

## Mekong-Ganga Cooperation (MGC) - UPSC Notes

Mekong-Ganga Cooperation is an initiative aiming to facilitate closer connections between its 6 member countries that share the Ganga river and Mekong river basins. Aspirants preparing for [IAS Exam](#) or any other Government Exam should be aware of the topic.

The Mekong - Ganga Cooperation (MGC) can be studied as a part of *International Relations* in General Studies paper-2 and *Geography* in General Studies paper-1 of the [UPSC Syllabus](#).

### What is Mekong - Ganga Cooperation?

Established in 2000, the Mekong-Ganga Cooperation (MGC) comprises of six member countries with an intention of fostering culture and commerce among them.

- The four areas of cooperation are Culture, Education, Tourism and Transportation.
- It is named after the Ganga and the Mekong which are both civilisational rivers.

#### Member countries



India	Cambodia	Laos
Myanmar	Thailand	Vietnam

#### MGC Mandate

*To facilitate closer contacts among people inhabiting these two (Ganga and Mekong) major civilisational river basins and enhancing cooperation in a cult.*

Click the link to read more about the [Association of Southeast Asian Nations \(ASEAN\)](#).

#### Mekong Ganga Cooperation Objectives

The MGC aims at developing closer relations and better understanding among the member-countries to enhance friendship, solidarity and cooperation; facilitating inter-state movement and transit; transport of goods and people in the region; creating necessary infrastructural facilities in the Ganga-Mekong basin areas, and encouraging active participation in poverty eradication.

## Mekong Ganga Cooperation Structure

The institutional structure of the MGC is yet to evolve properly. According to a preliminary concept paper approved by the MGC, Ministerial Meetings would be held annually back-to-back with the Annual Ministerial Meetings (AMMs). The chairmanship will be rotated in alphabetical order. The country which serves as chair shall act as the Secretariat to carry out coordination and implementation of the Cooperation plan.

### Mekong - Ganga Cooperation Working Mechanism

The working mechanism of Mekong - Ganga Cooperation consists of the Annual Ministerial Meetings, Senior Officials Meetings (SOM) and 5 working groups. These 5 working groups look after the cooperative areas of MGC. They are as follows:

1. Working group of Education
2. Working group of Tourism
3. Working group of Culture
4. Working group of Plans of Action
5. Working group of Communication

Click the link to read more about the [BIMSTEC](#).

### Mekong Ganga Cooperation Activities

- The inaugural meet in November 2000 identified tourism, culture and the development of human resources as the first steps on a road that will lead to greater networking of communications, transport and infrastructure development.
- In the tourism field, the MGC is committed to conducting strategic studies for joint marketing, launching the Mekong-Ganga Tourism Investment Guide, facilitating the travel of people in the region, expanding multimodal communication as well as transportation links to improve travel and tourism and promoting cultural-religious package tours.
- In the field of infrastructure development, member-countries are committed to developing transport networks, especially the “East-West Corridor” and the “Trans-Asian Highway”.
- When completed, the Asian highway project is expected to link Singapore with New Delhi in South Asia via Kuala Lumpur, Ho Chi Minh City, Phnom Penh, Bangkok, Vientiane, Chiang Mal, Yangon, Mandalay, Kalembo, Tamu, Dhaka and Kolkata.
- Other areas of cooperation include air services and linkages, and IT infrastructure and networks.
- In the field of culture, the grouping is to undertake joint research in the field of music, dance and theatre forms and conduct roundtables for writers, journalists and experts in various fields such as literature, health, women’s empowerment, performing arts and nutrition.
- Focus is also to be given to the conservation, preservation and protection of heritage sites and artefacts.
- Cooperation is also envisaged in the establishment of networking and twinning arrangements among universities in the region.
- The translation of classics of MGC countries into other MGC languages.
- Participation of member-countries in book fairs on a commercial basis.

