



31 October 2024

National and International News

<p>India - China Agreement</p>	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Indian and Chinese troops have completed disengagement at Depsang and Demchok in Eastern Ladakh.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In a significant diplomatic development, India and China held their first bilateral talks in five years on the sidelines of the <b>16th BRICS Summit in Kazan, Russia</b>, marking a crucial step towards mending the strained relations between the two neighboring countries, which have been marred by a prolonged military standoff along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh.</li> <li>The roots of the current standoff trace back to China's aggressive maneuvers along the <b>LAC in 2020</b>, which led to a prolonged military confrontation.</li> <li><b>Line of Actual Control (LAC)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The LAC is the <b>demarcation that separates Indian-controlled territory from Chinese-controlled territory.</b></li> <li><b>India considers the LAC to be 3,488 km long</b>, while the <b>Chinese consider it to be only around 2,000 km.</b></li> <li><b>It is divided into three sectors:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the eastern sector which spans Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim;</li> <li>the middle sector in Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh, and;</li> <li>the western sector in Ladakh.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Major friction points along the India-China border:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Depsang Plains:</b> This area is located in the northernmost part of Ladakh and has seen incursions by Chinese troops in the past.</li> <li><b>Demchok:</b> This area is located in eastern Ladakh and has seen disputes over the boundary between India and China.</li> <li><b>Pangong Lake:</b> This area has been a major flashpoint between the two countries, with Chinese troops attempting to change the status quo on the LAC in the region.</li> <li><b>Gogra and Hot Springs:</b> These two areas are located in eastern Ladakh and have seen standoffs</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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<p><b>Core Industries</b></p> <p><b>Sector</b></p>	<p>between Indian and Chinese troops in recent years.</p> <p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Output levels in India's eight core sectors, which represent about 40% of industrial production, declined, with the Index of Core Industries (ICI).</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The core sector in India comprises eight key industries: <b>coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, fertilizers, steel, cement, and electricity.</b></li> <li>• Core sector growth <b>refers to the growth rate or the increase in output/production from the core industries</b> of an economy over a given period of time, typically measured on an annual or monthly basis.</li> <li>• The core sector growth is calculated by combining the growth rates of these individual industries, using their respective weights in the overall Index of Core Industries (ICI)</li> <li>• <b>Index of Eight Core Industries (ICI):</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The Index of Eight Core Industries (ICI) is prepared every month and <b>released by the Office of the Economic Adviser (OEA), Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), and Ministry of Commerce &amp; Industry.</b></li> <li>○ The current weightage, of eight core industries is <b>Petroleum Refinery Products (28.04%) &gt; Electricity (19.85%) &gt; Steel (17.92%) &gt; Coal (10.33%) &gt; Crude Oil (8.98%) &gt; Natural Gas (6.88%) &gt; Cement (5.37%) &gt; Fertilizer (2.63%).</b></li> <li>○ The choice of the base year of ICI is according to the <b>choice of base year for the IIP.</b></li> <li>○ The ICI is widely used by policymakers, including the <b>Ministry of Finance, other Ministries and Departments, Banks financing Infrastructure projects, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), and the Railway Board.</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Air Quality Index (AQI)</b></p>	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On the eve of Deepavali, Delhi experienced a rise in air pollution recording 'very poor' air quality.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Air Quality Index (AQI) <b>monitors the concentration levels of the following eight significant air pollutants</b> in the atmosphere: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Particulate Matter (PM10)</li> <li>○ Particulate Matter (PM2.5)</li> <li>○ Nitrogen Dioxide (NO2)</li> <li>○ Sulfur Dioxide (SO2)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>




