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CIVIL SERVICES ACHIEVERS' POINT

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

THE ASSAM TRIBUNE ANALYSIS

DATE - 24th 2021

For Preliminary and Mains examination

As per new Pattern of APSC

(Also useful for UPSC and other State level government examinations)

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Leadership through knowledge...

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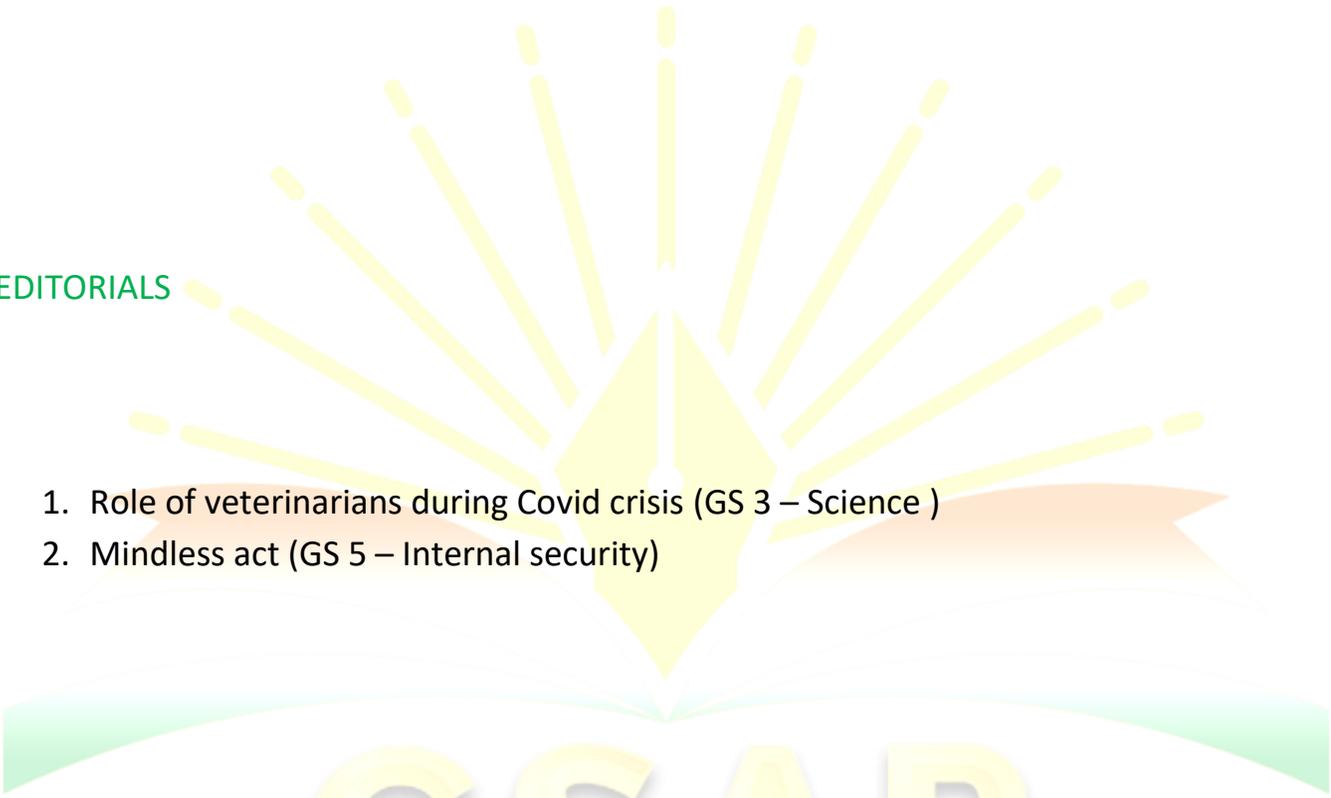
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EDITORIALS

1. Role of veterinarians during Covid crisis (GS 3 – Science)
2. Mindless act (GS 5 – Internal security)



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ARTICLES

Role of veterinarians during Covid crisis

- World Veterinary Day is celebrated every year on the last Saturday of April to honour and celebrate the contribution of veterinarians towards the well-being of animals and society as a whole.
- The theme this year as announced by the World Veterinary Association is 'Veterinarian response to Covid-19 crisis'.
- Today, the entire world has been wrecked by the fallout of Covid-19. Hospitals are inundated with numerous patients and death tolls are rising horrendously.
- The second wave of the coronavirus is much more devastating. Tragically the number of cases is burgeoning exponentially.
- On February 10, at the commencement of the second wave, India had 11,000 cases. And in the next 50 days, the daily average was around 22,000. In the subsequent days, the number of cases continued to spiral. Today, India is witnessing over 3 lakh cases every day. SARS COV-2, the virus responsible for the outbreak of Covid-19 is surmised to have links with bats.
- Due to mutation that created a new virus, it developed the ability to infect humans and spread efficiently from person to person. In the past few decades, it was observed that many human infectious diseases have an animal link.
- As per the International Livestock Research Institute, three-quarters of emerging human infections are zoonotic. Sixty per cent of these infections are transmitted by animals and 70 per cent have animal origin. Influenza H1N1 2009 pandemic, SARS COV I, Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) COV, NIPAH viral outbreak in Kerala are some examples of zoonotic viral infections.

