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DAILY NEWS DIARY

Of

26.04.2021

FOR PRELIMS AND MAINS

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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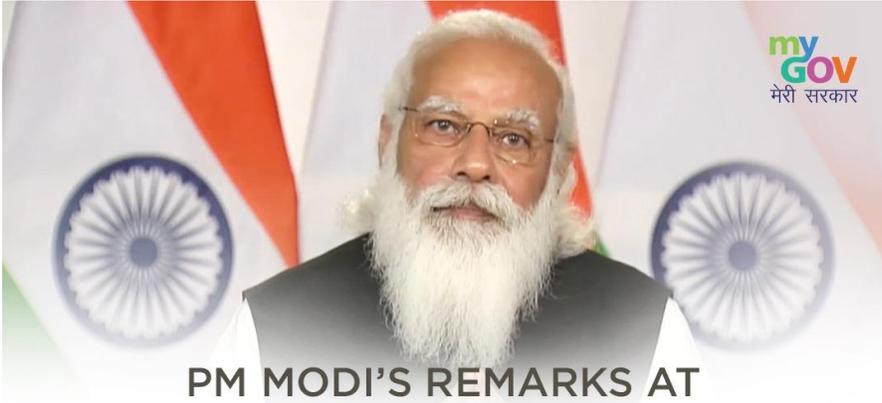
ESSAY PAPER

EDITORIAL

Q- How important is a green partnership now while anticipating a dramatic rise in emissions as countries race to shake off the impact of the coronavirus, as they did after the 2008 financial crisis?

INTRODUCTION = The **U.S.-India Climate and Clean Energy Agenda 2030 Partnership** raises expectations that the coming decade will see sustained financial and technological cooperation between the two countries to cut greenhouse gas emissions.

- At the Leaders Summit on Climate organised by U.S. President Joe Biden, the world's attention was focused on countries responsible for the highest carbon emissions.
- India ranks third, behind the U.S. and China, although its per capita CO2 emissions are less than 60% of the global average.



**PM MODI'S REMARKS AT
LEADERS'
CLIMATE SUMMIT**

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

I would like to thank President Biden for taking this initiative. Humanity is battling a global pandemic right now & this event is a reminder of the grave threat posed by Climate Change

Climate Change is a lived reality. Millions of lives and livelihoods are already facing its adverse consequences

President Biden & I are launching the "India-US climate & clean energy Agenda 2030 partnership". Together, we will help mobilise investments, demonstrate clean technologies, & enable green collaborations

India's per capita carbon footprint is 60% lower than the global average, because our lifestyle is still rooted in sustainable traditional practices

Need -

There is little confidence in a pandemic-stricken world, however, that future growth pathways will be aligned away from fossil fuels. The International Energy Agency, in fact, expects a dramatic rise in emissions as countries race to shake off the impact of the coronavirus, as they did after the 2008 financial crisis.

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Yet, the years to 2030, as President Biden put it, are part of a “decisive decade”, and action to scale up funding and innovation can help all countries move closer to keeping global warming well below 2°C or even 1.5°C, as the Paris Agreement envisages.

India's Commitments -

1. Starting with renewable power expansion to 450 GW.
2. With open source technologies, India could incorporate innovative materials and processes to decarbonise industry, transport and buildings, the biggest emitters, apart from power.
A forward-looking policy should, therefore, envision green development anew, providing funding and green technologies as compensation for the emissions space lost by poorer countries. This is a win-win game, since it would aid sustainable development, boost employment, clean up the environment and, crucially, help all countries emerge healthier from the pandemic.

Global Commitments –

1. British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, who announced enhanced ambition at the summit for Britain to cut carbon emissions by 78% by 2035 over 1990 levels, advanced the agenda by calling for climate funding by rich nations to exceed the decade-old goal of \$100 billion.
2. For the India-U.S. agreement to yield results, Mr. Biden would have to persuade industry and research institutions at home to share knowledge and subsidise transfer of technologies and announcing enhanced ambition: cuts in emissions by 50% to 52% by 2030 over 2005 levels.
But much of this climate effort will rely on executive authority, rather than bipartisan support. With political will on both sides, the engagement with India can become a model.

