



**Mains Marathon**  
**Compilation**

**October, 2022**

## Mains Marathon Compilation for the Month of October 2022

1. **Throw light on the performance of India and the world in achieving Sustainable Development Goals. What more needs to be done to achieve SDG goals on time?**
2. **Discuss the significance of the recent Supreme Court's judgment that gives equal abortion access to all women.**
3. **Do you think that India should make efforts in the repatriation of Artwork or artifacts. What are the hurdles India is facing in repatriation?**
4. **Throw light on the lessons that India can learn from East Asian governments in developing the domestic Chip manufacturing industry.**
5. **Discuss the rationale behind and implications of the Election Commission's proposal on freebies by political parties.**
6. **How do a Governor's constitutional powers to assent to a state bill affect the constitutional order? What steps are required to rectify the issues in the process?**
7. **The present CSR framework required to be strengthened to make it more suitable for the present Social, Environmental and other requirements of India. Discuss.**
8. **Highlight the concerns associated with Rice exports. What are the factors that are aggravating the issues associated with Rice cultivation in India?**
9. **There are no poor people, only people in poor places. Discuss. Also, highlight the policy challenges that are keeping certain areas poor in India.**
10. **Given the current trends in alcohol consumption, the early temperance lessons along with our struggle against an imperial state remain relevant today. Comment. Also bring in the light, the factors behind increasing alcohol consumption in India.**
11. **Adverse reports on Indian medicines, such as those from the Gambia, could dent the country's well-earned reputation of being the pharmacy of the Third World. In light of the statement, discuss the steps required to maintain India's trust in the field of Pharmaceuticals.**
12. **Highlight the benefits and risks of issuing a CBDC in India, with reference to the RBI's concept note.**
13. **Why is it important to develop a resilient and indigenous supply chain of key minerals for clean energy technologies? Suggest measures to secure the supply of strategic minerals.**
14. **Democratic decentralization in India has not been as envisioned by the Constitution. Elaborate and suggest reforms to strengthen Democratic decentralization in India.**
15. **Do you think that the Collegium system is in urgent need of reforms? Give reasons for your opinion.**
16. **In light of the present situation, highlight the challenges and India's approach to Multilateralism.**

## Mains Marathon Compilation for the Month of October 2022

17. What is Judicial activism? Critically analyse the role of judicial activism in Indian democracy.
18. What do you understand by emotional intelligence? Discuss the importance of emotional intelligence in leadership.
19. There have been continuous efforts to regulate the physical infrastructure that forms the backbone of Digital India. Bring out the implications of steps toward regulating the digital ecosystem.
20. Do you think that the culture of vacations for the higher judiciary should be discontinued?
21. Highlight the cyber risks arising from quantum computing for India. Also, suggest some measures for protection against threats from quantum technologies.
22. Setting up Digital Banking Units (DBU) is a big step in the direction of Ease of Living for the common citizens and strengthening digital infrastructure. Examine.
23. Acquiring the optimum degree of nuclear deterrence is imperative for India, given its distinctive spectrum of security and strategic challenges. Examine and highlight the significance of the Arihant SLBM, in this regard.
24. Analyze the effectiveness of Interpol and cross-national law enforcement agencies to meet evolving challenges.
25. Do you agree that the Draft Telecom Bill enhances unease of doing business? Give reasons for your arguments.
26. How Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) Scheme has been beneficial for India in meeting the diverse needs of its population and ensuring balanced, equitable, and inclusive growth?
27. Highlight the achievements of Dr. Dilip Mahalanabis, that saved millions of lives around the world.
28. LIFE, or Lifestyle for Environment brings a fresh and much-needed perspective to tackle climate change. Discuss.
29. Discuss the impact of media on Indian society? How media could play a constructive role in bringing communal harmony?
30. Discuss the nature, methods of operation and limitations of pressure groups in India.
31. Highlight the steps taken by the government against the online circulation and sharing of Child Sexual Abusive Material (CSAM). What more needs to be done in this regard?
32. Discuss the factors affecting Coffee cultivation in India. Suggest some policy measures to improve Coffee cultivation.
33. Highlight the implications of Imparting medical education in Hindi.
34. How Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation (SATAT) scheme can be useful in tackling India's stubble-burning problem?

## Mains Marathon Compilation for the Month of October 2022

35. Highlight the significance of the National Curriculum Framework for Foundational Stage (NCF-FS) for education and the overall well-being of children.
36. Discuss the challenges in making the entertainment industry more inclusive for persons with disabilities. What are the provisions available for this objective?
37. 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.
38. 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) Throw light on the performance of India and the world in achieving Sustainable Development Goals. What more needs to be done to achieve SDG goals on time?**

**Live Mint**

**Introduction:** Contextual introduction.

**Body:** Explain performance of India and the world in achieving Sustainable Development Goals. Also write some measures to achieve SDG goals on time.

**Conclusion:** Write a way forward.

Sustainable Development Goals is a group of **17 goals with 169 targets** and 304 indicators to be achieved by 2030. SDGs are the outcome of the Rio+20 conference (2012) and is a non-binding document. All the countries which are members of the UN agreed to work upon for the better future of the country.

According to **Sustainable Development Report, 2022** by Sustainable Development Solutions Network (**SDSN**), performance of India is as follows:

- India's Rank has **slipped** for the third consecutive year. It has been ranked 121 out of the 163 countries in 2022. India ranked 117 in 2020 and 120 in 2021.
- India is not placed well to achieve the SDG goals and its **preparedness has worsened** over the years in comparison with other countries.
- The country continues to face major challenges in achieving 11 of the 17 SDGs. For instance, SDG 2 on ending hunger, SDG 3 on good health and well-being and SDG 6 on clean water and sanitation.
- Further, ensuring decent work (SDG 8) has become even more challenging.
- However, India is **on track to achieving SDG 13** on climate action.

According to UN SDGs report 2022" performance of world: is:

- **Electricity:** Around 91% of the world population gained access to electricity, leaving 733 million people in the dark in 2020 compared to 1.2 billion in 2010.
- **Clean Water and Sanitation:** the proportion of the global population using safely managed drinking water services increased from 70% in 2015 to 74% in 2020.
- Moreover, over the same period, the population **practising open defecation decreased** by a third, from 739 million people to 494 million. Hence, the world is on track to eliminate open defecation by 2030.
- Rising global temperatures continue unabated leading to more extreme weather events around the world and that energy-related emissions have increased 6% in 2021 reaching the highest level ever.

**What more needs to be done?**

- **Use resources effectively:** Economic cost-benefit analysis can help identify policies where few resources can help a lot and highlight where even very larger sources achieve little.
- **Localising SDG:** Allows developing local solutions and enable each level to play its role.
- **Infrastructure:** There is need to invest in **new, resilient infrastructure** or retrofit existing to make it more sustainable.

Technological democratization, sustainable infrastructure development, and behavioural change will help us restore ecosystems and mitigate the risks posed by climate change in the coming decade. India's efforts to achieve SDGs will aid India in mitigating Climate change.

**Q.2) Discuss the significance of the recent Supreme Court's judgment that gives equal abortion access to all women.**

**Indian Express**

**Introduction:** Contextual introduction.

**Body:** Write some significance of the recent Supreme Court's judgment that gives equal abortion access to all women. Also write some issues with it.

**Conclusion:** Write a way forward.

In a significant ruling on reproductive rights, the Supreme Court recently ruled that **all women, regardless of their marital status** are entitled to safe and legal abortion till 24 weeks of pregnancy. It has ruled over a 51-year-old abortion law (**The Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act of 1971**) which bars unmarried women from terminating pregnancies which are up to 24-weeks old.

**Significance of this judgment:**

- It upheld the **right of reproductive autonomy, dignity and privacy under Article 21** of all women and girls to make reproductive choices for themselves.
- It addresses the hurdles faced by **minor girls** in accessing abortion, due to the provision of mandatory reporting.
- The Court also addressed sexual violence within marriage and **recognised marital rape** as a condition for abortion up to 24 weeks.
- Now abortion rights under MTP Act are also available to **cis-gender women**.
- Access to abortion is critically tied to preserving and upholding the human rights of pregnant women, girls, and others, and hence to attaining **social and gender justice**.
- Legalisation of abortions will also **discourage the illegal practice of abortions** done through untrained, unauthorised paramedics which are hazardous for the health and future fertility of the child bearer.
- If women with unwanted pregnancies are forced to carry their pregnancies because of legal constraints, it would affect the generations that are going to come.

**Issues:**

- This could be used by unscrupulous women to harass their husbands.
- The women outside marriages and in poor families are left with no choice but to use unsafe or illegal ways to abort unwanted pregnancies.
- There is concern many that it may be a precursor to the court finally criminalising marital rape.

At a time when sexual and reproductive health and rights are under threat globally, this progressive judgment stands out as a ray of hope. As unsafe abortions remain a major cause of maternal mortality, it is a significant verdict that advances the cause of safe abortion services.

**Q.3) Do you think that India should make efforts in the repatriation of Artwork or artifacts. What are the hurdles India is facing in repatriation?**

**Times of India**

**Introduction:** Contextual introduction.

**Body:** Explain why India should make efforts in the repatriation of Artwork. Also write some arguments against reparations and hurdles India is facing in repatriation.

**Conclusion:** Write a way forward.

India's historical artefacts are a treasure-trove of a rich cultural legacy and religious significance. In the past, many of valuable antiquities, artefacts and sculptures have been

## Mains Marathon Compilation for the Month of October 2022

stolen from India and are sold in foreign countries. Repatriation is the return of stolen or looted cultural materials to their countries of origin.

