



International Relations

2nd CII India Nordic-Baltic Business Conclave 2023

Tags:

- **GS Paper - 2**
- **Bilateral Groupings & Agreements**
- **Groupings & Agreements Involving India and/or Affecting India's Interests**

For Prelims: 2nd CII India Nordic-Baltic Business Conclave 2023, Nordic Baltic (NB) 8, Blue Economy to enhance Global Supply Chain Resilience, Renewable Energy, Global South through G20, CII (Confederation of Indian Industries).

For Mains: 2nd CII India Nordic-Baltic Business Conclave 2023, Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India's interest.

Why in News?

Recently, the 2nd CII (Confederation of Indian Industries)-India Nordic-Baltic Business Conclave 2023 was held in New Delhi, aiming to foster collaboration between **India and the Nordic Baltic Eight (NB8)** countries, known for their prowess in innovation and technology.

What is Nordic Baltic (NB) 8?

- The NB8 is a **regional cooperation format** that brings together the Nordic countries and the Baltic states.
 - It comprises **five Nordic countries**: Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden, along with **three Baltic states**: Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania.
- The group shares **historical, cultural, and geographical ties**, fostering collaboration and cooperation in various fields, including politics, economics, trade, security, and culture.

- While the Nordic countries are **located in Northern Europe** and share similarities in governance, social systems, and values, the **Baltic states are situated in Northeastern Europe** and have their unique historical backgrounds and geopolitical positioning.

What are the Key Highlights of the Conclave?

- **Food Processing and Sustainability:**
 - Discussions focused on **transforming food systems towards sustainability** by sharing experiences, innovations, and best practices between India and the Nordic-Baltic nations.
 - Collaboration aimed to address global challenges with a holistic approach encompassing economic, social, and environmental dimensions.
- **Blue Economy and Maritime Cooperation:**
 - Emphasis was placed on **efficient management of the Blue Economy** to enhance Global Supply Chain Resilience, promote sustainable marine practices, encourage innovation, and foster greater maritime cooperation between India and the Nordic-Baltic countries.
- **Renewable Energy Integration:**
 - Deliberations **centered around India's push for Renewable Energy** integration, identifying resources, policy support, energy storage, and advanced technology initiatives.
 - The aim was to seek **support from innovative Nordic-Baltic economies** in identifying and implementing clean energy-related technologies.
- **Transition to Industry 5.0:**
 - Collaboration discussions **focused on leveraging advanced technologies like AI (Artificial Intelligence), IoT, and smart manufacturing** to

enhance productivity and efficiency in the manufacturing sector.

- The aim was to **explore how cooperation between India and Nordic-Baltic nations** could contribute to India's goal of becoming a developed nation by 2047.

- **Green Financing for Climate Action:**

- The conclave highlighted the significance of climate finance in achieving green and sustainable transitions. Discussions aimed at exploring strategies and solutions to drive funding and investments, fostering greater collaboration between India and the Nordic-Baltic countries in advancing climate action.

- **Information Technology and AI Collaboration:**

- Emphasis was placed on exploring potential areas of cooperation between India and the Nordic-Baltic countries in leveraging IT and AI to address complex societal challenges. Skill development initiatives were also discussed to enable inclusive AI and IT growth.

- **Resilient Supply Chain and Logistics:**

- Discussions revolved around the need to build efficient and resilient supply chains, aligning with India's Logistics Policy. The conclave aimed to explore how India and the Nordic-Baltic countries could collaborate to strengthen global value chains using technological advancements.

How have the Economic Relations between India and the Nordic-Baltic countries been?

- **Trade and Investments:**

- Cumulative Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) received from Nordic countries has reached a significant figure, demonstrating mutual investment interests.

- India's combined trade in goods with the NB8 countries is currently around USD 7.3 billion and the cumulative FDI received from Nordic countries **from 2000 to 2023 is USD 4.69 billion.**
 - Moreover, the presence of over 700 Nordic companies in India and close to 150 Indian companies in the Nordic-Baltic region showcases the bilateral investment and trade partnerships.
- **Bilateral Collaborations:**
 - Specific collaborations and partnerships have been established in various domains.
 - Examples include sustainability partnerships with Finland, a green strategic partnership with Denmark focusing on water solutions, wind energy, and agriculture, and joint projects with Iceland in harnessing geothermal energy.
- **Sectoral Engagements:**
 - Collaboration in sectors such as renewable energy, food processing, logistics, IT, AI, maritime cooperation, and blue economy initiatives **has been identified as potential areas for joint efforts and investments.**
 - The alignment of India's ambitious renewable energy targets with the technological expertise of the **Nordic-Baltic countries** offers opportunities for collaboration.
- **Space Technology and Polar Research:**
 - There is potential for collaboration in space technology, geospatial sectors, and polar and climate research, with discussions around joint research projects and opportunities in the Arctic and Antarctic regions.
- **Global Engagement and Partnerships:**

- Both India and the Nordic-Baltic countries are actively **engaged in global** partnerships, such as India's engagement with the Global South through G20, which provides opportunities for collaboration in finding solutions for sustainable growth.
- Additionally, exploration of partnerships in joint development projects, especially in Africa, underlines the potential for expanding their collective global footprint.

