



**Mains Marathon**  
**Compilation**

**5<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> September, 2022**

## Mains Marathon Compilation for the Month of September, (First Week) 2022

1. While India-Bangladesh ties have improved a lot, there are still many long-standing pending issues, which need to be resolved for a better relationship. Comment
2. What is Precision Farming? Discuss the benefits associated with precision farming.
3. By 2030, India could possibly become a worldwide manufacturing hub. What is the significance of making India a global manufacturing hub? Also, highlight the hurdles in achieving this goal.
4. Do you think that reluctance of carmakers to add safety features to Indian cars is increasing the incidents of road accidents in India? What policy measures are required to make Indian roads safer?
5. Uniformed personnel constantly function in an unpredictable, stressful and dynamic environment, affecting their mental well-being. Comment and suggest some measures to reduce mental stress at the constabulary level.
6. Bring out the rationale behind the One Nation, One Fertilizer plan. Also, highlight the challenges associated with it.
7. What is mob-lynching? What are the various reasons for the rise in mob-lynching incidents in India? Suggest some measures to prevent mob-lynching.
8. Argue whether electoral bonds are an effective mechanism to conduct fair and transparent elections? Suggest some measures to improve transparency in electoral funding to political parties.
9. Teachers with skills and passion for the profession are foundational to the positive educational change envisaged by the NEP. In light of the statement, suggest the steps required to improve the quality of teaching in India that can be helpful in the realization of goals envisaged in the National Education Policy.
10. What are registered unrecognized political parties (RUPPs)? Highlight the issues associated with RUPPs.
11. Highlight the steps taken by the government to make India TB-free by 2025. What more is required to be done?
12. Bangaluru flood is all man-made and a result of a complete lack of vision of how a city needs to grow in a sustainable manner. Discuss and suggest remedial measures.

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**Q.1) While India-Bangladesh ties have improved a lot, there are still many long-standing pending issues, which need to be resolved for a better relationship. Comment**

**Introduction:** Contextual introduction.

**Body:** Explain India-Bangladesh relationship. Also write some long-standing pending issues between India-Bangladesh.

**Conclusion:** Write a way forward.

India played a great role in the emergence of an independent Bangladesh. Further, India was one of the first states to recognize Bangladesh as a separate nation. The relationship between India and Bangladesh is anchored in history, culture, language, and shared values of secularism, democracy, and countless other commonalities.

### India-Bangladesh relationship:

- **Trade relations:** India exports about US\$ 10 billion worth of goods to Bangladesh, which is about 15% of the total imports of Bangladesh. India imports a little over US\$ 1 billion worth of goods from Bangladesh.
- **Cooperation in Roadways:** Both countries decided to commence bus service from/to Dhaka from/to Gangtok and Darjeeling via Siliguri.
- **Assistance for Infrastructure:** India is also providing grant assistance to Bangladesh for various infrastructure projects. e.g. construction of Akhaura-Agartala rail link, dredging of inland waterways in Bangladesh, and construction of **India-Bangladesh Friendship Pipeline**.
- Recently, the **Maitri Setu bridge** was constructed to connect Sabroom in India with Ramgarh in Bangladesh.
- Both countries have **signed several bilateral instruments** in various sectors including hydrocarbons, agriculture, trade and development projects.
- India has been helping Bangladesh in coping with the Covid-19 pandemic by donating surgical masks, RC-PTR test kits, surgical latex gloves, vaccines etc.

### Long-standing pending issues:

- **Teesta Water sharing agreement:** India receiving 39% of the water and Bangladesh 36% of it. The remaining 25% remain unallocated. Further negotiations between India and Bangladesh on the sharing of the river waters have made limited progress.
- **Border management and illegal migration:** Despite high-level talks between the two countries, the issue remains unresolved.
- **Implementation of NRC:** Bangladesh has raised concerns over the National Register of Citizens (NRC).
- **Trade Deficit:** Despite the increase in Indian exports to Bangladesh, the desired target for products exported from Bangladesh has not yet been achieved.
- Some textile manufacturers in India are complaining about competition from the **duty-free import** of garments from Bangladesh.
- There is a need to limit **China's growing influence** through investments in various projects in Bangladesh. Bangladesh is the second biggest arms market for China after Pakistan.

