



**Mains Marathon**  
**Compilation**

**23<sup>rd</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> October, 2023**

## **Mains Marathon Compilation for the Month of October, (Fourth Week) 2023**

- 1. Critically analyze the concept of 'carrying capacity' in the context of sustainable development. How does it apply to the environmental challenges faced by the Indian Himalayan Region, and what measures should be taken to ensure that development activities do not exceed this capacity?**
- 2. Discuss the implications of the Supreme Court's assertion that there is no fundamental right to marriage under the Indian Constitution. How does this position impact the interpretation of personal liberty and individual rights?**
- 3. Critically assess India's preparedness in terms of infrastructure and logistics to host large-scale international sporting events like the Olympics.**
- 4. Assess the challenges that eSIM technology might pose for individuals with low digital literacy. Suggest ways to overcome these challenges.**
- 5. Critically analyze the state of health infrastructure in India's urban areas. What are the multi-scalar health risks that urban inhabitants face, and what policy measures can be taken to mitigate them?**
- 6. Discuss the role of ESG frameworks in shaping geopolitical alliances. How do national interests influence the adoption of ESG principles?**
- 7. Discuss the 3-Step Roadmap initiated by China and Bhutan for border resolution. What are its implications for Bhutan's sovereignty and India's strategic interests?**
- 8. Critically evaluate the current governance mechanisms for the Arctic. How can India contribute to reforming Arctic governance for better climate protection?**

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1. Critically analyze the concept of 'carrying capacity' in the context of sustainable development. How does it apply to the environmental challenges faced by the Indian Himalayan Region, and what measures should be taken to ensure that development activities do not exceed this capacity?

**Introduction:** Describe the concept of carrying capacity

**Body:** Relationship between carrying capacity and sustainable development and measures taken to ensure sustainable development.

**Conclusion:** Way forward

Recent environmental disasters in the state of Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, and Sikkim have reignited debate on the "carrying capacity" of the Himalayan region. Carrying capacity of a region is based on the maximum population size that an ecosystem or environment can sustainably support over a specific period without causing significant degradation or harm to its natural resources and overall health. It is crucial to understand and manage the balance between human activities and the preservation of natural ecosystems to ensure long-term sustainability.

### Carrying capacity and its relation to sustainable development and the Indian Himalayan Region

- **Sustainable Development:** Carrying capacity emphasizes the need to balance human activities with ecosystems' long-term ability to support them, making it an important idea in the context of sustainable development.
- **Indian Himalayan Region:** The Himalayas are vital to the preservation of the natural equilibrium and the provision of basic resources to millions of people. However, because of their distinct topography and climate, they are extremely sensitive to environmental degradation. Therefore, it is crucial to recognize this region's carrying capacity.

### Measures to Ensure Sustainable Development:

- **Ecosystem-Based Management:** Use methods for managing resources that take into account the region's ecological systems, making development plans and actions well-informed by this knowledge.
- **Biodiversity Conservation:** Protect and restore habitats and promote biodiversity conservation. Establish and enforce stringent regulations to prevent deforestation and habitat destruction.
- **Infrastructure Planning:** Develop infrastructure with minimal environmental impact. The need is to adapt eco-friendly construction methods and prioritize the use of renewable energy sources.
- **Waste Management:** Implement effective waste management practices to reduce pollution and waste generation. Encourage recycling and responsible disposal of waste.
- **Community Involvement:** Engage local communities in decision-making and sustainable practices. Indigenous knowledge can be valuable in understanding the region's ecological nuances.
- **Education and Awareness:** Raise awareness among the public, policymakers, and businesses about the importance of sustainable development and respecting the region's carrying capacity.

### Conclusion

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Ensuring sustainable development in the Indian Himalayan Region is a complex task that requires a deep understanding of carrying capacity and the region's unique ecological dynamics.

### 2. Discuss the implications of the Supreme Court's assertion that there is no fundamental right to marriage under the Indian Constitution. How does this position impact the interpretation of personal liberty and individual rights?

**Introduction:** Give context to the SC verdict

**Body:** What are implications and impact of verdict on liberty and individual rights?

**Conclusion:** Way forward

Recently, SC asserted in its famous judgment *Supriya Chakraborty v Union of India* that there is no fundamental right to marriage under the Indian Constitution. The court was hearing a petition filed by the LGBTQIA+ community to grant legal recognition to their marriages.

