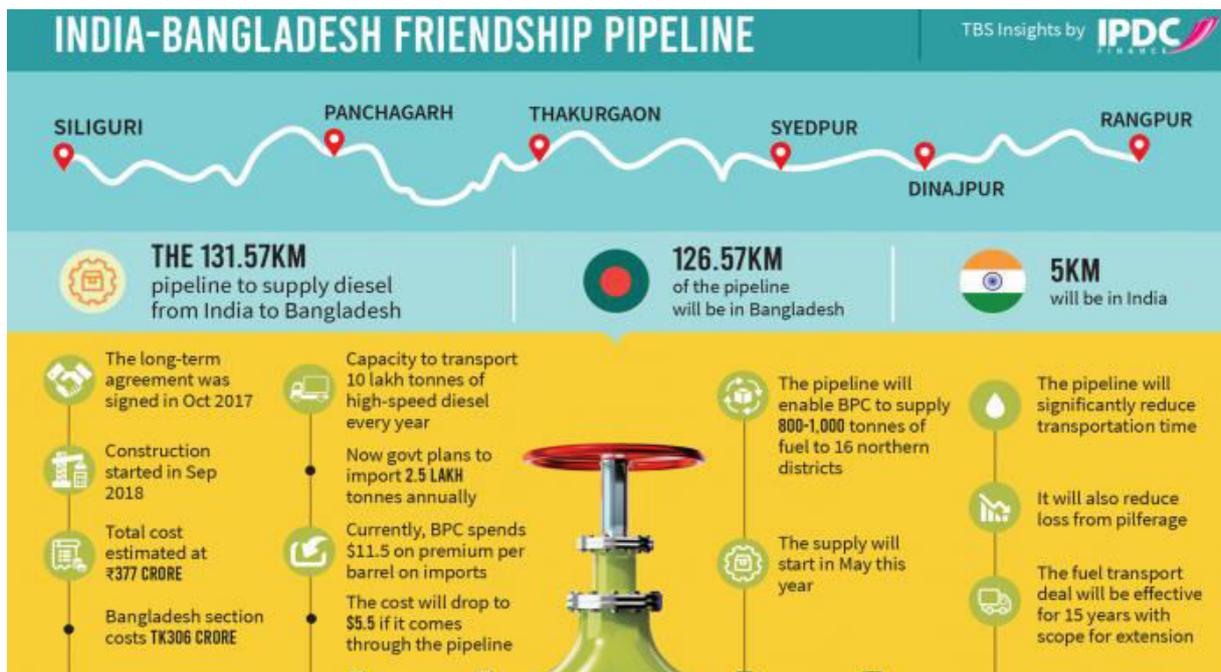
**INTERNATIONAL RELATION**❖ **India-Bangladesh Friendship Pipeline (IBFPL)**

➤ **CONTEXT:** Prime Ministers of India and Bangladesh recently inaugurated the India-Bangladesh Friendship Pipeline (IBFPL). It is the first cross-border energy pipeline between the two countries.

➤ **Key Details**

- The entire pipeline is 131.5 km long. The pipeline runs from the Siliguri-based marketing terminal of the Numaligarh Refinery Limited (NRL) to the Parbatipur depot of Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC).
- The pipeline has been built at an estimated cost of 377 crore. Bangladesh's section of the pipeline cost 285 crore. The construction of the project started in 2018 with the help of India's grant funding.
- It will be used to supply diesel from India to Bangladesh. The supply will start on an experimental basis in June this year.

- The pipeline will transport 1 million metric ton of high-speed diesel every year to seven districts of North Bangladesh.



