DAILY NEWS DIARY

(DnD)

05.04.2020

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 he carries straight to the exam, rather than over dumping.

Enjoy reading.

Q – How is India making a bounty from Oil Plunge?

INTRO = Brent crude prices had been declining in an unprecedented manner, touching an 18-year low. Earlier this year, Saudi Arabia and Russia had fallen out on agreements to cut production which would have kept oil prices up.

Indian Oil Prices

The country’s oil bill may have fallen in the recent past and could remain low if Saudi Arabia and Russia meet and discuss the plunging price of oil, which has been again postponed to April 8 or 9 to allow more time for negotiations. Yet, Indian prices of petrol and diesel have remained steady.

Even before the virus-induced lockdown paralysed the economy, the government had been battling a fiscal deficit problem. The nearly four-year-old Goods and Services Tax has not immediately yielded robust collections; consumer demand has fallen and there have been calls to put more money in the hands of the consumer, fuelling expectation of a tax cut. The Centre could not afford a blanket cut in income tax rates but it did offer taxpayers the option of moving to a lower tax slab without deductions or rebates.

With international oil prices declining, the government has used the opportunity to keep end-user fuel prices stable while increasing its own prospects for collection. With consumer inflation being largely influenced by poorer supply of specific food items, and not necessarily by rising fuel prices, the government has chosen to keep Indian end-user fuel prices stable.

Before the COVID-19 lockdown was announced on March 24, there were reports that the most recent duty hike would give the Centre ₹43,000 crore for the fiscal year 2020-21.
Q – All about Clusters and Contact Tracing?

INTRO = A **disease cluster** is defined as “an aggregation of cases in an identifiable subpopulation. The word ‘cases’ in the definition stands for people with similar symptoms or a medical condition and ‘subpopulation’ points to those who share or belong to the same space, time, family, workplaces, etc. Reports show that the novel corona virus can travel about six feet from a diseased person and cause infection between two and four individuals. Thus, when people congregate in a place — typically for worship/shopping/commute — the chance of a disease spread multiplies, resulting in a cluster of cases.

All patients who belong to a disease cluster need not have shared space and time. For instance, a person who picks up the infection from a co-passenger during a flight may infect a taxi driver who picks him up from the airport. Such **secondary transmissions** also belong to the same cluster with the primary source being the passenger.

**Contact Tracing**

Early detection and isolation of patients and contact tracing are important to contain the spread the virus. However, the existence of presymptomatic or asymptomatic transmission adds a new layer of complexity and challenge in tracing contacts. In China, researchers had in a study suggested that 12.6% of transmission was presymptomatic, Where, the “virus was transmitted through the air from one or more people without symptoms”.

The above findings suggest that to control the pandemic it might not be enough for only persons with symptoms to limit their contact with others because persons without symptoms might transmit infection. Finally, these findings underscore the importance of physical distancing in the public health response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

➢ **How about this today!?**

Which of the following is an incorrect reason as to why it matters to the U.S. about how much oil its competitors produce?

a. Because U.S may go bankrupt given the falling Oil Prices globally
b. Because Frecking, U.S’s source of Oil Production does not come cheap
   c. Because there is still a staggering quantity of oil left in the world to be extracted
   d. Because of global effect of the Oil’s rout

➢ **Hey from Yesterday….**

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

**Answer:** Financial Action Task Force