#### Implication of SC verdict

- **Legal Recognition:** The absence of legal recognition for same-sex marriage means that same-sex couples in India cannot enjoy the legal rights and benefits associated with marriage, such as inheritance, property rights, and spousal support.
- **Social Stigma:** The lack of legal recognition contributes to the continued social stigma and discrimination faced by the LGBTQ+ community. This can lead to various forms of social exclusion and discrimination.
- **Property and Inheritance:** Same-sex partners may face difficulties in cases of property ownership, inheritance, and tax benefits available to married couples.
- **Psychological and Emotional Well-being:** The absence of legal recognition can contribute to the psychological and emotional stress experienced by same-sex couples who wish to have their relationships legally recognized.

#### Impact on personal liberty and individual rights

- **Right to Privacy:** The right to privacy was highlighted as a fundamental right under the Indian Constitution in the Supreme Court's 2018 ruling in the *Navtej Singh Johar* case. Denying same-sex marriage rights can be seen as an infringement on the privacy and personal choices of LGBTQ+ people, which can affect their capacity to build family ties and maintain their privacy.
- **Non-discrimination:** Discrimination on any basis, including sex, is forbidden by the Indian Constitution. Denying same-sex couples the opportunity to be married could be interpreted as a sexual orientation-based form of discrimination. This begs the question of whether the prohibition against marital rights is in line with the non-discrimination clause of the Constitution.
- **Personal Autonomy:** A key component of individual autonomy is personal liberty, which includes the freedom to get married. Denying same-sex couples the opportunity to marry limits their freedom to make decisions about their relationships and lives.
- **Parental Rights:** Same-sex couples may face challenges when it comes to adoption and parental rights. While adoption is allowed by single LGBTQ+ individuals, the recognition of both partners as legal parents may not be straightforward.

#### Conclusion

The interpretation of the court should be based on constitutional morality” rather than ethos of majoritarian morality. Courts should take a liberal interpretation of the right to life and

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liberty under Article 21 as it did by recognizing the right to self-determination of gender, right to information, rights to privacy, dignity, shelter, right to livelihood, and the right to be forgotten.

### 3. Critically assess India's preparedness in terms of infrastructure and logistics to host large-scale international sporting events like the Olympics.

**Introduction:** Give brief context to the question

**Body:** Assess India's preparedness in terms of infrastructure and logistics

**Conclusion:** Way forward

Recently, PM Modi declared India's intention to host the Olympic Games, preferably in 2036, & Youth Olympics in 2029 which will make India part of an elite club of nations like China, South Korea, and Japan to have hosted the games in Asia. India's preparedness to host large-scale international sporting events like the Olympics involves a critical assessment of its infrastructure and logistics.

#### Preparedness in terms of infrastructure and logistics

- **Sports Facilities:** India has made investments in several sports facilities, especially for cricket. But more work needs to be done on improving the infrastructure for Olympic sports like gymnastics, swimming, and athletics.
- **Accommodations:** Good lodging close to athletic arenas is severely lacking throughout the nation. Major cities offer a limited selection of more affordable hotels despite the presence of luxury hotels.
- **Transportation:** The infrastructure for transportation in India is frequently overworked and clogged. There are large regional differences in the state of the roads and public transit. While smaller cities might not have the required infrastructure, major cities often have airports with worldwide access.
- **Visa and Immigration:** It is imperative to streamline India's complex visa and immigration procedures for foreign attendees and participants.
- **Customs and Import Rules:** To prevent delays and issues, it is imperative to streamline customs and import rules for sports items and equipment.
- **Medical Services:** During athletic events, adequate emergency response systems and medical facilities are crucial. India's healthcare industry is expanding, but there's a chance that rural areas lack the facilities they need.

#### Challenges

- **Bureaucracy:** The slow and onerous bureaucracy in India might make it difficult to arrange and carry out such events effectively.
- **Finances:** It takes a lot of money to host international events, which puts pressure on public coffers and resources.
- **Political and Social Issues:** Political conditions in India can be unstable, and social issues might cause problems with planning or running an event.
- **Environmental Issues:** Pollution is one of India's environmental problems, which can affect athletes' health and tourists' overall experiences.
- **Legacy Planning:** It is crucial to make sure that the infrastructure built for the event is properly utilized and maintained following it.

