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DAILY NEWS ANALYSIS

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FOREWORD

We, at Team Vedhik is happy to introduce a new initiative - "Daily Current Affairs_The Hindu" compilations to help you with UPSC Civil Services Examination preparation. We believe this initiative - "Daily Current Affairs_The Hindu" would help students, especially beginners save time and streamline their preparations with regard to Current Affairs. A content page and an Appendix has been added segregating and mapping the content to the syllabus.

It is an appreciable efforts by Vedhik IAS Academy helping aspirants of UPSC Civil Services Examinations. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Dr. Babu Sebastian, former VC - MG University in extending all support to this endeavour. Finally I also extend my thanks to thank Ms. Shilpa Sasidharan and Mr. Shahul Hameed for their assistance in the preparing the compilations.

We welcome your valuable comments so that further improvement may be made in the forthcoming material. We look forward to feedback, comments and suggestions on how to improve and add value for students. Every care has been taken to avoid typing errors and if any reader comes across any such error, the authors shall feel obliged if they are informed at their Email ID.

CONTENTS

- News - Ready to help nationals of neighbour countries
GSP 02 A
- Editorials - A cautionary tale
GSP 02 B
- Editorials - The Ukraine war, India and a stand of non-alignment
GSP 02 B
- News - GST revenues cross 1.3 lakh crore in Feb Part I
GSP 03 A
- News - GST revenues cross 1.3 lakh crore in Feb Part II
GSP 03 A
- News - Ukraine war will lift import bill, widen current
account deficit
GSP 03 A

CONTENTS

- News - War may spur shift of IT jobs from Russia, Ukraine to India
GSP 03 A
- News - Doubts over defence supplies to India
GSP 03 L
- News - Chip shortage crimps auto wholesales
GSP 03 M
- Editorials - The history of the Kuki insurgency in Manipur
GSP 03 U

'Ready to help nationals of neighbour countries'

India extends helping hand at UNSC

SRIRAM LAKSHMAN
WASHINGTON DC

As the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) met in a special session to vote on a resolution calling for Russia's withdrawal from Ukraine, the UN Security Council (UNSC) met to discuss the humanitarian crisis that is developing in the region.

Expressing concern about the unfolding humanitarian crisis in Ukraine, India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations (UNPR) T.S. Tirumurti said that India's evacuation efforts had been hampered by the events at the Ukraine border. Mr. Tirumurti also offered evacuation assistance to citizens of developing countries and India's neighbours whose nationals were stranded in Ukraine.

Border situation

"Our evacuation efforts have been adversely impacted by the developments on the ground at the border crossings," he said, informing the Security Council of the Government's decision to send Ministers to oversee evacuation efforts in neighbouring European countries.

Mr. Tirumurti informed the Security Council that



T.S. Tirumurti said India was willing to help citizens of developing countries too.

the Government was sending humanitarian aid to Ukraine on March 1 and had senior Ministers visiting Ukraine's neighbours to discuss the arrival of Indian citizens in these countries. Earlier in the day, on Feb. 28, Ministry of External Affairs Spokesperson Arindam Bagchi had announced medical and other aid to Ukraine, when he announced that several Ministers were also travelling to Europe to oversee efforts.

Just under 1,400 Indian nationals have been brought back to India on six evacuation flights, Mr. Bagchi had said on Monday.

India, has, in recent weeks, consistently abstained from voting on resolutions related to the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

A cautionary tale

India must heed the warning of the IPCC report and shore up adaptation measures

Amidst global turmoil, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change – the largest international consortium of scientists analysing and reviewing the evidence on the present and future man-made impacts of climate change – has a message that is predictably dire. The world faces unavoidable multiple climate hazards over the next two decades with global warming of 1.5°C; even temporarily exceeding this warming level would mean additional severe impacts, some of which will be irreversible. The report points out that the rise in weather and climate extremes has led to some irreversible impacts as natural and human systems are pushed beyond their ability to adapt. Alluding to the Conference of the Parties (COP26) in Glasgow, in November 2021, the report notes that most of the targets that countries have set for themselves are too far in the future to have an impact in the short term at meaningfully reducing the climate impact.

