



10 Apr 2025

## National and International News

Rafale-M fighter Jet	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Cabinet Committee on Security, led by PM Narendra Modi, has approved a ₹63,000-crore deal to procure 26 Rafale-M fighter jets from France for the Indian Navy.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Dassault Rafale is a <b>4.5 generation, twin-engine, delta wing, multirole fighter</b> manufactured by the French company Dassault Aviation. It has a maximum speed of <b>Mach 1.8</b> and a <b>combat radius of 1000+ km</b>.</li> <li>The Rafale has a sleek aerodynamic design with <b>optimum wing loading, low drag, and relaxed stability for enhanced maneuverability</b>. The delta wing configuration offers a high lift-to-drag ratio.</li> <li><b>Rafale Variants</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Rafale C:</b> The single-seat Air Force variant has 75% fleet availability and is designed for high mission reliability.</li> <li><b>Rafale B:</b> The twin-seat variant for training and enhanced situational awareness. It retains the combat capabilities of the C model.</li> <li><b>Rafale M:</b> 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.</li> <li>Additionally, <b>the Rafale N</b> is a dedicated nuclear strike variant, while the <b>Rafale R</b> is reserved for technology development.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Monetary Committee (MPC)</b> <b>Policy</b>	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The RBI cut the repo rate by 25 basis points to 6%, as the MPC unanimously voted to lower the rate to boost growth and reduce the interest burden.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>The <b>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</b>.</li> <li>Under <b>Section 45ZB of the amended RBI Act, 1934, the central government is empowered to constitute a six-member MPC</b>.</li> <li><b>Function:</b> The MPC is entrusted with the task of fixing the</li> </ul>




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	<p>benchmark policy rate (repo rate) required to contain inflation within the specified target level.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Composition:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>MPC will have six members:</b> 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.</li> <li>○ The <b>external members hold office for a period of four years.</b></li> </ul> </li> <li>● The <b>decision of the MPC would be binding on the RBI.</b></li> <li>● RBI's Monetary Policy Department (MPD) assists the MPC in formulating the monetary policy.</li> </ul> <p><b>What is Repo rate?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Repo rate is the rate at which the <b>central bank of a country lends money to commercial banks in the event of any shortfall of funds.</b> Repo rate is used to control inflation. In the event of <b>inflation</b>, central banks <b>increase repo rate</b> as this acts as a disincentive for banks to borrow from the central bank.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY)</b></p>	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved the "Modernisation of Command Area Development and Water Management (MCADWM)" as a sub-scheme under the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY).</li> <li>● With an initial outlay of ₹1,600 crore, the scheme will begin in 2025-26 to improve irrigation infrastructure across India.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● It was <b>launched in 2015 to improve farm productivity and ensure better utilization of the resources in the country.</b></li> <li>● <b>Objectives:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Convergence of investment in irrigation at the field level</li> <li>○ Expand cultivable area under irrigation</li> <li>○ Improve On-farm water use efficiency to reduce the wastage of water</li> <li>○ Enhance the adoption of being precise in irrigation and other water-saving technologies (more crop per drop)</li> </ul> </li> <li>● <b>It consists of two major components namely,</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP)</b></li> <li>○ <b>Har Khet Ko Pani (HKKP):</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ It consists of four sub-components, being Command Area Development &amp; Water Management (CAD&amp;WM), Surface Minor Irrigation (SMI), Repair, Renovation and Restoration (RRR) of Water Bodies, and</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>



