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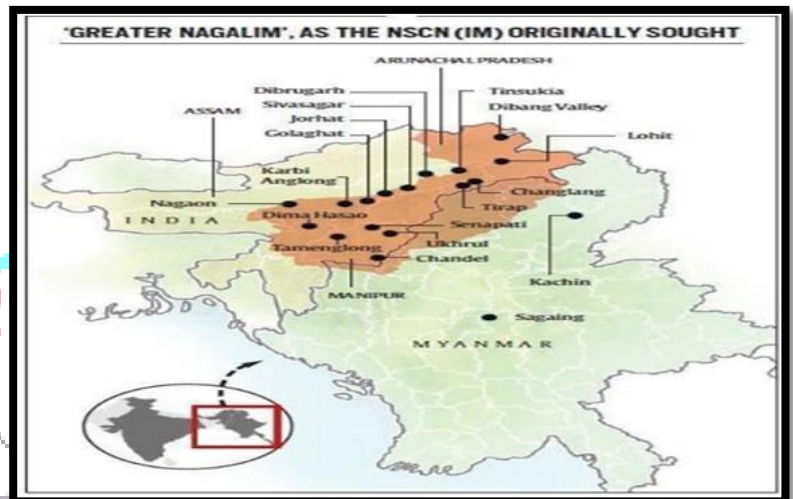
Peace deal with Manipur insurgent group

Why in Newspapers?

The central government signed a **peace accord with the insurgent organization of Manipur**. The organization has agreed to shun violence and join the democratic process. The tripartite agreement was signed by the Centre, the Manipur government and the Zeliangrong United Front (ZUF), an insurgent group operating in the state.

Quick Issue?

- Representatives of the armed group agreed to abjure violence and **engage in a peaceful democratic process established by the law of the land**. The agreement provides for rehabilitation and resettlement of the armed cadres. A **joint monitoring group** will be constituted to oversee the enforcement of the rules. It will give a **significant boost to the peace process in Manipur**, the statement said. The agreement was signed by **senior officials of the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Government of Manipur** and representatives of ZUF in the presence of Chief Minister N Biren Singh.



Other Key Facts?

Rani Gaidinlue

- She belonged to the **Rongmei clan** of the **Zeliangrong tribe** in **Tamenglong district of Manipur**.
- She was a **Naga spiritual and political leader**
- At the **age of just 13**, she joined the **famous freedom fighter** and religious leader '**Haipou Jadonang**'.
- On **October 17, 1932**, **Rani Gaidinliu** was **arrested and sentenced to life imprisonment**.
- Rani Gaidinliu was released from prison in the **year 1947 after 14 years**.

Historical Background?

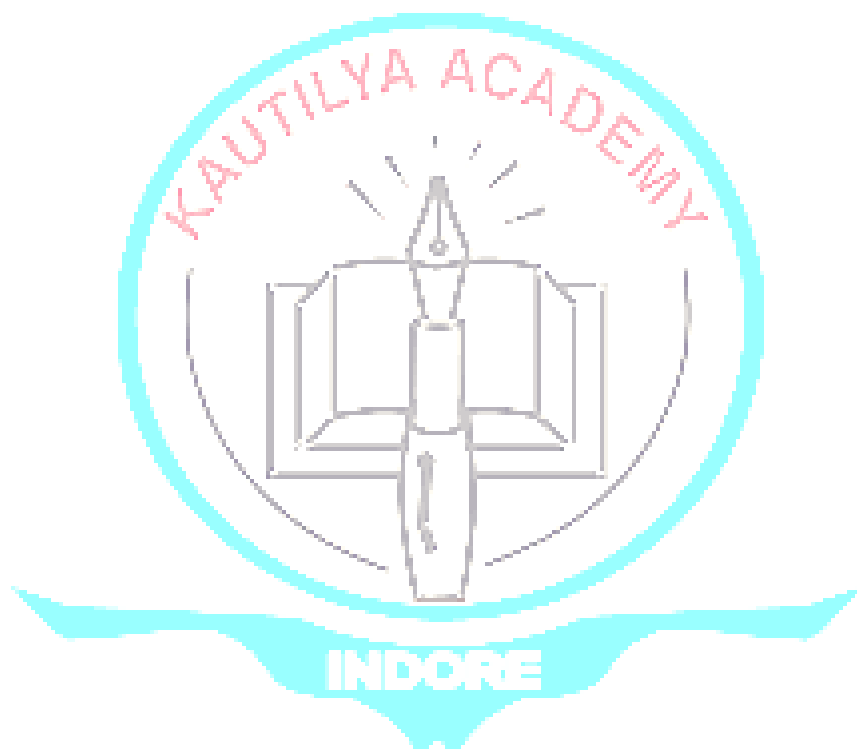
- The rise of the insurgency in Manipur began with the formation of the **United National Liberation Front (UNLF)** in the year **1964**.
- Due to the **forcible merger of Manipur in the Indian Union**, a **feeling of dissatisfaction** arose among the people there.
- Delay in granting **full statehood to Manipur**; - The erstwhile Kingdom of Manipur was merged on **October 15, 1949**, but it was **granted statehood in the year 1972**.

