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# CIVIL SERVICES ACHIEVERS' POINT

A ONE STOP SOLUTION FOR UPSC/APSC/SSC & BANKING

## **ANSWERWRITING PRACTICE- GS 2**

**1. The National Task Force (NTF), created by the apex court can shape the response to pandemic and future public health challenge. Comment. (250 words)**

### **MODEL ANSWER:**

**In the wake of the oxygen supply crisis in Covid-19 management in India, the Supreme Court has set up a 12-member National Task Force (NTF) to guide, inter alia, the central government allocation of medical oxygen to the states.**

### **Main focus areas:**

**-The task force will review and suggest measures necessary for ensuring the availability of essential drugs and medicines.**

**-Broader pandemic preparedness and response, which include planning and adopting remedial measures to ensure preparedness for present and future emergencies;**

**-To facilitate the use of technology; to suggest augmenting the availability of trained doctors, nurses and paramedical staff;**

**-To promote evidence-based research and enhance effective response to the pandemic;**

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**-Facilitate sharing of best practices across the nation to promote knowledge about management of the pandemic and to make recommendations in regard to other issues of pressing national concerns.**

## **Challenges:**

**-They have a short time to look at far broader issues.**

**-They may need to proactively co-opt members with expertise in medical procurement and supply; pharmacology, free medicines and diagnostics; and public health and emergency health response.**

**-considering that the availability of diagnostics has similar challenges as medicines, the NTF may consider including that as well in the scope of its work.**

**The decisions and recommendations of this NTF and how they co-opt members with the right expertise will determine whether India ends up becoming a medicalised care system (which would focus on treating sick) or a healthcare system which can keep people healthy and respond to future epidemics and pandemics.**

CIVIL SERVICES ACHIEVER'S POINT

*Leadership through knowledge...*

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**CENTRES: BELTOLA, SILCHAR, KOKRAJHAR, COTTON UNIVERSITY, SONAPUR COLLEGE, MARGHERITA**

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**2. Account for the correlation between life expectancy and important economic and social factors in the country, discuss the recent changes witnessed in the life expectancy. (250 words)**

## MODEL ANSWER:

**Life expectancy is a statistical measure of the average time a person is expected to live, based on the year of its birth, its current age, and other demographic factors including biological sex.**

**People in Delhi, Kerala, Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu, where there is no extreme poverty, people live longer than the national average.**

**But in poorer states like Chhattisgarh, UP, MP, Assam, Rajasthan, Bihar and Jharkhand it is below the national average.**

**The highest life expectancy for males is in Delhi (73.8 years), and the highest for females is in Kerala (77.9 years).**

**Infant mortality and maternal mortality rates are important factors. While Kerala's infant mortality rate is seven per 1,000 live births, it is 48 in MP and 43 in UP.**

**The improvement in average life expectancy at birth for the country for the period 2014-18, as shown by the Sample Registration System, life expectancy is 69.4 years, which marks an increase of 0.4 years from 2013-17**

**Apart from addressing issues like poverty, social and educational backwardness and inadequacy of health facilities all over the country, special**

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**attention should be paid to reducing the disparities among states and social and economic groups. The country has lagged in all these areas. China reached India's life expectancy levels in the 1990s and Nepal and Bangladesh, which were behind India, have gone ahead of us. While the improvement in life expectancy is welcome, it is also reminder of the need for greater efforts.**



# CSAP

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