

1-3 April 2020 Current Affairs



1) With effect from 1 April 2020 ten public sector banks of India were amalgamated into four banks. After this merger how many public sector banks are there in the country? – **Twelve**

(The merger of 10 public sector banks into four banks came into effect from 1 April 2020, bringing the total number of state-run banks down to 12. Punjab National Bank, Canara Bank, Union Bank of India and Indian Bank are the four anchor banks which absorbed the smaller banks. Oriental Bank of Commerce (OBC) and United Bank of India were merged into Punjab National Bank (PNB). After the merger, these together formed the second-largest public sector bank in the country, after State Bank of India (SBI). Syndicate Bank was merged into Canara Bank, which makes it the fourth-largest public sector lender. Allahabad Bank was merged with Indian Bank while Andhra Bank and Corporation Bank were merged with Union Bank of India. Last year, Dena Bank and Vijaya Bank were merged with Bank of Baroda)



2) What is the name of the mobile application (app) launched by National Informatics Center (NIC) on 2 April 2020 that alerts the person whenever he comes in contact within six feet of COVID-19 infected person? – **AarogyaSetu**

(“AarogyaSetu” is the name of a mobile application developed launched by the NIC operating under Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology on

2 April 2020. The application uses Bluetooth and GPS of a smart phone to inform the user if he is in a radius of 6 feet from a COVID-19 infected person. The application also provides information about the best practices and advisories regarding containment of the virus)



3) The Union Government reduced the interest rates on small savings schemes by up to 140 bps for the April-June quarter. What is the new interest rate for highly popular PPF scheme? – **7.1%**

(After announcement of rate cut on small savings schemes by Union Govt. on 31 March 2020, Public Provident Fund (PPF) will now fetch 7.1% from the existing 7.9% while the 5-year National Savings Certificate will return 6.8% instead of 7.9% per annum. Similarly, the 5-year Senior Citizens Savings Scheme will now provide 7.4% instead of 8.6%. Highest cuts of 140 bps was done in term deposits and 5-year recurring deposit schemes)

4) HDFC Trustee Company acquired 5.45% stake in which domestic airline company as was disclosed on 1 April 2020? – **SpiceJet**

(HDFC Trustee Company, a subsidiary of HDFC Mutual Fund, has bought 3.4 crore shares of SpiceJet from open market, constituting 5.45% stake in airline. This development came days after CRISIL downgraded the rating for SpiceJet's short-term loans amid suspension of domestic and international flights due to coronavirus)

5) Emergency funding worth how much amount was approved by the World Bank for India on 2 April 2020 to help it tackle the coronavirus pandemic? – **USD 1 billion**

(The World Bank on 2 April 2020 approved USD 1 billion emergency funding for India to help it tackle the coronavirus pandemic. This aid is part of World Bank's first set of aid projects, amounting to USD 1.9

billion, that will assist 25 countries to fight coronavirus pandemic. The largest chunk of the emergency financial assistance has gone to India - USD 1 billion, primarily to support better screening, contact tracing, and laboratory diagnostics; procure personal protective equipment; and set up new isolation wards)

6) What is the name given to the initiative launched by founders from leading startups, independent advisors, investors, supporters, and mentors of the startup ecosystem to help Indian startups survive the coronavirus pandemic, as was announced on 1 April 2020? - **Action COVID-19 Team**

(Action COVID-19 Team (ACT) is the name of the unique initiative launched with the primary objective of helping Indian startups survive the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. The idea is to have capital-efficient and scalable solutions that need initial seed grant to fight COVID-19. Additionally, the ACT platform will bring its networks, team money and startup assets to create a force multiplier to help these initiatives make rapid meaningful progress. ACT has been launched by founders from leading startups, independent advisors, investors, supporters, and mentors of the startup ecosystem in the country)

4-21 April 2020 Current Affairs



1) In an important development the Union Government on 17 April 2020 tweaked the FDI policy with the primary aim to restrict Chinese firms from acquiring stake in Indian companies. What is the geographic expansion of this policy change which tightened FDI in the country? - **Countries which shares land border with India**

(The changed portion of the FDI policy states that a non-resident entity "of a country, which shares land border with India or where the beneficial owner of an investment into India is situated in or is a citizen of any such country, can invest only" with prior government permission. It is worth mentioning that

China's central bank had raised its stake in HDFC over 1% recently thus raising alert in many circles)



2) China's central bank raised its stake over 1% in which Indian private entity as was disclosed during April 2020? - **HDFC**

