

Daily Editorial Analysis 22 July 2025

July 22, 2025 • vajiramandravi.com

National Sports Policy 2025 - A Paradigm Shift towards Science, Support, and Sustained Excellence

Context

- The article critically examines the **National Sports Policy 2025**, highlighting **how it marks a transformational shift** in India's approach to athlete development by integrating sports science, medicine, and technology.
- This development is **crucial for sustained elite performance** on the global stage.

From Passion to Precision - India's Sporting Evolution:

- **India's rise in global sports:**
 - India has made commendable progress in international sports, with **growing medal counts and participation**.
 - However, **success remains inconsistent due to gaps in support systems**, athlete care, and scientific integration.
- **The 2025 policy:**
 - **Core message:** "Performance must be supported, not just expected."
 - **Objective:** The 2025 policy integrates science, technology, and medicine as foundational to sports development.

Key Pillars of the National Sports Policy 2025

- **Sports science and medicine integration:**
 - **Injury surveillance and early intervention:** Focus on athlete longevity.
 - **Biomechanics and performance analytics:** Scientific refinement of training and techniques.
 - **Nutrition and recovery science:** Targeting marginal gains that decide podium finishes.
 - **Mental health and cognitive conditioning:** Addressing psychological pressure in high-stakes competition.
- **Infrastructure and institutional development:**
 - The Sports Authority of India (SAI) regional centres and National Centres of Excellence are being upgraded, in partnership with the **National Centre for Sports Science & Research**.
 - **Examples include:**

- Bengaluru Centre: Advanced sports science hub under Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS).
- Indira Gandhi Stadium, Delhi: Home to new Return to Sports division.
- **Medical team support at global events:** For the first time, the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports had constituted a **10-member Indian medical team** in association with the Indian Olympic Association last year, to be stationed in Paris during the Olympic Games.

Technology - Backbone of the New Sports Ecosystem

- **Governance and monitoring:** Use of **AI-driven** platforms, real-time dashboards, and digital tools for:
 - Tracking performance and recovery.
 - Predicting injury risks and facilitating early intervention.
 - Enhancing transparency and efficiency in sports schemes.
- **Innovation and research ecosystem:**
 - Formation of a Sports Innovation Task Force.
 - Research grants for academic institutions to develop India-specific, interdisciplinary technologies.
 - These will help in **creating a self-reliant pipeline of ideas and tools for athlete development.**

Strategic Vision for the Future

- The policy emphasizes **systemic support** over sporadic talent success.
- It marks a shift from **reactive care to proactive performance support.**
- Embeds a data-driven, medically sound, and technologically equipped sporting ecosystem.

Conclusion

- The National Sports Policy 2025 is a visionary shift in India's sporting philosophy — from mere passion to performance driven by precision, planning, and preventive care.
- It is a vital case study in **policy innovation, evidence-based governance**, and the intersection of sports, science, and technology.

National Sports Policy 2025 FAQs

Q1. How does the National Sports Policy 2025 aim to integrate sports science and medicine into athlete development in India?

Ans. The policy places sports science, biomechanics, nutrition, recovery, and mental health at the core of athlete training, promoting a holistic and preventive approach to performance management.

Q2. What is the role of technology and data in the implementation and governance of the National Sports Policy 2025.

Ans. Technology is leveraged for AI-driven performance monitoring, real-time dashboards, and predictive analytics to ensure transparency, efficiency, and early interventions in athlete care.

Q3. What institutional efforts are being made to develop sports science infrastructure under the National Sports Policy 2025?

Ans. Facilities like SAI regional centres and the Indira Gandhi Stadium's Return to Sports division are being equipped with world-class sports science and recovery technologies.

Q4. What significance does the deployment of a dedicated Indian medical team at the Paris Olympics hold in the context of the new policy?

Ans. It marks India's first-ever real-time, on-ground medical support at the Olympics, reflecting the policy's commitment to athlete health and evidence-based decision-making.

Q5. In what ways does the National Sports Policy 2025 promote innovation and research in the field of sports in India?

Ans. The policy envisions a Sports Innovation Task Force and research grants to foster interdisciplinary, India-specific solutions through institutional collaboration.

Source: **IE**

Temples of Social Justice

Context

- The **recent controversy in Tamil Nadu over the diversion of temple funds** for the construction of colleges has sparked intense political debates.
- Beyond the immediate political implications, **the issue highlights a unique social justice model surrounding the regulation of secular practices** linked to religion.
- This model, **with roots in the erstwhile Madras Presidency, is grounded in a 200-year-old legislative tradition** that continues to shape governance in South India.

Historical Background of Religious Endowments

- **Regulation of Religious Endowments in India**
 - The **Religious Endowment and Escheats Regulation of 1817**, enacted by the East India Company, laid the foundation for legislative oversight of temple affairs.
 - By the mid-19th century, when the British Crown assumed control over India, **Queen Victoria's proclamation of 1858 emphasised the need to avoid interference in religious practices.**
 - This **move was prompted by concerns over the religiously charged 1857 Sepoy Mutiny.**
 - Despite this stated non-interference, the colonial state continued to regulate temple endowments for revenue and administrative control.
- **History of South Indian Temples' Endowments**
 - Temples in South India have a **long history of being more than mere places of worship.**
 - Dating back to the **Chola empire (970 AD), rulers lavished donations**, both land and wealth, upon temples.