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- Bangladesh is also opposing India's proposed Tapaimukh Dam on the Barak River in Manipur and the Interlinking of the rivers project by India.

India needs to strengthen regional groups like SAARC, BIMSTEC etc. This will give **full impetus to India's Neighbourhood First policy** and elevate India-Bangladesh relations to another level.

### Q.2) What is Precision Farming? Discuss the benefits associated with precision farming.

**Introduction:** Contextual introduction.

**Body:** Explain the benefits associated with precision farming.

**Conclusion:** Write a way forward.

Precision Farming is aimed at optimizing use of inputs through use of technology, improving economic returns and reducing environmental impact. Precision farming is able **to increase input efficiency using** sensors for ground data acquisition, wireless networks for interconnecting them, geospatial data analytics and Smart Decision Support Systems (SDSSs) for optimised farming decision-making. It can give us **"more from less"**.

It is referred to as "precision" because it is possible to perform the right intervention, in the right place, at the right time, responding to the specific demands of individual crops and individual areas of land with superior levels of precision.

#### Benefits associated with precision farming:

- **Reduced costs:** Being able to accurately decrease fertilizer, herbicide etc. in areas where it will not be economical to utilize is one of the key benefits of precision agriculture.
- **Increased Profitability:** Increasing yields because of applying agronomic principles at a high resolution, while reducing costs increases overall profitability.
- **Enhanced Sustainability:** Ensuring that crop input products applied actually get into the plant and not elsewhere affecting the environment.
- **Better Harvestability:** with the ability to understand the farm nutrient levels and soil types across the farm. As fields and geographies are not created equal, and can impact the amount of nitrogen mineralizations, water holding capacity, and much more.
- **Increased Land Values:** precision farming makes land more productive and profitable clearly translates into higher rent value and market value for farmland.
- **Higher resolutions understanding of farm:** Precision agriculture gives the ability to understand why certain areas of the farm under produce, or are producing better, to make decisions that continually improve the farm.
- **Better in season yield understanding:** Using precision imagery, or precision weather services, we can provide accurate yield prediction in-season, empowering better decisions agronomically as well as for marketing or asset purchasing purposes.
- Furthermore, improvements in storage by technological means can greatly **reduced crop spoilage** in the storage stage as well.

Rapid socio-economic changes such as economic growth, urbanization, and energy consumption are creating new opportunities for the application of precision farming in India.

**Q.3) By 2030, India could possibly become a worldwide manufacturing hub. What is the significance of making India a global manufacturing hub? Also, highlight the hurdles in achieving this goal.**

**Introduction:** Contextual introduction.

**Body: Explain** the significance of making India a global manufacturing hub. Also write some hurdles in achieving this goal.

**Conclusion:** Write a way forward.

Favorable demographic dividend over next 2-3 decades, availability of low-cost labor, and a strong domestic market provide an opportunity for India to turn into a global manufacturing hub. By 2030, India can add more than \$500 billion a year to the global economy.

**Significance of making India a global manufacturing hub:**

- The weakening of manufacturing in many developed nations has caused social divisions and devastation of communities. So, this will ensure **higher economic growth** and better living standards for people.
- Manufacturing provides **more room than services** for less-skilled and less-educated individuals. For instance, the prospects are not bright for less skill-intensive services such as tourism, aviation, and tourism traffic, which are badly hit by COVID.
- It is essential for **mass employment** and income growth.
- A thriving manufacturing sector will also generate additional benefits and help India, to **distribute wealth more equitably** and to contain its burgeoning trade deficit.

**Challenges to emerge as a manufacturing hub:**

- **Complex labour laws:** Large-scale exclusions of workers from labour law, violence and arrests are the reasons for India's poor performance.
- **Complex taxation system:** as well as a huge amount of paperwork and corruption. India started out with an overly complex GST, which has dampened investor sentiment and created tremendous compliance burdens on small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs).
- **Land acquisition difficulty:** Stringent land acquisition laws and inflexible labour regulations make it difficult for India to attract investors in the manufacturing sector.
- **Power deficit:** Greater availability of power is needed to realise the dream of becoming a manufacturing hub. India is running short of power with a deficit of 5.1%.
- **Un-skilled human capital:** India lags far behind other nations in imparting skill training.
- **Credit crunch:** Access to finance continues to remain the biggest challenge for MSMEs as the loans sanctioned by the Government are not disbursed properly. Banks and Non-Banking Finance Companies (NBFCs) have been reluctant to lend collateral free loans to MSMEs with the fear of no repayment.

