28 May 2021: PIB Summary & Analysis

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1. Mid-Day-Meal (MDM) Scheme

Context:

Government to provide Monetary Assistance through DBT under MDM Scheme.

Details:

- The Union Minister for Education has approved the proposal to provide monetary assistance to 11.8 Crore students through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) of the cooking cost component of the Mid-Day-Meal Scheme, to all eligible children, as a special welfare measure.
- Schools have been closed because of the pandemic and the resultant lockdowns imposed. This has affected the nutritional intake of many students from poor economic backgrounds who depended on the mid-day meal provided to them in their schools for food and nutrition.
- This scheme had also kept many school children from dropping out.
- The current measure to provide monetary assistance is a one-time welfare measure for children studying in classes I to VIII in about 11.20 lakh government and government-aided schools across India.
- The Central Government will provide additional funds of about Rs 1200 crore to State Governments and UT Administrations for this purpose.

Know more about the Mid-Day Meal Scheme in the link.

2. National AI Portal (INDIAai)

Context:

National AI Portal (INDIAai) celebrates its first anniversary on May 28.

About the National AI Portal:

- The portal was launched in May 2020.
- It is a joint initiative of the Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY), National e-Governance Division (NeGD) and NASSCOM.
- It serves as a central hub for AI related news, learning, articles, events and activities, etc., in India and beyond.

- The website aims to be the trusted content powerhouse in the backdrop of India's journey to global prominence in Artificial Intelligence.
- The portal focuses on creating and nurturing a unified AI ecosystem for driving excellence and leadership in India's AI journey, to foster economic growth and improve lives through it.