



# PRELIMS BOOSTER

APRIL  
2021

Exhaustive Compilation of  
Prelims Related Concepts &  
Terminologies



### April 5:

1. **Rare Diseases:** A rare disease that affects a smaller percentage of the population. Its prevalence is very low. The World Health Organisation defines a rare disease as an often-debilitating lifelong disease or disorder condition with a prevalence of 1 or less, per 1000 population. Rare diseases sometimes also loosely referred as orphan diseases because drug companies were not interested to develop treatments/medication.
2. **Project K-FON:** Kerala Fibre Optic Network- The project seeks to fulfil the government's aim of making internet access a 'citizen's right'.
3. **Dual levy:** Double levy are often charged on demerit goods like petrol, alcohol where a fixed percentage of the price of any product is charged under GST and the remaining portion is outside the GST.
4. **TransGrid 2.0:** a project to improve the power transmission network in the State of Kerala.
5. **KIIFB:** a major funding arm of the Kerala government, it raised funds from the financial market and made them available to the government to finance infrastructure projects which otherwise would have taken decades to materialise.

### April 6:

1. **Chenab bridge:** The Chenab Bridge is an Indian railway steel and concrete arch bridge under construction between Bakkal and Kauri in the Reasi district of Jammu and Kashmir. When completed, the bridge will span the Chenab River at a height of 359 m above the river, making it the world's highest rail bridge.
2. **INS Viraat:** was a Centaur-class aircraft carrier of the Indian Navy, it was commissioned into the Indian Navy in 1987 served till 2016 when it was decommissioned.
3. **NATO:** The North Atlantic Treaty Organization, also called the North Atlantic Alliance, is an intergovernmental military alliance between 30 European and North American countries. The organization implements the North Atlantic Treaty that was signed on 4 April 1949.

### April 7:

1. **Ghost forests:** Ghost forests are areas of dead trees in former forests, typically in coastal regions where rising sea levels and salt water intrusion or tectonic shifts have converted green forests into dead trees with pale trunks, devoid of leaves and limbs. These are sometimes also referred as "wooden tombstones."
2. **JCPOA:** The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA, or the Iran nuclear deal) was the result of



negotiations from 2013 and 2015 between Iran and P5+1 (China, France, Germany, Russia, the United Kingdom, the United States and the European Union, or the EU).

3. **ILO:** The International Labour Organization is a United Nations agency whose mandate is to advance social and economic justice through setting international labour standards. Founded in October 1919 under the League of Nations, it is the first and oldest specialised agency of the UN.

**April 8:**

1. **White goods:** White goods are large home appliances such as stoves, refrigerators, freezers, washing machines, tumble driers, dishwashers, and air conditioners. Traditionally available only in white, however, today these are available in a wide range of colors.
2. **Alkaloids:** Alkaloid are any of a class of naturally occurring organic nitrogen-containing Bases. This group also includes some related compounds with neutral and even weak acidic properties. Well-known alkaloids include morphine, strychnine, quinine, ephedrine, and nicotine.
3. **Carbon neutral:** Carbon neutrality refers to achieving net-zero carbon dioxide emissions. This can be done by balancing emissions of carbon dioxide with its removal (often

through carbon offsetting) or by eliminating emissions from society (the transition to the "post-carbon economy").

4. **IPCC:** The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is an intergovernmental body of the United Nations that is dedicated to providing the world with objective, scientific information relevant to understanding the scientific basis of the risk of human-induced climate change, its natural, political, and economic impacts and risks, and possible response options.
5. **State of charge:** State of charge (SoC) is the level of charge of an electric battery relative to its capacity. The units of SoC are percentage points (0% = empty; 100% = full). As a cell starts aging, the maximum SoC starts decreasing. This means that for an aged cell, a 100% SoC would be equivalent to a 75%–80% SoC of a new cell.

