



**Mains Marathon**  
**Compilation**

**6<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> March, 2023**

## **Mains Marathon Compilation for the Month of March, (First Week) 2023**

- 1. In the light of the recent events, highlight the implications of acting against the Non-Government Organisations.**
- 2. Rejuvenating primary care is essential and Ayurveda graduates can contribute enormously towards this rejuvenation if trained properly. In the light of the statement, discuss the challenges faced by Ayurveda practitioners.**
- 3. India's relationship with Germany has traditionally lagged behind its relations with other European countries. In the light of the statement, discuss the significance of a strong India-Germany relation.**
- 4. The Production-linked Incentive (PLI) scheme has been a game changer for exports from India. Substantiate.**
- 5. Do you think, this is an optimal way to conserve India's grasslands?**
- 6. Increased adoption of the railways for cargo movement is crucial to improve the country's logistics competitiveness. In the light of the statement, highlight the significance of the railways for India's logistics.**
- 7. What is the strategic and economic significance of India-Australia relations? Also, highlight the hurdles to strengthening relations.**
- 8. Throw light upon the evolving regulatory framework for crypto assets in India.**

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**Q.1) In the light of the recent events, highlight the implications of acting against the Non-Government Organisations.**

**The Hindu**

**Introduction:** Contextual introduction.

**Body:** Explain some implications of acting against the Non-Government Organisations.

**Conclusion:** Write a way forward.

**Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA)** was enacted to regulate foreign donations and to ensure that such contributions do not adversely affect internal security. It is applicable to **all associations, groups, and NGOs** which intend to receive foreign donations. It is mandatory for all such NGOs to register themselves under the FCRA. Recently the Government of India suspended the FCRA licence of the country's premier think tank, the Centre for Policy Research (CPR).

**Implications of acting against NGOs:**

- Collaboration with the world requires the flow of information, personnel and funds in both directions. Along with public funding, private and philanthropic funding are **essential for India to continuously expand** its knowledge horizons in all fields.
- The action against the CPR **lowers the bar of tolerance** for the political establishment to an abysmal level.
- Improving education and tribal welfare is part of the list of activities under **corporate social responsibility** mandates. Restrictions on NGOs might create confusion about the status of corporate programmes in which they have invested money.
- NGOs have to prove that their work does not qualify as harmful to **“public interest” or “national security”**. The 2020 amendment of FCRA has left these terms undefined and ambiguous. This may lead to **subjective interpretations** on the part of MHA officials.
- The enhanced compliance formalities have resulted in the closure of many NGOs and the **livelihood loss** of people working in them. For instance, the capping of administrative expenditure at 20% has made them unviable. This is especially true for NGOs hiring professionals like lawyers and doctors who charge hefty fees for their services.
- Many prominent NGOs like Amnesty International, Greenpeace India, etc. have lost their FCRA licenses in the past few years. Many of these NGOs work in **very critical fields** and most often where state helps fails to reach, like pollution and climate change issues, human rights, child labour and human slavery. They, therefore, have a strong impact **on the progress of the nation and welfare of the poor**.

Civil society supplements government works and works at the grass-roots level. They should be given due freedom and autonomy to support the needs of communities.

**Q.2) Rejuvenating primary care is essential and Ayurveda graduates can contribute enormously towards this rejuvenation if trained properly. In the light of the statement, discuss the challenges faced by Ayurveda practitioners.**

**The Hindu**

**Introduction:** Contextual introduction.

**Body:** Explain some challenges faced by Ayurveda practitioners.

**Conclusion:** Write a way forward.

Ayurveda is also called traditional system of Indian medicine. Ayurvedic medicine is an example of a well-organized system of traditional health care, both preventive and curative. Ayurvedic knowledge originated in India more than 5,000 years ago and is often called the **“Mother of All Healing”**. Most material relating to the health and diseases are available in Atharva veda.

**Challenges faced by Ayurveda practitioners:**

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- There is **limited practical usability** of ancient medical wisdom taught in college training.
- There is a **trust-deficit** about the soundness of Ayurvedic theories and the fruitfulness of its practices. A major reason for this trust-deficit is its **diminished evidence-based quality**. Practitioners resort to gimmickry and publicity, due to general trust deficit. It is harmful for genuine Ayurveda physicians.
- Though the Central Council of Indian Medicine (CCIM) has implemented various educational regulations to ensure minimum standards of education, there has been a mushroom growth of **sub-standard colleges** causing erosion to the standards of education.
- Ayurveda does not have a vibrant ecosystem of science and research. A poor practitioner has to **depend on himself** to discover treatments and approaches that actually work.
- The process involves a lot of trial and error with patients and predictably leads to an erosion of the practitioner's reputation.
- Most States **prohibit the practice of modern medicine** by Ayurveda graduates and, consequently, the practitioner finds himself crippled again.
- The Ayurveda establishment has **failed to keep pace with the intellectual and scientific advances** of the times. Ayurveda treatments are slow to heal is another common view that characterizes the public image of Ayurveda.

