Kasaragod Model

Why in News?

The Centre showcased the contact tracing and containment model of Kerala's Kasaragod as a successful containment exercise.

Why showcase Kasaragod?

- Kasaragod reported the third case of COVID-19 in the country - a student airlifted from Wuhan on February 3.
- The district administration mounted a **massive exercise to trace** the 150-odd contacts of that one student.
- Kasaragod had 169 cases and zero deaths until April 19.
- Of these, 123 people had already **recovered**.
- Most of the cases were of those who had caught the virus during their travels abroad and those who returned from the Middle East.

What is the Kasaragod model?

- The **district administration** relied on aggressive testing, technology, foolproof contact tracing, etc., to achieve the results it can now show.
- The state government appointed a **special officer** to,
    1. Coordinate functioning of the district administration.
    2. Coordinate between departments at field and secretariat levels.
- **Section 144** was imposed in the entire district, with 7 drones employed for surveillance.
- Under the **Care for Kasaragod** initiative, a common coordinated action plan was drawn up for combating COVID-19.

What was this action plan?

- All quarantined people were tracked using GPS.
- All essentials were home-delivered in the containment zones.
- 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.
- The plan was carried out with a very strong social welfare component, which included free food kits for the poor and migrant workers.

- Health checkup was carried out on alternate days for migrants or the destitute. There is a 709-bed COVID-19 care centre.
- ASHAs and health inspectors carried out household surveys.

What are the other successful models?

- **Agra Model**: The district administration identified epicentres.
- They delineated the impact of positive confirmed cases on the map.
- A special task force was deployed as per a micro plan made by the district administration.
- The hotspot area was identified within a 3 km radius from the epicentre.
- They were managed through an active survey and containment plan.
- A 5 km buffer zone was identified as the containment zone.
- **Bhilwara Model**: This entailed complete isolation of Bhilwara city with Section 144 CrPC being imposed.
- The shutdown was total with the city and district borders sealed and checkposts at every entry and exit point.
- **Pathanamthitta Model**: Every person who had entered the district was screened.
- A database was created so that they could be reached at short notice.
- Graphics were created showing the travel route of the positive cases and publicised. This led to self-reporting.

Source: The Indian Express

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