India will achieve net zero emissions latest by 2070, that is, there will be no net carbon emissions, Prime Minister Narendra Modi declared at the COP26 summit. By 2030, India would also ensure 50% of its energy will be from renewable energy sources. However, none of this can help the 1.5°C mark from being breached. A major point of emphasis of the report, particularly for South Asia, is the trend in the 'wet bulb' temperature – an index of the impact of heat and humidity combined – and its effect on health. Lucknow and Patna, according to one of several studies cited in the report, were among the cities predicted to reach wet-bulb temperatures of 35°C if emissions continued to rise, while Bhubaneswar, Chennai, Mumbai, Indore, and Ahmedabad are 'at risk' of reaching wet-bulb temperatures of 32°C-34°C with continued emissions. This will have consequences such as a rise in heat-wave linked deaths or reduced productivity. Global sea levels will likely rise 44cm-76cm this century if governments meet their current emission-cutting pledges. But with higher emissions, and if ice sheets collapse more quickly than expected, sea levels could rise as much as 2 metres this century and 5m by 2150. India is one of the most vulnerable countries in terms of the population that will be affected by sea-level rise. By the middle of the century, around 35 million of its people could face annual coastal flooding, with 45 million-50 million at risk by the end of the century if emissions are high. Experience has shown that partisan economic calculations trump climate considerations, but India must shore up its adaptation measures and urgently move to secure the futures of its many vulnerable who have the most to lose.

The Ukraine war, India and a stand of non-alignment

New Delhi's present position apart, the only lasting principle in foreign policy is the principle of national interest



CHINMAYA R. GHAREKHAN

Very few sayings are as true as: "Truth is the first casualty in war". Its corollary is: "No government tells the truth about war to its people". Certainly not the whole truth. This is true of all governments at all times in all countries. India's war with China ended in 1962. Sixty years later, we still do not know all the truth about that war. The Henderson Brooks report that delved deeply into the circumstances leading up to the war and the conduct of the military operations has still not been made public, though many claim to have read it. The reason it has not been made public, it is believed, is that it does not reflect well on the army. Even if true, how will it reflect poorly on today's Indian Army? It is interesting that even BJP governments have refrained from making it public.

For Ukraine and the West

So, we will hear claims and counter claims about the Russian invasion of Ukraine. It is widely recog-

nised that Russia has legitimate security concerns. The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) is already at its doorstep. The saga of broken promises and commitments, albeit oral, given at the highest level by the West to Russia that NATO will not be expanded eastwards, closer to Russia, is well documented.

However, that does not justify the invasion of Ukraine. Also, it is not clear how this war will take care of Russian security concerns. Even if the West agrees to give such assurance in writing, it will not have much meaning since written commitments can also be equally easily disregarded. The President of Ukraine ought to have been more flexible in devising some formula which would have accommodated Russia's concerns, as for example by announcing adherence to the Minsk agreements. He knew, and knows, that the only country which would suffer heavy casualties and suffer incalculable destruction, is his own. The West could also have been more innovative. The distrust towards Russia lies deep in the western psyche.

A large part of the world has condemned the Russian invasion. Quite rightly too, since it is a gross violation of the universally accepted principle of respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity



of states. Ukraine is a sovereign state, founding member of the United Nations. It may be recalled that the Soviet Union wanted all the Soviet Republics to be admitted to the newly founded United Nations. Ultimately a compromise was struck and only two republics – Ukraine and Byelorussia as Belarus was then called – were admitted. Thus, Russia has surely violated the most important principle of international law. Does concern about its security perceptions justify the invasion?

Ukraine is in no position to defend itself against Russian might. It was widely expected that it would be a short, decisive war. There is no doubt that Russia can and will prevail, but if it has to take Belarus's help in doing so, it will not rebound well to Mr. Putin's credit. The resistance put up by the Ukrainian people under President

Volodymyr Zelensky's leadership is impressive. But what thereafter?

