

14/04/2024

TOPICS COVERED

1. Why is there a WHO alert on viral hepatitis? (14 April) (GS Paper III: Basic Science)
2. How did the law on disclosure of assets evolve? (14 April) (GS Paper II: Electoral Reform)



Why is there a WHO alert on viral hepatitis? (14 April) (GS Paper III: Basic Science)

What are the findings in the Global Hepatitis Report 2024? Why does India have such a high disease load of hepatitis B and C? Is the increasing prevalence of non-viral forms of the disease, like alcoholic liver disease and non-alcoholic fatty liver disease, adding to the burden?

Hepatitis B

- A viral infection that attacks the liver, causing inflammation.

HEPATITIS B

Hepatitis B is viral infection that affects the liver, transmitted through blood or bodily fluids, which can cause liver inflammation and damage if left untreated.

SYMPTOMS

- Fever
- Jaundice
- Dark urine, pale poop
- Nausea and vomiting
- Pain in the right side of the abdomen
- Headache
- Hives
- Joint Pain
- Weakness, fatigue
- Losing your appetite

- Can be either acute (short-term) or chronic (long-lasting).
- Chronic hepatitis B significantly increases the risk of liver damage, **cirrhosis (scarring), liver cancer, and liver failure.**

Transmission:

ROUTES OF TRANSMISSION

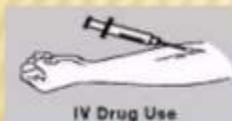
1) Vertical transmission



2) Sexual transmission



3) Parenteral transmission



- **Bodily Fluids:** Hepatitis B is found in blood, semen, vaginal fluids, and other bodily fluids of infected individuals. Transmission occurs through:
 - Sexual Contact (especially unprotected)
 - Sharing needles, syringes, or other injection drug equipment
 - Sharing personal items contaminated with blood (razors, toothbrushes)
 - Birth (from infected mother to child)

Symptoms:

- **Acute Hepatitis B:** Many people have no symptoms.
- **Chronic Hepatitis B:** May show no symptoms for years, or mild ones easily mistaken for other conditions. Significant liver damage can occur before symptoms appear.

Diagnosis:

- **Blood tests** are used to detect specific markers indicating past or current infection with the hepatitis B virus.

Prevention:

- **Vaccination:** The best protection. A safe and highly effective vaccine is available for all age groups. The vaccine series typically starts at birth and is completed over several months.
- **Safe Practices:**
 - Avoid sharing personal items
 - Practice safe sex.
 - Use only sterile needles and syringes for injections.

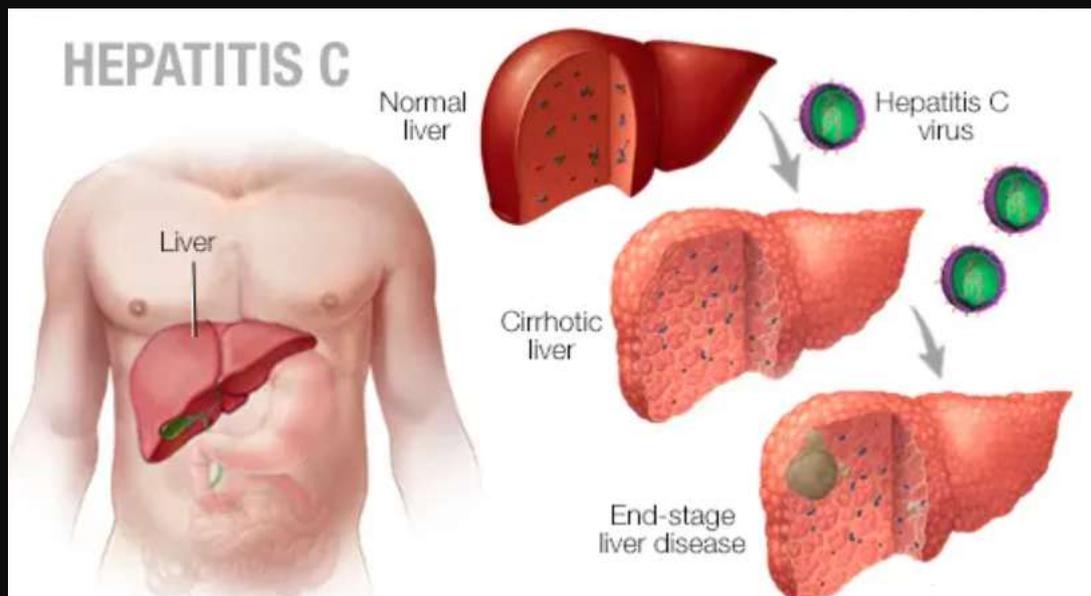
Treatment:

- **Acute Hepatitis B:** Often no specific treatment is needed as the body clears the infection on its own.
- **Chronic Hepatitis B:** Antiviral medications can suppress the virus, slowing liver damage progression and reducing liver cancer risk. Treatment might be lifelong. Individuals with chronic hepatitis B require regular monitoring by a doctor.

- Global Hepatitis Burden: **India ranked second in viral hepatitis disease burden after China.**
- **WHO Report:** World Health Organization released the **Global Hepatitis Report 2024.**
- India's Share: Accounted for **11.6% of the total global burden of viral hepatitis diseases.**
- Key Countries: India, along with Bangladesh, China, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Nigeria, Pakistan, the Philippines, Russia, and Vietnam, carry around **two-thirds of hepatitis B and C burden.**
- It highlights the significant impact of viral hepatitis in India and other key countries on a global scale.

What does the report highlight?

- Viral hepatitis is the **second leading infectious cause of death worldwide, with 1.3 million deaths annually, equating to tuberculosis.**
- **Increase in Deaths:** From 2019 to 2022, the estimated number of deaths from viral hepatitis rose from 1.1 million to 1.3 million.
- **Main Causes:** 83% of deaths were due to hepatitis B, and 17% due to hepatitis C.



- **Daily Deaths:** Approximately 3,500 people die daily worldwide from hepatitis B and C infections.
- **Age Distribution:** Half of the burden is among individuals aged 30-54, with 12% among children under 18.
- **Gender Disparity:** Men account for 58% of all hepatitis cases.

Causative Virus:

- **Hepatitis B:** Caused by the Hepatitis B virus (HBV), which is a DNA virus belonging to the Hepadnaviridae family.
- **Hepatitis C:** Caused by the Hepatitis C virus (HCV), which is an RNA virus belonging to the Flaviviridae family.

Transmission:

- **Hepatitis B:** Transmitted through contact with infected blood, semen, or other body fluids. It can also be transmitted from an infected mother to her baby during childbirth.
- **Hepatitis C:** Primarily transmitted through contact with infected blood. Common modes of transmission include sharing needles or syringes among injection drug users, receiving contaminated blood transfusions or organ transplants, and less commonly, through sexual contact or from an infected mother to her baby during childbirth.

Acute vs. Chronic Infection:

- **Hepatitis B:** Infection may be acute (short-term) or chronic (long-term). Most adults clear the virus within six months of infection, but around 5-10% develop chronic Hepatitis B, which can lead to serious liver problems such as cirrhosis or liver cancer.
- **Hepatitis C:** Infection typically becomes chronic, with around 75-85% of people developing chronic Hepatitis C. Chronic infection can lead to liver damage over time, increasing the risk of cirrhosis, liver failure, or liver cancer.

Treatment:

- **Hepatitis B:** Treatment aims to manage symptoms and reduce the risk of complications. Antiviral medications such as entecavir and tenofovir are commonly used to suppress the virus in chronic cases. In some cases, a liver transplant may be necessary.
- **Hepatitis C:** Hepatitis C can often be cured with antiviral medications known as direct-acting antivirals (DAAs). These medications have high cure rates, typically over 95%, and are taken for a specified duration (usually 8 to 12 weeks).

Vaccination:

- **Hepatitis B:** A safe and effective vaccine is available to prevent Hepatitis B infection. It involves a series of shots administered over several months and is recommended for all infants at birth and for individuals at increased risk of infection.
- **Hepatitis C:** Currently, there is no vaccine available for Hepatitis C. Prevention focuses on avoiding behaviors that may lead to transmission, such as sharing needles or having unprotected sex with an infected person.

What is hepatitis?

