DAILY NEWS DIARY

(DnD)

13.04.2020

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 be carried 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 – Is the Lockdown putting Women’s safety at higher risk?**

INTRO = The United Nations recognises domestic violence against women as a “shadow pandemic”. The COVID-19 pandemic has triggered a huge spike in domestic violence against women in China, Australia, France, the U.K., Spain, and Bangladesh, among others. In India, too, the National Commission for Women has reported a large increase in distress calls from victims of domestic violence since the pandemic broke out.

Domestic violence can be verbal, financial, psychological and sexual. It includes the abuser withholding financial or medical assistance. Women are most often the caregivers for those quarantined at home and already infected with the virus, which makes them more vulnerable to contracting the disease. Domestic violence is rooted in the inequities of power and control. The abusers feel an enormous loss of power and control over their own lives due to the pandemic. They vent their frustration on the women in the house. Mental health issues arise out of isolation as well as reactive depression, but instead of recognising these issues and seeking help, people become violent.

Current Situation -

It is well-documented that during a war, a natural disaster or a pandemic, women’s bodies bear the worse brunt of the crisis. Domestic violence against women is already widespread and under-reported in India. The national strategy against COVID-19 emphasises that home is the safest place to be. Ironically, for domestic violence victims, home is the most unsafe place to be quarantined as they are forced to live with their abusers.
Tragically, traditional forms of support are now not available to domestic violence victims. They don’t go to their parental homes for fear of infecting elderly parents. Shelter homes are crowded and so they are vulnerable to greater infection there. The police force is already overburdened with ensuring that people comply with the lockdown. Hospitals do not have the space or time to look at domestic violence cases.

Nevertheless, it is vital for policymakers to address the needs of these women, with Priority measures to help domestic violence victims, without detracting from the overall anti-COVID-19 strategy of lockdown, should be initiated by the government, and steps to protect victims of domestic violence be made a part of overall anti-COVID-19 action plans.

For ex - In Spain and France, women can go to a pharmacy and request a “Mask 19” — a code word that will alert the pharmacist to contact the authorities.

And in India the measures can be majorly divided into 2 categories –

1) Technology Based – UN Women has said that “help lines, psychosocial support and online counselling should be boosted, using technology-based solutions such as SMS, online tools and networks to expand social support”.

2) Personal Reach out = and to reach women with no access to phones or Internet.

Other priorities include –

3) Sensitising to a more responsive police force, and other government agencies that are not dismissive of domestic violence complaints.

4) Reporting Social media posts mocking and patronising angry or “suffering” men in isolation who are helping in housework

5) The electronic media can raise awareness in regional language infomercials, since domestic violence is a crime under the Indian Penal Code.

6) SOS messaging to police alrea Maharashtra – Tamil Nadu – Delhi – Telangana

GS 2

International Relations

Q - Logjam over the U.S. President’s memorandum on Visa Sanctions?

BACKGROUND = According to the Department of Homeland Security’s 2018 survey, Indians constitute one of the largest groups of illegal aliens in the U.S., numbering an estimated 4,70,000 who had entered by 2015.

Now, Trump orders to impose visa sanctions on countries that don’t take back illegal “aliens” in the U.S. within a week, which specifically clashes with New Delhi’s decision to restrict all passengers, including Indian citizens from any other country, owing to the corona virus pandemic.

The Indian government is “engaged” in talks with the U.S. administration to reconsider President Donald Trump’s orders, as if Washington refuses to relent on its seven-day deadline, or New Delhi refuses to lift the ban on incoming travel within the week, Indians could face a major cut in U.S. visas granted this year.

India’s Take on the Issue –

India had been cooperating with the U.S. to repatriate illegal Indian nationals from the U.S. as it is the government’s policy “not to encourage illegal immigration to any country”. And also explained that given the current situation like all incoming international travel, the deportation of illegal immigrants to India has also been affected by the lockdown and COVID-19-related travel restrictions.

However, the Trump administration has pushed for India to tighten its controls on emigration, and accept more
deportations in the past few years and now all the more, with a threat to impose the Visa Sanctions.

- Social Justice

1. Q – What are the needs of People with Special Disabilities during the Virus Outbreak?

INTRO = India is home to nearly 150 million people with some degree of disability. The unique challenges that people with disability face are as diverse as –

1) People with visual impairment and blindness depend upon touch for most of their daily activities. They need to hold the hand of an escort to move around; they cannot read the messages that the rest of the population can see; they cannot practice social distancing unless there are innovative approaches like keeping a safe distance using a white cane.