GS 2

❖ International Relations

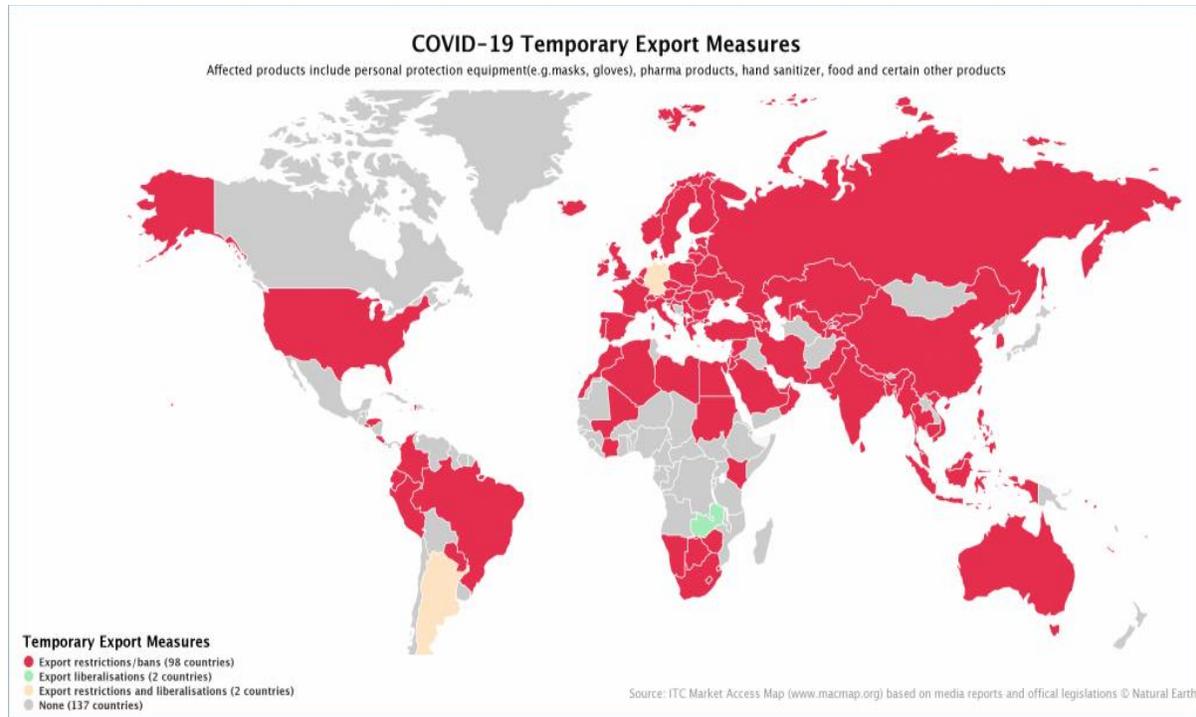
Q- Discuss the co-operability levels between U.S.A and India amidst the surging Covid-19 cases?

BACKGROUND = Earlier this month, Adar Poonawalla, whose company Serum Institute of India (SII) manufactures the vaccine, had publicly appealed to U.S. President Joe Biden to lift export embargoes on raw materials. The administration denied that outright embargoes exist. **As a consequence of the U.S.'s Defense Production Act (emergency powers that allow the government to control private sector production decisions), federal government purchase orders have to be prioritised over foreign orders.**

1. However following other forms of immediate assistance. “To help treat COVID-19 patients and protect front-line health workers in India, **the United States has identified supplies of therapeutics, rapid diagnostic test kits, ventilators, and Personal Protective Equipment [PPE]** that will immediately be made available for India.
2. The United States also is **pursuing options to provide oxygen generation and related supplies on an urgent basis.**
3. The U.S. will immediately deploy supplies and other assistance to India, which will **include making raw materials for COVID-19 vaccine Covishield immediately accessible**
4. However, there was **no mention of the U.S. shipping ready-to-use vaccines.** Over the past week, the Biden administration had faced growing criticism for not doing or saying enough about the situation in India.

