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Daily News Discussion (DND)

21st May 2021

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Table of Contents

1. Science & Technology	1
1.1.Aerosols-COVID relation	1
1.2.More newborns show symptoms	2
2. Geography	3
2.1.World's largest iceberg breaks off from Antarctica.....	3
3. Polity	5
3.1.Declare mucormycosis an epidemic: Centre to States	5
4. Economy	10
4.1.Infrastructure' status to convention centres.....	10
4.2.Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana	12
4.3.Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Nidhi.....	12
5. International Relations	13
5.1.Northern Sea Route.....	13
5.2.Sri Lanka Parliament passes Bill on China-backed Port City	15
Current affairs Worksheet (21st May 2021).....	18

Note -

- The Newspaper clippings pasted in PDF are important from Mains point of view as it contains the fodder material for Mains Answer Writing.
- Also watch DND video lectures everyday @ 4 PM on Sleepy's YouTube channel in order to understand how to get the most out of everyday's Newspaper .

Click [here](#) to watch the following topics on YouTube

1. Science & Technology

1.1. Aerosols-COVID relation

- Aerosols can be **carried in the air for up to 10 m** and improving the ventilation of indoor spaces will reduce transmission, a government advisory on stopping the spread of COVID-19
- Droplets and aerosols were the key transmission modes of the virus.
- While droplets fell up to 2 m from an infected person, aerosols could travel up to 10 m.

Advisory

Ventilation

- can decrease the risk of transmission from one infected person to the other.
- ventilating spaces with **improved directional air flow** decreases the accumulated viral load in the air, reducing the risk of transmission.
- Ventilation is a community defence that protects all of us at home or at work

For Gram Panchayat

- It is advised that **jaali/air outlets with exhaust fans are installed by gram panchayats in homes** where there is no cross-ventilation

For workplaces

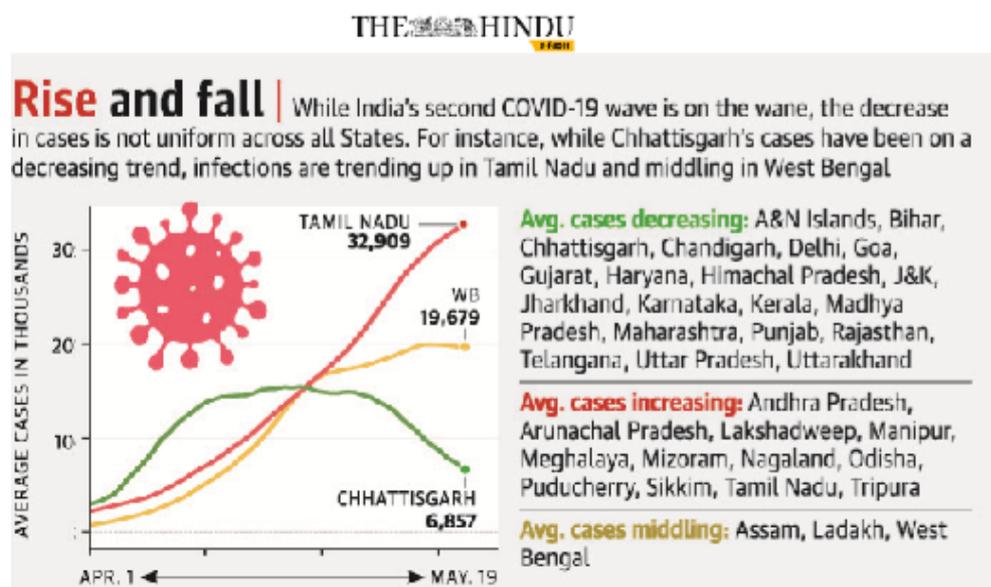
- It recommended **keeping doors and windows open** while air-conditioners were on.

