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Weekly Current Affairs

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THE HINDU

PRIVACY LAW

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The Indian EXPRESS

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POLITY AND GOVERNANCE

CERT-IN EXEMPTED FROM THE PURVIEW OF RTI

Why In The News?

In a recent development, the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) has issued a notification exempting the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) from the purview of the Right to Information Act, 2005.

This move places CERT-In under the list of 26 other intelligence and security organizations already excluded from the RTI Act. The Minister of State for Electronics and Information Technology, Rajeev Chandrasekhar, had previously informed the Rajya Sabha about the ongoing inter-departmental consultation on this matter in March 2023.

Background:

CERT-In, functioning under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, now stands alongside various intelligence and security organizations exempted from the RTI Act. This decision follows the government's authority, as outlined in the RTI law, to amend the Second Schedule to include or exclude intelligence or security organizations. The exemption highlights the government's approach to balance transparency and national security.

Key Provisions of the Right to Information Act, 2005:

The Right to Information Act, 2005, derives from the fundamental right of freedom of speech and expression under Article 19 of the Constitution. Its fundamental objectives include empowering citizens, promoting transparency, and ensuring accountability in government functioning.

Key Provisions of the RTI Act are as Follows:

- **Section 4:** Public authorities are obligated to maintain records in a catalogued and indexed manner to facilitate the right to information.

- **Section 6:** Individuals can request information in writing from the Central or State Public Information Officer, specifying the particulars sought.

- **Section 7:** Public Information Officers must either provide information or reject the request within 30 days, citing reasons specified in Sections 8 and 9.

- **Section 19:** Individuals aggrieved by a decision or non-receipt of a decision within 30 days can appeal to a senior officer in the respective public authority.

Exemptions Under the Act:

Certain exemptions under the RTI Act include information related to defense, national security, or personal details. Before the RTI Act, India's information disclosure was restricted by laws like the Official Secrets Act, and the RTI Act played a pivotal role in relaxing such restrictions.

Coverage Under RTI:

The RTI Act extends to the entirety of India, covering bodies constituted under the Constitution, laws, or government notifications, as well as NGOs substantially financed by the government. Private bodies owned, controlled, or substantially financed by the government are also directly covered.

Cybersecurity:

Cybersecurity, also known as computer security or information technology security, is a critical domain focused on protecting computer systems and networks from cyber-attacks. These attacks can lead to information disclosure, theft, or damage to hardware, software, and electronic data.

Cyber-Attack Landscape in India:

As of Q1 2023, India has witnessed a sharp increase of over 29% in the number of cyberattacks compared to Q4 2022, with more than 500 million cyberattacks blocked in India out of 1 billion global

attacks

Current Legal Framework:

Surprisingly, despite the escalating cyber threats, India currently lacks a dedicated cybersecurity law. The absence of such legislation raises concerns about the legal and regulatory mechanisms in place to address and mitigate cyber risks.

The Role of Cert-In:

The Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In), established in 2004, operates under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology. Serving as the national nodal agency for cybersecurity, CERT-In plays a pivotal role in defending the Indian Internet domain against cyber threats.

Functions of Cert-In In Cybersecurity:

● **Information Collection and Analysis:** CERT-In collects, analyzes, and disseminates information on cyber incidents, staying vigilant to emerging threats.

● **Forecasting and Alerts:** The agency issues forecasts and alerts regarding potential cybersecurity incidents, aiding in proactive risk management.

● **Emergency Response Measures:** In the event of a cyber security incident, CERT-In formulates and executes emergency measures to contain and address the situation promptly.

● **Coordination of Response Activities:** CERT-In acts as a central coordination hub for cyber incident response activities, ensuring a unified and effective response.

● **Guidelines and Advisories:** The agency proactively issues guidelines and advisories related to information security practices, procedures, and prevention strategies to enhance overall cyber resilience.

PRELIMS QUESTIONS

Q.1 With Reference to the Statements Above, Consider The Following:

1. The RTI Act Includes Exemptions For Informa-

tion Related to Defense, National Security, or Personal Details.