(India's largest mortgage lender Housing Development Finance Corporation Limited (HDFC) informed the stock exchanges on 11 April 2020 about China's central bank - People's Bank of China (PBOC) raising its stake in HDFC to 1.01% from 0.8%. PBOC's 1.01% stake comprises 17.49 million shares of HDFC. This development was seen as a major one as India's Finance Ministry was concerned that no red flag was raised over it)

3) India's largest bank SBI reduced the interest rate on all savings bank deposits by how many basis points with effect from 15 April 2020? - **25 basis points**

(State Bank of India announced it has cut the interest rate on all savings bank deposits by 25 basis points to 2.75% with effect from 3.0% from 15 April 2020)



4) Who replaced Jeremy Corbyn as the new chief of UK's main opposition party - Labour Party? - **Sir Keir Starmer**

(UK's Labour Party on 4 April 2020 elected its Brexit spokesman and former Director of Public Prosecutions, Sir Keir Starmer, as its new leader. The 57-year-old beat Rebecca Long-Bailey and Lisa Nandy with more than 56% of the votes. Starmer replaced

Jeremy Corbyn who resigned as Labour leader after the party lost the elections in December 2019)

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5) OPEC and its oil-producing allies led by Russia during April 2020 finalised a historic agreement to cut production by how many barrels per day? - 9.7 million barrels per day

(OPEC and its oil-producing allies led by Russia (together called OPEC+) on 13 April 2020 finalised a historic agreement to cut production by 9.7 million barrels per day due to a slump in demand caused by coronavirus lockdowns. The cut is the single largest output cut in history. The agreement also ended a price war that broke out between Saudi Arabia and Russia in March 2020)



6) TVS Motor Company acquired which iconic motorcycle brand of UK as was announced on 17 April 2020? - Norton

(TVS Motor Company on 17 April 2020 announced the acquisition of the United Kingdom's most iconic sporting motorcycle 'Norton' in an all-cash deal, for £16 million. Founded by James Lansdowne Norton in Birmingham (in 1898), Norton Motorcycles is among the most popular British motorcycle brands of all time)

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7) The RBI on 17 April 2020 announced a stimulus package worth how much amount to ensure the solvency of businesses and small non-bank lenders during the extended lockdown period? - Rs. 1 lakh crore

(With a view to ensure the solvency of business entities and small non-banking lenders, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on 17 April 2020 announced a Rs. 1 lakh crore stimulus package. The stimulus included a Rs 50,000-crore refinance facility to banks for lending to non-banking finance companies (NBFCs) and Rs. 50,000 crore funding support for refinance institutions)

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8) Which state announced to start pool testing of the coronavirus samples in the state, thus becoming the first such state in India? - Uttar Pradesh

(The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) gave permission for pool testing to Uttar Pradesh in order to help maximise the testing of novel samples on a daily basis. During pool testing, if 10 samples are mixed and tested for Covid-19 and if they test negative, then it will be an indicator that all samples are negative. But if the test is not negative, then individual testing will be done)



9) Which team was crowned Indian football season's prestigious I-League 2019-20 champions while the remaining matches were cancelled due to Covid-19? - Mohun Bagan

(Mohun Bagan were crowned I-League 2019-20 champions with the remaining matches of the tournament set to be cancelled. Mohun Bagan have 39 points from 16 matches, 16 points clear of second-placed East Bengal who cannot catch up even if they win all their remaining matches. It is Mohun Bagan's second I-League title, after their first in 2014-15)



10) Rudratej Singh, who passed away on 20 April 2020 due to cardiac arrest, was the President & CEO of which automobile entity? - BMW Group India

(BMW Group India's President and CEO Rudratej Singh passed away on 20 April 2020 at the age of 46 due to cardiac arrest. The German auto major had appointed Singh as head of India operations with effect from 1

August 2019. He had more than 25 years of experience and worked with Royal Enfield and Hindustan Unilever in the past)

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11) Which Bengaluru-based startup came to limelight as it launched India's first 'rapid' at-home COVID-19 screening kit during April 2020? – **Bione**

(During April 2020 Bengaluru-based startup Bione launched India's first 'rapid' at-home COVID-19 screening kit, which it claims can deliver results in 5-10 minutes. The kit was approved by Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR). The test requires users to clean their finger with an alcohol swab and prick it with a provided needle. The cartridge, then, reads the result from the blood sample)

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12) Which domestic Indian airline entity during April 2020 announced that it is ceasing its operations until further notice? - **Air Deccan**

(Air Deccan on 5 April 2020 announced that it is ceasing its operations until further notice and all employees are being put on sabbatical without pay with immediate effect)

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22-24 April 2020 Current Affairs



1) In the biggest foreign investment in India's technology sector, social media giant Facebook Inc. picked up 9.9% stake in Mukesh Ambani-led Reliance Jio, as was announced on 22 April 2020. What is the total enterprise value of Jio after this deal? - **\$65.95 billion**

