



Mains Q& A Test (9) - (02/10/2022)

Approach for the Mains Answer Writing

- **Start Your answer briefly introducing the Topic**
- **Discuss the Key points about the Topic with the Context in the Question**
- **Discuss Pro and Cons of the Topic (if applicable)**
- **Quote the Statistics (if there are any)**
- **Draw the Conclusion (Make Sure your answer doesn't support any particular view and make it look balanced)**



1. “Reservation is not a Fundamental Right” comment (150 words)

Introduction

There's no fundamental right to reservation or promotion under Article 16(4) or Article 16(4A).

Mukesh Kumar and Another vs. the State of Uttarakhand and others 2020

SC held there is no fundamental right to reservation or promotion under article 16(4) or Article 16(4A) of the constitution rather they are enabling provisions for providing reservation if circumstances so warrant.

However these pronouncements in no way understate the constitutional directives under article 46.

ARTICLE 46

Promotion of educational and economic interests of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other weaker sections.—The State shall promote with special care the educational and economic interests of the weaker sections of the people, and, in particular, of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes, and shall protect them from social injustice and all forms of exploitation.

MANDAL STORM AND INDRA SAWHNEY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Reservation of 27% in the public sector and government jobs for OBCs.
- The reservation quota if unfulfilled should be carried forward for 3 years.
- Age relaxation for OBCs same as that of SC/ST.
- A roster system should be prepared for the backward classes on the pattern of that for SC/ST.
- Reservation to be made in PSUs, banks, private sector undertakings receiving government grants, colleges and universities.



Chief Justice M.H.Kania upheld the constitutionality of the 27% reservation but put a ceiling of 50% unless exceptional circumstances warrant the breach.

The court dwelled on the interrelationship between article 16(1) and 16(4) and declared that article 16(4) is not an exception to article 16(1), but rather an illustration of classification implicit in article 16(1).

While article 16(1) is a fundamental right, Article 16(4) is an enabling provision; further the court directed the exclusion of creamy layer by way of horizontal division of every other backward class into creamy layer and non-creamy layer.

INDRA SAWHNEY VS UNION OF INDIA 1992:

The court examined the scope and extent of article 16(4), the court held that the creamy layer of OBC should be excluded from the list of beneficiaries of reservation, there should not be reservation in promotions and total reserved quota should not exceed 50%.

Parliament enacted 77 constitutional amendment act which introduced article 16(4A) this confer power-on state to reserve seats in favour of SC and ST in promotions in public services if the communities are not adequately represented in public employment.

Conclusion

NAGARAJ VS UNION OF INDIA 2006 held that any such reservation policy in to constitutionally valid shall satisfy the following three constitutional requirements.

The SC and ST community should be socially and educationally backwards.

SC and ST communities are not adequately represented in public employment.

Such reservation policy shall not affect the overall efficiency of the administration.



2. Discuss the reasons for coal crisis in India? (150 Words)

Introduction

Coal contributes to over 70 per cent of India's power generation. Of this, over 12 per cent is import-based coal.

The Russia-Ukraine war has led to a disruption in international coal supply, making coal import much more expensive and affecting India's coal import.

The cost of imported coal in India is expected to rise 35 per cent in the fiscal year 2022-23 compared to the past year.

Reasons for the coal crisis in India

Power producers had to pay premiums of up to 300 per cent in March to secure coal supplies in the domestic spot market.

The already dwindling coal stock available with state-run thermal plants was further strained after India witnessed a sudden rise in energy demand in March the hottest in its recorded history.

This pushed peak power demand to 199 GW in the middle of March.

The last week of March saw a 13 per cent higher demand over past year trends, accompanied by high electricity prices on the power exchange, the Indian Express report said.

Furthermore, the biggest reason for the coal shortage is the increasing power demand over the years.

As per a report by the Hindu, in 2021, demand increased to 124.2 BU per month from 106.6 BU per month in 2019. In 2022, the demand has further increased to 132 BU.

