



# CURRENT AFFAIRS



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## FARMERS PRODUCER ORGANISATION (FPO)

*This article covers "Daily Current Affairs" and the topic details "Farmers Producer Organisation (FPO)". This topic has relevance in the Agriculture section of the UPSC CSE exam.*

### **For Prelims:**

*About FPO?*

*Initiatives for the Promotion of FPOs*

### **For Mains:**

*GS 3: Agriculture*

*Suggestions for improvement?*

### **Why in the news?**

Over the past few years, Farmer Producer Organizations have addressed the issue of fragmented land holdings, which hinder the realization of economies of scale and deter agricultural investments.

### **About FPO:**

A Farmers Producer Organisation (FPO) is a legal entity established by primary producers, including farmers, milk producers, fishermen, weavers, rural artisans, and craftsmen, primarily consisting of farmers as members. FPOs can be registered as Cooperatives (under the Cooperative Societies Act of the respective State), Farmer Producer Companies (under the Companies Act, 2013), or Societies (under the Society Registration Act, 1860).

### **FPOs offer several benefits to small and marginal farmers, such as:**

- Facilitating land pooling to address issues related to fragmented landholdings.
- Leveraging economies of scale for the collective purchase of agricultural inputs and the sale of produce.
- Enabling the sharing of services, including knowledge input, production supervision, storage, and transportation, which helps reduce transaction costs.
- Involving farmers in value addition activities such as input supply, credit, processing, marketing, and distribution.
- Serving as an interface between farmers and the global market, allowing them to export agricultural commodities.
- Providing access to capital for farmers and managing risk through diversification.
- Promoting economic democracy at the grassroots level.

### **Initiatives for the Promotion of FPOs:**

- **SFAC (Small Farmers Agri-business Consortium):** SFAC serves as the nodal agency at the national level for the creation of FPOs. They operate a Credit Guarantee Fund to help financial institutions

mitigate credit risks when lending to Farmer Producer Companies (FPCs) without requiring collateral. Additionally, SFAC provides matching equity grants of up to Rs. 10 lakh to double the share capital of FPCs, thereby strengthening their financial position.

- **NABARD (National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development):** NABARD offers financial support to FPOs through two dedicated funds: “Producers Organization Development Fund (PODF)” and “PRODUCE Fund (Producers’ Organization Development and Upliftment Corpus).” These funds are created with the aim of encouraging the formation of new FPOs and helping them fulfill their initial financial needs.

**Suggestions for improvement:**

- **Analysis of Limited Success:** Evaluate the reasons behind the limited success of existing FPOs and take outcome-oriented actions to address challenges.
- **Collaborative Farming:** Form FPOs based on adjoining land holdings and common produce to achieve higher economies of scale and engage in value addition activities.
- **Enhanced Credit Support:** Provide increased credit support, including subsidies, collateral-free loans, and low-interest credit facilities to counter reluctance from banks.
- **Income Tax Exemption:** Grant FPOs income tax exemption to incentivize their formation and growth.
- **Hand Holding and Training:** Offer regular training and guidance to FPOs through government agencies, agricultural extension services, and NGOs.
- **Professional Management:** Allow private sector investments in FPOs by amending the Companies Act, bringing expertise and efficiency to FPO operations.
- **Market Linkages:** Support FPOs with direct procurement by the government, freight cost subsidies for wholesale buyers, and connections to online marketing platforms.
- **Village Producer Organizations (VPOs):** Develop VPOs as joint ventures of multiple FPOs, focusing on specific agricultural products and post-production activities for comprehensive value chains.

**Source:**

[Farmer Producers’ Organisations: Engines of agri-innovation in UP | The Indian Express](#)

**Q.1 Regarding the Farmers Producer Organisation (FPO), recently seen in the news, consider the following statements:**

1. FPOs can only be registered under the Companies Act, 2013.
2. FPOs are exclusively composed of farmers as members.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

**ANSWER: D**

**Q.2 Regarding the SFAC (Small Farmers Agri-business Consortium), consider the following statements:**

1. SFAC is the nodal agency for the creation of FPOs
2. SFAC primarily focuses on promoting large-scale agribusiness enterprises.
3. SFAC provides grants of up to Rs. 10 lakh to individual farmers.

**How many of the above statement/s is/are correct?**

- (a) Only one

- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

**ANSWER: A**

**Q.3 FPOs (Farmers Producer Organizations) have gained significant importance in India's agricultural landscape. Discuss the key roles and benefits of FPOs in promoting agricultural sustainability, enhancing farmers' income, and contributing to rural development.**

**Rishabh**

## PREVENTIVE DETENTION

*This article covers "Daily Current Affairs" and the topic details "Preventive Detention". This topic has relevance in the "Polity and Governance" section of the UPSC CSE exam.*

**For Prelims:**

*Preventive Detention : Constitutional Provisions  
Laws for Preventive Detention*

**For Mains:**

*GS2: Polity and Governance*

**Why in the news?**

Recently, the Supreme Court has expressed concerns about the Telangana government's use of Preventive Detention law in at least three instances.

