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## Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

16 Apr 2025

### National and International News

<b>Inflation</b>	<b>Why in news?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Retail inflation eased to a five-and-a-half-year low of 3.34% in March, down from 3.61% in the previous month, mainly due to a decline in food prices, according to data from the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.</li> </ul> <b>Key Points:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inflation refers to the <b>rise in the prices of most goods and services of daily or common use</b>, such as food, clothing, housing, recreation, transport, consumer staples, etc.</li> <li><b>There are two types of inflation:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Demand Pull Inflation:</b> Demand pull inflation arises when aggregate demand in the economy becomes more than aggregate supply.</li> <li><b>Cost push inflation:</b> when there is a decrease in aggregate supply of goods and services results into increase in cost of production.</li> </ul> </li> <li>In India, inflation is primarily measured by two main indices — <b>WPI (Wholesale Price Index)</b> and <b>CPI (Consumer Price Index)</b>, which measure wholesale and retail-level price changes, respectively.</li> </ul>
<b>Places in news: South China Sea</b> 	<b>Why in news?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The United States and the Philippines are set to conduct live-fire military drills in the South China Sea.</li> </ul> <b>Key Points:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is an arm of the western Pacific Ocean that borders the Southeast Asian mainland.</li> <li><b>Boundaries:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is bordered by <b>China, Taiwan, Philippines, Malaysia, Indonesia, Brunei, and Vietnam</b>.</li> <li>The southern boundary of the South China Sea is a rise in the seabed between Sumatra and Borneo, and the northern boundary stretches from the northernmost point of Taiwan to the coast of Fujian province, China, in the Taiwan Strait.</li> </ul> </li> <li>It is <b>connected by the Taiwan Strait with the East China Sea and by the Luzon Strait with the Philippine Sea</b> (both marginal seas of the Pacific Ocean).</li> <li><b>The South China Sea and the East China Sea together form the China Sea.</b></li> <li>The two major archipelagos are known as the <b>Paracel Islands, controlled by China, and the Spratly Islands</b>.</li> <li>It is the second most used sea lane in the world. It is a significant trade route for crude oil from the Persian Gulf and Africa through</li> </ul>



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	the Strait of Malacca to Singapore, Thailand, Hong Kong, Taiwan, South Korea, and Japan.
<b>India Meteorological Department (IMD)</b>	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>India is expected to receive 'above normal' monsoon rainfall this year, with rainfall likely to be 5% higher than the historical average of 87 cm, according to the India Meteorological Department (IMD).</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>IMD was established in <b>1875</b>.</li> <li>It is the <b>National Meteorological Service</b> of the country and the <b>principal government agency</b> in all matters relating to meteorology and allied subjects.</li> <li>The <b>Director General of Meteorology is the Head</b> of the India Meteorological Department.</li> <li>There are 6 Regional Meteorological Centres, each under a Deputy Director General with headquarters at <b>Mumbai, Chennai, New Delhi, Calcutta, Nagpur and Guwahati</b>.</li> <li>Its headquarter is in <b>New Delhi</b>.</li> <li>At present, IMD is under the <b>Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES)</b>.</li> <li>The IMD uses 4 color codes are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Green (All is well):</b> No advisory is issued.</li> <li><b>Yellow (Be Aware):</b> Yellow indicates severely bad weather spanning across several days. It also suggests that the weather could change for the worse, causing disruption in day-to-day activities.</li> <li><b>Orange/Amber (Be prepared):</b> The orange alert is issued as a warning of extremely bad weather with the potential of disruption in commute with road and rail closures, and interruption of power supply.</li> <li><b>Red (Take Action):</b> When the extremely bad weather conditions are certainly going to disrupt travel and power and have significant risk to life, the red alert is issued.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>International Solar Alliance (ISA)</b>	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mauritius has become the first African country to sign a Country Partnership Framework (CPF) with the International Solar Alliance (ISA). It is also the fourth country globally, after Bangladesh, Bhutan, and Cuba, to sign the CPF.</li> <li>This partnership aims to provide a structured approach for collaboration between ISA and Mauritius on solar energy initiatives, aligning with the country's national priorities.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The International Solar Alliance (ISA) is an <b>intergovernmental organization that was launched in 2015, by the Prime Minister of India and the President of France, at the United Nations Climate Change Conference held in Paris</b>.</li> <li>ISA is an <b>action-oriented, member-driven, collaborative</b></li> </ul>



