



**Mains Marathon**  
**Compilation**

**28<sup>th</sup> Aug, to 2<sup>nd</sup> Sep, 2023**

## **Mains Marathon Compilation for the Month of August, (Fifth Week) 2023**

- 1. Elaborate on the significance of educational aid for religious minorities in India. What are the implications of reduced funding on the educational prospects of minority communities?**
- 2. Analyze the significance of BRICS in representing the interests of the Global South. How does the expansion of BRICS membership reflect the group's value and its potential to influence global economic and political dynamics?**
- 3. Discuss the implications of the suspension on Indian wrestlers participating in UWW (United World Wrestling) sanctioned events.**
- 4. Examine the reasons behind the government's decision to impose export curbs and trade controls on rice and wheat, despite record production levels. What are the potential advantages of implementing a uniform MEP (Minimum Export Price) for all rice varieties**
- 5. Elucidate the significance of the Bharat New Car Assessment Programme (BNCAP) norms introduced by the Union Minister for Road Transport & Highways.**
- 6. Discuss the historical and clinical evidence that suggests the role of social determinants, such as poverty and living conditions, in the incidence and mortality of TB. How has the focus shifted from these determinants to biomedical interventions over the years?**
- 7. Critically analyze the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) in the context of the principle of equitable allocation. How does it impact the bilateral relations between India and Pakistan?**
- 8. Analyze the challenges faced by resource-constrained countries in providing quality treatment to HIV-positive individuals. How can international partnerships and agreements help in addressing these challenges?**
- 9. Analyze the multi-dimensional implications of holding simultaneous elections in India.**
- 10. Critically evaluate the progress made under the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) since its inception. What are the primary challenges faced in ensuring no untreated sewage flows into the river?**

## Mains Marathon Compilation for the Month of August, (Fifth Week) 2023

1. **Elaborate on the significance of educational aid for religious minorities in India. What are the implications of reduced funding on the educational prospects of minority communities?**

**Introduction:** Give brief introduction about religious minorities.

**Body:** Highlight significance of educational aid to minorities & implication of reduced funding on educational prospects of minorities.

**Conclusion:** Way forward.

India is home to over 30 crore or 20% of people belonging to religious minority communities which include six religions notified under the National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992. Among them, Muslims make up the largest religious minority but face challenges in various sectors which vary from their low participation in salaried jobs to a large proportion of people in the informal sector, characterized by low wages, weak social security, and poor working conditions.

### What is the significance of educational aid for religious minorities in India?

- **Improving socio-economic status:** NITI Aayog report has pointed significant disparity in education accessibility between Muslims and the general population. Access to education can lead to better job prospects and higher incomes, contributing to the overall empowerment of minority groups.
- **Commitment to diversity:** The provision of educational aid to religious minorities strengthens the commitment to inclusivity and diversity, ensuring that all citizens, regardless of their religious origin, have access to high-quality education.
- **Preservation of Cultural and Religious Heritage:** Educational aid can help preserve the unique cultural and religious heritage of minority communities.
- **Representation and Diversity in Professions:** Adequate education for religious minorities can lead to greater representation in various professions, including politics, academia, business, and more

### Implications of reduced funding on their educational prospects:

- **High drop-out rate:** Various surveys have pointed to a low rate of enrolment (4.6%) for Muslims in higher education compared to other groups. Also, the highest proportion of out-of-school (4.43%) children in the country belong to Muslim communities leading to low educational attainment and limited opportunities.
- **Underrepresentation:** Reduced educational chances may prevent minorities from entering certain professions including academia, government, and professional positions, which would result in a lack of diversity and representation in important sectors of the economy.
- **Strain on social harmony:** Religious minority communities may experience marginalization and frustration as a result of educational differences, which could put a strain on intercommunity relations and social cohesion.
- **Loss of cultural heritage:** Lack of funding could make it difficult for organizations working to preserve the religious and cultural traditions of minorities to carry out their missions, thereby resulting in the loss of priceless customs and practices.