### Make efforts in the repatriation of artefacts:

- **International customary law:** The obligation to provide reparations arises when a violation of international law takes place.
- **To bridge the gap** between the developed and developing world therefore, reparations, whether symbolic, monetary, or otherwise, are much overdue.
- It is morally correct, and **reflects basic property laws**, that stolen or looted property should be returned to its rightful owner.
- Cultural objects belong together with the cultures that created them; these objects are a crucial **part of contemporary cultural and political identity**.

### Arguments against reparations:

- Colonisation was a legal and common practices at the time, partly because of empire, all cultures are involved in one another; none is single and pure.
- Returning cultural objects which were obtained under colonial regimes to their countries of origin does **not make up for the destruction** of colonialism.
- Source countries do not have **adequate facilities or personnel** (because of poverty etc) to receive repatriated materials so objects are safer where they are now.
- Most objects at the time of their acquisition were **legally obtained** and therefore have no reason to be repatriated.

### Hurdles India is facing in repatriation:

- There are **no established processes** to take back artefacts and some experts claim Indian authorities do not take care of such items properly.
- **Heritage theft** also remains a rampant problem. Poverty in the country fuels the theft of antiquities.
- Indian government's **standards for safekeeping heritage assets** are not up to the mark.
- **ASI has no policy for management of antiquities**. Storage conditions of these antiquities in monuments like Safdarjung's Tomb and Purana Qila are pathetic.

Initiatives like **India Pride Project** are a welcoming step in protecting Indian antiquities that has been instrumental in the repatriation of several works of incalculable archaeological and aesthetic value.

### Q.4) Throw light on the lessons that India can learn from East Asian governments in developing the domestic Chip manufacturing industry.

#### Live Mint

**Introduction:** Contextual introduction.

**Body:** Write some lessons that India can learn from East Asian governments in developing the domestic Chip manufacturing industry.

**Conclusion:** Write a way forward.

Semiconductor foundries are the world's most expensive factories, accounting for 65% of industry capital expenditure but only 25% of the value addition. . The industry is dominated by the USA, Taiwan, South Korea, Japan, and the Netherlands. The USA leads in design of chips, but it is **Taiwan** that has over **70% market share in chip manufacturing**.

Following lessons India can learn from East Asian governments in developing the domestic Chip manufacturing industry:

- **Government intervention:** in the form of promoting research, facilitating cooperation and industry linkages. Like public sector research and development institutes such as Industrial Technology Research Institute (ITRI) in Taiwan, and the government coordination and encouragement of investment in the early stages as in South Korea.

## Mains Marathon Compilation for the Month of October 2022

- **Foundry model:** In this, manufacturers does not design their own chips (or establish their own brands), but acted only as outsourced manufacturers for chips designed elsewhere. This may incentivize chip companies to outsource manufacturing to India.
- **Performance evaluation:** For this, set the goals for companies, ration the finance, discipline poor performers with financial stringency and reward good performers with financial largesse.
- **Purchase of process technology:** from advanced firms to bring expertise through the hiring of engineers, the licensing of product designs and offering in exchange either cash or fabrication capacity, or second sourcing and OEM contracts for the established players.
- **Financial support:** Investments in major semiconductor fabrication activities should be financed almost entirely by the companies themselves from external loans, government credit agencies or, from cross-investment by one part of the business group in another.

Areas like stable power, large quantities of pure water and land, are state subjects, and it will be up to state governments to create the right climate for easy implementation of semiconductor projects. Securing Chip industries is a necessity for India if it has ambitions of becoming a big global hub for manufacturing and technology innovation in the future.

### Q.5) Discuss the rationale behind and implications of the Election Commission's proposal on freebies by political parties.

[Indian Express](#), [TOI](#)

**Introduction:** Contextual introduction.

**Body:** Explain the rationale behind the Election Commission's proposal on freebies by political parties. Also write its implications.

**Conclusion:** Write a way forward.

Recently, ECI said it plans to make it mandatory for parties to inform voters about the "financial ramifications" of poll promises against well-defined parameters by amending the model code of conduct. It will require political parties to declare the extent of coverage of promises in terms of individuals/households along with expected expenditure. Parties will be expected to provide details regarding all such promises separately. They would also need to show the income source required to fulfil all electoral promises.

#### Rationale:

- EC's aim to help voters make an **informed choice**.
- To assess the financial **feasibility of implementation of such promises** within the financial space available.
- To seek details on the **ways of revenue generation** for meeting promises and its impact on the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act limits.

#### Implications:

- States and Union governments also would provide information on the receipts and expenditure, which would bring the government's **fiscal health into the political discourse**.
- It may eventually put the onus of assessment of proformas on the Election Commission, thereby increasing its power.
- There may arise issue of **what constitutes a freebie** and what not as a promise of one political party may be a freebie for another and vice versa.
- While political parties making an assessment of what their poll promises cost should be a back-of-the-envelope calculation, such assessments would miss out on the costs that every new scheme or welfare measure imposes on the government machinery.



### Way forward:

- India needs to have an **institutional mechanism** to control wasteful expenditure.
- Instead of having a blanket policy, the state needs to **identify the beneficiary** of a particular public policy.
- India needs to have a **good tax framework** for more social sector expenditure while also ensuring medium-term debt sustainability.

### Q.6) How do a Governor's constitutional powers to assent to a state bill affect the constitutional order? What steps are required to rectify the issues in the process?

#### The Hindu

**Introduction:** Contextual introduction.

**Body:** Explain how a Governor's constitutional powers to assent to a state bill affect the constitutional order. Also write some steps to rectify the issues in the process.

**Conclusion:** Write a way forward.

The Governor being a part of the State legislature, the process of law making is complete only when he signs it, signifying his assent. There have been many instances of some Governors not acting upon requests to grant clemency or assent to Bills e.g., in Tamil Nādu, Kerala etc. A Governor's constitutional powers to assent to a state bill affect the constitutional order in following manner:

- **Article 200** of the Constitution provides for four alternative courses of action for a Governor when a Bill after being passed by the legislature is presented to him for his assent. Article 200 **does not lay down any time frame** to take action under this Article.
- Governor can **return the Bill to the legislature** with the request that it may reconsider the Bill.
- Governor can **reserve the bill** for consideration of President. Through this centre exercises this power by vetoing or delaying any legislation through President's refusal to assent to state's legislation.
- **Article 361** of the Constitution prohibits the court from initiating proceedings against a Governor or the President for any act done in exercise of their powers.

Some Governors use discretionary powers to control the state governments. So following steps are required to rectify the issues:

- The "**Punchhi commission- 2010**" recommended that there should be a provision for the impeachment of the governor by the state legislature.
- There is a need to **strengthen federal setup** (Inter-State council and the role of Rajya Sabha) in India.
- The appointment can be made from a panel prepared by the state legislature and actual appointing authority should be the Inter-state Council, not the central government.
- '**Code of Conduct**' should lay down certain '**norms and principles**' which should guide the exercise of the governor's 'discretion' and his powers.
- Provisions relating to the Governor's role should be amended to make the following changes:
  - Identifying areas of discretion,
  - fixing a time-frame for them to act,
  - Cabinet advice should be mandatory to act upon in dealing with Bills.

The governor should work in an impartial manner and should not try to create a parallel government. It is important for maintenance of national interests, integrity and internal security.

**Q.7) The present CSR framework required to be strengthened to make it more suitable for the present Social, Environmental and other requirements of India. Discuss.**

The Hindu

**Introduction:** Contextual introduction.

**Body:** Explain some issues with present CSR framework. Also write some measure to strengthen the CSR framework.

**Conclusion:** Write a way forward.

**Companies Act, 2013** mandates that corporates who are beyond a certain level of profits and turnover, should pay at least 2% of their net profits before tax to the development space. This law gives corporates the necessary drive to collaborate with non-state actors like Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs). This strengthening of citizenry-private partnerships is a major component of development activities.

**Issues with present CSR framework:**

- Since the requirement of 2% is only a **minimum requirement**, companies should be encouraged to spend more than this.
- Many private companies have **registered their own foundations/trusts** to which they transfer the statutory CSR budgets for utilisation.
- According to the Act, the company should give preference to local areas around it where it operates. So, there occurs **geographical bias** as 54% of CSR companies are concentrated in Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, and Gujarat while Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh receive little.
- Most CSR spending is on education (37%), health and sanitation (29%), and only 9% was spent on the environment.
- The **information** regarding CSR spending by companies is **insufficient** and difficult to access.
- The auditor is not mandated to qualify the accounts for non-compliance or inadequate CSR performance in the audit report.

**Measure to strengthen the CSR framework:**

- There is a need to curate a **national-level platform** centralised by the MCA where all States could list their potential CSR-admissible projects and preferential treatment to areas where companies operate.
- Companies need to **prioritise environment restoration** in the area where they operate.
- All CSR projects should be selected and implemented with the active **involvement of communities**, district administration and public representatives.
- Bringing CSR within the purview of **statutory financial audit** with details of CSR expenditure and mandatory independent third-party impact assessment audits.
- CSR non-spend, underspend, and overspend should be qualified by the auditor in the audit report as a qualification to accounts.
- The MCA and the line departments need to exercise greater direct **monitoring and supervision** over CSR spend by companies.

With nearly two-thirds of India still living in poverty by today's quality-of-life standards and the climate situation worsening day by day, the importance of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) can't be overestimated.

**Q.8) Highlight the concerns associated with Rice exports. What are the factors that are aggravating the issues associated with Rice cultivation in India?**

**Indian Express**

**Introduction:** Contextual introduction.

**Body:** Explain some concerns associated with Rice exports. Also write factors that are aggravating the issues associated with Rice cultivation in India.