(Facebook and Jio made a big announcement on 22 April 2020 in which Facebook said that it was investing \$5.7 billion in Reliance Jio, acquiring 9.99% stake in the process and valuing Jio at \$65.95 billion. This deal is the largest foreign direct investment (FDI) in India's technology sector. This deal came at a time when Mukesh Ambani's flagship Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) is battling the impact of the coronavirus

pandemic and a slump in demand for crude oil. It is believed that the whole partnership is aimed at making WhatsApp, which is owned by Facebook, a sort of super app where users will not only be able to chat but will also be able to do so much in every sphere, be it buying groceries, cinema tickets or booking a cab)



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2) Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on 20 April 2020 entered into agreement with which opposition politician to form an emergency coalition government? - **Benny Gantz**

(Benjamin Netanyahu and his election rival Benny Gantz signed an agreement to form an emergency coalition government after holding three consecutive elections in over a year. According to the agreement, Netanyahu, who is under criminal indictment in three corruption cases, will remain prime minister for 18 months after which Gantz will replace him)



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3) The price of US crude oil on 20 April 2020 fell below \$0 at one time, which was the weakest level since New York Mercantile Exchange opened oil futures trading in 1983. What were the main reasons for this historic low price? – **Reduced demand for oil and negligible storage capacity for crude**

(The US crude on 20 April 2020 fell below \$0 to \$-1.43 at one point. The main reason for this historic fall was heavy reduction in demand for oil due to ongoing coronavirus pandemic and oil producers running out of places to store all their excess barrels)

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4) What is the name of an interactive platform on Covid-19 that was launched on 21 April 2020 by Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare Dr. Harsh Vardhan, which primarily aims at providing real time

solutions to Covid-19 related queries? - **Covid India Seva**

(Covid India Seva is the name of the interactive platform on Covid-19 launched by the Union Health and Family Welfare Ministry on 21 April 2020. Indian citizens can post their queries to the twitter handle of the platform for getting swift replies from the team of trained experts. This initiative is aimed at enabling transparent e-governance delivery at large scales especially in crisis situations like the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic)

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5) What was the name of the Oscar-winning illustrator and animation filmmaker known for directing cartoon shows 'Tom and Jerry' and 'Popeye The Sailor', who passed away during April 2020? - **Gene Deitch**

(Gene Deitch was a renowned illustrator and animation filmmaker and had directed shows like 'Tom and Jerry' and 'Popeye The Sailor'. He was an American-born Czech illustrator who was 95 when he passed away unexpectedly in his apartment on 16 April 2020)

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6) Which country became the first Arab country to legalize cannabis farming? - **Lebanon**

(Lebanon became the first Arab country to legalize cannabis farming in the hopes that sales from the plant will provide some relief to its debt-ridden economy. On 22 April 2020 the Lebanese parliament passed legislation legalizing marijuana cultivation for medicinal and industrial purposes. Recreational use of marijuana will remain illegal. After Morocco and Afghanistan, Lebanon is the third-largest source of cannabis resin worldwide)

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25-26 April 2020 Current Affairs



1) Which mutual fund entity voluntarily decided to wind up six debt funds due to severe market dislocation and illiquidity and thus became first mutual fund in India to do so? - **Franklin Templeton Mutual Fund**

(Citing severe market dislocation and illiquidity" caused by the coronavirus, Franklin Templeton Mutual Fund voluntarily decided to wind up six yield-oriented managed credit funds with nearly Rs. 31,000 crore in assets under management (AUM) effective 23 March 2020. It thus became the first mutual fund in Indian market to take such step. Franklin Templeton said that this decision was taken to protect value for investors via a managed sale of the portfolio as these funds carried high credit risks)

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2) Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 24 April 2020 launched which portal that aims to digitalize all Gram Panchayats? - **"e-Gram Swaraj Portal"**

(e-Gram Swaraj Portal was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the occasion of Panchayati Raj Day on 24 April 2020. On this occasion the PM also interacted with select Sarpanchs from across the nation. e-GramSwaraj Portal is a step towards complete digitization of villages and will maintain all records of all developmental activities of villages and will be accessible on mobile phones)

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3) Who took over as the new Chief Vigilance Commissioner (CVC) of India on 25 April 2020? - **Sanjay Kothari**

(Retired IAS officer Sanjay Kothari took oath as the Central Vigilance Commissioner (CVC) at a ceremony

at RashtrapatiBhavan on 25 April 2020. He was secretary to President Ram NathKovind before being nominated to the new role. The post of CVC has been lying vacant since June 2019 when CVC K.V. Chowdary superannuated from this post and Vigilance Commissioner Sharad Kumar was holding the interim charge from then)

