



+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

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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

GS 2

❖ International Relations

1. Manage the distribution and judicious use of the foreign aid.....04

❖ Social Justice

2. Discrimination in Vaccination is against the rules of usage for a public good.....05

Snippets:

1. India's Merchandise Export Market rise despite Covid-19.....05



ESSAY PAPER

GS 2

❖ International Relations

Q- Questions over how to manage the distribution and judicious use of the foreign aid?

BACKGROUND = According to Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) the process on how to route the funding, which is handed over by the foreign governments **through the Indian Red Cross to the Ministry of Health**, is being coordinated by an **Empowered Group of Ministers and officials, which is fielding the requests from the various State governments.**

1. **France** delivered –
 - a. Eight oxygen plants on Sunday, four of which would be used at hospitals in Delhi.
 - b. The consignment of about 28 tonnes of equipment was delivered to the Indian Red Cross Society at the Delhi airport and then transferred to the Centre.
 - c. Each of the eight “hospital level” oxygen generators would provide oxygen for about 250 beds each.
 - d. “Each of these oxygen generator plants will make an Indian hospital fully oxygen Aatmanirbhar for more than 10 years. **Believing that healthcare can be a new field to develop Indo-French strategic partnership, building on our respective strengths.**
 - e. The French Embassy also confirmed that the oxygen generators had been earmarked for eight specific hospitals, and that six would go to the Delhi/NCR area, and one each to Telengana and Haryana. **The statement is a major departure from the government’s policy of not accepting aid that is “tied” to specific donees, and comes in the wake of a number of calls for the government to be more transparent about how it plans to route the massive shipments of aid coming in from about 40 countries.**
2. **Overnight, Germany** sent –
 - a. A shipment, including 120 ventilators, and plans to send one mobile oxygen production and filling plant along with 13 German technical personnel later this week.
3. **Uzbekistan** also delivered 100 oxygen concentrators.
4. While **Belgium** delivered 1,000 vials of the medicine Remdesivir.
5. **From Taiwan** –
 - a. A first batch, consisting of 50 oxygen concentrators and 500 oxygen cylinders, landed in New Delhi on a Boeing 747 of China Airlines, the government-owned airline of Taiwan.
 - b. **This is** a testament to the close collaboration and partnership across multiple agencies on both sides. Though India and Taiwan do not maintain formal diplomatic relations or embassies.
 - c. India, meanwhile, has not yet accepted Beijing’s offers of aid and assistance that were conveyed again to PM Modi. India has preferred to source medical supplies from China on a commercial basis. A large number of such orders have been placed by Indian companies with Chinese firms, with the production “of at least 40,000 oxygen generators” currently under way
6. **The U.S.** was providing-
 - a. More than \$100 million in assistance through the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID),
 - b. And that four of six planeloads of equipment and relief supplies had already been delivered, and the remainder was “on its way”.
 - c. **The U.S. State Department in Washington also fielded questions about the lack of a “website or transparent system”, as well as “accountability for the U.S. taxpayers’ money being sent”.**

As several countries, including the U.S., Germany and France, were sending military and technical personnel to run some of the equipment, the next logistical challenge would also involve ensuring that the foreign personnel were assisted locally at the areas where the aid is sent to within the country.

❖ **Social Justice****Q- Discrimination in Vaccination is against the rules of usage for a public good. Discuss?**

BACKGROUND = The Supreme Court through an order said that vaccinations being provided to citizens constitute a valuable public good, and there should be no discrimination in the process. Discrimination cannot be made between different classes of citizens who are similarly circumstanced on the ground that while the –

1. Central government will carry the burden of providing free vaccines for the 45 years and above population,
2. The State governments will discharge the responsibility of the 18 to 44 age group on such commercial terms as they may negotiate.”

“Prima facie, the **rational method of proceeding in a manner consistent with the right to life (which includes the right to health) under Article 21** would be for the Central government to procure all vaccines and to negotiate the price with vaccine manufacturers. Once quantities are allocated by it to each State government, the latter would lift the allocated quantities and carry out the distribution.

