

Week 4 Current Affairs Update

24th - 30th April 2021

EVENTS

NATIONAL

BANKING & FINANCE

RBI TO ISSUE CYBERSECURITY NORMS FOR PAYMENT SERVICES



Date: 24th April 2021

The RBI will soon issue cybersecurity norms for payment service providers (PSPs), following a series of data breaches faced by operators.

Key Points:

- The standards for fintech-driven payment services providers will be similar to cyber hygiene norms issued recently for banks and non-banking finance companies (NBFCs).
- The firms will also have to do more than observe the minimum standards to ensure safety as digital transactions gain further traction.
- The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) had laid down a framework for a more even distribution of share of third-party app providers in the UPI system.

TRANSPORT

DRAFT STANDARDS FOR ROAD-TRAINS



Date: 25th April 2021

The Ministry of Road Transport & Highways has published Draft Standards for Road Trains.

Key Points:

- To revolutionize the transport of goods and reduce the overall logistic costs, the Automotive Industry Standards Committee has amended its AIS-113 Standard to include the safety requirements of Road-Trains.
- The amended standard AIS-113 (Code of Practice for Type Approval of Trailers / Semi-trailers of categories T2, T3 and T4 being towed by Motor Vehicles of categories N2 and N3) has been published for invitation of public comments, after which it shall be notified in due course.
- The standards have been prepared after examining European benchmarks, keeping in mind Indian operating conditions.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

#FOSS4GOV INNOVATION CHALLENGE – MEITY



Date: 25th April 2021

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MEITY) has announced the #FOSS4GOV Innovation Challenge.

Key Points:

- The #FOSS4GOV Innovation Challenge is launched to boost the adoption of Free and Open Source Software (FOSS) in GOI.
- The challenge was launched by MEITY in partnership with Omidyar Network India.
- The innovation challenge will allow FOSS innovators, technology entrepreneurs and Indian Startups to submit implementable open-source product innovations in CRM and ERP.
- The submitted innovative works will be implemented in the Gov. managed areas like health, education, agriculture and urban upliftment.

POLITY & GOVERNANCE

CYBER CRIME VOLUNTEER



Date: 25th April 2021

Union Home Ministry has said it does not maintain a centralised list of volunteers enrolled under the cybercrime volunteer programme since the police is a “State subject” under the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution.

Key Points:

- The Ministry, through its cybercrime grievance portal, aims to raise a group of “cybercrime volunteers” to flag “unlawful content” on the Internet.
- A digital rights group, the Internet Freedom Foundation (IFF), has said the programme enables a culture of surveillance and could create potential social distrust by encouraging civilians to report the online activities of other citizens
- The programme was expected to include 500 volunteers, 200 “cyber awareness promoters” and 50 “cyber experts”.
- Cybercrime Volunteers Programme is a constituent of The National Cyber-crime Ecosystem Management Unit.

- The unit is part of the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) scheme launched by the Union Home Minister in January 2020.

ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR GETS LARGE AREA CERTIFICATION



Date: 25th April 2021

The 14,491 ha area under Car Nicobar and Nancowry group of islands in Union Territory of Andaman & Nicobar Islands becomes the first large contiguous territory to be conferred with organic certification under ‘Large Area Certification’ scheme.

Key Points:

- The Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare under its flagship scheme of Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojna (PKVY) has launched a unique quick certification programme “Large Area Certification” (LAC) to harness these potential areas.
- LAC is a Quick certification process that is cost-effective and farmers do not have to wait for 2-3 years for marketing organic certified products.
- Under LAC, each village in the area is considered as one cluster/group.
- Documentations are simple and maintained village-wise.
- All farmers with their farmland and livestock need to adhere to the standard requirements and on being verified get certified en-mass without the need to go under conversion period.

DEFENCE

VARUNA 2021



Date: 26th April 2021

The 19th 'Varuna-2021' Naval Exercise which is held between the Indian and French Navy commenced.

Key Points:

- It is being held in the Arabian Sea.
- It is held to develop cooperation, synergy and interoperability between India and France Naval organisations.
- Both the navies will conduct advanced anti-submarine and air defence exercises, tactical manoeuvres, intense fixed and rotary wing flying operations, underway replenishment, surface and anti-air weapon firings and other maritime security operations.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

INTEGRATED SOLAR DRYER AND PYROLYSIS PILOT PLANT



Date: 26th April 2021

The foundation stone of the integrated Solar Dryer and Pyrolysis pilot plant was recently laid at Chennai.

Key Points:

- The pilot is part of the Indo-German project 'Pyrasol' launched to transform urban organic waste into biochar and energy in smart cities.
- It was awarded to CSIR-CLRI by the Indo-German Science & Technology Centre.
- It will ultimately lead to technology development for the joint processing of Fibrous Organic Waste (FOW) and Sewage Sludge (SS) of Indian smart cities into hygienic and highly valuable biochar associated with energy recovery, carbon sequestration and environmental improvement.
- The project Pyrasol focuses on managing and organising collection, treatment, and disposal systems of urban wastes in Indian Smart Cities as well as in other urban centres with an integrated and interactive approach.