2. The RTI Act also Covers Private Bodies Owned, Controlled, or Substantially Financed by the Government.

Which of the Statements Given Above is/are Correct?

(A) 1 Only

(B) 2 Only

(C) Both 1 and 2

(D) Neither 1 Nor 2

ANSWERS

S. No	Answer
1.	C

MAINS QUESTIONS

Q.2 The Recent Decision to Exempt the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (Cert-In) From the Purview of the Right to Information Act, 2005 has Sparked Discussions on the Balance Between Transparency and National Security. Analyze the Implications of This Decision, Considering the Key Provisions of the RTI Act and its Role in Promoting Transparency and Accountability in Government Functioning.

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SOCIAL ISSUES

RARE DISEASES

Why in the news?

The Health Ministry has ensured the availability of generic drugs to facilitate the care and treatment of four medical conditions: Tyrosinemia-Type 1, Gaucher's Disease, Wilson's Disease, and the Dravet-Lennox Gastaut Syndrome.

About Rare Diseases

Rare diseases, also known as orphan diseases, pose unique challenges due to their low prevalence in the population.
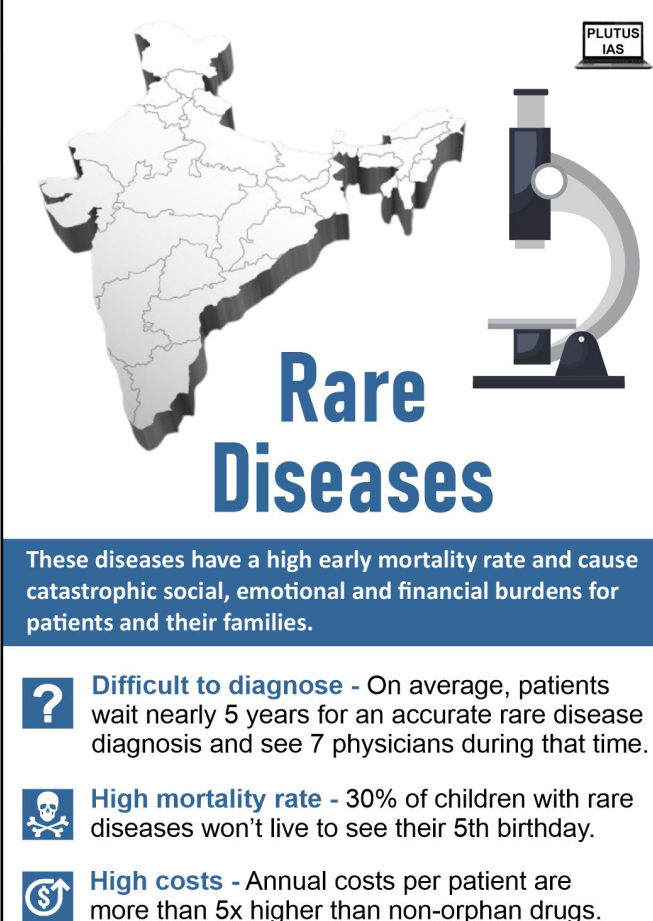
Characteristics of Rare Diseases:

- Rare diseases are debilitating lifelong conditions occurring infrequently in the human population.

- WHO defines rare diseases with a prevalence of 1 or less per 1000 population.

- In India, a prevalence of less than 100 patients per 100,000 people is considered as a rare disease.

Examples of Rare Diseases:

- **Tyrosinemia-Type 1:**

  ○ A rare autosomal recessive genetic metabolic disorder.

  ○ Characterized by a deficiency of the enzyme fumarylacetoacetate hydrolase (FAH).

  ○ Results in the abnormal accumulation of tyrosine, potentially causing severe liver disease.

- **Gaucher's Disease:**

  ○ Characterized by the accumulation of glucocerebroside in organs.

  ○ Organs, particularly the spleen, liver, and bone marrow, enlarge and may suffer impaired function.

- **Wilson's Disease:**

  ○ A rare genetic disorder leading to the accumulation of copper in organs.

  ○ Affects the liver, brain, and cornea.