Way Forward

- There is a need to expand bilateral trade by diversifying the range of traded goods and services. Focusing on sectors like renewable energy, technology, healthcare, agriculture, and manufacturing can foster mutual growth. Reducing trade barriers and enhancing market access will be crucial.
- Encourage and facilitate investments between India and the Nordic-Baltic countries. Promote joint ventures, collaborations, and technology transfer across sectors of mutual interest.
- Ensure a conducive environment for investments through favorable policies, regulatory frameworks, and ease of doing business.

Social Issues

Child Pornography

Tags:

- **GS Paper - 2**
- **Issues Related to Children**
- **Government Policies & Interventions**

For Prelims: Child Pornography, Child Abuse, Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM), NCRB (National Crime Report Bureau), Protection of Children from Sexual Offenses (POCSO) Act, 2012, Child Abuse Prevention and Investigation Unit, The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act.

For Mains: Child Pornography, Mechanisms, laws, institutions and Bodies constituted for the protection and betterment of the vulnerable sections.

Why in News?

Recently, the EU lawmakers agreed to draft rules requiring **Alphabet's Google, Meta and other online services** to identify and remove **Online Child Pornography**, stating that **end-to-end encryption** would not be affected.

- The draft rule on **Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM)**, proposed by the European Commission in 2022, has been a bone of contention between advocates of online safety measures and privacy activists worried about surveillance.
- The European Commission proposed rules requiring online services to identify and remove CSAM, addressing the inadequacy of **voluntary detection and reporting systems by tech companies**.

What is Child Pornography?

- **About:**
 - Child pornography refers to the **creation, distribution, or possession of sexually explicit material** involving minors. In India and globally, it's a heinous crime with severe implications, perpetuating the **sexual exploitation and abuse of children**.
 - Online child pornography is the **manifestation of digital exploitation**, refers to the production, distribution, or possession of sexually explicit material **involving minors through digital platforms**.
 - The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (Amendment) Act, 2019 defines child pornography as any visual depiction of sexually explicit conduct involving a child including photograph, video, digital or computer generated image indistinguishable from an actual child.

- **Indian Scenario:**
 - The spike in cases of child pornography reflects the grim picture of online child sexual abuse in India. According to NCRB (National Crime Report Bureau) 2021 the cases have increased from 738 (2020) to 969 (2021).
- **Impact:**
 - **Psychological Impact:** Porn creates a psychological impact on children. It is associated with depression, anger and anxiety. It can lead to mental distress. It also impacts day to day functioning of children, their biological clock, their work, and their social relationship.
 - **Impact on Sexuality:** When seen regularly, it gives a sense of sexual gratification and sexual obsession, which leads to a willingness to do the same things in real life.
 - **Sexual Addiction:** According to some experts, pornography is like an addiction. It produces a similar effect on the brain as produced by consumption of drugs or alcohol on a regular basis.
 - **Behavioral Impact:** Adolescent pornography use is associated with stronger beliefs in gender stereotypes, particularly for males. Male adolescents who view pornography frequently are more likely to view women as sex objects.
 - Pornography may strengthen attitudes supportive of sexual violence and violence against women.

What are the Challenges to Deal with Pornography?

- The effect of pornography is different in children belonging to the lower class compared to children belonging to the high class. A single approach **won't be able to handle the issue effectively.**

- In India, **sex is seen as negative (something which should be hidden)**. There is no healthy family dialogue regarding sex. It leads the child to learn this from outside which leads to an addiction to pornography.
- It's very difficult for **agencies to detect the activities of child pornography** and monitor them effectively.
- Availability of obscene content on regular websites and OTT (over the top) services like Amazon Prime, Netflix, Hotstar, etc, make it difficult to differentiate between the non-vulgar content and vulgar content.

What are the Indian Initiatives to Check Child Pornography and Child Abuse?

- Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012:

- The Posco act has **been amended in 2019**, the amended POCSO included stringent measures such as the death penalty for aggravated sexual assault on children.
- The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (Amendment) Act, 2019 has introduced several provisions to curb child pornography in India.

- According to the amended act, whoever uses a child or children for pornographic purposes shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than five years and shall also be liable to fine, and in the event of second or subsequent conviction with imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than seven years and also be liable to fine.

▪ Other Initiatives:

- IT act 2000.
- Child Abuse Prevention and Investigation Unit

- Beti Bachao Beti Padhao
- The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015
- Child Marriage Prohibition Act (2006)
 - **Child Labour Prohibition and Regulation Act, 2016**
 - **POCSO Courts under Special Fast Track Courts.**

Way Forward

- A distinction needs to be made between **child porn and pornography among children**. While child porn and porn showing sexual violence should be banned immediately, other pornography needs regulation.
- Most of the time, **the first exposure of porn to a child is accidental for eg.** in the form of advertisement while browsing for other things on the internet. The government should **try to find technological solutions** to stop accidental exposure.
- Awareness and **sex education is a must and should be made compulsory** in schools. Parents and teachers must be skilled to deal with children in the modern era and technology.

