



Mains Marathon
Compilation

13th to 19th February, 2023

Mains Marathon Compilation for the Month of February, (Third Week) 2023

- 1. What is sustainable clothing? What are the needs and challenges of adopting sustainable clothing in India?**
- 2. Discuss the reasons behind the prevalence of Violence against domestic workers. Also, suggest some measures to control this menace.**
- 3. Highlight the rules regarding making allegations in the Parliament. Can the speaker expunge words from the speech of the parliament on the ground that they are defamatory?**
- 4. What are the changes required in wireless regulations?**
- 5. What is Generative AI? Highlight its implications?**
- 6. What is the rationale behind the demand for special constitutional status for Ladakh?**
- 7. The rapidly rising Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) needs an accelerated, multi-sectoral, global, and national response. Elaborate.**
- 8. Discuss the significance of India's civil aviation policy.**
- 9. Examine the Supreme Court's judgment allowing fishermen of Tamil Nādu to use purse seine fishing gears for fishing.**
- 10. Air India's huge order for aircraft has multiple implications, for the airline, for civil aviation, for policy and for manufacturing. Elaborate.**
- 11. What is the Special Marriage Act, and how is it different from religious codes of marriage?**
- 12. Do you think that setting up foreign universities in India can halt educational emigration?**

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Q.1) What is sustainable clothing? What are the needs and challenges of adopting sustainable clothing in India?

Indian Express

Introduction: Explain sustainable clothing.

Body: Explain needs and challenges of adopting sustainable clothing in India.

Conclusion: Write a way forward.

Sustainable clothing is a way in which brands create clothing that not only reduces the impact on the environment but is also mindful of the people who work to produce the garments. Simply, it is **fashion that is ethically made and environmentally friendly**.

What are the needs of adopting sustainable clothing in India?

- **High demand:** With India's high share of global population and increasing purchasing power, it would be quite soon that India starts accounting for a major share in textile related environment degradation statistics.
- **Under developed recycling:** Each year, about **60 million tonnes of new fibers** are used to make garments, and no plausible concept exists on what to do with them when they are no longer needed. As a result, **three-quarters of these products are disposed off** in landfills or incineration plants.
- Its production process **saves at least 90 per cent water and 50 per cent energy** when compared with traditional methods.
- Our National Climate Change Journal (2018) lists **textile manufacturing** as one of the most polluting sectors of the economy, emitting 1.2 billion tonnes of greenhouse gases.

Challenges:

- It is not only about setting up a **zero-carbon production and supply chain**, it is also about including fair trade and ethical practices for labour, nurturing artisanship, recycling etc. all of which raises production costs.
- **Procurement of sustainable raw materials:** Organic cotton, handlooms, even recycled fibres, polyesters or deadstock cost **higher** as well as **technical interventions** needed to minimise water wastage, emissions, effluents and organic dyes.
- Maintaining a circular economy of fashion **involves sophisticated technological processes**, an indulgence at best by big fashion houses, who, like Stella McCartney, have developed a sub-brand.
- The major fashion weeks are still far from firming them up.
- Without **incentives** in the fashion industry, **rationalisation of the cost structure**, and most importantly, legitimate **endorsement** by Bollywood and sports ambassadors, sustainable fashion will not become a practical choice.

Because environmentalism goes hand in hand with socially equitable practices, however, ethical and sustainable fashion are intricately tied together. Owing to multiple benefits, **Project SURE** is a step in the right direction.

Q.2) Discuss the reasons behind the prevalence of Violence against domestic workers. Also, suggest some measures to control this menace.

Indian Express

Introduction: Contextual introduction.

Body: Explain some reasons behind the prevalence of Violence against domestic workers. Also write some measures to control this menace.

Conclusion: Write a way forward.

As per the **ILO convention 189**, a domestic worker is a person engaged in domestic chores within an employment relationship. India is witnessing a constant increase in the number of

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domestic workers. According to the **government's e-Shram portal**, a national database of unorganised workers, almost 10% of the workers registered are engaged as domestic and household workers.