- **Dravet-Lennox Gastaut Syndrome:**

  ○ Two distinct types of epileptic syndromes.

  ○ Dravet syndrome: A severe form of epilepsy beginning in infancy.

  ○ Lennox-Gastaut syndrome: Childhood-onset epilepsy with multiple seizure types and cognitive impairment.

Rare Diseases

These diseases have a high early mortality rate and cause catastrophic social, emotional and financial burdens for patients and their families.

? Difficult to diagnose - On average, patients wait nearly 5 years for an accurate rare disease diagnosis and see 7 physicians during that time.

High mortality rate - 30% of children with rare diseases won't live to see their 5th birthday.

High costs - Annual costs per patient are more than 5x higher than non-orphan drugs.

Rare Diseases in India:

- Approximately 450 rare diseases identified, with 80% of patients affected by around 350 rare diseases.

- Estimated burden of 80 to 96 million cases annually in India.

- 70-80% of rare diseases are genetic, and the majority remain asymptomatic until later in life.

- Less than 5% of rare diseases in India have available therapies.

Government Interventions:

- **National Policy for Rare Diseases, 2021:**

  - Aims to lower the incidence and prevalence of rare diseases through an integrated preventive strategy.

  - Encompasses awareness generation, screening, and counseling programs.

- **Production Linked Incentive Scheme 2.0 for Pharmaceuticals:**

  - An INR 15,000 Crore initiative supporting orphan drugs development.

  - Targets Category 1 pharmaceutical goods in the Production Linked Incentive Scheme.

- **Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO):**

  - Provisions for fast-track processing of applications for rare disease drugs in drug trials and experimental therapies.

  - Exemption of application fees for potential drug candidates.

- **Genomics for Understanding Rare Diseases: India Alliance Network (GUaRDIAN):**

  - A non-profit clinical genomics research network.

  - Establishes a network of clinicians and scientists for extensive clinical genomics research in India.

- **Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR):**

  - Establishes the Indian Genetic Disease Database (IGDD).

  - Tracks mutations in causal genes for genetic diseases common in India, providing insights to physicians and researchers.

Rare diseases present significant challenges globally, and India is actively addressing these challenges through policy interventions, financial incentives, and research initiatives. The collaborative efforts of government bodies and research networks aim to enhance awareness, diagnosis, and treatment options for individuals affected by rare diseases in the country.

INSURGENCY IN MANIPUR

Why in the news?

Union Home Minister Amit Shah declared the formalization of a peace accord with the Meitei separatist organization, the United National Liberation Front (UNLF), in Manipur. Additionally, he conveyed optimism that this development would serve as a catalyst, inspiring other valley-based insurgent groups (VBIGs) to engage in the peacebuilding process.
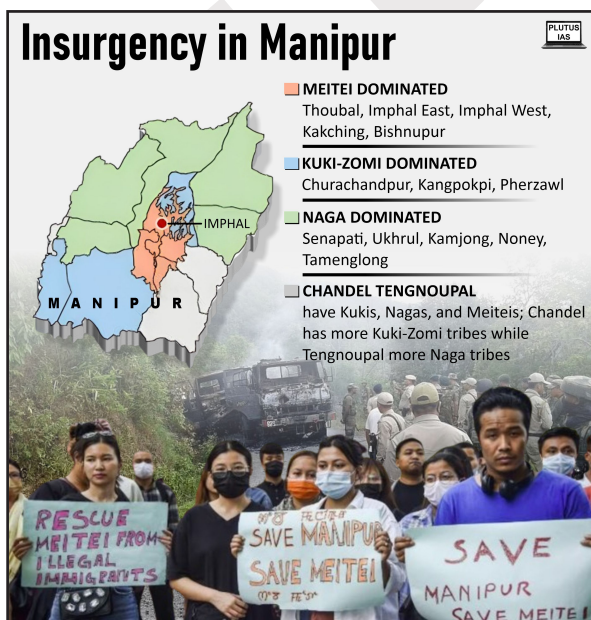
Historical Background of Manipur:

- Post the Anglo-Manipur War of 1891, the Kingdom of Manipur was annexed by Britain.

