

Current Affairs Quiz , April 2020

April 01

1) Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts is established in the year of

- a) 1986
- b) 1990
- c) 2014
- d) 2019

Answer: a

- The Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH) was established under Companies Act in the year 1986-87.
- It is a non-profit organization, with an object to promote, support, protect, maintain and increase the export of handicrafts.

2) Which among the statements about Ways and Means Advances is incorrect?

- a) The rate of interest is the same as the repo rate
- b) Tenure is one month
- c) Temporary loan facilities provided by RBI
- d) All of the above

Answer: b

- They are temporary loan facilities provided by RBI to the government to enable it to meet temporary mismatches between revenue and expenditure. The rate of interest is the same as the repo rate, while the tenure is three months.

3) Sun Radio Interferometer Space Experiment (SunRISE) is an array of six CubeSats operating as one very large radio telescope to study how the Sun releases solar particle storms. It is an initiative by

- a) ISRO
- b) ESA
- c) NASA
- d) All of the above

Answer: c

- NASA has selected a new mission to study how the Sun generates and releases giant space weather storms – known as solar particle storms – into planetary space.

4) What is the approximate weightage of Eight Core Industries in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP)?

- a) Less than 50%
- b) Less than 25%
- c) More than 75%
- d) Between 50 and 75%

Answer: a

- Eight Core Industries comprise 40.27 per cent of the weight of items included in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP)
- 5) "Stranded in India" programme which aims to help the foreign tourists amidst COVID-19 threats and Lock Down is launched by
- a) Ministry of External Affairs
 - b) Ministry of Tourism
 - c) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
 - d) None of the above

Answer: b

- Ministry of Tourism has launched "Stranded in India", a portal aimed to support foreign tourists. The portal aims to disseminate information to the foreign tourists stuck far away from their homeland amidst COVID-19 threats and Lock Down.

April 02

- 1) Who is a domicile in Jammu and Kashmir under Jammu and Kashmir domicile rules?
- a) resided for a period of 15 years in the UT of J&K
 - b) studied for a period of 7 years and appeared in class 10th/12th in the UT of J&K
 - c) registered as migrants and their children.
 - d) All of the above

Answer: d

- As per the Changes, who is now deemed to have domicile?
 - Anyone "who has resided for a period of fifteen years in the UT of J&K".
 - Or has studied for a period of seven years and appeared in class 10th/12th examination in an educational institution located in the UT of J&K.
 - Or those registered as migrants and their children.
 - Or the children of those central government officials, All India service officials, Officials of Public sector undertaking, autonomous body of central government, public sector banks, officials of statutory bodies officials of central universities and recognized research institutes of central government who have served in J&K for a period of ten years.
 - Or children of residents of J&K who reside outside the Union Territory in connection with employment or business or for other professional or vocational reasons, but whose parents fulfil any of the conditions provided in the latest gazette notification will also be entitled to domicile status

2) Countercyclical capital buffers (CCyB), recently seen in news, is associated with

- a) Banking system
- b) Drug trial
- c) Black money
- d) None of the above

Answer: a

- Reserve Bank has deferred implementation of countercyclical capital buffers (CCyB) and extended the realisation period for export proceeds.

3) Patriot air defence missiles, recently seen in news, is developed by

- a) Iran
- b) USA
- c) India
- d) Canada

Answer: b

- US recently deployed Patriot air defence missiles to Iraq.

4) Lifeline Udan Scheme, launched by Ministry of Civil Aviation, aims to

- a) domestic and overseas movement of essential cargo
- b) bringing the stranded Indians back from abroad
- c) Both (a) and (b)
- d) Neither (a) nor (b)

Answer: a

- The Ministry of Civil Aviation has launched "Lifeline Udan" flights for domestic and overseas movement of essential cargo. The objective is to ensure unhindered supply of medical products across the country.

5) Consider the following statements about Anti-smog guns:

1. They are used to control the growth of mosquitoes in their breeding zones.
2. Supreme Court made anti-smog guns mandatory in projects that require environmental clearance.

Choose the correct answer using the codes given below

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: b

- Anti-smog gun is a device that sprays nebulised water droplets into the atmosphere to reduce air pollution.

April 03

1) Under Operation Sanjeevani, Indian Air Force (IAF) delivered essential medicines and hospital consumables to

- a) Maldives
- b) Mauritius
- c) Sri Lanka
- d) Nepal

Answer: a

- An Indian Air Force (IAF) C-130J transport aircraft recently delivered 6.2 tonne of essential medicines and hospital consumables to Maldives under Operation Sanjeevani.

2) Project Praana developed indigenous ventilator prototype amid COVID-19 crisis. It is developed by

- a) IISc Bangalore
- b) IIT Madras
- c) ICMR
- d) None of the above

Answer: a

- IISc Bengaluru has developed an indigenous ventilator prototype under project Praana in view of COVID-19 crisis.

3) Agasthyavanam Biological Park is a wildlife sanctuary located in the state of

- a) Kerala
- b) Maharashtra
- c) Tamil Nadu
- d) Karnataka

Answer: a

- Embarking on a market intervention initiative to cushion the impacts of the slowdown, the Forest Department has begun to procure forest produce collected by the tribes people of the Agasthyavanam Biological Park (ABP) and the Neyyar and Peppara forest ranges to be sold to commercial establishments and various collectives.

4) BCG or bacille Calmette-Guerin, recently seen in news, is a preventive vaccine against

- a) Tuberculosis
- b) Small Pox
- c) AIDS
- d) None of the above

Answer: a

- BCG, or bacille Calmette-Guerin, is a vaccine for tuberculosis (TB) disease. The BCG vaccine is known to confer a strong immune response and a significant degree of protection against leprosy and non-invasive bladder cancers.

5) Geofencing, recently seen in news, finds application in

- a) Marketing
- b) Human Resource management
- c) Security
- d) All of the above

Answer: c

- Applications of geofence include:
 - Social networking.
 - Marketing
 - Audience engagement.
 - Smart appliances.
 - Human Resource management.
 - Telematics
 - Security

April 04

1) Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) is headquartered in

- a) Shanghai
- b) Beijing
- c) Manila
- d) New Delhi

Answer: b

- The United Nations has addressed the launch of AIIB as having potential for “scaling up financing for sustainable development” for the concern of global economic governance. The capital of the bank is \$100 billion, equivalent to 2/3 of the capital of the Asian Development Bank and about half that of the World Bank.
- It is headquartered in Beijing.