The U.S. was “working around the clock” to deploy “available resources and supplies,” The two countries with the greatest number of COVID-19 cases in the world, need co-operation not restriction. An overview of current Export restrictions across the world -

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5. The U.S. will also **expand financing for BioE**, a Hyderabad-based firm, to ramp up production to meet requirements of a vaccine supply programme that is being rolled out by the Quad. It will also deploy a team of experts to work with the U.S. Embassy in India.
6. Additionally, the United States is **deploying an expert team of public health advisers from the Centers for Disease Control [CDC] and USAID to work in close collaboration with the U.S. Embassy, India's health ministries, and India's epidemic intelligence service staff.** USAID will also quickly work with the CDC to support and fast-track the mobilisation of emergency resources available to India through the Global Fund.
"Just as India sent assistance to the United States as U.S. hospitals were strained early in the pandemic, the United States is determined to help India in its time of need."

❖ International Relations

Q- Role of Russia's aid in India's tough time fighting the pandemic?

BACKGROUND = Russia is planning to fly special planes to India with a wide range of COVID-related assistance, including oxygen generators, concentrators and medicines, but it may have to hold off sending the drug remdesivir owing to U.S. patent violations.

- a. Oxygen generating equipment are provided for various purposes, ranging from use in individual homes to nursing homes and hospitals.
- b. As well as drugs such as favipiravir, used to treat milder versions of COVID-19.

The Remdesivir issue -

However, exports of remdesivir, which the Russian government had earlier offered to facilitate, have run into trouble, with the California-based Gilead Sciences Inc., which developed the drug, invoking the U.S. licensing laws. Sources said the Russian side has now conveyed that the drug may not be sent to India unless the issue is resolved.

Earlier reports said Russia had offered to supply 3,00,000-4,00,000 injections of remdesivir to India, which is understood to have triggered an alarm in the U.S., which is already upset with Moscow over

unlicensed production of the drug. Any exports, could invoke stringent U.S. penalties against Russia and even India.

So far, Gilead has signed non-exclusive voluntary licensing agreements with 10 manufacturers based in India, Egypt and Pakistan for remdesivir production, of which seven are Indian companies, but none with Russia. **Demand for the drug has grown worldwide, despite a recommendation from the World Health Organization against its use.**

In India, in the past few weeks, with the number of cases catapulting to record highs, hospitals have run out of **the drug, which is being sold at 10 times the maximum retail price (MRP) in the black market** Remdesivir, which was cleared for COVID-19 treatment by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration in October 2020, is being made in Russia after the government in Moscow decided to defy the international patent held by Gilead, and issued an ordinance allowing Russian company Pharmasintez to manufacture the drug under a “compulsory licence”.

GS 3

❖ Security

Q- What is the Cyber Crime Volunteer Program in India and why is it in recent news?

BACKGROUND = The Union Home Ministry, through its cybercrime grievance portal, cybercrime.gov.in, aims to raise a group of “cybercrime volunteers” to flag “unlawful content” on the Internet. A digital rights group, the Internet Freedom Foundation (IFF), has said the programme enables a culture of surveillance and could create potential social distrust by encouraging civilians to report the online activities of other citizens.

Cyber Crime Volunteers Concept

Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) has been established under Ministry of Home affairs (MHA) to act as a nodal point at National level in the fight against cybercrime. It aims to provide a platform to deal with cybercrimes in a coordinated and comprehensive manner. One of the important objectives of I4C is to create ecosystem that brings together academia, industry, public and government in prevention, detection, investigation and prosecution of cybercrimes.

I4C has envisaged the Cyber Crime Volunteers Program to bring together citizens with passion to serve the nation on a single platform and contribute in fight against cybercrime in the country.

Good Samaritans are welcome to register as Cyber Crime Volunteers in the role of Unlawful Content Flaggers for facilitating law enforcement agencies in identifying, reporting and removal of illegal / unlawful online content.

We also welcome individuals who are willing to volunteer in any other area that can help in fighting cybercrime. The applications shall be received directly by the State Nodal and they shall contact the applicants on an as-needed basis.