- The fuel transport deal will be effective for 15 years with an option for further extension.
- Significance: The operation of India- Bangladesh Friendship Pipeline will put in place a sustainable, reliable, cost-effective and environment friendly mode of transporting HSD (High-speed diesel) from India to Bangladesh and will further enhance cooperation in energy security between the two countries
- India Bangladesh Relations
  - India was one of the first countries to recognize Bangladesh and establish diplomatic relations immediately after its independence in December 1971.
  - Internationally both the nations share the following platforms:
    - ✓ SAARC, BIMSTEC, Indian Ocean Coastal Regional Cooperation Association, and Commonwealth.
  - Trade and investment:
    - Bangladesh is India's biggest trade partner in South Asia and India is the largest market in Asia for Bangladesh's exports.
    - India's exports to Bangladesh during 2021 was US\$14.09 Billion.
  - Bangladesh may become India's fourth-largest export destination in FY22, jumping five places in two years.
  - Bangladesh's growth stems largely from its success as an exporter of garments, which account for around 80 percent of its total exports.
  - Power and energy cooperation:
    - Cooperation in the power sector has become one of the hallmarks of India -Bangladesh relations. Bangladesh is currently importing 1160 MW of power from India.
    - Bangladesh is the biggest development partner of India. India has extended 3 Lines of Credits (LOC) to Bangladesh in the last 8 years amounting to US\$ 8 billion for the development of infrastructure in various sectors including roads, railways, shipping and ports.
  - Capacity Building and Human Resource Development:
    - Human resource development is a key component of India's development cooperation efforts in Bangladesh through its several ongoing training programs and Scholarships.
    - The Government of India has been training 1800 Bangladesh Civil Service officials from 2019 at National Centre for Good Governance (NCGG), Mussoorie
    - The Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre (IGCC) in Dhaka plays an important role in the celebration of common cultural links between the two countries.
    - Its training programs including Yoga, Kathak, Manipuri dance, Hindi language, Hindustani classical music and the cultural programs of renowned artists of India and Bangladesh contribute to the promotion of people-to-people contacts.
  - Defense Cooperation:

- High level exchanges at the level of services chief of Indian Navy, Bangladesh Navy and Indian Air Force, the conduct of second annual defense dialogue and inaugural tri-services staff talks, service specific talks of Navy and Air Force.
- DG-level talks between the Coast Guards have contributed to significant improvement in bilateral defense cooperation.
- In the training domain both the countries have continued and enhanced mutual engagements.
- Various Joint exercises take place between the two countries:
  - ✓ Exercise Sampriti (Army)
  - ✓ Exercise Milan (Navy).
- Multimodal Connectivity:
  - The passenger trains between India and Bangladesh:
    - ✓ Bandhan Express: starting from Kolkata for Khulna - Since 2017 It covers the distance via Petrapole and Benapole border route to cater to the demands of the people from both countries.
    - ✓ Maitree Express: starting from Dhaka for Kolkata - since 2008. The tri-weekly service between Kolkata and Dhaka used to run with 90 percent occupancy. The train has a capacity to carry 456 passengers, the same as Bandhan Express.
    - ✓ Mitali Express: starting from New Jalpaiguri in North Bengal for Dhaka.
  - Bus Service: Both the governments decided to commence: Dhaka-Siliguri-Gangtok-Dhaka and Dhaka-Siliguri-Darjeeling-Dhaka bus service to enhance people to people contacts between both the countries and the trial run of Dhaka-Siliguri-Gangtok-Dhaka was also held in December 2019.
  - The Government of India has also been providing grant assistance to Bangladesh for various infrastructure projects including the construction of the Akhaura-Agartala rail link, dredging of inland waterways in Bangladesh and construction of the India-Bangladesh Friendship Pipeline.