- Historian **Anirudh Kanisetti** notes how queens like **Sembiyan Mahadevi** strategically **endowed temples with resources**, turning them into socio-cultural hubs.
- During the **Vijayanagara period**, temples served as centers for education, culture, and welfare.
- **Architectural features such as spacious mandapams (pillared halls) bear testimony** to their role in hosting educational and cultural events.
- This **historical precedent strengthens the argument that the use of temple funds for modern educational purposes** aligns with the original intent of temple endowments.

The Legal Framework

- The legislative structure governing temple funds in Tamil Nadu and other parts of South India evolved through various statutes, culminating in the **Tamil Nadu Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments (HR&CE) Act of 1959**.
- **Section 36 of this Act explicitly permits trustees of religious institutions to utilise surplus funds**, those remaining after temple maintenance and the training of its staff, for purposes sanctioned by law, with prior approval from the Commissioner.
- Furthermore, **Section 66 allows surplus funds to be used for the establishment and maintenance of universities or colleges**, provided that these institutions include studies on Hindu religion or temple architecture.
- The **legality of this arrangement has been repeatedly upheld by constitutional courts**, reinforcing the state's right to manage temple resources in a manner that promotes public welfare.
- Within this legal framework, **the diversion of temple funds for building colleges is not only lawful but also a continuation of the traditional practice** of using temple resources for education and societal development.

The Debate Over Government Control of Temples, Social Justice and Reform

- **The Debate Over Government Control of Temples**
 - The **debate over government control of temples cannot be reduced to mere legalities**; it is deeply intertwined with the legacy of social justice in South India.
 - In the pre-colonial era, **temple endowments were a means for rulers to fund welfare initiatives**.
 - During colonial rule, **state involvement in temple administration ensured the maintenance of these institutions** and the allocation of resources for public good.
- **Social Justice and Reform**
 - The **Self-Respect Movement** of the early 20th century viewed temple regulation as essential to dismantling caste hierarchies and ensuring social equity.
 - Landmark reforms, such as the **Temple Entry legislations of 1936 and 1947**, were enabled by the government's oversight of temple resources.
 - In modern times, **Tamil Nadu and Kerala have become pioneers in appointing priests from backward classes**, a milestone achieved after years of legal battles and social struggle.
 - Opposition to state management of temple affairs, therefore, risks undermining the hard-won gains of social reform.

- **Government oversight ensures not only lawful allocation of surplus funds** but also the continuation of a broader egalitarian legacy.
- **A rollback of such measures would amount to undoing decades of progress toward caste equality and social justice.**

Conclusion

- The **controversy surrounding the diversion of temple funds for educational purposes is not merely a question of legality** but also of historical continuity and social justice.
- The **temples of South India have historically functioned as cultural, educational, and welfare institutions**, a tradition preserved under the HR&CE Act of 1959.
- The **use of surplus temple funds to build colleges is both legally sanctioned and aligned with the temples' original role** in community development.
- More importantly, **it is part of a larger social justice model that has defined South Indian politics and society for over a century.**

Temples of Social Justice FAQs

Q1. What triggered the recent controversy in Tamil Nadu?

Ans. The recent controversy in Tamil Nadu was triggered by the decision to divert temple funds for building colleges.

Q2. Which colonial law first regulated religious endowments?

Ans. The Religious Endowment and Escheats Regulation of 1817 was the first colonial law to regulate religious endowments.

Q3. What does Section 36 of the HR&CE Act allow?

Ans. Section 36 of the HR&CE Act allows surplus temple funds to be used for approved public purposes with the Commissioner's sanction.

Q4. How were temples used during the Chola period?

Ans. During the Chola period, temples were used as centers for education, cultural activities, and welfare initiatives.

Q5. Why is opposing state control of temples controversial?

Ans. Opposing state control of temples is controversial because it challenges the legacy of social justice, caste reforms, and equitable use of temple resources.

Source: **The Hindu**

At FTA's Heart, The Promise of Global Capacity Centres

Context

- The **Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between the United Kingdom and India is poised to be a landmark development** in international trade, not only for its economic significance but also for its transformative potential in the services sector.
- Among the various areas of collaboration, **the rise of Global Capability Centres (GCCs) stands out as a strategic frontier** where India's proven leadership meets the U.K.'s post-Brexit ambition to reinforce its global footprint.
- Therefore, **it is important to understand how the FTA can serve as a catalyst for advancing the GCC ecosystem** by harmonising trade policies, developing innovation, and driving cross-border collaboration.