Challenging for India

India is in a difficult position. On the one hand, there is the growing relationship with the United States. As is often maintained, India-U.S. relations have never been better. This is true especially in the defence sector. Much is also made of the famous Quad (India, the United States, Australia and Japan) which is essentially an arrangement to contain China. How that helps India, the only one in Quad having a territorial dispute with China, is not clear.

On the other hand, there is Russia with whom we have a long-standing history of friendship, which is still our principal source of military hardware and which is willing, more than other countries, to share the technology involved. Russia has also helped us out in the United Nations on many occasions. One can hardly forget how they stalled action in the UN for several days at the time of the 1971 Bangladesh war to enable us to 'finish the job'. We might need Russian support in future as and when Pakistan, fully backed by China, brings up the Kashmir issue in the world organisation.

Under the circumstances, the Government had done well by

maintaining a kind of neutral position. It is a demonstration of the classical Nehruvian policy of non-alignment. There are influential voices in India that speak derisively of non-alignment but that is precisely what we are witnessing the Government do. Yes, the Russian invasion is wrong by every principle of international law. But the only lasting principle in foreign policy is the principle of national interest. Jawaharlal Nehru even called it a selfish policy. National interest will always trump principles. That is what Nehru did at the time of the Soviet Union marching with tanks into Hungary in 1956; he did not condemn the Soviet action. Our stand stood out in stark contrast to our stand on the Anglo-French-Israeli aggression on Egypt, which we condemned, when it nationalised the Suez Canal the same year.

However, if the war continues, resulting in large number of civilian casualties, and given the nuclear alert, Belarus's renouncing of non-nuclear status, the indiscriminate bombing of major cities, will all make it extremely difficult for us, India, to maintain the non-aligned position for long.

Chinmaya R. Gharekhan was India's Permanent Representative at the United Nations

GST revenues cross 1.3 lakh crore in February

GST revenues hit a record figure of nearly ₹1.41 lakh crore in January, compared to which February's collections, reflecting transactions undertaken in January, have moderated by 5.65%.

Seeking to emphasise the significance of these collections, the Ministry pointed out that 'being a 28-day month, February normally witnesses revenues lower than that in January'.

"This high growth during February 2022 should also be seen in the context of partial lockdowns, weekend and night curfews and various restrictions that were put in place by various States due to the Omicron wave, which peaked around

20th January," it explained in a statement.

That the GST collections exceeded ₹1.33 lakh crore despite the challenging pandemic situation in January suggests revenues were now 'on a stable trajectory and the 2021-22 targets would be exceeded', said M.S. Mani, partner at Deloitte India.

However, disparities between the collection trends among the States is a concern.

"While on an overall basis, the collections are 18% higher than the same period last year, there is significant divergence amongst States, with increases in the range of 2% to 23% amongst the large States," he noted.

GST revenues cross 1.3 lakh crore in Feb.

VIKAS DHOOT
NEW DELHI

The Gross Goods and Services Tax (GST) revenue in February was 26% higher than the pre-pandemic levels at ₹1,33,026 crore, the Finance Ministry said.

The collections are 18%

higher than those of February 2021 and mark the fifth time that GST revenues have crossed ₹1.3 lakh crore since its launch in July 2017.

Revenues from import of goods were 38% higher year-on-year, while revenues from domestic transaction,

including import of services, were 12% higher than the revenues from these sources during February 2021.

GST Compensation Cess collections crossed ₹10,000 crore in a month for the first time in February, which the Ministry said “signifies re-

covery of certain key sectors, especially, automobile sales”.

The cess collections in February were ₹10,340 crore, and included ₹638 crore collected on import of goods.

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 10

‘Ukraine war will lift import bill, widen current account deficit’

Mineral, edible oils may see impact, spur inflation: Ind-Ra

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI

The ongoing crisis in Ukraine is set to push the country’s import bills beyond the \$600-billion mark this fiscal, given India’s import dependence on crude oil, natural gas, gems and jewellery, edible oils and fertilizers, which can lead to a spike in inflation, wider current account deficit, and a falling rupee, India Ratings warned in a report on Tuesday.

The rating agency said the ongoing geopolitical risks arising from the Russia-Ukraine war would push India’s import bills higher for items such as mineral oils and gas, gems and jewellery, edible oils and fertilizers.