According to the Centre's core management team (CMT), heavy rains in coal mining areas like Gujarat, Punjab, Rajasthan, Delhi and Tamil Nadu had resulted in lesser coal production.

Moreover, before the monsoon season, there was inadequate coal-stock build-up in most thermal plants, pushing them below critical levels.



Conclusion

The Center has pleaded with the state governments of coal-starved power plants to start importing coal the second time it has made such a request in recent weeks.

The Government of India has also allowed states to use its captive coal reserves of up to 25% to meet growing domestic demand.

It has permitted power generating companies to blend imported coal up to 10% to ease the burden on CIL.

The Centre is also mulling on increasing the imported coal stock, but higher coal costs make it difficult.

3. Short out the challenges faced in the MSMEs (150 words)

Challenges faced by MSMEs

1. Mounting NPAs of MSMEs

According to the RBI, bad loans of MSMEs now account for 9.6 per cent of gross advances of Rs 17.33 lakh crore as against 8.2 per cent in 2020.

2. Non-availability/Delays of Funds

Mounting losses and debts, non-availability of proper financial help and delays from the government, reluctance from the banks for the funding, etc.

MSMEs in India typically rely on NBFCs for their financing needs, which in itself have been enduring a liquidity crunch.

3. Lack of Infrastructure and Technology

Poor quality of power with unscheduled cuts, no substations, no proper roads, no effective stormwater drainage, and inadequate sewage treatment plants and transport facilities.



Most of India's MSME sector is based on outdated technology, which hampers its production efficiency.

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4. Lack of Formalisation

Almost 86% of the manufacturing MSMEs operating in the country are unregistered.

Out of the 6.3 crore MSMEs, only about 1.1 crores are registered with the Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime and the number of income tax filers is even less.

As a result, Indian MSMEs' credit requirement has been largely unmet due to limited availability and access to data and legacy underwriting methods.

5. Red-Tapism

As the MSMEs require various approvals, the entrepreneurs have to run around various government departments for getting construction permits, enforcing contracts, pay taxes, start a business and trading across borders.

These lengthy and time taking processes, regulatory risks and policy uncertainty shake the investor's confidence.

6. Issues with Manpower and Scale

There is a huge shortage of labour and also identifying candidates through skill development initiatives is a challenge.

The majority of the firms in MSMEs are micro-enterprises and scaling them up is a problem, especially when fund access is challenging.

7. Hampered Productivity

These issues hamper the productivity of small firms which is already very low relative to larger firms, which deters employment generation and dynamism in Indian manufacturing.

8. New Emerging Concerns

Significant signs of a slowdown due to Covid-19 (on the demand side) and structural reforms like GST rollout and demonetisation (on the supply side), which also had adverse effects on the MSME sector.

4. What are the steps being taken by the India government to eradicate Measles and Rubella? (150 words)

MEASLES

The measles virus is one of the most contagious agents ever known that causes human disease. The virus is an exclusively human pathogen and has no animal reservoirs or vectors. Transmission is by respiratory droplets or direct contact. When the measles virus is introduced into a non-immune population, nearly 100% of individuals become infected and develop a clinical illness. In areas with tropical climates, most cases of measles occur during the dry season and in areas with temperate climates, the peak occurs during late winter and early spring.

RUBELLA

(RNA virus) with maculopapular rash and fever as the primary symptoms, where the prodromal phase is less symptomatic as compared to measles, but with the same average incubation period of ~14 days. The virus is transmitted via the respiratory route, and symptoms usually appear 2–3 weeks after exposure. The disease is usually mild in children, with low fever, nausea, and a transient rash. Adults may develop arthritis, lymphadenitis and pain in the joints. Although the clinical manifestations are less severe than measles, characteristic lymphadenopathy and arthritis/arthralgia that are more pronounced in adults are the hallmarks of rubella disease. The infectious period in the natural history of illness is 7 days before to 7 days after the onset of rash, which disappears after 7–10 days. Infections in children are less severe and believed to provide lifelong immunity.