Given the potential of manufacturing sector and the need to shift workforce from primary sector, Government of India has come out with **'Make in India' initiative to make India global hub** of manufacturing, research and innovation.

**Q.4) Do you think that reluctance of carmakers to add safety features to Indian cars is increasing the incidents of road accidents in India? What policy measures are required to make Indian roads safer?**

**Introduction:** Contextual introduction.

**Body:** Explain **how** safety features of cars can reduce the road accidents and write other reasons of causing road accidents. Also write some measures to make Indian roads safer.

**Conclusion:** Write a way forward.

India has the highest road fatalities in the world, and the government believes that equipping vehicles with more airbags will help reduce the number of lives lost on the roads. India has **1% of the global vehicle population** but its share in **road deaths is 11%**.

According to WHO, safety features of cars can reduce the road accidents:

- Correct helmet use can lead to a 42% reduction in the risk of fatal injuries and a 69% reduction in the risk of head injuries.
- Wearing a seat-belt reduces the risk of death among drivers and front seat occupants by 45 - 50%, and the risk of death and serious injuries among rear seat occupants by 25%.
- The use of child restraints can lead to a 60% reduction in deaths.
- Without these basic standards the risk of traffic injuries – both to those in the vehicle and those out of it – is considerably increased.

**Other major factors responsible for road accidents:**

- **Over speeding** is one of the major causes of road accidents in India.
- Driving under the **influence of alcohol**, or drugs.
- **Reckless driving** such as street racing, running red lights, changing lanes too quickly etc.
- Being **unaware of rules and regulations** on the road or knowingly ignoring them.
- Most of the roads have **potholes**, without road signs or under construction for a long period.
- The number of accidents occurring due to **distracted driving** (Reading messages, replying to texts, taking calls, reading, grooming, etc.) has increased in the past decades.

**Measures to make Indian roads safer:**

- There is need to focus on **stricter norms of traffic rule** especially on drunk driving, over speeding, helmets, seatbelts and identifying black spots.
- **Enforce lane discipline** and **automated driving test centers** to reduce the margin of human intervention.
- Need to **make spaces for all user-** pedestrians, cyclists, buses and other vehicles with intuitive road designs and signages, which mark out different zones of road usage.
- The speeding cameras with the **automatic number plate recognition system** could be helpful.
- The government can implement the important recommendations of the **KS Radhakrishnan panel on Road Safety**. a) perform a compulsory **Audit on road safety** b) **Creating awareness among people** on road safety rules, insurance policies, etc.

It is important that road users and people, in general, are sensitized about the norms and spirit of road safety. In line with reducing road accidents, India has already signed the **Brasilia declaration**.

**Q.5) Uniformed personnel constantly function in an unpredictable, stressful and dynamic environment, affecting their mental well-being. Comment and suggest some measures to reduce mental stress at the constabulary level.**

**Introduction:** Contextual introduction.

**Body:** Explain how work of uniformed personnel affecting their mental well-being. Also write some measures to reduce mental stress at the constabulary level.

**Conclusion:** Write a way forward.

Mental stress is a less-understood medical condition in India. Those who express the problem are termed as weak and are seen as shying away from the rigors of life. Security personnel are often exposed to a high level of the stressful environment due to strict and disciplinary environments. It many times negatively affects their ability to perform their job. It tends to become inhuman, especially to those who cannot communicate their personal issues in an appropriate forum.

**Affecting mental well-being:**

- In a uniformed setup, subordinate staff **does not want to appear weak** as the “macho man” stereotype weighs them down.
- The constabulary accounts for around 85 percent of state police and CAPFs. These personnel perform mostly remain in the background of the organisation with **less recognition for their achievements and more frequent persecution for failure**.
- A salary alone may not provide them with enough job satisfaction vis-a-vis the hardships they endure.
- To cope with such difficulty, personnel often resort to **alcoholism and drug abuse**. In the latter cases, defaulters are punished and suitable departmental action is also taken.
- Affected by daily exposure to **human indecency**, the shift changes, the long periods of boredom, cause serious job stress.
- **Lack of rewards for good job performance, insufficient training, and excessive paperwork** can also contribute to stress.