The National Cybercrime Ecosystem Management Unit, of which the Cybercrime Volunteers Programme is a constituent, is part of the Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre (I4C) scheme launched by Union Home Minister Amit Shah in January 2020. The project was approved in October 2018 at an estimated

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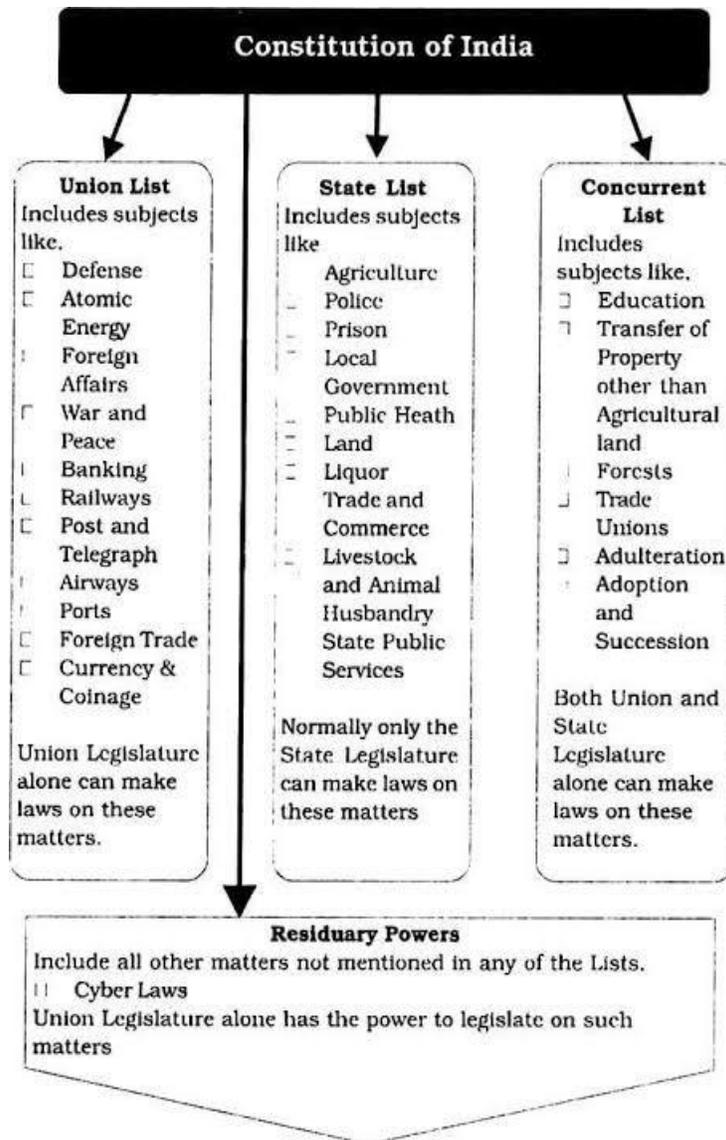
cost of ₹415.86 crore. The I4C scheme that includes other components also has been allocated ₹69.80 crore in the 2021-22 Budget.

In Recent News Because -

In response to a Right to Information Act (RTI) application - on the total number of volunteers who have applied under the Cybercrime Volunteers Programme of the National Cybercrime Reporting Portal, the Ministry said the information could be sought directly from the respective States and Union Territories. Since “police” and “public order” were State subjects in the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution, and the States were primarily responsible for the prevention, detection, investigation and prosecution of crimes through their law enforcement agencies (LEAs).

- Though the Ministry did not provide information in the RTI reply, according to its Output Outcome Monitoring Framework Budget of 2021-22, the programme was expected to include 500 volunteers, 200 “cyber awareness promoters” and 50 “cyber experts”.

For Prelims -





Which of the following statements are correct regarding invoking Section 10(2)(1) and 65 of the Disaster Management Act?

1. The Union Home Ministry wrote to the States prohibiting supply of oxygen for industrial purposes
 2. And that all liquid oxygen, including the existing stock with private plants, should be made available to the government and will be used for medical purposes only.
 3. With an exception for nine industries that include the pharmaceutical, petroleum, nuclear energy and steel sectors.
- a. 1 only
 - b. 2 and 3
 - c. 1 and 3
 - d. All of the above



Consider the following statements regarding capital receipts:

1. It comprises income generated by the Government through taxes and non-tax sources.
2. They generate liability or decrease the financial assets of the government.

Which of the above given statements is/are correct?

- a. 1 only
- b. 2 only
- c. Both 1 and 2
- d. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: B

Explanation: Capital receipts are the borrowings from the RBI and other commercial banks. It also consists of loans from foreign governments and international organization. So it generates liability. It is the revenue receipt through which government generates income through taxes and non-tax sources like interest, dividends on investments.

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