2) “Round-tripping”, recently seen in news, involves

- a) Black money
- b) Human to human transmission of viral diseases
- c) Animal to human transmission of viral diseases
- d) None of the above

Answer: a

- Round tripping refers to money that leaves the country through various channels and makes its way back into the country often as foreign investment. This mostly involves black money and is allegedly often used for stock price manipulation.

3) Which state government launched online cultural competitions to engage children during lockdown?

- a) Kerala
- b) Odisha
- c) Tamil Nadu
- d) Karnataka

Answer: b

- Odisha launches online cultural competition to engage children during lockdown.

4) BCG or bacille Calmette-Guerin, recently seen in news, is a preventive vaccine against

- a) Tuberculosis
- b) Leprosy
- c) Both (a) and (b)
- d) Neither (a) nor (b)

Answer: c

- BCG, or bacille Calmette-Guerin, is a vaccine for tuberculosis (TB) disease. The BCG vaccine is known to confer a strong immune response and a significant degree of protection against leprosy and non-invasive bladder cancers.

5) What is the name of the initiative to fight Coronavirus which was formed by IAS and IPS officers?

- a) Caruna
- b) Fight Covid
- c) Go Corona
- d) None of the above

Answer: a

- IAS IPS officers associations formed Caruna an initiative to fight Coronavirus

April 06

1) How many days of wage employment must be provided by the local governments under the MGNREGA scheme?

- a) 100
- b) 150
- c) 200
- d) None of the above

Answer: b

- The scheme was introduced as a social measure that guarantees “the right to work”. The key tenet of this social measure and labour law is that the local government will have to legally provide at least 150 days of wage employment in rural India to enhance their quality of life.
- The following are the eligibility criteria for receiving the benefits under MGNREGA scheme:
 - Must be Citizen of India to seek NREGA benefits.
 - Job seeker has completed 18 years of age at the time of application.
 - The applicant must be part of a local household (i.e. application must be made with local Gram Panchayat).
 - Applicant must volunteer for unskilled labour.

2) Cytokine storm, recently seen in news, refers to

- a) Cyclones in South China Sea
- b) Overproduction of immune cells
- c) Tornadoes in North America
- d) None of the above

Answer: b

- A cytokine storm is an overproduction of immune cells and their activating compounds (cytokines), which, in a flu infection, is often associated with a surge of activated immune cells into the lungs. The resulting lung inflammation and fluid build-up can lead to respiratory distress and can be contaminated by a secondary bacterial pneumonia — often enhancing the mortality in patients.

3) Artemis Program is a space mission aimed to explore

- a) Mars
- b) Moon
- c) Titan
- d) Sun

Answer: b

- NASA unveils plan for Artemis ‘base camp’ on the moon beyond 2024.

4) Which of the following is not one of the laws that came about to be applied during coronavirus lockdown?

- a) Section 188 IPC
- b) Section 505 IPC
- c) Section 52, Disaster Management Act
- d) None of the above

Answer: d

- Section 188 IPC deals with those disobeying an order passed by a public servant
- Section 51 of the Disaster Management Act, 2005 provides for punishment for obstructing any officer or employee of the government or person authorised by any disaster management authority for discharge of a function; and refusing to comply with any direction given by the authorities under the Act.
- Section 505 IPC provides for those who publish or circulate anything which is likely to cause fear or alarm
- Under Section 52, Disaster Management Act, whoever makes a false claim for obtaining "any relief, assistance, repair, reconstruction or other benefits" from any official authority can be sentenced to a maximum of two years imprisonment and a fine will be imposed on the person.

5) Which among the following is not a part to Singapore Convention on Mediation?

- a) Qatar
- b) Fiji
- c) China
- d) None of the above

Answer: d

- As of now 52 countries has signed the convention, including economic heavyweights the United States and China.
- Qatar has ratified the international treaty, it is the third country to do so, following Singapore and Fiji.

April 07

1) Which of the following statements about ventilators is not correct?

- a) It is a medical device that provides a patient with oxygen when they are unable to breathe on their own.
- b) During any surgery that requires general anaesthesia, a ventilator is necessary.
- c) Railways' Rail Coach Factory (RCF) manufactured Jeevan Ventilators
- d) None of the above

Answer: d

- All the statements are correct.

2) Jeevan Ventilators, recently seen in news, is developed by

- a) AIIMS Delhi
- b) IIT Madras
- c) ICMR
- d) Railways' Rail Coach Factory (RCF)

Answer: d

- Railways' Rail Coach Factory (RCF) has invented a ventilator prototype that has an original design and will cost a fraction of what regular ventilators cost.
- The prototype named Jeevan will now go for final testing at the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) before being put to production to aid the country's fight against COVID-19.

3) Anti-microbial coating, recently seen in news, is primarily used over

- a) personal protective tools, clothes and equipment of health workers.
- b) Tablets specifically made for viral diseases
- c) To make an attenuated virus for making medicines
- d) All of the above

Answer: a

- The Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR), an autonomous institution under DST, has come up with a one-step curable anti-microbial coating.
- This coating is capable of completely killing the influenza virus and resistant pathogenic bacteria and fungi, including methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*, fluconazole-resistant *C. albicans* spp. and a range of virus type Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 (SARS-COV-19).

4) SARS CoV-2 virus has been confirmed so far on

- a) Bats
- b) Pangolin
- c) Tiger
- d) All of the above

Answer: d

- A tiger named Nadia, at the Bronx Zoo, in New York, US died, had tested COVID-19 positive.

5) Corona bonds, seen in news, is discussed to be issued in

- a) India
- b) USA

- c) Eurozone
- d) All of the above

Answer: c

- Corona bonds could be a possible resolution to alleviate Eurozone financial struggles amid the coronavirus crisis. However, the idea has received mixed responses amongst the EU.

April 08

1) MP Local Area Development (MPLAD) scheme, recently stopped for 2 years to fund towards COVID 19 crisis, allows an annual entitlement per MP constituency of

- a) 50 Cr
- b) 5 Cr
- c) 1 Cr
- d) None of the above

Answer: b

- The Union Cabinet has approved a 30% cut in the salaries of all Members of Parliament and a two-year suspension of the MP Local Area Development (MPLAD) scheme so that the amount saved can go to the Consolidated Fund of India to fight COVID-19.
- Each MP is allocated Rs. 5 crore per year since 2011-12 which has been increased from Rs. 5 lakh in 1993-94

2) Corona bonds, seen in news, is discussed to be issued in

- a) India
- b) USA
- c) Eurozone
- d) All of the above

Answer: c

- Corona bonds could be a possible resolution to alleviate Eurozone financial struggles amid the coronavirus crisis. However, the idea has received mixed responses amongst the EU.