**Measures to reduce mental stress:**

- **Good working conditions, leave, allowances and housing** should be provided as entitlements.
- **Role of the police leadership:** to create a working environment that provides personal fulfilment to personnel and reduces the chances of mental stress and illness.
- Increase communication with all the ranks. For this, **regular Sampark Sabhas** need to be conducted where personnel can air their grievances and proper follow-up action must be taken on all possible issues.
- **Reward and recognition** act as big motivators. So, the incentive system has to be formalised in every setup.
- **Sports and cultural programmes** increase bonhomie and create bonds between personnel, who support each other during crises.
- Additionally, during random inspections on the field, **friendly communication with personnel on duty** increases his trust in the leadership and dedication to duty.

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- One common resource for police officers are **employee assistance programmes (EAP)**. Such programs are important and should be promoted by police agencies.

Considering the importance of mental health, Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) has decided to start a '**Chaupal**' like get-together for its personnel to vent their mental agony.

**Q.6) Bring out the rationale behind the One Nation, One Fertilizer plan. Also, highlight the challenges associated with it.**

**Introduction:** Contextual introduction.

**Body:** Explain the rationale behind the One Nation, One Fertilizer plan. Also write some challenges associated with it.

**Conclusion:** Write a way forward.

The Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers has decided to implement **One Nation One Fertiliser** by introducing a "**Single Brand for Fertilizers and Logo**" under the fertilizer subsidy scheme named "**Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janurvarak Pariyojna**"(PMBJP). All fertiliser companies in the country have to sell their products **under the brand name of 'Bharat'** for instance, 'Bharat urea', Bharat DAP' etc. irrespective of whether it is manufactured by a public or a private player.

**Rationale behind the One Nation, One Fertilizer plan:**

- To **bring uniformity** in fertilizers by **banning industrial diversion** of fertilizer brands across the country. Since fertiliser companies get the freight subsidy, they do not hesitate moving bags a longer distance.
- The government believes that **theft and black marketing of fertilizers** can be stopped in the country by providing fertilizers in the same sacks and under one brand name.
- The government believes that when it spends so much money on fertilizer subsidies and also determines where and at what price companies can sell their products, they should also **get some credit**.
- Govt. believes this move will help them reduce their **massive fertilizer subsidy bill**.

**Challenges:**

- It will **disincentive fertilizer companies** from undertaking marketing and brand promotion activities. So, likely to lose their decades-long brand and trust of farmers in their products.
- Fertilizer companies do a lot of **extension activities**, such as field-level demonstrations, crop surveys etc., to introduce efficient methods of nutrient application and it also helps in reaching out to the farmers, but now all this will stop.
- Currently, in case of any bag or batch of fertilisers does not meet the required standards, the blame is put on the company. But now, that may be passed on fully to the government.
- There is also speculation that the fertilizer companies are expected to be **limited to only contract manufacturers and importers** for the government.

One Nation, One Fertilizer plan is a significant step. India should also pay attention to improving fertilizer efficiency through need-based use and increase investment in new fertilizer plants.



**Q.7) What is mob-lynching? What are the various reasons for the rise in mob-lynching incidents in India? Suggest some measures to prevent mob-lynching.**

**Introduction:** Contextual introduction.

**Body:** Explain various reasons for the rise in mob-lynching incidents in India. Also write some measures to prevent mob-lynching.

**Conclusion:** Write a way forward.

The word lynching originated in the United States in mid 18th century. Mob lynching is an act of premeditated extrajudicial killing by a group of people, often targeted against a particular individual or group. Mob lynching is based on some false information, unconfirmed rumours etc. The Supreme Court has aptly described it as a **horrendous act of mobocracy**.

