



Mains Marathon
Compilation

24th to 29th October, 2022

Mains Marathon Compilation for the Month of October, (Fourth Week) 2022

- 1. Highlight the implications of Imparting medical education in Hindi.**
- 2. How Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation (SATAT) scheme can be useful in tackling India's stubble-burning problem?**
- 3. Highlight the significance of the National Curriculum Framework for Foundational Stage (NCF-FS) for education and the overall well-being of children.**
- 4. Discuss the challenges in making the entertainment industry more inclusive for persons with disabilities. What are the provisions available for this objective?**
- 5. India is among the countries that accounted for most of the reduction in TB cases in 2020. Enumerate the factors behind the reduction in TB cases in India and suggest what more can be done to sustain the progress.**
- 6. What are the limitations of auctions as a method of spectrum allocation? How does the draft Indian Telecommunication Bill, 2022, try to bring reforms to this area?**

Q.1) Highlight the implications of Imparting medical education in Hindi.

Indian Express

Introduction: Contextual introduction.

Body: Write **some** implications of Imparting medical education in Hindi.

Conclusion: Write a way forward.

Recently, the Union Home Minister released the MBBS textbooks in Hindi, as part of **Madhya Pradesh** government's efforts to impart medical education in Hindi. The textbooks of 3 subjects– medical biochemistry, anatomy and medical physiology- were released in Bhopal, making the state the **first in India** to offer MBBS course in Hindi.

Implications of imparting medical education in Hindi:

- It will be helpful in accessing medical education among **rural students** as there is lack of English knowledge.
- Imparting education in the students' mother tongue paves way for **effective learning**.
- The medical fraternity fear that this move would **cause disruptions** similar to the one caused by the shift from NEET exam pattern to NeXt.
- There is also concern that switching the medium of instruction would **complicate the teaching process**, given how the teaching faculty have themselves been taught in English. Professors and other teaching staff would also **need to be trained**.
- Hindi and other vernacular languages offer **very few resources** to support India's large employment-seeking population. On the other hand, learning English comes with a better chance at ensuring a good living standard.
- With specific reference to the recently released textbooks, readers have criticized the transliterations for being sub-par and reading like '**cheap quality guides**'.
- It may stir up **anti-Hindi agitations**, especially among the southern states which are criticizing the move as a mere poll gimmick.

Before deciding to phase out English, there is a need to establish a **sound system for translating** the various books, research papers and journals that are continuously churned out by the international medical community. Our focus right now should be to develop primary resources.

Q.2) How Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation (SATAT) scheme can be useful in tackling India's stubble-burning problem?

The Hindu

Introduction: Contextual introduction.

Body: Explain how Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation (SATAT) scheme can be useful in tackling India's stubble-burning problem.

Conclusion: Write a way forward.

Stubble burning is a major problem in North India and every year it is in the news around winter. SATAT initiative aims to promote Compressed Biogas as an alternative, green transport fuel. Compressed Biogas (CBG) plants are proposed to be set up mainly through independent entrepreneurs.

Useful in tackling India's stubble-burning problem:

- CBG produced at the plants will be transported through cascades of cylinders to the fuel station networks of OMCs for marketing as a **green transport fuel alternative**.
- The entrepreneurs would then be able to separately market the other by-products from these plants including bio-manure, carbon-dioxide to enhance returns on investment.

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- This initiative is an ideal example of a '**wealth from waste**' approach and **circular economy**.
- The slurry or fermented organic manure from the plant (CBG) will be useful as compost to replenish soils heavily depleted of organic matter, and **reduce dependence on chemical fertilizers**.
- The plant will also provide **employment opportunities** to rural youth in the large value chain, from paddy harvest, collection, baling, transport and handling of biomass and in the CBG plant.
- As straw from many other crops contains higher energy than paddy straw. This appears to be a first win-win initiative in the form of **environmental benefits**, renewable energy, value addition to the economy, farmers' income and sustainability.
- This initiative is **replicable and scalable** across the country and can be a game changer for the rural economy. It would benefit both vehicle-users as well as farmers and entrepreneurs.

There is a need to build trust with farmers and to ensure that they are seen as partners and they should be provided necessary solutions like financial support to shift from paddy to other crops.

Q.3) Highlight the significance of the National Curriculum Framework for Foundational Stage (NCF-FS) for education and the overall well-being of children.

Live Mint

Introduction: Contextual introduction.