**PRELIMS**

**1. IPCC AR 6 Synthesis Report**

- **CONTEXT: Welcoming the Synthesis Report of the Sixth Assessment Cycle (AR6) of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which was adopted by all member countries on 19<sup>th</sup> March 2023 at the 58<sup>th</sup> Session of the IPCC at Interlaken, Switzerland; Shri Bhupender Yadav, Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, noted that the report summarizes the state of knowledge of climate change, its widespread impacts and risks, and climate change mitigation and adaptation.**
  - It integrates the main findings of the Sixth Assessment Report (AR6) based on contributions from the three Working Groups, and the three Special Reports. The report recognizes the interdependence of climate, ecosystems and biodiversity, and human societies; the value of diverse forms of knowledge; and the close linkages between climate change adaptation, mitigation, ecosystem health, human well-being and sustainable development, and reflects the increasing diversity of actors involved in climate action.
  - The report re-emphasizes India's consistently held position that development is our first defense against climate change and that urgent and rapid climate actions are needed by the developed countries based on the principles of climate justice and equity, both in terms of emissions reduction and the mobilizing of finance and making available the latest technology to the developing countries.
  - The report reinforces the scientific view that CO<sub>2</sub> is the primary GHG and needs to be drastically reduced. According to the report for every 1000 GtCO<sub>2</sub> emitted by human activity, global surface temperature rises by 0.45°C (best estimate, with a likely range from 0.27 to 0.63°C). The remaining carbon budgets from the beginning of 2020 are 500 GtCO<sub>2</sub> for a 50% likelihood of limiting global warming to 1.5°C and 1150 GtCO<sub>2</sub> for a 67% likelihood of limiting warming to below 2°C. Reaching net zero CO<sub>2</sub> or GHG emissions primarily requires deep and rapid reductions in gross emissions of CO<sub>2</sub>, as well as substantial reductions of non-CO<sub>2</sub> GHG emissions.
  - Climate justice and equity are important enablers for ensuring climate action and growth and development for developing countries. The Report notes that modelled scenarios explore only a limited number of solutions, and warns against mistaking them for predictions or forecasts. The scientists also confirm that models do not explicitly account for equity, environmental justice, and income distribution - all crucial factors in climate policy decision.
  - The Synthesis Report draws attention to the fact that the largest climate finance gaps are in developing countries and that accelerated financial support for developing countries from developed countries and other sources is a critical enabler to enhance mitigation actions and address inequities in finance, including its costs, terms and conditions and economic vulnerability to climate change for developing countries.
  - The Report notes that finance flows from developed to developing countries fall short of the levels needed to meet climate goals across all sectors and regions. It also acknowledges that in 2018, public and publicly

mobilized private climate finance flows from developed to developing countries were below the collective goal under the UNFCCC and Paris Agreement to mobilize USD100 billion per year by 2020 in the context of meaningful mitigation action and transparency on implementation.

- Adverse impacts from human-induced climate change will continue to intensify. Vulnerability to impacts of climate change in the near term are strongly dependent on levels of development, and exposure to extreme weather and climate events which will increase at higher warming levels. These findings underline India's position that we must focus on sustainable development.
- The report mentions with high confidence that international cooperation is a critical enabler for achieving ambitious climate change mitigation, adaptation, and climate resilient development. Climate resilient development is enabled by increased international cooperation including mobilizing and enhancing access to finance, particularly for developing countries, vulnerable regions, sectors and groups and aligning finance flows for climate action to be consistent with ambition levels and funding needs.
- Climate change has caused widespread adverse impacts and related losses and damages to nature and people that are unequally distributed across systems, regions and sectors.
- Without urgent, effective, and equitable mitigation and adaptation actions, climate change increasingly threatens ecosystems, biodiversity, and the health and wellbeing of current and future generations. Accelerated mitigation and implementation of adaptation actions in the near-term would reduce projected losses and damages for humans and ecosystems.
- The Synthesis Report echoes Prime Minister's vision for "LiFE", or Lifestyle for Environment, which is a global mass movement for promoting environmental friendly lifestyle to protect and preserve the environment.

## 2. Nagar Van Yojana

➤ **CONTEXT: Minister of State for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, in a written reply to a question in Lok Sabha informed that the Ministry encourages plantation in the country including various metropolitan cities through programmes and schemes.**

- Schemes such as Nagar Van Yojana, School Nursery Yojana, Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA), National Afforestation Programme (NAP), National Mission for a Green India (GIM), etc. which promotes urban forestry, tree plantation on vacant lands and bunds on farm lands etc. by involving local communities, NGOs, educational institutions, local bodies, etc

### ➤ About

- In respect to urban areas, the Ministry is implementing Nagar Van Yojana (NVY) which envisages creating a Nagar Van/Nagar Vatika in City having Municipal Corporation/Municipal Council/Municipality/Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) for providing wholesome healthy living environment for the residents and thus contributing to growth of clean, green, healthy and sustainable cities.
- The scheme is being implemented across the country envisages developing 400 Nagar Vans and 200 Nagar Vatikas in the country during the period of 2020-21 to 2024-25.
- The finances for the scheme will be paid for by the CAMPA (Compensatory Afforestation Fund (CAF) Act, 2016) funds.
- The following additional steps taken by the Government contribute to protection and development of forest areas in the country including in the metropolitan cities:
  - ✓ For preservation and protection of forest and wildlife, various laws including the Forest (Conservation) Act 1980, Indian Forest Act, 1927, Wildlife Protection Act 1972, and other central/state laws as applicable to a State/UT, are implemented by the respective State Government /UT Administration.
  - ✓ The Ministry has implemented National Afforestation Programme (NAP) for tree plantation in degraded forests through people's participation which has been merged with National Mission for a Green India (GIM), under which, in addition to other sub-missions, there is a specific sub-mission for enhancing tree cover in urban and peri-urban areas.
  - ✓ Urban forestry is a permissible activity under the provisions of Compensatory Fund Act, 2016 and the Rules made there under.
  - ✓ Further, tree plantation, being a multi-departmental, multi-agency activity, are also being taken up cross-sectorally under various programmes/funding sources of other ministries/ organizations and also through State Plan budgets.