- It is inflammation of the liver caused by infectious viruses and non-infectious agents.
- **Types:** There are five main strains: A, B, C, D, and E, **each differing in transmission, severity, and distribution.**
- **Chronic Disease:** Types B and C can lead to chronic illness, liver cirrhosis, liver cancer, and viral hepatitis-related deaths.
- An estimated **354 million people worldwide live with hepatitis B or C**, with treatment often inaccessible.

Why is India vulnerable?

- Reasons for high number of hepatitis cases:
 - High population density
 - Lack of awareness about symptoms, screening, and treatment
 - Limited access to good hygiene practices
- High prevalence of chronic viral hepatitis B and C infections:
 - Often asymptomatic for decades
 - Lack of widespread screening and awareness leads to undiagnosed cases
 - Undiagnosed cases perpetuate transmission, increasing disease burden
- Rising non-viral forms of hepatitis:
 - Alcoholic Liver Disease (ALD) and Non-Alcoholic Fatty Liver Disease (NAFLD) increasing
 - High alcohol consumption in urban areas contributes to ALD cases
 - Obesity, metabolic disorders, sedentary lifestyles, and dietary changes fuel NAFLD epidemic
- Gender disparity:
 - Men report a larger number of cases due to high-risk behaviors
 - High-risk behaviors include IV drug use, sharing injections, multiple sex partners, and male-to-male sex

How can it be prevented?

- Hepatitis B can be prevented with vaccination.
- Hepatitis C is curable with medication.
- India produces generic drugs, reducing treatment costs.
- Government offers vaccines to high-risk adults.
- Treatment for hepatitis B and C is available under the National Viral Hepatitis Control Program (NVHCP). It was launched by the Government of India on July 28, 2018.
- NVHCP aims to provide free diagnostic and treatment services to patients, raise awareness about viral hepatitis.
- Hepatitis B vaccine rollout began in 2002-2003.
- Chronic Hepatitis B vaccine included in childhood immunization program in 2011-12.

Why is the report significant?

- The report is the first comprehensive WHO report on viral hepatitis.
- It includes **data from 187 countries** on disease burden and service coverage.
- **Only 13% of people with chronic hepatitis B were diagnosed globally.**
- **Approximately 3% (7 million) received antiviral therapy for hepatitis B by 2022.**
- For hepatitis C, 36% were diagnosed, and 20% (12.5 million) received curative treatment.
- These figures are far below the global targets for 2030, which aim to treat **80% of hepatitis B and C cases.**
- However, there has been slight improvement in diagnosis and treatment coverage since 2019.

What is the way forward?

- **Mother to child transmission** is a major cause of new hepatitis infections.
- Eliminating hepatitis B in India requires **comprehensive treatment, immunization of newborns, and ending discrimination against patients.**
- **Many countries fail to procure affordable generic hepatitis medicines.**
- **Pricing disparities** exist both across and within WHO regions.
- Service delivery for hepatitis remains centralized and vertical, leading to out-of-pocket expenses for patients.
- The report outlines actions to advance public health approaches to hepatitis and accelerate progress towards ending the epidemic by 2030.
- These actions include expanding access to testing and diagnostics, implementing policies for equitable treatment, strengthening prevention efforts, and improving funding at global and national levels.

Which one of the following statements is not correct?

(UPSC 2019)

- (a) Hepatitis B virus is transmitted much like HIV.
- (b) Hepatitis B, unlike Hepatitis C, does not have a vaccine.
- (c) Globally, the number of people infected with Hepatitis B and C viruses are several times more than those infected with HIV.
- (d) Some of those infected with Hepatitis B and C viruses do not show the symptoms for many years.

How did the law on disclosure of assets evolve? (14 April) (GS Paper II: Electoral Reform)

What is the Supreme Court ruling? What principle emerges from it?
What is the penalty for omission of assets?

- Recent developments have highlighted disclosure norms for candidates in election law.
- One incident involves the BJP candidate in the **Thiruvananthapuram Lok Sabha constituency, Rajeev Chandrasekhar**, allegedly failing to report all his assets in the mandatory affidavit.
- Another incident involves the **Supreme Court's observation (in Lok Prahari vs. Union of India & Others case, 2015)** that candidates have a right to privacy and may not need to disclose every minor detail.

