Target IAS
Institute for IAS Examination
The Gateway to Success

+91-9989966744 / 9000066690
Email:targetiasweb@gmail.com
H.No. 1-10-196 (New No.177)
Ashok Nagar X Road, Hyderabad
Telangana 500020.

DAILY NEWS DIARY

Of

29.04.2021

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**

INDEX

ESSAY PAPER

EDITORIAL

Q- Compare and emphasis upon the need for India in Making social welfare universal?

INTRODUCTION = India is one of the largest welfare states in the world and yet, with COVID-19 striking in 2020, the state failed to provide for its most vulnerable citizens.
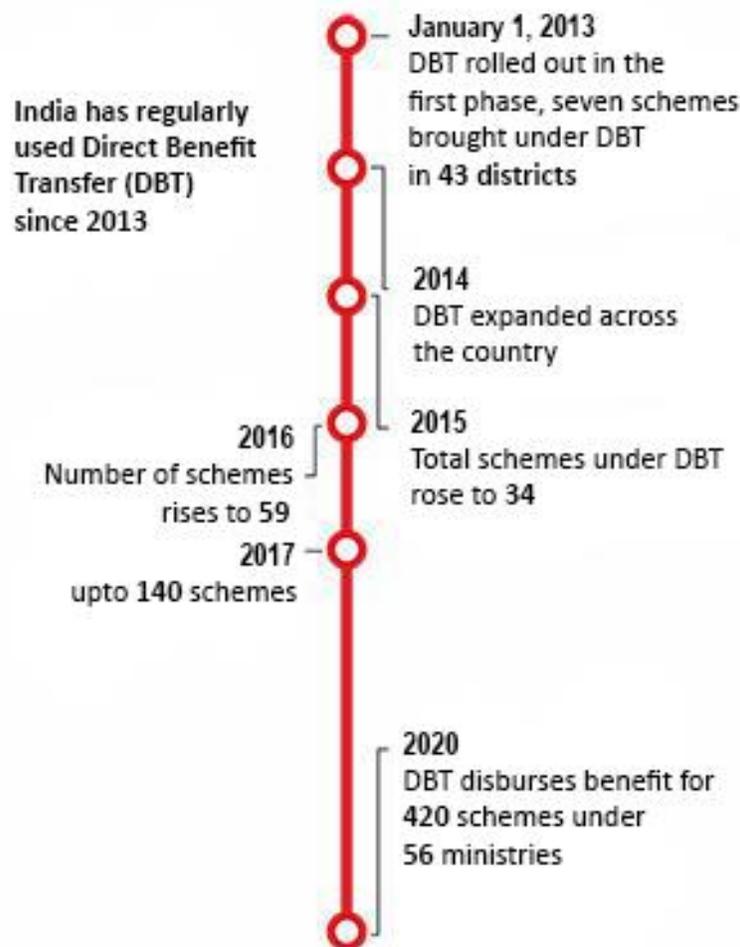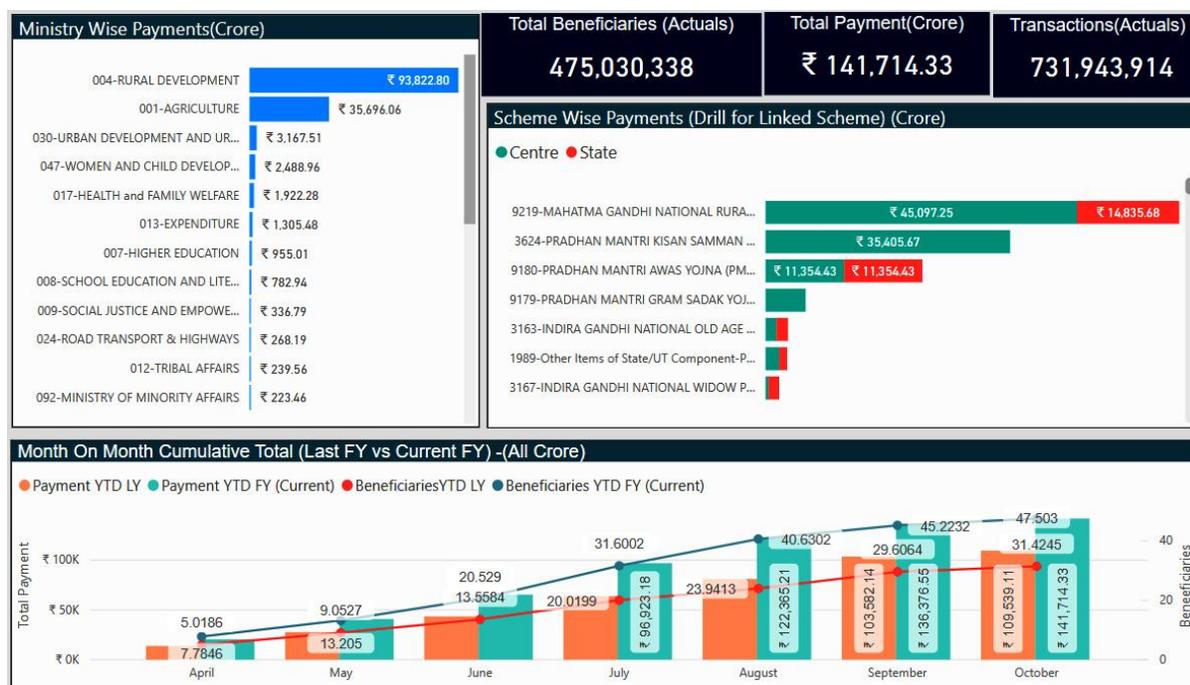
The country witnessed multiple crises:

1. Mass inter- and intra-migration,
2. Food insecurity,
3. And a crumbling health infrastructure.

The extenuating circumstances of the pandemic have pushed an estimated 75 million people into poverty. The second wave has brought even the middle and upper-class citizens to their knees. Economic capital, in the absence of social capital, has proven to be insufficient in accessing healthcare facilities. Illness is universal, but healthcare is not.

Social Welfare Scheme's of India –

The country has over 500 direct benefit transfer schemes for which various Central, State, and Line departments are responsible.

India has regularly used Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) since 2013

January 1, 2013
DBT rolled out in the first phase, seven schemes brought under DBT in 43 districts

2014
DBT expanded across the country

2015
Total schemes under DBT rose to 34

2016
Number of schemes rises to 59

2017
upto 140 schemes

2020
DBT disburses benefit for 420 schemes under 56 ministries

Ministry Wise Payments(Crore)

004-RURAL DEVELOPMENT	₹ 93,822.80
001-AGRICULTURE	₹ 35,696.06
030-URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND UR...	₹ 3,167.51
047-WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOP...	₹ 2,488.96
017-HEALTH and FAMILY WELFARE	₹ 1,922.28
013-EXPENDITURE	₹ 1,305.48
007-HIGHER EDUCATION	₹ 955.01
008-SCHOOL EDUCATION AND LITE...	₹ 782.94
009-SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWE...	₹ 336.79
024-ROAD TRANSPORT & HIGHWAYS	₹ 268.19
012-TRIBAL AFFAIRS	₹ 239.56
092-MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS	₹ 223.46

Total Beneficiaries (Actuals)	Total Payment(Crore)	Transactions(Actuals)
475,030,338	₹ 141,714.33	731,943,914

Scheme Wise Payments (Drill for Linked Scheme) (Crore)

● Centre ● State

	Centre	State
9219-MAHATMA GANDHI NATIONAL RURA...	₹ 45,097.25	₹ 14,835.68
3624-PRADHAN MANTRI KISAN SAMMAN ...	₹ 35,405.67	
9180-PRADHAN MANTRI AWAS YOJNA (PM...	₹ 11,354.43	₹ 11,354.43
9179-PRADHAN MANTRI GRAM SADAK YOJ...		
3163-INDIRA GANDHI NATIONAL OLD AGE ...		
1989-Other Items of State/UT Component-P...		
3167-INDIRA GANDHI NATIONAL WIDOW P...		