ENVIRONMENT

EARTH DAY



Date: 24th April 2021

Earth Day was celebrated on April 22.

Key Points:

- It is an international event celebrated around the world to pledge support for environmental protection.
- Theme: ‘Restore Our Earth’.
- The theme focuses on natural processes, emerging green technologies, and innovative thinking that can restore the world’s ecosystems.
- This year, seven major climate-related events are taking place in parallel on April 22, including the Leaders’ Summit on Climate hosted by the USA and the Exponential Climate action Summit on Financing the Race to Zero emissions.
- Earth Day was first observed in 1970, when 20 million took to the streets to protest against environmental degradation.
- In 2009, the United Nations designated April 22 as ‘International Mother Earth Day’.

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

LEADERS’ SUMMIT ON CLIMATE 2021



Date: 24th April 2021

The President of the USA, Joe Biden hosted the Leaders' Summit on Climate.

Key Points:

- India's PM Narendra Modi participated in the summit.
- The theme of the Summit: Our Collective Sprint to 2030.
- The summit was held to strengthen the cooperation among the nations to tackle the climate change issues.
- The leaders from 40 nations participated in the summit.
- The dignitaries discussed climate action, nature-based solutions, climate security and technological innovations for clean energy.

AWARDS & HONOURS

93RD OSCARS AWARDS (ACADEMY AWARDS)



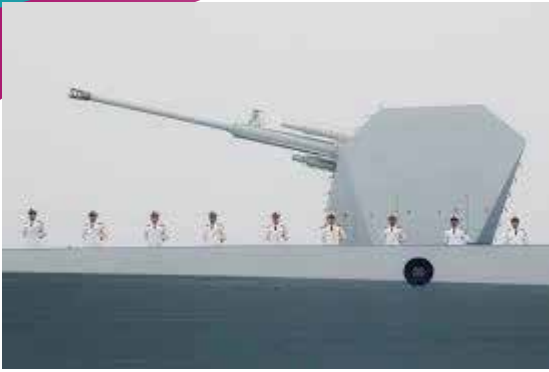
Date: 27th April 2021

The 93rd edition of Oscars Awards took place in Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles, California, U.S.

Key Points:

- The awards are presented annually by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (AMPAS).
- Below is the complete list of winners in each category:
- Best Picture: Nomadland
- Best Director: Chloé Zhao (Nomadland)
- Best Actor: Anthony Hopkins (The Father)
- Best Actress: Frances McDormand (Nomadland)
- Best Animated Feature Film: Soul
- Best Documentary Feature: My Octopus Teacher

‘TRENDS IN WORLD MILITARY EXPENDITURE 2020’ REPORT



Date: 28th April 2021

The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) released the report titled ‘Trends in World Military Expenditure 2020’.

Key Points:

- As per the report, India is the third biggest military spender in the world in 2020.
- As per the report, India has spent 3.7% of its global share i.e. total expenditure of India on the military for 2020 was USD 72.9 billion.
- The list was topped by the United States with the total expenditure on the military for 2020 to be USD 778 billion.
- The second position was marked by China with total expenditure on the military for 2020 to be USD 252 billion.

CHANDLER GOOD GOVERNMENT INDEX



CHANDLER
GOOD GOVERNMENT
INDEX

Date: 28th April 2021

The Chandler Institute of Governance released the Chandler Good Government Index (CGGI).

Key Points:

- As per the index, India is ranked at 49th position among 104 nations.
- The index is topped by Finland.

- The second and third positions are marked by Switzerland and Singapore respectively.
- The index ranking was calculated by considering 7 pillars: (a) Leadership and foresight (b) Strong institutions (c) Robust laws and policies (d) Attractive market place (e) Financial stewardship (f) Helping people rise (g) Global influence and reputation.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

‘SUPPLY CHAIN RESILIENCE INITIATIVE (SCRI)’



Date: 29th April 2021

India, Japan and Australia formally launched the ‘Supply Chain Resilience Initiative (SCRI)’ in a virtual manner.

Key Points:

- The SCRI was launched to counter China’s dominance of the supply chain in the Indo-Pacific region.
- The initiative was launched by trade ministers of three nations to create a virtuous cycle to enhance supply chain resilience to gain strong, sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth in the regions.
- The SCRI will develop a resilient supply chain with its major focus on free, transparent trading activities and investment safe environment in the Indo-Pacific region.
- The initiative will work to share best practices for supply chain resilience, conducting promotional events of investments for stakeholders and grant them a vast platform.

NET ZERO PRODUCERS FORUM



Date: 30th April 2021

Saudi Arabia will join the United States, Canada, Norway, and Qatar in forming a 'Net Zero Producers Forum' for oil and gas producers to discuss how they can support the implementation of the Paris Agreement on climate change.