**Conclusion:** Write a way forward.

It is **India's largest agricultural crop** (accounting for over 40% of the total foodgrain output). India exports rice to more than 130 countries, constituting around 40 percent of the global rice trade. But India's rice yield is lower than the world average.

**Concerns associated with Rice exports:**

- The **export uncertainties** affect the credibility of Indian exporters; create a disincentive for future exports, and enables buyers to shift towards other major rice-exporting countries.
- Though Indian farmers in general **lack market access**, and hence do not take advantage of high market prices.
- The fall in prices may adversely affect a section of farmers who hope to get a better price for their produce through exports.
- The exporters who face the burden of the unfeasibility of exports may pass it on to farmers in the form of **lower prices during procurement**.
- Rice exports are leading to **an indirect export of water** to other countries i.e. a virtual water trade (VWT) because the relative per capita water availability in India is lower than a majority of its major importing countries.

The following factors aggravate the issues associated with Rice cultivation in India:

- India's rice production declining significantly because of **deficient monsoon rainfall** in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and Gangetic West Bengal.
- Yields in Punjab and Haryana turn out lower due to a new virus that has caused "**dwarfing**" of paddy plants in many fields there.
- **Insufficient MSP** realization is reflected in paddy households selling their produce to the APMC reducing from 17 per cent (2013) to 2.7 per cent (2019) because of poor participation of private traders, low infrastructure, unawareness, etc.

**Way forward:**

- Save water and the input requirements in the form of wider adoption of water-saving practices such as the system of rice intensification (SRI), etc.
- There is need for a **comprehensive rice strategy**, with focus on new systems, technologies and new rice seed varieties.
- Risk **mitigation measures, crop insurance**, price stabilization measures and optimum use of agro-climatic conditions can reduce the dependence on the monsoon.

**Q.9) There are no poor people, only people in poor places. Discuss. Also, highlight the policy challenges that are keeping certain areas poor in India.**

**Indian Express**

**Introduction:** Contextual introduction.

**Body:** Explain the reason behind people in poor places. Also write some policy challenges that are keeping certain areas poor in India.

**Conclusion:** Write a way forward.

60% of the poor still reside in the states of Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Chattisgarh, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand. The reason for these states to be in the category of the poorest state is because 85% of tribal people live there.

There are no poor people, only people in poor places as the country's massive productivity differences are due to **wage differentials**. These differences are due to-

- **States:** In the next 20 years, six states in South and West India will account for almost 35 per cent of GDP growth but only 5 per cent of population growth because economic complexity breeds higher wages.
- **Cities:** Hyderabad has a higher GDP than Odisha and four times that of J&K. The three pillars of governance- PM, CM, and DM is not effective. District magistrates are unelected, inexperienced, and unempowered to breed well-paying jobs.
- **Sectors:** Software industry employs only 0.8 percent of our labour force but generates 8 percent of GDP, while agriculture has 42 percent of our labour force but only generates 16 percent of GDP. States that increase manufacturing and service jobs will have more high-paying jobs.
- **Firms:** Higher productivity firms provide higher wages with more capital, technology, and meritocracy.
- **Skills:** States with high populations of residents with skills in demand attracts more high-paying jobs. India's problem is not jobs but wages.

**Challenges:**

- **Agriculture:** a low productivity sector due to lack of improved seeds, fertilizers, and machines like tractors, investors, etc.
- **Human Capital:** The expenditure on education, skill-training, research, and improvement in health is minimal.
- **Technology:** The deficiency of human capital and the absence of skilled labour are major hurdles in spreading technology in the economy. Most enterprises in India are micro or small which cannot afford modern and more productive technologies.
- **Lack of infrastructure:** These include transportation, communication, electricity generation, and distribution, banking and credit facilities, health and educational institutions, etc.
- **Lack of Capital and Entrepreneurship:** The shortage of capital and entrepreneurship results in low level of investment and job creation in the economy.
- **Regional Poverty:** Government should provide special facilities and concessions to attract private capital investment to backward regions. Public sector enterprises should also be set up in backward areas.

State governments must sustainably **create high-paying jobs** by raising the productivity. Public sector should make liberal expenditure to provide at least minimum requirements.

**Q.10) Given the current trends in alcohol consumption, the early temperance lessons along with our struggle against an imperial state remain relevant today. Comment. Also bring in the light, the factors behind increasing alcohol consumption in India.**

**Indian Express , Indian Express 2**

**Introduction:** Contextual introduction.

**Body:** Write some contemporary relevance of early temperance lessons. Also write some factors behind increasing alcohol consumption in India.

**Conclusion:** Write a way forward.

According to National Family Health Survey, alcohol consumption among both men and women is **higher in rural India** than in urban India, the. Overall, 1% of women aged 15 and over drink alcohol, compared to 19% of men in the same age group. Alcohol consumption is **more common among Scheduled Tribes** than from any other caste/tribe groups. It is linked with multimorbidity, lower life expectancy, mental impairment, and loss of productivity.

**Contemporary relevance of early temperance lessons:**

- **Role of state:** Gandhi's objection to the state having a role in the **production and distribution of alcohol**.
- Moreover, Gandhi understood that without wide-spread **self-regulation by individuals**, prohibition would devolve into corrupting attempts at enforcement. **E.g. Bihar** situation after liquor ban.
- C Rajagopalachari also said that the presence **cultural tendency for abstinence** in India would make prohibition less corruptible, relative to other countries.
- The temperance movement, by leveraging these cultural norms, would prepare the ground for more effective state interventions.

**Factors behind increasing alcohol consumption in India:**

- Older **cultural-religious norms** that encouraged abstinence have **weakened**.
- More people are earning sufficient **income** to purchase it. This has outpaced the efforts to reduce consumption.
- Increased **urbanisation** and an **expanding middle class** are also contributors.
- **Social pressures** are a major contributor to the high prevalence of alcohol consumption in India. Many **social activities** are centred on alcohol and the drink being perceived as a '**social lubricant**'.
- Political dependence on the **revenue** generated by the industry- especially among the states. This was evidenced by how states decided to reopen liquor shops despite a fast-growing pandemic to improve their revenues.
- **Aggressive marketing** by the alcohol industry.
- **Low awareness** about the negative impacts of alcohol on health.
- Sustained messaging about the 'attractions of alcohol consumption' via **movies** and **other TV programs**.

**Way forward:**

- Reducing alcoholism cannot be achieved using a sudden blanket ban across the country. It needs to be brought in **by phases**.
- **Political will** is a key component in reducing the harmful use of alcohol.
- The policies designed for the purpose must be tailor made for **local circumstances**. It should be **comprehensive** and **inclusive** with clarity in division of responsibilities.

**Q.11) Adverse reports on Indian medicines, such as those from the Gambia, could dent the country's well-earned reputation of being the pharmacy of the Third World. In light of the statement, discuss the steps required to maintain India's trust in the field of Pharmaceuticals.**

**Indian Express**

**Introduction:** Contextual introduction.

**Body:** Write some steps required to maintain India's trust in the field of Pharmaceuticals.

**Conclusion:** Write a way forward.

India is considered as the '**pharmacy of the world**' due to its ability to produce a wide range and great volume of medicines, that too at low costs. **The Drug and Cosmetics Act, 1940** establishes regulatory control over the import, manufacture, distribution, and sale of drugs and cosmetics in India.

Recently Cough syrups manufactured by Maiden Pharmaceuticals have caused the deaths of 66 children in Gambia. To avoid such incidents in future and to maintain India's trust in the field of Pharmaceuticals, following steps are required:

- The **Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO)** must be empowered to conduct surprise inspections of manufacturing plants. The plants can be graded accordingly to help consumers understand the differences in the quality of the drugs.
- A **rigorous regulatory regime** is needed to ensure India remains the pharmacy of the world and provides affordable medicines to the poorest sections of society also.
- There is need to regulate the sale of **substandard, even counterfeit, drugs** which remain widespread in India, particularly, in smaller towns and villages.
- **Raw materials** produced from small scale units should be properly validated in the testing laboratory of the state to ascertain their quality specifications.
- There is a need for a **functional testing laboratory** in every state to fasten the work of specification of raw materials.
- **Skilled manpower** from academic institutions can be achieved through continuing education programmes.
- **Research schemes** should be initiated by the industry via direct contact with identified researcher/faculty.
- **Focus on API manufacturing** so that they can less rely on imported APIs. This can be fulfilled in several ways, including constructing dedicated zones for the manufacture of APIs.
- **AI** can be used for drug discovery, development, manufacturing, and marketing. AI can make all business operations efficient, cost-effective, and hassle-free.

The sale of substandard drugs in India has to be stopped not only because it is illegal but because it is creating life-threatening situations. A mechanism should be built, where regulators should have proper communication links between them. Also, a set of uniform standards should be followed.

**Q.12) Highlight the benefits and risks of issuing a CBDC in India, with reference to the RBI's concept note.**

**RBI**

**Introduction:** Contextual introduction.

**Body:** Write some benefits of issuing a CBDC in India with reference to the RBI's concept note.

Also write some risks.

**Conclusion:** Write a way forward.

Recently the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) released a '**Concept Note**' on central bank digital currency (CBDC) for India. Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) is a **digital form of currency notes** issued by a central bank. CBDC is **sovereign currency** issued by Central Banks in alignment with their monetary policy. It must be accepted as a medium of payment, legal tender, and a safe store of value by all citizens, enterprises, and government agencies.

