



Mains Marathon
Compilation

19th to 24th September, 2022

Mains Marathon Compilation for the Month of September, (Third Week) 2022

- 1. What is the Market-Based Economic Dispatch (MBED) mechanism? Discuss the rationale and challenges associated with it.**
- 2. Why is there a need for a framework for global digital governance? What steps should be taken to achieve this objective?**
- 3. The Supreme Court's decision to frame uniform norms for trial courts in awarding the death sentence is a welcome intervention. Elaborate.**
- 4. Both Gati Shakti and NLP should be reconstituted to embrace, in the first instance, regional economic integration in the Indian subcontinent and then extend this to the larger Asian and global economy. Comment.**
- 5. Broadcasting court proceedings is a step in the direction of transparency and greater access to the justice system, but there are concerns around the impact of live streaming both on judges and the people watching the proceedings. Elaborate.**
- 6. Ayurveda, India's traditional medicine, has been in practice for close to three millennia, but there are a few challenges that the Ayurveda establishment has for long failed to skillfully address. Comment.**
- 7. A huge amount of food produced annually goes unconsumed and turns into waste. Suggest measures to prevent food wastage in India.**
- 8. What do you understand by the term Moonlighting? What are the reasons behind its prevalence after the pandemic? Also, highlight its implications.**
- 9. Millets are termed a 'super grain' for good reasons. Discuss the multidimensional benefits associated with enhancing millet cultivation.**
- 10. To what extent do you think, PM SHRI schools scheme, will be helpful in achieving the objectives set by National Education Policy?**

Q.1) What is the Market-Based Economic Dispatch (MBED) mechanism? Discuss the rationale and challenges associated with it.

Indian Express

Introduction: Explain Market-Based Economic Dispatch (MBED) mechanism.

Body: Explain the rationale behind Market-Based Economic Dispatch (MBED) mechanism. Also write its challenges.

Conclusion: Write a way forward.

Under the MBED mechanism, the cheapest power from across the country will be dispatched to meet the system wide demand. This would also lead to a “**uniform clearing price**”. It proposes a **centralised scheduling of power dispatches**, both inter-state and intra-state. This is in line with the Centre’s ‘**One Nation, One Grid, One Frequency, One Price**’ formula.

Rationale behind Market-Based Economic Dispatch (MBED) mechanism:

- A site of contestation between the Centre and the states due to the distribution segment — the weakest link in the power chain.
- The **financial position of discoms** continues to be unsteady. Their mounting losses have increased the fiscal risks at the general government level (Centre and states).
- It will ensure that the **cheapest electricity generating resources** across the country are supplied to meet the overall system demand and will therefore be a win-win for both the distribution companies and the generators and result in **savings for consumers**.
- With a centralised pool of generation and demand offers, power generators will be forced to become more cost-efficient or shut down, thus **lowering the overall variable cost of power** in India.
- With power being scheduled and dispatched over a larger balancing zone, **renewable energy is expected to be curtailed at a lower rate**.

Challenges:

- This will **impinge on the relative autonomy of states** in managing their electricity sector, including their own generating stations, and make the discoms entirely dependent on the centralised mechanism.
- There are concerns this could strip states of their freedom to decide their own electricity requirement while managing **seasonal and local demand trends**.
- Power is in the **Concurrent List** of the Constitution, with the electricity grid being divided into state, regional and the national level Load Dispatch Centre (LDC).
- There are concerns that the new model could potentially **clash with emerging market trends** (renewable energy in the overall generation mix and electric vehicles), as these necessitate greater decentralisation of markets and voluntary pools for efficient grid management.
- Greater clarity is also needed on the **legality of the proposed Bilateral Contract Settlement (BCS)** mechanism under the scheme for refunding the difference between the Market Clearing Price and the contract price.

All stakeholders, from state governments to load dispatch centres to power exchanges and others need to be consulted at each step in this process. Their suggestions must not only be sought, but the desirability of the policy itself needs to be discussed threadbare.