What is the law related to disclosure?

- In 2002, a landmark Supreme Court judgment (**in Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) vs. Union of India (UOI)" (2002)**) mandated that prospective candidates disclose their criminal history, educational qualifications, and assets and liabilities, including those of their spouses and dependents.
- The Election Commission of India (ECI) issued rules in June 2002 to implement this judgment.
- However, the Central government attempted to limit these disclosures through an **ordinance amending the Representation of the People Act, 1951, in August 2002.**
- This amendment introduced **Sections 33A (related to disclosure of pending criminal cases), Section 33B (which nullified additional disclosures beyond what was prescribed in the Act), and Section 125A (imposing penalties for failure to disclose or false disclosure).**
- The ordinance and subsequent amendment were challenged in court.
- **On March 13, 2003, the Supreme Court struck down Section 33B, reinstating the disclosure requirements for assets and liabilities and educational qualifications.**
- The ECI issued revised instructions and disclosure formats based on the court's judgment.

What are the consequences of any omission?

- Section 125A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, stipulates a penalty for candidates who fail to disclose required information or provide false information or conceal relevant details.
- The penalty includes a six-month prison term, a fine, or both.
- Failure to disclose or providing false information can also lead to a legal challenge to a candidate's election in the High Court.
- Two grounds relevant to such challenges are outlined in Section 100 of the Act.

- An election can be declared void if there is "improper acceptance of any nomination" or "any non-compliance with the provisions of the Constitution or of this Act or of any rules or orders made under this Act."
- Unsuccessful candidates can contest the acceptance of the nomination of the winning candidate based on concealment or false information and raise concerns about potential violations of statutory disclosure requirements.

What is the latest court ruling?

- Karikho Kri won a seat in the Arunachal Pradesh Assembly in 2019 as an independent candidate.
- His election was contested by Congress candidate Nuney Tayang.
- Tayang claimed that Kri had not fully disclosed his movable assets, specifically vehicles registered under his family members' names.
- In "**Nuney Tayang vs. Karikho Kri**" (2019) case, the High Court of Assam, Nagaland, Mizoram, and Arunachal Pradesh ruled in favor of Tayang, declaring Kri's election void.
- **The Supreme Court overturned the High Court's decision, stating that the non-disclosure of assets did not substantially impact the election outcome.**
- It was found that the vehicles in question had been sold or gifted before the election, and Kri had no outstanding dues related to government accommodation.
- Kri had provided a "No Dues" certificate in 2014 when contesting a previous election, and a similar certificate was presented during the 2019 nomination process.

What is the takeaway from the verdict?

- The Supreme Court stated that candidates are not required to disclose every detail of their life to voters.
- **It emphasized that candidates only need to disclose significant movable property or items that reflect their lifestyle and may be of interest to voters.**
- **However, the court clarified that there is no fixed rule for what constitutes a substantial omission, and it depends on the circumstances of each case.**
- The decision highlighted that the voter's right to know has limits and does not extend to every minor detail of a candidate's life.

MAINS PRACTICE QUESTION: GS PAPER II: Electoral Reform

Question: Discuss the evolution of the law on disclosure of assets in electoral processes in India. Examine the key judicial interventions and legislative measures that have shaped the current legal framework. (250 words/15 marks)

ANSWER APPROACH

- Briefly introduce the answer by evolution of the law on disclosure of assets in electoral processes in India.
- Further discuss the Consequences of Omission or False Disclosure.
- Then bring the Nuney Tayang vs. Karikho Kri" (2019) case and its Implications:
- Finally conclude by emphasizing the importance of continuous review and refinement of disclosure norms to uphold democratic principles and electoral fairness.

ANSWER

The evolution of the law on disclosure of assets in electoral processes in India reflects the nation's commitment to transparency and accountability in governance. Over the years, judicial interventions and legislative measures have shaped the current legal framework to ensure that voters have access to essential information about candidates standing for elections.