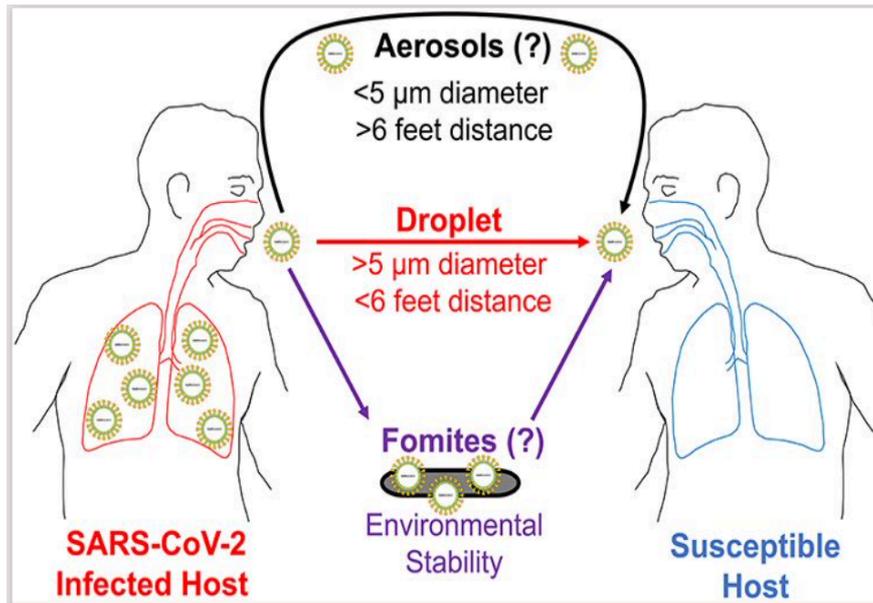
For Hospitals

- Hospitals should ensure that **vaccinations were carried out in well-ventilated areas** and public transport like buses should keep windows open and use exhaust fans.

For rural or semi-urban areas

- Every person entering the area should **undergo a Rapid Antigen Test** before entry for which ASHA and Anganwadi workers should be trained and protected.





1.2. More newborns show symptoms

- The number of children (0-12 yrs) infected by SARS CoV-2 has been steadily increasing in Tamil Nadu
 - ✓ Among all infected newborns, **about 20% develop symptoms** and the rest are normal.
 - ✓ Of them, 1%-2% develop significant symptoms of cough and require admission.

What precautions are needed?

- Pregnant women who develop any symptom or fever **should tell clearly before delivery** as any mild infection can have implications for the baby.
- All mothers should be **tested prior to delivery** so that we can ascertain if the baby is at risk of infection.
- Parents should watch for symptoms of MIS-C in newborns – re-appearance of fever, rash, diarrhoea and irritability