- Manipur became a British protectorate and later joined India in October 1949, achieving separate statehood in 1972.

Rise of Insurgency:

- Manipur's integration into India resulted in the emergence of insurgent organizations. These groups advocated for an independent state within Manipur's borders, rejecting the merger with India as involuntary.

- Insurgency issues surfaced in the late 1960s and 1970s, with the founding of the United National Liberation Front (UNLF) in November 1964.

Reasons for Insurgency:

- **Merger with India:**

  - Resentment among Meiteis, the majority community, due to declining influence post-Independence.

  - Meitei insurgency initiated in the 1960s against the merger with the Indian Union.

- Ethnic Conflict:

  - Diverse ethnic population with Meiteis in the Valley, Nagas in surrounding hills, and Kukis interspersed.

  - Overlapping territorial interests and conflicts between Kukis and Nagas, as well as Nagas and Meiteis.

  - Demand for Nagalim (Greater Nagaland) includes Naga-inhabited areas of Manipur, while Meiteis seek to preserve historical unity.

- **Lack of Socio-economic Development:**

  - Topographical challenges hinder economic development and socio-economic transformation.

  - Persistent issues of corruption, mismanagement of funds, and failure to empower common people contribute to dissatisfaction.

Insurgency in Manipur

MEITEI DOMINATED	Thoubal, Imphal East, Imphal West, Kakching, Bishnupur
KUKI-ZOMI DOMINATED	Churachandpur, Kangpokpi, Pherzawl
NAGA DOMINATED	Senapati, Ukhrul, Kamjong, Noney, Tamenglong
CHANDEL TENGNOUPAL	have Kukis, Nagas, and Meiteis; Chandel has more Kuki-Zomi tribes while Tengnoupal more Naga tribes

Key Highlights of the Manipur Peace Deal

- **Peace Agreement Overview:**

  - The specifics of the peace deal have not been publicly disclosed, but experts suggest that it primarily centers around a Suspension of Operations (SoO).

  - The SoO entails a mutual agreement between the United National Liberation Front (UNLF) and security forces to refrain from conducting operations against each other.

- **Implementation of SoO:**

  - Both the UNLF and security forces commit to not engaging in operations against each other.

  - Identified areas within the valley will be designated for building UNLF camps where cadres can stay alongside their arms and ammunition, supervised by the Manipur government and armed forces.

  - Talks for a comprehensive peace accord will proceed following the establishment of SoO arrangements.

- **About UNLF:**

  - Formed on November 24, 1964, the UNLF is the oldest insurgent group based in the valley.

  - Originated with the secession demand from India, led by Arembam Samarendra Singh.

  - Initially proscribed and banned under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act.

  - Armed wing, the Manipur People's Army, established in 1990.

  - Two factions currently exist under the chairmanship of Khundongbam Pambei and NC Koireng.

- **Area of Operation:**

  - UNLF's operational areas encompass the valley regions of Manipur and some villages in the Kuki-Zomi hill districts.

○ Historically operated from camps and training bases in Myanmar's Sagaing Region, Chin state, and Rakhine state, with Myanmar military patronage.

○ Facing challenges in Myanmar due to attacks against the military junta by Ethnic Armed Organisations (EAOs) and People's Defence Forces (PDFs).

● **Current Status:**

○ One faction of the UNLF faction led by Koireng remains opposed to peace talks.

○ The Manipur government withdrew from the Suspension of Operations (SoO) agreement in March 2023.

○ Tripartite SoO agreement reached in 2008, involving the Centre, Manipur state, and Kuki-Zomi insurgent groups, aimed at initiating political dialogue.

○ Withdrawal attributed to alleged influence on agitation among forest encroachers by the Zomi Revolutionary Army and the Kuki National Army.

HIV/AIDS

Why in the news?

World AIDS Day is observed every year on December 1 to spread awareness about HIV/AIDS.

Background of Origin of HIV in Humans:

● HIV infection in humans has its roots in a type of chimpanzee in Central Africa. Research indicates that the transfer of the virus from chimpanzees to humans likely occurred as early as the late 1800s.

