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National and International News

<p>Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) & About Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North East Region (MOVCD)</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The government is promoting organic farming across all States and Union Territories (UTs), excluding the North Eastern States, through the Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) scheme. • For the North Eastern States, the government is implementing the Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region (MOVCDNER) scheme. • Both schemes provide comprehensive support to farmers involved in organic farming, covering the entire process from production to processing, certification, and marketing. • The schemes also focus on post-harvest management and offer training and capacity-building to enhance the skills of farmers. <p>Key Points:</p> <p>About Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana, launched in 2015 is an elaborated component of Soil Health Management (SHM) of the major project National Mission of Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA). • Under PKVY, Organic farming is promoted through adoption of organic villages by cluster approach and Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) certification. • Under PKVY, assistance of Rs. 31,500 per ha for a period of 3 years is provided for promotion of organic farming. • The Scheme envisages: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Promotion of commercial organic production through certified organic farming. ○ The produce will be pesticide residue free and will contribute to improve the health of consumers. ○ It will raise farmer's income and create a potential market for traders. ○ It will motivate the farmers for natural resource mobilization for input production. <p>About Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North East Region (MOVCD):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North East Region (MOVCD-NER) is a Central Sector Scheme, a sub-mission under National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) • It was launched by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare in 2015 for implementation in the states of Arunachal
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	<p>Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under MOVCNDR, assistance of Rs. 46,500/ha for 3 years is provided for creation of Farmers Producer Organization, support to farmers for organic inputs etc. • The scheme aims to develop certified organic production in a value chain mode to link growers with consumers and to support the development of the entire value chain.
International Criminal Court (ICC)	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • U.S. President Donald Trump imposed sanctions on the International Criminal Court over investigations targeting the U.S. and its ally Israel. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was established in 2002 to hold to account those guilty of some of the world's worst crimes. • It is the only permanent international criminal tribunal. • It was established by an international agreement, the Rome Statute, on 17 July 1998. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ The Rome Statute sets out the Court's jurisdiction, structures, and functions. ◦ The Statute entered into force on 1 July 2002. • Mandate: ICC investigates and, where warranted, tries individuals charged with the gravest crimes of concern to the international community: genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity, and the crime of aggression. • Members: There are 125 member countries, but dozens of governments are not ICC parties, including China, India, Israel, Russia, and the United States. • Funding: The Court is funded by contributions from the States Parties and by voluntary contributions from Governments, international organizations, individuals, corporations, and other entities.
Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Reserve Bank of India's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) cut the repo rate by 25 basis points to 6.25%, marking the first rate reduction in 57 months, to support slowing growth and expectations of inflation easing to 4.4% this quarter and 4.2% in 2025-26. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The MPC was set up after a Memorandum of Understanding between the government and the RBI about the conduct of the new inflation-targeting monetary policy framework. • The Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 (RBI Act) has been amended by the Finance Act, 2016 to provide for a statutory and institutionalized framework for an MPC. • Under Section 45ZB of the amended RBI Act, 1934, the



	<p>central government is empowered to constitute a six-member MPC.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Function: The MPC is entrusted with the task of fixing the benchmark policy rate (repo rate) required to contain inflation within the specified target level. ● Composition: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ MPC will have six members: the RBI Governor (Chairperson), the RBI Deputy Governor in charge of monetary policy, one official nominated by the RBI Board, and the remaining three members would represent the Government of India. ○ The external members hold office for a period of four years. ● The decision of the MPC would be binding on the RBI. ● RBI's Monetary Policy Department (MPD) assists the MPC in formulating the monetary policy. <p>What is Repo rate?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Repo rate is the rate at which the central bank of a country lends money to commercial banks in the event of any shortfall of funds. Repo rate is used to control inflation. In the event of inflation, central banks increase repo rate as this acts as a disincentive for banks to borrow from the central bank. <p>What is Inflation?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● It refers to a steady rise in the prices of various goods and services in the economy. ● Rate of Inflation = (Price in this Period – Price in the Previous Period) X 100/Price in the Previous Period
India - France relations	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● During Prime Minister Narendra Modi's three-day visit to France next week, India and France are set to make major announcements in defense, small modular reactors (SMR), aircraft maintenance, repair, and overhaul (MRO), and also adopt a roadmap for collaboration on artificial intelligence (AI). ● Additionally, a deal for 26 Rafale-M fighter jets for the Indian Navy is expected to be announced during the visit, with the final agreement to be concluded later in India. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● India and France have been strategic partners in the Indo-Pacific for a long time. They established diplomatic relations in 1947 and upgraded their partnership to the strategic level in 1998. ● Partnership for Security and Sovereignty: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Defense: Continued collaboration on fighter jets and submarines, with 36 Rafale jets delivered and the completion of the P75 Scorpene submarine program.