**Benefits of issuing a CBDC:**

- It provides **reduction in operational costs** involved in physical cash management, fostering **financial inclusion**, bringing resilience, efficiency, and innovation in payments system.
- The use of offline feature in CBDC would also be **beneficial in remote locations** and offer availability and resilience benefits when electrical power or mobile network is not available.
- CBDCs will provide the **benefits of virtual currencies** while ensuring consumer protection by avoiding the damaging social and economic consequences of private virtual currencies.
- It will provide **reduced dependency on cash**, and reduced settlement risk. It could provide safety and liquidity to the settlement system, boosting **innovation in cross-border payments space**.
- CBDC will provide entrepreneurs a platform to **create new products and services**.
- The introduction of CBDC, would possibly lead to a more robust, efficient, trusted, regulated and legal tender-based payments option.

**Associated Risks:**

- **Frauds:** In countries with lower financial literacy levels, the increase in digital payment related frauds may also spread to CBDCs.
- **Cyber security risks:** Public blockchains preserve transparency but that does not provide cyber security by itself. The centralised systems will have the same cyber security concerns as is applicable to the existing Fast Payment Systems (FPS).
- **Privacy concerns:** given that the central bank could potentially end up handling an enormous amount of data regarding user transactions.
- **Disintermediating banks:** If sufficiently large and broad-based, the shift to CBDC can impinge upon the bank's ability to plough back funds into credit intermediation.
- If e-cash becomes popular and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) places no limit on the amount that can be stored in mobile wallets, weaker banks may struggle to retain low-cost deposits.
- Faster obsolescence of technology could pose a threat to the CBDC ecosystem calling for **higher costs of upgradation**.

CBDC is aimed to complement, rather than replace, current forms of money. The Digital Rupee (₹) system will further bolster India's digital economy, make the monetary and payment systems more efficient and contribute to furthering financial inclusion.

**Q.13) Why is it important to develop a resilient and indigenous supply chain of key minerals for clean energy technologies? Suggest measures to secure the supply of strategic minerals.**

**The Hindu**

**Introduction:** Contextual introduction.

**Body:** Explain why it is important to develop a resilient and indigenous supply chain of key minerals for clean energy technologies. Also write some measures to secure the supply of strategic minerals.

**Conclusion:** Write a way forward.

India aims to reach **net zero emissions by 2070** and to meet fifty percent of its electricity requirements from renewable energy sources by 2030. For this there is need for greater indigenisation of manufacturing. India imported 75 percent of its installed solar photovoltaic (PV) modules over 2017-2022 (IEA 2022).

It is important to develop a resilient and indigenous supply chain of key minerals for clean energy technologies due to following reasons:

- To become more **self-reliant**, the clean energy manufacturing sector in India will require access to a consistent supply of critical minerals, which are inputs in the manufacturing process.
- Any supply shock can severely **imperil the economy and strategic autonomy** of a country over-dependent on others to procure critical minerals.
- The ongoing **supply chain crisis** caused by the war in Ukraine and the COVID-19 pandemic highlights the challenges associated with sourcing critical non-fuel mineral resources.
- They are critical as the world is fast shifting from a fossil fuel-intensive to a mineral-intensive energy system. So, it is critical for **energy security**.
- Their production is often **controlled by a few firms**, often from countries that are geostrategic competitors.

**Measures to secure the supply of strategic minerals:**

- Figure out the mineral **requirements of the domestic industry by a task force** which includes the ministries of power, new and renewable energy, heavy industry, and science and technology.
- Create **five-year road maps** with clear targets for deployment and indigenous manufacturing across clean energy applications.
- KABIL could collaborate with domestic industry to bolster its market intelligence capabilities for **tracking global supply-side developments**.
- The **private sector** should be encouraged to secure minerals for its own requirements.
- The government should jointly **invest in mining assets** with geostrategic partners or private sector entities with expertise in specific geographies. E.g. establishing resilient clean energy supply chains is a priority for the Quad.
- India could **incentivise investments in technologies** that rely on local raw materials. It could also propose co-development of such technologies with geostrategic partners.
- Develop policies on urban mining aimed at **recycling mineral inputs** from deployments that have completed their useful life. These could help further reduce dependence on international sourcing.

As securing access to a steady source of non-fuel mineral inputs is a strategic imperative for India, there is need of involving the development of institutional capabilities, careful assessment of key policy choices, and close coordination between several actors.



**Q.14) Democratic decentralization in India has not been as envisioned by the Constitution. Elaborate and suggest reforms to strengthen Democratic decentralization in India.**

**The Hindu**

**Introduction:** Contextual introduction.

**Body:** Write some Issues with democratic decentralization in India. Also write some reforms to strengthen democratic decentralization in India.

**Conclusion:** Write a way forward.

Democratic decentralization is the process of **devolving the functions and resources** of the state from the centre to the elected representatives at the lower levels so as to facilitate greater direct participation of citizens in governance. **73<sup>rd</sup> and 74<sup>th</sup> Constitutional Amendments** mandated the establishment of panchayats and municipalities as elected local governments.

**Issues with Democratic decentralization:**

- **Financial constraints:** Less investment and hence local governments find difficult to raise their own taxes and user charges. Local government expenditure as a percentage of GDP is only 2 percent compared with the OECD (14 percent), China (11 percent), and Brazil (7 percent).
- **Manpower:** Local governments do not have the staff to perform even basic tasks. Moreover, most staff are hired by higher-level departments staff do not feel responsible to local governments
- **Adhoc meetings:** There is a lack of clear setting of agenda in gram sabha, gram Samiti meetings and landlord and relatives many a time give a proxy for SC/ST's and women.
- **Corruption:** There is a chain of corruption involving a partnership between elected representatives and officials at all levels.
- **Centralization:** Panchayats are nothing more than front offices for several Union government programmes. E.g. in the 'Smart City' programme States have been forced to constitute 'special purpose vehicles' to expense these grants and it does not devolve its funds to the municipalities.

**Reforms to strengthen Democratic decentralization:**

- **Revitalise gram sabhas and wards committees:** Consultations with the grama sabha could be organised through smaller discussions where everybody can really participate. SMSs, or social media groups could be used for facilitating discussions between members of a grama sabha.
- **Strengthen organisational structures:** Local governments must be enabled to hold State departments accountable and to provide quality, corruption free service to them, through service-level agreements.
- **Local taxation:** Local governments should collect property taxes and user charges. As tax payment will create higher accountability for misusing funds.
- Strengthening of panchayats through **capacity building and training** should be given more encouragement from the centre and state governments.
- Ministry of Panchayati Raj should monitor the release and expenditure of Finance Commission grants to ensure that there is **no delay in their release.**

A reasonably robust democratic structure for local governance should be given life through the practice of a robust democratic culture. It is important to instil more powers to local government providing more finance to them to work properly at same time keeping them accountable.

## Mains Marathon Compilation for the Month of October 2022

**Q.15) Do you think that the Collegium system is in urgent need of reforms? Give reasons for your opinion.**

### **The Hindu**

**Introduction:** Contextual introduction.

**Body:** Explain why the Collegium system is in urgent need of reforms. Also write its significance.

**Conclusion:** Write a way forward.

At present, the collegium comprises of CJI (Chief Justice of India) and 4 senior-most judges of the Supreme Court. It is the system which makes decisions regarding appointments/elevation of judges to the Supreme Court, High Courts, and transfers of judges of the High Courts.

### **Urgent need of reforms:**

- **Autocratic:** Collegium has been evolved by the judiciary itself for retaining the power to select judges by itself.
- **Social Background of Judges:** The collegium system prefers practising lawyers rather than appointing and promoting “judges of the subordinate judiciary,” which often comprises a diverse pool of candidates. Thus, the composition of the high courts becomes, literally, an “old boys’ club” featuring largely male, upper-caste, former practising lawyers.
- **Opaque and Unaccountable System:** The lack of information about the appointment of judges, including the criteria based on which the judges make their choice. The judges are not accountable to the people and representative of peoples i.e. executive or legislative.
- **Promotes nepotism:** Sons and nephews of previous judges or senior lawyers tend to be popular choices for judicial roles.
- **Against established conventions:** The convention of seniority has long been held as the procedure for appointments but supersession ignores and abdicates this convention, creating space for subjectivity and individual bias in appointments.

### **Significance:**

- **Impartial and independent functioning:** It separates the judiciary from the influence of the executive and legislative. So, the collegium system strengthens the principle of **separation of powers**.
- **State is the main litigant:** About 46% of total cases pending in India relate to the government. If the power to transfer the judges is given to the executive, then the fear of transfer would impede justice delivery.
- **Political vulnerability:** The government handling the transfers and appointments is prone to nepotism. For example, the civil servants were transferred for political gains.
- **Provides stability:** The executive organ is not a specialist or does not have the knowledge regarding the requirements of the Judge.

### **Way forward:**

- The **NJAC should be amended** to make sure that the judiciary retains independence in its decisions.
- A **written manual** should be released by the Supreme Court which should be followed during appointments.
- Apart from reforming the collegium system, the quality of judges can also be improved through the implementation of **All India Judicial Services (AIJS)**.

**Q.16) In light of the present situation, highlight the challenges and India's approach to Multilateralism.**

**ForumIAS blog**

**Introduction:** Contextual introduction.

**Body:** Write some challenges to Multilateralism. Also explain India's approach to Multilateralism.

**Conclusion:** Write a way forward.

Multilateralism means a **form of cooperation between at least three States**. It is often defined in opposition to bilateralism and unilateralism. It is based on founding principles such as consultation, inclusion and solidarity. Multilateralism is determined by collectively developed rules that ensure sustainable and effective cooperation. It guarantees all States the same rights and obligations.