● The chimpanzee version of the virus is known as the simian immunodeficiency virus (SIV). SIV is endemic in chimpanzee populations and has a genetic similarity to HIV.

● The transmission from chimpanzees to humans is believed to have taken place during hunting activities. Humans, while hunting chimpanzees for meat, came into contact with the infected blood of these animals.

About HIV/AIDS

● HIV/AIDS is a chronic and potentially life-threatening condition caused by the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).

● The virus targets the immune system, rendering individuals more susceptible to infections and diseases.

Transmission:

● Primarily a sexually transmitted infection (STI), transmitted through sexual contact.

● Spread can also occur through contact with infected blood, often associated with illicit injection drug use or needle sharing.

● Mother-to-child transmission can happen during pregnancy, childbirth, or breastfeeding.

Progression to AIDS:

● In the absence of treatment, HIV has the potential to advance to acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS).

● AIDS represents an advanced stage of the infection, characterized by severe immune system damage.

Treatment:

● No definitive cure for HIV currently exists; individuals have the virus for life once infected.

● Effective management is achievable through antiretroviral therapy (ART).

● ART helps control the virus, allowing for a long and healthy life while minimizing the risk of transmission to partners.

Prevention:

● Engaging in safe sexual practices and employing barrier methods can lower the likelihood of sexual transmission.

● Avoiding sharing needles and practicing safe injection practices can prevent transmission

through blood contact.

- Prevention of mother-to-child transmission involves interventions during pregnancy, childbirth, and breastfeeding.

HIV/AIDS in India:

- **Declining Numbers:** Over the last decade, the incidence of HIV in India has significantly decreased, reflecting positive strides in combating the epidemic.

- **National AIDS Control Organization (NACO):**

  - NACO, a Government of India organization, plays a pivotal role in managing HIV patients, providing a robust network for diagnosis, treatment, and control.

  - It operates through 35 HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control Societies across the country.

- **Medical Advancements:** The availability of Highly Active Anti-Retroviral Treatment (HAART) has notably improved the prognosis for HIV patients in the past two decades.

- **Historical Context:**

  - The National AIDS Committee was formed in 1986 after the first AIDS case was detected in India.

  - The increasing spread of the epidemic led to the launch of India's first National AIDS Control Programme (1992-1999) in 1992, with the establishment of NACO to oversee its implementation.

Legal Framework – HIV and AIDS (Prevention & Control) Act, 2017:

- Enacted in 2017, this central legislation safeguards and promotes the rights of individuals affected by HIV and AIDS.

- Came into effect on September 10, 2018, with the primary goal of preventing and controlling the spread of HIV while protecting the legal and human rights of those impacted.

- Focuses on combating stigma and discrimination, creating an enabling environment for improved service access.

- Addresses the rights of healthcare providers and emphasizes diagnostic facilities related to Anti-Retroviral Treatment (ART) and opportunistic infection management.

- Establishes a robust grievance redressal mechanism, including a State-level Ombudsman and establishment-level Complaints Officer, ensuring speedy resolution.

PRELIMS QUESTIONS

Q1. With reference to the rare diseases, consider the following statements:

1. Rare diseases are always Zoonotic diseases.

2. WHO defines rare diseases with a prevalence of 1 or less per 1000 populations.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) Both 1 and 2

(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q2. In the context of Manipur's insurgency, consider the following statements:

1. The Meitei insurgency in the 1960s was primarily driven by resentment among the Meiteis due to declining influence post-independence.

2. Ongoing clashes between diverse ethnic populations, including Meiteis, Nagas and Kukis, are attributed to overlapping territorial interests and conflicts.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) Both 1 and 2

(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q3. The United National Liberation Front (UNLF) is associated with which of the following:

(a) Meitei

(b) Naga

(c) Kukis

(d) Rohingya

Q4. With reference to HIV/AIDS, consider the following statements:

1. HIV/AIDS is primarily transmitted through sexual contact.

2. Mother-to-child transmission can occur during pregnancy, childbirth, or breastfeeding.

3. Antiretroviral therapy (ART) is a definitive cure for HIV.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 2 and 3 only

(c) 1, 2 and 3

(d) 1 and 3 only

ANSWERS

S. No.	Answers
1.	B
2.	C
3.	A
4.	A

MAINS QUESTIONS

Q1. Discuss the unique challenges posed by rare diseases, commonly referred to as orphan diseases, emphasizing their low prevalence in the population.