Evolution of the Law on Disclosure of Assets:

- The journey began with the landmark Supreme Court judgment in "Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) vs. Union of India (UOI)" (2002), which mandated prospective candidates to disclose their criminal history, educational qualifications, and assets and liabilities, including those of their spouses and dependents.
- The Election Commission of India (ECI) subsequently issued rules in June 2002 to implement these disclosure requirements.
- However, attempts by the Central government to limit disclosures through legislative amendments were met with legal challenges.

Consequences of Omission or False Disclosure:

- Section 125A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, prescribes penalties for candidates failing to disclose required information or providing false information.
- These penalties include a six-month prison term, a fine, or both.
- Moreover, failure to disclose or providing false information can lead to a legal challenge to a candidate's election in the High Court, based on grounds outlined in Section 100 of the Act.

Latest Court Ruling and its Implications:

- In the case of "Nuney Tayang vs. Karikho Kri" (2019), the High Court ruled in favor of Tayang, declaring Kri's election void due to non-disclosure of movable assets.
- However, the Supreme Court overturned this decision, emphasizing that candidates are not required to disclose every detail of their life to voters.
- The verdict underscored the importance of candidates disclosing significant movable property or items of interest to voters while respecting their privacy rights.

The evolution of the law on disclosure of assets in electoral processes reflects India's commitment to promoting transparency and accountability in governance. While judicial interventions and legislative measures have enhanced disclosure norms, the recent Supreme Court ruling highlights the need to strike a balance between transparency and privacy rights of candidates. Continuous review and refinement of disclosure norms are essential to uphold democratic principles and ensure electoral integrity.

The world's first general purpose computer

(14 April)

It was in April 1943 that the proposal for an electronic computer, which would go on to become the world's first general purpose

computer, was submitted. A.S.Ganesh takes a look at the ENIAC and the women and men who made it tick...

ENIAC

- **Electronic Numerical Integrator and Computer (ENIAC) was the first programmable, electronic, general-purpose digital computer.**
- **Historical Significance:** A landmark technological achievement that paved the way for modern computers.

Key Facts:

- **Project Development:** Funded by the US Army and constructed at the University of Pennsylvania's Moore School of Electrical Engineering.
- **Development Team:** Led primarily by J. Presper Eckert and John Mauchly, with crucial contributions from many others.
- **Time Period:** Construction began in 1943 and was completed in 1945. Publicly unveiled in February 1946.
- **Purpose:** Initially developed to calculate artillery firing tables for World War II.

Technical Capabilities:

- **Electronic and Digital:** Used vacuum tubes for fast calculations, a revolutionary departure from the electro-mechanical computers of its time.
- **Programmable:** Could be reconfigured for different calculations, unlike earlier machines designed for single purposes.
- **Calculations:** Primarily performed addition and subtraction, along with multiplication, division, and square rooting operations.

Physical Characteristics:

- **Massive:** Filled a large room and weighed about 30 tons.
- **Thousands of Components:** Around 17,468 vacuum tubes, 7,200 crystal diodes, 10,000 capacitors, and numerous resistors and relays.

Legacy:

- **Technological Breakthrough:** Demonstrated the feasibility and potential of electronic computing at a much larger scale.
- **Foundation for Future Computers:** ENIAC's design principles influenced the development of subsequent computers, sparking the computer revolution.

- The term "computer" originally referred to humans who performed calculations.
- It did not have the meaning we associate with modern computers today.
- The shift in meaning occurred less than 100 years ago.

Military need

- In the 20th century, human computers worked in teams to solve complex math equations.
- Differential analysers were developed in the 1920s to automate solving differential equations for ballistics calculations.
- However, these devices were difficult to work with.
- During World War II, Allied forces faced new challenges in North Africa, requiring new firing tables due to unfamiliar terrain.
- The backlog of firing tables grew as requests exceeded computational capabilities.
- A military emergency prompted experimentation in electronic digital computation.

- Physicist John William Mauchly and engineer John Adam Presper Eckert Jr. seized the opportunity to develop electronic computers.

Memo turns into a proposal

- Mauchly and Eckert met at the Moore School of Electrical Engineering in 1941 and discussed electronic computing.
- Mauchly wrote a five-page memo titled "The Use of Vacuum Tube Devices in Calculating" in 1942.
- The memo was fast-tracked into a proposal for an "Electronic Diff. Analyzer" and submitted to the Ballistic Research Laboratory in early April 1943.
- A more detailed proposal was presented by the second week of April.
- An agreement was reached in May, and a contract was drawn up by early June.
- The ENIAC faced numerous technical challenges before it could be realized.
- Despite being conceived for the war effort, the machine was completed only after the end of World War II.