Key Points:

- Saudi Arabia is the world's biggest crude exporter.
- The Forum will discuss ways to achieve net zero carbon emission targets to limit global warming.
- Saudi Arabia had also said that it aimed to reduce its carbon emissions by generating 50% of the country's energy from renewables by 2030.
- The US President unveiled plans to cut emissions by 50%-52% from 2005 levels recently.

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

23RD ASEAN-INDIA SENIOR OFFICIALS' MEETING



Date: 30th April 2021

The 23rd ASEAN-India Senior Officials' Meeting was held.

Key Points:

- The meeting observed the participation of senior officials from all ten ASEAN Member States.
- India was represented by Secretary (East) in the Ministry of External Affairs Riva Ganguly Das.
- The meeting was held to discuss ASEAN-India cooperation and to review the whole spectrum of political-security, economic, socio-cultural and developmental cooperation.
- They also discussed steps to implement the ASEAN-India Plan of Action 2021-2025.
- The dignitaries discussed the measures to boost ASEAN-India Strategic Partnership and to tackle the COVID-19 pandemic.

GLOBAL IMMUNIZATION STRATEGY BY WHO



Date: 30th April 2021

WHO unveiled a global immunization strategy to save 50 million lives by 2030.

Key Points:

- Its objective is to reach more than 50 million children who have missed lifesaving jabs against measles and other diseases because of COVID-19 disruption.
- It is an initiative by WHO, UNICEF and the vaccine alliance Gavi to avoid multiple outbreaks of life-threatening diseases like measles, yellow fever and diphtheria, it must be ensured that routine vaccination services are protected in every country in the world.
- A WHO survey showed more than one third of countries were still seeing disruptions to their routine immunisation services.
- Around 60 mass vaccination campaigns were currently postponed in 50 countries, putting 228 million people, mostly children, at risk of diseases such as measles and polio.

SPACE

CHINA LAUNCHES THE CORE MODULE OF ITS SPACE STATION



Date: 30th April 2021

China launched the core module of its space station, starting a series of key launch missions that aim to complete the construction of the station by the end of next year.

Key Points:

- The Long March-5B Y2 rocket, carrying the Tianhe module, blasted off from the Wenchang Spacecraft Launch Site on the coast of the southern island province of Hainan.
- The Tianhe module will act as the management and control hub of the space station Tiangong, (meaning Heavenly Palace), with a node that could dock with up to three spacecraft at a time for short stays, or two for long
- Tianhe is the largest spacecraft developed by China.
- The space station will be a T shape with the core module at the centre and a lab capsule on each side.
- The station will operate in low-Earth orbit at an altitude from 340 km to 450 km.



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Nurturing Ambitions

PEOPLE

NATIONAL

APPOINTMENTS

JUSTICE NV RAMANA



Date: 24th April 2021

Why in news: Took oath as the 48th Chief Justice of India.

Key Points:

- Justice NV Ramana took the oath as the 48th Chief Justice of India (CJI).
- He succeeds Chief Justice of India SA Bobde, who retired on April 23rd.
- The challenge Justice NV Ramana will face is filling up six vacancies in the top court.
- During Justice SA Bobde's tenure, not a single judge has been appointed to the top court.
- Justice Ramana, will be the country's top judge for a year and four months till August 26, 2022.
- He is the second Chief Justice of India from Andhra Pradesh; Justice K Subba Rao was the ninth Chief Justice of India from 1966-67.

PANDIT RAJAN MISHRA



Date: 29th April 2021

Renowned classical music singer Pandit Rajan Mishra passed away. He was 70.

Key Points:

- Pandit Rajan Mishra was born in 1951 into a family of classical music enthusiasts in Uttar Pradesh's Varanasi.
- He was a vocalist in the khyal style of Indian classical singing.
- He was awarded the Padma Bhushan, the third-highest civilian award in India, in 2007.
- He was also a recipient of the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award, the Gandharva National Award and the National Tansen Samman.

OBITUARY

KRISHNAMURTHY SANTHANAM



Date: 30th April 2021

Veteran Indian Nuclear Scientist Krishnamurthy Santhanam Passes away.

Key Points:

- Dr Santhanam was a nuclear scientist and the field director of Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) during the tests of Pokhran-II
- He was associated with institutions like DRDO, DAE and IDSA.
- His role in successful 1998 nuclear tests was noteworthy.
- He was awarded Padma Bhushan in 1999 by the Government of India.

INTERNATIONAL

APPOINTMENTS

GC MURMU



Date: 24th April 2021

Why in news: Elected as External Auditor by OPCW for 3 years.

Key Points:

- India's Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) GC Murmu has been chosen as the external auditor of the Hague-based Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW).
- GC Murmu has been appointed as the external auditor of OPCW for a period of three-year starting 2021.
- OPCW is a prestigious intergovernmental organization based in "The Hague, Netherlands", working for the elimination of chemical weapons.

OBITUARY

MICHAEL COLLINS

Date: 28th April 2021

The American astronaut, Michael Collins, Passed away. He was 90.