Q.2) Why is there a need for a framework for global digital governance? What steps should be taken to achieve this objective?

Indian Express

Introduction: Contextual introduction.

Body: Explain why there is need for a framework for global digital governance. Also some steps to achieve this objective.

Conclusion: Write a way forward.

Global digital governance encompasses the norms, institutions, and standards that shape the regulation around the development and use of these technologies. Digital governance has long-term commercial and political implications. A common minimum digital governance framework can become a win-win for both governments as well as internet companies.

Need for a framework for global digital governance:

- There are **challenges facing the digital economy** including anti-trust, data governance, intermediary liabilities, consumer protection and the ethical use of technologies.
- Most countries are currently struggling to strike a balance between reining in Big Tech versus boosting their digital economy.
- Companies are burdened with the particular **regulatory requirements of the different countries** they operate in.
- It allows organizations to **minimize uncertainty** in development by clearly establishing accountability and decision-making authority for all digital matters.
- Having a well-designed digital governance framework minimizes effort and cost and **ensures digital business maturity**.
- Effective digital governance results in greater economic benefits, enhanced security and risk management.
- To **enhance security and resilience** by protecting against cyberattacks and to avoid dependence on third parties for critical resources.

The following steps should be taken to achieve the objective of global digital governance:

- Engage with **existing multilateral institutions** to incorporate and address the new issues raised by technology. E.g. a greater focus on digital trade liberalisation at the World Trade Organisation; extension of Interpol to tackling cybercrime etc.
- More rapid progress on issues such as trade, technology and data flows can be achieved by **working in parallel with smaller groups of 'like-minded' countries**, such as G7, US-EU, G7 + 4, OECD, Quad etc.
- **Address issues of regulating Big Tech corporate** behaviour primarily through US-European cooperation, as both are major markets and US has headquarters of almost all the relevant companies.
- The uncertainty and risks from military applications of AI and other new technologies can be solved through **primarily bilateral and minilateral discussions**.
- **Build consensus** on how to regulate technology (e.g. digital taxation), share its benefits and address security risks (e.g. bans or agreements on specific uses of technology like chemical weapons ban).
- **Recruit, develop and train cohorts of policy professionals** at national and international level for policy formulation with an up-to-date understanding of key technologies and business models.

Wise investments in global digital governance allow countries to address concerns on security, societal values and anti-competitive behaviours while limiting the impact on economic productivity, innovation and entrepreneurialism.

Q.3) The Supreme Court's decision to frame uniform norms for trial courts in awarding the death sentence is a welcome intervention. Elaborate.

Indian Express

Introduction: Contextual introduction.

Body: Explain why the Supreme Court's decision to frame uniform norms for trial courts in awarding the death sentence is a welcome intervention.

Conclusion: Write a way forward.

India seldom executes death row prisoners, reserving it for truly "rarest of rare" crimes such as 26/11 terrorist attacks in Mumbai or the 2001 attempt to storm Parliament or the Nirbhaya gangrape-murder. Nevertheless, trial courts hand out dozens of death penalties every year. The Supreme Court in **Bachan Singh v State of Punjab upheld** the death penalty and introduced the "**rarest of the rare**" safeguard.

A welcome intervention:

- **Law Commission Report:** 2015 report recommended abolition of death sentence except in terror-related cases. Over 144 countries have either in law or practice abolished the death sentence.
- **Increased legislation:** Raising the procedural bar in imposing capital punishment creates a crucial balance between total abolition and active advocacy of the death sentence.
- **Focused on vulnerable:** According to Project 39A, 76 percent of such prisoners belonged to **SC, ST and OBC**, or **religious minorities** and over three-fourths were from economically vulnerable and over 62 per cent did not complete secondary school.
- **Liberal use:** Laws that prescribe the death penalty range from IPC 302 (murder) to the anti-terror UAPA to the amended POCSO Act. But trial judges interpret these statutes too liberally.
- **Legal assistance:** Poorer convicts often don't receive quality legal assistance and a capital punishment for an innocent is an irretrievable miscarriage of justice.
- This order is necessitated due to a difference of opinion and approach amongst various judgments, on the question of whether, after recording conviction for a capital offence, under law, the court is obligated to conduct a separate hearing on the issue of sentence.
- The trial court made no attempt to elicit relevant facts, nor did the trial court give any opportunity to the petitioner to file an affidavit placing on record mitigating factors.