Month On Month Cumulative Total (Last FY vs Current FY) -(All Crore)

● Payment YTD LY ● Payment YTD FY (Current) ● BeneficiariesYTD LY ● Beneficiaries YTD FY (Current)

Month	Payment YTD LY	Payment YTD FY (Current)	Beneficiaries LY	Beneficiaries FY
April	7.7846			5.0186
May	13.205		9.0527	
June	13.5584	20.529		
July	₹ 96,923.18	20.0199	23.9413	31.6002
August	₹ 122,365.21		40.6302	
September	₹ 103,582.14	₹ 136,376.55	29.6064	45.2232
October	₹ 109,539.11	₹ 141,714.33	31.4245	47.503

Analysis of the above Schemes -

Existing schemes cover a wide variety of social protections. However they are fractionalised across various departments and sub-schemes. This causes problems beginning with data collection to last-mile delivery.

Thus having a universal system would improve the ease of application by consolidating the data of all eligible beneficiaries under one database. It can also reduce exclusion errors. The Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana (PMGKY) is one scheme that can be strengthened into universal social security. It already consolidates the public distribution system (PDS), the provision of gas cylinders, and wages for the MGNREGS. Generally, social assistance schemes are provided on the basis of an assessment of needs. Having a universal scheme would take away this access/exclusion barrier. For example, PDS can be linked to a universal identification card such as the Aadhaar or voter card, in the absence of a ration card. This would allow anyone who is in need of foodgrains to access these schemes. It would be especially useful for migrant populations.

The **pandemic has revealed that leveraging our existing schemes and providing universal social security is of utmost importance.** This will help absorb the impact of external shocks on our vulnerable populations.

An example of such a social protection scheme is the "Poor Law System in Ireland" -

1. In the 19th century, Ireland, a country that was staggering under the weight of poverty and famine, introduced the Poor Law System to provide relief that was financed by local property taxes.
2. These laws were notable for not only providing timely assistance but maintaining the dignity and respectability of the poor while doing so.
3. They were not designed as hand-outs but as necessary responses to a time of economic crisis.
4. Today, the social welfare system in Ireland has evolved into a **four-fold apparatus that promises social insurance, social assistance, universal schemes, and extra benefits/supplements.**

   A similar kind of social security system is not unimaginable **in India**. We have seen an example of **a universal healthcare programme** that India ran successfully —

1. The **Pulse Polio Universal Immunisation Programme**. In 2014, India was declared polio-free. It took a dedicated effort over a number of years. However, it shows us what is possible. With the advancements in knowledge and technology, a universal coverage of social welfare is possible in a shorter time frame.
   .**Way Forward -**
1. **Making other schemes/welfare provisions** like education, maternity benefits, disability benefits etc**. also universal** would ensure a better standard of living for the people.
2. To ensure some of these issues are addressed, we need to **map the State and Central schemes in a consolidated manner**. This is to avoid duplication, inclusion and exclusion errors in welfare delivery.
3. Alongside, **a study to understand costs of welfare access for vulnerable groups** can be conducted. This will help give a targeted way forward.
4. The implementation of any of these ideas is only possible through a **focus on data digitisation, data-driven decision-making and collaboration across government departments**.

   GS 2

❖ **Polity**

   Q- Discuss the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Act, 2021 in force giving more powers to Delhi?
   BACKGROUND = The Ministry of Home Affairs issued a gazette notification stating that the provisions of the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Act, 2021, would be deemed to have come into effect from April 27.

▪ The Act, which gives the Lieutenant-Governor of Delhi more teeth and significantly waters down the powers of both the elected government and the Legislative Assembly, will clarify the expression "Government" and address "ambiguities" in the legislative provisions to promote "harmonious relations between the legislature and the executive".

GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL CAPITAL TERRITORY OF DELHI (AMENDMENT) ACT, 2021 COMES INTO FORCE

WHAT IT MEANS

➤ The word, "government", referred to in any law made by the legislative assembly, shall now mean "lieutenant governor"

➤ The elected government will need to obtain LG's opinion before taking any executive action under any law

➤ The legislative assembly, or its committees, shall not consider matters of day-to-day administration or conduct inquiries in relation to the administrative decisions

➤ Amendment also seeks to ensure that the assembly is run in accordance with rules of procedure and conduct of business in Lok Sabha

➤ It will put an end to any scope for criticising any leader or person who is not member of the house

➤ In the past, there have been several instances where names of top central government ministers were taken on the floor of Delhi assembly

