

Current Affairs=29-04-2020

15-billion ADB loan to India to fund COVID-19 emergency

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has **provided \$15 billion loan** to the Government of India to fund its immediate response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. The loan shall be used to deal with health and socio-economic impacts. The loan is approved by the ADB under its COVID-19 Active Response and Expenditure Support (CARES) Programme. The loan is the bank's largest loan to India till date.

Asian Development Bank (ADB)

- It is a **regional development bank**.
- It was established on 19 December 1966.
- Headquarters: Mandaluyong, Philippines.

U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom downgrades India's position in 2020 list

The U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) has downgraded India to the lowest ranking. The report was released in Washington recently by the federal government commission that functions as an advisory body. It has put India amongst "**countries of particular concern**" (CPC) in its 2020 report.

The report placed India alongside countries like China, North Korea, Saudi Arabia and Pakistan. India was categorised as a "**Tier 2 country**" in last year's report. **This is the first time since 2004 that India has been placed in this category.** It included specific concerns about the Citizenship Amendment Act, the proposed National Register for Citizens, anti-conversion laws and the situation in Jammu and Kashmir.

G20 launches 'Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator' Initiative

(G20) launched "Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator", an international initiative to accelerate development, production, and access to health tools needed to fight the COVID-19 pandemic, from Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. Already the **group is working hard to bridge approximately \$8 billion funding gap to battle the pandemic.** Earlier, Saudi Arabia, as the Chair of the G20 in 2020, pledged USD 500 million to support global efforts to tackle this disastrous outbreak.



India's holding of US govt securities hits high record of USD 177.5 bn in Feb: US Treasury Dept

According to the latest data from the United States (US) Treasury Department (dep) the India's holding of US government (govt) securities has **gone up by over USD 13 billion (bn) in a month to a record high of USD 177.5 bn** at the end of February, since November 2019, the country has slowly climbed to USD 159.2 bn. **India is positioned at 13th position & the 1st position is held by Japan** with securities worth over USD 1.268 trillion(tn) at February end, followed by China with holdings of USD 1.092 tn & United Kingdom at USD 403.2 bn .

Ladakh's Aksai Chin is part of China: WHO map

The World Health Organisation(WHO) map shows the Aksai Chin region as a part of China with a dotted line and colour code & also marks Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) with dotted lines, suggesting it as a disputed territory. Jammu and Kashmir(J&K) and the rest of India are marked in different colour codes.

Many United Nations (UN) maps have shown parts of Kashmir as 'disputed' territory in the past, but this is the 1st time that Ladakh and J&K are shown in different colour codes than the rest of India.

APEC region to post 2.7% economic contraction in 2020 due to Covid-19: Report

According to the report 'APEC in the Epicentre of COVID-19' released by the APEC Secretariat, the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) region's growth is expected to **decrease by 2.7% in 2020** due to the impact of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19).

The contraction, which is the most significant fall since 2009 global recession, compares with a 3.6 % growth in 2019.

Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC):

Headquarters– Queenstown, Singapore

Executive Director– Dr Rebecca Fatima Sta Maria

Membership– 21 economies

Shiv Das Meena appointed as Chairman & Managing Director of HUDCO

The Additional Secretary of Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), Shiv Das Meena Government of India was appointed to hold the additional charge of Chairman and Managing Director of Housing and Urban Development



Corporation (HUDCO) ltd, for six month or till the appointment of a regular incumbent to the post, effect from 21st April 2020.

From 1989, HUDCO started financing the development of infrastructure.

World Veterinary Day 2020

World Veterinary Day is celebrated every year on the **last Saturday of April**. The day was organized by the World Veterinary Association (WVA), which marks the importance of Veterinary doctors all over the world who serve to protect animals.

Theme for the year 2020: “Environment Protection for Improving Animal and Human Health”