



# **Mains Marathon Compilation**

**16<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> January, 2023**

## **Mains Marathon Compilation for the Month of January, (Third Week) 2023**

- 1. The Amul model has been about both farmer empowerment and valuing professional management in organizations controlled by and working for producers. In light of the statement, discuss the significance of Amul model of cooperatives.**
- 2. Highlight the multidimensional benefits associated with the Centre's push for riverine tourism.**
- 3. How India can be helpful in promoting human-centric globalization where universal healthcare is a key priority?**
- 4. Both the incidence of cancer and mortality continue to rise in the country, whereas it is declining rapidly in the US. What are the reasons behind such inequalities?**
- 5. What are the differences between reserve forests, protected areas, community forest resource and ecologically sensitive zones? What were the problems with the implementation of ESZs?**
- 6. Discuss the need for a new fertilizer policy in India.**
- 7. With policy and implementation focused on the early years in primary school, it is time to rethink strategy for India's schoolchildren who have gone past the foundational stage. Discuss**
- 8. There needs to be a review of the way the POCSO Act has been implemented, as there are imperfections despite its impact. Discuss**

**Q.1) The Amul model has been about both farmer empowerment and valuing professional management in organizations controlled by and working for producers. In light of the statement, discuss the significance of Amul model of cooperatives.**

**Indian Express**

**Introduction:** Contextual introduction.

**Body:** Explain significance of Amul model of cooperatives.

**Conclusion:** Write a way forward.

Cooperatives are organisations **owned by members**. They could be **producers or consumers**. These members may own shares. But, they value the cooperative mainly for the services provided by them. Amul was established to streamline the dairy farming in cooperative sector and protect the dairy farmers from the manipulative middlemen.

**Significance of Amul model of cooperatives:**

- **Three-tiered structure:** with the dairy cooperative societies at the village level federated under a milk union at the district level and a federation of member unions at the state level. So, a dairy farmer in a village in Gujarat with a herd size of two cows gets the opportunity to sell the milk in Delhi or Kolkata market.
- **Professional management:** The Amul organisational model, from the time of Verghese Kurien has been based on an **elected board of directors** operating through a chief executive and his team, which include marketing and finance professionals, project engineers, veterinarians, agronomists and nutritionists. So, their boards or managers are **accountable to farmers**.
- We need to implement this cooperative model **to uplift sectors** like agriculture and animal husbandry. The cooperative model will prove **crucial in making agriculture self-reliant**.
- The cooperative sector's **contribution in creating a \$5-trillion economy** will be immense as shown by the success of Amul, the world's largest milk cooperative.
- Today, many farmers have turned to organic farming but they do not have any platform to sell the produce in India and the world. Amul model can be **useful beyond milk and dairy sectors**.

Amul's success with the cooperative model is definitely something the government can take notes from, especially as it embarks on laying a larger focus on cooperatives and its newly-formed ministry works to provide a policy framework to strengthen the cooperative movement in India.

**Q.2) Highlight the multidimensional benefits associated with the Centre's push for riverine tourism.**

**Indian Express**

**Introduction:** Contextual introduction.

**Body:** Explain some multidimensional benefits associated with the Centre's push for riverine tourism.

**Conclusion:** Write a way forward.

Recently the Prime Minister has launched the **MV Ganga Vilas** from Varanasi. The luxury 51-day cruise will be operated in partnership with private players by the Inland Waterways Authority. It will traverse several states, two countries and make stops at about 50 tourist and heritage sites along the Ganga and Brahmaputra river systems.

**Multidimensional benefits of riverine tourism:**

- The tourism sector is **labour-intensive** and can provide some of the **formal jobs** and job diversification that a transitioning Indian economy so desperately needs.

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- The **global River cruise market has grown** at ~5% over the last few years and is expected to constitute ~37% of the cruise market by 2027.
- Promotion of river tourism can help in **preservation of natural environment and cultural heritage** of the region.
- Its various contributions in terms of **conservation of the river** and its surrounding environment as well as creating opportunities for **sustainable livelihood** of the river-based community.
- Rivers constitute a major tourism resource, providing spectacular settings, **recreation facilities**, a means of transport, a sense of heritage and adventure, and links with the environment and natural world.
- The river cruise is expected to expand further with systematic forward and backward linkage for the economy, particularly across river banks, as capital expenditure is pumped to **build capacity in inland waterways**.
- Various activities like river cruises, water sports like sailing and rafting and the riverbank landscape contributes to the **development of places along its banks**.