Reasons behind the prevalence of violence against domestic workers:

- There is **lack of accurate data** on the number of domestic workers in India.
- The abuse of domestic workers can be partly blamed on a **lack of social and labour protection**. This often happens because of discrimination on the lines of sex, race and caste.
- Given their **backward social and economic status**, women who enter domestic work are extremely vulnerable as personal relations govern their entry into the occupation and the conditions at work afterwards.
- State apathy at regulating this sector is evident from the **lack of any specific laws** to protect the rights of these workers.
- As per the definition of labour laws, **private households are outside** the realm of their coverage. Though most state governments have added domestic work to the list of scheduled employment, **implementation** remains an issue.

Measures to control this menace:

- There is a need to **address the power imbalance and provide greater protection** for domestic workers. The government should also retain a **degree of flexibility in work structures**.
- The government should also ensure **detailed documentation and greater transparency in work contracts**.
- A **standard way to collect data on domestic work**, as well as the social and economic value of domestic work, is needed.
- Steps like increasing pay, joining **minimum wage protection, and regulating working hours** are needed to make things better.
- Policies and strategies that protect domestic workers' labour and social rights, like social security, written contracts, and so on, should be pushed by the government.

There is need to protect the domestic workers from abuse, harassment, violence and guarantee them rights in the matter of social security and minimum wages.

Q.3) Highlight the rules regarding making allegations in the Parliament. Can the speaker expunge words from the speech of the parliament on the ground that they are defamatory?

The Hindu

Introduction: Contextual introduction.

Body: Explain rules regarding making allegations in the Parliament. Also write about speaker's power to expunge words from the speech on the ground that they are defamatory.

Conclusion: Write a way forward.

Accountability to Parliament requires the government to respond adequately to the questions raised by MPs in the debate. Under the Rules of the House, it is the Prime Minister who replies to the debate in both Houses.

Rules regarding making allegations in the Parliament:

- **Article 105** of the Constitution confers on members, freedom of speech in the House and immunity from interference by the court for anything said in the House.
- Under **Rule 353 of the Lok Sabha**, the MP is required to give "**adequate advance notice**" to the Speaker as well as the Minister concerned. The allegation which necessitates advance notice, etc. is of a defamatory or incriminatory nature. If the

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allegation is neither defamatory nor incriminatory, the above rule would have no application.

- The “adequate advance notice” rule does **not apply to an allegation against a Minister** in the government. Since the Council of Ministers is accountable to Parliament, the Members of the House have the right to question Ministers and make imputations against their conduct as Ministers.
- The **presiding officers** have carefully laid down a stipulation that the MP who makes an imputation against a Minister of the government should be **sure about the factual basis** of the allegation, and that he must **take responsibility** for it. If the MP complies with this stipulation, then the allegation will be allowed to remain on record.

Issue of defamation:

- Rule 380 of the **Rules of procedure of the Lok Sabha** and Rule 261 of the **Rules of the Rajya Sabha** give the power to the presiding officers of these Houses to expunge any words used in the debate which are **defamatory, unparliamentary, undignified or indecent**. Once expunged they do not remain on record and if anyone publishes them thereafter, they will be liable for breach of privilege of the House.
- Under **Section 499 of the Indian Penal Code**, any statement respecting the conduct of a **public servant in the discharge of his public function not defamation**. If such a statement is made in the House against a Minister who is a public servant, it does not come within the ‘mischief’ of Rule 353 or Rule 380. So presiding officers can’t expunge words in or portions of a speech on the ground that they are defamatory.

It also needs to be ensured that the freedom of speech enjoyed by the Members in the House is not needlessly curtailed.

Q.4) What are the changes required in wireless regulations?

Business Standard

Introduction: Contextual introduction.

Body: Explain some changes required in wireless regulations.

Conclusion: Write a way forward.

India liberalized the telecom sector in 1981. It had initially adopted first-cum first licence policy during the initial days of mobile telephony. However, the 2G scam led to the replacement of the previous policy with the open auction of spectrum. India has billion-plus mobile subscribers and 800 million internet users and hosts the **second-largest telecommunications network** in the world.

