



# drishti

## Possibility of Covid-19 being Syndemic

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### Why in News

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**Covid-19 syndemicWorld Health Organization (WHO)(i.e. may become endemic)less likely to be eliminated** .The possibilities of being have been raised in the backdrop of the announcement that Covid-19

**'Pandemic'**The rapid spread of Covid-19 across the world has been characterised as by the WHO.

### Note

- **Pandemic:** A pandemic is declared when a new disease for which people do not have immunity spreads around the world beyond expectations.
- **Epidemic:** An epidemic is a large outbreak, one that spreads among a population or region. It is less severe than pandemic due to a limited area of spread.
- **Endemic:** A disease is called endemic when the presence or usual prevalence of its infectious agent is constant within a given geographical area or population group.

### Key Points

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- **Description:**
  - **two or more epidemics interact synergistically**A syndemic is a situation when to produce an increased burden of disease in a population.
  - **Merrill Singer in the mid-1990s.** A situation of syndemic was first described by medical anthropologist

- **Possibility of Syndemic in the Current Scenario:**
  - **Covid-19 Pandemic and Presence of Dengue, Malaria:**
    - The least possibility of elimination of Covid-19 pandemic and warning about the second wave of Covid-19 infections worldwide have reinforced the presence of Covid-19 for the long term.
    - **monsoon season** Meanwhile, the alarm is being raised about diseases like dengue and malaria emerging with the upcoming in tropical South Asia.
    - Thus, there is a possibility that the world will face increased burden of the diseases and thus the situation of syndemic.
  - **Presence of Antibiotic Resistance:**
    - **weakened immunity.** The second wave of infection due to Covid-19 is suspected to be seen in those with
    - At the same time, the world already faces antibiotic resistance and if Covid-19 deepens as a syndemic in populations with antibiotic resistance, the world will face comorbidities.
    - Comorbidity is the presence of one or more additional conditions co-occurring with a primary condition.
    - **Antibiotic resistance** is the ability of bacteria or other microbes to resist the effects of an antibiotic. Antibiotic resistance occurs when bacteria change in some way that reduces or eliminates the effectiveness of drugs, chemicals, or other agents designed to cure or prevent infections.
- **Past Instances of Syndemic:**
  - The 1957 Asian influenza pandemic observed deaths not only due to the primary viral infection, but also due to secondary bacterial infections among influenza patients. In short, it was a viral/bacterial syndemic.
  - **Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) infections malaria** Meanwhile, researchers have shown that in Kenya, 5% of are due to higher HIV infectiousness of -infected HIV patients.
- - **large-scale population testing** **PCR and antibody testing** Whole world will need to implement for Covid-19 (such as ) to contain it at its base level.
  - **innovations in population health surveillance technology** The societies around the world will also have to consider and develop creative business models at a scale.

Possible Solutions:

**Source:TH**