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4) The Union Government during April 2020 declared banking industry as a public utility service for six months till 21 October 2020. What is the main purpose of this decision? – **To prevent bank employees from going on strike**

(The order to declare banking industry as a public utility service was done under the provisions of Industrial Disputes Act. With this move, employees and officers of the highly unionised banking sector would not be able to go on strike besides certain other activities)

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5) What is the name given to China's first Mars exploration mission as was announced by China National Space Administration (CNSA) on 24 April 2020? - **Tianwen-1**

(Tianwen-1 is the name of China's first Mars exploration mission. China plans to launch the Mars probe in this year, aiming to complete orbiting, landing and roving in one mission)

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27-30 April 2020 Current Affairs



1) The Indian Railways on 27 April 2020 said that its newly-built freight locomotive cleared the trial run conducted by the RDSO. What is the power-output of this new freight locomotive? – **9000 horse power**

(The new 9000 hp locomotive was built at the Chittaranjan Locomotive Works (CLW) and its trial run was conducted by the Research Design and Standards Organisation (RDSO) over the Northern Railways network at a speed of 100 km per hour. The locomotive, equipped with modern and advanced features, underwent its oscillation and performance

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trials from 31 January to 26 February 2020. In this new locomotive, there has been an upgradation of power of WAP-7 and WAG-9 locomotive from 6,000 HP to 9,000 HP)

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2) A "special loan instrument" worth how much amount will be created by BRICS to rebuild their economies and to overcome the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, as was decided on 28 April 2020? - **\$15 billion**

(The foreign ministers of BRICS nations on 28 April 2020 held a video conference on the issue of how to deal with economic fallout due to Covid-19 pandemic. It was decided that the New Development Bank (NDB), established by BRICS, will provide loans worth \$15 billion to help the member states)

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3) The RBI on 27 April 2020 announced a special liquidity facility worth how much amount with the aim to ease liquidity pressures on mutual funds? – **Rs. 50,000 crore**

(Aiming to ease liquidity pressures on mutual funds, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on 27 April 2020 announced a special liquidity facility of Rs. 50,000 crore for mutual funds. Under this, the central bank will conduct repo operations of 90 days tenor at the fixed repo rate. This comes after Franklin Templeton Mutual Fund's decision to scrap six debt schemes worth nearly Rs. 31,000 crore sparked market-wide concerns)



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4) Highly versatile actor Irrfan Khan passed away on 29 April 2020 at the age of 53. Known for some of the most powerful roles in Hindi films in recent times, Irrfan won his only National Film Award for which film? – **“Paan Singh Tomar”**

(Irrfan Khan was diagnosed with a neuroendocrine tumour in March 2018, soon after which he flew to London for treatment. He returned to India in February 2019 to shoot “Angrezi Medium” which was his last film. He won National Film Award for Best

Actor for 2013 film "Paan Singh Tomar". Some of the important films with his versatile acting were "Hasil" (2003), "Maqbool" (2003), "Slumdog Millionaire" (2008), "The Life of Pi" (2012), "The Amazing Spiderman" (2012), "The Lunchbox" (2013), "Paan Singh Tomar" (2013), "Piku" (2015), "Hindi Medium" (2017) and "Angrezi Medium" (2020))

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5) What is the name of the Yemeni separatist group that announced self-rule in the areas it controls in Yemen's south? - Southern Transitional Council (STC)

(Southern Transitional Council (STC) is the name of the separatist group that announced self-rule in the areas it controls in Yemen's south. STC had allied with the Saudi Arabia-backed Yemeni government to fight Iran-backed Houthi rebels, who control large areas in the country's north. STC was established in 2017)

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6) According to data released by arms watchdog Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) on 27 April 2020 the US, China and India were the world's three biggest military spenders in 2019. What was India's total defence expenditure during the year? – \$71.1 billion

(The US, China and India were the world's three biggest military spenders in 2019, followed by Russia and Saudi Arabia. The two Asian countries made it to the top three for the first time. Total global spending rose to almost \$2 trillion in 2019, up 3.6% from 2018)

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7) Which private bank during April 2020 agreed to acquire an additional 29% stake in Max Life Insurance? - Axis Bank

(Private lender Axis Bank agreed to acquire an additional 29% stake in Max Life Insurance. This will take Axis Bank's total stake in Max Life Insurance, which is the country's fourth-largest private insurer to 30%. Post the transaction, Max Life Insurance will become a 70:30 joint-venture between Max Financial Services (MFSL) and Axis Bank)

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