**April 9:**

1. **African Swine Fever:** ASF is a severe viral disease that affects pigs typically resulting in an acute haemorrhagic fever. The disease has a case fatality rate (CFR) of almost 100 per cent. Its routes of transmission include direct contact with an infected or wild pig (alive or dead), indirect contact through ingestion of contaminated material such as food waste, feed or garbage, or through biological vectors such as



ticks. African Swine Fever (ASF) does not affect humans as such. The current outbreak of ASF is in Assam.

- 2. IRDAI:** The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India is an autonomous and statutory body which is responsible for managing and regulating insurance and re-insurance industry in India. IRDAI is a 10-member body- a chairman, five full-time members and four part-time members. It was constituted under an Act of Parliament in 1999 and the agency's headquarters is in Hyderabad.
- 3. B.1.617:** The "double mutant" virus that may be responsible for the spread of the pandemic in India, has a formal scientific classification: B.1.617.
- 4. FoFs:** A "fund of funds" is an investment strategy of holding a portfolio of other investment funds rather than investing directly in stocks, bonds or other securities. This type of investing is often referred to as multi-manager investment.
- 5. GISAID:** GISAID is a global science initiative and primary source established in 2008 that provides open-access to genomic data of influenza viruses and the coronavirus responsible for the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 6. CACP:** The CACP, a statutory body under the Union Agriculture Ministry, recommends MSP for notified Kharif and rabi crops. MSPs

are announced at the beginning of each sowing season by the Cabinet Committee of Economic Affairs based on the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP). The CACP, in turn, makes its recommendations based on demand and supply, the cost of production and price trends in the market, among other factors.

#### April 10:

- 1. EAEU:** The Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) is an international economic union and free trade zone comprising countries located in central and northern Asia and Eastern Europe. The founding member states of Belarus, Kazakhstan, and Russia established the union by treaty in 2014 and officially implemented the agreement beginning on Jan. 1, 2015. Unlike the European Union (EU), the EAEU does not share a common currency.
- 2. EEZ:** It is an area of the sea in which a sovereign state has special rights regarding the exploration and use of marine resources, including energy production from water and wind. It stretches from the baseline out to 200 nautical miles from the coast of the state in question.
- 3. FONOP:** Freedom of Navigation Operations are closely linked to the concept of freedom of navigation, and in particular to the





enforcement of relevant international law and customs regarding freedom of navigation.

It is exercised by sailing through all areas of the sea permitted under UNCLOS, and particularly those areas that states have attempted to close off to free navigation as defined under UNCLOS.

#### April 11:

1. **9th Heart of Aisa Conference:** The Heart of Asia – Istanbul Process (HoA-IP) is an initiative of the Republic of Afghanistan and the Republic of Turkey. It is a platform for promoting regional security, economic and political cooperation centered on Afghanistan through dialogue and set of Confidence Building Measures.
2. **Shahtoot dam:** is a proposed dam in the Char Asiab district of Kabul Province. India and Afghanistan have signed an agreement to build the Shahtoot Dam in Kabul to provide drinking water facility in the Afghan capital.
3. **Economic focus:** The South Asia Economic Focus is a biannual economic update presenting recent economic developments and a near-term economic outlook for South Asia.
4. **Bhandavgarh NP:** It is a national park located in the Umaria district of Madhya Pradesh. It was declared a national park in 1968 and

became Tiger Reserve in 1993.

#### April 12:

1. **NYAY:** The Congress's flagship 2019 scheme that proposed a monthly transfer of ₹6,000 to households living below the poverty line, resurface prominently in the Congress-led United Democratic Front's manifesto for the Kerala Assembly election.
2. **NPCI:** The National Payments Corporation of India is an umbrella organisation for operating retail payments and settlement systems under the ownership of Reserve Bank of India in India.
3. **Natanz atomic site:** Located in Iran's central Isfahan province in Tehran, Natanz hosts the country's main uranium enrichment facility. It is known as the first Pilot Fuel Enrichment Plant of Iran.