### Conclusion:

Niti Aayog has suggested enhancing budgetary allocation for various schemes, recommending a 15% annual increase from 2019-20. It also recommended increasing the number of scholarships for girls from minority communities by 10% every year. Further, scholarships should be made demand-driven, along with additional financial resources to enhance unit

## Mains Marathon Compilation for the Month of August, (Fifth Week) 2023

costs. The total budget allocation for the Ministry of Minority Affairs should be significantly increased, given the level of deprivation in the educational attainment of minorities.

### 2. Analyze the significance of BRICS in representing the interests of the Global South. How does the expansion of BRICS membership reflect the group's value and its potential to influence global economic and political dynamics?

**Introduction:** Describe BRICS briefly.

**Body:** What is its significance & how can new BRICS influence global economic and political dynamics?

**Conclusion:** Way forward.

BRICS is the acronym for the five fastest-growing nations of the world, namely Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa. It was formed to encourage cultural, commercial, and political operations among BRICS nations. The BRICS nations are all leading developing or newly industrialized nations and have gained importance in the emerging and fairer multi-polar world order. Recently there has been a discussion to invite six countries — Argentina, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE — to join BRICS as full members.

#### What is the significance of BRICS in representing the interests of the Global South?

- **Economic potential:** The BRICS brings together five of the largest developing countries of the world, representing 41% of the global population, 24% of the global GDP, and 16 % of the global trade. This economic clout gives them the ability to advocate for the interests of the Global South in international economic forums and negotiations.
- **Alternate economic governance model:** Western powers have historically dominated international organizations and decision-making processes. These important non-Western economies can unite through BRICS to contest this dominance. It contributes to redefining the international economic order's rules and norms and presents an alternative narrative to that of global economic governance.
- **Voice of Global issues:** BRICS represents the Global South's voice collectively in international negotiations. These nations may strengthen their impact on the international scene by cooperating and promoting shared viewpoints on topics like trade, climate change, and development financing.

#### How BRICS 2.0 can influence global economic and political dynamics?

- **Global Recognition of Grouping:** The proposed countries if decided to join will make BRICS more representative of a larger share of the world population, global GDP, and international trade. This will increase its global recognition notwithstanding the negative view taken by the West.
- **Increase political & economic clout:** The new BRICS-XI will have more political clout as it will be more representative of different continents and will have nations with strategic locations like Iran & Ethiopia. The New Development Bank will be recapitalized with the assistance of Saudi Arabia and the UAE, increasing its ability to finance development initiatives.
- **Cooperation on vital issues:** The new BRICS 2.0 can engage on vital issues like UNSC membership for the original BRICS members — India, Brazil, and South Africa & finalizing on issue of BRICS currency in trade and financial transactions “between BRICS as well as their trading partners”, for “fast, inexpensive, transparent, safe and inclusive payment systems.”

**Conclusion:**

New BRICS can offer fresh impetus to resolve border issues between India & China and, the Ukraine crisis while posing a challenge to India in balancing its ties with the West on the one hand and its active articulation and pursuit of the interests of the Global South on the other.

**3. Discuss the implications of the suspension on Indian wrestlers participating in UWW (United World Wrestling) sanctioned events.**

**Introduction:** What is the context of the question?

**Body:** What can be the implications of the decision of UWW?

**Conclusion:** Way forward.

Recently, United World Wrestling (UWW), the world governing body for the sport, has taken a major decision to suspend the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) for the inability to conduct an election within a stipulated period. This means that Indian wrestlers cannot compete under the national flag in UWW events, including the World Championships in Belgrade in September. This has further put the spotlight on the role of Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) which was earlier in the news because of allegations of sexual harassment against WFI president Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh.

**What can be the implications of this decision?**

- **International embarrassment:** WFI suspension does not impact the players directly as they continue to participate in international tournaments but won't be allowed to display the tricolour on their jerseys.
- **Insult to national symbols:** WFI suspension will lead to no display of the Indian tricolour flag at major sporting events. Even if an Indian wins the competition the national anthem will not be played causing huge embarrassment to our nation.
- **Low number of tournaments:** The longer the suspension lasts, the more difficult it will become for India to resolve the issue. It will impact the sport as India will receive less number of invitations to participate in world events related to wrestling.
- **Funding:** The WFI suspension will inflict a huge blow on the funding WFI used to receive from UWW. This will increase the financial burden on WFI, which will impact wrestlers and their support personnel including individuals with high-performance, medical, or technical roles such as coaches, assistant coaches, and sports physicians.
- **Performance of athletes:** WFI suspension will impact the performance of wrestlers negatively as they will be in a state of distress concerned about their future.