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- These are regarded as veiled threats for many novel human viral infections that may lead to global pandemics. As per an article in the Indian Journal of Medical Research, approximately 7,00,000 animal viruses may retain the potential to cause human infections. Veterinarians have always played an integral role in public health.
- Veterinarians across the globe are engaged in researches to study the ecology of emerging zoonotic diseases that are shared between animals and man. Covid-19 being a zoonotic disease, collaborative efforts of veterinarians and other health professionals are needed in order to find a pertinent cure to the virus.
- Veterinarians are well acquainted with the skills and knowledge to handle viruses and conduct diagnostic tests. As such, veterinarians and their hospital machinery have really helped in isolating the virus and diagnosing the disease. In India, in pursuant to the WHO's advice, many State governments have availed of veterinary services as they have expertise on RT-PCR and zoonotic diseases.
- In the mist of this ongoing pandemic, veterinarians have never failed to provide services that promote health and welfare of animals.
- Multitude of veterinary clinics have provided essential and emergency services to animals during this difficult time. For non-emergency services, the veterinary hospital under the Veterinary Science and Animal Husbandry department at Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K), is providing veterinary services through telemedicine. A handful of veterinary clinics have adopted client 'conciierge' with an eye to curtail person to person interactions.
- Many veterinary institutes have endorsed an online curriculum to impart knowledge and guide researchers without compromising social distancing. Apart from this, veterinarians are uniquely poised to ensure food safety and food hygiene through their knowledge in food animal production, bio security and epidemiology.
- The analogy between food security and global security is irrefutable. Food security is fundamental to health and economic growth. Food insecurities and food price inflation can entail instabilities which may have profound global security implications. Animal proteins are crucial for growth and cognitive development of young children. Its deficiency may have detrimental impact in the country's long-term progress.

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- As per the American Veterinary Medical Association, veterinary medicine is at the spearhead of food safety, ascertaining superior quality animal foods products derived that are devoid of microbial or chemical contaminants. In this protracted period of odd time, veterinarians have made tremendous contribution to food safety, vaccine development, and epidemiology and bio security but have received less attention.
- As the second wave of Covid-19 has started, it is the responsibility of all veterinarians to protect their health, as well as the health of those they work with and also their client's health. Hence, they must ensure that the adequate level of bio security is enforced in their working place. Veterinarians must ensure that only healthy animals and by-products enter the food supply.
- Emergency situation should be addressed to the appropriate authority. Priority research activities should continue to operate. Preventive measures, such as vaccination against diseases with a significant public health or economic impact are maintained.
- Covid related information should be provided to the pet owners. Controlling emerging zoonotic diseases is a tedious job and requires 'one health approach'. Veterinarians have a window of opportunity to assert themselves as a key player in transforming one health theory into collaborative action through focusing on food security, navigating the pandemic and preventing future pandemics.
- Strong surveillance system should be implemented with a view to contain such brutal viral outbreaks at its commencement. The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is holding international events on 'zoonotic diseases' to help countries prepare action plans for disease containment.
- An innovative 10-year partnership, Global Virome Project, has put tremendous efforts to detect the unknown viral menace. This innovative initiative could vanquish the pandemic era. Since the infection results from human-animal interface, collaborative efforts should be made by both medical and veterinary professionals in conformity with 'One Health' that was introduced in amidst the global scare of the 115N1 epidemic.
- This concept was advocated by the World Health Organization (WHO), the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), and the World Organization for Animal Health (also known as OIE) to fight human infection by human-animal- environment interface.

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- International Health Regulations (IHR 2005) that was adopted in 2005 aims to provide public health response to prevent and control international spread of diseases.
- The WHO is collaborating with all international organizations dealing with animal health to bolster the veterinary contribution in the enforcement of IHR (2005) and monitoring of zoonotic diseases.
- While preparing protocol for surveillance and capacity building for responding to zoonotic diseases, there should be collaboration among animal and public health authorities. In a nutshell, veterinarians have multitude of selfless contributions not only in promoting animal welfare and scientific research but to the society at large.

Mindless act

- Hardly had the dust settled on the abduction and release of two oil executives by the ULFA (I), when three employees of ONGC, the country's biggest public sector hydrocarbon entity, have been taken hostage, allegedly by the banned outfit.
- This is a serious development that puts in poor light the State's law and order situation, more so at a time when all ultra outfits except the ULFA (I) have entered into peace settlements with the Government.
- Apparently, the outfit has stepped up its abduction drive to fatten its coffers, as cash-rich companies often end up paying huge ransom amounts to secure the release of their employees. That many of the exploration sites are located in remote, forested areas act to the advantage of the militants for whom targeting the employees becomes easy.

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- Apart from bringing disrepute to the State as an unsafe place to work, these mindless acts on the part of the banned outfit are also eroding whatever little support base it enjoys. Although the ULFA (I) has not yet come out in the open about its role in the latest abduction, it has not denied reports of its involvement either, leading credence to the theory that it is behind the heinous act.
- Although public pressure had a big role in the release of the two abducted Quippo executives earlier, apparently the company was made to pay ransom money to secure their release. While police has swung into action following the latest abduction, the ULFA (I) needs to clarify immediately its involvement or otherwise in the development.
- Maintaining silence will be tantamount to establishing its role in the abduction. Over the years, the banned outfit has lost a lot of credibility when it killed several hostages including a Russian engineer and a well known social worker even after indicating that they could be released.
- Civil society must question the ULFA over the developments and intensify public opinion for the ONGC men's immediate release. With the Assembly election results set to be declared in about a week's time, such incidents expose the poor internal security and law and order in the State. Indeed, an alarming increase in different crimes including abduction has emerged as a disquieting concern in the State.
- While abduction for ransom by militants and anti-social elements has been common, involvement of surrendered ultras in a good number of cases is a disturbing trend. In the latest case too, police a few surrendered ULFA militants. It shows that despite joining the mainstream after professing to abjure violence, many of them have not yet parted with their criminal ways.
- It is an open secret that surrendered old their dominance. Regrettably, the government machinery continues to take a lenient view of the illegal acts of these so-called former rebels who actually have very little to differentiate themselves from criminals.

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