

Current Affairs search results for tag: national

1. U.N. peacekeeping chief to visit India (Oct. 7, 2022)

UN peacekeeping chief **Jean-Pierre Lacroix** is on a visit to **India, the United Arab Emirates, Pakistan and Japan** from 6 October to 15 October.

Important facts

- He participated in a two-day meeting organized by the **Challenges Forum**, which brings together leading policy makers, practitioners and academics on key issues related to peacekeeping.
- India is one of the largest military contributors to its missions in **UN peacekeeping**.
- The purpose of Lacroix's visit is to review the countries' contributions to and support for UN peacekeeping and progress in enhancing the effectiveness of peacekeeping.
- The Challenge Forum (CAF) 22 was co-hosted by the organization's **Indian partner United Service Institution of India (USI)**.

About UN Peacekeeping

- UN peacekeeping began in **1948** when the UN Security Council authorized the deployment of UN military observers in the **Middle East**.
- It helps to bring countries from **conflict to a difficult path of peace**.
- It deploys soldiers and police from all over the world for peacekeeping.
- India is one of the largest military and police contributors to UN peacekeeping operations.
- There are currently more than **5,700 Indian peacekeepers** deployed in **nine of the 12 UN peacekeeping missions**.

2. UN Human Rights Council rejects debate on China's mistreatment of Uighur Muslims in Xinjiang (Oct. 7, 2022)

The **United Nations Human Rights Council** on 6 October voted against a Western-led resolution to discuss China's alleged human rights abuses against **Uighurs and other Muslims in Xinjiang**.

Important facts

- The vote was a **diplomatic victory for China**, proving that criticism of China's actions in **Xinjiang** was baseless, so the allegation was dismissed.
- The **US, Britain, Germany and other allies** proposed holding the debate, but **19 members** of the council voted **against** the resolution and **17 countries voted in favor** of the resolution, while **11 did not participate** in the vote.

- **India** also did not participate in the voting.
- **The 47-member council** is the apex human rights body of the United Nations.

Why was the motion brought up for debate?

- In August, the United Nations published a report concluding that the rampant arbitrary detentions of Uighurs and other Muslims in Xinjiang and "**serious human rights violations**" were occurring.
- The report also said Beijing's action could be a crime against humanity.
- The report detailed "**credible**" allegations of "**brutal, inhuman or degrading**" treatment, sexual and gender-based violence against detainees.

Who are Uighurs?

- There are about 12 million Uighurs living in **northwestern China**, mostly Muslims, in the region of Xinjiang.
- Uighurs speak their own language similar to **Turkish**.
- They see themselves culturally and ethnically closer to the **Central Asian countries**.
- Their population in Xinjiang is slightly less than half of the total population.

About Xinjiang

- It lies in the north-west of China and is the country's biggest region.
- It is a mostly desert region, which produces about a **fifth of the world's cotton**.
- It is also rich in oil and natural gas and Beijing sees it as an important trade link due to its proximity to Central Asia and Europe.

3. 30th Rapid Action Force Anniversary Parade in Hyderabad (Oct. 7, 2022)

Minister of State for Home **Ajay Kumar Mishra** attended the **30th Rapid Action Force Anniversary Parade** in **Hyderabad** on October 7.

Rapid Action Force

- It is a special force which was created in **October 1992** by converting **10 independent battalions of CRPF**.
- These units were formed for riots, riot-like situations, to build trust among all sections of the society and for internal security duty.
- It is the most reliable force that reaches the site without wasting time, in the shortest possible time when a crisis situation arises.

- This force is in possession of a **separate flag** which is a **symbol of peace**.
- This flag was presented by the then Deputy Prime Minister **Lal Krishna Advani on 7 October 2003** to commemorate the 11 years of the RAF's service to the nation.
- It is continuously training men and women jointly every year for **UN peacekeeping missions** in different countries (**Haiti, Kosovo, Liberia etc.**).
- There are **10 battalions** in this special force, which are battalion numbers **99 to 108 in CRPF**, they are headed by an Inspector General.
- Inspector-General of RAF - **Arun Kumar**

4. NHRC notice to Haryana govt over sewer deaths in Faridabad (Oct. 7, 2022)

The **National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)** has issued notices to **Haryana Chief Secretary** and **Director General of Police (DGP)** in connection with the death of four persons who died of toxic fumes while cleaning sewer tanks at a **private hospital in Haryana's Faridabad** district on October 6.

Important facts

- NHRC has taken **suo motu** cognizance of the news published in the media.
- The commission has issued a notice to the Haryana Chief Secretary and the Director General of Police, seeking a detailed report in four weeks.
- The commission has also sought a detailed report of the steps taken or the steps to be taken by the government to prevent gross violation of human rights of the poor and deprived people.
- The officers have also been directed to inform about the status of the FIR registered in the case and compensation, if any, to be given to the next of kin of the deceased persons.

