DAILY NEWS DIARY

(DnD)

06.04.2020

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 – Discuss Pakistan Issue with ‘Mockery of Justice’?

Current Scenario -

Ruling by the Sindh High Court that overturned the conviction of Omar Saeed Sheikh, and three others, of murdering American journalist Daniel Pearl, for lack of evidence is scandalous in its utter disregard for criminal jurisprudence.

This is sophistry at its best and speaks eloquently of the systematic way the case has been diluted from the beginning. Pearl, then South Asian Bureau Chief of The Wall Street Journal, was abducted in Karachi in January 2002, in an operation managed by Omar Sheikh, who had demonstrated links to, among others, Pakistani militant groups as well as to al-Qaeda. Pearl had been baited while investigating links between al-Qaeda and the British ‘Shoe Bomber’ Richard Reid, who tried, in mid-air on a flight, to light explosives in his shoes on December 21, 2001, just two months previously. Many ransom demands later, a video was handed over on February 21, 2002, wherein Pearl was shown being methodically beheaded with a knife.

The Sindh government has extended Sheikh’s detention and the provincial prosecutor has said that the High Court ruling will be appealed in the Supreme Court. But these moves could be aimed at blunting growing international opprobrium. It is likely that once the pressure eases, Sheikh and his cohorts will be let off as has happened with others before them. Pakistan’s record of leniency on this has been as consistent as it has been alarming –
1) In 2015, Zakiur Rehman Lakhvi, who supervised the 26/11 Mumbai attacks, was released from detention, and remains free.

GS 2

➢ Social Justice

Q - ICMR’s Free Anti-body testing for Hotspots and related updates?

BACKGROUND = The Central government has decided to provide free testing and treatment of COVID-19 under the Ayushman Bharat Scheme.

This, it notes, will help more than 50 crore Ayushman beneficiaries due to the partnership with Private Hospitals across all states & also avail timely and standard treatment.

The total number of positive cases has risen to 3,374 in India. Thus, The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) said the rapid antibody-based blood test for COVID-19 will be deployed in clusters and hotspots for COVID-19 using real-time reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) & at the same time, we are expecting delivery of rapid test kits (blood-based).

Further details about the tests being –

1) Treatment of COVID-19 by private hospitals will be covered under AB-PMJAY.

2) The empanelled hospitals can use their own authorised testing facilities or tie up with an authorised testing facility for the scheme.

3) These tests would be carried out as per the protocol set by Indian Council for Medical Research (ICMR) and by private labs approved/registered by the ICMR.

4) Information on symptoms, testing and treatment for the disease can be accessed from the website of the Health Ministry and by calling the national COVID-19 helpline 1075.

Thus the objective of the decision was to increase the supply of testing and treatment facilities and increase access by roping in the private sector through AB-PMJAY scheme as per the ICMR guidelines.

➢ International Relations

Q – How does an U.S. Aid Cut to Afghanistan reflect Trump’s determination to bring U.S. forces home from the longest conflict in American history?

ANS = A planned $1 billion cut in U.S. aid to Afghanistan would come from funds for Afghan security forces and threatened to slash the same amount next year to try to force Afghan President Ashraf Ghani and his political rival Abdullah Abdullah to end a feud that has stalled U.S.-led peace-making efforts in Afghanistan.

- The $1 billion would come from a $4.2 billion Pentagon fund that underwrites about three quarters of the Afghan security forces’ annual budget.

- And thus, the former U.S military official said - $1 billion U.S. aid cut this year and next would be detrimental to Afghan security forces’ ability to fight the Taliban. And thus reminding and arguing that this money is needed to maintain the U.S.-backed government’s ability to fight the Taliban while preserving its bargaining power in peace talks.
Snippets

International Relations
The Mystery of Germany’s low fatality rates.
• With 1,295 deaths, Germany’s fatality rate stood at 1.4% compared with 12% in Italy; around 10% in Spain, France and Britain; 4% in China; and 2.5% in the United States
• Early, aggressive testing, well-equipped ICUs, and faith in the government resulted in a remarkably low death count due to COVID-19.

How about this today!?  
India after the Tablighi Incident, is believed to be in which stage of Covid-19 by ICMR?
   a. Outbreak  b. Local Transmission  c. Community transmission  e. Pandemic

Hey from Yesterday....
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

Answer: d