DAILY NEWS DIARY

(DnD)

03.04.2020

For Prelims & Mains
Dear Student,

Warm Greetings.

- DnD aims to provide every day news analysis in sync with the UPSC pattern.
- It is targeted at UPSC – Prelims & Mains.
- Daily articles are provided in the form of Question and Answers
  - To have a bank of mains questions.
  - And interesting to read.
  - Providing precise information that can he carries straight to the exam, rather than over dumping.

Enjoy reading.

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**Essay Paper**

**Editorial**

**Q – Explain, “Origin of crippling pandemics waiting in the wings”?**

INTRO = Biodiversity in forests harmlessly retains dangerous viruses and other pathogens among a vast pool of wild animals, away from people. While the Destruction of forests sends wild animals, and the deadly viruses they carry, closer to humans. Diseases of animal origin such as Ebola, HIV, Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome, Middle East Respiratory Syndrome, bird flu and swine flu have raised alarm over potential pandemics in recent years, and the COVID-19 pandemic has confirmed the worst fears of scientists. The contagion, thought to have originated in a wet market that kept live animals in Wuhan, China, points to many underlying factors:

1) the destruction of forests and trapping or farming of wild species has brought these animals closer to humans, and the viruses they harbour find ready hosts in domestic animals, moving to humans.

2) There is concern also about rising economic activity, such as road building and mining cutting through forests, bringing more people in close contact with animals.

3) Another dimension is the global trade in wild species — in Wuhan, they reportedly ranged from wolf pups to rats, civets and foxes, among others — and their sale in markets along with domestic animals.

What this phenomenon makes clear is that governments should stop viewing undisturbed landscapes as an impediment to economic growth. As COVID-19 has proved, these short-term high growth trajectories can come to an abrupt halt with a pandemic.

This should serve as a dire warning to the government that hasty permissions granted for new roads, dams, mines and power projects in already enfeebled forests can unleash more scourges. It would do well to roll back its dilution of the environmental clearance system, strengthen it with a mandate to the States, and leave protected areas to scientific experts.
GS 2

➢ Governance

Q – Role and Functions of Federalism in planning a staggered end to lockdown?

BACKGROUND = PM Narendra Modi has asked the states to brainstorm and suggest a post-lockdown plan, while also listing a certain “must do steps” to all the states in planning a phase wise exit plan towards the staggered end to lockdown. Such as –

1) Our first priority for the next few weeks should be testing, tracing, isolating and quarantine. For this, all State to district level efforts must be coordinated

2) district-level disease surveillance officers should be appointed as soon as possible to make sure that data collected from private laboratories allowed to test should be collated district-wise to be utilised for further strategising on tackling the pandemic.

3) Every State should ensure that there are separate hospitals for COVID-19 patients, and the doctors attending to them need to be protected. I would also urge you to step up online training of doctors in the treatment of COVID-19

4) For procurement, we must find ways to do it beyond the route of Agricultural Produce Marketing Committees (APMC). A truck pooling scheme should also be worked out with farmers for ferrying produce to the market.

And finally, to implement these all - The Centre would release ₹11,000 crore from the State Disaster Relief Fund by this month to be used for efforts to fight the COVID-19 pandemic.

GS 3

➢ Technology

Q – How does the ‘Geo-fencing app’ help to locate quarantine violators?

BACKGROUND = The government has tested an application that triggers e-mails and SMS alerts to an authorised government agency if a person has jumped quarantine or escaped from isolation, based on the person’s mobile phone’s cell tower location. The “geo-fencing” is accurate by up to 300 m.

- The Centre is using powers under the Indian Telegraph Act (section 5(2)) to “fetch information” from telecom companies every 15 minutes to track COVID-19 cases across the country.

- Kerala was one of the first States to use geo-fencing to track COVID-19 cases. On March 29, the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) shared a standard operating procedure (SOP) with all telecom service providers regarding the application called COVID-19 Quarantine Alert System (CQAS).

- Government assures that the location information is received periodically over a secure network for the authorised cases with “due protection of the data received”.

Snippets

➢ Economic Development

Assocham for $120-bn stimulus.

- The Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) says that RBI rate cut and liquidity infusion are only a ‘short term fix’ and urged the government to roll out a $100-$120 billion stimulus package to help revive all sectors of the economy, that has been battered by the COVID-19 outbreak and the subsequent nationwide lockdown

- India also stands to gain about $50 billion in fuel import bill due to the fall in global crude prices & suggested that the government may go in for temporary suspension of the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Rules Act.
Security

DRDO develops a ‘Bio Suit’.

Using a special sealant, as an alternative for to seam sealing tape which is critical in Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).

How about this today.....

Match the following-

A. Thangali Airdrop 1. India-South Sudan
B. Operation Maitri 2. India-Nepal
C. Operation Sanjeevani 3. India-Pakistan
D. Operation Sankat Mochan 4. India-Maldives

A B C D
a. 2 3 1 4
b. 3 2 4 1
c. 4 3 1 2
d. 3 1 4 2

Hey from Yesterday!? 

Indian OMC’s have reduced the prices of which of the following?

Answer – C

Indian OMC’s have reduced the prices of LPG or cooking gas, while increasing the price of sensitive petroleum products like petrol and diesel in most Indian cities as BS VI fuel Kicks in.