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DAILY NEWS DIARY

Of

27.04.2021

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
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ECONOMIC TIMES - ET
TIMES OF INDIA - TOI

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ESSAY PAPER

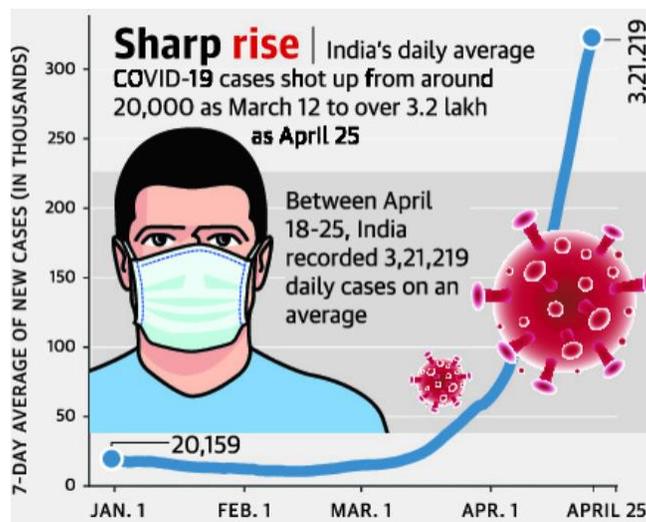
EDITORIAL

Q- Reasons behind the unfair and dangerously swift rise in covid-19 cases in the 2nd wave?

INTRODUCTION = In the midst of a raging second wave, which is touching new peaks each passing day, the Central government has-

1. Abdicated its responsibility to ensure vaccine equity through free vaccination for the poor across all age groups.

While the Union government has already allocated ₹35,000 crore for COVID-19 vaccination in this Budget and also committed to provide further funds if required, it will spend less than ₹10,000 crore to vaccinate for free all above 45 years.



Plight of the states -

2. The State governments were never consulted or given prior notice about the change in vaccination policy

While the sudden change in policy is therefore not due to lack of financial resources, the State governments, which have not factored in funds for vaccination, will now be required to garner funds for the same. There is hence a great compulsion to make pricing more transparent and allow States to collectively bargain for a lower price and assured timelines to receive supplies.

3. Giving the two vaccine manufacturers a free hand to decide the price at which vaccines will be sold to State governments has made universal COVID-19 vaccination a difficult task to achieve.
4. A large percentage of those aged 18-44 years does not have the resources to pay for vaccines and hence will fall through the cracks.
5. So, the States will have to take a leading role in the free immunisation programme. While nearly two dozen States have already committed to vaccinate for free the target population, it remains to be seen if they use any criteria to identify the beneficiaries.
6. **Never before has universal immunisation of nearly 600 million people been left to State governments and the private sector while the Union government restricts itself to vaccinating for free just 300 million.**

Vaccine Inequity -

7. With this precedent, States will probably be required to vaccinate children too, when vaccines become available, thus burdening them even further and thereby actively promoting vaccine inequity.

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8. If making States pay for vaccines is an ill-conceived idea, forcing them to shell out more than what the Union government pays for the same vaccines is a sure recipe for exacerbated vaccine inequity.
9. With vaccination being the only safe way to end the pandemic, undertaking any exercise that leaves a large population unprotected will cost the country enormously in terms of lives and livelihoods.
Vaccine shortage from both manufacturers is likely to last a few months. The combination of policy pandemonium, profiteering by vaccine manufacturers in the thick of the pandemic and vaccine shortage is unlikely to result in a smooth roll-out of vaccines for the target group. This could lead to a dangerous situation where containment and mitigation measures become even more difficult.

GS 3

❖ Economic Development

Q- Discuss the recent regulations brought in the Private Bank's administrative system by the Reserve Bank Of India?

BACKGROUND = The following directives form part of the instructions issued by the RBI with regard to the chair and meetings of the board, composition of certain committees of the board, age, tenure and remuneration of directors, and appointment of the WTDs.

1. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) fixed the tenure of MD, CEO and whole-time director (WTD) in a private sector bank at 15 years
2. And prescribed that no person can continue in such positions beyond the age of 70 years for such functionaries.
3. The maximum age limit for chairman and non-executive directors has been fixed at 75 years.
4. The RBI said it would come out with a Master Direction on Corporate Governance in banks in due course. "The post of the MD & CEO or WTD cannot be held by the same incumbent for more than 15 years.
 - a. Thereafter, the individual will be eligible for re-appointment as MD & CEO or WTD in the same bank, if considered necessary and desirable by the board, after a minimum gap of three years, subject to meeting other conditions.
 - b. It added that during this three-year cooling period, the individual shall not be appointed or associated with the bank or its group entities in any capacity, either directly or indirectly.