## 3. City Finance Rankings, 2022

➤ **CONTEXT: The 'City Finance Rankings 2022' portal has been made live by Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) on 20th March, 2023. The Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) across the country can now participate in the Rankings through an entirely digital, 100% paperless, process.**

### ➤ About

- The 'City Finance Rankings 2022' have been launched with the objective of evaluating, recognizing and rewarding municipal bodies across the country on the basis of the quality of their current financial health and improvement over time in financial performance.
- As per the Guidelines of 'City Finance Rankings 2022', which had been launched by Minister Housing and Urban Development on December 28, 2022, the participating ULBs will be evaluated on 15 indicators across three key municipal finance assessment parameters, namely:
  - ✓ Resource Mobilization,
  - ✓ Expenditure Performance and
  - ✓ Fiscal Governance.
- The cities will be ranked on the basis of their scores under any one of the following four population categories:
  - ✓ Above 4 million
  - ✓ Between 1-4 million
  - ✓ 100K to 1 million
  - ✓ Less than 100,000.
- The top 3 cities in each population category will be recognized and rewarded at the national level as well as within each state/state cluster.
- The City Finance Rankings will provide critical insights to policy makers into the state of finances of urban local bodies. ULBs will also stand to benefit by participating in the fiscal rankings as they will be able to evaluate their own performance vis-à-vis other cities, which will motivate them for improvement in future.

### **ANSWER WRITING**

#### **Industrial Revolution in Britain and economic policies designed by British rule in India to fuel its growth led to a systematic deindustrialisation of India. Examine.**

The Industrial Revolution refers to a series of transformations from 1760s onwards in the methods and relations of production that exponentially increased outputs and put the Britain on its path towards prosperity and power. Before the beginning of the industrial revolution, India was a major player in the world export market for textiles, however by the middle of the 19th century it had lost much of its export market. While India produced about 25 percent of world industrial output in 1750, this figure had fallen to only 2 percent by 1900. Therefore, a systemic destruction of the Indian domestic economy was crucial to Britain's industrial revolution.

Linkages between industrial revolution, British economic policies and deindustrialisation in India:

- Introduction of machine-made goods: The emergence of steam power in 1815 posed a danger to the Indian textile industry. Introduction of machine-made goods on the Indian subcontinent at a cheaper rate led to the decline of the traditional textile industry in India.
- Tariff Policy and ruin of the handicraft industry: Tariff policy opted by the British led to the decline of the handicraft industry. The British government started using preferential trade policies under which British goods were entering in India duty free or no nominal duty payment, while Indian exporters had to pay high duty to export goods to British Mainland.
- Market for British manufactured goods: India had to provide a market for Britain's manufactured goods, and serve as a source of agricultural raw materials. It served as a major market for British industries, like cotton, iron and steel, railways, machinery, etc.
- Commercialisation of agriculture: Indian farmers were compelled to grow cotton plantations to drive English factories. Farmers were also forced to grow cash crops in place of food crops such as Indigo, which resulted in deadly famines in India.
- India served as a place for capital investment and gains made from the Industrial Revolution: Since 1813 when Indian trade was freed from the monopoly of the East India Company, India came to be considered as a lucrative field for British private capital investment mainly in railways, jute industry, tea plantation and mining. Indian money market was dominated by the European banking houses.
- Development of railways served Britain's interests: For the development of railways, British capital investments were invited and were guaranteed interest payments from Indian revenues. The machinery, railway lines, and up to a stage, even coal, were imported from England.
- Ruralisation of Indian economy: With loss to traditional economy, which was earlier considered as a blend of agriculture and handicrafts, manually skilled labourers started shifting back to agricultural and such overcrowding decreased the efficiency of agriculture sector. Further, the colonial policies associated with the land and taxation undermined the ability of the peasant class to control and command the land.

