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

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**Essay Paper**

**Editorial**

**Q – UN’s relevance in ending the pandemic. Discuss?**

**INTRO =** The World Health Organization (WHO) is not equipped to fight a pandemic of this proportion. Its responsibility is to monitor threats to public health and inform and advise the member states. The fight against COVID-19 has to be on a war footing. For this we need a composite force that has the capabilities of massive sanitisation, testing, hospitalisation and providing support systems. The only UN body which has the training for assembling fighting forces for emergencies is the Department of Peace Operations. That is –

**A force under Chapter VII**

The first step will be to pass a resolution to take action to end the crisis and authorise the Secretary General to request member states to make personnel available, along with other resolutions -

- The UN Security Council (UNSC) should hold an emergency meeting and authorise the UN Secretary General to put together a force under Chapter VII of the UN Charter.
- Member states should be requested to send not only troops, but also police, health workers and equipment.
- There is some delicacy about deploying the army internally in different political systems, but UN forces have been acceptable in most countries.
- Only A UN force can enforce social distancing and lockdowns to prevent a catastrophe.
- As for the cost, the responsibility for the deployment of forces for peacekeeping, peace building and peace enforcement is that of the permanent members. Instead of competing with each other for leadership of the post-COVID-19 world, let them help create a post-COVID-19 world.
The UN peacekeeping forces are called Blue Berets because of the colour of the caps that they wear. The health force can have caps of another colour, probably red. **The launch of the Red Berets will be a historic action to be taken at a critical moment.** The UN’s relevance will be established and there will be concrete action taken to end the pandemic.

**GS 2**

- Governance

Q – Explain Kerala Expert’s ‘3 Phase’ Ease of Curb and the need for it?

**BACKGROUND** = With the total cases rising to 5,194 and 149 deaths, with 402 patients recovered. The Union Health Ministry on Wednesday said building hospital infrastructure, aggressive contact tracing and total enforcement of the lockdown with the help of people were the main focus now in the fight against COVID-19. The need for a phased exit from lockdown comes with 18 states having recorded at least one death and with the most number of cases have been reported from Maharashtra (1,135), followed by Tamil Nadu (738) and Delhi (576).

The Phased relaxation of the lockdown to contain COVID-19 is also for areas outside the seven hotspot districts in the State. “It should be borne in mind that the phased withdrawal is sustainable only if there is a steady recovery and decline in the number of cases leading to initial flattening of the infection curve and then gradual tapering of the curve to zero infection cases”. With the Criteria for relaxation being –

**Phase I relaxation**

For qualifying for Phase 1 relaxation, there has to be not more than one new case in the district for the entire week prior to the date of review on April 14. No increase more than 10% of the number of persons under home surveillance in the district and no hotspots of COVID-19 anywhere in the district as identified by the Health Department are the other criteria fixed.

**Phase II relaxation**

A district will qualify for Phase II relaxation at the time of second review only if there is no more than one new case for the entire fortnight prior to the date of review. Not more than a 5% increase in the number of persons under home surveillance from the date of the previous review and no infection hotspots are the additional criteria.

**Phase III relaxation**

A district will qualify for Phase III relaxation only if there is no new case of infection in that district for the fortnight prior to the date of review. Also, a decrease of more than 5% of the number of persons under home surveillance from the date of the previous review and no hotspots anywhere in the district are needed.

**With the Restrictions to be followed being –**
GS 3

Economic Development

Q – What is the phased reopening plan of Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)?

BACKGROUND = The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) has suggested to the government to follow a phased reopening plan with sectors such as manufacturing and construction, that provide mass employment, re-started first. The CII also sought a fiscal support package for FY21 limited to 2% of the GDP to support the lowest strata and the informal sector and ₹2 lakh crore be transferred to JAM account holders. For lifting the lockdown, the industry body has pitched for a “re-start calendar” across cities and States, based on a dashboard that can monitor curves of various key cities and States.

- In phase 1, it said sectors where work-from-home is difficult and which provide mass employment could be re-started to protect low-wage employment. They include manufacturing and transport.

- In phase 2, which could start 2-3 weeks after phase 1, other sectors could be allowed to start. “The ramp up could be 50% employees to start with, for about three weeks. This could be increased gradually, based on how the curves are progressing in various cities and States.”

Other Aspects –

- On relief for businesses, the CII said rather than the government giving direct subsidies to industry, enterprises should be supported through banks via enhanced credit limits for working capital, additional working capital limits — equivalent to April-June wage bill of the borrowers, backed by a government guarantee at 4-5% with a refinance guarantee from the RBI. Additional reconstruction term loans can be given to MSMEs and stressed sectors.

- There is also a need to pre-empt failure in the banking sector. Stating the economy cannot afford a bank collapse, the CII proposed the government set up a fund of ₹30,000 crore “that could be used by banks that meet certain criteria and under specified conditions.

- To get back migrant workers, the CII suggested a COVID-19 insurance scheme for three months for which part cost could be borne by the government and part by the industry, besides an aggressive ‘messaging’ campaign.

- On the economic front, the CII said it expects GDP growth for the current fiscal to be no more than about 2% with a downward bias.

Snippets

GS 2

➢ Social Justice

Pandemic & Gender Dimension.

Data from 40 countries, which do share such data and compiled by GlobalHealth5050, an independent research initiative that tracks gender and health, suggest that the gender-split in all countries is roughly 50-50, barring two exceptions: India and Pakistan. 72% of our neighbour’s 4,004 cases have been confirmed in men.

The graph plots the share of male patients against that of the women patients among the total cases.
How about this today!?

Which amongst the following are contributing factors for the Rupee’s Fall 70 Paise against the dollar?

A. Rising Crude Prices
B. Volatility in the markets
C. Nation Lockdown
D. Strengthening of Dollar Index

a. B alone                               b. A,C
c. A, B, C                               d. All of the above

Hey from Yesterday....

RBI eased rules of _____, for the states to tide over their cash flow mismatch due to the lockdown?

Answer: Over Draft