**Challenges to Multilateralism:**

- Advanced economies (AEs) are now disenchanting globalization. E.g. **Brexit** has weakened multilateralism in Europe.
- The **BRICS** failed to determine the dynamics of the future course in the Indo-Pacific.
- In the **G7 Summit 2022**, the members were preoccupied with its increasing involvement in the war through supply of money, sophisticated weapons, etc. It failed to produce any results on other major **issues like climate change etc.**
- As the Appellate Body of the **WTO** is unable to hear new appeals, causing widespread concern in the context of escalating global **trade protectionism**.
- Despite its massive size, the **United Nations** has become hostage to geopolitical competition and ideological struggles. E.g. mostly refrained from criticizing **Beijing's actions against the Uighurs**.
- The performance of the **World Health Organization during the Covid-19 pandemic**, and the ambiguity and lack of transparency of its investigation on the origins of the virus.
- The **conflict in Ukraine** has exposed fault lines in European security that most multilateral actors had failed to acknowledge.

**India's approach to Multilateralism:**

- **Based on pragmatism:** India has worked to advance and protect its core interests through multilateral engagement, to resist or ignore international rules when necessary, and to be willing to ratify such rules where national and global interests align.
- **Principled stands:** on various issues like nuclear proliferation and weapons control, international trade, climate change, etc.
- **Trade:** India has actively participated in **both the WTO and the regional trade agreements**. E.g. India's FTAs with the ASEAN and the signing of the South Asian Free Trade Agreement (SAFTA) indicate a firm commitment to regional frameworks.
- In its efforts to secure its interests, India has continued to **engage with countries in the opposing blocs**, for instance, India is member of both Quad (with Australia, Japan and the US) and the SCO (with Russia and China).
- India has used bilateral and trilateral frameworks, especially **joint naval exercises**, with countries like the US, Australia, Singapore, and France to send strategic messages.

There is a need to enhance cooperation among the UN, regional organization, international finance institution at both policy and operational levels.

**Q.17) What is Judicial activism? Critically analyse the role of judicial activism in Indian democracy.**

**Introduction:** Explain Judicial activism.

**Body:** Write some significance of judicial activism in Indian democracy. Also write its issues.

**Conclusion:** Write a way forward.

Judicial activism means the proactive role played by the judiciary in the protection of the rights of citizens and in the promotion of justice in the society. In other words, it is the role played by the judiciary to force the other two organs of the government (legislature and executive) to discharge their constitutional duties.

**Significance in Indian democracy:**

- Judicial activism acts as a mechanism to **curb legislative adventurism and executive tyranny** by enforcing Constitutional limits.
- It helps in **upholding faith of citizens** in constitution and judicial organs.
- Judicial activism **fills legislative vacuum** i.e areas, which lack proper legislation. This help country to meet the changing social needs. E.g. **Vishakha guidelines** to counter harassment of women at work place.
- Sometime politicians afraid of taking honest and hard decisions for fear of losing power. Judicial activism helps in plugging such active political lacunae.
- Judicial activism help in enhancing administrative efficiency and help in **good governance**.
- It sometimes helps in **balancing powers** among various organs of government through judicial control over discretionary powers.
- Progressive interpretation of law has **expanded the rights of the people**. E.g. **Right to privacy** under Article 21.

**Issues:**

- It **destroys** the spirit of **separation of powers**. Thus damage the balances between various organs of government.
- Judicial activism may lead to **inactivity of legislature and executive**, leading to running away from duties and responsibilities which they hold for people of India.
- The judiciary is **neither competent nor responsible** for exacting executive accountability. Under the parliamentary system this role falls upon the parliament in general and the Lok Sabha in particular.
- Judicial interference into the working of a democratically elected executive **undermines the mandate of the people** reposed in the elected government. For example, the SC **struck down NJAC Act** in favour of the collegium system.

In India judicial activism has played an important role in keeping democracy alive. Pronouncements like **Keshavnanda Bharti case, Minerva Mill Case** etc. has helped in keeping all the organs of government in balance and help in keeping society healthy and progressing.

**Q.18) What do you understand by emotional intelligence? Discuss the importance of emotional intelligence in leadership.**

**Introduction:** Explain emotional intelligence.

**Body:** Explain the importance of emotional intelligence in leadership.

**Conclusion:** Write a way forward.

Emotional Intelligence is defined as the **ability to understand our own emotions and other's emotions and use them constructively** to guide one's thinking and actions. Persons who are capable of having awareness of emotions for self or others and regulate accordingly are called emotionally intelligent. Persons who fail to do so, deviate and thereby develop abreaction of emotion, resulting in anger, frustration and conflict. It has 5 components:

- Self-awareness,
- Managing emotions,
- Motivating oneself,
- Empathy,
- Social skills.

**Importance of emotional intelligence in leadership:**

- **Effective Communication:** Emotionally intelligent leaders know what to say and when to say, which help them to develop better strategies and increase their efficiency by synchronising their efforts.
- **Developing realistic Goal:** Self-awareness ability allows a leader to not only know his/her strengths and weaknesses, but also strength and weaknesses of his team members. This helps in delegation of work based on strengths of team.
- **Develop Empathy:** Ability to recognize others' emotions help leaders to practice empathy. It helps them to understand their colleagues' feelings and perspectives, which enables them to communicate and collaborate more effectively with their peers.
- **Management of stressful situations:** Leaders who lack emotional intelligence tend to react and have a harder time in keeping their impulses in check.
- **Conflict resolution:** Emotional Intelligence helps leaders to influence and mentor others and help in resolving conflict effectively.
- **Motivation:** Emotionally Intelligent leaders work consistently toward their goals, and establish extremely high standards for the quality of their work. This motivates other teammates to achieve these standards and goals.
- **Better team performance:** Emotionally Intelligent leader focus on collaboration between team members, which creates synergy and a better experience for employees. This leads to confidence building and better team performance.
- **Decision making:** Emotionally Intelligent leaders make objective decisions based on accumulated wisdom and understanding with time.
- It develops a **strong bond** between a leader and their team.

Emotional intelligence in the leadership is critical for team's effectiveness. It plays an important role in driving team and organisation together towards a goal and help in conflict resolution. It enables a leader to be more empathetic, professional, understanding and goal oriented.

**Q.19) There have been continuous efforts to regulate the physical infrastructure that forms the backbone of Digital India. Bring out the implications of steps toward regulating the digital ecosystem.**

**Indian Express**

**Introduction:** Contextual introduction.

**Body:** Write some implications of steps toward regulating the digital ecosystem.

**Conclusion:** Write a way forward.

While tech giants like Google, Facebook, Amazon etc. have undoubtedly contributed to the creation of a wide range of innovative and efficient products and services, their business models have also given rise to complex and interconnected policy issues. So, some steps are taken toward regulating the digital ecosystem to exercise more control and a preference for domestic firms while limiting the influence and dominance of Big Tech.

**Implications:**

- **Threat to freedom:** These tech giants provide Freedom of Expression to individual and also made billions of people to depend on their services. Like, Google on the internet, Amazon on e-commerce etc.
- **Controlling data flow:** The proposed data localisation norms would provide greater control over **cross-border** data flows.
- **Compliance burden:** Increasing data storage requirements and imposing strict restrictions would only increase the compliance burden of Big Tech.
- **Benefits few:** These steps seek to tilt the balance of power rather than create a level playing field. And only a few domestic players stand to benefit the most. E.g. even domestic players like Tata and Reliance would find it difficult to integrate multiple brands and sell their products through super apps.
- **Legal challenges overburden Judiciary:** The enforcement of many of these norms is bound to spur extended legal fights. This will overburden the Judiciary.
- **Impact on growth and job creation:** The new e-commerce rules create over-regulation, along with a scope for interpretative ambiguity in rules. This will retard growth and job creation in the hitherto expanding e-commerce sector.
- This form of industrial policy which favours a few chosen domestic players while restricting foreign competition could lead **inefficient and uncompetitive** goods and services market.
- If the concern is expansion of the foreign firms in India. Companies of Indian origin could be acquired by a foreign company or that receives funding from Big Tech.

**Way forward:**

- Introduce a '**Green Channel**' to enable fast-paced regulatory approvals for the vast majority of mergers and acquisitions that have no concerns regarding adverse effects on competition.
- Open **CCI offices at the regional level** to carry out non-adjudicatory functions and interaction with State Governments in controlling the Big Techs.

**Q.20) Do you think that the culture of vacations for the higher judiciary should be discontinued?**

**Times of India**

**Introduction:** Contextual introduction.

**Body:** Explain why the culture of vacations for the higher judiciary should be discontinued. Also write reasons for its continuance.

**Conclusion:** Write a way forward.

## Mains Marathon Compilation for the Month of October 2022

The 1958 statute tells that vacation means such periods during a year fixed by SC rules with the prior approval of the President. The current rule followed by SC for vacation is **Supreme Court Rules, 2013** and Chief Justice of India (CJI) issues notifications for the vacation every year. Currently, the Supreme Court has 193 working days per year, while the High Courts have 210 days.

The culture of vacations for the higher judiciary should be discontinued due to following reasons:

- The concept of vacation is originated from **colonial rules**. Judges at that time came from England, a place colder compared to India and the summer of India was unbearable to them.
- There are **no governmental organizations** in the country except courts and schools that have vacation.
- There is a **backlog of over 3.1 crore cases** in Indian courts.
- There is **insufficient judicial power** (India has only 13 judges per million population, compared to the UK's 100) in India.
- There are **many countries** in the world that do not have vacations in the courts. For example, France and the US. Judges don't have vacation, but they can take holidays without affecting the function of the court.
- Even in India the **subordinate criminal courts do not have any vacation**. But the subordinate civil courts, High Courts and the Supreme Court have vacations.

The following points make it clear that there is a need of these vacations:

- Judges are **overburdened** on a daily basis and work extremely long hours. In the absence of sufficient breaks, judges will suffer a burnout.
- Many judges **use the long breaks to write judgments** that are pending and also catch up on research, which is essential for judges to maintain the quality of justice.
- They also have to perform **administrative tasks** like supervision of lower judiciary and appointment of judges.

