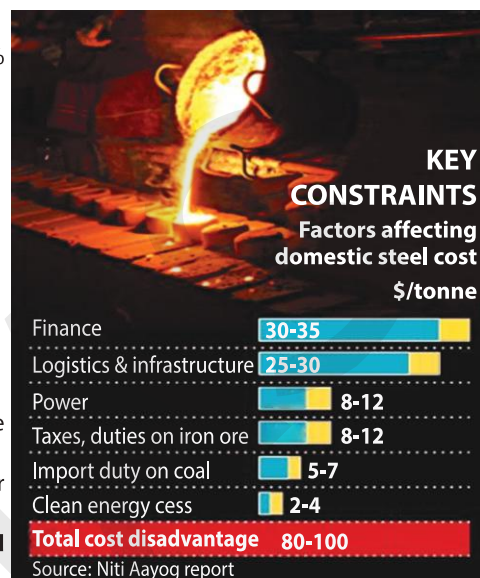


# NEWS TODAY

## GOVERNMENT WORKING ON A COMPREHENSIVE STEEL POLICY IN A BID TO PUSH ATMANIRBHAR BHARAT

- Move is aimed to **cut import dependence** and steer steel sector towards self-reliance.
  - India is **second-largest steel producer and consumer in the world** and sector accounts for 2.3% of the country's GDP.
- **Various suggestions include:**
  - Government is **examining border adjustment tax (BAT)** on imports.
    - **BAT** is a duty imposed on imported goods in addition to the customs levy that gets charged at port of entry. This creates a level playing field for domestic producers.
    - **WTO rules allow for the adjustment of certain types of internal taxes** at border under certain conditions like
      - Tax must be applied equally to imports and "like" domestic products.
      - Tax must be borne by a product and not be direct.
      - Tax must not subsidize exports
  - **Infrastructure status for the sector** to provide a number of benefits and concessions like raise money from insurance companies, pension funds, etc.
  - Introducing standards set by **Bureau of Indian Standards on all steel products** to filter inferior steel import.
  - Empowered committees to **expedite clearances for land, forest, environment, and infrastructure.**



## BUREAU OF INDIAN STANDARDS (BIS)' DRAFT STANDARD FOR DRINKING WATER SUPPLY

- It **outlines the process of water supply, from raw water sources to household taps** which aims to **act as a "benchmark" for maintaining water quality** and developing a uniform process for states opting to implement it.
  - It has been developed keeping in view **Centre's Jal Jeevan Mission.**
- **Highlights of draft**
  - It outlines the **requirements for a water supplier** or a water utility on how they should establish, operate, maintain and improve their piped drinking water supply service.
    - **Water source can either be groundwater or surface water sources** such as rivers, streams or reservoirs.
  - **Water quality** should conform to Indian Standard (IS) 10500.
    - IS 10500 outlines acceptable limit of various substances in drinking water like heavy metals and other parameters like pH value, odour, etc.
  - **District metering area (DMA)** should be adopted where possible.
    - DMA is a concept for controlling leakages in the water network, which is essentially divided into a number of sectors, called the DMAs, and where flow meters are installed to detect leaks.
  - **Water audit** should be conducted on a quarterly basis.

## EUROPEAN ALLIES OPPOSES US MOTION TO RESTORE ALL UN SANCTIONS AGAINST IRAN OVER NUCLEAR DEAL

- United States plans to **initiate a controversial procedure called "snapback"** at United Nations Security Council in a bid to unilaterally reimpose sanctions on Iran.
  - **Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA)** allows for any party to trigger a process that **snaps U.N. sanctions** on Iran back into **place if Iran is not complying with the deal.**
  - Those sanctions include an embargo on Iran selling or buying specific weapons, a ban on Iran's activities tied to nuclear enrichment and reprocessing and any outside support for them, sanctions on certain Iranian officials and entities, and more.
- US move is opposed by Russia and China, along with European allies Britain, France and Germany,
  - European allies believe the **safest way to keep Iran in check is through the JCPOA.**

### About JCPOA

- It intended to **prevent Iran from developing nuclear weapons** while granting it an internationally monitored civilian nuclear power programme.
- Deal is **signed between Iran and the P5+1** (China, France, Russia, United Kingdom, United States and Germany) and endorsed by UN Security Council Resolution in 2015.
- In 2018, US **unilaterally withdrew from JCPOA.**

## MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT FORMS NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR TRANSGENDER PERSONS (NCTP)

- NCTP was established by centre in exercise of the powers conferred by the **Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019.**
  - Act provides for **prohibition against discrimination against transgender persons**, right to self-perceived gender identity, welfare measures by governments, offences and penalties provisions etc.
- **Composition**
  - **Chairperson** - Union Minister for Social Justice;
  - **Vice- Chairperson** - Minister of State for Social Justice
  - **Members from the ministries of health, home, minority affairs, education, rural development, labour and law.**
  - **Members from the department of pensions, Niti Aayog, National Human Rights Commission and National Commission for Women.**
  - **Representatives from five states or UTs, on a rotational basis**
  - Five members of the **community** and five experts, **from non-governmental organisations**
- **Main functions of NCTP:**
  - **Advising central government** on policies, programmes, legislation and projects with respect to transgender persons.
  - **Monitoring and evaluating the impact of policies and programmes** designed for achieving equality and full participation of transgender persons.
  - **Reviewing and coordinating activities** of all departments.
  - **Redressing grievances** of transgender persons.
  - Performing such other **functions as prescribed by the Centre.**