Q2. In the context of insurgency in Manipur, critically analyze the multifaceted factors contributing to the persistent unrest in the region. Discuss the historical background, ethnic complexities, and socio-economic dimensions that have fueled and sustained the insurgency.

Q3. Discuss the burden of disease in India Also, analyze the socio-economic disparities in health outcomes and propose measures to address them for achieving a healthier and more equitable society.

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History and Culture

GURU NANAK

Why in the news?

Guru Nanak Jayanti commemorates the birth of Sikhism's founder and the inaugural among its nine gurus, Guru Nanak, also known as Baba Nanak. Sikhs observe this occasion with a vibrant procession named Nagar Kirtan, where congregations joyfully sing hymns and visit gurudwaras.

- **Birth and Early Life:** Guru Nanak, the founder of Sikhism, was born on Purnima Tithi in the month of Kartik in the year 1469 in Rai Bhoi Ki Talwandi, now known as Nankana Sahib in Pakistan. His teachings emphasized oneness, equality, and selfless service.

- **Spiritual Journeys:** In the first quarter of the 16th century, Guru Nanak embarked on extensive spiritual journeys, known as 'udasiya.' He traveled to various regions, including Hindu and Muslim pilgrimage centers, spreading his message of oneness and purity. His travels reached as far as Sri Lanka, Baghdad, and central Asia, with his last journey to Mecca and Madina.

- **Founding Sikhism:** Guru Nanak founded Sikhism, a monotheistic religion that blended Hindu and Muslim influences. The followers of his teachings came to be known as Sikhs. The holy text of Sikhism, the Guru Granth Sahib, preserves Guru Nanak's words in the form of 974 poetic hymns.

- **Guru Nanak's Philosophy:** Guru Nanak's philosophy centered around "Ik Onkar," emphasizing the oneness of God, equality among individuals regardless of caste or creed, and the importance of selfless service. His teachings revolved around compassion, honesty, and devotion to a righteous life.

- **Legacy and Succession:** Guru Nanak's disciples, known as Sikhs, followed a routine of early rising, bathing in cold water, reciting morning prayers, and engaging in hymns and selfless service. Guru Nanak chose Guru Angad as his successor, giving him the name Angad, meaning 'of my own limb.' This tradition continues with the practice of 'langar,' where people contribute labor to help the needy.

- **Death and Legacy:** Guru Nanak passed away on September 22, 1539. His legacy lives on in Sikhism, and his teachings continue to inspire millions, promoting a life of righteousness, equality, and service to humanity. Guru Nanak Jayanti is celebrated by Sikhs worldwide, honoring the profound impact of the first Guru of Sikhism.

Guru Nanak Dev's Relevance for Modern India:

Vision of Equality:

- Despite India's aspirations as a superpower, caste hierarchy persists in societal structures.

- Guru Nanak Dev's vision of a casteless society, exemplified by practices like Langar (collective cooking and sharing of food), Pangat (partaking food without caste distinctions), and Sangat (collective decision-making), offers a blueprint for establishing an egalitarian society.

Social Harmony:

- Rising intolerance, mob lynching, and right-wing vigilantism threaten India's secular nature and social harmony.

- Guru Nanak Dev's concept of "Jeeye kaa ik daata" promotes the idea that the entire world is God's creation, emphasizing the equality of all.

- This philosophy echoes the Sanskrit saying "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam," portraying the world as one family.

- Guru Nanak Dev's teachings of forgiveness, patience, forbearance, and kindness provide a foundation for fostering social harmony.

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Creating a Just Society:

- Inequality is identified as the root cause of social evils.

