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## DAILY NEWS DIARY

Of

**18.11.2021**

# FOR PRELIMS AND MAINS

Warm Greetings.

- DnD aims to provide every day news analysis in sync with the UPSC pattern.
- It is targeted at UPSC – Prelims & Mains.
- Daily articles are provided in the form of Question and Answers
- To have a bank of mains questions.
- And interesting to read.
- Providing precise information that can be carried straight to the exam, rather than over dumping.

Enjoy reading.

THE HINDU - TH  
INDIAN EXPRESS - IE  
BUSINESS LINE - BL  
ECONOMIC TIMES - ET  
TIMES OF INDIA - TOI



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## ESSAY PAPER

### Editorial

#### **Q- Discuss India's Naval Ambition's and the imminent threats in the Indo-pacific?**

**INTRODUCTION** = With China flexing its muscle in the Indo-Pacific and acquiring the world's largest navy, there's no denying that the most consequential strategic battles of this century will play out on the high seas. This means that India needs to reorient its military – which has traditionally been focussed on land-based forces – to boost its naval prowess. Against this backdrop, it's welcome that the Indian navy aims to become a 170-warship force from its current strength of 130 warships over the next decade. This is absolutely crucial to protect India's maritime boundaries and cultivate force projection capabilities to counter China's aggressive tactics – exploiting Beijing's Malacca Strait Achilles' heel depends on it.



However, the pace of India's naval modernisation leaves a lot to be desired. The initial plan was for a 200-plus naval force, including both warships and submarines. This was scaled down to 170 warships by 2027. The new plan extends that time by at least another five years. In contrast, China already has 355 warships including at least 50 conventional and 10 nuclear submarines. India currently has just one nuclear-powered submarine with nuclear-tipped ballistic missiles, the INS Arihant. Therefore, the question is if India's pace and scope of naval modernisation are enough.

Considering that China is estimated to acquire 460 warships by 2030 and now poses a collusive threat with Pakistan – to whom it recently transferred its largest and most advanced warship – India can't afford to lag behind. True, the target of 170 warships for the Indian navy seems doable given that 39 naval ships and submarines are already under construction in various Indian shipyards. Additionally, two more of our warships are under construction in Russia. But the time taken from contract signing to commissioning of warships is still 8-10 years. This time frame needs to be drastically cut along with faster approvals and enhanced budgetary allocation for the navy. The strategic parts of Asia are seascapes. India must strengthen its sea-legs.

## GS 1

### ❖ History

**Q- Comment on the significance of Sabz Burj adding to India's Art and Architecture Glory?**

**BACKGROUND** = Hidden in plain sight on a traffic island on Mathura Road, with an estimated 60 lakh vehicles passing by annually, is one of Delhi's earliest Mughal-era monuments— Sabz Burj.



It has been conserved and restored over the last four years using traditional materials and building-craft techniques favoured by 16th Century craftsmen.

### Immense significance

1. The tomb, which was built in 1530, does not have any markings pointing to the identity of those buried under it.
2. However, it is of immense significance due to the ceiling on its double dome structure painted in pure gold and lapis and revealed after conservation efforts began.
3. It is thought to be the earliest surviving painted ceiling for any monument in India.
4. Conservationists believe that the painting on the ceiling that has floral motifs predates similar work that was seen in miniature paintings and textiles from the Mughal era and was covered with plaster sometime in 20th Century, when the structure was used as a police station.

ARCHITECTURE			
Subz Burj is octagonal tomb with four wide and four narrow sides located to the west of Humayun's tomb.	Built on Central Asian tradition, this pre-Mughal lack features such as <i>gulāstas</i> (ornamental pinnade) , <i>chhajjas</i> (overhanging eaves) and <i>chhatris</i> (domed pavilion)		
High drummed double dome was first of its kind in Delhi	The tomb was built shortly after the Mughal armies defeated the Lodi Afghan dynasty in AD 1526	A broken wood plank and hole in the centre of the upper dome suggest it must have a finial, which is now missing.	Timurid artwork on its ceiling is buried under layers of cement mortar put during its restoration in 1920s.
WORK TO BE DONE			
Foundation is to be stabilised	Repair of cracks on the dome	Removal of modern day cement mortar	Installation of tiles and fresh lime plastering
Restoration of missing sandstone lattice screens	Ceiling paintings to be restored with experts' help	Facade's plasterwork patterns to be preserved	

The missing glazed tiles on the dome and the tall, elongated drum on which it rests have been restored to its original turquoise-blue hue. The original tiles that remain have been preserved even though they have lost the glaze.