# GOVT FRAMES NORMS FOR ENFORCEMENT OF 'RULES OF ORIGIN' (ROO) FOR IMPORTS UNDER FTA

- It aims to **check inbound shipments of low-quality products** and dumping of goods by a third country routed through free trade agreements (FTAs) partner country.
- **New framework**
  - Norms shall **apply to import of goods into India** where the importer makes a claim of preferential rate of duty in terms of a trade agreement.
  - Prescribes for **minimal processing or value addition that should happen in FTA country** so that final manufactured product may be called originating goods in that country.
  - At the time of filing bill of entry, **importer has to make a declaration in the bill that imported products qualify as originating goods** for preferential rate of duty under that agreement; and produce certificate of origin.
- **About ROO**
  - They are criteria needed to determine national origin of a product.
  - They are used to
    - **implement measures and instruments of commercial policy** such as anti-dumping duties and safeguard measures.
    - determine whether imported products **shall receive most-favoured-nation (MFN) treatment or preferential treatment.**
  - **WTO has no specific rules** governing the determination of country of origin of goods in international commerce.

## ALSO IN NEWS

<p><b>Places in News</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Black Sea</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➢ <b>Turkey discovered 320 billion cubic metres natural gas reserve</b> in Black Sea which can alter the geopolitics of energy trade in its region.</li> <li>➢ <b>Black Sea</b>, also known as Euxine Sea, is located between Eastern Europe and Western Asia.</li> <li>➢ It <b>connects with the Mediterranean Sea</b> through the Bosphorus Strait, and then through the Sea of Marmara and the Dardanelles Strait.</li> <li>➢ Countries sharing a border with Black Sea: <b>Romania, Turkey, Bulgaria, Ukraine, Russia, and Georgia.</b></li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Belarus</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➢ There is a huge opposition movement, demanding new, democratic leadership and economic reform in Belarus.</li> <li>➢ It is <b>landlocked country in Eastern Europe</b> which has Russia to the east, Ukraine to the south and to the north and west lie EU and NATO members Latvia, Lithuania and Poland.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Srisailem dam</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Srisailem Dam is <b>located across the Krishna River</b> which serves as the border between Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.</li> <li>• It is constructed in a deep gorge in the <b>Nallamala Hills.</b></li> <li>• It is the <b>second largest hydroelectric project</b> in the country.</li> <li>• Recent fire in underground hydroelectric power station on the left bank of the Srisailem dam raised concern about maintenance and structural integrity of dam.</li> </ul>
<p><b>TReDS (Trade Receivables Discounting System)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Government has asked <b>central public sector enterprises to complete mandatory onboarding of their vendor</b> network on TReDS.</li> <li>• TReDS is an electronic bill discounting platform <b>to facilitate financing of trade receivables of Micro, Small &amp; Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)</b> from their respective corporate buyers through multiple financiers.</li> <li>• It is <b>regulated by RBI and provides</b> MSME 'suppliers' of corporate 'buyers' instant payments for future receivables.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Question Hour</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Government is <b>mulling doing away with Question Hour</b> in upcoming session to conduct business in short working hours.</li> <li>• It is the <b>first hour of every Parliamentary sitting</b> devoted to the Questions.</li> <li>• During Question Hour, <b>Member of Parliament can raise questions to Ministers</b> on various policy matters and decisions.</li> <li>• It is mechanism to <b>hold the government responsible</b> for its policies and actions.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Open API (application programme interface) Service</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is a <b>new feature in Aarogya Setu</b> that will enable organisations <b>to get health status of their employees</b> or any other user without violating their data privacy.           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➢ It will only provide Aarogya Setu status and name of the Aarogya Setu User with their consent.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Aarogya Setu is a contact tracing app</b> to track user's location, to establish whether they have come physically close to someone suffering from COVID-19, and to make an assessment of their risk of infection.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Nuakhai Juhar</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is an agricultural festival <b>to welcome the new crop of the season.</b></li> <li>• It is also called Nuakhai Parab or Nuakahi Bhetghat and is <b>celebrated in Odisha, Chhattisgarh and areas of neighbouring states.</b></li> <li>• Nuakhai is a combination of two words <b>signifies eating of new rice</b> as 'nua' means new and 'khai' means eat.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Tsar Bomba nuke test</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recently, Russia released previously classified documentary video of this test.</li> <li>• The bomb, officially named RDS-220 and later nick-named Tsar Bomba, <b>was the largest nuclear weapon ever constructed.</b></li> <li>• With a yield of 50 megatons (50 million tons), <b>equal to around 3,800 Hiroshima bombs</b>, the weapon was set off over Novaya Zemlya (island in Arctic Ocean) on October 30, 1961.</li> </ul>

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