As SC's guidelines are often ignored by trial courts such as the case of sedition law, Section 66A of the IT Act, so, the constitution bench must not only settle the matter quickly but also ensure lower courts follow its rules.

Q.4) Both Gati Shakti and NLP should be reconstituted to embrace, in the first instance, regional economic integration in the Indian subcontinent and then extend this to the larger Asian and global economy. Comment.

Business Standard

Introduction: Contextual introduction.

Body: Explain why there is need of reconstitution of Gati Shakti and NLP for regional and global economic integration. Also write some ways to achieve regional and global economic integration.

Conclusion: Write a way forward.

The Gati Shakti National Master Plan is an important step for India to upgrade national infrastructure and multimodal connectivity. The National Logistics Policy aimed at easing the movement of goods and boosting the trade sector in the Indian economy.

Need of reconstitution:

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- **Rail sector** suffers from many **structural deficiencies** which have to be eliminated fast if the logistics cost has to be halved to global benchmarks. The railways need to have a time-table based goods operation. It has to become an aggregator at the source of freight, and disaggregator at the destination, to capture the high-value small-load business (as against rake-load goods).
- For decades the country has talked about **eco-friendly and cost-effective inland waterways** freight movement, but nothing has happened. There is valuable learning available from the river ports of China.
- **Road logistics** is a totally fragmented sector, where a large chunk of truck owners have a very small fleet.
- It is necessary to **improve air logistics** and drastically improve the transport of high-value and perishable items.

Ways to achieve economic integration:

- By **reducing the cost and time** of doing trade through infrastructure modernisation at home, India will continue to have a positive impact on the price of commodities and developmental targets in neighbouring countries.
- Government should work **collaboratively on various regional institutions and platforms** to develop a regional vision and standards for connectivity, reducing bilateral transaction costs etc. e.g. India's integrated check post lack complementary infrastructure on the other side of the border.
- Working through these **multilateral platforms** like SAARC, BIMSTEC etc. will help India develop a regional vision and standards for connectivity, reducing bilateral transaction costs.
- By **cooperating more closely with global players** like the Asian Development Bank and the World Bank, Japan, the US, Australia, EU and ASEAN. They come with expertise and expectations about connectivity standards, whether it is on e-commerce, environmental and social impact assessments of infrastructure or technology platforms.

For India and her neighbours, stronger political will is required to combat barriers to trade in the region, especially after the COVID-19 crisis which may result in unleashing a new wave of protectionist measures.

Q.5) Broadcasting court proceedings is a step in the direction of transparency and greater access to the justice system, but there are concerns around the impact of live streaming both on judges and the people watching the proceedings. Elaborate.

Indian Express

Introduction: Contextual introduction.

Body: Explain how broadcasting court proceedings are a right step for the justice system. Also write some concerns around the impact of live streaming both on judges and the people.

Conclusion: Write a way forward.

Live Streaming of Court proceedings has already been started in High Courts of Gujarat, Orissa, Karnataka, Jharkhand, Patna and Madhya Pradesh thus allowing media and other interested persons to join the proceedings. Recently the Supreme Court has decided to live-stream **all constitution bench hearings** to address pleas to make the highest judiciary's proceedings transparent and accessible to one and all.

Why it is a right step?

- **Accountability:** As stated by SC, Live streaming is an extension of the principle of open court and will bring accountability to the judicial process.
- **Right of access to Justice:** Live proceedings are in line with the right of access to justice under article 21. This would help people residing in distant places to witness court

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proceedings, which they otherwise could not have due to logistical issues and infrastructural restrictions.

