

27 May 2020: PIB Summary & Analysis

PM-KISAN

Context:

Rs.19,350.84 crore released for 9.67 crore farmers during lockdown period under Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Scheme.

Read more about [PM KISAN Samman Nidhi Yojana](#) at the linked article.

Tejas Mk-1 FOC

Context:

Tejas Mk-1 FOC handed over to the Indian Air Force (IAF).

Details:

- The IAF inducted Tejas Mk-1 FOC aircraft into the recently resurrected No 18 Squadron, the “Flying Bullets” at Air Force Station Sulur in Tamil Nadu.
- The Squadron is the first in the IAF to induct this platform.

About Tejas Mk-1:

- Tejas Mk-1 FOC is a single engine, light weight, highly agile, all-weather multi-role fighter aircraft capable of air-to-air refuelling thus, making it a truly versatile platform.
- The aircraft has been inducted in the FOC standard (Final Operational Clearance).
- The FOC variant has close combat gun, additional drop tanks, Beyond Visual Range (BVR) missile capability, updated avionics and flight control software suite.
- The LCA (Tejas) Mk-2, a bigger variant aircraft with bigger engine, was under design stage and test trials of the aircraft are expected to happen by 2022.

About the Number 18 Squadron:

- The No 18 Squadron was raised at Ambala in 1965 with the Folland Gnat Aircraft.
- The Squadron has the unique distinction of having operated two HAL made aircraft, the Tejas and the Ajeet, which it also operated from the same station.
- Over the years, it also operated MiG-27 ML aircraft from various bases across the country.
- The Squadron saw active combat during the 1971 war.
- The Squadron was number plated in Apr 2016.
- The Squadron falls under the operational control of the Southern Air Command which is responsible for integrating the Squadron into the IAF Concept of Operations.
- The Squadron was resurrected in April 2020.

Read more on [LCA Tejas](#) at the linked article.

New Development Bank

Context:

The Union Finance Minister attended the Special Board of Governors meeting of the New Development Bank (NDB) through video-conference.

About the NDB:

- The NDB is a multilateral developmental institution created by BRICS.

To know more about the NDB, check the article on [BRICS](#) under the heading ‘New Development Bank’.