The Ganga cruise, though, should be just a beginning in tapping the unrealised potential of India's numerous and diverse river systems for tourism. It must take into account the best practices from around India and the world, while ensuring local communities and the environment are not given short shrift.

### Q.3) How India can be helpful in promoting human-centric globalization where universal healthcare is a key priority?

Times of India

**Introduction:** Contextual introduction.

**Body:** Explain how India can be helpful in promoting human-centric globalization where universal healthcare is a key priority.

**Conclusion:** Write a way forward.

India's vision of a healthier globe emanates from the philosophy of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam that translates into One Earth, One Family, One Future. As part of **India's G20 presidency**, policymakers from member countries and experts from the medical fraternity create a framework of a **Global Health Architecture (GHA)**.

India can be helpful in promoting human-centric globalization with universal healthcare in following manner:

- GHA envisages equipping countries to face the next health emergency with **robust healthcare systems**.
- GHA helps in strengthening national capacities to prevent, prepare for and respond to major outbreaks. The agenda will **include a One Health approach to antimicrobial resistance (AMR)**.
- **Partnering with multiple organisations** like WHO, World Bank, G7, Access to Covid-19 Tools Accelerator, this effort will attempt to synergise existing strengths and identify bottlenecks in the system.
- **G20 India Health Track** aims to facilitate seamless interweaving towards a global health emergency architecture.
- G20 aims to **strengthen cooperation in the pharmaceutical sector** in order to improve equitable access to quality vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics.
- Indian generics are valued across the world. India continues to provide **affordable HIV drugs and anti-TB generics** to several LMICs.
- With the aim to strengthen the pharma sector, the government has introduced production-linked incentive schemes, **Bulk Drug Parks and Medical Device Parks**.

Building common facilities will reduce the costs of production and enhance availability and affordability of medical devices.

- Providing **digital health innovations** and solutions to aid universal health coverage. The digital technologies can help in remote data capture, medical diagnosis and virtual care. CoWin has been shared with several countries as a digital public health good.
- India plans to draw a framework for the **Global Initiative on Digital Health** and harness the potential of artificial intelligence in building more resilient infrastructure.

Enriched with this experience, the G20 presidency provides us the mandate to assume a leadership position for the Global South and propose a fresh vision of a healthier world order.

**Q.4) Both the incidence of cancer and mortality continue to rise in the country, whereas it is declining rapidly in the US. What are the reasons behind such inequalities?**

Indian Express

**Introduction:** Contextual introduction.

**Body:** Write some reasons behind inequalities in cancer incidence and mortality of India and USA.

**Conclusion:** Write a way forward.

According to a report, deaths due to cancer have declined by 33% in the United States since 1991. This has translated into 3.8 million fewer deaths. In India, deaths due to cancer increased to an estimated 8.08 lakh in 2022 from 7.9 lakh in 2021 and 7.7 lakh in 2020. According to ICMR, India's cancer burden to rise to 29.8 million in 2025.

**Reasons behind such inequalities:**

- **Tobacco intake:** Drinking, smoking and tobacco intake both in rural and urban areas is a major cause of cancer among men in India. Further, passive smoking also endangers others' health.
- **Accessibility:** Unreachability of hospitals and **poor diagnosis tools** increases the cancer spreading to higher stages where it becomes difficult to treat.
- **Poor public healthcare:** Public healthcare is inadequate so people go to private hospitals for treatment. According to estimates, there are only 2,000 cancer specialists in India for 10 million patients.
- **Fertilisers:** Indiscriminate use of fertilizers in agriculture is one of the causes of cancer. Punjab to Rajasthan carry large number of such cancer patients.
- **Cancer care facilities:** We have one comprehensive cancer care centre for every 5 crore population. The WHO says there should be 1 radiotherapy machine per million populations in developing countries, so we need 1,400 machines, and we have only 700.
- There is an increase in rates of breast cancer, especially in urban centres because of **later age of marriage**, having the first child at a later age, not breastfeeding, and a high protein diet.
- Unlike cervical cancer, which can be prevented with HPV vaccination, there is **no specific intervention** for breast cancers other than screening because what causes it is unknown.
- The **high treatment cost** has seriously impacted survival rates. In the case of breast cancer, the five-year survival rate in India is estimated to be 65%. In high-income countries, it is nearly 90%.