2. Geography

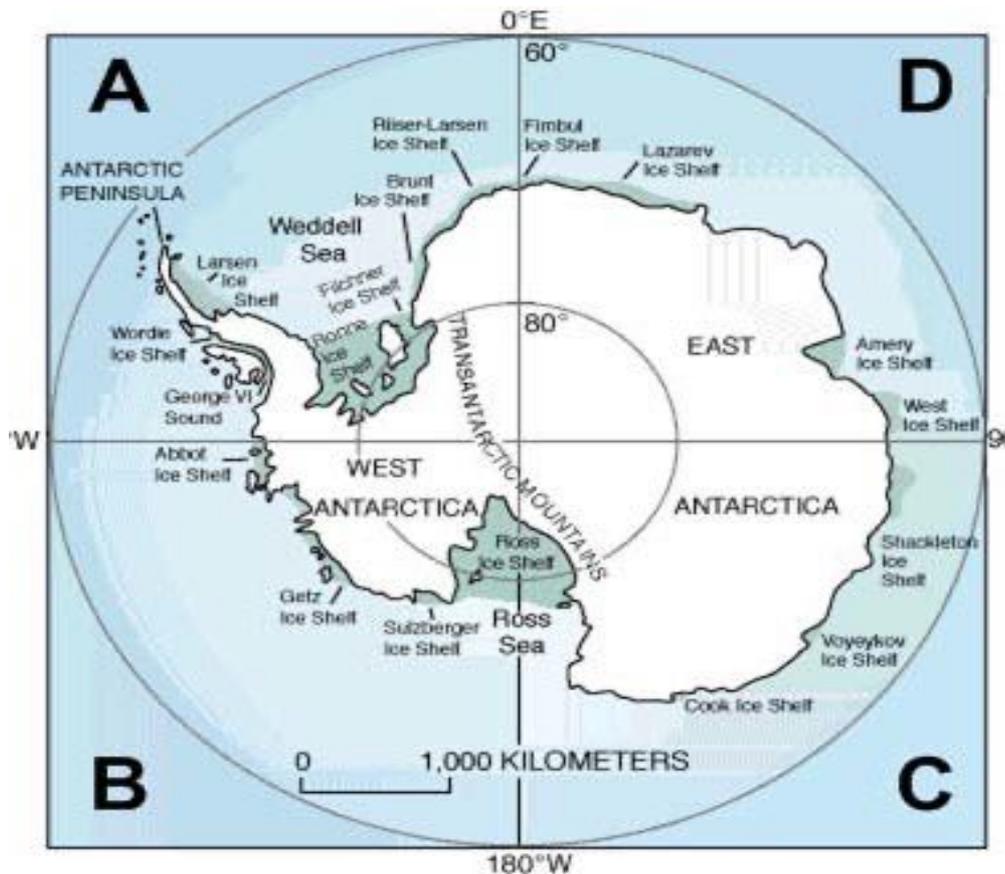
2.1. World's largest iceberg breaks off from Antarctica

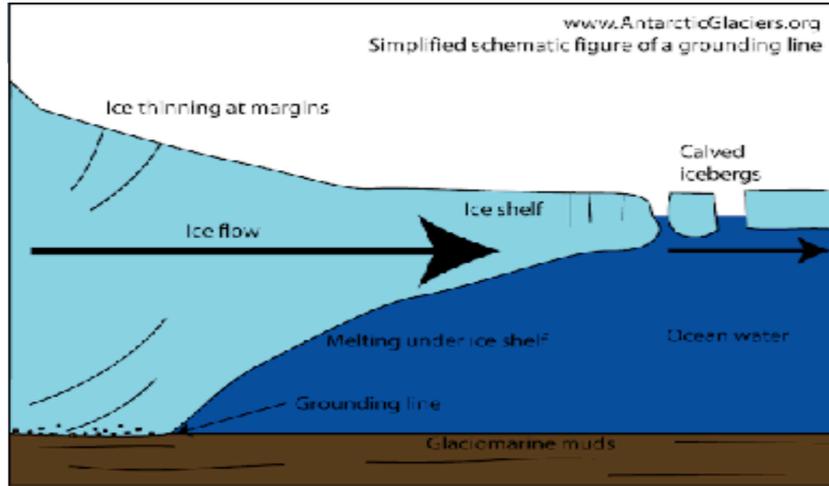
- A huge ice block has broken off from western Antarctica into the Weddell Sea, becoming the largest iceberg in the world and earning the name A-76.
- The iceberg, measuring around **170 km long and 25 km wide**, with an area of 4,320 sq km is now floating in the Weddell Sea.
- It joins **previous world's largest title holder A-23A** – approximately 3,880 sq. km. in size – which has remained in the same area since 1986.
- A-76 was originally spotted by the British Antarctic Survey and the calving – the term used when an iceberg breaks off – was confirmed using images from the Copernicus satellite

What is an iceberg?