Not Powerless

Govt says RBI has enough powers to regulate both public and private sector banks

MULTIPLE POWERS

UNDER BR ACT, 1949, RBI can inspect the bank, its books & its accounts



RBI CAN ORDER

scrutiny of the affairs of the bank

NOMINEE DIRECTOR

is a member of managing committee of PSBs



CALL FOR ANY INFORMATION OF

account details, and direct special audit of the bank

RBI VIEW

RBI governor had earlier said central bank does not have adequate powers over PSU banks

Govt had called for legislative changes to BR Act for more powers

❖ Science & Technology

Q- What role does Project Management Institute have to play in handling the Artificial Intelligence of the country?

BACKGROUND = Project Management Institute's (PMI) **Authorized Training Partners** are organizations that we have approved to offer training in project management and issue professional development units (PDUs) to meet the continuing education requirements needed by PMI credential holders. According to it - **Global enterprises are expected to invest \$98 billion in artificial intelligence (AI) by 2023 and India's share in it will be about \$1 billion.** It is a Philadelphia-based non-profit organisation with about 28,000 individual members in India.

Project Management Institute is the world's leading not-for-profit professional membership association for the project, program and portfolio management profession. Founded in 1969, PMI delivers value for more than 2.9 million professionals working in nearly every country in the world through global advocacy, collaboration, education and research. PMI advances careers, improves organizational success and further matures the profession of project management through its globally recognized standards, certifications, resources, tools academic research, publications, professional development courses, and networking opportunities.

Challenges -

1. However, some \$54 billion — 55% of this proposed global investment — **may go waste due to lack of familiarity or understanding of newer practices, technologies and tools and inability to optimise data.** Consequently, the corresponding wastage in India will be \$484 million
2. Further, **poor management practices alone may lead to global losses of \$11 billion**, that is 11.4% of the total investments of \$98 billion. India's individual share in the losses would be \$81 million.
3. The global failure rate of 55% was applied to India as well, as there was no comparable data available for the country as of now.



The recently employed "SUTRA Model" is used in which of the following cases?

- a. To Detect the current covid case rise and analyse with previous trends
- b. To be used as guidelines for setting Covid-19 rules during a lockdown
- c. To predict the number of active cases that may go up in the future
- d. None of the above

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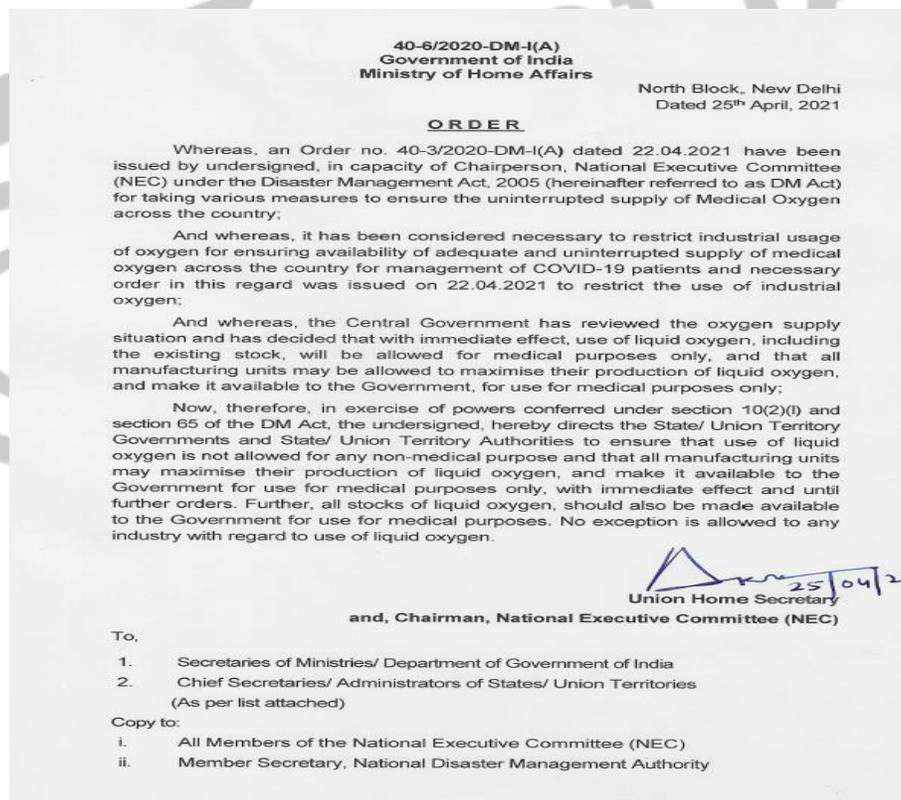
Which of the following statements are correct regarding invoking Section 10(2)(1) and 65 of the Disaster Management Act?

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 and 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

Answer – D

NOTE: Invoking the Disaster Management Act, the Centre on Sunday ordered States 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.

Earlier on April 18, the Union Home Ministry wrote to the States prohibiting supply of oxygen for industrial purposes, except for nine industries that include the pharmaceutical, petroleum, nuclear energy and steel sectors.



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