A statutory decision should be taken to allow Ayurveda graduates to practice modern medicine in stipulated primary care areas. There is need for sincerity, straight-thinking, and some adventurism on the part of stakeholders.

**Q.3) India's relationship with Germany has traditionally lagged behind its relations with other European countries. In the light of the statement, discuss the significance of a strong India-Germany relation.**

### The Hindu

**Introduction:** Contextual introduction.

**Body:** Explain some issues in India-Germany relationship. Also write significance of a strong India-Germany relation.

**Conclusion:** Write a way forward.

The bilateral relations between India and Germany are founded on **common democratic principles**.

India was amongst the first countries to establish diplomatic ties with the Federal Republic of Germany after the Second World War. Germany is **India's largest trading partner in Europe** and 2nd most important partner in terms of technological collaborations.

### **Issues in India-Germany relationship:**

- India's position on the **Russian invasion of Ukraine**, abstention on critical votes on the war and continued **economic engagement** like cheap crude import has attracted criticism from the West.
- The convergence of interests to protect democratic values is not a strong binding chord between India and Germany. For example, India has adopted pragmatism on dealing with Myanmar's junta.
- India has **territorial conflicts** with China. Despite the lack of German trust in China, there exists **economic interdependence**.
- There is a problem of the **lack of a separate bilateral investment treaty** between the two countries. Germany has a Bilateral Trade and Investment Agreement (BTIA) with India via EU.
- The lack of understanding of each other's strategic cultures and domestic politics.

### **Significance of a strong India-Germany relation:**

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- **Economy:** Germany is **India's largest economic partner** in the European Union (EU).
- **Clean energy and green technologies:** It has emerged as the central pillar in the partnership. The Green and Sustainable Development Partnership was launched last year. There exists cooperation in the area of green hydrogen.
- **Mobility and migration:** Germany has shortages of **skilled manpower**; where technically skilled Indians could help plug this gap.
- **Security:** India attempts to **diversify from its military dependence** on Russia. Berlin is also **reassessing its arms exports policy**. Germany could become an important defence partner for India. Germany's intent to enhance its **strategic involvement in the Indo-Pacific** through greater military deployment.
- As ties with Russia and China are uncertain, Europe is prioritising **values based partnerships with like-minded countries**. It can advance India-German cooperation.
- A recent agreement on **India-Germany triangular cooperation** involves development projects in third countries.

In times of shifting geopolitical alliances and realignments, India and Germany can emerge as important poles in shaping the new world order.

### Q.4) The Production-linked Incentive (PLI) scheme has been a game changer for exports from India. Substantiate.

#### Indian Express

**Introduction:** Contextual introduction.

**Body:** Explain how Production-linked Incentive (PLI) scheme has been a game changer for exports from India.

**Conclusion:** Write a way forward.

The PLI Scheme was launched as a **part of the National Policy on Electronics 2019** to give incentives of 4-6% to electronic companies. The PLI is an innovative scheme that provides incentives in terms of cash to various companies for enhancing their **domestic manufacturing** apart from focusing on reducing import bills and improving the cost competitiveness of local goods.

#### **A game changer for exports from India:**

- It has not only transformed India into a **manufacturing hub** but has also curtailed its burgeoning trade deficit in electronics and other manufactured goods.
- Electronics manufacturing attracted a massive investment and its exports have grown rapidly by **over 55 percent annually**. Exports of mobile phones alone may reach \$10 billion during the current financial year.
- India witnessed an unprecedented **growth of 45 percent with exports** touching \$422 billion in 2021-22. It has been able to attract 22 top companies, including Apple and Samsung mobile phones in the electronics manufacturing segment.
- Despite global economic woes, **India's overall exports, merchant and services combined, grew at 17.33 percent** to \$641 billion during April-January 2022-23 compared to \$547 billion during the same period last year.
- With 97% of mobile phones sold in India now being made in India. Furthermore, they are also being **"Made in India for the World"** as we witness a sharp growth in smartphones exports by 139% over the last three years.
- Similar successes are replicated in the **pharmasector PLI with 35 imported active pharmaceutical ingredients** or key chemical inputs for drugs being developed in India.
- In addition, other sectors, such as food products, telecom and networking products, and drones are reporting successes with visible growth in investment, employment, and production.