#### Conclusion



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Given its size, culture, and sports history, India has the potential to host major international sporting events like the Olympics. However, this will require significant financial outlays, effective planning, and the collaboration of multiple stakeholders. To be a competitive host for major sporting events, India must also focus on developing grassroots sports, increasing athlete friendliness, and enhancing the country's overall sports culture.

#### 4. Assess the challenges that eSIM technology might pose for individuals with low digital literacy. Suggest ways to overcome these challenges.

**Introduction:** What is eSIM

**Body:** Highlight challenges associated with eSIM and measures to overcome it.

**Conclusion:** Way forward

An embedded Subscriber Identity Module, or eSIM, is a digital SIM card that is integrated into a gadget like a tablet, smartwatch, or smartphone. eSIMs are integrated into devices during production and cannot be taken out or replaced, in contrast to conventional physical SIM cards, which are removable and must be put into a device.

#### Challenges associated with eSIMs technology

- **Emergency:** eSIMs bring your communication to a total halt if your phone breaks down, runs out of battery, or just falls and cracks the screen. Conventional SIMs, on the other hand, can be easily removed from the compromised phone and placed into a different backup or secondary phone.
- **Unusable in some nations:** An eSIM phone cannot be used in a nation where the telecom providers have not yet adopted the technology. This is a problem with phones like the US-version iPhone 14, which will only use eSIM. It is not a problem if your phone supports both standard SIMs and eSIM.
- **Compatibility:** The more costly smartphones, such as the Apple iPhones, Google Pixel phones, Samsung Galaxy S-series phones, and Samsung Galaxy Z series, are currently available in India with eSIM compatibility. These devices can be costly for the typical user. Users who choose to convert to an eSIM will also be limited to selecting from a considerably smaller range of devices that are compatible with the technology.
- **Privacy issues:** In many nations, such as the United States, users have the ability to program their own eSIMs. Additionally, eSIMs enable network operators to monitor subscribers' data, including data contained within applications on the device, particularly in the absence of data privacy legislation that raise privacy issues.

#### How to overcome these challenges?

- **Information on device compatibility:** Telecoms should instruct users on how to verify their device's compatibility with eSIMs and which devices are compatible with them. They can also provide instructions on how to migrate to devices that support eSIM, if necessary.
- **Security:** Companies can inform users of frequent frauds and security risks about eSIMs. Before proceeding, they can advise users to confirm the legitimacy of any sources and eSIM setup instructions.
- **Transitional Period:** Consider maintaining support for physical SIM cards alongside eSIMs during a transitional period to cater to users who are more comfortable with traditional technology.
- **Simplified activation process:** Telecoms can provide user-friendly, comprehensive setup instructions that lead customers through the eSIM activation procedure.

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Innovation can be done to provide eSIM setup and management tools that are easy to use, such as applications or interfaces.

### Conclusion

eSIM technology is increasingly used in various devices, as it offers advantages like environmentally friendlier, security, convenience & compactness over physical SIM. However, it is essential that the transition to eSIMs is smooth and inclusive to allow a broader range of individuals to benefit from this technology without feeling excluded.

### 5. Critically analyze the state of health infrastructure in India's urban areas. What are the multi-scalar health risks that urban inhabitants face, and what policy measures can be taken to mitigate them?

**Introduction:** Give brief context to the question

**Body:** Highlight the state of health infrastructure and its challenges and measures to overcome them.

**Conclusion:** Way forward

India's urban population is estimated to reach 675 million in 2035, the second highest in the world raising a complex issue regarding the state of health infrastructure in urban areas.

#### Strength of health infrastructure in urban areas

- **Access to Specialised Care:** In India, urban regions typically offer easier access to multispecialty hospitals, diagnostic centres, and specialist physicians, among other specialized healthcare facilities.
- **Skilled Workforce:** The concentration of medical professionals in urban regions, such as physicians, nurses, and technicians, results in higher-quality healthcare services.
- **Technological Advancements:** Modern medical equipment and technologies are frequently available in urban healthcare institutions, enhancing the quality of diagnosis and therapy.