Key Points:

- He was the command module pilot for the Apollo 11 mission to the moon.
- Collins spent seven years of his career as an astronaut with NASA.
- Astronaut Collins was a part of three crew members of Apollo 11 that went to the moon in 1969.
- He travelled nearly 238,000 miles to the moon and came within 69 miles.
- Collins later worked as a director of the National Air and Space Museum in Washington.
- In the three-man Apollo 11 crew mission in 1969, Collins kept the command module flying while the other two members, Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin became the first humans to walk on the moon.

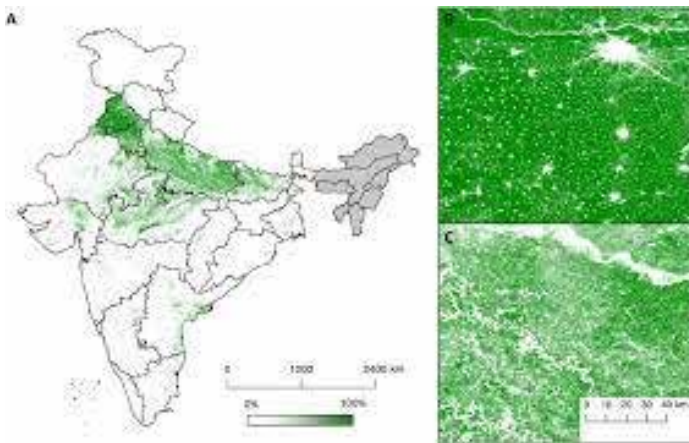


ISSUES

NATIONAL

ENVIRONMENT

GROUNDWATER DEPLETION MAY REDUCE WINTER CROPPING INTENSITY



Date: 16th April 2021

Key Highlights:

- Groundwater depletion may reduce winter cropping intensity by 20% in India.
- India is the second-largest producer of wheat in the world, with over 30 million hectares in India dedicated to producing this crop.
- Some of the important winter crops (Rabi crops): wheat, barley, mustard and peas.
- But with severe groundwater depletion, the cropping intensity or the amount of land planted in the winter season may decrease by up to 20% by 2025.
- The international team studied India's three main irrigation types on winter cropped areas: dug wells, tube wells, canals, and also analysed the groundwater data from the Central Ground Water Board.
- They found that 13% of the villages in which farmers plant a winter crop are located in critically water-depleted regions.
- These villages may lose 68% of their cropped area in future if access to all groundwater irrigation is lost.

MAHARASHTRA'S TWO-CHILD NORM



Date: 28th April 2021

Key Highlights:

- A woman officer from the Maharashtra Prison Department was dismissed from service after an inquiry revealed that she violated the Maharashtra Civil Services (Declaration of Small Family) rules because she suppressed the information from the authorities that she has three children.
- Maharashtra is one of the few states in the country that have a 'two children' policy for appointment in government jobs or even for the elections of some local government bodies.
- The Maharashtra Civil Services (Declaration of Small Family) Rule of 2005 defines a small family as wife, husband and two children and stipulates that a person is not eligible for a job with Maharashtra Government if he or she has more than two children after 2005.
- The rules mandate filing a small family declaration at the time of applying for a government job.
- Other states such as Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, Gujarat, Odisha, Uttarakhand and Assam have similar kind of children policy for appointment to government services.

GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL CAPITAL TERRITORY OF DELHI (AMENDMENT) ACT, 2021

New rules of the game

Salient provisions in the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Bill, 2021

• The expression "Government" referred to in any law to be made by the Legislative Assembly shall mean the Lieutenant-Governor

• The Assembly shall not make any rule to enable itself or its committees to consider the matters of day-to-day administration of the Capital or conduct inquiries in relation to administrative decisions

• Before taking any executive action in pursuance of the decision of the Council of Ministers or a Minister, to exercise powers of government, State government, appropriate government, Lieutenant-Governor, administrator or Chief Commissioner, as the case may be, under any law in force in the Capital, the opinion of the Lieutenant-Governor in terms of proviso to Clause (4) of Article 239AA of the Constitution shall be obtained on all such matters as may be specified, by a general or special order, by the Lieutenant-Governor



• When a Bill is passed by the Assembly, it shall be presented to the Lieutenant-Governor for his assent. He shall either approve the Bill or withhold it or he may reserve the Bill for the President's consideration

• All executive action of the Lieutenant-Governor whether taken on the advice of his Ministers or otherwise shall be expressed to be taken in the name of the Lieutenant-Governor.

Date: 28th April 2021

Key Highlights:

- The Ministry of Home Affairs issued a gazette notification stating that the provisions of the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Act, 2021, would be deemed to have come into effect from April 27.
- The Bill amends the Government of National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi Act, 1991.
- It provides a framework for the functioning of the Legislative Assembly (LA) and the government of the NCT of Delhi.
- It amends certain powers and responsibilities of the LA and the Lieutenant Governor (LG).
- It provides that the term “government” referred to in any law made by the LA will imply LG.