Here's what you need to know

- An iceberg is a large chunk of freshwater ice
- It has typically broken off from a glacier or an ice shelf
- The name is a translation from the Dutch 'ijsberg', which means ice mountain
- Icebergs are found floating freely in open salt-water
- Around 90 per cent of a berg is below the surface, and therefore not visible
- That's why they're considered to be a major shipping hazard
- The most famous berg-at-sea incident was the 1912 loss of the "unsinkable" RMS Titanic, which capsized after hitting one
- The largest iceberg ever recorded is Iceberg A-76, which was calved from Antarctica's Ronne Ice Shelf in May 2021
- It spans 4,320 square km (1,668 square miles) and measures 175 km (106 miles) long by 25 km (15 miles) wide
- By comparison, the Spanish island of Majorca in the Mediterranean occupies 3,640 square km (1,405 square miles)
- The U.S. state of Rhode Island is smaller still, with a land mass of just 2,678 square km (1,034 square miles) ■

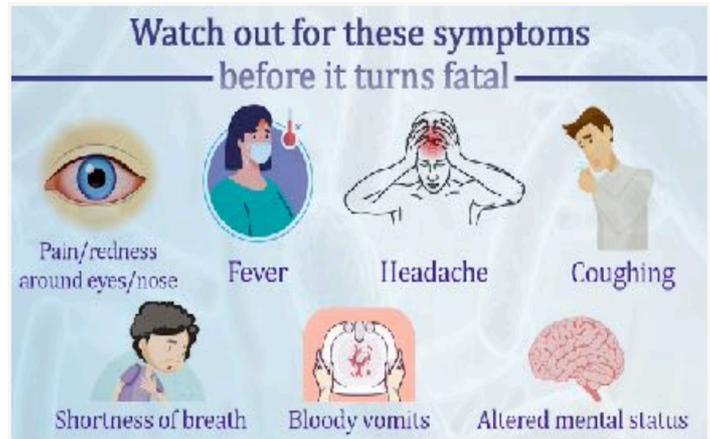




3. Polity

3.1. Declare mucormycosis an epidemic: Centre to States

- The Union government has asked the **States to declare mucormycosis**, the fungal infection being reported in COVID-19 patients, an epidemic.
- Declaring epidemic would lead to **health facilities screening for it and reporting all such cases** to the government.
- Rajasthan, Telangana and Tamil Nadu have declared it an epidemic.



Screening, Diagnosis & Management of Mucormycosis During COVID-19

What is Mucormycosis?

A fungal infection mainly affecting people with medical health problems that reduces their ability to fight environmental pathogens.

How does patient get predisposed to Mucormycosis?

- Uncontrolled diabetes mellitus
- Co-morbidities - post transplant/ malignancy
- Immunosuppression by steroids
- Voriconazole therapy
- Prolonged ICU stay

Do's

- Control hyperglycaemia
- Monitor blood glucose level post COVID-19 discharge & in diabetics
- Use steroid judiciously
- Use clean, sterile water for humidifiers during oxygen therapy
- Use antibiotics/ anti fungal judiciously

Don'ts

- Do not miss warning signs & symptoms
- Don't consider all cases of blocked nose as cases of bacterial sinusitis, especially in the cases of immunosuppression and/ or COVID-19 patients on immunomodulators
- Don't hesitate in seeking aggressive investigations as appropriate for detecting fungal etiology
- Don't lose crucial time to initiate treatment for mucormycosis

Epidemic Diseases Act 1897

- The colonial government introduced the Act to tackle the epidemic of **bubonic plague** that had spread in the erstwhile **Bombay Presidency** in the **1890s**.
- The colonies authorities would search **suspected plague cases in homes and among passengers**, with forcible segregations, evacuations, and demolitions of infected places.
- In 1897, the year the law was enforced, **Lokmanya Tilak** was **punished with 18 months' rigorous imprisonment** after his newspapers **Kesari** and **Mahratta** admonished imperial authorities for their handling of the plague epidemic.

