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Important Facts for Prelims (10th December 2018)

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Sonepur Fair

- The Sonepur Mela also known as Malegaon Mela or Harihar Kshetra Mela is held on Kartik Poornima (full moon day) in the month of November in **Sonepur, Bihar**, on the **confluence of river Ganga and Gandak**.
- It is the **biggest cattle fair of Asia** and stretches on from fifteen days to one month.
- It has its origins during ancient times. The fair used to attract traders from places as distant as Central Asia.
- The famous Harihar Nath temple in Sonpur was built by Raja Ram Narain, an influential person during the late Mughal period.

Yellow Vest Protest

- **France** has witnessed four consecutive weekends of **demonstrations against fuel tax rises**, high living costs and other issues.
- The protest became known as the "**yellow vest**" or "**gilets jaunes**" movement because protesters took to the streets wearing the high-visibility yellow jackets that are required to be carried in every vehicle by French law.
- The original "Yellow Vest" protests were dominated by working-class people who were upset over fuel tax increase and their declining living standards.
- Protests have also erupted over other issues, including calls for higher wages, lower taxes, better pensions and easier university entry requirements.
- The widely supported movement's core aim is to highlight the economic frustration and political distrust of poorer working families.

Exercise Avaiandra 2018: India-Russia

- Exercise Avaiandra is being held at Air Force Station Jodhpur from 10-21 Dec 2018.

- Exercise Aviaindra is an Air Force level exercise between India and Russia was conducted for the first time in 2014.