LIKELY IMPACT

➤ All files need to be sent to LG for approval

➤ No decision of the council of ministers can be implemented without LG's approval

➤ Judgment of LG will prevail

➤ Powers delegated among HoDs and secretaries will remain unchanged

➤ Elected govt may raise an issue when LG does not approve its decisions

➤ There is ambiguity on what all falls under 'matters of day

to day administration'

➤ Volume of files going to LG office may increase and may require the LG to set up a mechanism for faster disposal

➤ LG versus elected govt tussle may become more frequent

WHAT HAPPENS TO COVID MANAGEMENT? Not likely to be affected much because all Delhi Disaster Management Authority decisions are already being taken with LG's approval. LG is the chairman of DDMA

Applied into the Covid-19 rush In Delhi -

1. Coming as the development does in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Act is expected to trigger another round of confrontation between the L-G and the Delhi government under AAP.
2. The Act defines the responsibilities of the elected government and the L-G along with the "constitutional scheme of governance of the NCT" interpreted by the Supreme Court in recent judgments regarding the division of powers between the two entities. It will also seek to ensure that the L-G is "necessarily granted an opportunity" to exercise powers entrusted to him under proviso to clause (4) of Article 239AA of the Constitution.
3. This particular clause provides for a Council of Ministers headed by a Chief Minister for the NCT to "aid and advise the Lieutenant-Governor" in the exercise of his functions for matters in which the Legislative Assembly has the power to make laws.
4. The move comes a day after the Delhi High Court cautioned the Delhi government to put its "house in order" over the issue of inadequate oxygen supply in the city, adding that the Centre would be asked to take over if it could not manage the situation.

Snippets
GS 2

❖ **International Relations**
   Q- Asserting the need for Supply Chain Resilience Initiative (SCRI) now, also weigh in China's response to it?

▪ The Supply Chain Resilience Initiative (SCRI) recently formally launched by the Trade Ministers of India, Japan and Australia brought a wary response from China, which has described the effort as 'unrealistic'.

INDIA, JAPAN AND AUSTRALIA TO LAUNCH "SUPPLY CHAIN RESILIENCE INITIATIVE" TO COUNTER CHINA

THE SUPPLY CHAIN RESILIENCE INITIATIVE FIRST PROPOSED BY JAPAN. THE INITIATIVE AIMS TO REDUCE THE DEPENDENCY IN CHINA. JAPAN IS TO BE JOINED BY INDIA AND AUSTRALIA. IT IS A DIRECT RESPONSE TO COMPANIES THAT ARE CONCERNED ABOUT CHINESE POLITICAL BEHAVIOUR AND DISRUPTION TO SUPPLY CHAIN.

▪ While the three nation sides agreed the pandemic "revealed supply chain vulnerabilities globally and in the region" and "noted the importance of risk management and continuity plans in order to avoid supply chain disruptions".

▪ Some of the joint measures they are considering include supporting the enhanced utilisation of digital technology and trade and investment diversification, which is seen as being aimed at reducing their reliance on China. "The SCRI aims to create a virtuous cycle of enhancing supply chain resilience with a view to eventually attaining strong, sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth in the region.**"**

▪ **China's Reaction -** "Artificial industrial 'transfer' is an unrealistic approach that goes against the economic laws and can neither solve domestic problems nor do anything good to the stability of the global industrial and supply chains, or to the stable recovery of the world economy."

According to recent findings, by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and Bharat Biotech researchers Covaxin has protection against which of the following variants?

1. B.1.1.7
2. B.1.617
3. B.1.351
4. P.1
a. 1 alone
b. 1 and 2
c. 1, 2 and 3
d. 2, 3 and 4

Consider the following –

1. Banning campaigning from 7 p.m. to 10 a.m. and extending the silence period before polling from 48 hours to 72 hours.
2. No victory processions would be allowed after the counting of votes
3. And only a maximum of two people would be allowed to accompany the winning candidate or their authorised representative to receive the certificate of election from the Returning Officer.

Which of the above statements are CORRECT regarding the Election Commission issued guidelines regarding for elections amidst Covid-19?

a. 1 only
b. 2 and 3
c. 2 only
d. All of the above

Answer – D

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