DAILY NEWS DIARY
(DnD)

11.04.2020

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

Essay Paper

Editorial

Q – Need for a 2nd round of Economic Relief Package. Discuss?

INTRO = As India nears the end of the lockdown period, the serious damage to the economy and livelihoods is beginning to make itself apparent. There is tremendous pressure from industry bodies to opt for a nuanced policy that will help economic activity to restart as they fear a collapse if activity is stopped for another fortnight. Lives could be lost to hunger and livelihoods sacrificed in the lockdown.

Thus, post The ₹1.7-lakh crore package announced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman which accounted for 1% of GDP. India needs a 2nd round of an economic relief package that goes well beyond the first both in terms of the financial commitment and the spread. Out-of-the-box ideas for delivering support and also for raising the required funds might be required. Such as –

1) For starters, it is clear that the government should consign fiscal conservatism to the cupboard for now and go all out to spend and support the economy. Economists are unanimous that there is little option now but to print money and spend. That is exactly what the developed countries are doing. And as a part of the 2nd Economic Relief Package India should spend at least 5% of GDP — about ₹10-lakh crore.

2) The cash transfers to the poor should be hiked to at least ₹3,000 a month for the next three months. This should be in addition to free rations and cooking gas, as was announced earlier.

3) Farmers need logistical support for moving their produce to markets in the harvest season.
4) Lenders, including NBFCs, should be granted freedom to reschedule their loan accounts so that borrowers are not under pressure to repay for fear of turning delinquent. A credit guarantee fund that will support non-delinquent borrowers for the next six months will be a good option. Such a fund can be financed through a domestic bond offering.

5) The bankruptcy code should be suspended for the next six months, at least for MSMEs.

6) And why not a GST holiday for the next three months? Such a move will ease cash flows for business and also obviate the need for statutory compliances at a time when the focus will have to be on getting businesses back on track.

The crisis now is without precedent and the solutions cannot be conservative. Generous support from the government, and quickly delivered, is the need of the hour.

GS 1

➢ Indian Heritage and Culture

Q – Is legendary Ustad – Begum Akhtar’s Era over?

BACKGROUND = Yes, Begum Akhtar’s era with the passing of her disciple singer Shanti Hiranand (1932-2020), first shaken to its core by the passing of Begum Akhtar in 1974, finally comes to an end. Begum Akhtar, in her times did what no other female artiste has done before – marking Shanti Hiranand and Anjali Banerji as formal students and herself as a formal Ustad by conducting a ganda-bandh ceremony.

➢ For nearly five decades Shantiji performed and recorded ghazals, dadras and thumris in the tradition of Begum Akhtar but also diligently taught it to many who wanted to be a part of the great singer’s tradition.

The Begum Akhtar era is formally over. As Shanti sang in her first recording, a Shakeel Badayuni ghazal:

"Fasana e shab e gham khatm hone wala hai
‘Shakeel’ chand sitaron men ji nahin lagta.”

(The story of the night of grief is about to end. ‘Shakeel’, the heart is no longer distracted by the moon or the stars.)

GS 2

➢ Governance

Q – What and How about the North Eastern – “Red Army”?

BACKGROUND = The Assam Frontier (Administration of Justice) Regulation of 1945, under which GBs (the gaon buras (male village elder) and gaon buris (female village elder) are appointed, prescribes the 35-60 age slab. A majority of Arunachal Pradesh’s estimated 9,500 GBs are 60 or more. A head gaon bura, who supervises five GBs, is usually older. Assisting the GBs in Nagaland are the dobashi, the custodians of Naga customary laws who also wear red coats. They have been salaried government employees since 1842 when the British appointed the first dobashis for interpreting Naga dialects into Assamese or Hindi.

The village elders across the States are distinguished by their red coats provided by the government, which also pays them a stipend of ₹1,500 per month and are helping villages across some hill States in the northeast keep the novel corona virus away. “The villagers look up to us in times of crisis as well as happiness. It is our duty to ensure their safety and liaise with the government agencies for guidelines and in maintaining order,” said Tanom Mibang, one of the three GBs of Lileng village in Arunachal Pradesh’s Siang district.

The importance of village veterans was evident from the inclusion of the powers of the GBs in the Constitution. “They are indispensable.”
**GS 2**

**Governance**

Department of Pharmaceuticals warning to the Home Ministry that –

- If the production does not reach the pre-lockdown level soon, it could lead to shortages of medicines and medical devices in the coming weeks, due to –

Thus, calling for suitable measures to be taken “in the right earnest” to prevent this.

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**GS 3**

**Economic Development**

EU strikes €500 billion rescue deal.

- EU Finance Ministers agreed in late-night talks to the rescue package aimed at reducing pain across the 27-nation bloc, especially hardest-hit Italy and Spain.
- France’s economy is expected to shrink 6% this year, even with the country’s own 100-billion-euro relief plan.
- The Netherlands relented and let the deal come through after pushing hard for Italy and other affected countries to undertake economic reforms.

**Economic Development**

Saudi, Russia want oil cuts finalised at G20 talks,

- But efforts to conclude the OPEC+ deal hit the buffers when Mexico refused to sign up in full.
- Top oil nations were finalising a deal at G20 talks on 11-4-2020 for big output cuts to lift prices slammed by the COVID-19 crisis with Russia and Saudi Arabia taking a lion’s share and signs the United States might take unprecedented moves to help. However though the U.S. President has given no public indication Washington would join in the cuts and has instead threatened Saudi Arabia with tariffs and other measures if it did not resolve the oil market crisis.
- Riyadh, Moscow and its allies, which make up the informal OPEC+ group, had forged a pact to curb crude production by the equivalent of 10% of global supplies in marathon talks and said they wanted others to cut a further 5%. But prices failed to rally.
How about this today!

‘The advance Voting System’ introduced in 2013, having designed for an epidemic era election is currently in use at?

a. North Korea  
b. Wisconsin  
c. South Korea  
d. Central African Republic

Hey from Yesterday....

Which of the following Study statements point to community transmission in India?

A. ICMR’s test samples of hospitalised Severe Acute Respiratory Illness (SARI) patients
B. SARI’s positive cases increasing from 0 during 1st week to 2.6% in the 14th week
C. The fact that, 40% of these positive Covid-19 cases lacked any history of contact or international travel
D. The 50-59 age groups were most susceptible for the infection.

Answer: All of the above