Dear Student,

Warm Greetings.

➢ DnD aims to provide everyday 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 – Accessing Justice online during pandemic. Discuss?**

INTRO = With Indian courts too under a lockdown, citizens have severely restricted access to justice for this period. However, the deeper malaise is the complete inability of the conventional court system to deliver timely justice. This shakes the very foundation of the polity on which we rest our constitutional promises.

However, technology now provides us an opportunity to meet the challenge head-on. The Kerala High Court did exactly that on March 30, 2020. It created history by not only conducting proceedings through video conferencing but also live streaming the proceedings. The judges conducted the hearing from their homes. Nearly 30 urgent matters were taken up for hearing, including bail applications and writ petitions, and were disposed of. This is truly epochal. This example must be institutionalised and eternalised through –

- **Blue Print for e-courts** = Establish an effective task force consisting of judges, technologists, court administrators, skill developers and system analysts to draw up a blueprint for institutionalising online access to justice. Such a task force must be charged with the responsibility of establishing hardware, software and IT systems for courts; examining application of artificial intelligence benefiting from the database generated through e-courts projects; establishing appropriate e-filing systems and procedures; and creating skill training and recognition for paralegals to understand and to help advocates and others to access the system to file their cases and add to their pleadings and documents as the case moves along.
Once the blueprint is ready, the High Courts across the country may refer the same to the Rule Committee of the High Court to frame appropriate rules to operationalise the e-court system.

- **Awareness** regarding the How, What, Where - amongst the beneficiaries about these programmes. If all this information is provided comprehensively at the grassroots levels and made available online in as many Indian languages as possible, it could be a huge step in creating awareness.

- **A system** must be set in place for the applicant to lodge online complaints with the Legal Services Authorities who can then ensure accountability and effective implementation.

- The local panchayat, municipal or corporation office, or any well-intentioned NGO can **assist the complainant to make these online complaints** to the Legal Services Authority if the complainant is unable to do so directly.

- **Other facilities** that would help access to justice are online mediation, arbitration, counselling in family court matters, quick settlement of disputed insurance claims, and many more.

- India is a land where skilled human resource is rarely lacking. If we can pick up the will power to do all of the above, justice will become an accessible concept to everyone, while simultaneously reducing the burden on conventional courts.

**GS 2**

**Governance**

**Q - The India Child Protection Fund (ICPF)'s role in clamping down on the Paedophiles?**

**BACKGROUND** = The ICPF was set up in January 2020 and aims to support NGOs with funding resources for curbing exploitation of children. ICPF citing data from Porn Hub, world’s largest pornography website - Traffic from India increased by 95% between March 24 and 26, as compared to average traffic before the lockdown.

Online child pornography traffic after the lockdown in the country has gone up by 95% with online data monitoring websites showing an increase in demand for searches like “child porn”, “sexy child” and “teen sex videos”, making the Internet extremely unsafe for children. Without stringent action, this could result in a drastic rise in sexual crimes against children. **Where paedophiles and child pornography addicts have increased activity to target children online to ‘groom’ them — befriending them on social media, building an emotional connection and luring them to perform sexual activities through photos and videos.**

**Statistics** –

In a survey conducted in December on demand for child pornography in 100 cities, the ICPF found that on an average there were 5 million downloads per month. It also pointed out there was an increase in demand for violent content involving children.

**Protective Measures** –

- It demands an urgent crackdown on child pornography through a pan-India tracker through the use of artificial intelligence which can monitor hosting, sharing, viewing and downloading of child sexual abuse material and provide the information to the government agencies.

**GS 3**

**Economic Development**

**Q – Trends in Retail Inflation due to the Pandemic?**

**BACKGROUND** = Keeping in view the preventive measures taken by NSO and announcement of a nationwide lockdown..., field work for price collection of CPI was suspended... from 19th March, 2020 and about 66% of price quotations were received. For assessing the
price behavior of remaining price quotations, NSO follows well established and internationally accepted methodology and practices. Thus, the listed trends in different types of inflations are –

1) Retail inflation dropped to 5.91% in March from the 6.58% in February, mostly on a drop in food prices, according to the Consumer Price Index data released by the National Statistical Office. With low crude oil prices and sharp slowdown in the economy, CPI inflation is expected to fall further. Weak demand side pressure on inflation would outweigh any supply side bottlenecks in the near-term.

2) Food inflation fell to 8.76% in March, in comparison with the 10.81% in February.

3) Vegetable price inflation saw the sharpest fall, dropping from 32% to 19% over the course of a month.

   - Spices and prepared food, snacks and sweets were the only food categories that saw a slight increase in prices.

Snippets

GS 2

➢ Social Justice

Employment under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) has collapsed to 1%.

- With worksites closed, activists urge SC to ensure wages for all those registered (Overall, 7.6 crore families hold active job cards under the scheme, and almost 5.5 crore families found work under the scheme last year.)

How about this today!?

Which of the following is untrue regarding OPEC Group?

a. Its headquarters are located in Bagdad, Iran
b. It was formed with the signing of an agreement in September 1960
c. The founding members are namely Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Yemen.
d. Saudi Arabia is the largest oil producing country in OPEC

Hey from Yesterday....

’Identify the ascending order of Indian states below with highest number of active cases and deaths related to Covid-19 thus far?

Answer: Telangana – Delhi – Tamil Nadu – Maharashtra