- **International comparison:** Among big and established democracies, India is alone that is not providing video or audio transcripts of the court proceedings, despite having in place the required infrastructure for the same.
- **Article 129:** Publishing court proceedings is an aspect of Article 129, per which the Supreme Court is a court of record.
- **Boosting public confidence in judiciary:** Litigants depend on the information provided by the lawyers, regarding the court proceedings. If the description and information provided are inaccurate, not only it negatively impacts the confidence in the judiciary, it also violates the public's right to know.

What are the concerns?

- A huge concern will be the **cyber security threat**.
- Justices behave like politicians when given free television time; they act to **maximize their individual exposure**.
- Live streaming of Court proceedings is **open to misuse** as proved by so many complaints over the virtual court proceedings.
- Live-streaming would lead to people filing petitions just for the sake of **“being heard all across the country”**.
- There are lots of issues and arguments during the hearings which might not be suitable for live streaming.
- It will be **susceptible to abuses**. Thus, **issues of privacy** may arise.
- Due to the presence of the **digital divide** in the country, live streaming still might not result in access to justice for all sections of the country.

Owing to increased frequency of cybercrimes, there is a need for the deployment of a robust security system that provides secure access to case information for appropriate parties.

Q.6) Ayurveda, India's traditional medicine, has been in practice for close to three millennia, but there are a few challenges that the Ayurveda establishment has for long failed to skillfully address. Comment.

The Hindu

Introduction: Contextual introduction.

Body: Write some historical background of Ayurveda. Also write some challenges that the Ayurveda establishment has for long failed to skillfully address.

Conclusion: Write a way forward.

Ayurveda means the **science of life**. 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.

A long historical background:

- Ayurvedic knowledge originated in India **more than 5,000 years ago** and is often called the “Mother of All Healing.”
- The origin of Ayurveda dates back to the **Vedic era**. Most material relating to the health and diseases are available in **Atharva veda**. **RigVeda** which is the earliest Veda also mentions about diseases and medicinal plants.
- The earliest codified document on Ayurveda is **Charaka Samhita**, descended through Atreya.
- **Sushruta samhita** is another codified document, propagated by Dhanvantari.
- Sushruta School is dominated by **surgical procedures** and techniques while Charaka Samhita deals with **internal medicine**.

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Challenges:

- Ayurveda's ancient treatises contain **useful portions alongside obsolete ones**. Hence, valuable health promotion and illness management observations need to be carefully filtered from outdated theories and socio-religious superstitions.
- Many experts admit that the **anatomy and physiology** contained in the Ayurvedic classics is mostly **outdated** and that the official approach to this subject is misguided.
- The belief in the **philosophical superiority** of Ayurveda has destroyed ancient medical writings from being revisable scientific treatises. The idea of Ayurveda being antithetical to the yukti-vyapashraya (reason-based) character of classical Ayurveda has made the reforms long overdue in Ayurveda. This is highlighted by Usman Committee (1923) and the Chopra Committee (1948).
- There is a **flawed approach** of making ancient concepts sound relevant by superimposing current scientific findings upon them. This will lead to dangerously wrong clinical choices.

Way forward:

- Necessary additions must be made either by translations or by collaboration with experts in portions still deficient.
- As a medical system, Ayurveda is valuable immensely for its observations. Ministry of AYUSH must take cognisance actions to revive Ayurveda.

Q.7) A huge amount of food produced annually goes unconsumed and turns into waste. Suggest measures to prevent food wastage in India.

Live Mint

Introduction: Contextual introduction.

Body: Write some measures to prevent food wastage in India.

Conclusion: Write a way forward.

The **Food Waste Index Report 2021**, by United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), revealed that **17% of all food** available at consumer level was wasted in 2019 and around **690 million people had to go hungry**. It is said that reducing just 50% of food loss or waste could end world hunger. Food waste is a significant **emitter of greenhouse gases**, generating 8-10% of global emissions.