### Way forward:

- Arrears Committee and 230th Report of Law Commission recommended for a **shorter duration** in the vacation.
- The need of the hour is an efficient judiciary that is not only committed to meet the interests of the citizens, but also communicates this commitment by modifying their practices to suit the needs of the country.

**Q.21) Highlight the cyber risks arising from quantum computing for India. Also, suggest some measures for protection against threats from quantum technologies.**

### Indian Express

**Introduction:** Contextual introduction.

**Body:** Write some cyber risks arising from quantum computing for India. Also write some measures for protection against threats from quantum technologies.

**Conclusion:** Write a way forward.

Quantum computing is an area of study focused on the development of computer based technologies centred around the principles of quantum theory. With traditional encryption models at risk and increasing military applications of quantum technology, the deployment of "quantum-resistant" systems has become the need of the hour.

### **Cyber risks arising from quantum computing:**

- **Data breaches** could threaten the security of business transactions, secure communications, digital signatures and customer information.

## Mains Marathon Compilation for the Month of October 2022

- Quantum Computing companies, institutions and research groups may become targets by **cybercriminals and hacktivists**.
- It may be used to launch **masquerade cyber-attacks**. These quantum computing threats have different behaviours and signatures that most of today's software cannot identify.
- The most significant impending security risks are related to **cryptographic encryption**. Public key encryption could be decimated by it. For example, recorded and stored communications could be hacked into through quantum.
- According to theoretical research, with quantum computing, every computer on this planet will become vulnerable. Even nuclear codes can be hacked with quantum computing.

### Measures for protection:

- **Strengthen privacy and security: Privacy-enhancing computing (PEC)** techniques can be utilised to build strong encryption methods. It empowers third parties to process encrypted data and deliver results without having knowledge of the source.
- **Quantum resistant mechanism:** India must consider procuring the United States National Security Agency's (NSA) Suite B Cryptography Quantum-Resistant Suite as its official encryption mechanism. This can then facilitate India's official transition to quantum-resistant algorithms.
- **Enhancing cryptographic standards:** The Indian Defence establishment can consider emulating the cryptographic standards set by the US's National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) which has developed a series of encryption tools to handle quantum computer attacks.
- **Establishing nationwide communication network:** integrated with quantum cryptographic systems can prevent any cross-border quantum cyber offensive.
- **Diplomatic partnerships:** with other techno-democracies countries with top technology sectors, advanced economies can help India pool resources and mitigate emerging quantum cyber threats.
- **Funding:** The government can fund and **encourage existing open-source projects** related to post-quantum cryptography.

The world is moving towards an era in which the applications of quantum physics in strategic domains will soon become a reality and increasing cyber security risks also. The country should start implementing and developing capabilities in quantum-resistant communications, specifically for critical strategic sectors.

**Q.22) Setting up Digital Banking Units (DBU) is a big step in the direction of Ease of Living for the common citizens and strengthening digital infrastructure. Examine.**

### Indian Express

**Introduction:** Contextual introduction.

**Body:** Explain how setting up Digital Banking Units (DBU) is a big step in the direction of Ease of Living for the common citizens and strengthening digital infrastructure. Also write its issues.

**Conclusion:** Write a way forward.

DBU is a specialized business unit of a bank that houses certain minimum digital banking products and services. Each DBU must offer certain minimum digital banking products and services. The services include savings bank accounts under various schemes, current accounts, fixed deposits and Internet banking, debit and credit cards, UPI etc. Other services include making applications for identified retail, MSME or schematic loans.

### **Ease of Living:**



## Mains Marathon Compilation for the Month of October 2022

- They will help banks themselves which are now looking to **reduce physical footprint** with fewer brick and mortar branches, with a 'light' banking approach.
- They will **open up the rural market** for service providers besides providing a **boost to credit flow**.
- DBUs will also provide services related to certain identified **government sponsored schemes**.
- It is also cheaper to establish than a new branch, and can provide **better customer experience aided by technology**.
- These units can help in providing **personalised finance management** tools to new consumers, require lesser staff, with cheaper maintenance due to technological tools and hence can be high-yield units for the parent bank.
- It will encourage more **financial literacy** and a favourable outlook towards digital banking.
- DBUs will provide end-to-end digital processing of small ticket **retail and MSME loans**, starting from online applications to disbursals.

### Challenges:

- There is **low public awareness** regarding these banks.
- **Internet penetration** in lower-tier cities and rural areas is low.
- Digital banking units are prone to **vulnerabilities and hacks** such as phishing, pharming, identity theft, and keylogging.
- Banking institutions will need **huge investment** in their security systems.

While the immediate benefit of DBU's might be limited to underbanked and unbanked in rural areas, it will substantially lead to technological innovation opportunities in banking sector and further boost the digitalization of Indian Banking System.

**Q.23) Acquiring the optimum degree of nuclear deterrence is imperative for India, given its distinctive spectrum of security and strategic challenges. Examine and highlight the significance of the Arihant SLBM, in this regard.**

### Indian Express

**Introduction:** Contextual introduction.

**Body:** Explain why acquiring the optimum degree of nuclear deterrence is imperative for India. Also write some significance of the Arihant SLBM, in this regard.

**Conclusion:** Write a way forward.

Nuclear Deterrence is a military doctrine according to which the possibility that a country will use the nuclear weapons it possesses in retaliation, which deter an enemy from attacking. For India, nuclear weapons are not weapons of war and their sole purpose is to deter the use of nuclear weapons by India's adversaries.

### **Why nuclear deterrence is imperative for India?**

- **Rogue nations or states** like North Korea have developed nuclear weapons after cold war.
- **Pakistan** continues to expand the size of its nuclear arsenal, including with the Nasr platform.
- As the world has entered into the phase of a **new Cold War** between US and **China**, the chances of nuclear conflict has again resurfaced.
- Threat of "second-strike capability" keeps countries from engaging in nuclear warfare.
- Further, as nuclear capabilities grow and inter-state trust diminishes, chances of stumbling into nuclear war are high.
- **Industrial revolution 4.0** has blurred the lines between conventional and nuclear delivery. For example, advancing capabilities of cyberattacks on nuclear command and

## Mains Marathon Compilation for the Month of October 2022

control, incorporation of artificial intelligence in nuclear decision making are new developments that threaten to create unknown risks.

Recently, Ministry of Defence (MoD) announced that the indigenous Strategic Strike Nuclear Submarine INS Arihant had successfully launched a nuclear capable Submarine Launched Ballistic Missile (SLBM) in the Bay of Bengal. It is India's **first indigenous nuclear powered ballistic missile capable submarine**. The significance of the Arihant SLBM is as follows:

- These submarines can survive a first strike by the adversary. Then, it can also launch a strike in retaliation, thus achieving '**Credible Nuclear Deterrence**'.
- A robust, survivable and assured retaliatory capability will strengthen **India's 'no first use' commitment**.
- The development of these capabilities is important in the light of **India's relations with China and Pakistan**. As PLA Navy currently operates 6 nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarines (SSBNs).
- China has deployed many nuclear powered and nuclear capable submarines.

### Way forward:

- In states possessing nuclear weapons, civil society actors can challenge the most expansive and dangerous ideas that extend nuclear deterrence objectives to absurd ends.
- India should maintain its NFU (no-first-use) doctrine, as it has helped India in gaining many benefits at international level.

**Q.24) Analyze the effectiveness of Interpol and cross-national law enforcement agencies to meet evolving challenges.**

### Business Standard

**Introduction:** Contextual introduction.

**Body:** Write some evolving challenges and how Interpol and cross-national law enforcement agencies are effective to meet these challenges. . Also write some challenges.

**Conclusion:** Write a way forward.

Interpol is a secure information-sharing platform that **facilitates criminal investigation** of police forces across the globe through the collection and dissemination of information received from various police forces.

### **Evolving challenges:**

- Sporadic instances of massacres, gruesome killings of young children due to the proliferation of **gun culture**.
- Exploitation and abuse of children and women, targeting of the elderly for identity theft and swindling of their income are becoming commonplace.
- The areas of concern are growing from **human trafficking** to disturbing instances of financial **crimes** by the high and mighty.
- **Safe havens** are provided to fugitives accused of **terrorism and money laundering** and the proliferation of illicit trade based on counterfeiting and smuggling.
- **Transnational organised crime** continues to thrive due to illicit networks that operate on the strength of money laundering.
- Lawbreakers enjoy the **ease of mobility and access to the internet**.

The Interpol and cross-national law enforcement agencies are effective to meet these challenges in following manner:

- Interpol uses 19 **databases and tools for issuing alerts**, sharing information about criminals and their modus operandi.
- It has a **huge repository** of fingerprints, DNA profiles, facial recognition kits, cyber-enabled financial crimes, and property crimes, among others.

## Mains Marathon Compilation for the Month of October 2022

- It has undertaken **various operations in different countries** relating to the trafficking of women and children, cyber crimes, online piracy, narcotics smuggling, illegal gun trade etc.
- A large number of **red corner notices** have been issued for the detention of several accused and convicted fugitives.
- Providing information about crime and criminals **in the digital space**, preventing abuse of cyberspace and stalling hackers on the **dark web**.

### Challenges:

- Interpol action against notorious fugitives is based upon appropriate action from member nations where the fugitives might be seeking shelter. Interpol cannot act on its own.
- Equitable significance should be accorded to the legitimate interests of growing economies pursuing democratic charters.

Interpol and law enforcement agencies of member nations must endeavour to build, maintain and operate a people-centric ecosystem to meet the evolving challenges.