National Human Rights Commission

- The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) of India was established on **12 October 1993** through an ordinance issued by the President.
- It was provided **statutory status** by the **The Protection of Human Rights Act (PHRA), 1993**.
- Headquarters - **New Delhi**
- Chairperson - **A retired Supreme Court Chief Justice** or a Supreme Court Judge can be appointed by the President as the Chairman of the NHRC.
- The First Chairman of NHRC - **Justice Ranganath Mishra**
- The Current and the **8th Chairman** of NHRC is **Justice Arun Kumar Mishra**

- Role - NHRC's role is to protect human rights and recommend measures for their effective implementation.
- MOTO of NHRC - "ॐ नमो भगवते वासुदेवाय / May all be happy."
- It has been taken from **Brihadāranyaka Upanishad**

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6. CDSCO takes up investigation on WHO's complaint for India-made cough syrups (Oct. 6, 2022)

After the **World Health Organization (WHO)** issued an alert on four **India-made cough syrups** used for pediatric groups, the **Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO)** has launched an immediate investigation in this regard.

Important facts

- Based on the available information, following the information received from WHO, CDSCO has started an immediate investigation of the matter with the State Regulatory Authorities.
- The pharmaceutical company **Madden Pharmaceuticals** is located in **Sonipat, Haryana**.
- It is worth noting that in the case of the death of 66 children in the African country of **Gambia**, 4 cough syrups manufactured in India are being considered as possible responsible.
- The United Nations agency World Health Organization (WHO) has issued an alert on 5 October regarding a cough-cold syrup made by Maiden Pharmaceutical Limited of India.
- WHO has advised not to use these syrups.

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8. Gujarat becomes first state to launch Gati Shakti Portal (Oct. 6, 2022)

Gujarat Chief Minister **Bhupendra Patel** launched the **Gati Shakti Portal** on 6 October and said that Gujarat is the first state in India to have launched Gati Shakti Port at the state level.

Important facts

- In order to rapidly expand the Internet service, the Gati Shakti Portal started by the Central Government was also started by the Gujarat Government.
- This portal has been started based on the guidance and guidelines of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- The portal has been developed by **Gujarat Infrastructure Development Board** in collaboration with **Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geo-informatics**.
- The portal will provide ease of doing business to the investors by bringing more transparency in governance. This will save time, money and logistics cost.
- It will integrate more than 500 layers of data from 21 state government departments and 52 sub-departments.
- Portal focuses on the speedy execution of infrastructure projects in the state.
- The main objective of this portal is to reduce red tapism.
- With the help of this, infrastructure projects will be accelerated.

PM Gati-Shakti Scheme

- **Gati Shakti Yojana** or '**National Master Plan for Multi-Modal Connectivity Plan**' was launched on 13 October 2021 for coordinated and execution of infrastructure projects to reduce logistics cost.
- It is a digital platform that will bring together **16 Ministries** including Railways and Roadways for integrated planning and coordinated implementation of infrastructure connectivity projects.
- This will help in overcoming long-standing issues such as inconsistent planning, lack of standardisation, problems related to clearances, and timely construction and utilization of infrastructure capabilities.
- This platform aims to prevent overlapping of works by addressing the issue of government departments working in tandem.

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10. OPEC Plus member countries cut oil production, US stockpiles fall (Oct. 6, 2022)

Representatives of **OPEC Plus member** countries met in Vienna on 5 October after two and a half years in which the member countries agreed to cut the amount of oil production by **two million barrels per day**.

Important facts

- This decision to cut production will come into effect from **November**.
- The US has criticized the cut in oil production quotas by the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and its allies.
- This move of OPEC will have the most negative impact on low and middle income countries.
- Earlier, OPEC countries had made a symbolic cut in production last month.

Why is OPEC Plus slashing production?

- Oil prices skyrocketed after Russia's invasion of Ukraine.
- The recent cut is the biggest since 2020 when OPEC Plus members cut production by 10 million bpd during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- This cut will boost oil prices and will be extremely beneficial for Middle Eastern member states.
- This will reduce oil demand in a faltering global economy and the cuts will increase profits.

About OPEC

- It is a permanent, intergovernmental organisation that was established in 1960 at the Baghdad Conference by Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela.
- The purpose of this organisation is to coordinate and integrate the petroleum policies of its member countries and to ensure the stabilisation of oil markets to ensure efficient, economic and regular supply of petroleum to the consumer.
- Headquarters - **Vienna (Austria)**
- OPEC has **14 member states** (Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Algeria, Libya, Nigeria, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, Republic of the Congo, Angola, Ecuador and Venezuela).

OPEC plus

- It is a coalition of OPEC members and the world's **10 major non-OPEC oil exporting countries**.
- Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Brunei, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Mexico, Oman, Russia, South Sudan and Sudan.