3) "5T plan : testing, tracing, treatment, teamwork and tracking-monitoring" to contain COVID-19 is an initiative by

- a) Kerala
- b) Rajasthan
- c) Delhi
- d) Karnataka

Answer: c

- Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has announced a “5T plan” created by his government to contain COVID-19 spread in Delhi. These five Ts are testing, tracing, treatment, teamwork and tracking-monitoring.

4) India has shared nine whole genome sequences of the novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) with the Global Initiative on Sharing All Influenza Data (GISAID). It is a public platform started by the

- a) USA
- b) Germany
- c) WHO
- d) None of the above

Answer: c

- It is a public platform started by the WHO in 2008 for countries to share genome sequences.

5) The theme for the World Health Day 2020 is “Support Nurses and Midwives”. It is observed on

- a) 7th April
- b) 10th March
- c) 11th March
- d) 8th April

Answer: a

- April 7 is observed as ‘World Health Day’ This was the day in 1948 when the World Health Organisation was founded.

April 09

1) National Wildlife Board is a “Statutory Organization” constituted under

- a) Wildlife Protection Act, 1972
- b) Environmental Protection Act 1990
- c) Indian Forest Act, 1927
- d) Forest Conservation Act, 1980

Answer: a

- National Wildlife Board issues final nod for Mumbai-Nagpur highway amid lockdown. The approval was given via video-conferencing.

2) iGOT — Integrated Government Online Training is an online training platform in the fight against COVID-19. It is launched by

- a) Department of Personnel and Training
- b) Department of Health Research
- c) Suraksha Clinic
- d) None of the above

Answer: a

- The Department of Personnel and Training launches online training platform- iGOT in the fight against COVID-19. The platform is called iGOT — Integrated Government Online Training.

3) The bio fortified crop- Madhuban Gajar was developed by Shri Vallabhhai Vasrambhai Marvaniya, a farmer scientist from Junagadh district, Gujarat. It contains high amounts of

- a) β -carotene
- b) Iron
- c) Both (a) and (b)
- d) Neither (a) nor (b)

Answer: c

- The bio fortified crop- Madhuban Gajar was developed by Shri Vallabhhai Vasrambhai Marvaniya, a farmer scientist from Junagadh district, Gujarat.
- It contains high β -carotene and iron content.

4) Which among the following is the biggest contributor to funds of WHO?

- a) USA
- b) Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
- c) China
- d) None of the above

Answer: a

- The United States is currently the WHO's biggest contributor, making up 14.67 per cent of total funding by providing USD 553.1 million. The US is followed by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation forming 9.76 per cent or USD 367.7 million.

5) The responsibility of celebrating International Day of Yoga in Indian Missions/Posts abroad since 2015 is with

- a) Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR)
- b) Ministry of Culture
- c) Ministry of External Affairs
- d) None of the above

Answer: a

- ICCR was founded in 1950 by Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, Independent India's first Education Minister.

April 10

1) "State of the World's Nursing" report is released by

- a) WHO
- b) International Council of Nurses (ICN)
- c) Nursing Now campaign
- d) All of the above

Answer: d

- WHO, along with the International Council of Nurses (ICN) and the Nursing Now campaign, has released a report titled, "State of the World's Nursing".

2) Operation Shield, recently seen in news, refers to for sealing, home quarantine, isolation and tracing, essential supply, local sanitation and door-to-door checks. It is an initiative by

- a) Delhi
- b) Rajasthan
- c) Kerala
- d) None of the above

Answer: a

- It will be implemented in 21 localities identified as containment zones in Delhi.

3) Who is known as "Father of Indian Chemistry"?

- a) Acharya Prafulla Chandra Ray
- b) Homi Jehangir Bhabha
- c) Mishra
- d) None of the above

Answer: a

- Acharya Prafulla Chandra Ray is known as "Father of Indian Chemistry", Prafulla Chandra Ray (1861-1944) was a well-known Indian scientist and teacher and one of the first "modern" Indian chemical researchers.

4) Which among the following NGOs contributes maximum to WHO?

- a) Foundation for NIH (FNIH)
- b) Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
- c) UN Foundation (UNF)
- d) Wellcome Trust

Answer: b

- The United States is currently the WHO's biggest contributor, making up 14.67 per cent of total funding by providing USD 553.1 million. The US is followed by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation forming 9.76 per cent or USD 367.7 million.

5) What was the rank of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research in the Nature Ranking Index-2020?

- a) 1st
- b) 24th
- c) 103rd
- d) 4th

Answer: a

- CSIR was established by the Government of India as an autonomous body. CSIR has been ranked first in the Nature Ranking Index-2020.

April 11

1) Which among the following is not one of the methods from which World Health Organisation gets its funds?

- a) Specified voluntary contributions
- b) Core voluntary contributions
- c) Pandemic Influenza Preparedness (PIP) Contributions
- d) None of the above

Answer: d

- There are four kinds of contributions that make up funding for the WHO, these are
- Assessed contributions - Assessed contributions are the dues countries pay in order to be a member of the Organization.
- Specified voluntary contributions - Voluntary contributions come from Member States (in addition to their assessed contribution) or from other partners.
- Core voluntary contributions - Core voluntary contributions allow less well-funded activities to benefit from a better flow of resources and ease implementation bottlenecks that arise when immediate financing is lacking.
- PIP contributions - Pandemic Influenza Preparedness (PIP) Contributions were started in 2011 to improve and strengthen the sharing of influenza viruses with human pandemic potential, and to increase the access of developing countries to vaccines and other pandemic related supplies.

2) Recently the COVID-19 pandemic has made the ubiquitous gamosa, a decorative cotton towel, evolve from memento to mask. It is an article of significance in the state of

- a) Delhi
- b) Rajasthan

- c) Assam
- d) None of the above

Answer: c

- The Gamosa is an article of significance for the people of Assam.
- It is generally a white rectangular piece of cloth with primarily a red border on three sides and red woven motifs on the fourth.

3) Recently, Bharat Electronics Ltd. and the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Rishikesh, have jointly developed a remote patient health monitoring system. Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) is a

- a) Miniratna company
- b) Maharatna company
- c) Navratna company
- d) None of the above

Answer: c

- It has been granted Navratna status. BEL also develops Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) and Voter-verified Paper Audit Trail (VVPATs).

4) Which among the following All India Financial Institutions are supervised by the Reserve Bank?

