



Mains Q& A Test(10)- (09/10/2022)

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)**

What are the main objectives of National Rural Health Mission and discuss the key role of ASHA programme? (150 words)

Introduction

The National Rural Health Mission was initiative of Government of India to provide quality healthcare services in rural areas across the country.

The National Envisages achievement of universal access to equitable, affordable and quality health care services those are accountable and responsive to people's needs.

Objectives

- To reduce the infant and martial mortality rates.
- Universal access to the Public health care services to the women and child health at affordable costs.
- To prevent communicable and non-communicable diseases
- To provide access to the safe drinking water, nutrition and immunization etc
- To address the social determinants of the health and paramount among women literacy, women's empowerment etc

ASHA Programme

It was launched in 2005-06 as a part of the National Rural Health Mission and extended to urban areas as National Urban Health Mission in 2013.

It was inspired by the WHO's Health by the People, later several countries launch community health programmes and strengthen primary health care services as people-centric.

Contributions of ASHA's

They made extraordinary contributions in primary healthcare services like maternal and child health including immunization and treatment for hypertension etc with a specific focus on every household.

The make an outstanding contribution to making Covid pandemic and in the Vaccination process, Polio free, reducing maternal mortality etc.

Conclusion

It has also led to significant improvements in maternal, new-born and child health indicators, particularly for maternal mortality ratio, infant and under five mortality rates, where in the rates of decline in India are much higher than the global averages and these declines have accelerated during the period of its implementation.

What is Unique Identification Authority of India? Discuss concerns related to Aadhaar. (150 words)

Unique identification Authority of India (UIDAI)

UIDAI was created with the objective to issue Unique Identification numbers (UID), named as "Aadhaar", to all residents of India that is (a) robust enough to eliminate duplicate and fake identities, and (b) can be verified and authenticated in an easy, cost-effective way

Aadhaar is a unique identification number issued by UIDAI that serves as proof of identity and address based on biometric data. It is being used to provide many benefits to the members of society. One can e-sign documents using Aadhaar

Concerns related to Aadhaar

1. Operational Difficulties of the linkage

- Aadhaar based biometric authentication had a 12% error rate.. This concern is also reflected in the previous experiences of using Aadhaar to clean electoral rolls.
 - A similar exercise undertaken in 2015 in Andhra and Telangana led to the disenfranchisement of around 30 lakh voters before the Supreme Court stalled the process of linkage.
- Aadhaar's "**demographic**" information with **voter ID information**, and lead to **violation of the right to privacy and surveillance measures by the state**

2. Legal and Privacy Concerns

- The proposal fails to specify the extent of data sharing between the two databases. As the integration of two databases can result in **targeted political advertising, and also disenfranchisement**.
- There have been examples of targeted surveillance using **Aadhaar information and demographic data**. In **Andhra Pradesh, 5.167 million families'** locations could be tracked on a website run by the state government, **using religion and**

caste as search criteria which can easily result in caste and religion-based politics

3. Political lobbying and threat by ruling party to donate to election fund

- EPIC cards issued using an unverifiable Aadhaar card could result in massive fraud, rather than securing the integrity of the electoral roll. The scope for abuse by **political groups is extremely high if the linkage proposed between EPIC and Aadhaar matches the PAN-Aadhaar integration**

4. The cyber safety of the data

- Aadhaar is prone to leaks and therefore can undermine the sanctity of the electoral roll as UIDAI and MEITY, for the first time admitted to false Aadhaar cards and cyber security being a problem in a written answer to Parliament during the 2020 monsoon session

5. Ethical dimension regarding the usability of the data

- The prominent data in the wrong hands could be used to target specific groups and strip many of the right to vote

Conclusion

- Data minimisation with electronic signatures might be a way to ensure that individual data is not abused by the government, but given previous attempts at integrating social registries with Aadhaar, it seems unlikely.
- Given the lack of clarity on the mechanism of this proposed integration, we would recommend that UIDAI and the ECI reconsider this proposal until clear safeguards to protect individual privacy are made clear, until the databases are further secured to prevent potential leaks, and processes and mechanisms to prevent disenfranchisement of voters during this exercise are developed.

What is eVtol? Discuss the challenges around it (150 words)

eVtol

Aircraft that uses electric power to hover, take off, and land vertically is called eVtol



Most eVtols also use what is called distributed electric propulsion technology which means integrating a complex propulsion system with the airframe

There are multiple motors for various functions, to increase efficiency and to also ensure safety

This technology has grown on account of success in electric propulsion based on progress in motor, battery, fuel cell and electronic controller technologies and also fuelled by the need for new vehicle technology that ensures urban air mobility

eVtol has been likened to a third wave in an aerial revolution, the first being the advent of commercial flying and the second the age of helicopters

Challenges

- Cash prevention system- these use cameras, radar, GPS AND infrared scanners
- Ensuring safety in case of power plant or rotor failure
- Aircraft protection from cyber attacks
- Navigation and flight safety and the use of technology when operating in difficult terrain, unsafe operating environments and also bad weather

Will bad bank ease the bad loan crisis? Comment(150 words)

Bad bank

A bad bank is a financial entity set up to buy non-performing assets or bad loans, from the banks.