#### April 14:

1. **IRV 2020:** programme has been launched by WHO-India, with an aim to protect and increase the population of the one-horned rhinoceros.
2. **Manas National Park:** is a national park, UNESCO Natural World Heritage site, a Project Tiger reserve, an elephant reserve and a biosphere reserve in Assam.
3. **Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary:** has the second highest concentration of one-horned rhinos in Assam after Kaziranga National Park. It is often called 'Mini Kaziranga' due to similar landscape and vegetation.
4. **UNEP:** is the global champion for the environment with programmes focusing on sustainable development, climate, biodiversity



and more. It is responsible for coordinating responses to environmental issues within the United Nations system.

5. **Gyanvapi Masjid:** is located in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh. It was constructed on the site of the Kashi Vishwanath temple, which had been demolished by the Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb in 1696. It is a Jama Masjid located in the heart of the Varanasi city; it is administered by Anjuman Inthazamiya Masjid.
6. **ASI:** is an Indian government agency attached to the Ministry of Culture that is responsible for archaeological research and the conservation and preservation of cultural monuments in the country.
7. **Bihu:** is a set of three important Assamese festivals in the Indian state of Assam—Rongali or Bohag Bihu observed in April, Kongali or Kati Bihu observed in October, and Bhogali or Magh Bihu observed in January.

#### April 15:

1. **G-SAP:** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has put in place a secondary market Government Security Acquisition Programme (G-SAP) 1.0 for orderly evolution of the yield curve in FY22. Under the programme, the central bank will purchase government bonds of worth Rs 1 trillion (or one lakh crores of rupees).
2. **FASTags:** The FASTag is a reloadable tag that allows automatic deduction of toll without having to stop for

carrying out the cash transaction. The tag uses radio frequency identification (RFID) technology and is fixed on the windscreen of the vehicle once active.

#### April 16:

1. **Regulation review Authority 2.0:** set up by RBI, the authority will review regulatory prescriptions internally as well as by seeking suggestions from RBI-regulated entities for simplification and ease of implementation. The RRA 2.0 will focus on streamlining regulatory instructions, reduce compliance burden of the regulated entities by simplifying procedures and reduce reporting requirements, wherever possible.
2. **INTACH:** It is a non-profit charitable organisation registered under the Societies' Registration Act, 1860. It was founded in 1984 in New Delhi with the vision to spearhead heritage awareness and conservation in India. It has pioneered the conservation and preservation of not just our natural and built heritage but intangible heritage as well.
3. **Painted Grey Ware:** The Painted Grey Ware culture (PGW) is an Iron Age Indian culture of the western Gangetic plain and the Ghaggar-Hakra valley in the Indian subcontinent, conventionally dated c.1200 to 600–500 BCE. Characterized by a style of fine, grey pottery painted with geometric patterns in black,<sup>[2]</sup> the PGW culture is associated with village and town settlements, domesticated horses, ivory-working, and the advent of iron metallurgy.
4. **UNFPA- State of World Population Report 2021:** The United Nations Population Fund's (UNFPA) flagship



'State of World Population Report 2021' titled 'My Body is My Own' was launched. This is the first time a United Nations report has focused on bodily autonomy, defined as the power and agency to make choices about your body without the fear of violence or having someone else decide for you.

#### April 19:

1. **Eudiscopus denticulus:** India's first bamboo-dwelling bat with sticky discs, recorded in the northeastern State's Lailad area near the Nongkhylllem Wildlife Sanctuary, about 1,000 km west of its nearest known habitat in Myanmar.
2. **Green Contracts:** refer to commercial contracts which mandate that contracting parties cut down greenhouse gas emissions at different stages of delivery of goods/services, including design, manufacturing, transportation, operations and waste disposal, as applicable to the industry. The process of implementing a green contract may commence at the bidding stage itself, when various interested companies participate in the tender process.
3. **KV kamath committee:** Set up by the RBI last August, it is a committee headed by K.V. Kamath on restructuring of loans impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic. The Committee was tasked to recommend parameters for one-time restructuring of corporate loans. Recently the restructuring plan for Future Retail is pending approval from K.V Kamath committee.
4. **Nongkhylllem Wildlife Sanctuary:** is located near Lailad village in the Ri Bhoi district of Meghalaya. The animals here include the Bengal tiger, the black bear, the leopard and many such species at the verge of extinction

such as the necked hornbill and the brown hornbill bird.

