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*C – Chennai; B – Bengaluru; D – Delhi ; T – Thiruvananthapuram; H - Hyderabad
Seeking a review of creamy layer reservations
Why does the government want a review of a past judicial ruling in connection with promotions for SCs and STs?

Timeline

⇒ Indra Sawhney Vs Union of India, 1992
  ❌ Mandal Case
  ❌ Creamy layer - socially, economically and educationally advanced section of backward classes
  ❌ Judgment
    ‣ 27% reservation to OBC
    ‣ Need creamy layer so that benefits of reservation would reach to members of backward classes who truly need it
  ❌ Economic criteria for creamy layer → New Rs. 8 lakh
  ❌ Reservation → only in initial appointments
  ‣ Not in promotions

⇒ Response of Centre
  1) 1995 → 77th Amendment - Introducing Article 16(4A)
  2) 2000 → 81st Amendment - Article 16(4B)
  3) 2000 → 82nd Amendment amending Article 335

⇒ Response
  ❌ M. Nagaraj Case - 2006
  ❌ Upheld validity of Amendments
  ❌ 3 conditions for promotion
    ‣ Community is backward
    ‣ Inadequately represented
    ‣ Efficiency of public administration
Practice Question – Prelims

Q. Consider the following statements regarding reservation for members of the Scheduled castes and the Scheduled Tribes in public employment.

1. Article 335 states that the claims of the members of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes shall be taken into consideration, consistently with the maintenance of efficiency of administration.

2. In 2018, in the Jarnail Singh versus Lachhmi Narain Gupta case, the Supreme Court opined that the creamy layer principle should not be made applicable to members of SC/ST in matters of promotion.

3. The 82nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 2000, enabled the government to make any provision in favour of the members of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes for relaxation in qualifying marks in any examination or lowering the standards of evaluation, for reservation in matters of promotion to any class or classes of services or posts in connection with the affairs of the Union or of a State.

Select the correct statement(s) from the codes given below.

a) 1 and 2 only
b) 2 and 3 only
c) 1 and 3 only
d) 1, 2 and 3
Measles outbreaks continue unabated: WHO

Both measles and rubella can be prevented by a highly-effective vaccine.

2.3 million children in India unvaccinated for measles

India is second highest, next only to Nigeria with 2.4 million

Preventable condition

Measles can be prevented through immunization. However, the number of children who are not vaccinated against measles is alarming. India has the second highest number of children who are not vaccinated against measles. According to statistics, 3.4 million children in India are at risk of contracting measles. The government of India has launched a massive vaccination campaign to curb the spread of measles.

Symptoms

- Fever
- Conjunctivitis
- Cough
- Common cold (Cornea)

Possibility of serious health complications

- Blindness
- Ear infections
- Encephalitis
- Pneumonia, etc.
- Severe diarrhoea

Severe measles → more likely in children

- Poorly nourished (Insufficient vitamin-A levels)
- Weakened immune system due to HIV/AIDS and other diseases
Practice Question – Prelims

Q. Consider the following statements.

1. Both Measles and Rubella infections are viral infections.
2. One of the targets under the Sustainable Development Goals Framework is to end preventable deaths of new borns and children under 5 years of age by 2030.
3. Measles is a communicable disease.
4. India, along with other WHO-SEAR countries, has resolved to eliminate measles and control rubella/congenital rubella syndrome (CRS) by 2020.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

(a) 1, 2 and 4
(b) 1, 2 and 3
(c) 2, 3 and 4
(d) 1, 2, 3, 4
Measures to address the slowdown in Indian economy:

- **GDP for Q2 of 2019-20**: 4.5% → 25 quarter low
- **Boost economic activity and consumption**
  - Banks disbursed ₹5 lakh crore in last 2 months
  - Spending in infrastructure
- **Corporate tax cut**
  - 30 to 25% for existing companies
  - 25 to 15% for new companies
- **₹1.45 lakh crore tax break → reduction in total government revenue**
- **Rationalisation of the personal income tax rate**
  - Ensure more compliance
  - No harassment by tax authorities

Demand for reduction in personal income tax → will boost consumption

Rationalisation of GST rates
India, U.S. will conclude trade talks soon, says USISPF chief

V.H. GEORGE

Outstanding trade issues between India and the U.S. are moving towards resolution, and the first quarter of 2020 will see both countries conclude ongoing talks, Mukesh Aghi, President and CEO of the U.S.-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF), has said.

No announcement of an agreement could be made during Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s visit to the U.S. in September.

Mr. Aghi said signals from India and American interlocutors indicated convergence on contentious trade issues that have dampened bilateral ties.

“I am confident that both countries are moving towards resolution on removal of Generalized System of Preference (GSP) for India and the resolution of the price cap dispute related to American medical devices in India,” Mr. Aghi said. India is open to the idea of moving the Trade Margin Rationalization (TMR) regime for price control on imported medical devices, as being demanded by American manufacturers.

Mr. Aghi said after the outstanding issues are resolved, the two could move towards a partial Free Trade Agreement. India’s decision to move away from the RCEP has been positively received by American policy makers.

India’s price control regime operates under Drug Prices Control Order (DPCO)

Issued under Essential Commodities Act

Implemented by NPPA

Aug 2017 - NPPA slashed prices of knee implants by 65 to 69%.

U.S. medical manufacturers → ”price capping” would hinder innovation and quality healthcare

From 5th June 2019 → America’s Generalised System of Preferences for Indian exporters was withdrawn
Trade Margin Rationalization Regime (TMR)

- Regulation of the prices based on the capping on the "trade margin" in the entire trade chain
- From the first point of sale to the last point of sale

Challenges

- Price of the product sold by the manufacturers
- Fixing the 'trade margin'
- Monitoring the system

⇒ TMR, if implemented effectively can improve transparency in the retail chain of the medical devices

PRACTICE QUESTIONS
DISCUSSION
Practice Question – Prelims

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Practice Question – Prelims

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Practice Questions – Prelims Answers
08-12-2019
1. Option (d) 1, 2, 3, 4
2. Option c) 1 and 3 only

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