Measures to prevent food wastage in India:

- **Ensuring comprehensible labelling:** only 35% of consumers fully understand the difference between terms such as “best before”, “consume by” and “expiry date” seen on date labels. Thus, the labelling which is understandable by common consumers will be helpful.
- **Use of Information Technology (IT):** Using Internet-of-Things (**IoT**) solutions in cold chains can help organizations harness data-driven insights, enhance traceability and monitor the quality of perishables.
- **Collaboration across the entire value chain:** The focus should be on implementing and scaling up tech solutions that generate maximum impact such as **demand forecasting, temperature monitoring, inventory management, geographic information system (GIS) mapping**, and remote sensing. **Boosting local supply chains** also leads to reduced spoilage and waste, quicker turnaround times.
- **Food waste-related benchmarks:** Organizations need to set food waste reduction goals, establish relevant metrics, track and report progress against them.
- **Awareness and Sensitisation drives:** to inculcate a behavioural change in food usage. For example, changes like, feed someone with extra food or make a **compost** out of it.

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- Multilateral platforms like the **UN Food Systems Summit** can be used to improve cooperation and collaboration among countries.
- India can utilise the knowledge and practice of **UNEP's Regional Food Waste Working Groups**. Especially to share and learn good practices with peer countries.
- India should include Food wastage as a core component of its **Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)** under the Paris Summit. This will place great accountability and motivate the country to take more concrete and innovative steps.

India needs a more proactive approach towards food wastage that should involve a blend of incentives, penalties and behaviour changing measures. This will ensure judicious food utilisation and would also **help in achieving SDG 12.3** that aims to halve global food waste by 2030.

Q.8) What do you understand by the term Moonlighting? What are the reasons behind its prevalence after the pandemic? Also, highlight its implications.

Live Mint

Introduction: Explain Moonlighting.

Body: Explain the reasons behind its prevalence after the pandemic. Also write its implications.

Conclusion: Write a way forward.

Moonlighting is the act of **working at an extra job** beyond regular working hours, usually without the knowledge of the employer. Since the side job was **mostly at night-time or on weekends**, it was referred to as moonlighting. Moonlighting can be a **double-edged sword** for employees in India. It may bring in some extra income and valuable experience, but when caught it may be seen as violation of contract and even lead to termination.

Reasons behind its prevalence after the pandemic:

- **Work from home culture:** While the pandemic has resulted in work from home culture for the majority of the population, it has become easier for employees to work on a second job or business without their primary employer's knowledge.
- **Plan B:** People take up a second job **as a backup** because, at this moment, companies are understaffed and losing money. This also led to employees working for multiple jobs to **maintain job security** and a steady flow of income.
- **Paying off debt:** Due to pandemic, India as well as the rest of the world - suffered **heavy job losses**. With a second job, people manage to pay for home loan etc.
- **To Combat Boredom:** when they do not have enough work to keep them occupied at their primary jobs or to keep themselves busy throughout the day.
- **To Gain Additional Work Experience** or indulge in work profiles they are more passionate about.

Implications:

- It is a matter of concern for employers as it would put the **company's confidential information** at risk and employees might not give their 100%.
- The employee is able to perform better due to their improved knowledge and skills thereby **benefitting the employer**.
- If the employees are engaged in two jobs, they tend to **exhaust themselves**. Due to excessive work, they may face several **health related problems**.
- When an employee works for another employer or starts his/her own business which is similar to his first job, there is a **fear of competition** faced by the first employer. In such a situation, there is a conflict of interest.
- The employee may not be able to focus on the present job thereby **reducing the efficiency** of the organisation.

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Way forward:

- A **non-compete clause** must be inserted in the employment contract. It greatly reduces the risk of losing business secrecy.
- Employers must ensure that employees receive the **minimum compensation** which is essential for their basic needs. Wages and salaries may be augmented by certain incentives.

Q.9) Millets are termed a 'super grain' for good reasons. Discuss the multidimensional benefits associated with enhancing millet cultivation.

Times of India

Introduction: Contextual introduction.

Body: Write some multidimensional benefits associated with enhancing millet cultivation.

Conclusion: Write a way forward.