- a) SIDBI
- b) EXIM Bank
- c) NABARD
- d) All of the above

Answer: d

- Recently SIDBI announced that it would provide emergency working capital of up to Rs 1 crore to MSMEs against their confirmed government orders.
- SIDBI is one of the four All India Financial Institutions regulated and supervised by the Reserve Bank, other three are
 - EXIM Bank,
 - NABARD
 - NHB (but recently NHB has been in government control by taking more than 51% stack)

5) National Innovation Foundation (NIF) comes under the aegis of

- a) Department of Science and Technology
- b) Niti Aayog
- c) ISRO
- d) All of the above

Answer: a

- Modi govt throws Covid-19 innovation 'challenge' to Indians, will fund winning ideas
- It is an autonomous body of the Department of Science and Technology (DST).
- It conducts a biennial national competition for grassroots green technologies developed by farmers through their own genius.

April 13

1) What change was observed in the Seismic noise of earth during the period of lock down?

- a) Increased
- b) Decreased
- c) Stayed the same
- d) All of the above

Answer: b

- It refers to the relatively persistent vibration of the ground due to a multitude of causes.
- Scientists have observed a fall in levels of ambient seismic noise since lock downs across the world.
- Scientists at the British Geological Survey (BGS) have reported a change in the Earth's seismic noise and vibrations amid the coronavirus lockdown.

2) MSP for MFP scheme, recently seen in news, is an initiative by

- a) Ministry of Finance
- b) Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- c) Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare
- d) Ministry of Tribal Affairs

Answer: d

- TRIFED asks State Nodal Departments & Implementing Agencies to initiate procurement from available funds under 'MSP for MFP scheme'.
- The Ministry of Tribal Affairs will be the nodal Ministry for implementation and monitoring of the scheme. The Minimum Support Price would be determined by the Ministry with technical help of TRIFED.

3) What is taken from the blood of the person who donate it for convalescent-plasma therapy?

- a) Red Blood Cells
- b) Platelets
- c) Antigens
- d) Antibodies

Answer: d

- India has taken a bold step to provide innovative treatment to patients suffering from COVID-19 disease- plasma therapy.
- Convalescent serum, that is the blood serum obtained from one who has recovered from an infectious disease and especially rich in antibodies for that pathogen, is then administered to a COVID-19 patient.

4) Which among the following is not one of the uses of Fly Ash?

- a) Concrete production
- b) Stabilization of soft soils
- c) Soil amendments
- d) None of the above

Answer: d

- Fly ash can be used in the following ways:
 - Concrete production, as a substitute material for Portland cement, sand.
 - Fly-ash pellets which can replace normal aggregate in concrete mixture.
 - Embankments and other structural fills.
 - Cement clinker production – (as a substitute material for clay).
 - Stabilization of soft soils.
 - Road subbase construction.
 - As aggregate substitute material (e.g. for brick production).
 - Agricultural uses: soil amendment, fertilizer, cattle feeders, soil stabilization in stock feed yards, and agricultural stakes.
 - Loose application on rivers to melt ice.
 - Loose application on roads and parking lots for ice control.

5) World Homoeopathy Day commemorates the 265th birth anniversary of Samuel Hahnemann, the founder of Homoeopathy. It is celebrated on

- a) 10th April
- b) 11th May
- c) 1st May
- d) 31st May

Answer: a

- The theme of 2020 is "Enhancing the scope of Homoeopathy in Public Health". It is observed on 10th April 2020.

April 14

1) Which among the following is not a festival in India celebrated in the month of April?

- a) Vaisakhi
- b) Naba Barsha

- c) Puthandu
- d) None of the above

Answer: d

- Different festivals being celebrated in several parts of country- April 13 and 14:
 - o Vaisakhi- Spring harvest festival celebrated by Hindus and Sikhs. The day marks the formation of Khalsa Panth of warriors under Guru Gobind Singh. It is celebrated as the first day of the month of Vaisakha according to Hindu calendar.
 - o Naba Barsha- Bengali New Year according to the Gregorian Calendar.
 - o Puthandu – Tamil Nadu. It is celebrated on the first day of the Tamil month – Chithirai – and marks the beginning of the Tamil New Year.

2) CollabCAD, recently seen in news, is an initiative by

- a) Atal Innovation Mission
- b) NITI Aayog
- c) National Informatics Centre (NIC)
- d) All of the above

Answer: d

- Atal Innovation Mission, NITI Aayog & National Informatics Centre (NIC) jointly launched CollabCAD in ATL schools.

3) Which among the following is not one of the Neglected Tropical Diseases?

- a) Leprosy
- b) Lymphaticfilariasis (LF)
- c) Cysticercosis
- d) All of the above

Answer: d

- On April 14, 2020, World Chagas Disease Day is being observed for the first time. The day is observed to spread awareness about this “silent and silenced disease”. The 72nd World Health Assembly approved the designation of Chagas Disease Day on May 24, 2019.
- It is classified as a neglected tropical disease (NTD), meaning it affects the low-income populations in developing countries across the globe.

4) Helicopter Money, recently seen in news, refers to

- a) printing large sums of money and distributing it to the public
- b) dropping money from helicopter in disaster hit areas
- c) dropping food and medicine from helicopter in disaster hit areas
- d) None of the above

Answer: a

- This is an unconventional monetary policy tool aimed at bringing a flagging economy back on track. It involves printing large sums of money and distributing it to the public. American economist Milton Friedman coined this term.

- Amid rising concerns over economic crisis that has been triggered by the COVID-19 lockdown; Helicopter Money is one concept that is being considered by authorities' world over.

5) Indo-U.S. Science and Technology Forum (IUSSTF) was established in

- a) 1998
- b) 2000
- c) 2015
- d) 2020

Answer: b

- Asserting that global challenges like COVID-19 call for global collaboration, a Indo-US science forum has invited proposals from scientists and engineers from the two countries to carry out joint research activities on the pandemic, leveraging existing infrastructure and funding.
- The Indo-U.S. Science and Technology Forum (IUSSTF) was established in 2000 under an agreement between the Governments of India and United States of America.

April 16

1) "DekhoApnaDesh" webinar series is an initiative by

- a) Ministry of Tourism
- b) Ministry of External Affairs
- c) Ministry of Culture
- d) Both (a) and (c)

Answer: a

- The Ministry of Tourism has launched its "DekhoApnaDesh" webinar series to provide information on the many destinations and details and expanse of the culture and heritage of our Incredible India. The move comes as tourism is hugely impacted with no movement happening either domestically or from across the border due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

2) Long Period Average (LPA) is the averages of rainfall received between 1951 and 2001 over a period of

- a) 10 years
- b) 25 years
- c) 100 years
- d) 50 years

Answer: d

- Long Period Average (LPA) is the averages of rainfall received over a 50-year period between 1951 and 2001, this average comes to 88 cm of rainfall (according to recent change).