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	<p>platform for increased deployment of solar energy technologies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The ISA is guided by its 'Towards 1000' strategy, which aims: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To mobilize USD 1000 billion of investments in solar energy solutions by 2030</li> <li>To deliver energy access to 1000 million people using clean energy solutions</li> <li>To install 1000 GW of solar energy capacity.</li> <li>To mitigate global solar emissions to the tune of 1000 million tonnes of CO2 every year.</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Vision:</b> Let us together make the sun brighter.</li> <li><b>Mission:</b> Every home, no matter how far away, will have a light at home.</li> <li><b>Headquarter:</b> National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE) in Gurugram, India.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key facts about Mauritius:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ritius is an <b>island country in the Indian Ocean, located off the eastern coast of Africa.</b></li> <li>It is volcanic in origin and is almost entirely surrounded by coral reefs.</li> <li><b>Capital: Port Louis</b></li> <li><b>Languages:</b> English, French, Mauritian Creole, Bhojpuri, Hindi, Chinese, Marathi.</li> <li>Its outlying territories are <b>Rodrigues Island, situated about 340 miles (550 km) eastward, the Cargados Carajos Shoals, 250 miles (400 km) northeastward, and the Agalega Islands, 580 miles (930 km) northward from the main island.</b></li> </ul>
Kavach 5.0	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recently, the Union Minister for Railways announced that Kavach 5.0, the latest in the series of Automatic Train Protection (ATP) systems, will be implemented to increase the number of trains by 30 percent.</li> <li>Currently, Kavach 4.0 version is under implementation in the different parts of Indian Railways.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is an <b>indigenously developed Automatic Train Protection (ATP) system.</b></li> <li>Kavach was developed by the <b>Research Design and Standards Organisation (RDSO)</b> under Indian Railway (IR) in collaboration with Medha Servo Drives Pvt Ltd, HBL Power Systems Ltd and Kernex Microsystems.</li> <li>It is a <b>set of electronic devices and Radio Frequency Identification devices installed in locomotives, in the signaling system as well the tracks</b>, that talk to each other using ultra-high radio frequencies to control the brakes of trains and also alert drivers, all based on the logic programmed into them.</li> </ul> <p><b>About Kavach 5.0:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kavach 5.0, the latest in the series of Automatic Train Protection</li> </ul>



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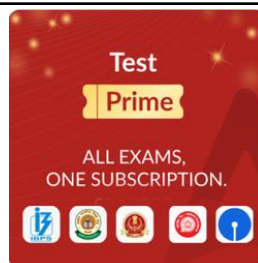
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	<p>(ATP) systems, will be implemented to increase the number of trains by 30 percent.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aims to reduce train headway (gap between trains) from 180 sec to 30% less.</li> <li>• Expected to increase Mumbai local services by 30% (from ~3,500 daily services).</li> </ul>
<b>MGNREGA</b>	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demand for work under MGNREGS has declined nationally since its peak in 2020-21 during the Covid-19 pandemic, except in states like Maharashtra, Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, and Tripura.</li> <li>• However, it remains significantly higher than pre-Covid levels, with 85 lakh more families availing the scheme in 2024-25 compared to 2019-20.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MGNREGA is the abbreviation for the <b>Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act 2005</b>.</li> <li>• It is a law passed by the Indian government in 2005 that guarantees the <b>"right to work"</b> to rural citizens of India.</li> <li>• Under this, the government assures a <b>minimum of 100 days of unskilled manual work to an adult member of an eligible rural household</b>.</li> <li>• The main objective of the MGNREGA is to <b>provide employment to rural citizens and improve their economic conditions</b>.</li> <li>• <b>Eligibility Criteria:</b> For receiving the benefits of the MGNREGA Scheme, the following eligibility criteria are to be met by the applicant: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Citizen of India</li> <li>○ 18 years of age at the time of application</li> <li>○ Rural Household</li> <li>○ Willing to do unskilled work</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Guaranteed Employment:</b> The MGNREGA program guarantees 100 days of unskilled employment to all willing rural citizens, at the government-set minimum wage.</li> </ul>



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