As a result, merchandise imports may cross \$600 billion in FY22, up from \$492.9 billion in the first 10 months.

The impact will be felt more on inflation, a widening current account deficit and a falling rupee, its chief economist Devendra Pant said in the report, adding a \$5 per barrel increase in

crude oil prices will translate into a \$6.6 billion increase in trade/current account deficit.

The ramifications of the Russia-Ukraine war on the domestic economy will be felt via higher global commodity prices – crude oil has been on a boil, surging to \$103.15 a barrel on February 27.

On the impact on inflation due to higher imported prices and weaker rupee, the agency said a 10% increase in petroleum product prices without factoring in currency depreciation would lead to a 42 basis points (bps) increase in retail inflation and 104 bps quickening in wholesale inflation.

‘War may spur shift of IT jobs from Russia, Ukraine to India’

‘About 70% of these 80,000-1 lakh jobs may come to India’

MINI TEJASWI
BENGALURU

The Russia-Ukraine conflict may disrupt the services of 80,000 to 1 lakh highly qualified professionals with digital engineering and IT skills from Ukraine, Belarus, Russia and other neighbouring countries in Eastern Europe, according to Everest Group.

These jobs will have to move to safe havens and about 70% of these are likely to come to India, the Dallas-based management consulting and IT analyst firm said.

Ukraine is a key global delivery location for IT and engineering R&D services.

Now, the war has created widespread uncertainty and significant concerns for



companies, including Indian players, in the region, the firm said.

Data shared by the analyst firm show that more than 30,000 techies are working in the digital engineering space for third-party service providers, with clients in the banking, retail, automobile and healthcare industries.

About 20,000 people are employed in global business service (GBS) centres in Ukraine, while another 20,000 are working for third-party service providers in Belarus and Russia, and about 10,000 at GBS centres in Belarus and Russia.

“The resource pool numbers alone paint a picture of disruption of services because of the war in Ukraine and the economic impact of the sanctions imposed on Russia,” said CEO Peter Bendor-Samuel.

“It is time for tech providers to be prepared for further increase in pricing, as the impact will only add to the already strong inflationary pressures,” he cautioned.

Doubts over defence supplies to India

Deliveries from Moscow, Kyiv could be delayed; threat of sanctions looms large

DINAKAR PERI
NEW DELHI

With tensions escalating between Russia and the West over the Ukraine crisis, India, which has major defence cooperation with Moscow and Kyiv, faces uncertainty over timely deliveries in the near future in addition to the lingering threat of the U.S. sanctions under CAATSA (Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act) over the S-400 deal.

In the past, tensions between Russia and Ukraine had considerably delayed the modernisation of the An-32 transport fleet of the Indian Air Force (IAF).

"It is too early to say at the moment, but there could be delays in deliveries from Russia both due to their own domestic commitments as well the sanctions imposed by the West," an official source said on the condition of anonymity.

The current crisis could also complicate the CAATSA waiver India is looking for from the U.S. administration, two officials independently said. While, the S-400 deliveries began in December and are under way, a clarity on the timely completion was awaited, one of the official noted.

Several observers termed the severance of links and economic sanctions by the West on Russia "unprecedented." In this backdrop, India requires a functioning supply chain relationship



The Ukraine crisis could complicate the sanctions waiver India is seeking from the U.S. over the S-400 deal. ■ FILE PHOTO

with Russia for spares and support, which is critical for its military.

To questions on possible restrictions by the U.S. on Russian equipment, former Indian Ambassador to Russia D.B. Venkatesh Varma said, "It will be very unfortunate if the U.S. has the same objective as China – to weaken the India-Russia defence relationship to the detriment of India's defence capabilities."

Traditional supplier

While Russia has been a traditional military supplier sharing platforms and technologies that others would not, the cooperation has further deepened in recent years. The defence trade between the two countries has crossed \$15 billion since 2018.