**Q.25) Do you agree that the Draft Telecom Bill enhances unease of doing business? Give reasons for your arguments.**

### Business Standard

**Introduction:** Contextual introduction.

**Body:** Explain how the Draft Telecom Bill enhances unease of doing business. Also write its significance in ease of doing business.

**Conclusion:** Write a way forward.

The Draft Telecommunication Bill, 2022 seeks to replace the colonial era legislation that regulated the sector, the **Indian Telegraph Act, 1885**. Through the bill, the Centre aims to consolidate and amend the existing laws governing the provision, development, expansion and operation of telecom services, networks and infrastructure.

### **Enhances unease of doing business:**

- **Licence regime for OTT services:** This is a deep concern from a **surveillance** and freedom of speech aspect as well. Given that OTTs have also been defined as telecom services, industry stakeholders have raised the concern of end-to-end encryptions being weakened or possibly broken in order to intercept the communications.
- **Internet shutdowns:** On the occurrence of any public emergency, the Union or State Governments can **order the suspension of communication services** on any telecommunication network which is a **threat to an open and free internet** and also cause economic losses.
- **Bankruptcy provisions:** The Bill also **overrides** provisions of the Insolvency & Bankruptcy Code (**IBC**), which might complicate resolution proceedings.
- The draft Bill plans to **confine TRAI's powers** to making recommendations only if requested by the DoT. At present, TRAI has no powers of enforcement of its directives and can't levy penalties on telecom companies.

However some provisions enhance the ease of doing business in following manner:

- **Expansion: 'Over-The-Top' (OTT) communication services** have been included in the telecommunication services. This expands the definition to include all instant messaging, video, call applications like, Zoom, Telegram etc.
- **Licensing and Registration:** It grants the Union Government the 'exclusive privilege' to 'provide telecommunication services', operate networks and issue licences to telecom service providers.

## Mains Marathon Compilation for the Month of October 2022

- **Spectrum allocation:** The Bill states that the Union Government shall assign spectrum to best serve the common good and **ensure widespread access** to telecommunication services.
- **Reduces the burden on telecom companies:** The Draft Telecommunication Bill has provided a framework governing payment defaults by licensees, registered entities, or assignees, and allows the government to write-off of such amounts or part thereof.
- **Right of Way (ROW):** It would be enforceable at the State and at the Municipal Corporation level. It lays down a framework in which a public entity that owns the land has to grant 'right of way' permission expeditiously unless it gives a substantive ground for refusal.

As India embarks on its *Amritkaal* phase, there have been calls for liberation from the colonial mindset. Hence, the Government must remove the provisions which are similar to the colonial-era legislations.

**Q.26) How Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) Scheme has been beneficial for India in meeting the diverse needs of its population and ensuring balanced, equitable, and inclusive growth?**

**Indian Express**

**Introduction:** Contextual introduction.

**Body: Explain** how Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) Scheme has been beneficial for India in meeting the diverse needs of its population and ensuring balanced, equitable, and inclusive growth.

**Conclusion:** Write a way forward.

The primary aim of the Direct Benefit Transfer program is to bring transparency and terminate theft from the distribution of funds. Recently, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) lauded India's Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) Scheme as a **"logistical marvel"** that has reached hundreds of millions of people and specifically benefitted women, the elderly, and farmers.

Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) Scheme has been beneficial for India in meeting the diverse needs and ensuring balanced, equitable, and inclusive growth in following manner:

- **Financial inclusion:** Government endeavoured to open bank accounts for all households, expanded Aadhaar to all, and scaled up the coverage of banking and telecom services. Also, **Last mile banking** through Bank Mitras.
- **Assistance programmes:** Various **scholarship** schemes and the National Social Assistance Programme use the DBT architecture to provide **social security**.
- **Rehabilitation schemes:** DBT under rehabilitation programs such as the Self Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of **Manual Scavengers** opens new frontiers that enable social mobility of all sections of society.
- **Aadhaar Payment Bridge:** It evolved the Public Finance Management System and created the Aadhaar Payment Bridge to enable instant money transfers from the government to people's bank accounts.
- **Participation of various stakeholders:** The Aadhaar-enabled Payment System and Unified Payment Interface further expanded interoperability and **private-sector participation**.
- **Directly receiving of subsidies:** This approach not only allowed all rural and urban households to be uniquely linked under varied government schemes for receiving subsidies directly into their bank accounts but also transferred money with ease.

## Mains Marathon Compilation for the Month of October 2022

- **DBT applicable to government schemes:** Becoming the major plank of the government's agenda of inclusive growth, it has 318 schemes of 53 central ministries spanning across sectors, welfare goals and the vast geography of the country.
- **Rural areas:** DBT has allowed the government to provide financial assistance effectively and transparently to farmers with lower transaction costs be it for fertilisers or any of the other schemes including the PM Kisan Samman Nidhi, PM Fasal Bima Yojana, and PM Krishi Sinchayi Yojana.
- **Urban areas: PM Awas Yojana and LPG Pahal** scheme successfully use DBT to transfer funds to eligible beneficiaries.
- **During Pandemic:** From free rations to nearly 80 crore people under the **Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana**, fund transfers to all women **Jan Dhan account** holders and support to small vendors under PM-SVANidhi.

Direct Benefit Transfer has transformed the welfare aspect of the governance. Digital and financial literacy, robust grievance redressal and an empowering innovation system should also improve.

**Q.27) Highlight the achievements of Dr. Dilip Mahalanabis, that saved millions of lives around the world.**

### Indian Express

**Introduction:** Contextual introduction.

**Body:** Write some achievements of Dr. Dilip Mahalanabis that saved millions of lives around the world.

**Conclusion:** Write a way forward.

Dr. Dilip Mahalanabis, was the epoch-making doctor, who pioneered the **use of oral rehydration theory** for the treatment of diarrhoeal diseases and the **development of Oral Rehydration Solution (ORS)**. He was an Indian paediatrician and conducted cholera and other diarrheal illness research at the Johns Hopkins International Center for Medical Research and Training in Calcutta, India, in the middle of the 1960s.

### **Achievements:**

- His contribution to the application of Oral Rehydration Solution (ORS) at the population level revolutionised the **treatment of cholera and acute diarrhoeal diseases**, saving thousands of lives, particularly that of children.
- Mahalanabis proved the effectiveness of ORS in cholera patients at a refugee camp in Bongaon, West Bengal, **during the 1971 War**.
- From 1975 to 1979, Dr Mahalanabis worked in cholera control for WHO in Afghanistan, Egypt and Yemen.
- In the mid-1980s and early 1990s, he was a medical officer in the **Diarrheal Disease Control Programme of the WHO**.
- In 1990, he established the **Society for Applied Studies (SAS)** in West Bengal with a vision of "Improved Health and Quality of Life" in India and other developing countries, especially for children and women.
- He also served as the **Director of Clinical Research at the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research (ICDDR), Bangladesh** in the late 1990s.
- In 1994, Mahalanabis was elected a foreign member of the **Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences**.
- In 2002, Dr. Mahalanabis was awarded the first **Pollin Prize in Pediatric Research** for their contributions to the discovery and implementation of oral rehydration therapy.
- In 2006, he was awarded the **Prince Mahidol Prize**, for his role in the development and application of oral rehydration therapy.

## Mains Marathon Compilation for the Month of October 2022

Mahalanabis was a fine doctor, a scientist, and a humble and kind human being who believed in giving back. Oral rehydration is still the mainstay of treatment for diarrhoeal diseases in children. His contributions will forever be remembered.

**Q.28) LIFE, or Lifestyle for Environment brings a fresh and much-needed perspective to tackle climate change. Discuss.**

**The Hindu**

**Introduction:** Contextual introduction.

**Body:** Explain how LIFE or Lifestyle for Environment brings a fresh and much-needed perspective to tackle climate change.

**Conclusion:** Write a way forward.

According to the United Nations Environment Programme (**UNEP**), if one billion people out of the global population of eight billion adopt environment-friendly behaviours in their daily lives, global carbon emissions could drop by approximately 20 percent. In this context, at UN Climate Change Conference (**UNFCCC COP26**), India announced Mission **LIFE, or Lifestyle for Environment** to bring individual behaviours at the forefront of the global climate action narrative.

LIFE brings a fresh and much-needed perspective to tackle climate change in following manners:

- **Focus on Individual Behaviours:** Make life a mass movement (**Jan Andolan**) by focusing on behaviours and attitudes of individuals and communities.
- **Co-create Globally:** Crowdsource empirical and scalable ideas from the best minds of the world, through top universities, think tanks and international organisations.
- **Leverage Local Cultures:** Leverage climate-friendly social norms, beliefs and daily household practices of different cultures worldwide to drive the campaign.
- **Individual Action is the core of Climate Responsibility:** The average carbon footprint of a person in India is 0.56 tonnes per year, compared to the global average of 4 tonnes. India's traditional knowledge, social norms and daily household practices address climate change through individual behaviours.
- **Mindful choices** such as cycling and using public transport, eating more plant-based foods and wasting less; and demanding climate-friendly choices etc. animate a global movement.
- **Nudging techniques** such as discouraging food waste by offering smaller plates in cafeterias; encouraging recycling by making bin lids eye-catching; and encouraging cycling by creating cycle paths etc. to encourage positive behaviour.
- **Accountability is relative to contribution:** Emissions across the poorest half of the world's population combined still fall short of even 1% of the wealthiest. Those who consume the least, often the most vulnerable and marginalised members of society should be supported to participate in the green economy.
- **Replaces the 'use-and-dispose' economy** with a circular economy, which would be defined by mindful and deliberate utilization of resources.
- **Global network of individuals:** The Mission plans to create a global network of individuals, namely '**Pro-Planet People**' (**P3**), who will have a shared commitment to adopt and promote environmentally friendly lifestyles.

