

April - 29

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Five of the eight north east states namely Manipur, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura and Arunachal Pradesh have become COVID-19 free.
 - The other three states namely Meghalaya, Assam and Mizoram have not reported new cases.
- ❖ Saudi Arabia has abolished flogging as a death penalty punishment for crime on Juveniles.
 - Now judges will have to choose between fines, jail sentences and non-custodial alternatives such as jail sentences.
- ❖ Unified Geologic Map of the Moon (1:5,000,000 scale) was released virtually by the United States Geological Survey (USGS), National Aeronautics and Space Administration (Nasa) and the Lunar Planetary Institute.
 - It is the first ever digital, unified, global, geological map of the moon.
- ❖ The Pune-based Vaccine Company Serum Institute of India said it plans to start production of the Covid-19 vaccine developed by Oxford University.
 - Already it has collaborated with Oxford University, one of the seven global institutions manufacturing the vaccine, for a malaria vaccine project in the past.

NATIONAL

Plasma therapy

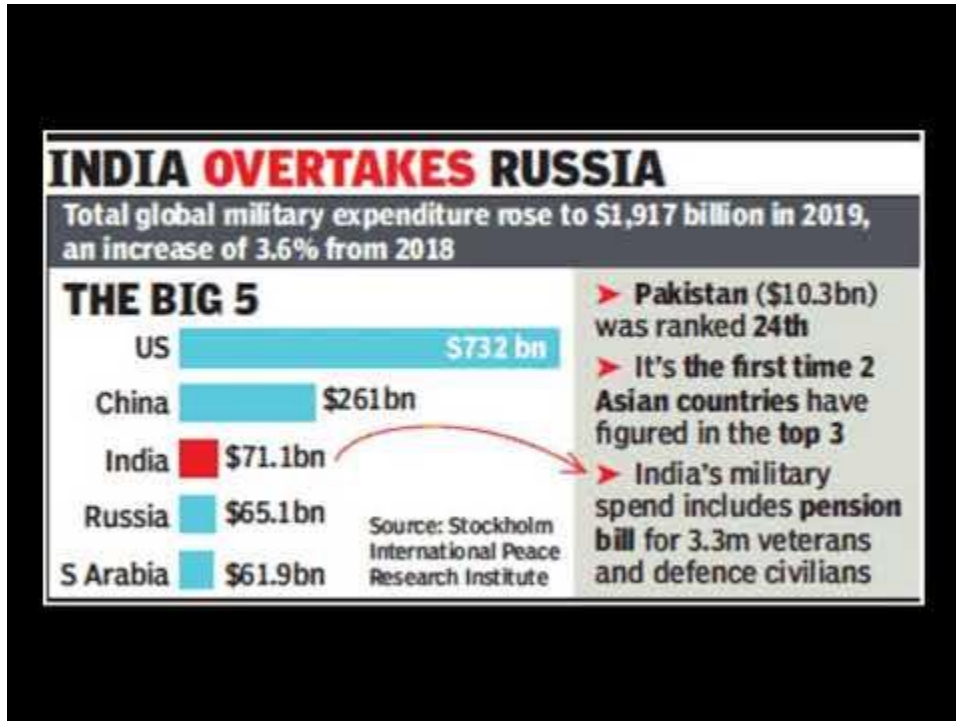
- ❖ The King George Medical University in Uttar Pradesh became the first government hospital to launch plasma therapy to treat COVID-19.
- ❖ In India, the plasma therapy had been used to treat diseases such as mumps, measles, polio and flu.

INTERNATIONAL

Trends in World Military Expenditure, 2019 report

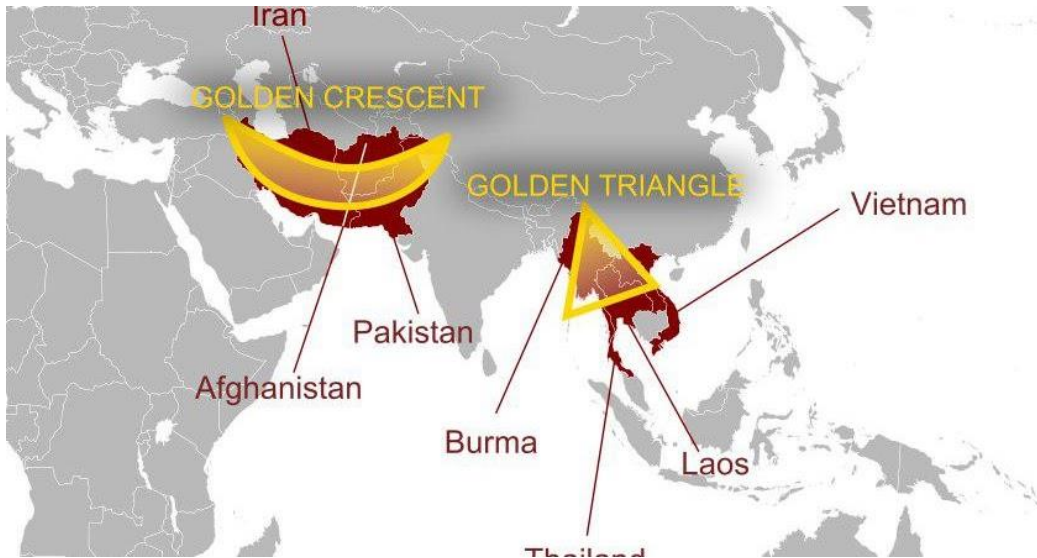
- ❖ The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) released its report on military spending of different countries in the world.
- ❖ US, China and India are the three top most military spenders in 2019.
- ❖ In 2019, India has spent 71.1 billion USD over its military.