Even today, over 60% of Indian military inventory is of Russian origin, especially with respect to fighter jets, tanks, helicopters and submarines among others, while several deals are in the pipe-

line. For instance, in December, India and Russia signed a ₹5,000-crore deal for 6.1 lakh AK-203 assault rifles to be manufactured jointly in Uttar Pradesh. Production was to begin within a few months and it is expected to reach full-scale production within two or three years, said Alexander Mikheev, Director-General of Rosoboronexport.

In addition, Russia is manufacturing two stealth frigates for the Navy. They are to be delivered next year onwards, while another two are being manufactured by the Goa Shipyard Limited under technology transfer. The keel of the ships has been laid and the Navy has said that the first one will be delivered in 2026 and the second one six months later.

India had signed a separate deal with Ukraine for eight Zorya-Mashproekt gas turbine engines for the frigates. As reported earlier by *The Hindu*, officials had said that the engines, gear boxes

and specialist support will cost around \$50 million a ship. India had taken delivery of engines for the first two frigates and handed them over to Russia for the frigates under construction there. However, the status of the engines for the frigates being built in India is not known. India is also looking to receive the third Akula class nuclear attack submarine (SSN) sometime in 2025. With the current offensive, the Russian defence industry may be preoccupied to supply to their own forces, a military officer observed, adding that they hoped it would be able to ensure timely deliveries.

Deals with Ukraine

As for Ukraine, it is upgrading over 100 An-32 transport aircraft of the IAF under a deal finalised in 2009.

While the upgrade of 45 An-32s in Ukraine was completed in 2015, the remaining aircraft were to be upgraded by the IAF Base Repair Depot, Kanpur. Ukraine officials had stated that all contractual obligations for the local upgrade would be fulfilled by 2020, though the current status was not immediately known.

At the Aero India in February 2021, Ukraine signed four agreements worth \$70 million, which includes sale of new weapons as well as maintenance and upgrade of the existing ones in service with the military, as reported earlier.

Chip shortage crimps auto wholesales

Maruti, Hyundai, Toyota, Honda report drop in February shipments; Tata Motors, M&M buck trend

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The global semiconductor shortage continued to play spoilsport for the Indian automobile industry, with major manufacturers such as Maruti Suzuki, Hyundai, Toyota and Honda reporting a drop in wholesales for February. However, Tata Motors, Mahindra and Mahindra (M&M) and MG Motor recorded increases in sales.

Market leader Maruti Suzuki's domestic passenger vehicle (PV) sales slipped 7.4% last month to 1,33,948 units. "The shortage of electronic components had a minor impact on the production of vehicles which are primarily sold in the domestic market. The company took all possible measures to minimise the impact," it



Slow lane: Maruti Suzuki's domestic passenger vehicle sales slipped 7.4% last month to 1,33,948 units • PTI

said. Maruti, however, registered its highest ever monthly exports of 24,021 units.

Hyundai Motor India registered domestic sales growth of 14.6% to 44,050 units while export dipped 10.7% to 9,109 units.

While Toyota Kirloskar

Motor said domestic sales declined almost 38% to 8,745 units, Honda Cars reported a 23% dip in domestic wholesales to 7,187 units.

"We are witnessing improvement in consumer sentiment as COVID-situation seems to be tapering off and

markets are opening up," said Yuichi Murata, director, Marketing and Sales, Honda Cars India Ltd. "This is positive for the industry."

Tata Motors said domestic PV sales rose 47% to 39,981 units, while total commercial vehicle (CV) sales grew 9% to 33,894 units.

Similarly, M&M saw a significant 80% growth in domestic PV sales at 27,663 units last month. The company sold 20,166 CVs, recording growth of 119%. "With overall sales of 54,455 vehicles, we have achieved a growth of 89%... all segments showed robust growth including SUVs at 79%, which registered the highest-ever monthly volume," said Veejay Nakra, CEO, Automotive Division, M&M.

In the CV segment, Ashok

Leyland saw sales grow 4% to 13,281, while VE Commercial Vehicles saw a 7.3% increase to 5,856 units.

Two-wheelers slide

In the two-wheeler category, market leader Hero Motor Corp registered a decline of 31.5% in domestic sales to 3,31,462 units.