#### Weakness of health infrastructure:

- **Overcrowding:** A lot of metropolitan healthcare institutions are over capacity, which results in lower-quality care and longer wait times.
- **Inequity:** Rich and impoverished urban populations differ significantly in the standard and availability of healthcare treatments. Basic healthcare facilities are typically absent from impoverished neighbourhoods and slums.
- **Infrastructure Gaps:** There are several issues with urban regions' infrastructure, such as old buildings, a lack of hospital beds, and generally bad sanitation.
- **Air pollution:** Many urban areas have poor air quality, which increases the risk of respiratory infections and other health issues.

#### Multi-scalar health risks

- **Infectious Diseases:** Because of their dense population, poor sanitation, and restricted access to clean water, urban areas are particularly vulnerable to the rapid spread of infectious diseases.
- **Non-Communicable Diseases:** Due to dietary changes and sedentary lifestyles, the prevalence of lifestyle-related diseases such as diabetes, obesity, and heart disease is higher in urban regions.

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- **Mental Health Problems:** Stress from the workplace, social isolation, and the fast-paced metropolitan lifestyle can all lead to a rise in mental health problems.
- **Air Pollution:** Living in an urban environment exposes people to high levels of air pollution, which can cause cardiovascular issues, respiratory illnesses, and shortened life spans.

### Policy measures to mitigate risks

- **Air Quality Improvement:** To lower air pollution levels, enact stringent air quality laws and encourage the use of cleaner transportation options like electric cars and walking paths, bicycle lanes.
- **Urban design:** Create inclusive, sustainable urban design that lowers the risk of infectious diseases by providing access to clean water, green areas, and sanitary facilities.
- **Healthy diet:** Policies should encourage intake of fresh fruits and vegetables and limit sugars and salt in beverages lowering risk of diabetes.

### Conclusion

A comprehensive strategy that includes legislative changes to enhance healthcare service accessibility, equity, and quality is essential to reducing multi-scalar health hazards. Protecting the health of urban residents will also require tackling environmental issues and encouraging healthy urban life.

## 6. Discuss the role of ESG frameworks in shaping geopolitical alliances. How do national interests influence the adoption of ESG principles?

**Introduction:** Define the ESG framework

**Body:** Role of ESG in geopolitical alliances and how national security influences them

**Conclusion:** Way forward

ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) frameworks are playing an increasingly important role in shaping geopolitical alliances and international relations. ESG principles encompass a set of non-financial factors that are used to evaluate the sustainability and ethical impact of investments or business practices.

### Role of ESG framework in shaping geopolitical alliances

- **Soft Power:** ESG criteria are often seen as a form of "soft power" in international relations. Countries that promote ESG principles can use them to influence and shape diplomatic and economic relationships with other nations. This can further be used to forge diplomatic alliances, trade agreements, and direct foreign investment.
- **Geopolitical Influence:** ESG issues, especially those related to the environment and climate change, can significantly impact a country's geopolitical standing. Nations that are leaders in addressing climate change and other ESG concerns can gain influence and attract allies.

### How does national interest influence ESG adoption

- **Economic Interests:** If a country sees financial benefits from sustainable practices, like the development of green technology or access to investments with an ESG focus, it may be more likely to embrace ESG principles.



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- **Security Interests:** National security may be impacted by ESG issues. For example, resource scarcity and conflict are two outcomes of climate change that many countries find concerning.
- **International Reputation:** A nation's standing abroad can affect its domestic policies. Adoption of ESG principles may be influenced by upholding a favourable reputation and acting responsibly on a global scale.
- **Market Access:** ESG compliance may be a requirement for capital and market access abroad. It is in a country's best interest to follow ESG principles because a lot of investors and trading partners now take them into account.
- **Domestic Politics:** The political landscape within a country can influence the adoption of ESG principles. Public pressure, advocacy groups, and political ideology can all sway national interests.

### Conclusion

Robust ESG framework and responsible ESG investing are very important for an emerging economy like India as they provide an opportunity for all stakeholders to build an economy that is financially, socially, and environmentally sustainable

### 7. Discuss the 3-Step Roadmap initiated by China and Bhutan for border resolution. What are its implications for Bhutan's sovereignty and India's strategic interests?

**Introduction:** Give brief context to the question

**Body:** What is 3 step roadmap and its implications on India and Bhutan

**Conclusion:** Way forward

The joint technical team (JTT) on the delimitation and demarcation of the Bhutan-China boundary signed a cooperation agreement at the 25th round of boundary negotiations between China and Bhutan in Beijing which is a significant step in the 3-Step Roadmap for border resolution, which was started in 2021 between both nations.