Translating our intention to do good for the environment is not always easy to translate into action. However, it is not impossible. By taking one action at a time and making one change daily, we can significantly reduce the impacts of climate change.

**Q.29) Discuss the impact of media on Indian society? How media could play a constructive role in bringing communal harmony?**

**Introduction:** Contextual introduction.

**Body:** Write some impacts of media on Indian society. Also write how media could play a constructive role in bringing communal harmony.

**Conclusion:** Write a way forward.

Any communication channel through which any kind of information, news, entertainment, education, data, promotional messages etc. can be disseminated is called Media. Media includes every broadcasting and narrowcasting medium such as television, radio, newspapers, telephone, internet etc.

**Impact of media on Indian society:**

- **Democratisation of Information:** Social media platforms provided Indians with a platform to raise their voice against injustice and inequality.
- **Bringing Behavioural Change:** Use of media for policy crowdsourcing and publicity is evident in the success of pan-India campaigns such as Swachh Bharat Abhiyan and Fit India Movement.
- **Citizen-led governance:** Highlight the trouble spots in the society and **press the government** and public to devise suitable mechanisms to eliminate them.
- **Menace of Fake News:** The rise of polarizing and divisive content has been a defining moment of modern politics, which is fed by fake news propagation through social media channels.
- **Cyberbullying or Trolling:** Another dangerous element is the labelling and trolling of more rational voices or those who disagreed with the government's actions or dominant public discourse as "anti-national."
- Indian TV debates on national security issues tend to cut out development of contrary views and perspectives by imposing commercial breaks, or go hectoring themselves.

Communal harmony is of paramount component for the social, economic and cultural development of any country. Media could play a constructive role in bringing communal harmony in following manner:

- **Organise exhibitions** highlighting unity in diversity in the country.
- **Organise film festivals and screen films** that depict our country's rich diverse culture, and appreciation of this diversity.
- Encourage people to celebrate festivals of different religion together.
- Maximize the availability of relevant and credible **information** to all citizens and their communities.
- Strengthen the **capacity** of individuals to engage with information.
- Promote individual **engagement** with information and the public life of the community.

**Way forward**

- There is need to give more powers to 'Press Council of India' (PCI) as despite being quasi-judicial it can only warn and not punish.
- We need more self-regulation with less government control to avoid conflict of interests.

**Q.30) Discuss the nature, methods of operation and limitations of pressure groups in India.**

**Introduction: Contextual** introduction.

**Body:** Write nature, methods of operation and limitations of pressure groups in India.

**Conclusion:** Write a way forward.

A pressure group is a group of people who have organized together to **promote and defend a common cause**. Pressure Groups can be political, non-political groups, formally or informally organized groups e.g. FICCI, AITUC, ABVP, IMA etc. It attempts to change public policy by generating pressure on the government. It is a bridge **between the government and its members**. They are also called **interest groups/vested groups**.

**Nature of pressure groups:**

- The pressure groups protect the **most common interest**.
- They do not take any governance responsibilities like the political parties.
- They get the **fund from donations and the members** of the interest group.
- The pressure groups are **well organised**, and their cause and functioning are inevitable.
- In pressure groups, the membership is limited only to the profession, religion, and areas with common interests. They are people who are **well versed in the political environment**.
- They often finance political parties, sponsor candidates during elections and maintain relations with bureaucracy. They also use traditional social realities as a means to gain influence, like playing caste cards, engaging in creed and religious politics to promote their interests.

**Methods of operation:**

- **Lobbying with policymakers:** They try to convince policymakers, usually politicians and civil servants regarding their interests by approaching them in various ways.
- **Electioneering the proxy:** The interest groups use the election time the most for fulfilling their interests. They do not contest the election but influence the candidate. They place their man in the right place, who can serve their purpose.
- **Running Propaganda:** The pressure groups seek to influence public opinion, as the democratic governments have to work according to the public opinion. The favourable public opinion helps them to indirectly influence the government.

**Limitations:**

- Largely **influence the administrative process rather than the formulation of policy**. This is dangerous as a gap is created between policy formulation and implementation.
- Many a time **factors of caste and religion** eclipse the socioeconomic interests.
- Moreover, many of the groups have a **very short life** because of the **lack of resources**.
- Many times, they resort to **unconstitutional means** like violence. The Naxalite movement started in 1967 in West Bengal is one such example.

In a country like India the tendency to politicise every issue, whether it has social, economic, cultural import, restricts the scope, working, and effectiveness of pressure groups. Instead of the pressure groups exerting influence on political process, they become tools and implements to subserve political interests.



**Q.31) Highlight the steps taken by the government against the online circulation and sharing of Child Sexual Abusive Material (CSAM). What more needs to be done in this regard?**

**The Hindu**

**Introduction:** Contextual introduction.

**Body:** Write some the steps taken by the government against the online circulation and sharing of Child Sexual Abusive Material (CSAM). Also write more measures to be done in this regard.

**Conclusion:** Write a way forward.

In a global compilation of reports of Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM) found online, **India** stands on **top** of the list, with 11.7% of the total reports followed by Pakistan, which contributes 6.8% of all reports. Seeking, browsing, downloading or exchanging child pornography is an offence punishable under the IT Act.

The following steps are taken by the government against the online circulation of Child Sexual Abusive Material (CSAM):

- **Megh Chakra:** It is being carried out following the inputs received from **Interpol's** Singapore special unit. It is a **pan-India drive** against the circulation and sharing of Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM) conducted by the CBI. **Operation Carbon**
- **Aarambh India:** a non-governmental organisation partnered with the Internet Watch Foundation, United Kingdom launched India's first online **reporting portal** to report images and videos of child abuse.
- **National cybercrime reporting portal:** by Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) for filing online complaints pertaining to child pornography and rape-gang rape.
- **CyberTipline:** the National Crime Records Bureau signed a memorandum of understanding with the National Centre for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC), USA to receive CyberTipline reports to facilitate action against those who upload or share CSAM in India.
- The **ad hoc Committee of the Rajya Sabha** made wide-ranging recommendations on the alarming issue of pornography on social media and its effect on children and society as whole.

**What more needs to be done?**

- There is need of **widening of the definition** of 'child pornography' but also proactive monitoring, mandatory reporting and taking down or blocking CSAM by Internet Service Providers (ISPs).
- **Permit the breaking of end-to-end encryption**, build partnership with industry to develop tools using artificial intelligence for dark-web investigations, tracing identity of users, and prevent online payments for purchasing child pornography.
- Encourage state parties to **establish liability of legal persons**.
- **Mandatory reporting** of CSAM by ISPs.
- Develop system of **automatic electronic monitoring** to reduce dependence on foreign agencies for the requisite information.
- India should **join INHOPE** (International Association of Internet Hotlines) and establish its hotline to utilise Interpol's secure IT infrastructure or collaborate with ISPs and financial companies by establishing an independent facility such as the IWF or NCMEC. CBI along with agencies across the world are sharing information to combat child pornography by adopting new technologies and methods. India needs to explore all options and adopt an appropriate strategy to fight the production and the spread of online CSAM. Children need to be saved.

**Q.32) Discuss the factors affecting Coffee cultivation in India. Suggest some policy measures to improve Coffee cultivation.**

**The Hindu**

**Introduction:** Contextual introduction.

**Body:** Write some factors affecting Coffee cultivation in India. Also write some policy measures to improve Coffee cultivation.

**Conclusion:** Write a way forward.

India is the third-largest producer and exporter of coffee in Asia, and the sixth-largest producer and fifth-largest exporter of coffee in the world. Coffee in India is traditionally grown in the rainforests of the **Western Ghats in South India. Karnataka (54%), Kerala (19%) and Tamil Nadu (8%)** are largest coffee producing states.

**Factors affecting Coffee cultivation in India:**

- **Climate patterns:** There were **dry spells** between 2015 and 2017 and **unseasonal heavy rains, floods** and landslides between 2018 and 2022. Frequently occurring pattern of droughts and floods could wipe out plantations.
- **Pests and diseases:** Erratic weather conditions are helping pests to breed and new diseases to emerge.
- **Financing:** Most private banks demand collateral for financing. Since small and medium-size growers are invariably not in a position to provide collateral, the interest rates are high, at around 12%. International interest rates, on the other hand, are negligible, mostly in single digits.
- **Cost of production:** high due to tough terrains where mechanisation is restricted. In Brazil, labour charges account for 25% of the entire production cost, but in India, planters say they account for about 65%.
- There is increasingly a **shortage of labour** while the cost of labour is on the rise in the coffee sector. The children of workers in all the three coffee-growing States prefer to move to urban areas. This means plantations are forced to depend heavily on migrant labours who are unskilled.

**Measures to improve Coffee cultivation:**

- There is a need to take measures to **increase domestic consumption**.
- Branding and promoting Indian coffee better in the global market by working on a **separate India brand and certification system** for coffee growers.
- Growers should **create additional revenue streams** through **inter-cropping** or through innovative measures. In addition to traditional inter-cropping of pepper and cardamom, coffee growers could try planting exotic fruit-bearing trees, or fish farming, dairy farming, or **green tourism** to increase incomes from their coffee gardens.
- Considering the change in land use, the government could permit growers to **plant alternate crops** in a land not suitable for coffee cultivation. Timely conversion will prevent growers from going financially sick.

Coffee has high value and high imagery potential at home and overseas markets. India's share in the global coffee market may be less than 5%, but the Coffee Act and the new Coffee (Promotion and Development Bill), 2022, will do away the 80-year-old coffee regulation and usher in change.

**Q.33) 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.34) 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.

## Mains Marathon Compilation for the Month of October 2022

- 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.35) 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.36) 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.37) 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.38) 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.