For Chennai-headquartered TVS Motor, domestic two-wheeler sales stood at 1,73,198 units as against sales of 1,95,145 units.

"The shortage in supply of semiconductors has impacted the production and sales of premium two-wheelers," the two-wheeler manufacturer said. "We are cautiously optimistic that the supply of semiconductors will improve in the coming months," it added.

EXPLAINER

The history of the Kuki insurgency in Manipur

Who are the Kukis and what are their political aspirations and demands?

DIKSHA MUNJAL

The story so far: Just before the first of the two phases of the Assembly Elections went underway in Manipur on February 28, all insurgent groups associated with the Kuki tribes in Manipur said they will vote for the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). This came days after Union Home Minister and BJP leader Amit Shah said at his rally in Churachandpur district of the State, that his party will end the Kuki insurgency problem in five years, if it is voted to power for the second time. The president of the Kuki National Organisation (KNO), P.S. Haokip, cited talks with the BJP leadership, which he said has promised the speedy settlement of Kuki political aspirations.

Who are the Kukis?

The Kukis are an ethnic group including multiple tribes originally inhabiting the North-Eastern states of India such as Manipur, Mizoram and Assam; parts of Burma (now Myanmar), and Sylhet district and Chittagong hill tracts of Bangladesh. While Kuki is not a term coined by the ethnic group itself, the tribes associated with it came to be generically called Kuki under colonial rule.

In Manipur, the various Kuki tribes, living mainly in the hills, currently make up 30% of the total 28.5 lakh population of the State. While Churachandpur is their main stronghold, they also have a sizable population in Chandel, Kangpokpi, Tengnoupal and Senapati districts.

The rest of the population of Manipur is made up mainly of two other ethnic



A unit of the Kuki National Army on the Indo-Myanmar border in Manipur. • THE HINDU ARCHIVES

groups – the Meiteis or non-tribal, Vaishnavite Hindus who live in the valley region of Manipur, and the Naga tribes, historically at loggerheads with the Kukis, also living in the hilly areas of the State. Of the 60 seats in the Manipur Assembly, 40 are held by Meiteis and the rest 20 seats are held by Kukis and Nagas. Both the BJP and Congress are fielding Kuki and Naga candidates this time.

What led to the Kuki insurgencies in Manipur?

The Kuki insurgent groups have been under Suspension of Operation (SoO) since 2005, when they signed an agreement for the same with the Indian Army. Later, in 2008, the groups entered a tripartite agreement with the State government of Manipur and the UPA led Central government under former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, to temporarily suspend their operations and give political dialogue a chance.

Manipur, formerly a princely state including parts of Burma, made the

accession into India after Independence, but was only made a full-fledged State in 1972. The resentment over the "forceful" inclusion into India and delay in granting statehood led to the rise of various insurgent movements. The problem was intensified after Manipur was declared a 'disturbed area' in 1980, under the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA), which gives sweeping powers to the military and has led to excesses. Post-independence insurgent movements in Manipur, carried out by valley-based groups or Meiteis, can be traced back to around the 1960s, when various groups demanded self-determination and separate statehood for Manipur, inspired by left ideology.

However, this wasn't the case with the Kuki insurgency. The roots of Kuki militancy lie in conflicts of ethnic identity. First was the demand for self-determination solely for groups belonging to their ethnic fabric, meaning the dream to form a Kukiland which

includes Kuki inhabited regions of Myanmar, Manipur, Assam and Mizoram. The second reason for insurgency lies in the inter-community conflicts between the Kukis and the Nagas in Manipur.

While organisations like Kuki Inpi and Kuki National Assembly had already formed in the years following Independence, insurgent activity at the time was jointly carried out by Kuki outfits based in Myanmar and Mizoram for Kukiland. But the Kuki insurgency in Manipur grew in real terms in the 1980s and after the Kuki-Naga conflicts of the 1990s. This is when the Kuki National Organisation (KNO) and its armed wing Kuki National Army (KNA) were formed.