INTERNATIONAL

INTERNATIONAL ISSUES

HOUTHI REBELS OF YEMEN



Date: 26th April 2021

Key Highlights:

- Yemen’s Houthi rebels have taken full control of the northwest Kassara battlefield, advancing close to the centre of Marib city despite heavy casualties.
- Marib is the capital city of Marib Governorate, Yemen.
- It was the capital of the ancient kingdom of Saba’ which some scholars believe to be the ancient Sheba of biblical fame.
- It is located in the region of the Sarawat Mountains.
- Marib and its surrounding oil fields make up the last significant pocket of government-held territory in the north, the rest of which is under rebel control.

THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE



Date: 25th April 2021

Key Highlights:

- Recently, the US President officially recognised the mass killings of Armenians by Ottoman Turks in 1915-16 as an act of genocide.
- The Armenian diaspora marks 24th April as Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day.
- The Armenian Genocide is called the first genocide of the 20th century.
- It refers to the systematic annihilation of Armenians in the Ottoman Empire from 1915 to 1917.
- After the First World War broke out in November 1914, the Ottoman Turks participated in the war, siding with Germany and the Austro-Hungarian empire.
- The Ottoman Turks believed the Armenians would side with Russia in the war. This resulted in the Ottoman Turks engaging in a mass-removal campaign of Armenians from the border areas along the Eastern Front.
- On 24th April, 1915, Ottoman Turkish government officials arrested and executed thousands of Armenian intellectuals.



Nurturing Ambitions

DEFENCE

SINGLE CRYSTAL BLADES TECHNOLOGY FOR HELICOPTERS – DRDO



Date: 29th April 2021

Key Features:

- DRDO has developed single-crystal blades technology for helicopters.
- It has also supplied 60 of these blades to Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) under an indigenous helicopter development programme for engine application.
- This development is part of a programme undertaken by the Defence Metallurgical Research Laboratory (DMRL) which aims to develop five sets of single-crystal high-pressure turbine (HPT) blades by using a nickel-based superalloy.
- The main objective to develop single crystal blades technology is that the helicopters which are particularly used in strategic and defence applications are supposed to be with engines which are compact and strong as well. So to achieve this goal state-of-the-art single-crystal blades are designed by DRDO.
- The state-of-the-art single-crystal blades are manufactured out of nickel-based superalloy. They are capable of resisting high temperature.

DEFENCE

DRDO CONDUCTED TRAIL OF PYTHON 5 AAM



Date: 30th April 2021

Key Features:

- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully conducted the maiden trial of the 5th generation Python-5 Air-to-Air Missile (AAM).
- The trials were conducted from Tejas Aircraft.
- The test-firing operations were held at Goa with a series of missile trails in order to evaluate the performance under extreme operational scenarios.
- The Python 5 AAM is built by the Israeli weapon manufacturer Rafael Advanced Defence Systems.

AGRICULTURES

HIGH-YIELDING AND PEST-RESISTANT VARIETY OF SOYBEAN



Date: 30th April 2021

Key Features:

- Indian Scientists have developed a high-yielding and pest-resistant variety of soybean.
- Scientists from MACS- Agharkar Research Institute (ARI), Pune, an autonomous institute of the Department of Science & Technology, in collaboration with Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) have developed this variety.

- This newly developed variety is called MACS 1407.
- It is suitable for cultivation in Assam, West Bengal, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and North-Eastern states.
- Its seeds will be made available to farmers for sowing during the 2022 Kharif season.
- In 2019, India produced around 90 million tons of soybean. India is striving to be among the world's major producers of soybean. High-yielding, disease resistant varieties of the legume can help achieve this target.

INTERNATIONAL

HEALTHCARE

BREAKTHROUGH INFECTION

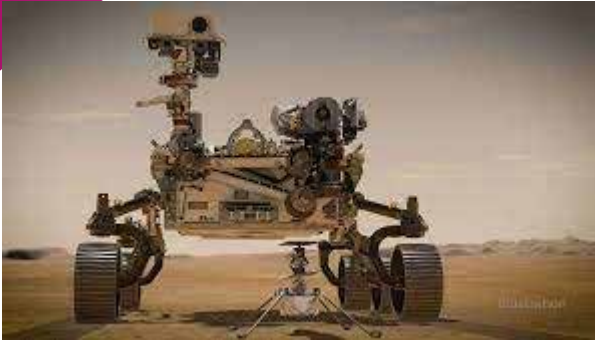


Date: 29th April 2021

Key Features:

- The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has reported that around two to four of 10,000 people given two doses of the COVID-19 vaccine have tested positive for the disease.
- Contracting COVID-19 after vaccination is known as breakthrough infection.
- Breakthrough infections are infections that occur in people who have been vaccinated.
- Such cases are not out of the ordinary as the vaccines that have been approved so far the world over are made to protect against disease and not the transmission of the virus.
- Phase 3 clinical trials conducted before vaccines which were approved showed a fairly constant proportion of infections among those vaccinated.

