



Mains Marathon
Compilation

19th to 24th December, 2022

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

- 1. Describe the term economic migration. Discuss its impacts on Left-Wing Extremism in India.**
- 2. How Artificial Intelligence can help in handling the pendency in courts in India?**
- 3. What are carbon markets, proposed under Energy Conservation (Amendment) Bill, 2022? Also, highlight the challenges in effective functioning of carbon markets.**
- 4. The latest hooch tragedy in Bihar is just another consequence of banning liquor. Evaluate the statement.**
- 5. At the heart of the Belagavi dispute is monolingualism that seeks to refute the existence of multilingual cultures and communities. Critically Analyze the statement.**
- 6. Highlight the significance of recently concluded Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF).**
- 7. Briefly describe the uncontrolled re-entries of satellites and highlight the threats associated with it. Also, bring out the mechanisms available to control it.**
- 8. Do you think that Indo-Japanese nuclear submarine project will strengthen India and Japan against China? Give reasons in support of your argument.**
- 9. Government initiatives have been insufficient to handle the challenges faced by the disabled. Discuss and suggest some policy measures to tackle those challenges.**
- 10. Highlight the significance of Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD) initiatives for handling carbon emissions.**

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Q.1) Describe the term economic migration. Discuss its impacts on Left-Wing Extremism in India.

Times of India

Introduction: Explain economic migration.

Body: Write some impacts of economic migration on Left-Wing Extremism in India.

Conclusion: Write a way forward.

Economic migration is the movement of people from one country to another to benefit from greater **economic opportunities** in the receiving country. It is often assumed that such migration is primarily **from less economically developed countries** in the global south to **the more economically developed countries** in the global north for example, from Mexico to the USA, from North Africa to Europe etc. However, there is also economic migration **between countries** in the global south - particularly neighbouring countries - as well as within the global north, for example, from countries in South Asia to the Middle East, from Burma to Thailand and from the UK to Spain.

Economic migrants include those who come with the required visas and documentation as well as those whose status is undocumented. Some economic migrants are affluent, highly-educated professionals who seek new opportunities in the labour market following changes in world economy, such as those working in the IT sector or banking.

Impacts on Left-Wing Extremism:

- LWE-related **incidents and fatalities** across India are **declining**. From 833 incidents resulting in 240 deaths in 2018, it was down to 509 incidents and 147 deaths in 2021. T
- India's economic progress that has **provided potential recruits an alternative narrative**.
- The 2017 economic survey said migrants make up between 17% and 29% of the workforce. In absolute terms, that runs to 100 million people or more migrating for short durations to work.
- Language is not a barrier to economic migration, there's a **significant share of youth** in circular migration and also an **increasing proportion of women**.
- Economic opportunities thrown up in western and southern states, and NCR, are the barely noticed dimension to depriving LWE of foot soldiers. States such as Jharkhand, Odisha, Bihar, Bengal and Chhattisgarh have all seen economic out-migration.

India has turned the corner on combatting LWE. But if the gains of the battle have to be consolidated, economic growth has to be front and centre of any future strategy. Economic development is the foundation on which India can be secured from both internal and external threats.

Q.2) How Artificial Intelligence can help in handling the pendency in courts in India?

Times of India

Introduction: Contextual introduction.

Body: Explain how Artificial Intelligence can help in handling the pendency in courts in India.

Conclusion: Write a way forward.

Artificial Intelligence has a multiplier effect on increasing the efficiency of any system or industry. If used effectively, it can bring about incremental changes and transform the ecosystem of several sectors. Nearly 5 crores cases are pending and most of the pending cases are small and repetitive cases which primarily impact the poor and can be fast-tracked.

Artificial Intelligence can help in handling the pendency in courts in India in following manner:

- Software systems are now available that can help **reduce the role of the judge** to just choosing among options for the ruling and sign.

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- The entire court complex can be **digitised** – taking away the process of filing, scheduling, prioritising and even making the judgment.
- To prevent misuse, the AI analysis is **transparent** and clear about the parameters and assumptions, and the logic of its algorithms is traceable.
- Machine learning **improves accuracy and reduces time** in the future and adapts to new types of cases.
- It has the possibility of helping judges **conduct trials faster and more effectively** thereby reducing the pendency of cases.
- It will assist legal professionals in devoting more time in developing **better legal reasoning, legal discussion and interpretation of laws**.
- Furthermore, **intelligent tools, like legal bots**, can be designed to help potential litigants with better informed decision making concerning their legal rights, and easily and cost-effectively access basic legal services.
- One such complex tool named **SUPACE (Supreme Court Portal for Assistance in Court Efficiency)** was recently launched by the Supreme Court of India.

