



Collaboration between India and UK on Food Security

For Prelims: India-Uk Partnership on Various Fields.

For Mains: Significance of India-UK Relations and Challenges.

Why in News

Recently, the Union Minister of Science & Technology addressed the **joint India-UK meet on “Sustaining Food Production under Environmental Stress”** and called for collaboration between the two nations on issues of mutual concern like achieving the goals of [Food Security](#) and [Zero Hunger](#).

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Key Points

- **Call for Global Collaborations in Various Fields:**
 - India and the UK must invite global collaborations in various dimensions of science like **agriculture, medicine, food, pharma, engineering or defence**.
 - India-UK joint collaboration may include programmes like student exchange, basic research, technology development, product development as well as product/process demonstration and their implementation in joint collaboration.
- **Issue of Shrinking Arable Land:**
 - Dwelling on the issue of **Sustainable Food Production**, the **South Asian region** is facing the shrinking arable land, besides the problem of **Global Climate Change** that needs to be addressed.
 - Arable land in South Asia was reported at 43.18% in 2018 which has been stagnant since the early 1970s and recently declining.

- Growth yields and more intensive use of land will account for **all of the growth in crop production and will also compensate for losses** in the arable land area.
- **Improving Quality of Nutritional Foods:**
 - [NABI \(National Agri-Food Biotechnology Institute\)](#) could provide an impetus to the nations need for addressing nutritional security even under the climatic changes happening around the world.
 - NABI is a premier institute that works at the interface of Agri-Food and Nutrition Biotechnology.
- **Joint Funding to Address the Challenges:**
 - Underlining that the global pattern of food production and distribution may **need to shift significantly as climate change progresses.**
 - Need of joint funding to **develop a coherent and stakeholder-relevant R&D (Research and Development) program that will address** this challenge.

India-UK Partnership

- **About:**
 - India and the UK are vibrant democracies, with a partnership built on our shared history and rich culture.
 - The diverse Indian diaspora in the UK, which acts as a “Living Bridge”, adds further dynamism to the relations between the two countries.
 - The UK is one of the largest investors in India, among the [G20 countries.](#)
 - Recently, both countries have announced their intent to negotiate a comprehensive [Free Trade Agreement \(FTA\)](#), including consideration of an interim trade agreement to deliver early gains.
 - As part of the [UK’s tilt towards the Indo-Pacific region,](#) the UK Carrier Strike Group (CSG) is conducting engagements with Singapore, the Republic of Korea, Japan and India.
- **Roadmap 2030:**
 - For elevating bilateral ties to a **“Comprehensive Strategic Partnership”** both Countries adopted Roadmap 2030 in 2021.
 - It provides a framework for UK-India relations across health, climate, trade, education, science and technology, and defense.
- **Security & Defence:**
 - **Cooperation on Maritime Domain Awareness:**
 - Includes invitation to the UK to join [India’s Information Fusion Centre](#) in Gurgaon and an ambitious exercise programme which includes joint trilateral exercises.
 - **Light Combat Aircraft Mark 2:**
 - Support India’s indigenous development of the [Light Combat Aircraft Mark 2.](#)
 - **Exercises:**
 - Air Force Exercise [‘Indradhanush’.](#)
 - Navy Exercise [Konkan.](#)
 - Army Exercise [‘Ajeya Warrior’](#)
- **Climate Change:**
 - India and the UK jointly launched a new flagship international initiative at the [COP26](#) World Leaders' Summit in Glasgow, backed by over 80 countries, to dramatically accelerate the global transition to a clean powered world.
 - The new initiative, called **‘Green Grids Initiative - One Sun One World One Grid’ (GGI-OSOWOG)**, is aimed at accelerating the development and deployment of interconnected electricity grids across continents, countries and communities, and improve energy access of the poorest through mini-grids and off-grid solutions.

[Source: PIB](#)

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