DAILY NEWS DIARY

(DnD)

04.04.2020

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.

THE HINDU - TH
INDIAN EXPRESS - IE
BUSINESS LINE - BL
ECONOMIC TIMES - ET
TIMES OF INDIA - TOI

Essay Paper

Editorial

Q – Global Case Count and the Issue of Asymptomatic cases?

INTRO = On April 2, the number of novel corona virus (SARS-CoV-2) infections in 181 countries/regions crossed 1 million, and deaths passed 50,000. The global spread of the virus is continuing despite mitigation efforts. With 2,45,646 cases, the U.S. accounts for 24% of the global total, while Italy, with 13,915 deaths, has over 26% of total mortality. Four countries — the U.S., Italy, Spain and Germany — have more cases reported than China.

Yet, the cases reported so far might be a small percentage of the actual numbers in most countries. The main limiting factor in knowing the true spread has been the restricted number of tests done in most countries, India included. In about a month after restrictions on testing were loosened, the number of tests in the U.S. crossed one million on March 30. While this may be a huge number, there is still a bottleneck in the number of people being tested.

Besides missing out those exhibiting mild symptoms and under-reporting by countries, there is accumulating evidence suggesting that a “substantial fraction” of people infected with the virus are asymptomatic. For instance, in South Korea, more than 20% of asymptomatic cases did not develop symptoms during hospitalisation. If in Italy the virus was spreading silently for about 50 days before the first case was reported on February 20, in Iceland, nearly half of the 20% who tested positive for the virus were either asymptomatic or showed only mild symptoms. The South China Morning Post said more than 43,000 people in China who tested positive by end-February were asymptomatic and unreported.
In India, it is important to test travellers and trace and monitor their contacts. Otherwise, there remains the risk of continued spread once the lockdown is withdrawn.

GS 3
➢ Technology

Q – How is Google pitching in on tracking People’s Movement?

BACKGROUND = The analysis of location data from billions of Google users’ phones is the largest public dataset available to help health authorities assess if people are abiding with government orders issued to rein in the virus. Like the detection of traffic jams or traffic measurement Google Maps, the new reports will use “aggregated, anonymised” data from users who have activated their location history. No “personally identifiable information,” such as an individual’s location, contacts or movements, will be made available.

The reports on users’ movements in 131 countries will be made available on a special website and will “chart movement trends over time by geography”, according to a post on one of Google’s blogs. Trends will display a “percentage point increase or decrease in visits” to locations like parks, shops, homes and places of work, not “the absolute number of visits.

For example, in France, visits to restaurants, cafes, shopping centres, museums or theme parks have plunged by 88% from their normal levels, the data showed. Italy and Spain, two of the hardest-hit countries, both saw visits to retail and recreation locations such as restaurants and movie theatres plunge 94%. The U.K. had declines of more than 80% while India, which went into a sudden 21-day lockdown on March 25, was also notable at 77%.

➢ Environment

Q – Discuss the ‘Janata Curfew’ Impact Report by CPCB?

BACKGROUND = The ongoing lockdown has pushed pollution levels in Delhi to a 5-year low and, across India, the number of cities that recorded ‘good’ on the air quality index (AQI) jumped from 6 — on March 16 — to 30 as on March 29, according to data from the Central Pollution Control Board. AQI was ‘Moderate (101-250)’ in Delhi.

- During the lockdown PM10 and PM2.5 levels were reduced by about 35-40%.
- The cessation of industries contributed to this reduction by 10%, vehicles 10-15% and dust another 10-15%, the organisation calculated.
- As on March 29, a total 91 cities were under ‘Good’ (0-50) and ‘Satisfactory (51-100)’ categories, with 30 cities with ‘Good’ AQI values. However, Lucknow, Muzaffarpur, Kalyan, Guwahati and Singrauli were under ‘Poor’ category during March 25-28.
- High emission levels in Lucknow and Guwahati were noted for PM2.5, attributable to ‘local’ combustion related activities.
- As on March 29, no city was under ‘Poor’ AQI (251-300) category.
Snippets

➤ Economic Development
Foreign investors sell over ₹1 lakh-cr. securities in a month, for first time in history.

• According to market participants, the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic that has affected stocks worldwide is the primary reason for such record outflows as foreign investors shy away from riskier assets and also, emerging markets.

• But domestic institutions save markets the blushes, buying stocks worth ₹55,595 crore in March and arresting a further plunge.

➤ How about this today!?
India to raise Daniel Pearl case’s accused ‘Sheikh Saeed’ acquittal by Sind Court of Pakistan in which of the following platforms?

a. International Court Of Justice
b. United Nations
c. Financial Action Task Force
d. Indian Supreme Court

➤ Hey from Yesterday....

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

Answer: A-3, B- 2, C- 4, D-1