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Space: Strengthened partnership between ISRO and CNES on reusable launchers, Earth observation satellites, maritime surveillance, and satellite collision protection. ○ Civil Nuclear Energy: Progress on the 6-EPR power plant in Jaitapur and cooperation on small modular reactors. ○ Indo-Pacific: Joint actions and a development fund for sustainable projects in the region. ○ Counter-terrorism: Enhanced collaboration between France's GIGN and India's NSG. ○ Critical Technology: Partnerships in supercomputing, AI, cloud computing, and quantum computing. ○ Civil Aviation: New agreements to expand air routes and support India's aviation growth. <p>About 26 Rafale-M fighter Jet:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Dassault Rafale is a 4.5 generation, twin-engine, delta wing, multirole fighter manufactured by the French company Dassault Aviation. It has a maximum speed of Mach 1.8 and a combat radius of 1000+ km. ● The Rafale has a sleek aerodynamic design with optimum wing loading, low drag, and relaxed stability for enhanced maneuverability. The delta wing configuration offers a high lift-to-drag ratio. ● Rafale Variants <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Rafale C: The single-seat Air Force variant has 75% fleet availability and is designed for high mission reliability. ○ Rafale B: The twin-seat variant for training and enhanced situational awareness. It retains the combat capabilities of the C model. ○ Rafale M: The naval variant is optimized for carrier operations with a reinforced nose and tail and specially designed landing gear. It equips the French Navy's aircraft carrier, Charles de Gaulle. ○ Additionally, the Rafale N is a dedicated nuclear strike variant, while the Rafale R is reserved for technology development.
TROPEX-25	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Nine submarines and 65 ships are participating in the TROPEX exercise. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Theatre Level Operational Readiness Exercise (TROPEX) is the Indian Navy's largest biennial maritime exercise, testing combat readiness and joint warfighting capabilities. ● Hosted by India, the exercise is conducted across the Indian Ocean Region (IOR), including strategic maritime zones.



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Led by the Indian Navy, with substantial participation from the Indian Army, Air Force, and Coast Guard. • Key Features & Objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Focuses on maritime security, anti-submarine warfare, cyber and electronic warfare, and live weapon firings. ○ Tests integrated response strategies against conventional, asymmetric, and hybrid threats. ○ Includes joint work-up phases, amphibious exercises, and combat scenario simulations.
World Audio Visual Entertainment Summit (WAVES)	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi chaired an extensive meeting of the Advisory Board of WAVES through Video Conference today. WAVES is a global summit that brings together the world of entertainment, creativity and culture. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WAVES would be the first-ever global summit covering the entire gamut of the Media and Entertainment industry. • The event will bring together industry leaders, stakeholders, and innovators to discuss prospects, challenges, promote trade to India, and influence the sector's future. • Vision: To position India as an unparalleled global powerhouse in the dynamic Media & Entertainment landscape while setting new standards of creativity, innovation, and influence worldwide. • Mission: Empowering global Media & Entertainment leaders with exclusive investment opportunities through the premiere platform of WAVES. • Objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Position WAVES as a platform to provoke ideas, fuel conversations, facilitate knowledge exchange and engage in meaningful collaborations with M&E industry leaders from across the globe. ○ To drive the country's Creative Economy through IP Creation for India & for the World. ○ To position India as a business friendly investment destination. ○ To develop India's M&E infrastructure and build capacity of the industry to ensure skilled workforce for global needs. ○ To embrace and adapt to new trends, technology and transformations in the M&E landscape.



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