**Conclusion:**

There is an urgent need for WFI to hold elections for its top posts taking all stakeholders on board like state wrestling bodies to avoid factionalism. The elections should be held with complete transparency according to rules & regulations framed by international bodies. A thorough and impartial investigation into the allegations of "abuse and harassment" against the former WFI chief needs to be conducted. Sports Ministry should engage all relevant stakeholders including athletes, and officials of WFI to bring reforms in the functioning of WFI & resolve all issues peacefully and amicably.

## Mains Marathon Compilation for the Month of August, (Fifth Week) 2023

### 4. Examine the reasons behind the government's decision to impose export curbs and trade controls on rice and wheat, despite record production levels. What are the potential advantages of implementing a uniform MEP (Minimum Export Price) for all rice varieties?

**Introduction:** Give brief description about the decision of the government.

**Body:** What are implications of this decision and advantages of MEP policy?

**Conclusion:** Way forward.

Recently, the Government imposed a ban on wheat exports & rice exports despite production of both rice and wheat hitting all-time highs compared to last year, according to Agricultural Ministry data. Rice rose from 124.37 million tonnes (mt) in 2020-21 to 129.47 mt in 2021-22 and 135.54 mt in 2022-23. Wheat fell from 109.59 mt to 107.74 mt before rising to 112.74 mt in 2022-23.

#### What are the reasons behind this decision?

- **Food security:** Ensuring sufficient domestic food supply is a top priority. By restricting exports, the government aims to maintain buffer stocks to safeguard against unforeseen disruptions in production or global supply chains.
- **Maintain price stability:** Export controls can reduce demand and potential inflation, which can help to stabilize domestic prices. This is crucial to ensuring that the populace can buy staple foods, especially during difficult economic times.
- **Weather conditions:** India has a high rate of production, but it is still susceptible to climatic changes like drought & climate change that could affect subsequent harvests. Export restrictions aid in reducing this risk and maintain the nation's food reserves in the event of a production deficit brought on by unfavourable weather.
- **Strategic reserves:** The government's ability to respond to situations like natural disasters or unexpected disruptions in the world food supply is ensured by maintaining sizable food reserves, supporting national security.

#### What are the potential advantages of implementing a uniform MEP for all rice varieties?

- **Prevent Quality manipulation:** A uniform MEP prevents exporters from downgrading the quality of rice to meet lower MEPs. This maintains fairness and quality standards in the export process.
- **Increase exports:** A uniform MEP could encourage exporters to explore a wider range of rice & wheat varieties, leading to diversified export offerings. This diversification could open up new markets and trading partners. For eg, rice varieties like Gobindobhog in West Bengal, Kalanamak in eastern Uttar Pradesh's Terai region, Chak-hao in Manipur, Red Matta in Kerala, and Ponni in Tamil Nadu have unique qualities and specific export markets.
- **Protection to farmers:** A uniform MEP would protect farmers cultivating non-basmati varieties of rice, especially those varieties that are not sold through PDS & are prone to price fluctuations and trade policy vagaries.
- **Reduce administrative burden:** A uniform MEP would ease the government's burden regarding issues related to misclassification or illegal exports of non-basmati masquerading as parboiled or basmati rice. A uniform MEP would simplify the export process by eliminating the need to calculate and manage MEPs for different rice & wheat varieties.

#### Conclusion:

## Mains Marathon Compilation for the Month of August, (Fifth Week) 2023

A uniform MEP policy coupled with other measures ensures that prices remain under control & inflation is brought down while simultaneously addressing concerns related to any fear of a short supply of cereal in the domestic market.

### 5. Elucidate the significance of the Bharat New Car Assessment Programme (BNCAP) norms introduced by the Union Minister for Road Transport & Highways.