India's GCC Leadership and the U.K.'s Strategic Opportunity

- **India's GCC Leadership**
 - India has firmly established itself as **the global hub for GCCs, housing over 1,500 centres** that employ nearly two million professionals.
 - **These centres have evolved from serving as cost-effective back offices to becoming innovation engines** for multinational corporations, offering services in research and development, analytics, cybersecurity, and emerging technologies.
 - **British firms, recognising India's expertise, are increasingly leveraging these capabilities** to enhance their competitiveness in global markets.
- **U.K.'s Strategic Opportunity**
 - For the U.K., the FTA represents **a timely opportunity to secure access to India's fast-growing digital economy** and tap into its world-class talent pool.
 - **Post-Brexit, the U.K. seeks to strengthen its global services and innovation footprint**, and India's GCC landscape offers an ideal platform for this expansion.
 - By easing market entry and enabling smoother professional mobility, **the FTA can pave the way for British companies to not only outsource operations but also collaborate on high-value services** and cutting-edge technological solutions.

The Role of Policy and Regulation

- The FTA **could address existing challenges** such as double taxation, data localisation mandates, and misaligned digital governance standards barriers that often hinder the scaling of GCC operations.
- **A well-crafted agreement can create a more seamless environment** for intellectual property protection, data sharing, and cross-border digital trade, which are essential for high-tech service delivery.
- **India, despite lacking a formal national GCC policy, has cultivated a highly conducive ecosystem** through proactive initiatives from both central and state governments.
- The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has collaborated with industry players like NASSCOM and KPMG to outline a **national GCC framework in Budget 2025**.
- Additionally, **states like Uttar Pradesh are making concerted efforts to attract GCC investments**, as evidenced by the GCC Conclave under Invest UP.

- This **multi-layered approach aligns well with U.K. interests**, as the FTA could further incentivise British investment by aligning policy frameworks and enhancing investor confidence.

Economic Diplomacy and the Knowledge Corridor

- The **broader diplomatic context adds weight to this economic engagement**.
- The **high-level visits of U.K. leaders**, including Foreign Secretary David Lammy and Business and Trade Secretary Jonathan Reynolds, **signal a renewed commitment to deepening bilateral trade ties**.
- The meeting between Prime Ministers Keir Starmer and Narendra Modi at the **2024 G20 Summit** further reinforces this vision.
- **Both nations share a strategic interest in building a knowledge corridor**, wherein services, digital trade, and talent mobility take centre stage.
- The **UK India Business Council (UKIBC)** emphasises that **future trade will increasingly revolve around services**, skills, and technology, precisely the domains where GCCs excel.
- By facilitating the cross-border movement of professionals and fostering collaboration in emerging technologies, **the FTA can transform the U.K.-India partnership from one of traditional trade to a dynamic and future-ready alliance**.

Challenges and the Way Forward

- While the outlook is promising, **certain challenges remain**.
- The **debate over the necessity of a dedicated national GCC policy highlights the complexities of balancing organic growth** with structured regulation.
- Additionally, **competition between state-level policies, if not coordinated, may dilute national-level progress**.
- **Talent diversity and professional mobility also require careful management** to ensure that the GCC ecosystem remains globally competitive and inclusive.
- **Industry leaders have a vital role** in shaping the trajectory of this partnership.
- **Closed-door consultations** by the UKIBC have already begun exploring best practices, legal hurdles, and market outlooks.
- **These industry-driven insights, combined with governmental efforts, could ensure that the FTA delivers tangible benefits** for both nations.

Conclusion

- The **forthcoming U.K.-India Free Trade Agreement offers a historic opportunity to reimagine bilateral trade** by prioritising services, innovation, and human capital, areas where Global Capability Centres play a central role.
- **For India, the FTA can drive foreign investment**, talent development, and digital transformation. For the U.K., it provides a strategic gateway to one of the world's most dynamic digital economies.
- Together, **these nations have the potential to create a resilient, knowledge-driven corridor** that sets new benchmarks for international cooperation in the 21st-century services economy.

1. What is the main focus of the U.K.-India FTA discussed in the analysis?

Ans. The U.K.-India FTA focuses on strengthening collaboration in services, technology, and the expansion of Global Capability Centres (GCCs).

At FTA's Heart, The Promise of Global Capacity Centres FAQs

Q1. What is the main focus of the U.K.-India FTA discussed in the analysis?

Ans. The U.K.-India FTA focuses on strengthening collaboration in services, technology, and the expansion of Global Capability Centres (GCCs).

Q2. How many GCCs are currently operating in India?

Ans. There are currently over 1,500 GCCs operating in India, employing around 1.9 million people.

Q3. Why is the FTA important for the U.K.?

Ans. The FTA is important for the U.K. because it provides access to India's fast-growing digital economy and skilled workforce, which is crucial for the U.K.'s post-Brexit global strategy.

Q4. What key challenges could the FTA address for GCCs?

Ans. The FTA could address key challenges such as double taxation, data localization mandates, and misaligned digital governance standards.

Q5. What role do state governments play in GCC growth?

Ans. State governments, such as those in Uttar Pradesh, are introducing policies and organizing initiatives like GCC conclaves to attract investments and promote the growth of GCCs.

Source: **The Hindu**

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/daily-editorial-analysis-22-july-2025/>

© Vajiram & Ravi. For personal use only.