3) 'Nyaya Deep' is the official newsletter of

- a) Supreme Court
- b) NALSA
- c) Bar Council of India
- d) None of the above

Answer: b

- The National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) has said that around 11,077 undertrials have been released from prisons nationwide as part of the mission to decongest jails following the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 'Nyaya Deep' is the official newsletter of NALSA.

4) Thrissur Pooram, recently seen in news, is a festival celebrated in the state of

- a) Tamil Nadu
- b) Assam
- c) Maharashtra
- d) Kerala

Answer: d

- Thrissur Pooram has been cancelled for the first time on account of the COVID-19 outbreak.

5) Which among the following is correct about floor test?

- a) Secretballot
- b) Transferrable vote
- c) Voice vote
- d) All of the above

Answer: c

- A floor test is the determination on the floor of the House (in this case, the Maharashtra Vidhan Sabha) whether the Chief Minister commands the support of the majority of the MLAs.
- This can be done by means of a voice vote, or by recording the vote of each MLA in the House. This determination of majority is done in a sitting of the legislature, for which the legislature has to be convened.

April 17

1) Trimeresurussalazar is a new species, the fifth variety of reptile to have been discovered in Arunachal Pradesh in a little more than a year. It is a

- a) Frog
- b) Viper
- c) Crocodile
- d) Butterfly

Answer: b

- Trimeresurussalazar is a new species, the fifth variety of reptile to have been

discovered in Arunachal Pradesh in a little more than a year.

- Salazar's pit viper belongs to the genus *Trimeresurus* Lacépède comprising charismatic venomous serpents with morphologically as well as ecologically diverse species.

2) Post-intensive care syndrome (PICS), recently heard in news, refers to

- a) ICU-acquired neuromuscular weakness
- b) Cognitive (thinking and judgment) impairment
- c) Both (a) and (b)
- d) Neither (a) nor (b)

Answer: c

- PICS is defined as new or worsening impairment in physical (ICU-acquired neuromuscular weakness), cognitive (thinking and judgment), or mental health status arising after critical illness and persisting beyond discharge from the acute care setting.

3) Chitra GeneLAMP-N, recently seen in news, is a diagnostic test kit that can confirm

- a) COVID19
- b) Ebola
- c) Zika
- d) HIV-AIDS

Answer: a

- It is a diagnostic test kit that can confirm COVID19 in 2 hours at low cost.
- It has been developed by Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology, Trivandrum, an Institute of National Importance, of the Department of Science and Technology (DST).

4) Which among the following can be considered as a pandemic that altered the course of human history?

- a) Justinian Plague
- b) Spanish Flu
- c) Black Death
- d) All of the above

Answer: d

- Justinian Plague: Broke out in the sixth century in Egypt and spread fast to Constantinople, which was the capital of the Eastern Roman (Byzantine) Empire. The plague was named after the then Byzantine Emperor Justinian. The outbreak had killed up to 25 to 100 million people.
- Black Death: The Black Death, or pestilence, hit Europe and Asia in the 14th century. It killed some 75 to 200 million people. Black Death led to improved wages for serfs and agricultural labourers. Land became more abundant relative to labour. It also led to the weakening of the Catholic Church.
- Spanish Flu: Broke out during the last phase of the First World War. Germans and Austrians were affected so badly that the outbreak derailed their offensives.

5) Zero yield, often seen in news, refers to

- a) Field trial for new medicine
- b) Test kits for covid 19
- c) A nuclear test
- d) None of the above

Answer: c

- Zero yield refers to a nuclear test in which there is no explosive chain reaction of the type ignited by the detonation of a nuclear warhead.
- U.S. state department suspects that China may have secretly set off low-level underground nuclear test explosions despite claiming to observe an international pact banning such blasts.

April 18

1) Which the following currencies doesn't come under Special Drawing Rights (SDR) of IMF?

- a) U.S. Dollar,
- b) Euro
- c) Chinese Renminbi
- d) None of the above

Answer: d

- The SDR is an international reserve asset, created by the IMF in 1969 to supplement its member countries' official reserves. The value of the SDR is based on a basket of five currencies—the U.S. dollar, the euro, the Chinese renminbi, the Japanese yen, and the British pound sterling.
- India is not supporting a general allocation of new Special Drawing Rights (SDR) by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) because it feels it might not be effective in easing COVID-19-driven financial pressures. The new SDR allocation was supposed to provide all 189 members with new foreign exchange reserves with no conditions.

2) Which among the following statements about Targeted Long Term Repo Operation (TLTRO) is/are correct?

- a) It uses the same interest rate as repo
- b) It is used for short term loans for 1 or 2 days
- c) Both (a) and (b)
- d) Neither (a) nor (b)

Answer: a

- LTRO is a tool that lets banks borrow one to three-year funds from the central bank at the repo rate, by providing government securities with similar or higher tenure as collateral.

3) KisanRath Mobile App, recently seen in news, is used as an information dissemination system for

- a) Weather forecasting
 - b) Facilitate transportation of foodgrains and perishables
 - c) Scientific advises from ICAR
 - d) None of the above
-

Answer: b

- Union Agriculture Ministry has launched KisanRath Mobile App to facilitate transportation of foodgrains and perishables during lockdown.

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- Spanish Flu: Broke out during the last phase of the First World War. Germans and Austrians were affected so badly that the outbreak derailed their offensives.

5) The theme of World Heritage Day 2020 is "Shared Culture', 'Shared heritage' and 'Shared responsibility". It is celebrated on

- a) 18th April
- b) 17th April
- c) 11th May
- d) None of the above

Answer: a

- There are a total of 38 heritage sites in India.
- Every year, 18th April is celebrated Worldwide as World Heritage Day to create awareness about Heritage among communities. The theme of World Heritage Day 2020 is "Shared Culture', 'Shared heritage' and 'Shared responsibility".

April 20

1) Which among the following doesn't belong to UNESCO's List of Intangible Cultural Heritage?

- a) Yoga
- b) Nawrouz
- c) Kumbh Mela
- d) None of the above

Answer: d

- From India the Intangible Cultural Heritages added into this list include:
 - Tradition of Vedic chanting
 - Ramlila,
 - Kutiyattam,
 - Ramman,
 - Mudiyettu,
 - Kalbelia
 - Traditional brass and copper craft
 - Chhau dance
 - Buddhist chanting of Ladakh
 - Sankirtana,
 - Yoga
 - Nawrouz
 - Kumbh Mela

2) Which among the following is the second largest inter-governmental organization after the United Nations?