**Introduction:** Give a brief description of BNCAP norms.

**Body:** Highlight the significance of BNCAP norms.

**Conclusion:** Way forward.

Recently, India has launched its crash test rating assessment system joining the list of many nations that rely on their crash test rating assessment and establish safety parameters. The new norms are labelled under the Bharat New Car Assessment Programme or Bharat NCAP & will come into effect from October 1. The norms define safety standards of motor vehicles with type approval for seating up to eight people and with a gross weight of less than 3.5 tonnes, which are either manufactured or sold in the country. Only the base model of a particular variant will be tested.

#### What is the significance of the new norms?

- **Standard metric to compare vehicles:** The new vehicle safety regulations will encourage automakers to steadily raise the safety ratings of their models and provide consumers with objective criteria to compare the safety tests of various vehicle types before making a purchase.
- **Less expensive & time-consuming:** Presently, car makers ship their car models abroad for testing and star grading as per Global NCAP norms which is an expensive and time-consuming affair. The new norms will significantly reduce this cost as various studies suggest per vehicle testing cost as per BNCAP is roughly 60 lakh per vehicle, while it is roughly 2.5 crore if the tests were done overseas.
- **Quality improvement:** The new regulations may increase both the national average quality of cars and the exportability of vehicles built in India. Over time, it is anticipated that the program would affect how consumers behave, create demand for safer vehicles, and encourage automakers to put a greater emphasis on safety.
- **Align Bharat NCAP with global standards:** India will also need to increase the testing parameters for Bharat NCAP over time to bring it into compliance with international standards. For instance, the U.S. NCAP also includes a roll-over test, while Japan's NCAP covers electric shock protection performance after a collision and, the performance of neck injury protection in a rear-end collision.
- **Reduce fatalities:** India has one of the highest rates of fatal traffic accidents worldwide, with almost 1.5 lakh fatalities on its roadways each year. India has committed to halving the number of traffic-related fatalities and injuries by 2030 as per the Stockholm Declaration. The new BNCAP will help India to fulfil its international obligations & save human lives.

#### Conclusion:

The new BNCAP norms are voluntary and this flexibility could offer manufacturers a loophole to avoid subjecting their new launches to safety test norms. Further strict enforcement of the new norms coupled with a dynamic education program in road safety will make the Bharat NCAP system an authentic and objective rating system to empower the customer to make an informed choice.

**6. Discuss the historical and clinical evidence that suggests the role of social determinants, such as poverty and living conditions, in the incidence and mortality of TB. How has the focus shifted from these determinants to biomedical interventions over the years?**

**Introduction:** Give brief description about TB & its current status in India.

**Body:** Highlight role of social determinants & shift to medical intervention in recent years.

**Conclusion:** Way forward.

Tuberculosis (TB) is an infectious airborne bacterial disease caused by Mycobacterium tuberculosis, which most commonly affects the lungs but can also damage other parts of the body. According to WHO's 2018 Global TB Report, India accounted for 27% of the total new TB infections in 2017, the highest in the world. The role of social determinants, including poverty and living conditions, in the incidence and mortality of TB is well-established and has been a major focus of research and public health efforts.

**What role do social determinants play in the incidence and mortality of TB?**

- **Poverty:** A majority of TB patients in India are affected due to undernourishment. Poverty impacts their accessibility to food and their ability to get treated. It is still a big problem in India associated with problems of undernourishment and poor and unhygienic living conditions.
- **Overcrowding:** The rapid spread of TB is facilitated by the overcrowding found in slums and other informal settlements, which are frequent in areas of extreme poverty. The danger of transmission is increased by inadequate ventilation and close contact.
- **Malnutrition:** Inadequate nutrition is frequently caused by poverty. A person's immune system becomes weakened by malnutrition, making them more prone to contracting TB infection and less equipped to fight it off once infected. Various studies like RATIONS published in the Lancet journal now show that food supplementation is not just an effective treatment for people with TB, but is also an effective vaccine for their family members.