The ENIAC six

- Six women, previously working as computers, were crucial in programming the ENIAC.
- Their names were Kathleen Antonelli, Jean Bartik, Frances "Betty" Holberton, Marlyn Meltzer, Frances Spence, and Ruth Teitelbaum.
- Despite their significant contributions, their stories were largely forgotten until recent decades.
- They were not invited to the ENIAC's 50th anniversary.
- Due to the classified nature of their work, the programmers only had access to blueprints and were not allowed in the same room as the ENIAC.
- Using schematics and interviews with engineers, the women learned to design algorithms and adjust the ENIAC for calculations.
- They also became skilled at diagnosing problems with the ENIAC.

5,000 additions and 300 multiplications every second

- The ENIAC was built with over 17,000 vacuum tubes and weighed over 27,000 kg.
- It occupied a room of 1,500 square feet.
- Unveiled to the public on February 14, 1946, it could perform 5,000 additions and 300 multiplications per second.
- Despite being slower by today's standards, it was significantly faster than any existing machines at the time and about 10,000 times faster than a human computer.
- After the war, the ENIAC was used by the military for various calculations, including those for the design of a hydrogen bomb, weather forecasting, and random number studies.
- It remained in continuous operation for nearly 10 years until it was disconnected for the last time on October 2, 1955.

Joys and challenges of a joint family (14 April) (GS Paper I: Society)

Growing up in a household with grandparents can be a privilege indeed

- In a joint family, grandparents often have significant roles, with the grandmother typically making household decisions while the grandfather focuses on worldly affairs.
- The grandmother in this family is the primary decision-maker regarding cooking, shopping, following traditions, and maintaining relationships.
- The grandfather, on the other hand, is usually involved in financial matters and grooming his sons in the family's profession, such as farming or business.
- The narrator's grandmother was married at a young age, around 12 years old, and moved to her husband's home after two years, following the custom known as gowna.
- Despite the early marriage, the grandmother managed her household responsibilities well and even supervised agricultural work in the fields.
- The couple had several children, with the first child born when the grandmother was around 16 years old.
- Despite their different roles, the grandparents respected each other, and the narrator never heard them quarrel or have heated arguments.
- They resolved differences amicably, and the grandfather often consulted the grandmother on important matters.
- The grandmother was highly respected in the village, and other women sought her advice on personal and family matters.
- Her estimation of quantities for cooking during family functions was always accurate.
- The narrator's grandmother and mother had a mixed relationship, with occasional disagreements but ultimately moving past them.
- The family consisted of four siblings, two girls, and two boys, with the narrator being the younger daughter.
- Grandfather passed away when the narrator was in the final year of school, leaving grandmother as the authority figure in the household.
- Over time, grandmother's authority lessened as the children got married and the mother became a mother-in-law.
- The father advised the mother to ignore grandmother's unreasonable demands for the sake of peace.
- With age and changing family dynamics, grandmother began to recognize the authority of the younger generation, particularly her grandson.
- Despite aging and health issues such as a fractured leg and failing eyesight, grandmother remained reluctant to accept certain changes, such as wearing comfortable clothing or using spectacles.
- She preferred contact lenses over spectacles to avoid feeling old.

IRGC | Guardians of the revolution (14 April)

(GS Paper II: IR)

Iran's elite military wing, which has helped the Islamic Republic spread its influence across West Asia through a network of militias, is under pressure as several of its top commanders were killed by purported Israeli air strikes in Syria in recent months