Epidemic act 1987	
Sec 1	Describes the title and extent of the Act Extend to whole of india
Sec 2	State government If State government is satisfied that the state is threatened with an outbreak of any dangerous epidemic disease, It can take special measures and formulate regulations to contain the outbreak It may prescribe regulations for the inspection of persons travelling by railway or otherwise , segregation in hospitals, temporary accommodation or otherwise, of persons suspected by the inspecting officer, of being infected with any such disease.
Sec 2A	It empowers the central government to take steps to prevent the spread of an epidemic, especially allowing the government to inspect any ship arriving or leaving any port and the power to detain any person intending to sail or arriving in the country. Issue- Health is a state subject

Epidemic act 1987	
Sec 3	Penalty for Disobedience (Sec 188 IPC)
Sec 4	Legal Protection to Implementing Officers:

Sec 188 (IPC)

- In case a **person refuses to honour** the public order issued by a public servant, the punishment in such a case is up to **1 month in jail or a fine up to Rs. 200 or both**.
- If **general public suffers** due to the refusal of the person to follow the public order, the punishment is **up to 6 months of jail and/or fine of Rs. 2000**.
- The Act provides for **six months' imprisonment or Rs. 1000 fine or both on person disobeying the Act**.

Epidemic diseases (Amendment) act 2020	
Definition Healthcare service personnel	Persons who are at risk of contracting the epidemic disease while carrying out duties related to the epidemic. They include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> public and clinical healthcare providers such as doctors and nurses <input type="checkbox"/> Any person empowered under the Act to take measures to prevent the outbreak of the disease <input type="checkbox"/> Other persons designated as such by the state government.
Act of violence	Acts committed against a healthcare service personnel- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> harassment impacting living or working conditions <input type="checkbox"/> Harm, injury, hurt, or danger to life <input type="checkbox"/> Obstruction in discharge of duties <input type="checkbox"/> Loss or damage to the property or documents of the healthcare service personnel. Property includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Clinical establishment <input type="checkbox"/> Quarantine facility <input type="checkbox"/> Mobile medical unit <input type="checkbox"/> Any other property in which a healthcare service personnel has direct interest, in relation to the epidemic.

Epidemic diseases (Amendment) act 2020	
Protection for healthcare personnel and damage to property	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Punishable with imprisonment between three months and five years, and a fine between Rs 50,000 and two lakh rupees <input type="checkbox"/> This offence may be compounded by the victim with the permission of the Court. If act causes grievous harm <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Imprisonment between six months and seven years, and a fine between one lakh rupees and five lakh rupees. These offences will be cognizable and non-bailable.
Compensation to health worker	Damage to property <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> compensation payable to the victim will be twice the amount of the fair market value of the damaged or lost property, as determined by the Court. <input type="checkbox"/> If the convicted person fails to pay the compensation, the amount will be recovered as an arrear of land revenue under the Revenue Recovery Act, 1890

Epidemic diseases (Amendment) act 2020	
Investigation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Cases registered will be investigated by a police officer, not below the rank of Inspector. <input type="checkbox"/> The investigation must be completed within 30 days from the date of registration of the First Information Report.
Trial	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Should be concluded within one year <input type="checkbox"/> If delay Judge must record the reasons for the delay and extend the time period. <input type="checkbox"/> However, the time period may not be extended for more than six months at a time

Powers of the central government	Act
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Inspection of any ship or vessel leaving or arriving at any port <input type="checkbox"/> Detention of any person intending to travel from the port, during an outbreak.
	Amendment
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Expands the powers of the central government to regulate the inspection of any bus, train, goods vehicle, ship, vessel, or aircraft leaving or arriving at any land port, port, or aerodrome. <input type="checkbox"/> Further, the government may regulate the detention of any person intending to travel by these means.

Analysis	
Term 'Epidemic' not defined	enabling misuse by the Government in the situation that it deems fit
Sec 188	lack of efficient enforcement provisions that are focused on and suit the need of the Act – instead, it relies on general disobedience statutes.
word 'satisfied'	Government may invoke its provisions whenever it is satisfied that ordinary laws will not suffice. Chances of misuse and wrongful invocation

weaponized to violate the rights of an individual	<p>Aarogya Setu</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> The Government has contended that this app is a necessary and reasonable restriction on the right to privacy, as it is needed to control the pandemic <p>Issue</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Can be used for surveillance.
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Conclusion

- Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897 has lost its effectiveness and relevancy in the modern world. Without the necessary changes, it remains an archaic and colonial piece of legislation that is open to misuse and constant criticism. At a time when the global standards for disease control have set an incredibly high threshold, the Indian government needs to realize the inadequacy of the current legislation.