- With the passage of time the following organizations were formed and all demanded an **"Independent Manipur"**;
 - People's Liberation Army (PLA)
 - People's Revolutionary Party of Kangleipak (PREPAK)
 - Kangleipak Communist Party (KCP)
 - Kanglei Yawol Kanna Lup (KYKL)
- **Wide impact of the demand for 'Greater Nagalim'**
 - The Naga movement in Nagaland also spread to the hill districts of Manipur;
 - In which the **National Socialist Council of Nagaland-Isak Muivah (NSCN-IM)**, controlled it while pushing for **"Nagalim" (Greater Nagaland)**, perceived as a **"threat" to Manipur's "territorial integrity"** in the valley is believed.
- About **10% of Manipur's area is hilly, sparsely populated**, while most of the state's population resides in the valley.
- The **Meitei community** is the majority in the **Imphal Valley**, while the **Nagas and Kukis** live in the surrounding hill districts.
- In the early 1990s, **ethnic conflict broke out between the Nagas and the Kukis**, resulting in the **formation of several Kuki insurgent groups**.
- As militancy grew, smaller organizations such as the **Zeliangrong United Front (ZUF)**, **People's United Liberation Front (PULF)** and other smaller groups were formed.
- **Zeliangrong United Front (ZUF):-** It is a Naga group, formed in 2011 and active in Manipur for more than a decade. They are followers of freedom fighter Rani Gaidinliu.
- **Objective of ZUF-**
 - Protecting the interests of the **'Zeliangrong Naga tribes'** in Manipur, Assam and Nagaland.
 - Creating a 'Zeliangrong' state within the Indian Union comprising the territory of the Zeliangrong Naga tribe in Manipur, Assam and Nagaland.
- **Peace Agreement :-**
 - Representatives of the armed group agreed to **abjure violence and engage in a peaceful democratic process** established by law.
 - The agreement provides for the **rehabilitation of ZUF's armed cadres**.
 - A **"Joint Monitoring Group"** will be set up to oversee the **implementation of the ground rules under the agreement**.
- Can be helpful in establishing a peace process in Manipur, which will lead to **increased unity and integrity with the rest of India**.
- **Security of north-eastern borders** will be ensured in a **better way**, which will **end the parallel governments** formed in the border areas.





- The present Prime Minister's vision of "**extremism free and prosperous North East**" will be realised.
- **Steps taken by the Government of India:-** In 1980, the Central Government invoked the **Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA)** declaring the entire Manipur as a "**disturbed area**".
- **Other Agreements: -**
 - In 1997, a ceasefire agreement was reached between the **National Socialist Council of Nagaland-Isak Muivah (NSCN-IM)** and the Government of India, although no effective result was achieved.
 - On August 22, 2008, the **Kuki National Organization (KNO)** and the **United People's Front (UPF)** jointly signed a **tripartite Suspension of Operation (SSO)** agreement with the **Government of India and the Government of Manipur**.





News Fast

Naegleria fowleri

- **Naegleria fowleri** is an **amoeba** (single-celled organism) that is found in soil and warm water bodies, such as lakes, rivers and hot springs. It is not found in sea or other saline water body.
- It is commonly called '**brain-eating amoeba**' because it enters the human body through water containing water during sterility and reaches the brain.
- Once in the brain, it **destroys the infiltrate and causes a fatal infection known as primary amoebic meningoencephalitis (PAM)**.
- There is **no evidence of transmission** through water vapour/aerosol droplets or by consumption of contaminated water. The **first case of its infection** has been registered in South Korea.

Sagittarius Travel

- **Dhanu Yatra** is the **world's largest open-air theatre** celebrated for **11 days** in the month of **Pausha in Orissa**.
- This **theatrical performance** begins with the grand marriage ceremony of **Devaki and Vasudeva** and ends with the **killing of Kansa by Lord Krishna**.
- **Dhanu Yatra** was performed for the **first time in the year 1948** with the aim of **celebrating the Indian independence** which symbolically represented the victory of **Indians over the unjust British rule**.
- Recently **Dhanu Yatra** was started at **Bargarh** situated on the **banks of Jeera River** in Odisha.