- Gen. Mohammed Reza Zahedi was a high-ranking commander of the Quds Force, a branch of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) focused on operations outside Iran.
- He was experienced in military affairs, having served in the Iran-Iraq war, and was close to Qassem Soleimani, the former chief of the Quds Force who was killed by the U.S. in Baghdad in January 2020.
- Gen. Zahedi oversaw IRGC operations in Lebanon and Syria, where Iran has significant influence through support to Shia militias.
- On April 1, Gen. Zahedi and other IRGC figures were meeting with members of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad at Iran's embassy annex in Damascus, Syria.
- Their movements were tracked by Israel, leading to an airstrike on the embassy compound that killed Gen. Zahedi and his colleagues.
- Both Iran and Syria blamed Israel for the attack, although Israel neither confirmed nor denied its involvement.
- Gen. Zahedi's death was a significant loss for Iran, marking the highest-ranking military figure killed by enemy fire since Gen. Soleimani's assassination.
- Several other IRGC commanders have been killed in Israeli strikes in Syria recently, increasing tensions between Iran and Israel.
- Despite Iran's retaliatory missile strikes targeting alleged Mossad bases, Israel continued to target IRGC commanders, putting pressure on Iran to respond.

The rise

- The IRGC, or Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, was established in Iran after the 1979 revolution.
- Its main goal was to protect the revolutionary regime and its theocratic-constitutional system led by Ayatollah Khomeini.
- Initially created due to concerns about loyalty from Iran's regular Army, the IRGC later became a formidable force during the Iran-Iraq war from 1980 to 1988.
- Khomeini referred to the IRGC as "the soldiers of Islam," highlighting their allegiance to the clergy and the revolution.
- Alongside Iran's regular military, the IRGC operates to safeguard the revolutionary regime and influence foreign and security policies.

- Directly commanded by the Supreme Leader, the **IRGC consists of a military wing, an overseas operational unit called the Quds Force, and a civilian voluntary organization known as Basij.**
- The IRGC, according to the International Institute for Strategic Studies, commands around 190,000 trained soldiers, about half the size of Iran's regular forces.
- It comprises an Army, air force, and navy, with the navy considered particularly potent due to its control over Iran's maritime borders, including the vital **Strait of Hormuz.**
- In March 2007, the IRGC Navy's actions led to a diplomatic crisis between Iran and the U.K. when they detained 15 British sailors.
- The Quds Force focuses on liberating Muslim holy sites from occupation and building networks of Shia influence in West Asia.
- Hezbollah, Iran's powerful ally in the region, originated from an Islamic Resistance group formed in Lebanon after the Israeli invasion in 1982, with support from the IRGC.

Axis of resistance

- The Quds Force, led by Gen. Qassem Soleimani until his death in 2020, gained prominence for its role in supporting Shia resistance in Iraq against U.S. troops after the 2003 invasion.
- During the Syrian civil war, the Quds Force intervened to protect Shia holy sites and later fought alongside Syrian regime forces, along with Russia and Hezbollah, to bolster President Assad's regime.
- **Iran supports various Islamist militia groups in the region, forming what's known as the "axis of resistance," including Hamas, Islamic Jihad, Houthis, Hezbollah, and Shia mobilisation brigades in Iraq and Syria.**
- Maj. Gen. Hossein Salami currently leads the Quds Force, which operates under the command of the IRGC, designated as a terrorist entity by the U.S.
- Israel views Iran's regional influence as a security threat and seeks to counter it, leading to escalating tensions and shadow wars between the two countries.
- **The IRGC sees itself surrounded by rivals, including Sunni monarchies in the Gulf, Israel, and the U.S., which it refers to as the "Great Satan."**
- To protect Iran's revolution and overcome security challenges, the IRGC engages in asymmetric warfare through proxy battles, which have heightened tensions with Israel and brought the region close to open conflict.

Perfectly normal (14 April)

Our concerns with normalcy persist as we cross every milestone of life

- "Normal" signifies absence of conflicts, uncertainty, disease, and other disruptions.
- Sought after at every life stage for aspects like health, education, and relationships.
- Examples include concern for normal delivery at childbirth, medical check-ups, academic and career success, and financial stability.
- Parental expectations often transition from concern for child's normal development to pressure for achieving parental dreams.

- Desire for reasonable income flow rather than exceptional gains.
- Definition of "normal" evolves over time, influenced by societal norms and technology.
- Technology, like mobile phones and social media, simplifies communication and relationship management.
- Conclusion: Pursuit of "normal" varies across individuals and societies, with technology reshaping norms, particularly in communication and relationships.

PatrioticClas