Millets are cereal crops with high nutritive value and categorized as small-seeded grasses. The key varieties of millets include Sorghum, Pearl Millet, Ragi, Small Millet, Foxtail Millet, Barnyard Millet, Kodo Millet and others. Major producers include Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Gujarat and Haryana. 2023 was declared as the “**International year of millets**” by the UN.

Multidimensional benefits associated with enhancing millet cultivation:

- **Social benefits:** Millets possess immense potential in the battle against poverty and provide food, nutrition, fodder and livelihood security. In rainfed farming areas, millet cultivation provides livelihood to 50% of tribal and rural population.
- **Agri-growth:** India is the largest global producer with a 41% market share. A compound annual growth rate of 4.5% is projected for the global millet market in the coming decade.
- **Restoration of ecosystems and sustainability:** Land degradation has been a major problem in India. Drought-tolerant crops (like millets) with low dependence on chemical inputs would put far less pressure on ecosystems.
- **Biofuel and climate resilience:** Millets also offer a significant cost advantage over maize as a feedstock for bio-ethanol production. They have higher photosynthetic efficiency. Their potential yield is unaffected by higher carbon dioxide levels.
- **Addressing SDGs:** Millet farming has led to women's empowerment. The Odisha Millet Mission saw 7.2 million women emerge as 'agri-preneurs'.
- **Nutritional benefits:** They are a rich source of macronutrients and micronutrients like calcium, protein and iron. They have a **low glycemic index** that prevents type 2 diabetes. They can help to prevent cardiovascular diseases, lower blood pressure.
- **Water efficient:** They require less water. It is about one-third of rice, wheat and sugarcane.
- Boosting millet cultivation will **empower the average farmer** and achieve the objectives of enhancing incomes and improving crop diversification.

Way forward:

- We have to enhance millet cultivation. There is a need to increase crop area under millet cultivation.
- Millets should be included in PDS (Public Distribution System).
- There is a need to promote **agribusiness startup incubation centres** and increase popular awareness of benefits of millets among consumers.

Q.10) To what extent do you think, PM SHRI schools scheme, will be helpful in achieving the objectives set by National Education Policy?

Indian Express

Introduction: Contextual introduction.

Body: Explain how PM SHRI schools scheme will be helpful in achieving the objectives set by National Education Policy. Also write some concerns.

Conclusion: Write a way forward.

PM SHRI (PM Schools for Rising India) schools will provide high-quality education in an equitable, inclusive and joyful school environment. The schools will be developed as **Green schools**. Under the PM SHRI scheme, **14,500 schools** across India's states and Union Territories will be upgraded with modern infrastructure, the latest learning tools and technology, smart classrooms, upgraded sports facilities, etc.

Helpful in achieving the objectives of National Education Policy:

- PM SHRI schools can become a medium to bring change brought by the new education policies (NEP and NCF).
- Every region will have PM SHRI schools that will **mentor other schools** in their areas. It will also have range of learning experiences, good infrastructure among others.
- These schools will include a variety of pedagogies and assessment systems along with **vocational education**.
- These schools will provide linkages with counsellors and local industry to provide **employment opportunities** to their students.
- The schools will also be developed into "**green schools**" with solar panels, smarter waste disposal, and management systems, naturally farmed nutrition gardens, water conservation and harvesting system, and more.
- **Career guidance** and mentoring will be provided by the alumni and parents will also be trained to become home mentors.
- The school will become **community centres** after the regular hours and converge with existing schemes like PM Poshan, Samagrah Shiksha and Ayushman Bharat.
- The **curricular and extra-curricular activities** will also be redesigned to reflect the key features of the NEP 2020.

Concerns:

- The poor status, low salaries and inadequate working conditions discourage talented people from entering the teaching profession.
- There is also lack of investment in high-quality teachers, training and resource materials along with the lack in teacher training schools in India.

For the PM SHRI schools to succeed, a **teacher training programme** must be in place to train the educators in the pedagogical practices proposed by the NEP. As far as principals are concerned, there is a great crisis of leadership.