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CURRENT AFFAIRS

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BRU REFUGEES

This article covers "Daily Current Affairs" and the topic details "Bru refugees". This topic has relevance in the "Social Issues" section of the UPSC CSE exam.

For Prelims:

Who are Bru refugees?

For Mains:

GS1: Society

Why in the news?

For the first time, Bru refugees will not vote in Mizoram elections since they have been permanently settled in Tripura through a Central government-sponsored program.

Bru Tribe

- The Brus, also known as Reangs, are an indigenous community primarily residing in Northeast India, notably in **Tripura, Mizoram, and Assam**.
- In Tripura, they hold the status of a **Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG)**, a designation by the government for tribes facing heightened vulnerability within the tribal community.
- The Brus speak the Reang dialect of the Kokborok language, which is locally referred to as Kau Bru.
- Their Hojagiri folk dance is well-known all over the world. 'Buisu' is the most famous festival of the Reang tribes.

Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG)

- PVTG is a classification designed to identify tribal communities with heightened vulnerability within the broader tribal population.
- These groups exhibit specific characteristics, including:
 - Pre-Agricultural Technology
 - Stagnant or Declining Population
 - Extremely Low Literacy
 - Subsistence Economy
- These communities often reside in remote areas with limited infrastructure and administrative support.
- As of 2011, there are 75 PVTGs dispersed across 18 states and one Union Territory in India.

Bru-Reang Refugee Crisis

- The crisis dates back to the late 1990s when violence and ethnic tensions between the Bru and the majority Mizos led to the displacement of thousands of Bru people from Mizoram state.
- The Bru-Reang Refugee Crisis has fueled since 1997, with over 40,000 Brus taking refuge in six camps in northern Tripura's Kanchanpur sub-division following ethnic violence in neighbouring Mizoram.
- These refugee camps were initially intended to be temporary, but due to the protracted nature of the crisis, the displaced population has remained in these camps for over two decades.

Rehabilitation of Brus

- In June 2018, leaders of the Bru camps agreed with the Centre and the two state governments to enable repatriation to Mizoram. However, many camp residents rejected the terms of the agreement, citing concerns about their safety in Mizoram.
- Subsequently, a **quadripartite agreement** was inked in **January 2020**, involving the **Centre, the state governments of Tripura and Mizoram, and representatives of the Bru-Reang community**. This agreement was designed to **facilitate the permanent settlement of Bru refugees in Tripura**.
- According to the terms of this pact, each refugee family is entitled to receive a designated plot of land, a fixed deposit of Rs. 4 lakh, complimentary rations, and a monthly stipend of Rs. 5,000 for two years. Additionally, each family will receive Rs. 1.5 lakh for the construction of their houses.

Sources: For the first time, Bru refugees to have no participation in Mizoram Assembly polls – The Hindu

Q1. With reference to Bru Tribe, consider the following statements:

1. They are an indigenous tribe primarily residing in Tripura, Mizoram, and Assam.
2. Bihu is the most famous festival of the Reang tribes.
3. The recent agreement facilitated the permanent settlement of Bru refugees in Mizoram.

Which of the statements given above is/are NOT correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 3 only
- (d) None

Answer: (b)

Q2. Consider the following:

1. Post- Agricultural Technology
2. Stagnant or Increasing Population
3. Extremely Low Literacy
4. Subsistence Economy

How many of the characteristics of a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG) are mentioned above?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Only three

(d) All four
Answer: (b)

Gaurav Nikumbh

JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

This article covers "Daily Current Affairs" and the topic details "Jehovah's Witnesses". This topic has relevance in the Art and Culture section of the UPSC CSE exam.

For Prelims:

About Jehovah's Witnesses?

For Mains:

GS 1: Art and Culture

Jehovah's Witnesses in India?

Why in the news?

About Jehovah's Witnesses:

- Jehovah's Witnesses are a Christian sect with distinct beliefs, differing from mainstream Christianity, particularly in their rejection of the Holy Trinity.

Origins:

- The origins of Jehovah's Witnesses can be traced back to a Bible Student movement initiated in the 1870s by American pastor Charles Taze Russell.
- Today, the Governing Body of Jehovah's Witnesses is headquartered in Warwick, New York.

Aspect	Jehovah's Witnesses
STRUCTURE	
Clergy Class	They have no clergy class.
Financial Support	Elders, teachers, and missionaries are unsalaried. All activities are supported by anonymous donations. They do not tithe or collect money at their places of worship (Kingdom Halls).
Political Neutrality	They remain neutral with regard to politics and advocate peace, not participating in warfare.
Global Unity	They are globally united in their faith and Bible-based beliefs, with no social, ethnic, racial, or class divisions. They are not affiliated with any other religion, whether Catholic, Orthodox, or Protestant.
DOCTRINE	
Belief in God	They believe in one true God, whose name is Jehovah.
Belief in Jesus	They do not believe that Jesus Christ is Almighty God or in the Trinity doctrine. They follow the teachings of Jesus and honor him as the Son of God.

Religious Symbols	They do not venerate the cross, nor do they use idols in their worship.
Belief in Hell	They do not believe in a fiery hell where all bad people go after death.
Eternal Life Belief	They believe that God will bless obedient mankind with perfect everlasting life in an earthly paradise.
Christianity Claim	Jehovah's Witnesses believe that they have successfully reestablished first-century Christianity, the form of Christianity that Jesus' apostles practiced.

Practices and Festivals:

- Jehovah's Witnesses do not celebrate Christmas or Easter, as they view these festivals as influenced by Pagan traditions.
- Paganism refers to a group of contemporary religions rooted in reverence for nature and often linked to indigenous traditions.

Evangelical Work:

- Jehovah's Witnesses are known for their evangelical work, emphasizing the importance of belief in Jesus Christ and the study of the Bible.
- They engage in door-to-door outreach to spread what they refer to as "The Truth."

End-Times Belief:

- They believe that the end of the world is imminent and anticipate the Kingdom of God replacing human governments to fulfill God's purpose for the earth.

Jehovah's Witnesses in India:

- Jehovah's Witnesses have had a presence in India since 1905.
- They established an office in Mumbai (formerly Bombay) in 1926 and obtained legal registration in 1978.

Supreme Court Verdict:

- A significant legal case involving Jehovah's Witnesses in India was *Bijoe Emmanuel vs. State of Kerala*. In 1986, the Supreme Court ruled in favor of three children from the sect who refused to sing the National Anthem at their school.
- The court held that compelling them to participate violated their fundamental right to freedom of religion under Article 25 of the Indian Constitution.

Source:

Who are Jehovah's Witnesses (indianexpress.com)

Q.1 Which of the following statements about Jehovah's Witnesses is/are correct?

1. Jehovah's Witnesses originated in India in the 19th century.
2. They believe in the doctrine of the Holy Trinity.

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

ANSWER: D

Q.2 Consider the following statements about Jehovah's Witnesses:

1. It is a sect of Judaism
2. They consider the Bible as their ultimate holy scripture.
3. They do not consider Jesus Christ as a God.

How many of the above statement/s is/are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

ANSWER: B

Rishabh



Yojna IAS
योजना है तो सफलता है