DAILY NEWS DIARY

(DnD)

02.04.2020

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.

THE HINDU - TH
INDIAN EXPRESS - IE
BUSINESS LINE - BL
ECONOMIC TIMES - ET
TIMES OF INDIA - TOI

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Essay Paper

Editorial

Q – Supreme Court’s faulty choice of examining the Humanitarian Dimension of the Crisis?

INTRO = There are two aspects to the Supreme Court’s limited intervention in response to the humanitarian crisis. The SC in a brief order has –

1) First, underscored the need for kindness by the police and the authorities in the way they treat the workers and their families.
2) Second, it has uncritically accepted the official narrative that “fake news” about the duration of the lockdown being “three months” caused a panic reaction from migrant workers across States.

It is disappointing that the Court finds credible the government’s claim about “fake news” being the main factor behind the exodus. While, It was quite obvious that the -

1) short notice of just four hours for the lockdown to take effect,
2) the lack of planning and coordination with the States,
3) shutting down all the businesses, asking them to pay the employees full salaries and now also insisting on the private businesses to donate to the PM-CARES fund,
4) the fears of the people(Migrant workers, Informal sector workers) about being left without cash and running out of food,
5) And worries about their families back home were the principal reasons.
Thus significantly, the recent SC order flags the penal provisions in the law for punishing those who disseminate information amounting to false alarm or disobedience to a public servant’s instructions. Implicit in this prayer was an attempt to control information rather than asking more probing questions on the way government is handling the pandemic. Thus, it would be in the fitness of things if SC asked more searching questions of the government and ensured greater accountability in these distressing times.

GS 2

- Governance

Q – Issues with the Centre’s J&K Domicile Rules?

BACKGROUND = The Union government has issued a notification defining “domiciles” in the new Union Territory (UT) of Jammu and Kashmir for protecting jobs in the Group D category and entry-level non-gazetted posts.

The order defines a domicile as one “who has resided for a period of 15 years in the UT of J&K or has studied for a period of seven years and appeared in Class 10th /12th examination in an educational institution located in the UT of J&K or who is registered as a migrant by the Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner (Migrants).”

The Changes Include –

1) The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) makes changes to the Public Safety Act (PSA) by removing a clause that prohibited J&K residents booked under the Act to be lodged in jails outside.
2) The notification scraps all pension benefits such as car, driver, accommodation, phones, electricity, medical facilities and rent-free accommodation to former J&K Chief Ministers.
3) The order says the domiciles will be eligible “for the purposes of appointment to any post carrying a pay scale of not more than Level 4”.
4) The reservation for domiciles would not apply to Group A and Group B posts, and like other UTs, recruitment would be done by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC).

Opposed by J&K’s Political Parties leaders, Altaf Bhukari of JKAP says “This order is a casual attempt, cosmetic in nature, to hoodwink the people of J&K genuinely believed that post October 31, 2019 their rights and privileges in the matter of employment and other rights would remain as it was”.

GS 3

- Economic Development

Q – RBI’s new measures to fight economic disruptions caused by COVID-19?

BACKGROUND = RBI introduces 3 measures such as – relaxing export rules, allowing States and UTs to borrow more and deferring the implementation of CCyB for Banks. Whose further details are –

1) In view of the disruption caused by the pandemic, the time period for realisation and repatriation of export proceeds for exports made up to or on July 31, 2020, has been extended to 15 months from the date of export. The measure will enable exporters to realise their receipts, especially from COVID-19 affected countries, within the extended period, and also provide greater flexibility to exporters to negotiate future export contracts with buyers abroad.
2) The central bank has also formed an advisory committee to review the ways and means limit for State governments and union territories.
Pending submission of the final recommendations by the Committee, it has been decided to increase the WMA limit by 30%. (The ‘Ways and Means Advances’ is a scheme that helps meet mismatches in receipts and payments of the government. Under this scheme, a government can avail itself of immediate cash from the RBI).

3) Based on the review and empirical analysis of CCyB indicators, it has been decided that it is not necessary to activate CCyB for a period of one year or earlier, as may be necessary (CCyB is the capital to be kept by a bank to meet business cycle related risks. It is aimed to protect the banking sector against losses from changes in economic conditions).

**Disaster Management**

**Q – DRDO’s contributions in the fight against the Epidemic?**

A laboratory under the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has made arrangements for –

1) making 20,000 five-layered Nanotechnology masks N99 a day
2) minor modification of ventilators so that one machine could support four patients at a time
3) 50,000 litres of sanitizers were supplied to various security entities, including the Delhi Police and other one lakh litres distributed all over the country.

4) Separate hospitals have been identified to exclusively deal with COVID-19 and more than 9,000 hospital beds were available.
5) Over 1,000 evacuees are quarantined at facilities in Jaisalmer, Jodhpur, Chennai, Manesar, Hindan and Mumbai
6) Besides airlifting tonnes of medical supplies, regular airlift of COVID-19 test samples from Ladakh to Delhi was being undertaken
7) 8,500 doctors and support staff were available to extend necessary assistance to the civilian administration. On providing assistance to neighbouring countries, he said that “assistance to Nepal in the form of medical equipment will be delivered shortly.

8) Navy chief Admiral Karambir Singh said naval ships were on a standby to extend any assistance.
9) Retired health professionals have been kept in readiness.
10) Approximately, 25,000 National Cadet Corps (NCC) cadets are being mobilised for local assistance

**Snippets**

**Disaster Management**

World could face a food crisis: UN, WTO, WHO.

Due to –

1) Lockdown causing severe slow-downs in international trade and food supply chains.
2) Panic buying by people going into confinement has already demonstrated the fragility of supply chains as supermarket shelves emptied in many countries
3) Uncertainty about food availability can spark a wave of export restrictions, creating a shortage on the global market

In the midst of the COVID-19 lockdowns, every effort must be made to ensure that trade flows as freely as possible, without any trade-related measures disrupting the food supply chain,” they added.

**Sports**

Wimbledon tennis championship cancelled for the 1st time since WWII, owing to the Pandemic.

**Indian OMC’s have reduced the prices of which of the following?**

- a. Diesel
- b. Petrol
- c. LPG
- d. Both a & b