The protection of personal data in the AI environment may be a serious challenge wherein there may be trade-off between privacy and prosperity. The General Data Protection Regulation in European Union, the sectoral and state laws in **US and cybersecurity law** in China may be taken as the basis for policy formulation.

Q.3) What are carbon markets, proposed under Energy Conservation (Amendment) Bill, 2022? Also, highlight the challenges in effective functioning of carbon markets.

The Hindu

Introduction: Contextual introduction.

Body: Explain carbon markets, proposed under Energy Conservation (Amendment) Bill, 2022. Also write some challenges in effective functioning of carbon markets.

Conclusion: Write a way forward.

Recently **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy** introduced the Energy Conservation (Amendment) Bill, 2022 with an objective to **support energy transition**. The Bill amends the **Energy Conservation Act, 2001**. It provides for the regulation of energy consumption by equipment, appliances, buildings, and industries.

Carbon markets:

- Carbon markets are a tool for **putting a price on carbon emissions**.
- It establishes **trading systems** where carbon credits or allowances can be bought and sold.
- A carbon credit is a kind of tradable permit that, as per UN standards, equals one tonne of carbon dioxide removed, reduced, or sequestered from the atmosphere.
- The Bill **empowers the Centre to specify a carbon credits trading scheme**.
- Under the Bill, the central government or an authorised agency will be able to issue carbon credit certificates. These carbon credit certificates will be tradeable in nature.

Challenges in effective functioning of carbon markets:

- **Greenwashing:** Some companies simply buy credits without making any effort to reduce emissions themselves. It is **cheaper for them to buy carbon credit than to invest in emission reducing technologies**.
- Environmental activists argue that **only high-quality carbon offsets are effective in reducing emissions**. However, many credits available in markets are of poor quality.
- Buying carbon credits can **deviate the rich nations from the path of reducing emissions**. They can simply continue to emit and buy cheap carbon credits from developing countries.

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- There has been **huge surplus of carbon credits in the voluntary markets**. According to an estimate, credits for about a billion tons of CO₂ have been put up for sale on the voluntary market. But there have been more sellers than buyers.
- It is difficult to establish the amount of carbon reduced by **offset projects** (like afforestation or wind energy project). The **complexity is in establishing baseline emissions** (the emissions in the absence of the project).
- **Double counting** of greenhouse gas reductions.

The establishment of a domestic carbon market is a progressive step. However, the actual benefit will depend upon the effectiveness of the market. For this, the Government must ensure that proper regulations are established.

Q.4) The latest hooch tragedy in Bihar is just another consequence of banning liquor.

Evaluate the statement.

Indian Express , **ORF**

Introduction: Contextual introduction.

Body: Write some consequences of banning liquor. Also write its positive impacts.

Conclusion: Write a way forward.

Recently over 30 people have died in a **hooch (poor quality alcohol)** tragedy in Bihar, where alcohol is prohibited. Bihar's prohibition, imposed in 2016 initially appeared to succeed and yield certain social gains. However, following several deaths from consuming illicit liquor, the policy is increasingly coming under attack.

Consequences of banning liquor:

- The fact is that from 2016 to 2021, there have been over **200 hooch-related deaths** in the state.
- It pushes **consumption underground**, places an **undue burden on the law and order machinery**, and **increases criminalisation**.
- The ban in Bihar has caused reported **losses of up to Rs 5,000 crore** to the government, while treating citizens as incapable of making responsible choices.
- The banned substance may see a greater variability in potency, may be **adulterated with unknown or dangerous substances**, and may not be produced and consumed under normal market constraint.
- **Illicit distillation and bootlegging**, which also resulted in many deaths. Similar experiences were seen in Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, and Manipur.
- The state's **judicial administration** has also been **burdened**- about 2,55,000 people have been booked under the legal provisions governing prohibition and nearly 40,000 bail applications are pending before the Patna High Court.

Benefits of banning liquor:

- **Health Benefits:** According to the WHO, the harmful use of alcohol is a causal factor in more than 200 disease and injury conditions and globally 3 million deaths occur every year due to harmful use of alcohol (5.3% of all deaths).
- **Constitutional Obligation: Article 47** directs that the State shall endeavour to bring about prohibition of the consumption of intoxicating drinks and of drugs which are injurious to health.
- **Curb Gender Violence:** A study conducted in Bihar has supported the argument e.g., there has been 28.9% reduction in crimes against women in Bihar between 2016-2019.
- **Reduction in Crime:** as intoxication impairs an individual's ability to distinguish between right or wrong.