#### April 20:

1. **Vande bharat mission:** the initiative undertaken by the government to bring back stranded Indians from foreign destinations after suspension of regular international flights due to COVID-19 pandemic. It has turned out to be one of the largest evacuations of civilians by a country.
2. **Sudarshan Sen committee:** RBI set up a committee to undertake a comprehensive review of the working of Asset Reconstruction Companies (ARCs) in the financial sector ecosystem and recommend suitable measures for enabling them to meet the growing requirements. The six-member committee will be headed by Sudarshan Sen, former Executive Director, Reserve Bank of India.
3. **Ingenuity:** the first helicopter to fly on Mars was carried by NASA's rover called Perseverance that was launched in July last year and will help collect samples from the surface from locations where the rover cannot reach.

#### April 21:

1. **Roscosmos:** is a state corporation of the Russian Federation responsible for space flights, cosmonautics programs, and aerospace research.
2. **US currency watchlist:** The U.S. Treasury Department's monitoring list of countries with potentially "questionable foreign exchange policies" and "currency manipulation".

#### April 22:

1. **Reporters Without Border:** Based in Paris, RSF is an independent NGO





with consultative status with the United Nations, UNESCO, the Council of Europe and the International Organization of the Francophonie (OIF). It publishes the World Press Freedom Index.

2. **USCIRF:** US Commission on International Religious Freedom is an independent, bipartisan, U.S. federal government commission created by the 1998 International Religious Freedom Act (IRFA) that monitors the universal right to freedom of religion or belief abroad. USCIRF uses international standards to monitor religious freedom violations globally, and makes policy recommendations to the President, the Secretary of State, and Congress.
3. **NHEM:** The National Hydrogen Energy Mission was announced in the Union Budget 2021 set to be launched in 2021-22. This mission will emphasise hydrogen from clean sources. It also envisages linking the country's growing renewable energy capacity with the hydrogen economy.
4. **CEEW:** The Council on Energy, Environment and Water, commonly known as CEEW, is a Delhi-based not-for-profit policy research institution. Some of CEEW's research areas include resource efficiency and security; water resources; renewable energy; sustainability finance; energy-trade-climate linkages; integrated energy, environment and water plans; and climate geoengineering governance. The think-tank advises the Indian government.

#### April 23:

1. **DSRV:** A deep-submergence rescue vehicle is a type of deep-submergence vehicle used for rescue of downed submarines and clandestine missions.

2. **KRI Nanggala:** KRI Nanggala (402) is a diesel-electric attack submarine of the Indonesian Navy, one of two Cakra-class submarines. On 21 April 2021, it went missing in deep waters north of Bali during a SUT torpedo drill.

3. **GCF:** The Green Climate Fund (GCF) is the world's largest environmental fund that seeks to help developing nations in cutting down their greenhouse gas emissions, while at the same time making them adapt suitably to climate change. This is done by supporting projects, programmes, policies and other activities through a state-of-the-art funding window. It was established formally as a financing mechanism by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 2010 it is headquartered in the Songdo district in South Korea.

4. **MOXIE:** Mars Oxygen In-Situ Resource Utilization Experiment by NASA, it's a tool that helps lead to human footprints on Mars. MOXIE will demonstrate a way that future explorers might produce oxygen from the Martian atmosphere for propellant and for breathing.

5. **Distributed Ledger Technology:** Distributed ledger technology (DLT) is a digital system for recording the transaction of assets in which the transactions and their details are recorded in multiple places at the same time. Unlike traditional databases, distributed ledgers have no central data store or administration functionality.

#### April 24:

1. **Ways & Means Advances:** It is a facility for both the Centre and states to borrow from the RBI. These





borrowings are meant purely to help them to tide over temporary mismatches in cash flows of their receipts and expenditures. In that sense, they aren't a source of finance per se.