Changes required in wireless regulations:

- Given the high costs of installing fibre, **policies for wireless middle- and last-mile connectivity** are urgently required.
- The **expenditure** on roads and railways is twice the amount on communications.
- As per ICRA, full-scale 5G deployments across India would require expenditure of about Rs 3 trillion because nearly two-thirds of the towers lack fibre connectivity. However, due to **high debt of telecoms and high cost of fibres**, it is unexpected that telecommunication companies would invest heavily. Therefore, there is an urgent need for the policy makers to come up with wireless **policies based on successful models in other countries**.
- The communication sector in India lacks **proper policy regulations**. E.g. Vodafone was imposed with **retrospective taxes** in 2007. However, it was later set aside by the Supreme Court.

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- Vodafone and other operators **fought licence fees claimed on non-telecom revenues** included in aggregate gross revenues (AGR) since 2003 while the interest on dues kept on rising.
- There is a need to **enable 6GHz for Wi-Fi, allow speeds of up to 10 Gbps, and support for local product development** and production instead of relying on imports.

The vision of “**Digital India**” can never be realised if affordable broadband connectivity remains only within the reach of a few.

Q.5) What is Generative AI? Highlight its implications?

Live Mint

Introduction: Explain Generative AI.

Body: Explain its implications.

Conclusion: Write a way forward.

Generative AI (GenAI) is the part of Artificial Intelligence that can generate all kinds of data, including audio, code, images, text, simulations, 3D objects, videos, and so forth. It takes inspiration from existing data, but also generates new and unexpected outputs. Recently, San Francisco-based AI start-up OpenAI launched **ChatGPT** (Chat Generative Pre-trained Transformer).

Generative AI works by **training a model on a large dataset** and then using that model to generate new, previously unseen content that is similar to the training data. This can be done through techniques such as **neural machine translation, image generation, and music generation**.

Positive Implications:

- **Reduce the burden of human research:** It can help shift through numerous legal research materials and produce a pertinent, specific and actionable summary. As a result, it can reduce the countless hours of human research and enable them to focus on more complex and exciting problems.
- **Help in designing:** It can also help create and simulate **complex engineering, design,** and architecture. It can help speed up the iterative development and testing of novel designs.
- **Personalized Health treatments:** It can also help health professionals with their medical diagnosis. AI can generate potential and alternative treatments personalized to patients’ symptoms and medical history. For instance, **DeepMind AlphaFold** can predict the shape of the protein.
- Agencies can generate **personalized social media posts, blogs and marketing text and video** copies by providing a text prompt to a Generative AI service like ChatGPT.

Concerns:

- **Deepfakes:** Generative AI, particularly machine learning approaches such as deepfakes, can be used to generate synthetic media, such as images, videos, and audio. Such AI-generated content can be difficult or impossible to distinguish from real media, posing serious **ethical implications**.
- **Inaccuracy problem:** Generative AI uses machine learning to infer information, which brings the potential inaccuracy problem to acknowledge.
- **Increase in Biases:** Recent evidence suggests that larger and more sophisticated systems are often more likely to absorb underlying social biases from their training data. These AI biases can include **sexist, racist, or ableist approaches** within online communities.
- **Risk of Unemployment:** This could happen if generative AI automates tasks or processes previously performed by humans, leading to the displacement of human workers.

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- **Plagiarism:** they are really just making new patterns from the millions of examples in their training set. The results are a cut-and-paste synthesis drawn from various sources—also known, when humans do it, as plagiarism. Either way, what's missing is **uniqueness**. It is important for developers and users of generative AI to consider the potential impacts and ensure that the technology is used ethically and responsibly.

Q.6) What is the rationale behind the demand for special constitutional status for Ladakh?

The Hindu

Introduction: Contextual introduction.

Body: Explain rationale behind the demand for special constitutional status for Ladakh.

Conclusion: Write a way forward.

Civil society groups in Ladakh have been demanding protection of land, resources and employment for the past three years after the special status of the erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir under Article 370 of the Constitution was read down by Parliament in 2019.

The **sixth schedule under Article 244** of the Constitution protects the autonomy of tribal populations through the creation of autonomous development councils which can frame laws on land, public health and agriculture. As of now, ten autonomous councils exist in **Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram**.