<p><b>Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act, 2023</b></p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Ground Water (GW) Development component.</p> <p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recently, Union IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw has directed UIDAI to draft a new Aadhaar law aligned with the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The DPDP Act is a <b>legal framework introduced in India to safeguard the personal data of individuals and ensure that their data is shared only with their consent.</b></li> <li>It regulates the processing of digital personal data and outlines various provisions to protect individuals' privacy in the digital age.</li> <li><b>Applicability:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It applies to the processing of digital personal data within the territory of India collected online or collected offline and later digitized.</li> <li>It is also applicable to processing digital personal data outside the territory of India, if it involves providing goods or services to the data principals within the territory of India.</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Evolution:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The conceptual basis of the DPDP Act is the report of the Expert Committee set up under the chairmanship of Justice BN Srikrishna, which led to the introduction of the Personal Data Protection Act in 2019.</li> <li>After several iterations and consultations, the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023, was introduced and subsequently passed by both the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha.</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Key Stakeholders:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Data Principal (DP): – the data owner.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DP could be individuals or entities whose data is to be protected.</li> <li>The DP has to give written consent to generate and process the data indicating the specific purpose of its use.</li> <li>DP can withdraw the consent at any time or can restrict its use.</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Data Fiduciary– A data collecting, storing, and sharing entity.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A data fiduciary also acts as a “Consent Manager” who enables a DP to give, manage, review, and withdraw consent through an accessible, transparent, and interoperable platform.</li> <li>The Central Government may notify any Data Fiduciary or class of Data Fiduciaries as Significant Data Fiduciaries, on the basis of an</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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	<p>assessment of relevant factors when they turn out to be systemically significant.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Data Processor</b>—an entity processing the data on behalf of a data fiduciary. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Both Data fiduciary and data processor could also be the same in certain small entities.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ <b>Data Protection Officer (DPO):</b> – could be any individual appointed as DPO by a Data Fiduciary under the provisions of this Act.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Mahavir Jayanti</b></p> 	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Prime Minister Narendra Modi marked the spirit of Mahavir Jayanti on 10th April with the inauguration of Navkar Mahamantra Divas.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Mahavir Jayanti is one of the most auspicious festivals in the Jain community.</li> <li>● This day marks the birth of Vardhamana Mahavira, who was the 24th and the last Tirthankara who succeeded the 23rd Tirthankara, Parshvanatha.</li> <li>● A procession is called with the idol of Lord Mahavira called the Rath Yatra.</li> <li>● According to Jain texts, Lord Mahavira was born on the 13th day of the bright half of the moon in the month of Chaitra.</li> <li>● Reciting stavans or Jain prayers, statues of the lord are given a ceremonial bath called abhisheka.</li> </ul> <p><b>About Vardhaman Mahavira:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Mahavira was born in 540 B.C. in Kundagram, near Vaishali (modern day Bihar).</li> <li>● Mahavira belonged to the Ikshvaku dynasty.</li> <li>● Mahavir spent twelve and a half years in deep silence and meditation, striving to conquer desires, emotions, and attachments. Embracing extreme austerity, he renounced clothing and endured great hardships.</li> <li>● Ultimately, after fasting for two-and-a-half days without water under the blazing sun, he attained enlightenment—kevala gyana in Jainism—earning the title Jina or "the conqueror."</li> </ul>
<p><b>PM POSHAN scheme</b></p>	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Increase in 'Material Cost' under the Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman (PM POSHAN) Scheme</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● It was earlier known as the <b>National Programme of Mid-Day Meal in schools.</b></li> <li>● In September 2021, <b>Mid-Day Meal Scheme was renamed as Pradhan Mantri POSHAN Scheme.</b></li> <li>● It is a <b>centrally sponsored scheme under which one hot</b></li> </ul>



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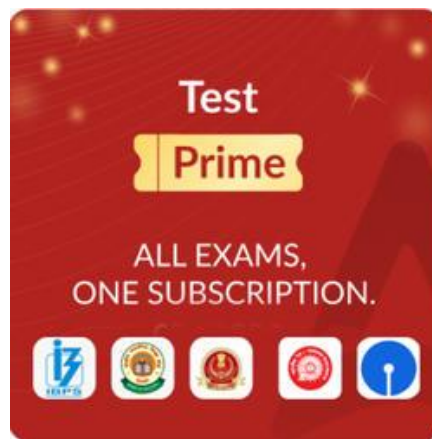
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	<p>cooked meal is served to students studying in Balvatika and classes I to VIII, in Government and Government-aided schools on all school-days.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The scheme aims at providing <b>nutritional support and enhancing school participation of students.</b></li> <li>• <b>The objectives of the Scheme are to address two of the pressing problems for the majority of children in India, viz. hunger and education by:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Improving the nutritional status of eligible children in Government and Government aided schools.</li> <li>○ Encouraging poor children, belonging to disadvantaged sections, to attend school more regularly and help them concentrate on classroom activities.</li> <li>○ Providing nutritional support to children of the elementary stage in drought-affected and disaster affected areas during summer vacation.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Nodal Ministry:</b> Ministry of Education</li> </ul>
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