Lessons learnt during COVID19 for sustainable environmental and livelihood practices:
(Solutions for Sustainable development-Mains)

- Privileging of mental over manual labour, but the inequities and disparities are starker now and in more brutal circumstances than ever before.
- Any person whose livelihood is directly connected with their physical labour has been left with zero options unless they are somehow connected with health care, food or sanitation.
- The drastic reduction in flights, for instance, has affected the airline industry adversely but also highlighted the fact that many flight trips during ‘normal’ times are in fact unnecessary.
- The lockdown has shown that up to half of these trips are dispensable, especially if commuting and education trips can be cut down severely.
- Before the pandemic, business meetings, including international conferences and climate change meetings, were responsible for a bulk of flight travel. For example, a return flight, economy class, from Delhi to New York releases about 0.9 tonnes of carbon dioxide (it is twice as much in premium economy).
- It should be the norm in many sectors and people could work from home at least half the time, thus reducing travel needs, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and simplifying child care and other domestic services.
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- Develop open access schools and universities, the scam of high admissions fees can be altogether eliminated.
- Public hospitals need to be improved and have the capacity to respond to pandemics and related crises. Access to care in the emergency and beyond should be equally available to all.