**How has this focus shifted from social determinants to medical intervention in recent years?**

- **Improved diagnostic methods:** Biomedical research has led to improved diagnostic tools, such as rapid molecular tests, and the development of drug regimens like Directly Observed Treatment, and Short-Course (DOTS) which are more accurate and quick diagnostic options and have improved treatment outcomes. Telemedicine and mobile health applications have improved access to healthcare services, bridging the gap for those in remote or underserved areas.
- **Drug-resistant TB:** The emergence of drug-resistant TB strains has heightened the urgency of finding effective treatments. The use of oral medications has reduced the duration of DR-TB treatment from 24 months to 6 months which is a big improvement in medical science.
- **Global Health Initiatives:** The global health community, including organizations like WHO, has emphasized the importance of biomedical interventions with increased funding and support to developing nations. For eg, WHO suggests the use of oral BPaLM/BPaL (Pretomanid (Pa) bedaquiline (B), linezolid (L), and sometimes moxifloxacin (M)) regimen for DR-TB patients which is found to be effective at curing 89-91 per cent of multidrug-resistant TB (MDR-TB).

**Conclusion:**



## Mains Marathon Compilation for the Month of August, (Fifth Week) 2023

Nikshay Poshan Yojana launched by the Government of India in 2018 to offer food supplementation or cash transfers to buy food is a step in the right direction for TB patients. The need is to expand the coverage of this benefit to all household members of the patient to improve the chances of achieving the ambitious target of eradicating TB by 2025.

### 7. Critically analyze the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) in the context of the principle of equitable allocation. How does it impact the bilateral relations between India and Pakistan?

**Introduction:** Brief introduction of IWT.

**Body:** What are its strengths and weaknesses and how has it impacted bilateral relations?

**Conclusion:** Suggest ways to improve the functioning of the treaty.

The Indus Water Treaty or IWT is a treaty signed in 1960 between India & Pakistan with the mediation of the World Bank which acted as a third party. IWT was signed by former Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and then President of Pakistan, Ayub Khan.

#### Strengths & weakness of IWT:

- **Water sharing:** The Treaty allocated the three western rivers—Indus, Chenab, and Jhelum—to Pakistan for unrestricted use, barring certain non-consumptive, agricultural, and domestic uses by India, and the three Eastern rivers—Ravi, Beas, and Sutlej—were allocated to India for unrestricted usage.
- **Dispute resolution:** The PIC is an established mechanism under the IWT, which mandates it to establish and maintain cooperative arrangements for the implementation of the water distribution pact and to promote cooperation between India and Pakistan in the development of the Indus water systems.
- **Food and energy needs:** IWT is unlikely to address the growing industrial needs related to food and energy of 2 countries. The modified version of IWT should incorporate mechanisms that allow flexibility to change the quantity of water available for allocation among the parties.
- **Technological Advances:** The equitable allocation principle may not consider technological advancements in water conservation, efficient irrigation, and storage. New technologies could potentially enhance water availability for both countries, but the treaty might not encourage their full utilization.

#### How does it impact the bilateral relations between India and Pakistan?

- **Bilateral Engagement:** The treaty established the *Permanent Indus Commission*, which facilitates regular interaction and communication between water officials of both countries. This consistent engagement has provided a channel for dialogue even during periods of strained political relations.
- **Uneasiness in Pakistan:** There is uneasiness in the minds of Pakistan's leadership regarding the terms of IWT. It is sceptical about the terms of the treaty and fears whether the Indian projects on the western rivers, in particular Jhelum and Chenab conform to the technical stipulations. Pakistan has raised concerns regarding *the Kishanganga dam project, Ratle hydroelectric power project* alleging that these projects violate a provision of IWT.

#### Way Forward:

## Mains Marathon Compilation for the Month of August, (Fifth Week) 2023

The need is to incorporate “*equitable and reasonable utilization*” and the “*no harm rule*” in the IWT which requires bridging the trust deficit between the nations. There is a need to involve all stakeholders including technocrats, climate experts, water management professionals, and scientists from both countries in the negotiation process. Finally, IWT must incorporate changes by way of amendments with both countries agreeing to amendments to maintain the continuity ensuring peace and economic prosperity in the region.