**Reasons for the rise in mob-lynching incidents in India:**

- **Psychology of mob:** Since it is harder to identify the real culprits when people attack in groups, people have less fear of being punished. Also there is dispersion of guilt and responsibility\
- **Lack of belief in police and administration:** The mob feel that they have a huge responsibility to society and police or any administrative body cannot do justice to that responsibility.
- **Discrimination based on communal lines:** the increasing hatred on the communal and religious lines.
- **Political patronage:** The culture of political mobilization based on social fault lines for **polarization of people and to vote banks** has become popular in country.
- **Misinformation and propaganda news:** intentional setting up of the events and the spread of fake news to incite violence in the society resulting into impulsive actions by the public.

**Measures to prevent mob-lynching:**

- A **national law** is required in response to the spate of lynching incidents happening in the country.
- The state governments shall designate a **senior police officer** in each district for taking measures to prevent incidents of mob violence and lynching.
- The state governments shall immediately **identify districts, sub-divisions, and villages** where instances of lynching and mob violence have been reported in the recent past.
- Central and the state governments should **broadcast on radio and television** and other media platforms including that lynching and mob violence shall invite serious consequence.
- Curb and **stop the dissemination of irresponsible and explosive messages**, videos and other material on various social media platforms.
- Indian community should be sensitised towards the rights of other citizens and danger of mob crimes for social cohesion. **Awareness campaigns** are needed to sensitise people about the plight of others.

There is a need for separate legislation and strict implementation procedures to curb the attacks and punish the wrongdoers. Due to the increasing dissemination of fake news, there is a need for stronger regulation over the use of social media and apps.

**Q.8) Argue whether electoral bonds are an effective mechanism to conduct fair and transparent elections? Suggest some measures to improve transparency in electoral funding to political parties.**

**Introduction:** Contextual introduction.

**Body:** Explain how electoral bonds are an effective mechanism to conduct fair and transparent elections and also write some issues. Also write some measures to improve transparency in electoral funding to political parties.

**Conclusion:** Write a way forward.

Electoral bonds are **interest-free bearer instruments** (like Promissory Notes) that allow donations to political parties using banks as an intermediary. The general public can also issue these bonds to fund eligible political parties.

**An effective mechanism:**

- All electoral bonds issued are to be redeemed by a bank account that the Election Commission of India has disclosed; hence the **malpractice is strengthened**.
- The widespread use of electoral bonds can help to hold back political parties who operate with the goal of simply collecting funds from the public. It is because **only registered parties** attaining at least 1% of the votes in the general election can receive electoral funding.
- Electoral bonds work with the government goal to make election funding entirely safe and **digitized**. Therefore, any donation going above RS 2000 is not legally required to be in the form of electoral bonds and cheques.
- All transactions of electoral bonds are carried out **via cheques or digitally**.

**Issues:**

- **Crony capitalism:** The higher value of the bonds being purchased indicates that the electoral bonds are being purchased by corporates rather than individuals that reflects corporate influence.
- **Delayed audit reports:** The delay & non-compliance by political parties defeat the purpose of any such reporting.
- **Foreign funding:** The Election Commission has observed that with the removal of the cap on foreign funding, electoral bonds invite foreign corporate powers to impact Indian politics.
- **Tax evasion:** Electoral bonds provide secrecy and will encourage round tripping i.e. rerouting illegal money that originates in India, back into the country through a tax haven.

**Measures to improve transparency in electoral funding:**

- An alternative to electoral bonds is a **National Electoral Fund** to which all donors can contribute. There is need to **educate the Voters** through awareness campaigns especially about the ill-effects of money power during elections.
- Venkatachaliah Committee Report (2002) recommended **strict regulatory frameworks for auditing and disclosure of party income** and expenditure along with state funding. In the absence of such frameworks, state funding in India cannot be effective.
- **Strengthening the role of Election Commission** by enabling suitable laws and creating healthy political environment. The EC should increase its own capacity in terms of empowering staff and developing infrastructural and logistical strength.

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Bringing about effective electoral finance reform in India requires political will. Measures like electoral bonds will have limited effectiveness, unless they are not accompanied by other necessary reforms.

**Q.9) Teachers with skills and passion for the profession are foundational to the positive educational change envisaged by the NEP. In light of the statement, suggest the steps required to improve the quality of teaching in India that can be helpful in the realization of goals envisaged in the National Education Policy.**

**Introduction:** Contextual introduction.

**Body:** Write some measures required to improve the quality of teaching in India that can be helpful in the realization of goals envisaged in the National Education Policy.