Body: Write some significance of the National Curriculum Framework for Foundational Stage (NCF-FS) for education and the overall well-being of children.

Conclusion: Write a way forward.

Recently, the Union Education ministry launched the National Curriculum Framework for foundational stage education of children in the **three to eight years age group**. The framework focuses on the '**panchakosha**' concept - **the ancient Indian emphasis on the body-mind connection**. It is an important step taken to implement the New Education Policy-2020. National Curriculum Framework essentially serves as a guideline for syllabus, textbooks and teaching practices for the Education system in India.

Significance of NCF-FS:

- **All domains of development:** An integrated curriculum framework for children from ages 3-8 will enable us to address—physical, socio-emotional-ethical, cognitive and language as well as literacy, aesthetic and cultural aspects—more effectively.
- **'Play' at the core of curriculum:** It includes conversations, stories, songs and rhymes, music and movement, art and craft, indoor and outdoor games, field trips, being amid nature and playing with materials and toys.
- **Emphasizes the need of the child:** like use of the child's **home language** and usage of content such as **local and traditional** stories, rhymes, songs, materials, and games. It is also about catering to different needs and levels of children, including children with special needs, for learning to be truly inclusive.
- **Building an enabling ecosystem:** This includes empowering teachers and enabling a supportive academic and administrative support system. It also emphasizes the need to ensure **adequate infrastructure and learning resources** in each institution.
- It focuses on classroom practices with **real-life illustrations** from a variety of contexts. It is hence relatable and provides realistic pathways for teachers and others.

The NCF has an institutional focus including family, extended family, neighbours, and others, all of whom have a very significant impact on the child, particularly in the age cohort of 3-8

years. Moreover, the role of teachers as well as parents and communities will enable and enhance the developmental outcomes.

Q.4) Discuss the challenges in making the entertainment industry more inclusive for persons with disabilities. What are the provisions available for this objective?

The Hindu

Introduction: Contextual introduction.

Body: Write some challenges in making the entertainment industry more inclusive for persons with disabilities. Also write some provisions available for this objective

Conclusion: Write a way forward.

A person with a disability means a person with long term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairment which, in interaction hinders his full and effective participation in society equally with others. The estimated **one billion people** live with disabilities **worldwide**. As per **Census 2011** in India there are 2.68 crore Persons with Disabilities who constitute **2.21 percent of the total population of the country**.

There are following challenges in making the entertainment industry more inclusive for persons with disabilities:

- In India, the potential of **audio description and subtitling** to make entertainment content disabled friendly has largely remained untapped.
- The **recommendations** issued by the Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities (CCPD, principal authority for grievance redressal) do not mention a single recommendation to make entertainment content disabled friendly.
- Production houses may **lack the expertise, human resources or adequate lead time** before the launch of any new content to make it disabled friendly.
- The film producers do not think there is a large **demand** for audio description in India. Even if production houses are inclusive in intent, their behaviour excludes the disabled in effect.

Provisions available for making entertainment industry accessible:

- As per the **Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act 2016**, access to information and entertainment cannot be denied to anyone.
- The RPwD Act requires the appropriate government to take measures to ensure that “persons with hearing impairment can have **access to television programmes with sign language interpretation or sub-titles.**”
- This act also requires the appropriate government to take measures to ensure that “persons with disabilities have **access to electronic media by providing audio description, sign language interpretation and close captioning.**”
- The government has made a recommendation to **the Producers Guild of India** stating all films and TV programmes must be “**born accessible**”, meaning that audio description for blind audiences and captioning for the hearing-impaired people must be part of the production process.
- Delhi-based NGO, **Saksham**, has engaged with the industry, managing to provide audio description to over 40 films like 3 Idiots, Taare Zameen Par etc.

True inclusion will happen when people with disabilities have a prominent seat at the creative table. Citizens with disabilities must demand accountability from the government, filmmakers, streaming platforms and others in the entertainment ecosystem through the judicial process.

Q.5) India is among the countries that accounted for most of the reduction in TB cases in 2020. Enumerate the factors behind the reduction in TB cases in India and suggest what more can be done to sustain the progress.

The Hindu , Hindustan Times

Introduction: Contextual introduction.

Body: Write some factors behind the reduction in TB cases in India. Also write more can be done to sustain the progress.

Conclusion: Write a way forward.

Tuberculosis (TB) is an infectious **airborne bacterial disease**. According to **WHO's Global TB report 2022**, India had done better in major metrics as compared to other countries over time. The National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP) aims to strategically reduce TB burden in India by 2025.