OXYGEN EXTRACTED FROM THE CARBON DIOXIDE IN MARTIAN ATMOSPHERE



Date: 30th April 2021

Key Features:

- NASA has extracted oxygen from the carbon dioxide in the thin Martian atmosphere.
- The unprecedented extraction of oxygen on Mars was achieved by a device called Mars Oxygen In-Situ Resource Utilization Experiment (MOXIE)
- It is aboard Perseverance, a six-wheeled science rover.
- It produced about 5 grams of oxygen, equivalent to roughly 10 minutes' worth of breathing for an astronaut.
- This is the first extraction of a natural resource from the environment of another planet.



Weekly Multiple Choice Questions

24th- 30st April 2020 (WEEK 4)

Level 1

- Michael Collins, who has passed away recently, was a well known _____**
 - Astronaut
 - Politician
 - Cricket Player
 - Filmmaker
- Recently, Justice NV Ramana was appointed as the next Chief Justice of India. He is the _____ CJI.**
 - 48th
 - 52nd
 - 36th
 - 54th
- Rajan Mishra, who has passed away recently, was a renowned _____**
 - Historian
 - Classical Singer
 - Architect
 - Spy/Intelligent officer
- Krishnamurthy Santhanam, who has died recently, was a _____ by profession**
 - Space Scientist
 - Agricultural Scientist
 - Nuclear Scientist
 - Communication Scientist
- Name the Indian bureaucrat who has recently been appointed as the external auditor of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)?**
 - Rajiv Mehrishi
 - Manoj Sinha
 - G.C Murmu
 - K.K Venugopal
- Which ministry launched the #FOSS4GOV Innovation Challenge?**
 - Ministry of Corporate Affairs
 - Ministry of Commerce and Industry
 - Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
 - Ministry of Education
- Which Union Territory became the first large contiguous territory to be conferred with organic certification under the 'Large Area Certification' scheme?**
 - Puducherry
 - Daman and Diu
 - Jammu and Kashmir
 - Andaman and Nicobar Islands
- Exercise varuna is held between India and which of the following countries?**
 - France
 - UK
 - Russia
 - USA
- The foundation stone of the integrated Solar Dryer and Pyrolysis pilot plant was recently laid at which of the following cities?**
 - Ahmedabad
 - Chennai
 - Bangalore
 - Pune
- What was the theme of this year's Earth Day?**
 - Environmental and climate education
 - Restore Our Earth
 - End Plastic Pollution
 - Protect Our Species
- Who among the following represented India at the Leaders' Summit on Climate 2021?**
 - PM Narendra Modi
 - Prakash Javadekar
 - Vice President Venkaiah Naidu
 - S Jaishankar
- Which film has won the Best Picture Award at the 93rd Academy Awards or Oscars 2021?**
 - The Father
 - Judas And The Black Messiah
 - Nomadland
 - Minari
- As per SIPRI, India is the _____ biggest military spenders in the world in 2020?**
 - Second
 - Third
 - Fourth
 - Fifth
- What is the rank of India in the Chandler Good Government Index (CGGI)?**
 - 49th
 - 74th
 - 84th
 - 67th
- Which of the following countries is not a part of Supply Chain Resilience Initiative (SCRI)?**
 - India
 - Japan
 - Australia
 - South Africa
- Who among the following represented India at the 23rd ASEAN-India Senior Officials' Meeting which was held in April 2021?**
 - S. Jaishankar
 - Riva Ganguly Das
 - Harsh Vardhan Shringla
 - Piyush Goyal

Level 2

- On which Planet was oxygen extracted recently from its atmosphere for the first time?**
 - Jupiter
 - Neptune
 - Mars
 - Saturn

2. Which organisation developed single-crystal blades technology for helicopters?

- (a) DRDO
- (b) ISRO
- (c) Bharat Electronics Limited
- (d) Bharat Dynamics Limited

3. DRDO recently conducted the successful maiden test firing of the 5th generation Python-5 missile. The state of the art missile is which type of missile?

- (a) Air-to-Air Missile
- (b) Surface-to-Air Missile
- (c) Air-to-Surface Missile
- (d) Surface-to-Surface Missile

4. Consider the following statements regarding newly developed high-yielding and pest-resistant variety of soybean:

- 1. It is suitable for cultivation in peninsular states such as Tamil Nadu and Telangana.
- 2. Its seeds will be made available to farmers for sowing during the 2022 Kharif season.

Which of the above is/are correct?

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

5. Which of the following is correct about Breakthrough infection?

- (a) It is an infection that occurs in people who have been vaccinated.
- (b) It is an infection that occurs in people who have not been vaccinated.
- (c) It is an infection that occurs in people who have earlier been infected with Covid-19.
- (d) None of the above

6. Recently, the US President officially recognised the mass killings of Armenians by Ottoman as an act of genocide. The genocide occurred in which of the following years?

