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Nobel Laureate to Spread Awareness of Covid-19

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Why in News

Recently, the **West Bengal** government roped in **Nobel laureate Abhijit Banerjee** to spread awareness of **COVID-19**.

Abhijit Banerjee along with his wife economist Esther Duflo have agreed to help the West Bengal government.

Key Points

- **Abhijit Banerjee, Esther Duflo** along with **Michael Kremer** were awarded the **Nobel Prize** in **Economics** “for their experimental approach to alleviating global poverty.”
- The experiment-based approach of the three laureates has transformed development economics and turned it into a “flourishing field of research”.
- The three adopted an **evidence-based approach** to apply theory to real-life situations using randomised trials and assessing the outcomes.
 - The approach is derived from the concept of **clinical trials in the pharmaceuticals industry**.
 - The effort was to understand the impact of interventions to achieve desirable outcomes.
- **Example:** The experiment that Mr. Banerjee and Ms. Duflo carried out in Rajasthan some years ago would explain the concept better.
 - Despite immunisation being free, women were not bringing in their children for the vaccination shot.
 - The two economists decided to give a bag of pulses free to women who brought their babies for vaccination. Word soon spread and the rate of immunisation shot up in the region.
- One of their studies also resulted in benefiting 5 million children in India through programmes of remedial tutoring in schools.

Source: TH