Rationale behind the demand for special constitutional status for Ladakh:

- Since 2019, many Ladakhis have realized that their true need for relatively free and autonomous functioning, as well as significant local employment generation, remains a mirage.
- Before the **Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (AHDC)** election, the **region** was promised Sixth Schedule status, similar to what is seen in some parts of north-east India. This promise has yet to be fulfilled.
- In Ladakh, tribal communities account for **nearly 97 percent of the population**. Thus, the people of Ladakh desire statehood under the terms of autonomy offered to the four states named in the sixth schedule.
- The inclusion of Ladakh in the sixth schedule would **give the regional council autonomy in legislative, judicial, and financial matters**.
- The **fear of big businesses and conglomerates** taking away land and jobs from the local people has contributed to this demand.

A constitutional status that allows for locally determined pathways, driven by a sensitive local population, can help avoid the disastrous path that many other parts of India have taken.

Q.7) The rapidly rising Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) needs an accelerated, multi-sectoral, global, and national response. Elaborate.

The Hindu

Introduction: Contextual introduction.

Body: Explain some threats due to AMR. Also write some measures to tackle this.

Conclusion: Write a way forward.

Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) occurs when microbes like (bacteria, viruses, fungi and parasites) change over time and no longer respond to medicines making infections harder to treat and increasing the risk of disease spread, severe illness and death. A 2018 **report by the OECD** warned that the world could experience a significant rise in resistance to second and third-line antibiotics by 2030.

Threats due to AMR:

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- Microbial resistance to antibiotics makes it **harder to treat infections** such as pneumonia, tuberculosis (TB), blood-poisoning (septicaemia) and several food-borne diseases.
- A 2022 study by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) revealed that resistance to broad-spectrum antimicrobials **increases by 5% to 10% every year**.
- AMR **adds** to the **burden of communicable diseases** and strains the health systems of a country, making it even more challenging to address health crises.
- AMR imposes a **huge health cost on the patient** in the form of longer hospitalization, health complications, delayed recovery and the need for more expensive and intensive care.
- The rapid global spread of multi- and pan-resistant bacteria (also known as **“superbugs”**) **cause infections that are not treatable** with existing antimicrobial medicines such as antibiotics.

What needs to be done?

- Ensure that antibiotic consumption in humans is from the **WHO “Access” group** of antibiotics.
- Tackling AMR requires **constant monitoring of antibiotic consumption**, identifying the types and quantities of antibiotics being used.
- **Eliminate use in animals and food production** of antimicrobials that are medically important for human health.
- The **One Health approach** can be helpful as it brings together multiple sectors and stakeholders engaged in human, animal and plant health, and the environment to work to attain better public health outcomes.
- **Greater innovation and investment** is required in operational research, and in research and development of new antimicrobial medicines, vaccines, and diagnostic tools especially those targeting the critical gram-negative bacteria.
- **Educate patients and the general community** on the appropriate use of antimicrobials and create awareness about the dangers of taking antibiotics without being prescribed.

While the scientific community looks for solutions, governments must raise the standard of living for citizens, provide them accessible and affordable quality health care, besides regulating the sale and use of antibiotics.

Q.8) Discuss the significance of India’s civil aviation policy.

Indian Express

Introduction: Contextual introduction.

Body: Explain significance of India’s civil aviation policy.

Conclusion: Write a way forward.

India is the **third largest domestic civil aviation market** in the world after China and the US. Domestic passengers more than doubled from 60 million in 2014 to 143 million in 2020. There has also been a significant increase in international air passengers — from 23 million to 35 million.

Significance of India’s civil aviation policy:

- The government issued new MRO Guidelines to **encourage MRO organisations and OEMs to set up workshops in India**. 100 per cent Foreign Direct Investment permitted via automatic route for MRO, and reduction of GST from 18 per cent to 5 per cent with full Input Tax Credit.
- The need for pilots has also led to an **increase in Flight Training organisations (FTOs)**. Currently, India has 35 approved FTOs with 53 bases and an additional 10 are on the

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anvil. Similarly, the number of **Air Traffic Controllers has increased** from a little over 2,000 in 2012 to close to 4,000 in 2022.