India needs to prepare better. Better screening and treatment centres, and more comprehensive linkages between screening centres and hospitals are essential to reduce cancer mortality in the country.



**Q.5) What are the differences between reserve forests, protected areas, community forest resource and ecologically sensitive zones? What were the problems with the implementation of ESZs?**

**The Hindu**

**Introduction:** Contextual introduction.

**Body:** Explain the differences between reserve forests, protected areas, community forest resource and ecologically sensitive zones. Also write some problems with the implementation of ESZs.

**Conclusion:** Write a way forward.

Protected areas cover 5.26% of India's land area as 108 national parks and 564 wildlife sanctuaries. Surrounding protected areas is a region of more than 3.4% percent of the country's land, which falls under the ESZ regime. **Forest Rights Act, 2006 (FRA)** recognises the rights of forest-dwelling tribal communities (FDST) and other traditional forest dwellers (OTFD) to forest resources.

There are following differences between reserve forests, protected areas, community forest resource and ecologically sensitive zones:

- Reserve forests are the **most restricted forests** and are constituted by India Forest Act or the State Forest Acts on any forest land or wasteland. In reserved forests, **local people are prohibited**, unless specifically allowed.
- Protected areas are **notified under the Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972**. Protected areas do away with even those activities permitted in 'reserve forests', unless specifically allowed.
- The community forest resource area is the **common forest land** that has been traditionally protected for sustainable use by a particular community. It may include forest of any category-revenue forest, classified & unclassified forest, deemed forest, reserve forest, protected forest, sanctuary and national parks etc.
- Ecologically sensitive zones (ESZ) are intended **to safeguard 'protected areas'** by transitioning from an area of lower protection to an area of higher protection. The purpose of the ESZ was to provide more protection to the parks by **acting as a shock absorber**.

**Problems with the implementation of ESZs:**

- Significantly, parts of the ESZs in ten States **fall within the Scheduled Areas** notified under the Fifth Schedule of the Constitution. They are mostly populated by Scheduled Tribe groups.
- The Provisions of the PESA Act, 1996 apply in these areas. The **PESA recognises gram sabhas competence** to safeguard and preserve community resources on forest and revenue lands in Scheduled Areas.
- The MoEFCC has shown no inclination to amend the Indian Forest Act 1927, the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and the Environment (Protection) Act 1986 to comply with the PESA and FRA.
- The protected areas are based on the core and buffer model of management. Many argue that if the parks already have buffer zones then why do we need ESZs.

There is a need for rethinking on the impacts of the environmental policies at the local level, the type and prospects of local participation and most importantly the prospects of alternate income generating opportunities for successful conservation initiatives.

**Q.6) Discuss the need for a new fertilizer policy in India.**

**Live mint**

**Introduction:** Contextual introduction.

**Body:** Explain the need for a new fertilizer policy in India.

**Conclusion:** Write a way forward.

India is the **2nd largest consumer and 3rd largest producer** of fertilizers in the world. The new policy could propose lower duty on imported phosphoric acid to raise the competitiveness of local fertilizer manufacturers and an incentive for promoting organic fertilizers.

**Need for a new fertilizer policy:**

- **Heavy subsidies:** The subsidies have enabled the **over utilisation** of fertilizers on agricultural lands. Over use of fertilizers also **pollutes groundwater**. Infants who drink water with high levels of nitrate (or eat foods made with nitrate-contaminated water) may develop the **blue baby syndrome**. Also, with the subsidy being released directly to companies, technology-inefficient companies are being protected.
- **Costlier raw material:** Rock phosphate is the key raw material for DAP (diammonium phosphate) and NPK fertilisers and India is 90 percent dependent on imports for them.
- **Heavy imports:** India depends heavily on imports for its fertilizer requirements. In 2021-22, in value terms, imports of all fertilisers touched an all-time high of \$12.77 billion. The total value of fertiliser imports by India, inclusive of inputs used in domestic production, was a huge \$24.3 billion in 2021-22.
- **Lack of natural resources:** In case of urea, primary feedstock is natural gas which is not enough available in the country. As per the petroleum ministry's data, the fertiliser sector's share in the consumption of re-gasified LNG was over 41 per cent.
- To promote the **efficient use** of fertilizers through the balanced use of N, P, and K (nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium).
- The Ukraine war spiked the government's spending on food, fertilizer and fuel subsidies by nearly 70%. For 2023-24, the fertilizer ministry might seek budgetary support of ₹2.5 trillion subsidy – outgo for FY23 has already crossed ₹2 trillion.