**Conclusion:** Write a way forward.

The NEP 2020 insists, 'Teachers truly shape the future of our children and, therefore, the future of our nation'. It implies that teachers play the most important role in nation-building by creating high-quality human resources in their classrooms.

### Measures to improve the quality of teaching in India:

- We need is a coherent strategy to **tie together the various tests and processes** such as TET, teacher recruitment tests, classroom demonstrations and teacher interviews. This will enable a holistic assessment of teacher competence.
- A **National Curriculum Framework for Teacher Education, NCFTE** should be drafted to guide all teacher education, pre-service and in-service, of teachers working in academic, vocational & special education stream.
- **Teacher Eligibility Tests (TETs)** should be extended to cover teachers across all the new stages (Foundational, Preparatory, Middle and Secondary) of school education.
- Recruiting teachers to a school complex and **sharing them across the group of schools** to deal with shortage of teachers particularly for music, dance, art, craft, counsellors, coaches, vocational education trainers, classical language teachers.
- Encourages school complexes to **hire local eminent persons or experts as 'master instructors'** in various subjects, such as in traditional local arts, vocational crafts, entrepreneurship, agriculture etc.
- Creating **performance standards** for teachers clearly spelling out the role of the teacher at different levels of expertise/stage and competencies required for that stage. **Teacher Audit or Performance Appraisals** that will be carried at regular intervals.
- **Enculturation of Teacher Empowerment Teachers autonomy** in selecting appropriate pedagogy and encourages them to also ensure socio-emotional learning of their students, which is a critical aspect of holistic development.
- **Innovative teaching methods** adopted by teachers to improve the learning outcomes will be recognised, documented, and shared widely as recommended practices.

Teachers can turn the tide and lead the Indian education system out of its current morass of aimlessness and inflexibility to become a progressive, flexible, multidisciplinary, technology and skill focussed education system that will have the capability to produce competent, creative, skilled, employable and ethical learners.

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**Q.10) What are registered unrecognized political parties (RUPPs)? Highlight the issues associated with RUPPs.**

**Introduction:** Explain registered unrecognized political parties (RUPPs).

**Body:** Explain various issues associated with RUPPs.

**Conclusion:** Write a way forward.

RUPPs are political parties whose vote share is below a threshold needed for recognition. These parties don't enjoy all the benefits extended to the recognised parties such as reserving a separate symbol for the party, subsidized land for party office etc. If a party satisfies any one of below-mentioned criteria, then they are called **Registered Unrecognised Political Parties**. The conditions are:

- If the political party is newly registered.
- If the political party not secured enough percentage of votes in Assembly or General Elections to become a state party.
- Political Parties that never contested in elections since they got registered with the Election Commission.

**Issues associated with RUPPS:**

- The majority of these parties did **not contest elections or file their contribution reports** and annual statements and therefore violated the law. This **defeated the purpose of a clean electoral system**.
- The Election Commission has reported that the majority of unrecognised parties **do not adhere to statutory compliances**, such as filing documents related to funding and taxation, among others.
- It is suspected that several unrecognised parties may be engaged in **money laundering**, corrupt electoral practices and abuse of money power, given the income tax exemptions they enjoy.
- The Association of Democratic reforms has reported that the number of registered unrecognised political parties has increased twofold in the last 10 years. It also points out that the number of unrecognised parties **increases disproportionately** during the year of Parliamentary elections.

Election Commission of India should impose strict norms for the registration of an association of persons as a political party apart from taking the stringent step of de-listing those parties which fail to adhere to the rules.

**Q.11) Highlight the steps taken by the government to make India TB-free by 2025. What more is required to be done?**

**Introduction:** Contextual introduction.

**Body:** Write some steps taken by the government to make India TB-free by 2025. Also write some additional measures to achieve this target.

**Conclusion:** Write a way forward.

Tuberculosis (TB) is an infectious **airborne bacterial disease**. According to **WHO's Global TB report 2021**, with 25.9 lakh TB cases, India is home to **25% of the global tuberculosis**

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**cases.** The National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP) aims to strategically reduce TB burden in India by 2025.