- ❖ In 2019, the US had spent 732 billion USD for military.
- ❖ The United States, Russia, France, Germany and China continue to be the world's largest arms exporters.
- ❖ This is the first time that India and China have featured among the top three military spenders.



Lebanon - Marijuana

- ❖ Lebanon became the first Arab country to legalize marijuana cultivation.
- ❖ The cannabis plant has been farmed illegally in Lebanon in the fertile Bekaa Valley.
- ❖ According to the United Nations, Lebanon is the third largest supplier of cannabis resin in the world after Morocco and Afghanistan.
- ❖ Apart from Lebanon, Golden Triangle and the Golden Crescent also involved in this opium production.
- ❖ The Golden Crescent includes three countries namely Iran, Pakistan and Afghanistan.
- ❖ Together they form a crescent in the map and hence the name Crescent.
- ❖ The Golden Triangle includes Thailand, Myanmar and Laos.
- ❖ The regions meet at the confluence of Ruak and Mekong River and hence forming a golden triangle.



ECONOMY

States and FRBM

- ❖ The Finance Commission has advised the state governments to use the clauses of FRBM (The Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management) Act in order to raise additional resources to fight against COVID-19.
- ❖ The states have their own FRBM act.
- ❖ The limit of fiscal deficit for both central and state is 3% and the state governments can raise the deficit up to 50 basis points.

Commodity Markets Outlook

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

Trade and Development Report

- ❖ The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) has released its latest Trade and Development Report.
- ❖ UNCTAD has announced that it is to cancel over 1 trillion USD of debt owed by developing countries.

- ❖ UNCTAD is a permanent intergovernmental body established by the United Nations General Assembly in 1964.
- ❖ It reports to the UN General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council.
- ❖ It is a part of the UN Secretariat.
- ❖ It is also a part of the United Nations Development Group.

Global Report on Food Crises

- ❖ A new edition of the annual Global Report on Food Crises has been released by the Global Network against Food Crises.
- ❖ The report reveals scope of food crises as COVID-19 poses new risks to vulnerable countries.
- ❖ It was launched by the European Union, Food and Agriculture Organization and the World Food Programme during the 2016 World Humanitarian Summit (WHS).

Education for Justice

- ❖ The Education for Justice (E4J) initiative was launched by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes (UNODC) to teach next generation about crime prevention and address problems under law.
- ❖ The organization has launched “Lockdown Learners’ Series” under Education for Justice Initiative.
- ❖ The E4J initiative is under the Global Programme for the Implementation of the Doha Declaration.



Global Debt Deal

- ❖ The G20 grouping has called for “Global Debt Deal”.
- ❖ It will grant one-year debt standstill.
- ❖ After one year, the developing world shall pay back the debt with interest.

ENVIRONMENT

Dehing Patkai Elephant Reserve

- ❖ Recently National Board for Wild Life (NBWL) has recommended coal mining in a part of Dehing Patkai elephant reserve in Assam.
- ❖ NBWL is a statutory body constituted under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.
- ❖ It is the apex body to review all wildlife-related matters and approve projects in and around national parks and sanctuaries i.e. Protected Areas.
- ❖ It is chaired by Prime minister.
- ❖ It is a 47-member board (including the chairman) which usually meets once a year.



Wildlife Board nod
for **mining** in
**Assam Elephant
Reserve**

STATES

Basava Jayanthi



- ❖ Global Basava Jayanthi – 2020 was observed on 26th April.
- ❖ Basava Jayanti marks the birth anniversary of Lord Basavanna, the 12th-century poet-philosopher, and the founding saint of the Lingayat faith.
- ❖ He lived during the reign of the Kalachuri-dynasty king Bijjala I in Karnataka.

- ❖ Basavanna spread social awareness through his poetry, popularly known as Vachanaas.

Ambubachi Mela - Assam

- ❖ It has been cancelled this year due to Covid 19.
- ❖ It symbolises the fertility cult of goddess Kamakhya in Assam.
- ❖ The festival is also known as ‘Mahakumbh of the East’.
- ❖ Ambubachi Mela serves as an occasion to promote awareness on menstrual hygiene.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Day for Safety and Health at Work - April 28

- ❖ The International Labour Organization is using this day to raise awareness on the adoption of safe practices in workplaces and the role that occupational safety and health (OSH) services play.
- ❖ The ILO Centenary Declaration adopted in June 2019 declared that "safe and healthy working conditions are fundamental to decent work".
- ❖ The theme for 2020 is Stop the pandemic: Safety and health at work can save lives.
- ❖ It has been observed since 2003.
- ❖ ILO also observes International Commemoration Day for Dead and Injured Workers on April 28 since 1996.



World Veterinary Day - April 27

- ❖ It is celebrated on the last Saturday of April.
- ❖ The theme of this year is ‘Environment Protection for Improving Animal and Human Health’.



- ❖ The World Veterinary Association (WVA) started World Veterinary Day in 2000 to mark the celebration of the veterinary professionals every year.