Factors behind the reduction in TB cases in India:

- A range of forward-looking policies have been implemented including critical schemes such as **Ni-kshay Poshan Yojana (NPY)**, which helped **meet the nutritional requirements** of TB patients, especially the underserved.
- **Ayushman Bharat – Health and Wellness Centres** are established to decentralize comprehensive primary healthcare including TB care services at the grassroots level.
- Initiated strategies to **engage the community and create a Jan Andolan** to reach out to the underserved and marginalized and support patients in accessing care.
- Creation of **Patient Support Groups (PSGs)** to facilitate conversations between patients, doctors and their caregivers to address common issues in treatment.
- **Using Information Technology (IT) tools** for monitoring the programme and treatment adherence.
- **Incentives to private providers** for following the standard protocols for diagnosis and treatment as well as for notifying the government of cases.
- Patients referred to the government receive a **cash transfer** to compensate them for the direct and indirect costs of undergoing treatment and as an incentive to complete treatment.

What more can be done?

- There is an urgent need for **cost-effective point-of-care devices** that can be deployed for TB diagnosis in different settings across India.
- **Service delivery** should be optimised so that the diagnostics and drugs reach to people who need them the most.
- **Poverty and malnutrition** are two main reasons for TB. Elected representatives need to ensure steps for the eradication of these.
- There is a need to aggressively **scale up testing with innovative strategies** such as active surveillance, bidirectional screening for respiratory tract infections using the most sensitive molecular diagnostics, and contact tracing.
- The government must ensure that **social security programmes** are duly implemented. They work towards prevention of modifiable risk factors like malnutrition, poverty etc.
- There is also a need to consider **telemedicine and remote support** as important aspects of health services that could play a pivotal role in early detection and treatment.

Collective effort is desired at local, national and international level to attain **SDG 3.3** which aims to end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases by 2030.

Q.6) What are the limitations of auctions as a method of spectrum allocation? How does the draft Indian Telecommunication Bill, 2022, try to bring reforms to this area?

Indian Express

Introduction: Contextual introduction.

Body: Write some limitations of auctions as a method of spectrum allocation. Also explain how the draft Indian Telecommunication Bill, 2022, does tries to bring reforms to this area?

Conclusion: Write a way forward.

A spectrum auction is a process whereby a government uses an auction system to sell the rights to transmit signals over specific bands of the electromagnetic spectrum and to assign scarce spectrum resources. India has a billion plus mobile subscribers, 800 million internet users and the **second-largest telecommunications network** in the world.

Limitations of auctions as a method of spectrum allocation:

- **High Reserve Price:** The government before conducting auctions, reserves a price for a spectrum. A higher reserve price, so spectrum attracts only fewer buyers.
- **Obsolete Auction Format:** The government has not updated the spectrum auction format for a long time. Due to which a persistent fall in the number of bidders is witnessed.
- **Regulatory Framework:** The poor framework has resulted in the forceful exit of various players from the telecom sector. This automatically impacts the potential of spectrum auction as more bidders mean better prices.
- **High Upfront Fees:** High fees place a greater financial burden on telecoms which impairs their functioning.
- The **cost of spectrum is same** in urban as well as in remote areas. Since operators predominantly cater to urban markets, the spectrum in remote areas remains under- or un-utilised due to a lack of investment in allied infrastructure.
- These auctions tried to **maximize government revenues instead of maximising development** by bringing in greater benefits to citizens.

The Draft Telecommunication Bill, 2022 seeks to replace the colonial era legislation that regulated the sector, the **Indian Telegraph Act, 1885**. It tries to bring reforms to this area in following manner:

- **Clarity on Spectrum Assignment:** The Bill reaffirms the government's authority to assign spectrum, with or without auction, and declares common good and access to telecom services as the objective for spectrum assignment.
- It **supplement auctions by "administrative allocation**, and any other manner as may be prescribed" as stated in the bill in the short-term and eventually do away with auctions altogether.
- It paves the way for sharing, trading, leasing, surrender of spectrum assigned, and a **process to return unutilised spectrum**.
- It also proposes to ensure taking back of spectrum if the telecom provider goes through bankruptcy or insolvency.

Spectrum is a perishable scarce resource and loses its value if left unused. It must be recognised that spectrum needs to be combined with other infrastructure to enable service delivery.