### 8. Analyze the challenges faced by resource-constrained countries in providing quality treatment to HIV-positive individuals. How can international partnerships and agreements help in addressing these challenges?

**Introduction:** Describe what is HIV & AIDS.

**Body:** What are the challenges faced by developing countries & how can international partnerships help in dealing with the epidemic?

**Conclusion:** Way forward.

HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) is a virus that attacks cells that help the body fight infection, making a person more vulnerable to other infections and diseases while Acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) is the most advanced stage of HIV infection. At present there is no effective cure for HIV, but HIV can be controlled. The medicine used to treat HIV is called antiretroviral therapy or ART. According to WHO, there were about 37.9 million affected by HIV by the end of 2018, and 1.7 million were newly infected by it in the same year. According to the National Aids Control Organisation, in India, over 21 lakh people were living with HIV in 2017 with the highest cases in Maharashtra, followed by Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Telangana, and Tamil Nadu.

#### Challenges faced by Resource-Constrained Countries:

- **Inadequate infrastructure:** Comprehensive HIV/AIDS care is challenging to provide in many resource-constrained nations due to a lack of suitable healthcare infrastructure, including facilities, skilled healthcare personnel, and diagnostic and treatment skills.
- **Budgetary constraints:** HIV treatment programs receive limited support as a result of tight healthcare budgets. The cost of antiretroviral therapy (ART) and other required medications can make it impossible for many people and governments to afford continued treatment.
- **Social stigma:** People may be discouraged from seeking testing, care, and treatment due to social stigma and prejudice against HIV-positive people. This frequently causes delayed diagnosis and impedes the effectiveness of treatment.
- **Lack of Awareness and Education:** Limited public awareness and understanding of HIV transmission, prevention, and treatment can lead to misconceptions and misinformed behaviours, hindering efforts to control the epidemic.

#### How can global cooperation address in addressing these challenges?

- **Knowledge sharing:** International partnerships facilitate the exchange of best practices, research findings, and treatment guidelines, enabling countries to benefit from each other's experiences and successes.
- **Capacity Building:** Collaborations offer training and capacity-building programs for healthcare workers, improving their ability to diagnose, treat, and manage HIV/AIDS patients effectively.

## Mains Marathon Compilation for the Month of August, (Fifth Week) 2023

- **Advocacy and Awareness:** International organizations raise global awareness about HIV/AIDS, reducing stigma and discrimination, and encouraging governments to prioritize the health and rights of HIV-positive individuals.
- **Finance:** Initiatives like Global Fund, a partnership set up in 2002 to battle AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria will allow governments in developing nations to expand access to critical HIV services.

### Conclusion:

Global bodies like UNO, and WHO must establish frameworks and establish best practices to control the spread of the epidemic and improve the quality of life for those affected.

### 9. Analyze the multi-dimensional implications of holding simultaneous elections in India.

**Introduction:** What are simultaneous elections?

**Body:** What are its implications on India's polity?

**Conclusion:** Way forward.

Recently, the government has constituted a committee headed by former president of India Ram Nath Kovind to explore the possibility of “one nation, one election”. The idea of “One Nation, One Election” envisages a system where elections to all states and the Lok Sabha will have to be held simultaneously. This will involve the restructuring of the Indian election cycle in a manner that elections to the States and the Centre synchronize. This would mean that the voters will cast their vote for electing members of the LS and the state assemblies on a single day, at the same time (or in a phased manner as the case may be)

