

- Pandemics can spread rapidly around the world because of the ease of international transportation.
- Among the most salient examples are:
 - i. the Spanish flu of 1918
 - ii. the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) outbreak of 2003
 - iii. the H1N1 influenza of 2009
- Intermittently, serious regional epidemics have also occurred.
- These include the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) in 2012, Ebola in West Africa in 2014, and the Zika virus in Central and South America in 2015-16.
- Certainly, global health security requires the efforts of every person to ensure an optimal response to public health threats and challenges.
- Taiwan, though not a member of WHO, cannot stand alone and must be included in the fight against such threats and challenges.

Can Taiwan rightfully claim this?

- Taiwan has long been excluded from WHO due to political considerations.
- But Taiwan has fulfilled its responsibilities as a global citizen.
- It has abided by the International Health Regulations 2005 (IHR 2005) in notifying WHO of confirmed COVID-19 cases.
- It has also communicated with other countries on confirmed cases, travel and contact histories, and border control measures.
- Taiwan has uploaded the genetic sequence of COVID-19 to the Global Initiative on Sharing All Influenza Data (GISAID) Initiative.

5. GOVERNANCE

5.1 Containment of COVID-19 Cases in Kerala

What is the issue?

- With its efforts, Kerala appears to have finally flattened the curve on COVID-19 cases.
- Kerala's steps on the virus are easy to follow, but its success rate is difficult to be replicated in other states. Here is why.

What are the recent developments?

- Kerala had containment strategies in place even before the first case of novel coronavirus was detected there on January 30, 2020.