- Guru Nanak Dev advocated the principles of "kirat karo, naam japo, and vand chhako" (work, worship, and share), emphasizing the importance of honest labor and sharing with the needy.

- The concept of "dasvandh" or donating one-tenth of earnings to the needy reflects a commitment to social responsibility and change.

- The central role of selfless service to mankind, known as "Seva," is a guiding principle in Sikhism.

Gender Equality:

- Guru Nanak Dev challenged the oppression of women, asserting their equality by questioning, "How can women be inferior when they give birth to men?"

- He emphasized that women, like men, share the grace of God and are equally responsible for their actions.

- Guru Nanak Dev's teachings underscore respect for women and advocate for gender equality.

Bringing Peace:

- Despite India-Pakistan tensions, the inauguration of the Kartarpur corridor presents an opportunity for regional normalization.

- Guru Nanak Dev's teachings, emphasizing unity and transcending religious and national boundaries, can inspire improved relations between India and Pakistan.

- The Kartarpur corridor could serve as a catalyst for peace, not only between the two nations but also for the broader South-Asian region.

Sikh Gurus

Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji
(1469 - 1539)
Guru Nanak Ji founded the Sikh Faith. He taught us about Ek Onkar, gave us "Mool Mantra". He's the one who started Langar Sewa.

Sri Guru Angad Dev Ji
(1504 - 1552)
Guru Angad Dev Ji created Gurmukhi. started the tradition of "Akhaada" and expanded on original concept of langar.

Sri Guru Amar Das Ji
(1479-1574)
Guru Amar Das ji taught the importance of gender equality. He also introduced new customs for birth and death ceremony.

Sri Guru Ram Das Ji
(1534- 1581)
Guru Amar Das ji created a town - now named as Amritsar. And it later became an important place for Sikhs around the world.

Sri Guru Arjan Dev Ji
(1563 - 1606)
Guru Arjan Dev Ji completed the construction of Harmandir Sahib (Golden Temple) in Amritsar. He's also the first guru to be martyred in Sikh Faith.

Sri Guru Hargobind Sahib Ji
(1595 - -1644)
Guru Hargobind Sahib Ji was a Saint Soldier and he developed the first Sikh army. He's the first guru in Sikh Faith to raise swords to protect the needy.

Sri Guru Har Rai Ji
(1630- 1661)
Guru Har Rai Ji maintained the Sikh army which Guru Hargobind Sahib Ji formed. He also worked on solidifying the teachings of Guru Nanak Ji.

Sri Guru Harkrishan Sahib Ji
(1556- 1664)
Guru Harkrishan Sahib Ji was only 5 when he became guru. He was also famous with the name Bala Pir. He left us when he was only 8.

Sri Guru Teg Bahadur Ji
(1621 - 1675)
Guru Teg Bahadur ji provided protection to both Sikhs and Hindus against the islamic rule of that time. He also created a town Anandpur.

Sri Guru Gobind Singh Ji
(1666 - 1708)
Guru Gobind Singh Ji created Khalsa and gave Sikhs an eternal guru (Guru Granth Sahib Ji). He fought many wars for the righteous, gave sikhs a proper identity by introducing Panj Pyare.

PRELIMS QUESTIONS

Q.1 With reference to Guru Nanak, consider the following statements:

1. Guru Nanak believed in monotheism.

2. Guru Nanak laid the foundation of Khalsa Panth.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) Both 1 and 2

(d) Neither 1 nor 2

ANSWERS

S. No	Answer
1.	A

MAINS QUESTIONS

Q.2 In the context of Guru Nanak and the inception of Sikhism, discuss the fundamental principles and teachings propagated by Guru Nanak. How did his spiritual journeys and experiences shape the foundation of Sikhism

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SECURITY

INS IMPHAL

Why in the news?

On November 28, 2023, the crest of Yard 12706 (Imphal), the third vessel among the quartet of Project 15B stealth-guided missile destroyers, was revealed by the Defense Minister, Shri Rajnath Singh, in New Delhi.