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- **Economic Stress:** especially for poor families as the male members tend to spend more on alcohol due to their excessive addiction. This in turn reduces the budget for spending on essential items and pushes the family into borrowings. The goal of an effective and sustainable alcohol policy can only be achieved through coordinated action between multiple stakeholders, such as women's groups and vendors.

Q.5) At the heart of the Belagavi dispute is monolingualism that seeks to refute the existence of multilingual cultures and communities. Critically Analyze the statement.

Indian Express, The Hindu

Introduction: Contextual introduction.

Body: Explain why Belagavi dispute seeks to refute the existence of multilingual cultures and communities.. Also write significance of multilingual cultures and communities.

Conclusion: Write a way forward.

The Karnataka-Maharashtra Border Dispute has its origins in the reorganisation of states along linguistic lines via the **State Reorganisation Act, 1956**. Since its creation on May 1, 1960, Maharashtra has claimed that 865 villages, including Belagavi (then Belgaum) **should be merged into Maharashtra**. These regions have a significant Marathi-speaking population. On the other hand, **some villages in Maharashtra want to join Karnataka**.

Counter the existence of multilingual cultures and communities:

- **Linguistic Identities:** Several inter-state border disputes have their roots in the reorganisation of states in the 1950s, which was primarily based on language. As a result, there have been a border disputes between Karnataka and Maharashtra, Karnataka and Kerala, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Telangana and so on.
- The division of states linguistic basis removed the major discord and disharmony among people. For ex. separation of Andhra from Madras addresses the agitation and protest by Telugu speaking people.
- Creation of state which are homogeneous in nature **improved the functioning of the state** and government has been able to better connect with the masses in the language in which they understand. For ex. creation of Gujarat from Bombay.
- States can have their **own official languages** and official works could be carried on more efficiently to the lowest level.
- Fear of majority language imposition on minorities can be averted.

Significance of multilingualism:

- **Cultural Diversity:** Diversity in languages reflects and enhances cultural diversity. Unwritten languages rich in oral traditions, stories, songs, poetry, and ritual passed down through the generations constitute cultural diversity of a nation.
- **A glimpse of our past:** Languages provides a glimpse of our history. Once a language is lost it is a loss of history and culture associated with that language.
- **Environment:** The biological diversity and linguistic diversity go hand in hand. If one is threatened, then so is the other. Languages contain rich, detailed and technical knowledge about the flora, fauna, and habitat of that area.

Way forward:

- The Supreme Court should take a more proactive approach in settling the Inter-State Disputes.
- **Inter-State Council** should be enabled to play a more proactive role in Centre-State/Inter-state cooperation and dispute settlement.
- All Stakeholders (Union Government, State Governments, Political Parties) should be mindful of the **concerns of the local residents** and should settle disputes taking into account their interests.

Q.6) Highlight the significance of recently concluded Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF).

Indian Express

Introduction: Contextual introduction.

Body: Explain the significance of recently concluded Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF).

Conclusion: Write a way forward.

At the United Nations Biodiversity Conference or **COP15**, countries adopted a major biodiversity pact called **Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework**. It promises to take urgent action to protect and restore the world's biodiversity- all the different forms of life, plants as well as animals, that inhabit this planet.

Significance of Global Biodiversity Framework:

- **30 x 30 target:** A commitment to protect at least 30 percent of the world's lands, oceans and coastal areas by 2030. A related commitment is to ensure that restoration activities would be started on at least 30 percent of degraded land or marine ecosystems by 2030.
- **Financing:** Ensure \$200 billion per year is channelled to conservation initiatives from public and private sources. Wealthier countries should contribute at least \$20 billion of this every year by 2025, and at least \$30 billion a year by 2030.
- **Responsibility to Big companies:** Companies should analyse and report how their operations affect and are affected by biodiversity issues. The parties agreed to large companies and financial institutions being subject to "requirements" to make disclosures regarding their operations, supply chains and portfolios.
- **Harmful subsidies:** Countries committed to identifying subsidies that deplete biodiversity by 2025, and then eliminate, phase out or reform them. They agreed to slash those incentives by at least \$500 billion a year by 2030, and increase incentives that are positive for conservation.
- **Reduce pesticide use:** Countries have agreed to a target of reducing the risk posed by pesticides and highly hazardous chemicals to almost half.
- **Not legally binding:** The agreement is not legally binding, but countries will be required to show their progress on meeting targets through national biodiversity plans.