Early Nationalists have described the adverse impact of the British government's economic policies through the Drain of Wealth theory. Historians have argued that the capital to finance the Industrial Revolution in India instead went into financing the Industrial Revolution in Britain. The impact of colonialism and subsequent deindustrialisation can be felt even today in the form of global inequities between nations.

**MCQs**

1. With reference to India, consider the following statements :
  1. Government law officers and legal firms are recognised as advocates, but corporate lawyers and patent attorneys are excluded from recognition as advocates.
  2. Bar Councils have the power to lay down the rules relating to legal education and recognition of law colleges.
 Which of the statements given above is/are correct?  
 a) 1 only                      **b) 2 only**                      c) Both 1 and 2                      d) Neither 1 nor 2
2. With reference to India-Bangladesh Friendship Pipeline (IBFPL) consider the following
  1. This is the first cross border energy pipeline between India and Bangladesh.
  2. Bangladesh designated the Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOCL) as a recognised government to government (G2G) exporter of refined products to Bangladesh.
 Which of the above statement/s is/are correct?  
 a) 1 only                      b) 2 only                      **c) Both 1 and 2**                      d) Neither 1 nor 2
3. Consider the following statements with respect to Nagar Van Scheme
  1. The Scheme aims to develop Urban Forests across the country.
  2. The scheme is being implemented across the country envisages developing 400 Nagar Vans and 200 Nagar Vatikas in the country during the period of 2020-21 to 2024-25.
  3. These urban forests will primarily be on the existing forest land in the City or any other vacant land offered by local urban local bodies.
 Which of the statement/s given above is/are correct?  
 a) 1 and 2 only                      b) 2 and 3 only                      c) 1 and 3 only                      **d) 1,2 and 3**
4. Consider the following statements:
  1. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) was set up by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and UNEP.
  2. As per the Sixth Assessment Report (AR6) of IPCC, 1.5°C warming of the earth is inevitable even in the best case scenario.
 Which of the statements given above is/are correct?  
 a) 1 only                      b) 2 only                      **c) Both 1 and 2**                      d) Neither 1 nor 2
5. With reference to the City Finance Rankings 2022, consider the following statements:
  1. It is an initiative of NITI Aayog.
  2. Under this the Urban Local Bodies will be evaluated based on three key municipal finance assessment parameters.
 Which of the statements given above is/are correct?  
 a) 1 only                      **b) 2 only**                      c) Both 1 and 2                      d) Neither 1 nor 2
6. With reference to Black Money (Undisclosed Foreign Income and Assets) and Imposition of Tax Act, 2015 consider the following
  1. It penalises the concealment of foreign income and provides for criminal liability for attempting to evade tax in relation to foreign income.
  2. The Act gave a one-time opportunity to Indian residents to declare undisclosed foreign income and assets.
  3. The concerned person had to pay tax at the rate of 30% and an equal amount by way of penalty if found having undisclosed overseas wealth.
 Which of the above statement/s is/are not correct?  
 a) 1 and 2 only                      b) 2 and 3 only                      c) 1 and 3 only                      **d) 1,2 and 3**
7. Tadoba Andheri Tiger reserve recently seen in news is located in which of the following state?  
**a) Maharashtra**                      b) Gujarat                      c) Jharkhand                      d) Madhya Pradesh
8. With reference to MGNREGA consider the following
  1. Unlike earlier employment guarantee schemes, the act aims at addressing the causes of chronic poverty through a rights-based framework.
  2. Section 27 of the MGNREGA that debar centre for stoppage of funds for the implementation of the scheme by the State.
 Which of the above statement/s is/are not correct?  
 a) 1 only                      **b) 2 only**                      c) Both 1 and 2                      d) Neither 1 nor 2
9. With reference to Interpol consider the following statements:
  1. National Central Bureau of the Interpol sits in the Home Ministry in India.
  2. A Red Notice of Interpol it is an international arrest warrant.
 Which of the statements given above are correct?  
**a) 1 only**                      b) 2 only                      c) Both 1 and 2                      d) Neither 1 nor 2
10. Sangita Kalanidhi Award is considered the most prestigious honour in which of the following music?  
**a) Carnatic Music**                      b) Marathi Music                      c) Odissi Music                      d) Bihugeet