#### What is 3-step roadmap for border resolution?

- **Diplomatic engagement:** The roadmap is anticipated to have a significant impact on expediting the demarcation negotiations and advancing the process of forging diplomatic relations between Bhutan and China.
- **Mutual understanding:** The boundary talks will successfully conclude with a solution that is acceptable to both China and Bhutan if the roadmap is implemented in an atmosphere of goodwill, understanding, and accommodation.
- **Territorial swap:** China proposed a "swap arrangement", where China conceded its northern claims for Bhutan accepting western claims, including Doklam which would be of concern to India.

#### Implications for Bhutan's sovereignty and India's strategic interest

- **Bhutan's security:** Historically, Bhutan has depended on India for security and assistance during international negotiations, such as those concerning the China border conflict. Bhutan's sovereignty may be somewhat threatened by any measure that circumvents or restricts India's influence over security or foreign policy choices in Bhutan.
- **Strategic ramifications:** India will face severe security difficulties if Bhutan concedes to China's claim over the Doklam territory. Adjacent to India's "Chicken Neck," or

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Siliguri Corridor, is the Doklam area. The northeastern part of India and the Indian mainland are connected by this corridor.

- **Commercial ramifications:** India's trade and commercial interests in the region may be impacted by China's increasing economic sway over Bhutan. China may then be able to access Bhutan's natural resources, such as hydroelectricity, endangering India's energy security.
- **Diplomatic ramifications:** Bhutan's long-standing pro-Indian foreign policy may be impacted by China's increasing influence in the country. As a result, Bhutan might turn away from India and ally more with China, which might have negative diplomatic repercussions for India in the area.

### Conclusion

Bhutan should factor in India's national security interests when concluding any border settlement agreement with China. It is possible to reach a border deal that addresses Bhutan's concerns in the northern region while respecting India's strategic boundaries in the western sector, without necessarily compromising India's interests.

### 8. Critically evaluate the current governance mechanisms for the Arctic. How can India contribute to reforming Arctic governance for better climate protection?

**Introduction:** What is Arctic Council?

**Body:** Highlight India's role in reforming Arctic governance.

**Conclusion:** Way forward

The governance mechanisms for the Arctic are primarily based on international agreements and cooperation among the Arctic states. The primary forum for Arctic governance is the Arctic Council, an intergovernmental organization established in 1996. The Arctic Council consists of eight Arctic states: Canada, Denmark (including Greenland and the Faroe Islands), Finland, Iceland, Norway, Russia, Sweden, and the United States.

#### Critical Evaluation of Governance Mechanism in the Arctic

- **Security challenges:** As certain major nations, notably Russia and the United States, strengthen their military presence in the Arctic, the region is becoming more militarized. This gives governance issues a security component.
- **Limited Representation:** Despite their concerns about global climate change, non-Arctic states like India are not full members of the Arctic Council and have little influence over the region's governance rules.
- **Cooperative Framework:** The Arctic Council provides a platform for Arctic states to engage in diplomatic cooperation and dialogue on various issues, including climate change and environmental protection.
- **Inclusion of Indigenous Peoples:** The inclusion of indigenous organizations ensures that the voices and concerns of indigenous communities in the Arctic are heard.

#### Role of India in reforming Arctic governance for climate protection

- **Observer status:** India can take part in debates, influence policy decisions, and offer knowledge on mitigating and adapting to climate change because of its observer status in the Arctic Council. The active involvement of India as a member of the Arctic Council to voice the concerns of the Global South could help push for an end to further exploitation.

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- **Research Cooperation:** India can work with Arctic states and organizations to conduct scientific studies about climate change and the Arctic. Through collaboration, the effects of climate change in the area can be better understood and addressed.
- **Environmental Protection:** India might push for more stringent regulations in the Arctic region to safeguard the ecosystem. To reduce environmental harm, this can entail advocating for stronger laws governing shipping, resource extraction, and pollution control.
- **Global Leadership:** By highlighting the interdependence of climate-related issues and the significance of tackling climate change on a global scale, India can assume a leading role in promoting a global climate change agenda.

### Conclusion

Given its increasing influence in international geopolitics, India ought to advocate for a consensus-building strategy underpinned by sustainability principles to develop an all-encompassing framework for Arctic governance.