Any effort at conserving and enhancing biodiversity can only succeed if we tackle the challenge of global warming. Global warming has to be urgently brought under control. The people should take a pledge to work towards conserving biodiversity and sensitising the youth on the issues of conservation.

Q.7) Briefly describe the uncontrolled re-entries of satellites and highlight the threats associated with it. Also, bring out the mechanisms available to control it.

The Hindu

Introduction: Explain the uncontrolled re-entries of satellites.

Body: Explain some threats associated with it. Also, write some mechanisms available to control it.

Conclusion: Write a way forward.

The uncontrolled re-entries of satellites are the **phenomenon of rocket parts falling back to earth** in unguided fashion once their missions are complete. Its path down is determined by its shape, angle of descent, air currents and other characteristics. It will also disintegrate as it falls. As the smaller pieces fan out, the potential radius of impact will increase on the ground. Some pieces burn up entirely while others don't. But because of the speed at which they're travelling, debris can be deadly. Most rocket parts have landed in oceans principally because earth's surface has more water than land. But many have dropped on land as well.

Threats associated with the uncontrolled re-entries of satellites:

- **Risk to human life:** When an abandoned rocket body reenters the atmosphere, approximately 20-40% of the mass survives reentry and reaches the ground intact. This creates a risk of casualty to people on the ground, in ships and in aircraft. E.g. debris from two separate Long March launches landed in India [8].
- About 65% of low Earth orbit (LEO) launches in 2021 resulted in a rocket body being abandoned in orbit. These large space objects pose a **collision risk with satellites and other debris**, and some rocket bodies explode in orbit, creating significant debris.
- Any kind of re-entry will inevitably **damage some ecosystems**.
- If re-entering stages still hold fuel, atmospheric and terrestrial **chemical contamination** is another risk.

Mechanisms to control it:

- The **technologies** such as wing-like attachments, de-orbiting brakes, extra fuel on the re-entering body, and design changes can minimize debris formation.
- Bodies **aim for an ocean** in order to avoid human casualties.
- The future solutions should be extended to **re-entering satellites** as well. Advances in electronics and fabrication have made way for smaller satellites, which are easier to build and launch in large numbers. These satellites experience more atmospheric drag than if they had been bigger, but they are also likelier to burn up during re-entry.

There is no international binding agreement to ensure rocket stages always perform controlled re-entries nor on the technologies with which to do so. Liability Convention 1972 does not provide and solution to control re-entry, but impose penalties later on.

Other means include retro-rockets, ground-based lasers, or clean-up missions, all of which could bring down satellites at the end of their operational careers. But these alternatives have yet to be tested.

Q.8) Do you think that Indo-Japanese nuclear submarine project will strengthen India and Japan against China? Give reasons in support of your argument.

Indian Express

Introduction: Contextual introduction.

Body: Explain how Indo-Japanese nuclear submarine project will strengthen India and Japan against China. Also write some issues.

Conclusion: Write a way forward.

In recent years, the India Japan relationship has steadily expanded and deepened. Both India and Japan share a **global vision of peace, stability and prosperity**, based on sustainable development. They also share **democratic values** and commitment to human rights, pluralism, open society, and the rule of law underpin the global partnership between the two countries.

Strengthen India and Japan against China:

- If any Asian power has the **capacity to build** a naval propulsion reactor, it is Japan, India's partner in the QUAD against China.
- Today, the Chinese operate an overseas base in Djibouti, almost 6,000 miles from their home base. The **Indian Navy's excellent design organisation** can provide the drawings for the submarine, while Mitsubishi or Hitachi manufactures the propulsion reactor.
- An Indo-Japanese nuclear submarine project would bring in **an element of oceanic retribution** to influence the strategic choices seen to be available in Beijing.
- Against the backdrop of China's military capability, it is **critical to enhance Japan's deterrent**— both independently and collectively—against China, in particular its use of force against disputed territories in the Indo-Pacific.

Issues:

- Japan has a strained relationship with **Russia**. India remains heavily reliant on Moscow for the support of key capabilities in its armed forces. The response of India and Japan to Russia's invasion in Ukraine is also in stark contrast.
- Despite expansion in economic ties, the **trade between India and Japan is limited** and far below potential. Japan barely makes to India's top 15 trading partners. India-Japan bilateral trade is less than one-fifth of India-China trade.
- On **multiple global issues** (especially issues related to developing vs developed nations gap) India and Japan end up on opposite sides. E.g. trade related aspects at the WTO like India's tariff structure on imports.
- The **Asia Africa Growth corridor** has not achieved much so far. The joint infrastructure projects in Africa has remained limited in outcomes. Similarly, Japanese companies face considerable logistics challenges in their projects in India.