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) With policy and implementation focused on the early years in primary school, it is time to rethink strategy for India's schoolchildren who have gone past the foundational stage. Discuss**

**The Hindu**

**Introduction:** Contextual introduction.

**Body:** Write some policies for early education. Also write some issues with the education of middle school children.

**Conclusion:** Write a way forward.

**Article 45 in Directive Principles of State Policy** stated that the government should provide free and compulsory education to all until the age of 14 within 10 years from the commencement of the Constitution. **Article 21A** made elementary education a fundamental right rather than a directive principle.

**Policies for early education:**

- **Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan:** It was started in 2001, to achieve the Universalisation of Elementary Education (UEE).

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- **Mid Day Meal:** Mid Day Meal Scheme was launched in 1995 with provisions to **provide free meal** to about 12 crore children studying in primary and upper-primary classes. The objective behind the scheme is to address the hunger and education, improve the nutrient status and increase the attendance and retention rates among the children.
- **Operation Blackboard:** The purpose of the scheme is to provide the **requisite institutional equipment and educational material** for students studying in primary organizations to improve their education.
- **NIPUN Bharat Scheme:** To create an enabling environment to ensure universal acquisition of **foundational literacy and numeracy**, so that every child achieves the desired learning competencies in reading, writing and numeracy by the end of Grade 3, by 2026-27.

### Issues with the education of middle school children:

- ASER evidence suggests that **basic learning levels** of middle schoolchildren have remained **low and stagnant** for over a decade. The “value” add of each year of middle school is small.
- Many children are reaching standard eight without being sufficiently equipped with foundational literacy and numeracy skills.
- ASER data shows that an “**overambitious**” **curriculum** and the linear age-grade organisational structure of Indian schools result in a vast majority of children getting “left behind” early in their school career.
- In the **absence of in-school mechanisms for “catch up”**, children fall further and further behind academically. With this comes low motivation to learn and a lack of self-confidence.
- Academic content transacted in schools implicitly assumes that students are **being prepared for college**. However, the reality is that a college degree is neither relevant nor possible for most students who finish secondary school.

Much of the country's efforts in school education today are focused on ensuring strong foundations for children in the early years. But it is critical that we remember that middle schoolchildren also urgently need support for learning recovery and “catch up”.

**Q.8) There needs to be a review of the way the POCSO Act has been implemented, as there are imperfections despite its impact. Discuss**

### The Hindu

**Introduction:** Contextual introduction.

**Body:** Explain some imperfections of POCSO Act. Also write its significance.

**Conclusion:** Write a way forward.

The aim of Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO Act), 2012 is to address offences of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children, which were either not specifically defined or in adequately penalised.

### **Imperfections of POCSO Act:**

- **Issue of age determination:** Age estimation based on medical opinion is generally so wide in scope that in most cases minors are proved to be major.
- **At the Trial Stage:** The challenges at this stage include: **(a)** Lack of Special Courts in all districts; **(b)** Lack of Special Public Prosecutors for Special Courts; **(c)** Non-compliance with the timelines prescribed by the Act.
- **Inadequate Training of Various Stakeholders:** e.g. Private medical practitioners are usually the first point of contact for child victims but no mandatory training is provided.
- The POCSO Act provides for recording the statement by a woman sub-inspector. But it is practically impossible when the **number of women in the police force** is just 10%.



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- In the **absence of proper infrastructure** to ensure the integrity of electronic evidence, the admissibility of evidence recorded using any audio-video means will always remain a challenge.
- There are instances where the banned two-finger test is still in use.
- There have been **no attempts to upgrade the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL)** in States. Many cases have a charge sheet without an accompanying FSL report, which is then decided by courts.

### Significance of POCSO Act:

- The Act provides **for immediate relief at the filing of the case**. The compensation amount can change, based on the need of the victim. For example, the Act does not define the outer limit. The Judges can include Child's educational need, medical needs including trauma compensation while deciding the compensation amount.
- The Act is **Gender-neutral and Child friendly**. The Act defines Child as any person below 18 years of age. Apart from that, the Act includes various safeguards for the child, like protecting the identity, avoiding victimization etc.
- The Act has led to increased number of cases filed, and also translated to an increase in the higher rate of conviction.

The recommendations provided by the Vidhi Centre are worthwhile which, if implemented, can go a long way in addressing the issues with the functioning of the POCSO Act.