

6<sup>th</sup> May 2021

Q-1 "Viral load is high and a 3<sup>rd</sup> wave of COVID-19 is inevitable". In the light of above statement discuss the various causes of present health crisis due to Covid, also suggest suitable way out to tackle COVID permanently. (250W)

Ans The global pandemic due to this novel Corona virus has created a havoc to the humankind and the health infrastructure globally. It has taken a toll to lives of lakhs of people worldwide. The deteriorated situation of health infrastructure has raised question on the preparedness to handle such crisis. and ability to achieve SDG-3 i.e. Good health and well being.

### Causes of present health crisis

#### (a) Poor guidelines

Initially health agencies like WHO & ICMR were less proactive to issue proper guidelines to be followed like wearing masks, sanitizing hands, social distancing etc.

#### (b) Lack of responsibility and integrated approach

Bifurcated actions were taken by Centre, state as well as local govt. as well as at global levels.

#### (c) Poor health infrastructure

Lack of medical equipments & medical professionals.

### (d) One size fits all approach

it cannot be helpful because of spatial gaps, rural-urban gaps; issues with tribals, disabled people etc. in terms of how to face these health problems.

### (e) Lack of proper awareness

Social distancing required attitudinal change among a largely diverse population.

(f) Lack of drinking water and sanitation facilities and poor air quality.

(g) Lower immunity due to presence of co-morbidities.

### How to tackle it?

#### Short term measures:

- ① Zero tolerance: against guidelines violations.
- ② Attitudinal changes: regarding social distancing, wearing masks getting vaccinated etc.
- ③ Role modelling: of better performing cities, districts & states as well as medical functionaries doing their duties responsibly.
- ④ Bringing Awareness: through media; local ASHA, Anganwadis workers etc.

#### Long term:

- ① Improve health infrastructure
- ② Better RnD to fight with the virus.
- ③ Increase <sup>public</sup> spending on health sector.

This is how we can handle this situation and good health & well being will improve the human capital and ultimately improve the GDP of the nation & will lead to a vision of New India.