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- Over 600 foreign and domestic firms have been selected across 14 key sectors in two years, indicating enthusiastic industry participation.

It is expected that, over the next five years, a manufacturing capacity of over \$150 billion and exports of \$100 billion will be tied up through the PLI scheme. Further, the government needs to rectify the challenges faced by Indian firms in manufacturing.

The cheetah re-introduction programme has a larger goal of improving India's grasslands.

### Q.5) Do you think, this is an optimal way to conserve India's grasslands?

#### The Hindu

**Introduction:** Contextual introduction.

**Body:** Explain how cheetah re-introduction programme is an optimal way to conserve India's grasslands. Also write some challenges.

**Conclusion:** Write a way forward.

The **Cheetah Reintroduction project** aims to establish a viable cheetah metapopulation in India that allows the cheetah to perform its functional role as a top predator and provide space for the expansion of the cheetah within its historic range thereby contributing to its global conservation efforts. India has translocated 8 African cheetahs from Namibia and 12 from South Africa.

#### **An optimal way to conserve India's grasslands:**

- It is a **grassland-based species**. In saving the cheetah other species which are grassland based and endangered are also saved.
- Cheetahs do indicate the overall wellness of open areas, meadows and grasslands and the ungulate populations (deer and chinkara)/cheetahs' usual prey.
- So, the health of the cheetah population does count as a surrogate marker of the health of the grasslands.
- As it has been seen in the case of tigers (The Project Tiger 1973), there has been a remarkable increase in the tiger reserves from 9 to 53. Therefore, it is expected that reintroduction of cheetahs will also help in the improvement of the ecosystem.

#### **Challenges of cheetah re-introduction programme:**

- Cheetahs may not help in restoring grasslands until India addresses other issues. For example, The Wasteland Atlas of India still categorises large stretches of open natural ecosystems as wasteland.
- Renewable energy projects are granted large tracts of open natural ecosystems, to establish solar panels. The level of **human presence is high** in these grassland.
- **Lack of sufficient prey** in Kuno National Park(KNP) was a "concerning" situation.
- The **carrying capacity of the ecosystem** is limited. There have been no proper studies about it.
- The increase in species and their numbers may lead to **more human-animal conflicts**.
- There is a **lack of suitable habitats** of sufficient size for them. In the best of habitats like Kenya and Tanzania, cheetahs exist in very low densities of around 1 per 100 sq km. The area of KNP is only 748 sq kms. It can at best accommodate only 10 Cheetahs.
- The 21 cheetahs that are projected after 15 years, that too at one site is **insufficient to conserve grassland**.
- Confining the animal to one Protected Area increases its **vulnerability to epidemics**.

Cheetah conservation can be used for consolidation of grassland and shrubland that are decaying. **Eco-tourism along with conservation can be promoted**. However, there is also a need to address the challenge associated with it because there have been experiences that people over do it.

**Q.6) Increased adoption of the railways for cargo movement is crucial to improve the country's logistics competitiveness. In the light of the statement, highlight the significance of the railways for India's logistics.**

**The Hindu**

**Introduction:** Contextual introduction.

**Body:** Explain the significance of the railways for India's logistics.

**Conclusion:** Write a way forward.

Logistics includes all activities of the supply chain such as transportation, warehousing, packaging, inventory management, the flow of information, order processing and customer service. To increase the share of the railways in freight movement from 27% to 45% and increasing freight movement from 1.2 billion tonnes to 3.3 billion tonnes, by 2030, **PM Gati Shakti** provides the right platform to address the infrastructural challenges that have hampered the movement of freight by rail.

**Significance of the railways for India's logistics:**

- Trains are not just the safest way to transport freight - they are also green and among the most **energy-efficient** mode of transportation. Because they generate up to 80% less CO<sub>2</sub> and consume 75-90% less energy for freight traffic than road transport.
- Currently, Indian roadways handle 70 per cent freight when compared to 18 per cent by railways. So an increased burden on roads causes significant congestion, increased pollution, and resultant logistics cost escalations.
- **Freight movement cost** is the highest in the road sector- nearly twice the rail cost.
- A robust rail network will augment the transportation system that will attract more investment in India. This will **aid in enhancing the current manufacturing capacity** of the nation.
- A commodity mix that has a high share of bulk goods is suitable for rail's bulk-handling capabilities.
- Freight travel is often over longer distances which is suitable to rail's economies of scale relative to road transport.
- India has a low coast-to-landmass ratio. Between the two low carbon freight modes, rail and coastal, India's geography makes rail **more feasible** in many areas of the country as compared to coastal.

The Railways offer an efficient and economic mode of logistics movement given their pan-India network, and can play an important role in enabling a coordinated and integrated logistics system.