Steps taken by India

As per specific strategies in terms of operationalization, India has to ensure the following:

- high coverage with MR vaccine first dose in routine immunization (to reach >95% population immunity);
- high coverage with MR vaccine second dose through either or both of the following:

- routine second dose vaccination with MR vaccine (to reach >95% population immunity);
- supplementary immunization activity (through the campaign) with MR vaccine (>95% coverage);
- laboratory-supported case-based MR surveillance system and sentinel site CRS surveillance system;
- case management with vitamin A, antibiotics and referral services integrated with the outbreak response;
- Research and studies to guide country strategies towards the elimination goal and develop linkages with other child health interventions.

5. Discuss the evolution of various generations of mobile network and the benefits of 5G (150 Words)

Introduction

5G is the 5th generation mobile network. It is a new global wireless standard after the 1G, 2G, 3G, and 4G network.

GENERATIONS OF MOBILE NETWORK

First generation - 1G	The 1980s: 1G delivered analog voice.
Second generation - 2G	In the early 1990s: 2G introduced digital voice.
Third generation - 3G	In the early 2000s: 3G brought mobile data (e.g. CDMA2000).
Fourth generation - 4G LTE	The 2010s: 4G LTE ushered in the era of mobile broadband.

ENEFITS OF 5G

- **Economic** -5G can provide economic opportunities and societal benefits; it has the potential to transform Indian society. The cumulative economic impact of 5G on India is expected to reach \$450 billion by 2035.
- **Speed** –it can provide superior internet speeds and benefit from the low latency of 5G. Peak internet speeds on 5G could touch 10Gbps compared to 100 Mbps in 4G, while latency in 4G is between 10 and 100 milliseconds, in 5G it is expected to be fewer than 1ms.

- **5G uses a spectrum better than 4G**-5G is also designed to get the most out of every bit of spectrum across a wide array of available spectrum regulatory paradigms and bands—from low bands below 1 GHz to mid bands from 1 GHz to 6 GHz to high bands known as millimetre wave (mm Wave).
- **LATENCY** –it is the time it takes for a device to send packets of data and get a response. The smaller the latency, the quicker the response.
- **5G has lower latency than 4G.**
- 5G has significantly lower latency to deliver more instantaneous, real-time access: a 10x decrease in end-to-end latency down to 1ms.¹
- **Unified platform -5G is a unified platform that is more capable than 4G.**
- While 4G LTE focused on delivering much faster mobile broadband services than 3G, 5G is designed to be a unified, more capable platform that not only elevates mobile broadband experiences but also supports new services such as mission-critical communications and the massive IoT. 5G can also natively support all spectrum types (licensed, shared, unlicensed) and bands (low, mid, high), a wide range of deployment models (from traditional macro-cells to hotspots), and new ways to interconnect (such as device-to-device and multi-hop mesh)

6. Discuss the significance of Mudra Yojana (150 Words)

Introduction

- PM Mudra Yojana aims to enable **Microfinance Institutions (MFIs), Non-Banking financial institutions/Companies (NBFCs), Small Finance Banks, RBRs, Commercial Banks, Cooperative Banks, etc. to provide Low Rate Loans to eligible entities**
- The beneficiary should be a citizen of India.
- The loans are basically for people having a business plan in a **Non-Farming Sector**.

Major Aspects of PMMY

- Under PMMY loans are provided up to 10 lakhs through Member lending Institutions like Banks, NBFCs, Microfinance Institutes (MFIs) and other financial institutes, in three categories namely 'Shishu', 'Kiran', 'Tarun'
1. Shishu-covering loans up to 50,000
 2. Kiran-covering loans above 50,000 and below 5lakhs
 3. Tarun- covering loans above 5lakhs and below 10 lakhs



- rate of Interest is decided by the lending institutions according to the guidelines of RBI

Benefits of MUDRA Yojana

- To sanction loans up to rupees 10 Lakhs to those who have a business plan to generate income from a **non-farm activity like manufacturing, processing, trading, or service sector but don't have enough capital to invest**
- To help generate sources of employment and increase the overall GDP by providing **micro-enterprises with credit facilities.**
- **With the help of MUDRA bank**, the network of microfinance institutions will be monitored and new registration will also be done.
- It will help India also grow its tax base as incomes from the informal sector are non-taxed.
- PMMY further adds to the vision of financial inclusion to reach the last mile of credit delivery to **micro-businesses and take the help of technology solutions.**