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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Carbon Monoxide (CO)</li> <li>○ Ozone (O3)</li> <li>○ Ammonia (NH3)</li> <li>○ Lead (Pb)</li> <li>● The National Air Quality Index consists of six distinct categories, each associated with specific health implications: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Good/ Safe (0-50):</b> Less Impact.</li> <li>○ <b>Satisfactory (51-100):</b> People who are sensitive may experience slight breathing difficulty.</li> <li>○ <b>Moderately Polluted (101-200):</b> Individuals with lung diseases, heart conditions, children, and the elderly may find it difficult to breathe.</li> <li>○ <b>Poor (201-300):</b> Long-term exposure might cause breathing pain and discomfort for people with heart disease.</li> <li>○ <b>Very Poor (301-400):</b> Long-term exposure could lead to respiratory conditions.</li> <li>○ <b>Severe (401-500):</b> Healthy individuals may encounter respiratory issues.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Anaemia Mukht Bharat (AMB) program</b></p>	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) is seeking Expressions of Interest (EoI) from qualified organizations, companies, and start-ups to develop a “non-invasive/minimally invasive hemoglobinometer.”</li> <li>● This device aims to support the detection of anemia, a critical health priority within the Anaemia Mukht Bharat (AMB) program.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● In 2018, the Government of India launched the AMB strategy with the target to reduce anemia in the vulnerable age groups such as <b>women, children and adolescents.</b></li> <li>● AMB is based on a <b>life cycle approach</b>, providing preventive and curative mechanisms through a <b>6X6X6 strategy including six target beneficiaries, six interventions and six institutional mechanisms</b> for all stakeholders to implement the strategy.</li> <li>● Anemia is a condition in which the <b>number of red blood cells or their oxygen-carrying capacity is insufficient to meet physiological needs</b>, which vary by age, sex, altitude, smoking, and pregnancy status.</li> <li>● According to the World Health Organization (WHO), <b>women in the reproductive age group and having hemoglobin levels lower than 12 grams per decilitre (g / dL), as well as children under five with hemoglobin levels lower than 11.0 g / dL are considered anemic.</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Discuss:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● About ICMR</li> </ul>



### Rafale Fighter Jets

**RAFALE SPECIFICATIONS**



Max take-off weight <b>24.5 TONNES</b>	Wing span <b>10.90 M</b>
Height <b>5.30 M</b>	External load <b>9.5 TONNES</b>
	Fuel (internal) <b>4.7 TONNES</b>
	Fuel (external) <b>UP TO 6.7 TONNES</b>
Length <b>15.30 M</b>	
Ferry Range <b>3,700 KM</b>	Overall empty weight <b>10 TONNES</b>
Landing ground run <b>450 M (1,500 FT)</b>	Top Speed <b>1.8 MACH AT HIGH ALTITUDE</b>
Service ceiling <b>50,000 FT</b>	

### Why in news?

- The government is considering a new procurement model for multi-role fighters.
- This comes as the Air Force urgently needs new fighter jets to address its declining squadron strength, especially in light of the controversy surrounding the acquisition of 36 Rafale aircraft.

### Key Points:

- The **Dassault Rafale is a versatile 4.5 generation multirole combat aircraft** serving as the backbone of the French Air Force and Navy.
- **India signed an agreement with France in 2016 for the swift procurement of 36 Rafales to augment the Indian Air Force's depleting fighter squadrons.**
- **Aerodynamic Design:** 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.
- **Engine and Performance:** It is powered by 2 SNECMA M88 turbofan engines, providing a dry thrust of 50 kN and 75 kN with afterburners. This delivers supercruise (supersonic flight without afterburners) capability.
- **Customisations for India:**
  - **Integration of Israeli Helmet Mounted Display** providing missile targeting via line of sight.
  - **Israeli jammers and radar warning receivers** to enhance survivability against missiles.
  - **Custom cold start capability** allows Rafale to operate from high-altitude bases like Leh on short notice.
  - **Installation of India's BrahMos cruise missile** for maritime strike capability.
  - **Integration with India's Astra and Brahmos-NG air-to-air missiles** for enhanced air combat edge.
  - **Expanded data and voice communications** via Indian satellite networks and avionics.
  - **Compatibility with Indian systems like AWACS and aerial refueling tankers.**

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