The aim of Setting up a bad bank is to help ease the burden on banks by taking bad loans off their balance sheets and getting them to lend again to customers without constraints

Key points

- While the problem of bad loans has been a perennial one in the Indian banking sector.
- The Union government decided to set up a bad bank during the Budget, in the aftermath of the nationwide lockdowns.
- The moratorium was subsequently extended to borrowers by the Reserve Bank of India.
- It should be noted that the health of the balance sheets of Indian banks has improved significantly over the last few years with their gross non-performing assets (GNPA) ratio declining from a peak of 11.2 Per cent in Financial year 18 to 6.9 Per cent in Q2 FY 22.

Bad loan crisis and Bad bank

- A key reason behind the bad loan crisis in public sector banks nature of their ownership.
- Unlike private banks, which are owned by individuals who have strong financial incentives to manage them well.
- Public sector banks are managed by bureaucrats who may often not have the same commitment to ensuring these lenders' profitability.
- To that extent, bailing out banks through a bad bank does not address the root problem of the bad loan crisis.
- There is a huge risk of moral hazard.
- Commercial banks that are bailed out by a bad bank are likely to have little reason to mend their ways.
- The safety net provided by a bad bank gives these banks more reason to lend recklessly and thus further exacerbates the bad loan crisis

What is the interdependence between the urbanization and ground water? Discuss the major challenges around it. (150 words)

Introduction

The UNESCO United Nations World Water Development Report of 2022 has encapsulated global concern over the sharp rise in freshwater withdrawal from Streams, lakes, aquifers, human-made reservoirs, impending water stress and water scarcity being experienced in different parts of the world

Key points

The Global Drought Risk & Water Stress map(2019) shows that major parts of India, West, Central & parts of Peninsular India are highly water stressed

A NITI Aayog report, 'Composite Water Management Index (2018), has sounded a note of caution about the worst water crisis in the country, with more than a 600million people facing water shortage.

Globally, urban water infrastructure imports an estimated 500billion litres of water/day across a distance of 27,000km

At least 12% of large cities in the world rely on inter-basin transfers

Urban Water Use

- According to the 2011 Census, the urban population in India accounted for 34% of the total population.
- It is estimated that the urban population in India may cross 40% by 2030 & 50% by 2050.
- Water use in the Urban sector has increased as more people shift to urban areas and per capita use of water in these centres rises.
- It is evident that in the initial stages when a city is small, the supply of water is concerned.
- As the city grows & water management infrastructures develop, dependence shifts to surface water.
- The allocation of urban water is enhanced at the expense of irrigation water.
- City water supply is now a subject of inter-basin & inter-state transfers of water.

Challenges

- The rural-urban transfer of water is a lose-lose situation, as water is transported to rural areas & agricultural sector; in cities most of this water is little recovery/reuse, leading to water pollution.
- In India, cities & rural areas use common water sources, hence there should be a strive for a win-win situation.
- A system perspective & catchment scale-based approach are necessary to link the reallocation of water with discussions on development, infrastructure investment, fostering & adopting the integrated approach in water management.
- On India's 75th anniversary of independence, it is time to examine the state of its water resources & ensure that the development process is not in jeopardy

What are Eco sensitive zones discuss threats and challenges (150 words)

Eco Sensitive Zones

The Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ) are areas in India notified by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), GoI around Protected Areas, National Park and Wildlife sanctuaries

As per the National Wildlife Action Plan (2002-2016), issued by the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, land within 10 km of the boundaries of national parks and wildlife sanctuaries is to be notified as eco-fragile zones or Eco-Sensitive Zones (ESZ)



Threats and challenges

Protests erupted across the high ranges of Kerala in response to the apex court's directions. Due to the high density of human population near the notified protected areas, farmer's groups and political parties have been demanding that all human settlements be exempt from the ESZ ruling

This was because the villagers occupying the densely populated settlements in these areas believed that the ESZ would restrict their agricultural and related activities

Developmental activities:

Activities such as the construction of dams, roads, and urban and rural infrastructures in the ESZ, create interference, negatively impact the environment and imbalance the ecological system.

Blatant violations:

To cater to the increasing demand for eco-tourism, the land around parks and sanctuaries are being cleared through deforestation, displacement of local people etc.

Failing to recognize the rights of forest communities and curbing poaching of animals, environmental legislations undermine the ESZs in favour of developmental activities.

Climate change:

Biodiversity and climate change are interconnected, for example, the rise in global temperature has generated land, water and ecological stress on the ESZs.

Tourism-related Pollution:

As the pressure of tourism is rising, the government is developing new sites and gateways to the ESZ. The tourists leave behind garbage such as plastic bags and bottles etc. which leads to environmental degradation.

Local communities:

Slash and burn techniques used in agriculture, the pressure of increasing population and the rising demand for firewood and forest produce, etc. exerts pressure on the protected areas.

