



Mains Marathon
Compilation

10th to 15th October, 2022

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

- 1. 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.**
- 2. Highlight the benefits and risks of issuing a CBDC in India, with reference to the RBI's concept note.**
- 3. 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.**
- 4. Democratic decentralization in India has not been as envisioned by the Constitution. Elaborate and suggest reforms to strengthen Democratic decentralization in India.**
- 5. Do you think that the Collegium system is in urgent need of reforms? Give reasons for your opinion.**
- 6. In light of the present situation, highlight the challenges and India's approach to Multilateralism.**
- 7. What is Judicial activism? Critically analyse the role of judicial activism in Indian democracy.**
- 8. What do you understand by emotional intelligence? Discuss the importance of emotional intelligence in leadership.**
- 9. 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.**
- 10. Do you think that the culture of vacations for the higher judiciary should be discontinued?**

Q.1) 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.2) 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.3) 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.4) 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. **73rd and 74th 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.

Q.5) 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.6) 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.7) 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.8) 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

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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.9) 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:

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- **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.10) 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.

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.

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- 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.