The community could not shed internal differences between tribes and take a single line of action. While some militant Kuki outfits demanded Kukiland, including parts which are not in India, some demanded Kukiland within India. At present, the demand has come to the formulation of an independent district—Kukiland Territorial Council within the purview of the Indian constitution, modelling the Bodoland Territorial Council, which was formed under the sixth schedule of the Constitution, after insurgent groups in Assam signed an agreement with their State government.

The Kuki-Naga conflict was started over securing identity and land as some Kuki inhabited areas coincided with Naga inhabited areas. Wanting to dominate trade and cultural activities in those areas the two communities often engaged in violent standoffs, with villages being torched, civilians killed and so on. Even though clashes have reduced in recent

decades, tensions between the two ethnic groups still exist.

Where do the Kukis stand today?

The temporary SoO agreements were made in order to start political dialogue about giving some form of self-determination to the Kukis, but that has not happened, both under the UPA and NDA governments.

The SoO has been extended by the Government almost every year since 2008, with Kuki outfits threatening to breach the agreement by taking up arms again and boycotting the Government. In 2012, the groups held a nearly eight month long blockade of highways around their area, costing the Government a couple of crores in losses each day. The SoO agreement was last extended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government in September last year till February 28 this year. Both BJP and Congress governments have held talks with the representatives of Kuki groups but the Kukis are dissatisfied with the pace of the dialogue and also feel ignored, as the Government has been holding Naga Peace Talks with the main Naga insurgent outfit NSCN (IM), which demands the formation of Greater Nagaland, including parts of Manipur having Kuki inhabited regions.

It has to be seen how the BJP plans to resolve the insurgency and settle Kuki political aspirations as the more than 50% Meitei population of the State, a significant voter base, has always been against Kuki and Naga demands for self-determination, as they fear it would undermine Manipur's territorial integrity.

THE GIST

■ Just before the Assembly Elections started in Manipur on February 28, all insurgent groups associated with the Kuki tribes in Manipur said they will vote for the BJP. This comes days after Union Home Minister Amit Shah said that his party will end the Kuki insurgency problem in five years, if it is voted to power for the second time.

■ The roots of Kuki militancy lie in conflicts of ethnic identity. They demand self-determination solely for groups belonging to their ethnic fabric to form Kukiland which includes Kuki inhabited regions of Myanmar, Manipur, Assam and Mizoram. The second reason for insurgency lies in the inter-community conflicts between the Kukis and the Nagas in Manipur.

■ Both BJP and Congress governments have held talks with representatives of Kuki groups but with no permanent solution.

General Studies Paper I	
A	History of Indian culture will cover the salient aspects of art forms, literature and architecture from ancient to modern times;
B	Modern Indian history from about the middle of the eighteenth century until the present-significant events, personalities, issues;
C	Freedom struggle-its various stages and important contributors / contributions from different parts of the country;
D	Post-independence consolidation and reorganization within the country;
E	History of the world will include events from 18 th century such as industrial revolution, world wars, re-drawal of national boundaries, colonization, decolonization,
F	Political philosophies like communism, capitalism, socialism etc.-their forms and effect on the society
G	Salient features of Indian Society, Diversity of India;
H	Effects of globalization on Indian society;
I	Role of women and women's organization;
J	Social empowerment, communalism, regionalism & secularism
K	Salient features of world's physical geography;
L	Geographical features and their location- changes in critical geographical features (including water bodies and ice-caps) and in flora and fauna and the effects of such changes;
M	Important Geophysical phenomena such as earthquakes, Tsunami, Volcanic activity, cyclone etc.
N	Distribution of key natural resources across the world (including South Asia and the Indian subcontinent);
O	Factors responsible for the location of primary, secondary, and tertiary sector industries in various parts of the world (including India);
P	Population and associated issues;
Q	Urbanization, their problems and their remedies
General Studies Paper II	
A	India and its neighbourhood- relations;
B	Important International institutions, agencies and fora- their structure, mandate;
C	Effect of policies and politics of developed and developing countries on India's interests;
D	Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India's interests.
E	Indian Constitution, historical underpinnings, evolution, features, amendments, significant provisions and basic structure;
F	Comparison of the Indian Constitutional scheme with other countries;
G	Functions and responsibilities of the Union and the States, issues and challenges pertaining to the federal structure, devolution of powers and finances up to local levels and challenges therein; Inclusive growth and issues arising from it;
H	Parliament and State Legislatures - structure, functioning, conduct of business, powers & privileges and issues arising out of these;
I	Structure, organization and functioning of the executive and the judiciary, Ministries and Departments;