2. **BRO:** Border Roads Organisation was conceived and raised in 1960 by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru for coordinating the speedy development of a network of roads in the North and the North Eastern border regions of the country.  
It works under the administrative control of the Ministry of Defence. It has diversified into a large spectrum of construction and development works comprising airfields, building projects, defence works and tunnelling and has endeared itself to the people.
3. **Genome sequencing:** Genome sequencing is figuring out the order of DNA nucleotides, or bases, in a genome—the order of Adenine, Cytosine, Guanines, and Thymine that make up an organism's DNA.
4. **Oxygen express:** The Railways will run 'Oxygen Express' trains over the next few days to transport liquid medical oxygen and oxygen cylinders across the country. Empty tankers will begin their journey from Kalamboli and Boisar railway stations in and near Mumbai on Monday to load liquid medical oxygen from Vizag, Jamshedpur, Rourkela and Bokaro.
5. **Green corridors:** A green corridor is a demarcated, cleared out special road route created for an ambulance that enables retrieved organs/medical necessities meant for transplant to reach the destined hospital. Green corridors require a concentrated effort from transplant coordinators, local police, traffic police and airport staff. Awareness of the general public

towards green corridors is also important.

#### April 27:

1. **Herd immunity:** Herd immunity is when a large number of people are vaccinated against a disease, lowering the chances of others being infected by it.  
When a sufficient percentage of a population is vaccinated, it slows the spread of disease.  
It is also referred to as community immunity or herd protection.
2. **DRDO:** is the R&D wing of Ministry of Defence, Govt of India, with a vision to empower India with cutting-edge defence technologies and a mission to achieve self-reliance in critical defence technologies and systems, while equipping our armed forces with state-of-the-art weapon systems and equipment in accordance with requirements laid down by the three Services. DRDO's pursuit of self-reliance and successful indigenous development and production of strategic systems and platforms such as Agni and Prithvi series of missiles; light combat aircraft, Tejas; multi-barrel rocket launcher, Pinaka; air defence system, Akash; a wide range of radars and electronic warfare systems; etc., have given quantum jump to India's military might, generating effective deterrence and providing crucial leverage.
3. **HAL:** is an Indian state-owned aerospace and defence company, headquartered in Bangalore. It is governed under the management of the Indian Ministry of Defence. It is primarily involved in the operations of the aerospace and is currently involved in the design, fabrication and assembly of aircraft, jet engines, helicopters and their spare parts.
4. **Entry 29 Concurrent List:** Entry 29 of the concurrent list reads: "29. Prevention of the extension from one State to another of infectious or contagious diseases or pests affecting men, animals or plants".

Since, both central and state government are empowered to legislate on an entry in the Concurrent List, a possible collision or inconsistency between the two legislations cannot be ruled out.

**April 29:**

1. **ADB:** Asian Development Bank was established in the year 1966, with head office at Manila (Philippines). It has 67 members from the Asia Pacific region. This bank was modelled on the lines of the world bank. Japan holds the largest share in ADB, followed by U.S.A, China, and India. The aim of the ADB is social development by reducing poverty in the Asia Pacific with inclusive growth, sustainable growth, and regional integration.
2. **GAVI:** Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation is an international organisation – a global Vaccine Alliance, bringing together public and private sectors with the shared goal of creating equal access to new and underused vaccines for children living in the world's poorest countries.

**April 30:**

1. **Maitri vaccine:** It is the official vaccine diplomacy program of India under its neighborhood first policy. It is based on India's foreign policy ideology of "Vasudaiva Kutumbakam"- The World is one Family. Under this, India decided to supply COVID-19 vaccines to India's partner countries- Bhutan, Maldives, Bangladesh, Nepal, Myanmar, Seychelles and Mauritius.
2. **Vaccine diplomacy:** Today it's harder to get the vaccines than nuclear weapons. In this background, using vaccines as a tool to strengthen or improve a country's diplomatic relationship with other countries is called Vaccine diplomacy.

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