- (a) 1915-16
- (b) 1939-40
- (c) 1917-18
- (d) 1941-42

7. Recently, a woman officer from which of the following states was dismissed from service due to violation of the 'two children' policy of the state?

- (a) Maharashtra
- (b) Telangana
- (c) Uttarakhand
- (d) Gujarat

8. The Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Act, 2021 was passed recently. The Bill amends the Government of National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi Act of which year?

- (a) 1968
- (b) 1986
- (c) 1991
- (d) 1996

9. The Houthi rebels of the Middle East were recently in the news. They belong to which of the following countries?

- (a) Saudi Arabia
- (b) Yemen
- (c) Oman
- (d) Jordan

10. Which of the following is/are NPCI operated systems?

- 1. National Automated Clearing House (NACH)
- 2. Immediate Payment Service (IMPS),
- 3. Aadhaar enabled Payment System (AePS)
- 4. Bharat Bill Payment System

Select the correct code:

- (a) 1 and 3 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 2 and 4 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

11. Consider the following statements regarding the cybercrime volunteer programme:

- 1. Cybercrime Volunteers Programme is a constituent of The National Cybercrime Ecosystem Management Unit.
- 2. The unit is part of the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) scheme launched by the Union Home Minister in January 2020.

Which of the above is/are correct?

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

12. Consider the following statements regarding Large Area Certification (LAC) programme:

- 1. It is a programme, under the scheme of Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojna (PKVY).
- 2. Under LAC, each village in the area is considered as one cluster/group.

Which of the above is/are correct?

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

13. Which of the following countries are part of 'Net Zero Producers Forum'?

- 1. United States
- 2. Canada
- 3. Norway
- 4. Qatar
- 5. China

Select the correct code:

- (a) 1, 2 and 3 only
- (b) 2, 4 and 5 only
- (c) 1, 2, 3 and 4 only
- (d) 4 and 5 only

14. Which of the following organisations has launched the global immunization strategy to save 50 million lives by 2030?

- (a) WHO
- (b) UNICEF
- (c) Gavi
- (d) All of the above

15. Tiangong space station was recently in the news. It is being developed by which of the following countries?

- (a) China
- (b) Russia
- (c) Japan
- (d) Both (a) and (b)

Answers and Explanation

24th- 30th April 2020 (WEEK 4)

Level 1

- (a)** The American astronaut, Michael Collins, who was the command module pilot for the Apollo 11 mission to the moon, has passed away. In the three-man Apollo 11 crew mission in 1969, Collins kept the command module flying while the other two members, Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin became the first humans to walk on the moon.
- (a)** Justice NV Ramana took the oath as the 48th Chief Justice of India (CJI). He succeeds Chief Justice of India SA Bobde, who retired on April 23rd.
- (b)** Renowned Hindustani Classical singer, from 'Banaras Gharana' of India, Pandit Rajan Mishra, has passed away. He was 70. He was a vocalist in the khyal style of Indian classical singing.
- (c)** Indian nuclear scientist Krishnamurthy Santhanam, who played a noteworthy role in 1998 nuclear tests at Pokhran, has passed away. He was awarded Padma Bhushan in 1999 by the Government of India.
- (c)** India's Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) GC Murmu has been chosen as the external auditor of the Hague-based Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW). GC Murmu has been appointed as the external auditor of OPCW for a period of three-year starting 2021.
- (c)** The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MEITY) has announced the #FOSS4GOV Innovation Challenge. The #FOSS4GOV Innovation Challenge is launched to boost the adoption of Free and Open Source Software (FOSS) in GOI. The challenge was launched by MEITY in partnership with Omidyar Network India.
- (d)** The 14,491 ha area under Car Nicobar and Nancowry group of islands in Union Territory of Andaman & Nicobar Islands becomes the first large contiguous territory to be conferred with organic certification under 'Large Area Certification' scheme.
- (a)** The 19th 'Varuna-2021' Naval Exercise which is held between the Indian and French Navy commenced. It is being held in the Arabian Sea. It is held to develop cooperation, synergy and interoperability between India and France Naval organisations.
- (b)** The foundation stone of the integrated Solar Dryer and Pyrolysis pilot plant was recently laid at Chennai. The pilot is part of the Indo-German project 'Pyrasol' launched to transform urban organic waste into biochar and energy in smart cities.
- (b)** Earth Day was celebrated on April 22. It is an international event celebrated around the world to pledge support for environmental protection. Theme: 'Restore Our Earth'. The theme focuses on natural processes, emerging green technologies, and innovative thinking that can restore the world's ecosystems.
- (a)** The President of the USA, Joe Biden hosted the Leaders' Summit on Climate. India's PM Narendra Modi participated in the summit. The theme of the Summit: Our Collective Sprint to 2030.