- Last year, the government issued guidelines for **Production Linked Incentives (PLI) for drones** with an outlay of Rs 120 crore over three years. Further, 72 types of fees have been reduced to four and approximately **90 per cent of airspace has been marked as 'Green'** under which no permission is required to operate drones.
- The **Krishi Udan Scheme** is focused on transporting perishable food products of farmers from the hilly areas, north-eastern states and tribal areas.
- Instrumental in **rescuing Indians and foreign nationals** during emergencies. As a part of the **Vande Bharat Mission**, India operated air bubbles to facilitate the travel of 1.83 crore passengers during the various COVID-19 waves. Further, **Operation Ganga** rescued 22,500 Indian students from Ukraine at the peak of the Russia-Ukraine conflict.
- The Ministry of Tourism also funds more than 50 routes and has approved another 10 routes under the **RCS-UDAN Scheme**.

India has a huge aviation market with large untapped potential. There is a need for continuous support to the sector from the Government through appropriate policy interventions. This will benefit domestic economy, as well as enhance the global footprint of India's aviation sector, both in passenger and freight traffic.

Q.9) Examine the Supreme Court's judgment allowing fishermen of Tamil Nādu to use purse seine fishing gears for fishing.

The Hindu

Introduction: Contextual introduction.

Body: Explain some threats due to AMR. Also write some measures to tackle this.

Conclusion: Write a way forward.

The Supreme Court of India has given permission to fishermen using Purse Seine Fishing (PSF) gear to fish **beyond territorial waters (12 nautical miles) and within the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) (200 nautical miles)** of Tamil Nadu, with certain restrictions. This fishing technique has been widely deployed on India's western coasts.

Concerns:

- PSF is a **non-selective fishing technology** which captures all kinds of fish including protected species like turtles.
- Purse seiners **tend to overfish**, unlike traditional fishermen using traditional fish gear, thus endangering the livelihood of the traditional fisher.
- The Court's order seems to be **more concerned about regulating fishing** with administrative and transparency measures than about the conservation measures and obligations.
- In some States, this technique is linked to concerns about the **decreasing stock of small, pelagic shoaling fish** such as sardines, mackerel, anchovies on the western coasts.
- Merely restricting the purse seiner to fish on two days is **not sufficient without regulating the fishing methods used**.
- The most recent court ruling appears to **disregard the conservation measures** and duties that a coastal state is required to take in its EEZ **by the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)**.
- International legal efforts are gradually moving in the direction of abandoning the use of large-scale pelagic nets. The huge size of the purse seine nets (2,000 metres in length and 200 m in depth) allows maximum catch for the purse seiners, in turn **leaving behind insufficient catch for traditional fishermen**.

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Despite the best conservation measures and regulation of fishing methods adopted by the authorities, it will be a challenge in dealing with the limitless character of the seas which renders a common resource such as fish available for exploitation by all.

Q.10) Air India's huge order for aircraft has multiple implications, for the airline, for civil aviation, for policy and for manufacturing. Elaborate.

Times of India

Introduction: Contextual introduction.

Body: Explain some implications of Air India's huge order for aircraft.

Conclusion: Write a way forward.

Recently Tata Group-owned Air India from India has signed a deal with **Boeing of the US and Airbus of France to procure 470 jets**. This makes it the largest-ever pipeline of new aircraft ordered by an Indian airline. The aircraft are split between narrow body and wide body machines. While the narrow body planes will service domestic routes the Airbus wide body aircrafts are to largely serve the ultra-long haul segments, that is, flights of 10 hours or more.

Implications:

- This will enable Air India to engage in a complete fleet renewal coupled with **significant expansion**.
- This deal is also important for the **deep ties between India, France and US** and will consequently improve cooperation in the Indo-Pacific.
- Geopolitical dynamics can also be leveraged to provide a **competitive edge**. Challenges and weaknesses in markets such as **Vietnam, Thailand, Indonesia and Malaysia** have impacted airlines there. **SAARC markets** notably Pakistan and Sri Lanka also have seen challenges. These factors will help Air India to enter, **capture traffic flows**.
- It will put the first Indian airline among the top 10 global airlines in terms of the number of fleets.
- The Tata Group also brings **commercial aircraft manufacturing** into the country over time. Not only would it be a major **boost to manufacturing** but would pave the way for **technology transfer agreements** which are critical.
- It will help the western economy to **come out of its struggling economic situation** after the covid-19 pandemic and Russia-Ukraine conflict-induced slowdown.
- There is a **huge demand** as more than 190 million domestic and international passengers taking to the Indian skies in 2023, and the number of flyers tripling by the end of the decade.

