

COVID-19 News**KASARAGOD**

In Kerala, where COVID-19 growth has been much flatter than the national average, Kasaragod stands out with a progressive decline in active cases.

About:

- Kasaragod is a municipal town and the district headquarters of Kasaragod district of Kerala.
- Kasaragod is Kerala's northernmost district, far away from capital Thiruvananthapuram.
- Situated in the rich biodiversity of Western Ghats, it is known for the Chandragiri and Bekal Forts, Chandragiri River, historic Kolathiri Rajas and natural environment of Ranipuram and Kottancheri Hills.

What is the Kasaragod model:

- Section 144 was imposed in the entire district, with seven drones employed for surveillance.
- Under the Care for Kasaragod initiative, a detailed action plan — common coordinated action plan — was drawn up for combating COVID-19 so that all stakeholders could turn to it when the situation arose.
- All quarantined people were tracked using GPS. All essentials were home-delivered in the containment/cluster zones, irrespective of whether they were rich or poor.
- A campaign on social distancing called "Break the Chain" was carried out to deliver the message of social distancing. Core teams were formed with incident commanders to rush to various areas and take quick action.

COVID India Seva

Union Health Minister has launched an interactive platform, COVID INDIA SEVA aimed at providing real time solutions to Covid-19 related queries.

About:

- People can post their queries to the COVID INDIA SEVA twitter handle for getting swift replies from the team of trained experts.
- This initiative is aimed at enabling transparent e-governance delivery at large scales especially in crisis situations like the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.
- Through this platform, trained experts will be able to share authoritative public health information swiftly at scale, helping to build a direct channel for communication with citizens.

ZAKAT

The Grand Mufti of Dubai has declared that this year Zakat can be paid to those affected by Covid-19 or any disadvantaged person in the form of food or meals. Zakat or almsgiving to the poor and needy is one of the five important pillars of Islam.

Five Pillars of Islam:

- The Five Pillars of Islam are basic acts in Islam, considered mandatory by believers, and are the foundation of Muslim life. They are summarized in the famous hadith of Gabriel. These are:
- Profession of Faith (shahada). The belief that "There is no god but God, and Muhammad is the Messenger of God" is central to Islam.
- Prayer (salat). Muslims pray facing Mecca five times a day: at dawn, noon, mid-afternoon, sunset, and after dark.
- Alms (zakat). In accordance with Islamic law, Muslims donate a fixed portion of their income to community members in need.
- Fasting (sawm). During the daylight hours of Ramadan, the ninth month of the Islamic calendar, all healthy adult Muslims are required to abstain from food and drink.
- Pilgrimage (hajj). Every Muslim whose health and finances permit it must make at least one visit to the holy city of Mecca, in present-day Saudi Arabia.

GOVERNANCE- WELFARE SCHEMES, E-GOVERNANCE, SERVICES ETC.**SAIYAM**

A mobile application named Saiyam has been developed by the Pune Municipal Corporation under Smart Cities Mission to effectively track the home-quarantined citizens and ensure that they are staying in the home.

About:

- The Mobile Application has GPS tracking so that whenever quarantined citizens leave their homes, City Administration gets alerted and the local ward or the local police station gets informed, who then visit the family.
- Citizens' movements can be monitored centrally real-time from the monitoring cell and are marked as Red, Amber or Green.
- Red signifies that the person has ventured out for longer duration; Yellow signifies that the person has limited movements and Green signifies that the person is confined to house limits.

ENVIRONMENT- CONSERVATION, BIO-DIVERSITY AND ISSUES**EARTH DAY 2020**

April 22, 2020 marks 50 years of Earth Day. The theme for Earth Day 2020 is climate action.

About:

- Date: Earth Day is observed every year on April 22.
- History: It was first celebrated in 1970. On April 22, 1970, millions of people took to the streets to protest the negative impacts of 150 years of industrial development.
- Objective: To increase the awareness among common public, especially among youngsters, to get full effect of the campaign of environmental safety.
- Organization: Earth Day Network (EDN) is the not for profit organisation that leads Earth Day worldwide.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY- EVERYDAY SCIENCE, SPACE, NUCLEAR, DEFENCE ETC**Lithium In Space**

Researchers at the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA), an autonomous institute under the Department of Science & Technology have discovered hundreds of Li-rich giant stars indicating that Li is being produced in the stars and accounts for its abundance in the interstellar medium.

About:

- They have also associated such Li enhancement with central He-burning stars, also known as red clump giants, thereby opening up new vistas in the evolution of the red giant stars.
- This is an important discovery that will help to eliminate many proposed theories such as planet engulfment or nucleosynthesis during the red giant evolution in which helium at the center is not burning.

Related Info:

- Lithium (Li), is one of the three primordial elements, apart from Hydrogen and Helium (He), produced in the big bang nucleosynthesis (BBN) whose models predict primordial Li abundance ($A(\text{Li}) \sim 2.7 \sim \text{dex}$).
- In general, stars are considered as Li sinks. This means that the original Li, with which stars are born, only gets depleted over stars' life-time as Li burns at relatively very low temperatures of about $2.5 \times 10^6 \text{ K}$ – a range which is easily encountered in stars.