### Steps taken by the government:

- A range of forward-looking policies have been implemented including critical schemes such as **Ni-kshay Poshan Yojana (NPY)**, which helped **meet the nutritional requirements** of TB patients, especially the underserved.
- **Ayushman Bharat - Health and Wellness Centres** are established to decentralize comprehensive primary healthcare including TB care services at the grassroots level.
- Initiated strategies to **engage the community and create a Jan Andolan** to reach out to the underserved and marginalized and support patients in accessing care.
- Creation of **Patient Support Groups (PSGs)** to facilitate conversations between patients, doctors and their caregivers to address common issues in treatment.
- **Using Information Technology (IT) tools** for monitoring the programme and treatment adherence.
- **Incentives to private providers** for following the standard protocols for diagnosis and treatment as well as for notifying the government of cases.
- Patients referred to the government receive a **cash transfer** to compensate them for the direct and indirect costs of undergoing treatment and as an incentive to complete treatment.

### What more can be done?

- **Poverty and malnutrition** are two main reasons for TB. Elected representatives need to ensure steps for the eradication of these.
- There is an urgent need for **cost-effective point-of-care devices** that can be deployed for TB diagnosis in different settings across India.
- **Service delivery** should be optimised so that the diagnostics and drugs reach to people who need them the most.
- There is a need to aggressively **scale up testing with innovative strategies** such as active surveillance, bidirectional screening for respiratory tract infections using the most sensitive molecular diagnostics, and contact tracing.
- The government must ensure that **social security programmes** are duly implemented. They work towards prevention of modifiable risk factors like malnutrition, poverty etc.
- There is also a need to consider **telemedicine and remote support** as important aspects of health services that could play a pivotal role in early detection and treatment.

Collective effort is desired at local, national and international level to attain **SDG 3.3** which aims to end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases by 2030.

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**Q.12) Bangaluru flood is all man-made and a result of a complete lack of vision of how a city needs to grow in a sustainable manner. Discuss and suggest remedial measures.**

**Introduction:** Contextual introduction.

**Body:** Explain how Bangaluru flood is all man-made. Also write some remedial measures.

**Conclusion:** Write a way forward.

The city of Bangaluru witnessed several spells of heavy rainfall recently. Over the last few years, urban floods seem to have become an annual phenomenon in India. While heavy rainfalls are a significant factor in urban floods, a major cause is poor planning, inadequate infrastructure, unauthorized construction and encroachment of river and lake beds.

### **Bangaluru flood: Man-made and unsustainable growth of city:**

- The city corporation has not connected the villages with the city's sewage infrastructure. Because of this, the stormwater drains malfunction, allowing rainwater and raw sewage to overflow.
- **Over concretization** resulting in reduced infiltration into the soil, **unplanned urbanization**, changes to the topography and **lack of buffers to hold surface water** all lead to flooding.
- The **highway** acts as a dam for the water. Bengaluru's drainage infrastructure is unprepared to handle periods of unexpectedly severe rainfall.
- **Garbage** frequently clogs drains, which limits the flow of sewage, and they are too small to support the weight of the expanding population.
- Both the **road network design and the leak system design** are incorrect. Also, there is no proper planning to use lakes to buffer extra water.
- The open areas including, the **greens and the lakes** have been recklessly destroyed which completely altered the balanced water management strategy of the city.

### **Remedial measures:**

- Protected areas for river, lake, and other water channel catchments must be identified and freed from encroachments.
- **Permeable surfaces** rather than full concrete can be utilised in locations such as parking lots, footpaths, walking lanes, common areas in apartments and other large structures.
- Build **climate resilience** and a better environment such as curb car travel, improve cheap public transport with more buses instead of waiting for the expensive metro.
- **Preserve existing green cover and plant more trees**, both in the city and around it.
- Risk reduction should start with a **mapping of flood vulnerability**. Land use in urban areas should be strictly regulated.
- **De-concretise** pavements, prohibit littering and segregate garbage as unsegregated garbage clogs drains.
- The **urban infrastructure must be upgraded**, including construction of new storm water drains and expansion of existing sewerage infrastructure.
- Outdated institutions need to be replaced by a **constitutionally compliant structure**, with local governments at the top.

To develop a long-lasting solution, all parties must acknowledge the issues and adopt a thorough strategy. There is a need to integrate all the development activities and urban governance.