Steps Taken By States For Public Health Legislation

- As there was no effective Central Legislation for public health issues, the government of Madras enacted the first state legislation "**Madras Public Health Act**" in **1939**. Thereafter, learning from the State of Madras, other states also encompassed following provisions in their respective Epidemic Disease Act:

✓ Himachal Pradesh – provision for compulsory vaccination

- ✓ Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana and Chandigarh – gave powers to specific officers to execute various provisions of the Act.
- ✓ Bihar – to make arrangements for vehicles during pandemic
- In 2015 to deal with **Malaria and Dengue in Chandigarh** the Act was implemented and collecting officers were instructed to issue challans of Rs 500 to offenders.
- In 2018 the District Collector of Vadodara issued a notification under the Act, declaring **Khedkarmsiya village as Cholera** affected after 31 persons complained of the disease.

4. Economy

4.1. Infrastructure' status to convention centres

- Recently Finance Ministry has granted '**Infrastructure' status for exhibition and convention centres.**
- A finance ministry notification said convention and exhibition centres had been **included in the harmonised master list of infrastructure sub-sectors** under the social and **commercial infrastructure sub-sector.**
- To qualify under the category, projects will require a minimum built-up floor area of 100,000 square metres of exclusively exhibition space or convention space
- **Built up floor area includes** primary facilities such as exhibition centres, convention halls, auditoriums, plenary halls, business centres, meeting halls etc.

Need

- **Lack of large convention centres** or single halls with capacities to hold 7,000 to 10,000 people, unlike countries like Thailand that is a major global MICE destination.
- MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibitions) destination **can generate significant** revenue with several global companies active in India

Infrastructure

- Term 'infrastructure' has not been given a definite meaning in India
- **Dr. Rakesh Mohan Committee**
 - ✓ Defined infrastructure to include electricity, gas, water supply, telecom, roads, industrial parks, railways, ports, airports, urban infrastructure and storage
- **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**
 - ✓ Defined infrastructure to include power, telecommunication, railway, roads including bridges, sea port and airport, industrial parks, urban infrastructure (water supply, sanitation and sewage projects), mining, exploration and refining
- Cabinet Committee on Infrastructure **introduced a harmonized master list of five main infrastructure sectors** and infrastructure sub sectors

Category	Subsector
Transport and Logistics	Roads and bridges ,Ports,Shipyards,Inland Waterways Airport,Railway track ,tunnels, viaducts, bridges Railway stations and adjoining commercial infrastructure Urban Public Transport,Logistics Infrastructure Transportation Pipelines4
Energy	Electricity Generation,Transmission ,Distribution Oil/Gas/Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) storage facility

Category	Subsector
Water and Sanitation	Solid Waste Management Water treatment plants Sewage collection, treatment and disposal system Irrigation (dams, channels, embankments, etc.) Storm Water Drainage System
Communication	Telecommunication (fixed network) Telecommunication towers Telecommunication & Telecom Services

Category	Subsector
Social and Commercial Infrastructure	Education Institutions ,Sports Infrastructure Hospitals ,Tourism infrastructure ,Industrial Parks and other parks with industrial activity such as food parks,textile parks,Special Economic Zones, tourism facilities and agriculture markets Post-harvest storage infrastructure for agriculture and horticultural produce including cold storage Terminal markets Soil-testing laboratories Cold Chain,Affordable Housing, Affordable Rental Housing Complex Exhibition-cum-Convention Centre