- a) G20
- b) OECD
- c) IUCN
- d) None of the above

Answer: d

• Organisation of Islamic Cooperation is an international organization founded in 1969, consisting of 57 member states. It is the second largest inter-governmental organization after the United Nations.

3) Triboelectric effect, recently seen in news, has applications in

- a) Rubbing of a plastic pen on a sleeve of cotton
- b) Making of face masks
- c) Both (a) and (b)
- d) Neither (a) nor (b)

Answer: c

- A team of researchers at the Centre for Nano and Soft Matter Sciences (CeNS), Bangalore, an autonomous institute of the Department of Science and Technology (DST), have come up with a recipe for making face masks, termed as TriboE Mask, that can hold electric charges to restrict the entry of infections but interestingly, without any external power.
- Triboelectric effect, also known as triboelectric charging, is a type of contact

electrification on which certain materials become electrically charged after they are separated from a different material with which they were in contact.

4) Which among the following is not one of the three primordial elements produced in the big bang nucleosynthesis (BBN)?

- a) Helium
- b) Lithium
- c) Hydrogen
- d) All of the above

Answer: d

- Researchers at the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA), an autonomous institute under the Department of Science & Technology, Govt. of India, have discovered hundreds of Li-rich giant stars. They have also associated such Li enhancement with central He-burning stars, also known as red clump giants, thereby opening up new vistas in the evolution of the red giant stars.

5) Which among the following is not a Corona viruses?

- a) SARS-CoV
- b) MERS
- c) SARS-CoV-2
- d) None of the above

Answer: d

- All of them are related to corona virus

April 21

1) Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserve (ISPRL) crude oil storages are at three underground locations in

- a) Mangalore
- b) Visakhapatnam
- c) Padur
- d) All of the above

Answer: d

- ISPRL maintains an emergency fuel store of strategic crude oil enough to provide 10 days of consumption Strategic crude oil storages are at three underground locations in Mangalore, Visakhapatnam and Padur (Udupi, Karnataka).

2) Fortaleza Declaration was signed to form

- a) SCO
- b) NDB
- c) RATS
- d) AIIB

Answer: b

- In the Fortaleza Declaration, the leaders stressed that the NDB will strengthen cooperation among BRICS and will supplement the efforts of multilateral and regional financial institutions for global development.

3) Which region of atmosphere is also known as neutrosphere?

- a) mesosphere
- b) exosphere
- c) stratosphere
- d) All of the above

Answer: d

- The region below the ionosphere is called neutral atmosphere, or neutrosphere.

4) Milk tea alliance, recently seen in news, refers to

- a) pro-democratic front formed by internet users
- b) farmers alliance against milk price
- c) oil cartel formed by Saudi-Russian alliance
- d) None of the above

Answer: a

- It is a pro-democratic front formed by thousands of internet users from Thailand, Taiwan and Hong Kong in social networks against the authoritarianism of the Chinese Government and its supporters.

5) World Wide Help (WWH), a platform used to connect people seeking medical help with helpers, such as doctors, is an initiative of

- a) IIT Bombay
- b) National Informatics Centre
- c) IISc Bangalore
- d) IIIT Hyderabad

Answer: a

- IIT Bombay has developed a platform named World Wide Help (WWH) which can be used to connect people seeking medical help with helpers, such as doctors.

April 22

1) On April 23, 25th edition of World Book and Copyright Day is celebrated by

- a) UNESCO
- b) Reporters without borders
- c) International Authors
- d) None of the above

Answer: a

- Also known as World Book and Copyright Day, or International Day of the Book, it is an annual event organized by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to promote reading, publishing, and copyright.

2) World Press Freedom Index 2020 is released by

- a) Reporters without borders
- b) International Press Institute
- c) International Federation of Journalists
- d) None of the above

Answer: a

- The World Press Freedom Index 2020 has been released by the media watchdog group Reporters Without Borders.

3) Daporijo Bridge, constructed by Border Roads Organisation (BRO), is constructed in

- a) Jammu and Kashmir
- b) Arunachal Pradesh
- c) Assam
- d) Meghalaya

Answer: b

- The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) has constructed the Daporijo bridge over Subansiri river in Arunachal Pradesh in a record span of just 27 days.

4) Who among the following defined civil servants as the steel frame of India?

- a) BR Ambedkar
- b) Jawaharlal Nehru
- c) Sardar Patel
- d) None of the above

Answer: c

- Civil Services Day is observed on 21st April every year. On this day in 1947, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel addressed the first batch of probationers at the All India Administrative Service Training School at Metcalfe House, New Delhi in 1947. In his speech he called civil servants as the steel frame of India.

5) Civil Services Day is celebrated on

- a) 21st April
- b) 23rd April
- c) 22 May
- d) None of the above

Answer: a

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Vallabhbhai Patel addressed the first batch of probationers at the All India Administrative Service Training School at Metcalfe House, New Delhi in 1947. In his speech he called civil servants as the steel frame of India.

April 23

1) Noor satellite, a military satellite was launched by a country's armed forces? Which is that country?

- a) Iran
- b) Saudi Arabia
- c) Oman
- d) UAE

Answer: a

- Iran claims to have launched its first military satellite into orbit on Wednesday, according to The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps. Iran says the satellite, called Noor, took off on top of a relatively unknown rocket called Ghased, or "Messenger," from Iran's Central Desert and reached an altitude of 425 kilometers.

2) Remittance Prices Worldwide is a resource report sponsored by

- a) WEF
- b) International Press Institute
- c) IMF
- d) World Bank Group

Answer: d

- Remittance Prices Worldwide is a resource report sponsored by the World Bank Group. It provides data on the cost of sending remittances from 48 remittance sending countries and 105 receiving countries.

3) Which among the following is not one of the official language of UN?

- a) Arabic
- b) Chinese
- c) Spanish
- d) All of the above

Answer: d

- English Language Day at the UN is celebrated on 23 April, the date traditionally observed as both the birthday and date of death of William Shakespeare. Under the initiative, UN duty stations around the world celebrate six separate days, each dedicated to one of the Organization's six official languages.

- Arabic (18 December)
- Chinese (20 April)
- English (23 April)
- French (20 March)

- Russian (6 June)
- Spanish (23 April)

4) "World Hunger Map" is an initiative by

- a) FAO
- b) WFP
- c) Alibaba
- d) Both (b) and (c)

Answer: d

- Alibaba Cloud, the cloud computing arm of Alibaba is working with WFP to develop digital "World Hunger Map". The map will help to monitor global hunger and operations to end scourge by 2030 which is one of UN's key Sustainable Development goals. It also aims to boost efficiency of interventions and shorten emergency response times.