The monument stands at the entrance to Humayun's Tomb and would have originally stood within an enclosed garden. The conservation works have been undertaken with the support of Havells by the Aga Khan Trust for Culture in partnership with the ASI. It has been done in a way to ensure the authenticity of material, form and design while ensuring the integrity of the monument is retained for future centuries.

The tomb has been illuminated at night and is open for visitors.

## Snippets

### ❖ Art & Culture

**Q- Where is the Gurdwara Darbar Sahib located and why is it in recent news?**

**BACKGROUND** = Pilgrims from India went to Gurdwara Darbar Sahib across the International Border in Pakistan's Narowal district across Ravi river through the Kartarpur corridor as it was reopened after 20 months.

- The movement of devotees to Kartarpur via the corridor was suspended in March 2020 due to the COVID-19 outbreak.



- The Union Government had announced the reopening of the corridor ahead of “Prakash Purb” (birth anniversary) of Guru Nanak Dev.
- The Land Port Authority of India said the pilgrims were given a warm send-off at the Integrated Check Post (ICP) gate at Dera Baba Nanak in Punjab’s Gurdaspur district.
- Officials at the Passenger Terminal Building were facilitating the travel of pilgrims through the corridor. The ICP checkpost was set up in 2019.

## KARTARPUR CORRIDOR

■ Kartarpur Sahib Gurdwara, situated in Narowal district of Pakistan’s Punjab province, is a historic site where Guru Nanak Dev lived last 18 years of his life till 1539

■ The shrine, one of the holiest for Sikhs, is now be open for round-the-year pilgrimage by Indian devotees through a special corridor

■ Opening of the corridor coincides with the 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak

■ The Corridor links Dera Baba Nanak on the Indian side and Kartarpur Sahib, situated 4.5 km from the Indian border.

■ Under an agreement between India and Pakistan signed on October 24, up to 5,000 pilgrims



can visit the shrine every day. The number may go up to 10,000 on special occasions

■ India will share the list of pilgrims 10 days before their visit. Pakistan will verify the list and finalise it four days before their visit.

■ The pilgrims will require passport for undertaking the

pilgrimage

■ The pilgrims will have to return to India the same day they undertake the pilgrimage

■ Pakistan has levied \$20 on every pilgrim as service fee although the understanding was that it will be a free pilgrimage

■ India has been urging Pakistan to waive this fee

■ In Punjab, various developmental works worth more than ₹3,200 crore have been initiated across the state by the government led by Amarinder Singh

■ Special projects are being undertaken in 70 villages and towns visited by Guru Nanak Dev

IANS GRAPHICS

Guru Nanak Dev spent the last 18 years of his life in Kartarpur.



Consider the following statements:

**Assertion (A):** Democracy remains democracy only as long as every citizen has a chance of being in majority at some point of time.

**Reason (R):** If someone is barred from being in majority at all points of time, on the basis of birth, caste, religion, etc., then the democratic rule ceases to be accommodative for that person or group.

In the context of the statements above, which of these is correct?

- a. A and R both are correct, and R is the correct explanation for A.
- b. A and R both are correct, and R is NOT the correct explanation for A.
- c. A is correct, R is incorrect.
- d. A is incorrect, R is correct.



Q- The 'Sovereignty' of India means?

- 1. No external power can dictate the government of India.
- 2. Citizens cannot be discriminated against on any grounds.
- 3. There is absolute freedom of speech and expression for Indian citizens.
- 4. All citizens have equal economic rights.

Select the correct answer using the codes below:

- a. 1, 2 and 3 only
- b. 1 only
- c. 3 and 4 only
- d. 2 and 4 only

**Answer: b**

**Explanation:**

**Statement 1:** Sovereignty simply implies that India is a state that takes its own decisions ultimately guided by the people. No external agency dictates terms to India. So, 1 is correct.

**Statement 2:** However, the notion of sovereignty does not seep into the framework of all democratic rights. For example, a sovereign state may very well discriminate between its citizens, like in Pakistan where it did with all non-Muslims. **Statement 3:** Same applies for freedom of speech and expression. A sovereign state may very well restrict freedom of speech, as it is not an absolute right, even though it is vital to a democracy. **Statement 4:** This is only possible in an economic democracy



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