2) For the hearing impaired, especially those who are not literate, they cannot hear the message or read it. Since many depend on lip-reading, they are compromised when the person giving a message is wearing a mask. None of the messages in the media is using sign language interpreters.

3) The physically disabled cannot reach a wash basin or may not be able to wash their hands vigorously.

4) Children and adolescents with conditions like cerebral palsy or Down’s Syndrome need to be assisted in feeding. People with mental health issues cannot comprehend the messages.

5) Women with disability have additional issues. They are vulnerable to exploitation and even more so during a pandemic.

6) At the same time, people with disabilities have a higher risk of conditions such as diabetes and hypertension, which are high-risk factors for COVID-19 mortality. Where the family members and carers are not supported to care for them.

Since India has signed up to achieve sustainable development goals, the cornerstone of which is universal access to health and education and equity –

1) The government and the organisations working with people with disabilities have to make efforts to convert prevention and care messages on COVID-19 into an accessible format.

2) Health facilities should prioritise the needs of people with disabilities over the rest of the population. Decreasing waiting time in hospitals for them will reduce contact with other asymptomatic carriers of the novel coronavirus.

3) Their medicine needs have to be provided for.

4) Mobile health teams can provide them services at their homes rather than having them travel to hospitals.

5) A dedicated helpline can be set up for this so that the medical team can reach them. They need to be assured of supplies of soap, sanitizers and tissues.

6) The general public needs to be educated on providing support for people with disabilities.

7) Civil society should volunteer their time to provide this sort of support.

Nobody is addressing the special needs of people with disabilities and making efforts at reaching out to them. We would fail as a human race if we don’t show a humane response in an equitable manner with affirmative action for people with disabilities. “Inclusive society is the need of the hour.”

2. Q – Disinfectant Walkways, that will became a part of people’s lives post the Corona virus outbreak. Discuss?

BACKGROUND = In an attempt at providing new technologies to contain the spread of COVID-19, the Central Mechanical Engineering Research Institute (CMERI), Durgapur, Kolkata, a laboratory of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), has developed low-cost disinfection walkways.
The walkway, which costs about ₹1.5 lakh on an average, can be easily installed in critical locations such as isolation/quarantine facilities, mass transit system entry points and medical centres.

Disinfectant Walkways –
They use mist type spray ensuring maximum target coverage with minimum shadow area of an individual. The base liquid is sodium hypochlorite along with which soap and ethanol are added. In certain cases, if people are allergic to chlorine, the liquid can be changed to iodine-based solutions. Depending on how much chemicals are used, the walkways can sanitise a person in 20 to 30 seconds.

Two Variants –
Both the Pneumatic Variant Disinfection Walkway and Hydraulic Variant Disinfection Walkway are cost-effective and can be easily installed.
CMERI have already got orders from the local municipal corporation like Asansol and Durgapur and some schools in the region. Recently, Nobel Laureate Abhijit Banerjee had suggested sanitising the markets, for which the CMERI-built road sanitisers can be used. Emphasising that these walkways will become a part of people’s lives post the coronavirus outbreak, Mr. Hirani (D-G of CMERI) said the variants made by the CMERI could be easily customised.

Snippets
GS 2
- Security
  First batch of Rafales likely to fly in late, due to the effect of the Pandemic.
  - Likely to be delayed by around three months due to the COVID-19 pandemic, as France battles rising infections and deaths, and continuing lockdown restrictions, which have also impacted the training schedule.
  - Followed by any restrictions on flights and personnel coming from Europe imposed by India, we could be looking at July [for the arrival of the aircraft], adding that the timeframe is not clear yet.

- How about this today!?
  Identify the ascending order of Indian states below with highest number of active cases and deaths related to Covid-19 thus far?
  a. Maharashtra – Tamil Nadu – Delhi – Telangana
  b. Maharashtra – Uttar Pradesh – Kerala – Tamil Nadu
  c. Telangana – Delhi – Tamil Nadu – Maharashtra
  d. Delhi – Haryana – Kerala - Maharsashtra

- Hey from Yesterday....
  ‘The advance Voting System’ introduced in 2013, having designed for an epidemic era election is currently in use at?
  Answer: South Korea