Benefits of Infrastructure status

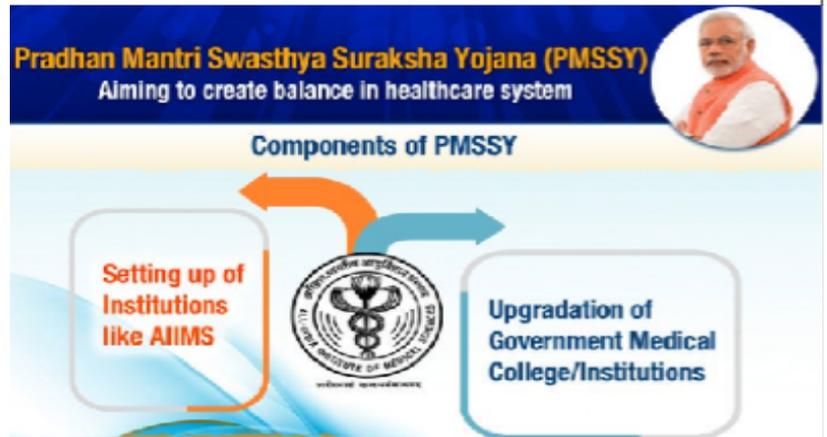
- Access to **concessional funds**, promotion of projects and continuity of construction for the specified sub-sectors.
- Enables an industry to **raise money from insurance companies**, pension funds, and international lenders with a longer tenure and on easier terms
- Infrastructure status gives industries **access to cheaper foreign currency funding** through the external commercial borrowing route.
- Falling under infrastructure category helps the sector get **credit at competitive rates** and on long-term basis with enhanced limits.
- Attract a **great deal of private investment** in the sector as the cost of funding will be at a concessional rate and the players will have a plethora of options to raise money.
- Another significant implication of this step would be **job creation**

4.2. Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana

- New AIIMS started under Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana are providing advanced COVID Care in States

Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY)

- A Central Sector Scheme
- Announced in August 2003 to address imbalances in availability of tertiary care hospitals and improve medical education in the country.
- So far setting up of 22 new AIIMS has been approved under the scheme, out of which **six AIIMS at Bhopal, Bhubaneswar, Jodhpur, Patna, Raipur and Rishikesh** are already fully functional.
- In another seven AIIMS, OPD facility and MBBS classes have started while in five more institutes only MBBS classes has started.
- The project cost for **upgradation** of each medical college institution is **shared by the Centre and the state.**



4.3. Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Nidhi

- Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Nidhi (PMSSN) as a single **non-lapsable reserve fund** for share of Health from the proceeds of **Health and Education Cess** levied under Section 136-b of Finance Act, 2007.
- A non-lapsable reserve fund for Health in the Public Account
- Administration and maintenance - Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
- Accruals into the PMSSN will be **utilized for** the flagship schemes of the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare namely
 - ✓ Ayushman Bharat
 - ✓ National Health Mission
 - ✓ Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY)
 - ✓ Emergency & disaster preparedness and responses during health emergencies
 - ✓ Any future programme/scheme that targets to achieve progress towards SDGs and the targets set out in the National Health Policy (NHP) 2017.

5. International Relations

5.1. Northern Sea Route

- As Russia assumed the rotating chairmanship of the Arctic Council on Thursday, the U.S. rallied members to oppose Moscow's plans to set maritime rules in the **Northern Sea Route**, which runs from Norway to Alaska



The Arctic Council

- is the leading intergovernmental forum promoting cooperation, coordination and interaction among the Arctic States, Arctic indigenous communities and other Arctic inhabitants on common Arctic issues, in particular on issues of sustainable development and environmental protection in the Arctic



Arctic Council	
Formation	Intergovernmental body set up in 1996 by the Ottawa declaration to promote
Objective	To promote cooperation, coordination and interaction among the Arctic States & Arctic indigenous people
Members	Canada, the Kingdom of Denmark (Greenland and the Faroe Islands), Finland, Iceland, Norway, the Russian Federation, Sweden and the United States of America
Permanent Participants	Six Arctic Indigenous organizations that hold Permanent Participant status in the Arctic Council: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aleut International Association, Arctic Athabaskan Council, Gwich'in International Council, Inuit Circumpolar Council, Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North, and the Saami Council.