Statistics:

- 86% of loans are from the Shishu category
- Almost 22% of loans given to New Enterprises
- About 23% of loans are given to SC/STs and 28% of Loans are given to OBC and 11% of loans are given to Minorities
- More than 34.42 crore loans for an amount of 18.60 lakh crore have been sanctioned

7. Different shapes of economic recovery? (150 Words)

A K-shaped recovery divides the economy into two, with divisions based on wealth, geographic, and industrial characteristics

It is called K-shaped recovery because at its most basic, one portion of the economy is bouncing back and increasing in value, and others continue to suffer the effects of the recession

A K-shape recovery happens when different sectors recover at different rates (COVID Pandemic)

- When one sector rebounds from recession and another sector continue to decline
- K-recovery is possible when the creative destruction of old industries due to the development of new industries and technologies during the recession
- Government strategies like monetary and fiscal policies used to combat the recession can lead to a K-shaped recovery

Other shaped recoveries

L-shaped	An enormous recession which takes one year to recover
U-shaped	A sharp decline followed by a time when economy sitting at a low point, before finally recovering
W-shaped (double dip)	When economy hits rock bottom followed by a temporary increase and finishing with another decline
V-shaped	When there is a sharp decline followed by a quick recovery

8. Can green hydrogen be the fuel of future? (150 Words)

Green hydrogen

- A colourless, odourless, tasteless, non-toxic and highly combustible gaseous substance, hydrogen is the lightest, simplest and most abundant member of the family of chemical elements in the universe.
- But a colour green prefixed to it makes hydrogen the fuel of the future.
- The green depends on how the electricity is generated to obtain the hydrogen and does not emit greenhouse gas when it is burned.
- Green hydrogen is produced through electrolysis using renewable sources of energy such as solar, wind or hydel power.
- Grey hydrogen is generated through fossil fuels such as coal and gas and currently accounts for 95 per cent of the total production in South Asia.



- Blue hydrogen is produced using electricity generated by burning fossil fuels but with technologies to prevent the carbon released in the process of entering the atmosphere.

Advantages of hydrogen as a fuel

- The intermittent nature of renewable energy, especially wind, leads to grid instability
- Green hydrogen can be stored for long periods. The stored hydrogen can be used to produce electricity using fuel cells.
- In a fuel cell, a device that converts the energy of a chemical into electricity, hydrogen gas reacts with oxygen to produce electricity and water vapour.
- Hydrogen acts as an energy storage device and contributes to grid stability.
- The oxygen is produced as a by-product (8 kg of oxygen is produced per 1 kg of hydrogen).
- It can also be legalised by using it for industrial and medical applications or for enriching the environment.
- The possibility of hydrogen has made many countries pledge investments with Portugal having unveiled a national hydrogen strategy worth \$7.7 billion in May.
- Renewable developers see green hydrogen as an emerging market and some have targeted the transport sector, although electric vehicles have begun to catch the imagination of consumers today.

9. Glass cliff recently was recently in the news discuss about the phenomena (150 Words)

INTRODUCTION

- The term 'glass cliff' was coined by researchers from the University of Exeter, United Kingdom.
- Glass cliff is a phenomenon that reinforces stereotypes about women not being ideal in leadership positions.
- It was found that women were more likely to be promoted to higher positions when the company was performing poorly. By doing this women were set up for failure.
- Since the term originated, its use has expanded beyond the corporate world to encompass politics and other domains.



- The glass cliff concept has also been used to describe employment discrimination experienced by leaders who are members of minorities or disabled.

When situations of stress occur, women are preferred over men. This "think crisis, think female" theory perceives women to possess the qualities that help them deal with stressful situations better than men.