Strep a Infection

- **Group A streptococcus**, or **strep A**, is an **infectious disease transmitted through bacteria**. These bacteria **enter the human body through nose, throat and skin**. Its symptoms are like flu.
- The disease is **not usually fatal**, but **invasive group A strep (iGAS)** can be fatal, **potentially leading to serious illnesses** such as **blood infections, endocarditis, and meningitis**.
- In the **United Kingdom**, **12 children have died due to serious infections** associated with **group A streptococcus**.

Manam Pahal

- **MANAM** is an initiative by the **Government of Tamil Nadu** to improve the **mental health of students of medical colleges**.
- It aims to **prevent students from committing suicide** as well as to **train them for proper treatment of patients suffering from mental health**.
- This initiative will help students to get in touch with a **mental health specialist**. A **helpline number 14416** has also been issued for this.



- **Government of Tamil Nadu** has launched this initiative in **Government Medical Colleges of Tiruchi, Pudukottai and Karur districts**.

Venu Bappu Observatory

- The **Venu Bappu Observatory** located on the **Javadi Hills in Kavalur**, Tamil Nadu is one of the **most famous observatories in India**. In the year **1972**, Indian astronomer **Venu Bappu** installed a **40-inch telescope in this observatory**.
- This telescope has played an **important role in astronomy** by **detecting the presence of rings around the planet Uranus** as well as a new satellite of Uranus and the presence of an atmosphere around Ganymede (a satellite of Jupiter).
- Other important researches carried out from this include the discovery and study of '**B stars**', **lithium depletion in massive stars**, optical variability in flares and the dynamics of the famous **supernova SN 1987A**.
- Recently, the **Venu Bappu Observatory celebrated 50 years** of operation highlighting several stellar discoveries of this telescope.

Project Vani

- Google India has teamed up with the **Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bangalore** for the **Project Vani initiative**. The objective of this initiative is to build an **artificial intelligence/machine learning model** to collect language samples from **773 districts of India**.
- This **AI-based language model** will be able to understand **various Indian languages and dialects**. Such datasets can potentially be used to build apps related to areas such as **health, agriculture and financial inclusion**.
- This project of IISc Bengaluru and is **part of the Artificial Intelligence and Robotics Technology Park (Artpark)** which includes '**Synthesizing Speech in Indian Languages**' (SYSPIN) and '**Recognizing Speech in Indian Languages**' (RESPIN).

Hanukkah

- Hanukkah is a **festival of lights** based on **historical events** that took place in **Jerusalem** in **165 BC**. It is also known as **Chanukah**.
- This **eight-day celebration** begins on the **25th day of Kislev** according to the **Hebrew calendar** and continues until the **second day of the month of Teslev** (Zos Chanukah - the holiest day). According to the **Gregorian calendar**, it can happen any time from late **November to December**.
- It marks the rededication of the **Second Temple in Jerusalem** during the **2nd century BCE**, where the Jews rebelled against their **Greco-Syrian oppressors** in the **Maccabean Revolt**. This year this festival is being organized from **18 to 26 December**.

Forabot

- Forabot is a type of robot capable of identifying, classifying and manipulating microscopic marine fossils (Foraminifera). Its use will help in studying the origin of oceans and climate.



- A variety of **foraminifera** (forms) species are found in the sea, **which require human efforts to physically observe and classify them. Forabot automates** this difficult process with an **accuracy rate of 79%** which is **better than most trained humans**.
- The **artificial intelligence** images of this robot are used to identify the forms and according to these images the forms **categorize the species**.
- **Foraminifera** (Forms) are **very simple microorganisms** that have **existed on the ocean floor** for over **100 million years**.

Aeronomy

- Aeronomy in general is the science that studies the **atmospheres of all planets including important physical and chemical processes** resulting from **dissociation and ionization events due to solar radiation**.
- It received **official certification in the year 1954** with the **adoption of the term** by the **International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics (IUGG)**. It refers to the **scientific study of the upper atmospheric regions of the Earth** and the **rest of the Solar System**.
- It also studies **aurora, airglow, ionosphere, Van Allen radiation belts, cosmic rays** and **radiative and photochemical phenomena**. It is an **initiative of ISRO** for aeronomy feasibility studies along with missions to Venus.