#### What are the implications of such an exercise?

- **Economic impact:** Both the election commission's and the candidates' expenses during an election are significant administrative costs. Another important factor for corruption and the use of black money in the country is expenditure by candidates. Reduced election-related expenditure could lead to economic savings which would potentially boost economic growth.
- **Continuity in policies:** Frequent elections result in the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) being imposed for extended periods, which frequently causes policy paralysis. Simultaneous election presents a better chance of policy continuity and long-term planning, reducing the likelihood of sudden policy changes with every election.
- **Federalism:** Critics argue that simultaneous elections might undermine the federal structure of India, as states may lose their autonomy and get caught up in national politics. The state government would have to be suspended with President rule imposed to cut short their tenure in tune with Lok Sabha elections.
- **Administrative convenience:** Simultaneous elections will take away the administrative burden of the armed police forces who are frequently deployed in election duties which could otherwise be better deployed for other internal security purposes. The Election Commission can operate more efficiently and allocate resources more effectively with fewer elections.
- **Dominance of national issues:** In simultaneous elections, voters might end up voting more for national issues while neglecting the state and local issues like health, jobs, and education. This would eventually benefit national parties and marginalize state parties.
- **Constitutional amendment:** Simultaneous elections will bring up amendments to the Constitution, the Representation of the People Act 1951, and the Rules of

Created with love ❤ by ForumIAS- the knowledge network for civil services.

Visit [academy.forumias.com](https://academy.forumias.com) for our mentor based courses.

## Mains Marathon Compilation for the Month of August, (Fifth Week) 2023

Procedure of Lok Sabha and state Assemblies” which will require the consent of states and consensus among various political parties. Amending the process is a contentious process that has to be passed per the basic structure of the Constitution.

- **Impact on Diversity:** Instead of promoting equity, plurality, linguistic & cultural diversity, simultaneous elections may lead to homogenization of the country.

### Conclusion:

Simultaneous elections are a delicate issue that requires consensus among all political parties. The Success of such an initiative would depend on careful planning and the ability to strike a balance between national and regional interests.

### 10. Critically evaluate the progress made under the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) since its inception. What are the primary challenges faced in ensuring no untreated sewage flows into the river?

**Introduction:** What is NMCG?

**Body:** Evaluate the progress made under NMCG & challenges faced.

**Conclusion:** Way forward.

The National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG), which functions under the Ministry of Jal Shakti was launched in 2014, is a significant government initiative aimed at rejuvenating and cleaning the Ganga River, which is one of India's most sacred and polluted rivers. The main objective of the Namami Gange mission is to ensure that no untreated sewage flows into the river.

#### Progress made under NMCG:

- **Infrastructure development:** NMCG has made significant investments in sewage treatment plants (STPs), sewer networks, and industrial effluent treatment plants (ETPs) along the Ganga and its tributaries. The ₹20,000-crore mission treats 20% of the sewage generated in the five major States which will increase to about 33% by 2024 & 60% of sewage by December 2026.
- **Biodiversity and Ecological Conservation:** There is an improvement in water quality which can be seen in rise of rise in dolphin population from 2,000 to about 4,000. There are also reports of the presence of Indian carp [a fish species] that only thrive in clean water.
- **Awareness:** Several events, workshops, seminars, conferences, and other activities are planned to establish a compelling case for community involvement in the project and public outreach. Several campaigns and programs have been launched to educate people about responsible waste disposal.
- **Monitoring:** NMCG is working to develop a water quality index based on parameters like levels of dissolved oxygen, biochemical oxygen demand, and faecal coliform to better communicate about river water quality.

#### Challenges faced under the NMCG program:

- **Untreated sewage:** One of the primary challenges is the continued discharge of untreated sewage into the Ganga. Many urban areas along the river lack adequate sewage treatment infrastructure, and compliance with regulations is often lacking.
- **Pollution:** Industries located along the Ganga basin continue to release partially or untreated effluents into the river. Maintaining compliance with pollution control standards is a recurring challenge.

## Mains Marathon Compilation for the Month of August, (Fifth Week) 2023

- **Inter-state coordination:** Interstate coordination is a challenging endeavour because the Ganga runs through several states. It might be difficult to ensure uniform application of pollution control laws and wastewater treatment regulations.
- **Lack of funds:** The mission has struggled to advance because of funding restrictions and delays in project implementation. Delays have also been brought on by difficult bureaucratic procedures and problems with land acquisition.

### Conclusion:

The need is to ensure that the state governments and the municipalities develop sufficient capacity and generate sufficient revenue to maintain STPs. For eg, a project like monetization of sludge. District Ganga Committees can be used as a decentralized monitoring network ensuring people's participation in the program.