Arctic Council		
Observer status Objective	Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the objectives of the Arctic Council • Recognize Arctic State's sovereignty, sovereign rights and jurisdiction in the Arctic. • Accepted the UNCLOS as the governing instrument for the Arctic • Respect the values, interests, culture and traditions of Arctic indigenous peoples and other Arctic inhabitants • Financial ability to contribute to the work of the Permanent Participants
	Rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open to non-Arctic states, along with inter-governmental, inter-parliamentary, global, regional and non-governmental organizations • Observers have no voting rights in the Council.

Arctic Council	
Observer status (Total-38)	<p>Non arctic countries (13)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Japan, china, India, South korea, UK</p> <p>Intergovernmental and Inter-Parliamentary Organizations (13)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> IUCN, IMO,WMO,UNDP,UNEP</p> <p>NGO (12)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> WWF</p>

5.2.Sri Lanka Parliament passes Bill on China-backed Port City

- The Sri Lankan Parliament recently passed a controversial Bill on laws governing the China-backed Colombo Port City

Colombo port city

- The \$1.4-billion Colombo Port City was **launched in 2014**
- **Colombo International Financial City (CIFIC)** is a special financial zone and International Financial Centre currently under construction in Colombo, Sri Lanka.
- The project is **part of China's Belt and Road initiative.**
- It aims to attract billions of dollars for trade, banking and offshore services **similar to what is available in Dubai and Singapore**
- The **transactions** within Port City will be denominated in **foreign currency.**
- Further, **all salaries earned by any worker** of the Port City will be **tax-exempt.**
- Environmentalists believe that the **adverse environmental impact** of the project would be far greater than the economic benefits.
- Sri Lanka may face issues by giving outright ownership of land to China in a high-security zone. This may impact Sri Lanka's **sovereignty**



Full year Current Affairs Revision through MCQs

International Relation-Day 4

1. Recently 'Air bubble agreement ' seen in news, is more appropriately related to

- A. Aerosol containment zone
- B. COVID related restrictions by states
- C. Passenger travel among countries
- D. Sanitization facilities in government buildings

2. Recently 'Nagorno Karabakh ' seen in news, is a conflict between

- A. Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan
- B. Turkmenistan and Iran
- C. Azerbaijan and Iran
- D. Armenia and Azerbaijan

3. Recently Shahid kalantari and Shahid Beheshti seen in news, are:

- A. Chabahar terminals
- B. Most persecuted minority in Turkey
- C. Hamas location in Gaza strip
- D. New Lithium sites in Bolivia

4. Arrange the following in North to south order

- 1. Yellow sea
- 2. Sea of Okhotsk
- 3. Sea of Japan
- 4. East china sea

Select the correct answer code:

- A. 2 , 3, 4, 1
- B. 2, 3, 1, 4
- C. 1, 2, 3, 4
- D. 3, 2, 1, 4

5. Arrange the following in North to south order

1. Ramallah
2. Haifa
3. Jerusalem
4. Tel aviv

Select the correct answer code:

- A. 2, 3, 4, 1
- B. 2, 3, 1, 4
- C. 1, 3, 2, 4
- D. 2, 4, 1, 3

Current affairs Worksheet (21st May 2021)

Factual sheet for Quick revision

Topic	Description	Update
Sc n T	<p>Aerosol vs droplet</p> <p>Multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children (MIS-C)</p> <p>Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana</p> <p>Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Nidhi</p>	
Geography	<p>A-76 Iceberg</p> <p>Weddell sea</p>	
Polity	<p>Epidemic Diseases Act 1897</p>	
Economy	<p>Infrastructure status significance</p>	
IR	<p>The Arctic Council</p> <p>North sea route</p> <p>Colombo port city</p>	