About INS Imphal:

INS Imphal, the third vessel in the Visakhapatnam-class of stealth-guided missile destroyers, stands as a testament to India's prowess in naval construction. With a remarkable blend of indigenous technology and strategic design, this imposing warship is a key asset in the nation's maritime defense capabilities.

Key Specifications:

- **Size and Displacement:**

  ○ Length: 164 metres

  ○ Displacement: Over 7500 tonnes

- **Speed:**

  ○ Impressive speed of over 30 knots (approximately 55 kmph)

- **Capabilities:**

  ○ Versatile platform capable of a wide range of tasks across maritime warfare.

- **Indigenous Content:**

  ○ Boasts an impressive 75% indigenous content, showcasing India's technological advancements.

  ○ Features Medium Range Surface-to-Air missiles, BrahMos surface-to-surface missiles, Indigenous Torpedo Tube Launchers, Anti-Submarine Indigenous Rocket Launchers (Larsen & Toubro, Mumbai), and a 76mm

Super Rapid Gun Mount (BHEL, Haridwar).

Symbolism in Crest Design:

- The crest design is rich in symbolism, featuring the Kangla Palace and 'Kangla-Sa.'

- Kangla Palace: An important historical and archaeological site in Manipur, serving as the traditional seat of the past kingdom.

- 'Kangla-Sa': A mythical being from Manipur history, depicted with a dragon's head and lion's body. Symbolic as the guardian/protector of the people, it is also the state emblem of Manipur.

Historical Significance:

- INS Imphal holds the distinction of being the first capital warship named after a city in the northeast – Imphal, the capital of Manipur.

Project-15B:

Project-15B (P 15B) marks a significant milestone in India's naval capabilities, with four Guided Missile Destroyers under construction at M/s Mazagaon Dock Shipbuilders Limited, Mumbai. Initiated in 2011, these vessels are poised to be among the world's most technologically advanced destroyers, featuring cutting-edge weaponry, advanced stealth attributes, and a high degree of automation.

Project-15B
- INS Visakhapatnam
- INS Mormugao
- INS Imphal
- INS Surat

Key Features of P-15B Ships:

- **Weaponry:**

  ○ Equipped with BrahMos supersonic cruise

missiles and long-range Surface-to-Air Missiles (SAM), enhancing both offensive and defensive capabilities.

- Boasts indigenous weapons systems, including medium-range Surface-to-Air Missiles (SAMs), torpedo tube launchers, anti-submarine indigenous rocket launchers, and a 76-mm super rapid gun mount.

● **Ships under Project 15-B :**

  ○ The first ship, INS Visakhapatnam

  ○ INS Mormugao, the second ship

  ○ INS Imphal, the third ship

  ○ INS Surat, the fourth ship

Role of P-15B:

- In the context of India's vast coastline, 7516 Kms and 1100 offshore islands, and a 2.01 million sq km Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), P-15B plays a pivotal role in enhancing the Indian Navy's capabilities.

- Positioned for duties in the Indo-Pacific, these guided missile destroyers are vital for safeguarding against air, surface, and underwater threats, contributing significantly to the Indian Navy's potency.

Other Recent Projects:

● **Project 75 (I):**

  ○ Envisions indigenous construction of submarines with state-of-the-art Air Independent Propulsion system.

  ○ Estimated cost: Rs. 43,000 crore.

● **Project 75:**

  ○ The program involves building six Scorpene-Class attack submarines.

  ○ Undertaken with technology transfer from French company Naval Group at the Mazagon Dock Limited.

PRELIMS QUESTIONS

Q.1 Under which of the following programmes the latest, INS Imphal-destroyer Ship was made?

(a) Project 75

(b) Project 15-B

(c) Project 15-A

(d) Project 75 (I)

Q.2 Consider the following:

1. INS Visakhapatnam

2. INS Mormugao

3. INS Mangalore

4. INS Surat

How many of the above are ships under Project-15B?

(a) Only one

(b) Only two

(c) Only three

(d) All four

ANSWERS

S. No.	Answers
1.	B
2.	C

MAINS QUESTIONS

Q1. Discuss the strategic significance and challenges associated with India's pursuit of a Blue Water Navy in the context of enhancing maritime security.

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