5) Team Mask Force, a video created to promote the use of masks to fight the infectious disease COVID-19 is an initiative of

- a) Board of Control for Cricket in India
- b) IIT Mumbai
- c) IIT Madras
- d) National Informatics Center

Answer: a

- It is a video Created by BCCI (Board of Control for Cricket in India).It is a video Created by BCCI (Board of Control for Cricket in India).

April 24

1) Which country is the first Arab country to legalize cannabis farming?

- a) Lebanon
- b) Syria
- c) Turkey
- d) Jordan

Answer: a

- Lebanon has legalized cannabis farming in the country with a hope that sales from the plant will provide some relief to its debt-ridden economy. With this, it became the first Arab country to legalize marijuana farming.

2) DIKSHA platform, recently seen in news, is associated with

- a) Reducing judicial pendency
- b) Learning material for students and teachers
- c) Roadmap for fiscal consolidation
- d) None of the above

Answer: b

- Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) will train teachers in experiential learning through Diksha platform

3) Kasowal Bridge, constructed by the Border Roads Organisation, is across

- a) Ravi
- b) Brahmaputra
- c) Lohit
- d) None of the above

Answer: a

- BRO has constructed and opened a 484- metre long permanent bridge on the river Ravi to connect the Kasowal enclave of Punjab along the Pakistan border to the rest of the country.

4) The Litchi is an important sub-tropical evergreen fruit crop believed to have originated in China. Which among the following states in India doesn't produce Litchi?

- a) Tripura
- b) West Bengal
- c) Haryana
- d) Gujarat

Answer: d

- Lychee being exacting in climatic requirement is confined to states of Bihar, Tripura, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and Haryana.

5) VidyaDaan 2.0 is an initiative by

- a) Ministry of Human Resource Development
- b) Ministry of Tribal Affairs
- c) Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
- d) None of the above

Answer: a

- Ministry of HRD launched national program VidyaDaan 2.0 for inviting e-learning Content contributions.

April 25

1) Which among the acts does the proposed Industrial Relations Code Bill, 2019 aims to amalgamate?

- a) Trade Unions Act, 1926
- b) Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, 1946
- c) Industrial Disputes Act, 1947
- d) All of the above

Answer: d

- It proposes to amalgamate Trade Unions Act, 1926, Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, 1946, and Industrial Disputes Act, 1947.
- In case of natural calamities, payment of wages to the workers until the re-establishment of the industry may be unjustifiable. The law has to be reasonable, in such cases it is for the government to step in and extend a helping hand for the industries.

2) Nilachal hills, where a world-famous fertility cult is celebrated, is located in

- a) Assam
- b) Arunachal Pradesh
- c) Kerala
- d) Tamil Nadu

Answer: a

- In the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic, the annual Ambubachi Mela of Assam has been cancelled this year. The festival symbolises the fertility cult of goddess Kamakhya. Kamakhya, atop Nilachal Hills in Guwahati, is one of 51 shaktipeeths or seat of Shakti followers, each representing a body part of the Sati, Lord Shiva's companion.

3) Malaria, spread by female Anopheles mosquitoes, are caused by

- a) Virus
- b) Bacteria
- c) Parasites
- d) All of the above

Answer: c

- It is caused by a parasite that commonly infects a certain type of mosquito which feeds on humans. It is spread by female Anopheles mosquitoes which deposit parasite sporozoites into the skin of a human host.
- World Malaria Day 2020 is being celebrated by the World Health Organisation (WHO) on April 25 with the theme 'Zero malaria starts with me'.

4) Commodity Markets Outlook is released by

- a) UNCTAD
- b) WTO
- c) IMF
- d) World Bank

Answer: d

- World Bank's April 2020 Commodity Markets Outlook has been released. Commodity Markets Outlook provides market analysis for major commodity groups — energy, metals, agriculture, precious metals, and fertilizers.

5) Operation Twist, recently seen in news, is an initiative by

- a) RBI
- b) Indian Army
- c) SEBI
- d) Indian Air Force

Answer: a

- 'Operation Twist' is RBI's simultaneous selling of short-term securities and buying of long term securities through open market operations (OMO). Under this mechanism, the short-term securities are transitioned into long-term securities.

April 27

1) Supreme Court had constituted its largest ever bench in the case where basic structure doctrine was introduced. How many judges were present in the bench?

- a) 13
- b) 15
- c) 11
- d) 9

Answer: a

- By a 7-6 verdict, a 13-judge Constitution Bench ruled that the 'basic structure' of the Constitution is inviolable, and could not be amended by Parliament. The basic structure doctrine has since been regarded as a tenet of Indian constitutional law.

- The court did not define the 'basic structure', and only listed a few principles — federalism, secularism, democracy — as being its part. Since then, the court has been adding new features to this concept.

2) Spratly Islands, recently seen in news, is located in

- a) South China Sea
- b) Mediterranean Sea
- c) Black Sea
- d) East China Sea

Answer: a

- The ongoing territorial dispute is between China, Taiwan, Vietnam, the Philippines, and Malaysia concerning the ownership of the Spratly Islands archipelago and nearby geographical features like corals reefs, cays etc.

3) First ever digital, unified, global, geological map of the moon is released recently by

- a) ISRO
- b) NASA
- c) ESA
- d) Both (b) and (c)

Answer: b

- It was released virtually by the United States Geological Survey (USGS), National

Aeronautics and Space Administration (Nasa) and the Lunar Planetary Institute on April 22, 2020.

4) Sharana movement produced a corpus of literature, the vachanas, that unveiled the spiritual universe of the Veerashaiva saints. Who among the following is associated with it?

- a) Buddha
- b) Mahavira
- c) Basavanna
- d) All of the above

Answer: c

- The egalitarianism of Basavanna's Sharana movement was too radical for its times. The Sharana movement he presided over attracted people from all castes, and like most strands of the Bhakti movement, produced a corpus of literature, the vachanas, that unveiled the spiritual universe of the Veerashaiva saints.

5) Hydrogen fuel can be used in

- a) Fuel cells
- b) Internal combustion engines
- c) Both (a) and (b)
- d) Neither (a) nor (b)

Answer: c

- NTPC Ltd, India's largest power producer and a central PSU under Ministry of Power, has invited Global Expression of Interest (EoI) to provide 10 Hydrogen Fuel Cell (FC) based electric buses and an equal number of Hydrogen Fuel Cell based electric cars in Leh and Delhi. The move to procure Hydrogen Fuel Cell based vehicles is first of its kind project in the country, wherein a complete solution from green energy to the fuel cell vehicle would be developed. Hydrogen fuel is a zero-emission fuel burned with oxygen. It can be used in fuel cells or internal combustion engines.

