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Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

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National and International News

Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY)



Context

The Union government's scheme to provide 5 kg of free food grains every month to **80 crore Indians**, which is slated to end this December, will be extended for another five years.

Key points

- The **Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY)** was introduced in 2020 as a pandemic relief measure, providing 5 kg of free foodgrains per beneficiary a month in addition to the 5 kg of subsidised foodgrains they were entitled to under the **National Food Security Act**.
- This is now being extended to another 5 years.

De-induction of the IL-38



Context

- The de-induction of the IL-38 aircraft was done recently.
- C-295 aircraft in the **medium-range maritime patrol aircraft (MPA)** can take its role in the future

About IL-38

- IL-38 is a **maritime reconnaissance aircraft** that was commissioned into the Indian Navy in 1977 and remained a formidable air asset throughout its service life for nearly 44 years.
- It was with the induction of IL 38 aircraft that the Navy moved into the arena of airborne **Long Range Maritime Reconnaissance (LRMR)** combined with long range anti-submarine search and strike, anti-shiping strike, electronic signal intelligence and distant SAR.
- The **IL 38 is an all-weather aircraft** with long endurance and substantial operating range. Having clocked nearly 10,000 hours of operational flying.

India set to open new consulate in Seattle

Context

- The Ministry of External Affairs has appointed its first Consul-General in the U.S. city, Seattle.
- This will be the sixth consulate in the U.S.



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Zika Virus

Context

Five Karnataka villages come under surveillance after Zika virus outbreak.

About Zika Virus

- It is a **mosquito-borne virus** that was first identified in the Zika Forest of Uganda in 1947.
- It is primarily transmitted to humans through the bite of infected Aedes mosquitoes, particularly **Aedes aegypti** and **Aedes albopictus**.
- It can also spread through sexual contact, blood transfusion, and from an infected mother to her baby during pregnancy or childbirth.
- This virus infection is usually mild, it can have serious consequences for pregnant women and their babies.
- **Infection during pregnancy can lead to birth defects** such as microcephaly, as well as other neurological disorders in the baby.
- It has also been linked to **Guillain-Barré syndrome**, a rare autoimmune disorder that can lead to muscle weakness and paralysis.
- **Treatment:** There is no specific treatment available for Zika virus infection or disease.

NCERT to introduce electoral literacy content in textbooks



Context

In a bid to address voter apathy among young Indians, the **National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT)** will introduce and update textbooks to include content on electoral literacy

Key points

- The measures are part of a memorandum of understanding signed the **Election Commission of India (EC) and the Education Ministry**.
- It is aimed at extending the EC's flagship **Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP)** in schools and colleges.
- The MoU aims to address issues such as voter apathy among urban and young Indians.

Did you know?

Almost **297 million of the 910 million electors** did not vote in the Lok Sabha election in 2019



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NICED makes quick detection of drug-resistant H. pylori possible

Context

- A two-step PCR-based assay of a small region of the **Helicobacter pylori (H. pylori) bacteria** can help detect H. pylori infection and also identify clarithromycin-resistant bacteria and those which are drug-sensitive in six-seven hours
- This has been developed by a team of researchers from the **National Institute of Cholera and Enteric Diseases (ICMR-NICED), Kolkata**

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