EXPLANATION

- Many theories have been advanced to explain the existence of the glass cliff.
- Many companies may offer glass cliff positions to women because they consider women as "more expendable and better scapegoats."
- The organizations that offer women tough jobs believe they win either way- if the woman succeeds, the company is better off. If she fails, the company is no worse off, she can be blamed and can return to its prior practice of appointing men.
- People believe that women are better suited to lead stressed, unhappy companies as they are felt to be more nurturing, creative and intuitive.
- Researches argue that female leaders are not necessarily expected to improve the situation, but are seen as good managers who can take the blame for organizational failure.
- Women executives are likelier than men to accept glass cliff positions because they do not have access to high-quality information which usually warns executives away.
- Females attributed the existence of the glass cliff to a lack of other opportunities for women executives and sexism.
- Male studies said that women are less suited than men to difficult leadership roles or strategic decision-making or glass cliff is unrelated to gender.
- When a company is performing poorly, it protects its male employees and promotes female employees to leadership positions.
- By promoting women, the company seems progressive, but sets the female for failure.

EXAMPLES

- Marissa Mayer was appointed as the CEO of Yahoo after it lost significant market share to Google.
- Theresa May, became prime minister of the United Kingdom, shortly after a referendum resulted in to leave European Union (EU), causing a drop in pound value.
- In 2020, Sophie Wilmes became the first woman prime minister in Belgium, during the coronavirus crisis.



THEORIES BEHIND THE EFFECT

There are many possible explanations to prevail this effect.

- When situation of stress or crisis occurs, women are preferred over men.
- 'Think crisis think female' theory perceives women to possess the qualities that help them deal with stressful situations better than men.
- Since stressful situations involve emotional management, women who are better managers of people's feelings and problems, are expected to make better leaders.
- 'Think crisis think not men' theory explains how women are perceived as less valuable than men, making it easier for companies to throw them.
- When a company is going through a crisis, bringing about a significant change in its structure can hold positive connotations.
- Women or minority communities are promoted to positions of leadership as it deviates from the conventional idea of leadership.

CONCLUSION

The glass ceiling effect which is similar to the glass cliff effect hinders women and minority communities from advancing in their careers after a certain level in various organizations. The glass cliff effect ensures that even when promoted during crises, the company may look progressive but blame them for the underperformance of the organization.

Both processes help maintain the status quo and prevent women and minority communities from reaching positions of leadership.

10. Define forest and discuss forest conversion acts and its amendment? (150 Words)

Definition of Forests

The forest also included all areas recorded as forests in any government records, irrespective of ownership, recognition and classification.



All the areas that conformed to the dictionary meaning of forest and all areas which are identified as forest by an expert committee constituted by the Supreme Court

Forest Conservation Act (FCA)

- Forest Conservation Act (1980) came into force to address deforestation.
- Though the Indian forest act has been in force since 1927, it was geared to allow the colonial British administration to control the extraction of timber.
- It was not aimed at preserving forests or addressing deforestation.
- States notified forest land but the FCA made it necessary to get the Centre's permission for using such forest land for Non-forestry purposes.
- The creation of an advisory committee to recommend such re-classification.

FCA Amendments

- There have been two major amendments to the FCA in 1988 and 1996.
- State governments, Union Territory Administrations and Central governments used to apply the provisions of the Act to the forests notified under the Indian Forest Act, 1927 or any other local law till 1996.
- Forests were under the management or control of the Forest Department.
- In the **T.N. Godavaraman Thirumulpad case (1996) Supreme Court order**,
- This judgment also paved the way for calculating the economic value of the portion of forest being razed for development work paid by project proponents.
- The creation of a compensatory afforestation fund and providing non-forestry land instead of the diverted forest.
- The state increasing forest cover and it is harder to access land for infrastructure projects for private entities.
- India aims to have at least 33 per cent of India's geographical area under forest and tree cover.
- At present, forest cover is around 22 per cent and it is very hard to increase core forest.
- The mode of the expansion includes expanding the notion of what constitutes forest land.
- It is becoming harder to use land that falls under the definition of Forest for non-forestry purposes.