April 28

1) Scientists are saying that the ozone hole over North pole has closed due to a phenomenon called polar vortex. Polar vortex spins in

- a) Troposphere
- b) Stratosphere
- c) Mesosphere
- d) Exosphere

Answer: b

- The polar vortex spins in the stratosphere.

2) Communities of Chakmas and Hajongs, often seen in news, are residents of

- a) Assam
- b) Arunachal Pradesh
- c) Both (a) and (b)
- d) Jammu & Kashmir

Answer: c

• Chakmas and Hajongs were originally residents of Chittagong Hill Tracts in the erstwhile East Pakistan. They left their homeland when it was submerged by the Kaptai dam project in the 1960s. The Chakmas, who are Buddhists, and the Hajongs, who are Hindus, also allegedly faced religious persecution and entered India through the then Lushai Hills district of Assam (now Mizoram). The Centre moved the majority of them to the North East Frontier Agency (NEFA), which is now Arunachal Pradesh.

3) Ruhdaar, recently seen in news, is a

- a) Newly discovered mountain pass
- b) Low-cost solar cooker
- c) Low-cost mechanical ventilator
- d) None of the above

Answer: c

• It is a low-cost mechanical ventilator to fight against COVID19. Developed by IIT Bombay team. The cost of production of one ventilator is Rs 10,000.

4) Which among the following countries have signed Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT)?

- a) India
- b) North Korea
- c) Iran
- d) Pakistan

Answer: c

• China, Egypt, Iran, Israel and the United States have signed but not ratified the Treaty; India, North Korea and Pakistan have not signed it.

5) Central Vigilance Commissioner is appointed by the President of India on the recommendations of a committee consisting of

1. It is the apex vigilance institution created via executive resolution.
2. They are appointed by the President of India on the recommendations of a committee consisting of Prime Minister, Union Home Minister and Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha

Choose the correct answer using the codes given below

- a) Prime Minister
- b) Union Home Minister

- c) Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha
- d) All of the above

Answer: d

- They are appointed by the President of India on the recommendations of a committee consisting of Prime Minister, Union Home Minister and Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha
- Sanjay Kothari appointed as Central Vigilance Commissioner by President.

April 29

1) Researchers at which of the following institutes have for the first time created and imaged a novel pair of quantum dots?

- a) Indian Institute of Science
- b) National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST)
- c) IIT Bombay
- d) IIT Madras

Answer: b

- Quantum dots (QDs) are man-made nanoscale crystals that can transport electrons. Researchers at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) have for the first time created and imaged a novel pair of quantum dots.

2) Government of India signed a \$1.5 billion loan agreement for COVID-19 Active Response and Expenditure Support Programme (CARES Programme) with

- a) Asian Development Bank (ADB)
- b) World Health Organisation (WHO)
- c) World Bank
- d) All of the above

Answer: a

- Government of India and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed a \$1.5 billion loan agreement for the ADB's COVID-19 Active Response and Expenditure Support Programme (CARES Programme).

3) U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) has released its 2020 report. India was ranked along with

- a) China
- b) Saudi Arabia
- c) Pakistan
- d) All of the above

Answer: d

- India is placed alongside countries, including China, North Korea, Saudi Arabia and Pakistan.

4) The eleventh and first ever virtual Petersberg Climate Dialogue was held on April 28th 2020. It was an initiative of

- a) India
- b) Russia
- c) Germany
- d) UK

Answer: c

• The eleventh and first ever virtual Petersberg Climate Dialogue was held on April 28th 2020. This has been hosted by Germany since 2010.

5) Global Terrorism Index (GTI) is released by

- a) World Economic Forum
- b) Institute for Economics and Peace
- c) Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
- d) Financial Action Task Force

Answer: b

• GTI scores are directly used in the Global Peace Index, the Global Slavery Report published by the Walk Free Foundation, and indirectly used in computing country scores in the World Economic Forum's Travel and Tourism Competitiveness and Global Competitiveness Indices and compilation of Safe Cities Index by the Economist Intelligence Unit.

• Niti Aayog has questioned Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP)'s terror ranking of India in its Global Terrorism Index of 2019. It has questioned the methodology adopted to rank India as the seventh worst terrorism affected country ahead of conflict-ridden countries such as the Democratic Republic of Congo, South Sudan, Sudan, Burkina Faso, Palestine and Lebanon.

April 30

1) Which among the following minorities are recognised, as per the constitution of India?

- a) Linguistic minorities
- b) Religious minorities
- c) Both (a) and (b)
- d) Ethnic minorities

Answer: c

• Article 30(1) recognizes linguistic and religious minorities but not those based on race, ethnicity. They are not considered for reservation.

2) The Mekong, or Mekong River, a trans-boundary river in Southeast Asia, is the world's twelfth longest river and the seventh longest in Asia. It doesn't flow through

- a) Myanmar
- b) Thailand,

- c) Vietnam
- d) None of the above

Answer: d

- From the Tibetan Plateau the river runs through China, Myanmar, Laos, Thailand, Cambodia, and Vietnam. China could have choked off the Mekong and aggravated a drought, threatening the lifeline of millions in Asia

3) YarlungTsangpo, which originated in Tibet, upon entering India is known as

- a) Indus
- b) Brahmaputra
- c) Kali
- d) None of the above

Answer: b

- The YarlungTsangpo, is the longest river of Tibet Autonomous Region, China. It originates at Angsi Glacier in western Tibet, southeast of Mount Kailash and Lake Manasarovar. It is the upper stream of the Brahmaputra River.

4) Annual Special 301 Report is released by

- a) World Trade Organisation
- b) World Bank
- c) Institute of Economics and Peace
- d) United States Trade Representative

Answer: d

- USTR has released its Annual Special 301 Report recently.

5) The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) region is expected to post a 2.7 per cent economic decline in 2020 due to the impact of Covid-19. Which among the following is not an APEC member?

- a) Australia
- b) New Zealand
- c) Japan
- d) Mongolia

Answer: d

- APEC's 21 member economies are Australia; Brunei Darussalam; Canada; Chile; People's Republic of China; Hong Kong, China; Indonesia; Japan; Republic of Korea; Malaysia; Mexico; New Zealand; Papua New Guinea; Peru; The Philippines; The Russian Federation; Singapore; Chinese Taipei; Thailand; United States of America; Viet Nam.