The governments of both countries should work together to remove bottlenecks hampering bilateral trade. Facilitating trade will help achieve its full potential. Trade can be the most potent pillar of India Japan relationship. As of now India-Japan trade is nearly 5% of Japan-China trade.

Q.9) Government initiatives have been insufficient to handle the challenges faced by the disabled. Discuss and suggest some policy measures to tackle those challenges.

Indian Express

Introduction: Contextual introduction.

Body: Explain how Government initiatives have been insufficient to handle the challenges faced by the disabled. Also write some policy measures to tackle those challenges.

Conclusion: Write a way forward.

As per **Census 2011**, in India, out of the 121 Cr population, about 2.68 Cr persons are 'disabled' which is **2.21% of the total population**. The Constitution of India ensures equality, freedom, justice and dignity of all individuals and implicitly mandates an inclusive society for all, including persons with disabilities.

Due to following reasons Government initiatives have been insufficient to handle the challenges faced by the disabled:

- There is a **lack of data** on prevalence and instances of disabled in the country. Further, there is also a **lack of universal definition** of who constitute the disabled.
- As there is no direct mortality associated with various types of disabilities, they remain at the **bottom of the government's priority list**. Thus the treatment and prevention of disability does not demand much attention.
- **Corruption and mismanagement** of funds allocated for schemes lead to poor implementation. Also, the budgetary allocation for the implementation of the welfare schemes has been less.
- **The Accessible India Campaign (AIC)** lacks a **strong enforcement mechanism** to ensure that ambitious milestones are set and pursued to their meaningful conclusion.
- **Section 45** of the **Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016** states that all existing public buildings shall be made accessible within five years of the date of promulgation of such rules. But the deadline has been breached.

Policy measures to tackle these challenges:

- Disabled adults need to be empowered with **employable skills**. The private sector needs to be encouraged to employ them.
- **More budgetary allocation** for welfare of the disabled. There should be a disability budgeting on line of gender budget.

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- Relevant provisions of the **Harmonised Guidelines and Standards for Universal Accessibility in India, 2021** must be integrated into **local bye-laws** and **state planning laws**.
- Central and state level procurement laws and policies must incorporate **accessibility criteria** in public procurement. Tender documents must set out applicable **accessibility standards**.
- The deficiencies in the **Sugamya Bharat app** should be rectified so as to enable a well-meaning intervention to realise its full potential.
- **Proper implementation of schemes** should be ensured. There should be proper monitoring mechanisms and accountability of public funds.

In a country like India mainstreaming of these people is challenging issue. For achieving this task it's necessary to change public attitudes, remove social stigma, provide barrier free environment, needs reformation in the area of policy and institutional level.

Q.10) Highlight the significance of Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD) initiatives for handling carbon emissions.

Times of India

Introduction: Contextual introduction.

Body: Explain some significance of Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD) initiatives for handling carbon emissions.

Conclusion: Write a way forward.

REDD (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation) is the global endeavour to create an incentive for developing countries to protect, better manage and save their forest resources, thus contributing to the global fight against climate change. Three UN agencies- UNEP, UNDP and FAO have collaborated in the establishment of UN-REDD programme.

Significance of REDD initiatives:

- **Simple:** Funding rewards good forest management in developing countries and makes poor forest management, such as indiscriminate unenforced logging, less profitable than the sustainable alternative.
- Tropical rainforests are, next to ocean reefs, the richest ecosystems on Earth. Worldwide, forests are a treasure house of resources- to some 70 million people, according to the Food and Agriculture Organization.
- **Managing forests sustainably** as they serve the people dependent on them, house of an extraordinary range of wild plants and animals, and meet the global imperative to sequester carbon.
- Forests can **produce carbon credits** on the basis of the CO₂ they capture and store. These can be sold on international carbon markets. REDD offsets will take a significant part of this trade and provide **resources to tropical countries**.
- A hectare of tropical forest absorbs 50 to 100 tons of CO₂ per annum.
- At a time of volatile global economics, it can be **cheap in comparison to other mitigation activities**, such as carbon capture or renewable energy.

REDD projects and programmes must lead directly to reductions in deforestation and degradation that would not have happened simply as a result of wider changes in the economy. A project baseline needs to be established to measure progress in reducing greenhouse gas emissions.