- (c)** Top Award Winners: Best Picture: Nomadland, Best Director: Chloe Zhao, Nomadland, Best Actress: Frances McDormand, Nomadland, Best Actor: Anthony Hopkins, The Father.
- (b)** The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) released the report titled 'Trends in World Military Expenditure 2020'. As per the report, India is the third biggest military spender in the world in 2020.
- (a)** The Chandler Institute of Governance released the Chandler Good Government Index (CGGI). As per the index, India is ranked at 49th position among 104 nations. The index is topped by Finland.
- (d)** India, Japan and Australia formally launched the 'Supply Chain Resilience Initiative (SCRI) in a virtual manner. The SCRI was launched to counter China's dominance of the supply chain in the Indo-Pacific region.
- (b)** The 23rd ASEAN-India Senior Officials' Meeting was held. The meeting observed the participation of senior officials from all ten ASEAN Member States. India was represented by Secretary (East) in the Ministry of External Affairs Riva Ganguly Das.

Level 2

- (c)** NASA has extracted oxygen from the carbon dioxide in the thin Martian atmosphere. It produced about 5 grams of oxygen, equivalent to roughly 10 minutes' worth of breathing for an astronaut. This is the first extraction of a natural resource from the environment of another planet.
- (a)** DRDO has developed single-crystal blades technology for helicopters. It has also supplied 60 of these blades to Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) under an indigenous helicopter development programme for engine application.
- (a)** Recently, the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully test fired the 5th generation Python-5 Air-to-Air Missile (AAM) from Tejas aircraft, at Goa. The Python 5 AAM is built by the Israeli weapon manufacturer Rafael Advanced Defence Systems.
- (b)** Indian Scientists have developed a high-yielding and pest-resistant variety of soybean. This newly developed variety is called MACS 1407. It is suitable for cultivation in Assam, West Bengal, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and North-Eastern states. Its seeds will be made available to farmers for sowing during the 2022 Kharif season.
- (a)** The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has reported that around two to four of 10,000 people given two doses of the COVID-19 vaccine have tested positive for the disease. Contracting COVID-19 after vaccination is known as breakthrough infection. Breakthrough infections are infections that occur in people who have been vaccinated.
- (a)** Recently, the US President officially recognised the mass killings of Armenians by Ottoman Turks in 1915-16 as an act of genocide. The Armenian diaspora marks 24th April

as Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day. The Armenian Genocide is called the first genocide of the 20th century.

7. (a) A woman officer from the Maharashtra Prison Department was dismissed from service after an inquiry revealed that she violated the Maharashtra Civil Services (Declaration of Small Family) rules because she suppressed the information from the authorities that she has three children. Maharashtra is one of the few states in the country that have a 'two children' policy for appointment in government jobs or even for the elections of some local government bodies.

8. (c) The Ministry of Home Affairs issued a gazette notification stating that the provisions of the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Act, 2021, would be deemed to have come into effect from April 27. The Bill amends the Government of National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi Act, 1991.

9. (b) Yemen's Houthi rebels have taken full control of the northwest Kassara battlefield, advancing close to the centre of Marib city despite heavy casualties. Marib is the capital city of Marib Governorate, Yemen.

10. (d) NPCI functions as a hub for all electronic retail payment systems in the country. The NPCI facilitates an affordable payment mechanism that benefits all member banks and their customers. The NPCI's service portfolio includes: NFS; IMPS; NACH; AEPS; UPI; Bharat Bill Payment system; Rupay cards etc.

11. (c) Cybercrime Volunteers Programme is a constituent of The National Cybercrime Ecosystem Management Unit. The unit is part of the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) scheme launched by the Union Home Minister in January

2020. The programme is expected to include 500 volunteers, 200 "cyber awareness promoters" and 50 "cyber experts".

12. (c) The Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare under its flagship scheme of Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojna (PKVY) has launched a unique quick certification programme "Large Area Certification" (LAC) to harness these potential areas. LAC is a Quick certification process that is cost-effective and farmers do not have to wait for 2-3 years for marketing organic certified products. Under LAC, each village in the area is considered as one cluster/group.

13. (c) Saudi Arabia will join the United States, Canada, Norway, and Qatar in forming a 'Net Zero Producers Forum' for oil and gas producers to discuss how they can support the implementation of the Paris Agreement on climate change. Saudi Arabia is the world's biggest crude exporter. The Forum will discuss ways to achieve net zero carbon emission targets to limit global warming.

14. (d) WHO unveiled a global immunization strategy to save 50 million lives by 2030. It is an initiative by WHO, UNICEF and the vaccine alliance Gavi to avoid multiple outbreaks of life-threatening diseases like measles, yellow fever and diphtheria, it must be ensured that routine vaccination services are protected in every country in the world.

15. (a) Recently, China launched an unmanned module of its permanent space station that it plans to complete by the end of 2022. The module, named "Tianhe", or "Harmony of the Heavens", was launched on the Long March 5B, China's largest carrier rocket. So far, China has sent two previous space stations into orbit. The Tiangong-1 and Tiangong-2 were trial stations though, simple modules that allowed only relatively short stays by astronauts.

disha
Nurturing Ambitions