J	Separation of powers between various organs dispute redressal mechanisms and institutions;
K	Appointment to various Constitutional posts, powers, functions and responsibilities of various Constitutional bodies;
L	Statutory, regulatory and various quasi-judicial bodies;
M	Mechanisms, laws, institutions and bodies constituted for the protection and betterment of these vulnerable sections;
N	Salient features of the Representation of People's Act;
O	Important aspects of governance, transparency and accountability, e-governance- applications, models, successes, limitations, and potential;
P	Citizens charters, transparency & accountability and institutional and other measures;
Q	Issues relating to poverty and hunger,
R	Welfare schemes for vulnerable sections of the population by the Centre and States, Performance of these schemes;
S	Issues relating to development and management of social sector / services relating to education and human resources;
T	Issues relating to development and management of social sector / services relating to health
General Studies Paper III	
A	Indian Economy and issues relating to planning, mobilization of resources, growth, development and employment;
B	Effects of liberalization on the economy, changes in industrial policy and their effects on industrial growth;
C	Inclusive growth and issues arising from it;
D	Infrastructure Energy, Ports, Roads, Airports, Railways etc. Government budgeting;
E	Land reforms in India
F	Major crops, cropping patterns in various parts of the country, different types of irrigation and irrigation systems;
G	Storage, transport and marketing of agricultural produce and issues and related constraints;
H	e-technology in the aid of farmers; Technology Missions; Economics of Animal-Rearing.
I	Issues of buffer stocks and food security, Public Distribution System- objectives, functioning, limitations, revamping;
J	Food processing and related industries in India – scope and significance, location, upstream and downstream requirements, supply chain management;
K	Issues related to direct and indirect farm subsidies and minimum support prices
L	Awareness in the fields of IT, Space, Computers, robotics, nano-technology, bio-technology;
M	Indigenization of technology and developing new technology;
N	Developments and their applications and effects in everyday life;
O	Issues relating to intellectual property rights
P	Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation, environmental impact assessment
Q	Disaster and disaster management
R	Challenges to internal security through communication networks, role of media and social networking sites in internal security challenges, basics of cyber security;
S	Money-laundering and its prevention;

T	Various forces and their mandate;
U	Security challenges and their management in border areas;
V	Linkages of organized crime with terrorism;
W	Role of external state and non-state actors in creating challenges to internal security;
X	Linkages between development and spread of extremism.
General Studies Paper IV	
A	Ethics and Human Interface: Essence, determinants and consequences of Ethics in human actions;
B	Dimensions of ethics;
C	Ethics in private and public relationships. Human Values - lessons from the lives and teachings of great leaders, reformers and administrators;
D	Role of family, society and educational institutions in inculcating values.
E	Attitude: Content, structure, function; its influence and relation with thought and behaviour;
F	Moral and political attitudes;
G	Social influence and persuasion.
H	Aptitude and foundational values for Civil Service , integrity, impartiality and non-partisanship, objectivity, dedication to public service, empathy, tolerance and compassion towards the weaker sections.
I	Emotional intelligence-concepts, and their utilities and application in administration and governance.
J	Contributions of moral thinkers and philosophers from India and world.
K	Public/Civil service values and Ethics in Public administration: Status and problems;
L	Ethical concerns and dilemmas in government and private institutions;
M	Laws, rules, regulations and conscience as
N	sources of ethical guidance;
O	Accountability and ethical governance; strengthening of ethical and moral values in governance; ethical issues in international relations and funding;
P	Corporate governance.
Q	Probity in Governance: Concept of public service;
R	Philosophical basis of governance and probity;
S	Information sharing and transparency in government, Right to Information, Codes of Ethics, Codes of Conduct, Citizen's Charters, Work culture, Quality of service delivery, Utilization of public funds, challenges of corruption.
T	Case Studies on above issues.