In the long run, a local manufacturing base for aircraft, and skilled manpower need to be generated.

The airport infrastructure needs to be further strengthened. This will benefit domestic economy, as well as enhance the global footprint of India's aviation sector, both in passenger and freight traffic.

Q.11) What is the Special Marriage Act, and how is it different from religious codes of marriage?

Indian Express

Introduction: Explain Special Marriage Act.

Body: Explain how it is different from religious codes of marriage.

Conclusion: Write a way forward.

The Special Marriage Act of 1954 (SMA) enables marriage **between inter-faith or inter-caste** couples without them giving up their religious identity or resorting to conversion. The applicability of the Act extends to the **people of all faiths**, including Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, Christians, Sikhs, Jains, and Buddhists, across India. Some customary restrictions such as parties not being within degrees of a prohibited relationship still apply to couples under SMA. The minimum age to get married under the SMA is **21 years for males and 18 years for females**. No religious formalities are needed to be carried out under the Act. This Act applies not only to Indian citizens who belong to different castes and religions, but **also to Indian nationals who live abroad**.

How is it different from religious codes of marriage?

- The SMA 1954 governs a civil marriage where the state sanctions the marriage rather than the religion, whereas it is vice versa for personal laws.
- Issues of personal law such as marriage, divorce, adoption are governed by religious laws that are codified. These laws, such as the Muslim Marriage Act, 1954, and the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955, require either spouse to **convert to the religion** of the other, before marriage.
- The Hindu Marriage Act allows for an **already solemnized marriage to be registered**. It does not provide for registrar for solemnization of a marriage.
- Since caste and religion have not been altered, the **rights to ancestral property** also remain unchanged. Personal laws manage the succession of property, which is governed by people's beliefs. As a result, despite marrying outside the religious fold, the rights of inheritance and succession granted by the particular faith continue to exist.

Bearing in mind the community's wrath, the Special marital Marriage is meant to safeguard the couple to the greatest extent feasible. The goal was to develop a universal code that would minimise the gap running deep in the society.

Q.12) Do you think that setting up foreign universities in India can halt educational emigration?

Business Standard

Introduction: Contextual introduction.

Body: Explain how setting up foreign universities in India can halt educational emigration. Also write some arguments against this.

Conclusion: Write a way forward.

Recently the University Grants Commission (UGC) unveiled draft norms for allowing, for the first time, foreign universities to set up campuses in India. They have been given autonomy to decide the admission procedure and fee structure. **Over 6.5 lakh Indian students** went abroad in 2022 to pursue higher education, according to data shared by the Union education department.

How it can halt educational emigration?

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- According to a recent survey by INTO University Partnerships, almost eight in 10 Indian students (76 per cent to be precise) look at a study abroad plan to work and settle overseas after completing their international degree.
- Indian students who want to study abroad will be **more than a million in the near future**. Campuses of foreign universities in India can admit only a fraction of the students going abroad.
- Foreign universities in India will **bridge the gap between the skill-development system and traditional degree education** by identifying and mitigating bottlenecks in India's skill development ecosystem.
- It will also **augment technology transfer, research and innovation** in the country. This will further lead to the creation of **strategic training programmes** and a pool of **proficient individuals** who can leverage **emerging global opportunities**.
- This provides an opportunity to tap into the very **large pool of NRI educators** in universities all over the world and who can bring the best of both **local knowledge and international experience and connections**.

What are the challenges to halt emigration that still remains?

However due to following points this step may not halt educational emigration:

- Educational emigration will remain high unless India strengthens the **skill development ecosystem** in higher education.
- Students go there for **different reasons** such as living experience in the developed world, staying in different culture, work experience, migrate etc.
- University campuses in the US not only offer a **vibrant community of international scholarship**, but also an **ecosystem of internships, apprenticeships, skill development and vocational training courses**.
- Foreign varsities that offer their curricula in India can only provide a part of the experience enjoyed by students who study abroad.
- The courses offered in foreign institutes have **strong interdisciplinary components** that branch into **skill-development and vocational training**. Indian students who wish to bring their skills on a par with **global industry requirements**, would prefer to go to a university's home campus.

India needs to improve the condition of Higher education, to ensure it becomes attractive to both Indian as well as foreign students.