**What is Preventive Detention?**

- Preventive detention is a legal mechanism that empowers authorities to detain individuals who have not committed a crime but are deemed potential threats to law and order.
- It involves **detaining individuals without a trial, primarily preventing them from engaging in criminal activities.**
- The Supreme Court of India has articulated that the purpose of preventive detention is not punitive; instead, it is **aimed at averting actions that may jeopardise the state's security.**
- **Preventive detention differs from pre-trial detention.** Pre-trial detention involves individuals awaiting trial for a crime they are accused of committing. In contrast, preventive detention allows the apprehension of individuals as a precaution, even if they haven't committed a crime.
- The authority to enact preventive detention laws in India is derived directly from Part III: Fundamental Rights of the Constitution.

**Rowlatt Act of 1919**

- The Rowlatt Act, officially known as the Anarchical and Revolutionary Crimes Act of 1919, is a significant example of a preventive detention law.
- It permitted the British government to detain suspects for up to two years without trial during **World War I.**
- It aimed to **suppress uprisings and anti-British activities in India**, enabling indefinite

detention based solely on suspicion.

- The Rowlatt Act was met with widespread protests and demonstrations across India. **Mahatma Gandhi launched a nationwide satyagraha** (non-violent protest) movement against the law.
- The protests turned violent in some places, and the British government responded with heavy-handed repression.
- The **Jallianwala Bagh massacre**, in which British troops killed hundreds of unarmed protesters, directly resulted from the Rowlatt Act.

### **Constitutional Provisions: What are the powers of the state?**

- **Article 22(1)** of the Constitution guarantees protection against arrest and detention without due process of law.
- However, **Article 22(4)** provides for an exception to this rule, allowing for preventive detention laws to be made for reasons connected with:
  - Defence
  - Foreign affairs
  - Security of India
  - Maintenance of public order
  - Maintenance of supplies and services essential to the community

- Parliament has exclusive power to enact preventive detention laws for reasons connected with defence, foreign affairs, or security of India.
- Both Parliament and state legislatures have the power to enact such laws for reasons related to maintaining public order or maintaining supplies and services essential to the community.

- **Article 22(5)** of the Constitution provides certain safeguards against the misuse of preventive detention laws. **These safeguards include:**
  - No person can be detained for more than **three months** without an advisory board reporting that there is sufficient cause for such detention.
  - The **grounds of detention must be communicated to the detenu** as soon as possible, except when it is not in the public interest to do so.
  - The detenu has the **right to make a representation to the advisory board against the detention.**

### **Legal Framework of Preventive Detention Across India**

- **Laws enacted by the Parliament**
  - National Security Act
  - Conservation of Foreign Exchange and Prevention of Smuggling Activities Act, 1974 (COFEPOSA)
  - Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 2008
- **State-Specific Laws:**
  - Bihar Control of Crimes Act, 1981
  - Tamil Nadu Prevention of Dangerous Activities Act, 1982
  - Telangana Prevention of Dangerous Activities Act, 1986 (PD Act).
  - Gujarat Prevention of Antisocial Activities Act, 1985
  - Maharashtra Prevention of Organized Crime Act, 1999 (MCOCA)

### **Assessment of Preventive Detention by Courts:**

- **Judicial review in such detention cases is minimal** because the Constitution prioritises the state's "**subjective satisfaction**" when issuing detention orders.

- The primary standard for assessing such orders is the state's subjective opinion rather than the constitutional rights of individuals.
- The **Court cannot replace the state's subjective judgment**, which makes it challenging to confirm the accuracy of the facts in the detention grounds.
- Judicial review primarily checks if the Advisory Board considered all the facts, applied their judgment, and if the state acted in bad faith when ordering detention.
- **Courts often cancel detention orders for technical reasons**, like delays in Advisory Board decisions, timely provision of reasons, and giving reasons in a language the detainee understands.

**Sources:**

[In Telangana campaign, one silence: draconian and 'callous' detention law | Political Pulse News - The Indian Express](#)

**Q1. With reference to Preventive Detention, consider the following statements:**

1. The powers to put a person in such detention are conferred by the Part IV of the Constitution.
2. It involves individuals awaiting trial for a crime they are accused of committing

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Answer: (d)**

**Q2. Parliament has the authority to make a law of preventive detention for reasons connected with how many of the following reasons:**

1. Defence
2. Foreign affairs
3. Security of India
4. Maintenance of public order
5. Maintenance of supplies and services essential to the community
6. Protection of interests of any scheduled tribe

**Select the correct answer using the codes:**

- (a) Only three
- (b) Only four
- (c) Only five
- (d) All six

**Answer: (c)**

**Q3. Discuss the evolution, significance, and challenges associated with preventive detention laws in India.**

**Gaurav**