**Q.7) What is the strategic and economic significance of India-Australia relations? Also, highlight the hurdles to strengthening relations.**

**Indian Express**

**Introduction:** Contextual introduction.

**Body:** Explain how strategic and economic significance of India-Australia relations. Also write some hurdles to strengthening relations.

**Conclusion:** Write a way forward.

India-Australia, both nations have much in common, underpinned by shared values of **pluralistic, Westminster-style democracies, Commonwealth traditions**, expanding economic engagement and increasing high level interaction. Both the countries are part of QUAD, G20, WTO, ISA etc. regional and multilateral initiatives.

**Strategic significance:**

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- **Indo-Pacific Stability:** Both nations aspire to a free, open, inclusive, and prosperous Indo-Pacific. The establishment of **QUAD grouping** and active participation by both is necessary to counter China's actions in the region.
- **Gateway to Pacific Countries:** like Kiribati, Solomon Islands etc. as Australia enjoys a high degree of influence over them.
- **Upholding International Law:** Both nations believe in **sovereign equality of nations** and progression based on mutual respect and understanding.
- **Geo-Strategic Considerations:** Considering Australia's proximity with the Indian Ocean, active engagement is desired for maintaining India's strong position in the Indian Ocean region. Further, Australia's support is desired for getting membership in the Nuclear Suppliers Group and bringing reforms to UNSC.

### **Economic significance:**

- Australia's long-term and secure LNG supply can help diversify India's current highly concentrated import supplies from the Middle East.
- India-Australia Economic Cooperation Trade Agreement (**ECTA**) is expected to increase trade between the two sides to \$45-50 billion over five years, from the current estimate of \$27 billion, and create over 10 lakh additional job opportunities.
- The Australia government has adopted the **India Economic Strategy to 2035**. It aims to set up a **Consulate-General** in Bengaluru in 2023, a **joint Australia-India Centre of Excellence** for Critical and Emerging Technology Policy in Bengaluru.

### **Hurdles to strengthening relations:**

- **Coal mine controversy:** over the Adani coal mine project in Australia, with some activists protesting against it.
- **Visa issues:** There have been concerns over visa restrictions for Indian students and professionals seeking to work in Australia.
- **Russia-Ukraine crisis:** Australia has criticized the Russian invasion of Ukraine and sided with the U.S. and western countries. However, India has refrained from criticizing Russia over the issue. This can create differences in bilateral discourse and the functioning of QUAD.
- **Lack of Uranium Supply:** The progress on uranium supply has been very low, despite efforts from both sides.

Both countries must work together with resolve to shape our economic and strategic environment aimed to ensure collective security and prosperity.

### **Q.8) Throw light upon the evolving regulatory framework for crypto assets in India.**

#### **ToI**

**Introduction:** Contextual introduction.

**Body:** Explain evolving regulatory framework for crypto assets in India.

**Conclusion:** Write a way forward.

Cryptocurrency enables relatively invisible transactions, with serious implications for crime, terrorism, money laundering, tax evasion, etc. Cryptocurrencies are getting popular because of their underlying technology of **Blockchain**, and due to some of their inherent advantages over fiat currencies, like **faster transactions** and require less or no additional transaction fees and protects users from issues like identity theft.

#### **Evolving regulatory framework for crypto assets in India:**

- In February, RBI had asked financial intermediaries it regulates to follow KYC norms and other relevant standards for remittances following transactions in crypto assets.
- The Finance Bill 2022 has promulgated a **new taxation regime for the class of VDAs** including cryptocurrencies and non-fungible tokens (NFTs). The gains arising from the transfer of VDAs are proposed to be taxed **at the rate of 30%**. However, the Act did not



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have any provision related to legalizing/banning the cryptocurrencies or any other Digital Asset.

- Under the presidency of India, **G20 Finance Track discussion** has put the regulation of VDAs to curb their use in money laundering and terror financing as a top priority.
- Superapp CryptoWire recently launched **India's first cryptocurrency index, IC15**. It will measure the performance of the 15 most widely traded cryptocurrencies listed on leading crypto exchanges by market capitalization
- In July 2022, rules regarding 1% tax deducted at source on cryptocurrency came into effect.
- Recently, the Finance Ministry has notified that crypto or virtual asset businesses will now be in the **ambit of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 (PMLA)**. It also mandates that crypto exchanges and intermediaries dealing with virtual digital assets (VDAs) must have proper **KYC documentation** for all customers they onboard.

Cryptos need intelligent light-touch regulation. Bans do not work and hurt the exuberant innovation that can throw up valuable products and services. Crypto assets need to be treated as a financial asset with intermediaries required to follow reporting standards.