Addressing challenges such as -

“Infected healthcare personnel are left to fend for themselves without adequate availability of beds, oxygen or essential drugs.

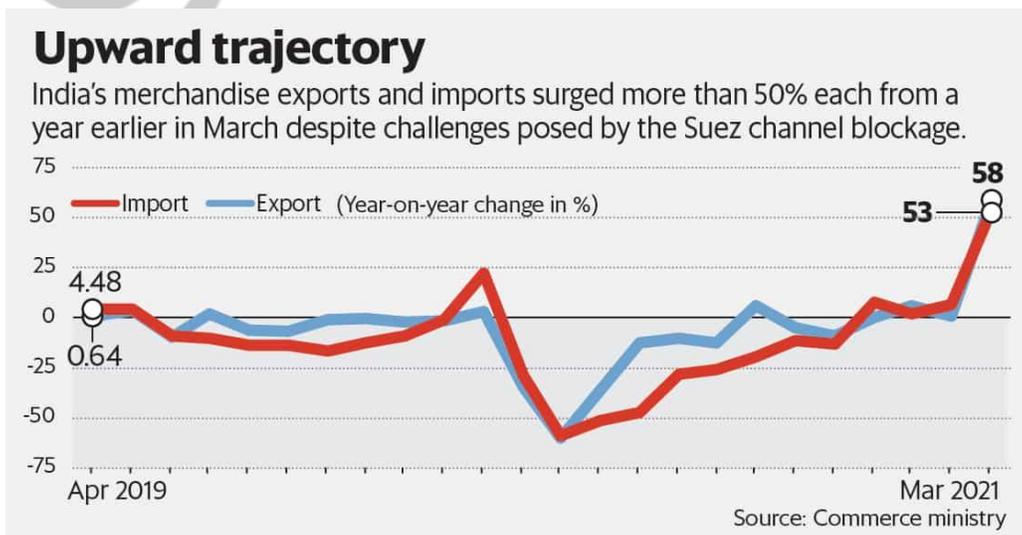
Further, some of them have also often been asked to report back to duty within 10 days of first testing positive (provided they are asymptomatic), even though a longer recuperation period is often recommended”.

Incentive For Health Care Workers -

“There must be an effective policy to ensure that the nation truly acknowledges their effort and creates incentives for them. We hope it will be remedied soon by the Central and State governments through the introduction of appropriate guidelines and measures.”

GS 3**Snippets**❖ **Economic Development****Q- Analyse India's Merchandise Export Market rise despite Covid-19 and supply chain constraints?**

- India's merchandise exports in April 2021 were \$30.21 billion, 197% higher than a year ago, when exports had collapsed to \$10.17 billion in the middle of the national lockdown.



- April's exports, however, constituted a 16% rise over April 2019. Merchandise imports rose 166% in April to \$45.45 billion from a year ago, reflecting a 7.22% rise over the same month in 2019.
- **Despite the rise, concerns remain about logistics and workers' availability amidst the second wave.**



Which of the following statements describes the term Triffin dilemma?

- a. It refers to the dilemma of setting the right fiscal policy tools so as to reduce the nonplan expenditure.
- b. It refers to the dilemma of setting right monetary policy rates to achieve price stability and growth.
- c. It refers to the conflict of interest between short-term domestic and long-term international economic objectives when a national currency also serves as an international reserve currency.
- d. None of the above.



With regard to the state handling the spread of information or calls for help through social media from citizens affected by COVID-19, which of the following statements is/are INCORRECT?

1. To punish citizens who take to social media to seek help for oxygen cylinders, COVID-19 drugs, beds and hospitals amid a rampaging second wave would attract contempt of court action.
 2. Clampdown of information is contrary to basic precepts
- a. 1 only
 - b. 2 only
 - c. Both
 - d. None

Answer – D

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