PRELIMS SPECIFIC FACTS- INDICES, DAYS, EVENTS, AWARDS ETC**World Book And Copyright Day 2020**

On April 23, UNESCO will celebrate the 25th edition of World Book and Copyright Day to celebrate literature and promote the enjoyment of books and reading.

About:

- World Book Day is also known as World Book and Copyright Day, or International Day of the Book.
- It is an annual event to promote reading, publishing, and copyright and to celebrate authors, books and illustrators.
- April 23. It is the date on which several prominent authors, William Shakespeare, Miguel Cervantes and Inca Garcilaso de la Vega all died.
- The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).
- It was first celebrated on 23 April 1995.

World Creativity And Innovation Day (21 April)

On the World Creativity and Innovation Day 2020, the United Nations has urged the world to accept that innovation is necessary for harnessing a country's economic potential.

About:

- World Creativity and Innovation Day (WCID) is a global UN day celebrated on April 21 to raise awareness around the importance of creativity and innovation in problem solving with respect to advancing the United Nations sustainable development goals.
- The first World Creativity and Innovation Day was celebrated on April 21, 2018.

Civil Services Day

Prime Minister Narendra Modi greeted Civil Servants and their families and paid tributes to Sardar Patel on Civil Services Day.

About:

- It is celebrated on 21st April every year.
- On this day, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel addressed the first batch of probationers at the All India Administrative Service Training School at Metcalfe House, New Delhi in 1947. In his speech he called civil servants as the steel frame of India.
- To make civil servants re-dedicate themselves to the cause of the citizens and renew their commitment to public service.

ODISHA DEVELOPMENT

Odisha's Manabasa Gurubara, Chhau & Ravana Chhaya Included In Intangible Cultural Heritage

List

Manabasa Gurubara, a traditional ritual of Odisha and two age-old famous performing arts from the State – Chhau dance and Ravana Chhaya were among the 106 items listed as Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) of India.

Related Info:

- The ICH list has been classified into five broad domains which includes-oral traditions and expressions, performing arts, social practices, knowledge, and practices related to nature & universe and traditional craftsmanship.
- Manabasa Gurubara has been included in the social practices, rituals or festive events category while the other two dances- Chhau and Ravana Chhaya have been placed in the performing arts category of the Intangible Cultural Heritage list.
- Manabasa Gurubara, a household religious practice prevalent among Odias is celebrated on each Thursday of Hindu month Margashirsha (November-December) in honour of Goddess Lakshmi.

DAILY ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

Qns. Domestic abuse is one among many other social challenges posed by the conditions created by the pandemic. Discuss.

Ans:

Recently, the UN Secretary-General appealed to governments to pay attention to and prevent a global surge in domestic violence amid lockdown measures imposed by several countries to tackle the COVID-19 pandemic.

The term domestic violence is used in many countries to refer to intimate partner violence, but it also encompasses child or elder abuse, or abuse by any member of a household. It includes acts of physical violence, sexual violence, emotional (psychological) abuse and controlling behaviours.

COVID-19 and Domestic Violence:

- In India, the National Family Health Survey-4 (2015-16) (NFHS-4) suggests that 30% of women in India in the age group of 15-49 have experienced physical violence.
- Further, various data suggest that the domestic violence cases in India have also increased after the mandatory stay-at-home rules, social distancing, economic uncertainties and anxieties caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Causes of Domestic Violence:

- Gender Disparity: It is one of the deep-rooted cause of violence against women that put women at risk of several forms of violence. Discriminatory gender norms and gender stereotypes result in structural inequality.
- Psychiatric Morbidity: Generally refers to the incidence of both physical and psychological deterioration as a result of a mental or psychological condition, generally caused due to the consumption of alcohol.

- Sociodemographic factors: Patriarchy has been cited as the main cause of violence against women.
- Family factors: Exposure to harsh physical discipline during childhood and witnessing the father beating the mother during childhood is a predictor of victimization and perpetration of violence against wife in adulthood.

Other challenges:

- The violence negatively impacts on the mental health of women. This further increases with job losses and other economic pressures on women.
- Any form of violence against women hinders their realization of fundamental rights under article 14, 21, and 19 of the Indian constitution.
- It also impacts on child well being, female and child mortality, intergenerational social and psychological cost.
- Further, the SDG- 5 which seeks to eliminate all forms of discrimination and violence against women by 2030 is compromised.

Steps Need to be Taken:

- Availability of essential services: It is critical that governments utilise a human rights and intersectional based approach to ensure access to necessary information, support systems and resources during the current crisis.
- The state governments need to declare helplines as “essential services” that should remain open during lockdowns.
- Sensitization efforts: Media can sensitize the public against gender-based violence, publicise resources and services available and encourage the equitable sharing of domestic tasks at home.
- Role of civil society: Increase resourcing for NGOs that respond to domestic violence and provide aid like shelter, counselling, and legal aid to survivors.
- Providing health services: Ensure women’s timely access to necessary and comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services during the crisis, such as maternal health services, safe abortion etc.
- Ensuring rule of law: The perpetrators of domestic violence must be brought to trial and repeated offenders must be dealt with strictly as per the provisions of law.

Conclusion: As the steps to contain the transmission of the virus might require more stretches of isolation and confinement for the public, the government all around the globe, need to address the upsurge in domestic violence immediately.