What is minimum support price? Discuss factors recommended for MSP (150 Words)

Minimum Support Price

The MSP for a crop is the price at which the government is supposed to procure or buy that crop from farmers if the market price falls below it

MSPs provide a floor for market prices and ensure that farmers receive a certain Minimum remuneration so that their cost of cultivation (and some profit) can be recovered

Crops covered

7 Types of Cereals (Paddy, Wheat, Maize, Bajra, Jowar, Ragi and barley)

5 Types of Pulses (Chana, Arhar or Tur, Urad, Moong and Masur)

7 oilseeds (Rapeseed-Mustard, Groundnut, Soyabean, Sunflower, Sesamum, Safflower, Nigerseed)

4 Commercial crops (Cotton, Sugarcane, Copra, Raw Jute)

The factors that are recommended for the MSPs

1. The demand and supply of a commodity,
2. Its cost of production,
3. The market price trends (both domestic and international),
4. Inter-crop price parity,
5. The terms of trade between agriculture and non-agriculture (that is, the ratio of prices of farm inputs and farm outputs),
6. A minimum of 50 per cent as the margin over the cost of production and
7. The likely implications of an MSP on consumers of that product.

What is Rice Fortification? Discuss the reasons for it (150 words)

Rice fortification

Fortification is the process of deliberately increasing the content of an essential micronutrient i.e. vitamins and minerals in food to improve its nutritional quality and provide a public health benefit with minimal risk to health

Various technologies are available to add micronutrients to regular rice, such as coating, dusting, and 'extrusion'.

The last-mentioned involves the production of fortified rice kernels (FRKs) from a mixture using an 'extruder' machine. It is considered to be the best technology for India.

Need of Fortification

- India has very high levels of malnutrition among women and children. According to the Food Ministry, every second woman in the country is **anaemic** and **every third child is stunted**.
- Fortification of food is considered to be one of the most suitable methods to combat malnutrition.
- Rice is one of India's staple foods, consumed by about two-thirds of the population. Per capita rice consumption in India is 6.8 kg per month. Therefore, fortifying rice with micronutrients is an option to supplement the diet of the poor

WHO Recommendations on Food fortification

- **Fortification of rice with iron** is recommended as a **public health strategy** to improve the iron status of populations, in settings where rice is a staple food (**strong recommendation, moderate certainty evidence**).
- Fortification of rice with **vitamin A** may be used as a public health strategy to improve the iron status and **vitamin A** nutrition of populations (conditional recommendation, low-certainty evidence).
- Fortification of rice with **folic acid** may be used as a public health strategy to improve the folate nutritional status of populations

What is Gulf Cooperation Council and why does it matter to India? (150 words)

Gulf Cooperation Council

Political and economic alliance of six Middle Eastern Countries **Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Bahrain and Oman**.

The GCC was established in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, in May 1981.

The purpose of the GCC is to achieve unity among its members based on their common objectives and their similar political and cultural identities, which are rooted in Arab and Islamic cultures.

The Presidency of the council rotates annually.

Article 4 of the GCC charter states that the alliance was formed to strengthen relations among its member countries and to promote cooperation among the country's citizens

Reasons why GCC matter to India

1.Share in trade

The share of the GCC countries and Iran in India's total trade, imports and exports and their ranking among over 200 countries.

The region accounts for 16 per cent of the total imports with the UAE and Saudi Arabia featuring among the top five import partners.

2.Oil dependence

India sources close to 40 per cent of its fuel needs from the GCC countries and Iran

3.Indians in the Gulf

About 90 lakhs (28 per cent of the overseas Indians) reside in the Gulf region

4.Remittances

They account for over 55 per cent of the remittances inflow

Discuss the pardoning powers between the President and the Governor (150 words)

The Pardon powers

- Both the President and the Governor have been vested with the sovereign power of pardon by the constitution, commonly referred to as mercy or clemency power.
- **Under Article 72**, the President can grant pardons, reprieves, respites or remissions of punishment or suspend, remit or commute the sentence of any person convicted of any offence in all cases.
- Here, the punishment or sentence is a court-martial. In all cases, the punishment or sentence is for an offence under any law relating to the Union government's executive power and in all cases of death sentences.
- It is also made clear that the president's power will not in any way affect a Governor's power to commute a death sentence.
- **Under Article 161**, a Governor can grant pardons, reprieves, respites or remissions of punishment or suspend remit or commute the sentence of any convicted under any law on a matter which comes under the state's executive power.



Statutory power V/s Constitutional Power

- The Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) Provides for the remission of prison sentences, which means the whole or a part of the sentence, may be cancelled.
- The power of remission under the CrPC is different from the constitutional power enjoyed by the President and the Governor.
- Under Section 432, the appropriate government may suspend or remit a sentence, in whole or in part, with or without conditions.
- This power is available to State governments so that they may order the release of prisoners before they complete their prison terms.
- Under Section 433, any sentence may be commuted to a less one by the appropriate government.
- Section 435 says that if the prisoner had been sentenced in a case investigated by the CBI or any agency that provided the offence under a Central Act, the State government can order such release only in consultation with the Central government.
- In death sentences, the Central government may also concurrently exercise the same power as the State governments to remit or suspend the sentence

