

Current Affairs search results for tag: international-news

1. WHO issues alert over India-made cough syrup Guaifenesin (April 27, 2023)

The **WHO** has issued a red alert due to "**unacceptable amounts of diethylene glycol and ethylene glycol**" in the tested samples of **Guaifenesin TG syrup** manufactured by **Punjab-based QP Pharmachem Ltd.**

An overview of the news

- The World Health Organization has said that a **consignment of this contaminated cough syrup** made in India has been found in the **Marshall Islands and Micronesia.**
- Guaifenesin is used to **relieve the symptoms of cough and tightness in the chest.**
- Samples of Guaifenesin Syrup TG Syrup from the Marshall Islands were analyzed and it was found that the product contained **unacceptable amounts of Diethylene Glycol and Ethylene Glycol as contaminants.**
- Ingestion of diethylene glycol and ethylene glycol are **toxic to humans, and can prove fatal.**
- The latest alert comes months after the **WHO linked another cough syrup made in India to child deaths in Gambia and Uzbekistan.**
- **India is the world's largest exporter of generic drugs**, which meet most of the medical needs of developing countries.
- But in recent months, several Indian companies have come under scrutiny for the quality of their drugs, with experts **raising concerns about the manufacturing practices used to make these drugs.**

2. Australia to host third in-person Quad summit (April 26, 2023)

Australia will host the **third in-person Quad summit in Sydney on 24 May.**

An Overview of the News

- The Quad Summit will be attended by the leaders of the four member countries – **US President Joe Biden, Japanese PM Fumio Kishida, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese.**
- The Quad summit is a meeting between the leaders of four countries: **the United States, Japan, India, and Australia.**
- The Quad was **first established as a strategic dialogue in 2007**, but remained **dormant for several years until it was revived in 2017.**
- The Quad Summit, to be held in **Washington DC in September 2021**, was the **first in-person meeting of the Quad leaders.**

- The agenda of the Quad summit focused on four key areas: **COVID-19 vaccine delivery, climate change, critical and emerging technologies and regional security.**
- The Quad leaders announced a new initiative **to boost COVID-19 vaccine production in India** with a target of distributing **one billion doses to the Asia-Pacific region by the end of 2022.**
 - On the subject of climate change, the Quad leaders pledged to work together **to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050.**

About Australia

It is a **sovereign country located in the Southern Hemisphere** and is **geographically isolated** from the rest of the world.

Capital - **Canberra**

Government - **federal parliamentary constitutional monarchy**

Emperor - **Charles III**

Governor-General - **David Hurley**

Prime Minister - **Anthony Albanese**

3. 11th High Level Meeting between Indian Coast Guard and Korean Coast Guard (April 26, 2023)

The **11th high level meeting between the Indian Coast Guard and the Korean Coast Guard** was held in **New Delhi** on 25 April.

An overview of the news

- A **seven-member delegation of the Korean Coast Guard** held a meeting with the **Indian Coast Guard.**
- Both sides discussed ways to strengthen the existing relationship in accordance with the provisions of the **MoU to share best practices, conduct joint exercises and enhance training cooperation.**
- The high-level meeting between the two Coast Guards was held **under the provisions of the MoU signed in 2006.**
- The high level meeting focused on enhancing operational level interactions and capacity building in the areas of **maritime search and rescue, marine pollution response and maritime law enforcement.**

About South Korea

- South Korea is a country located in **East Asia that is known as the 'Land of Quiet Mornings'.**

- The Korean peninsula was divided into **communist Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea) and Republic of Korea (South Korea)** after the **Korean War in 1953**.
- The nation's capital, **Seoul**, is the **world's second largest metropolitan area and a major global city**.
- **Martial arts Taekwondo** originated in Korea.
- President- **Yoon Suk-yol**
- Currency- **South Korean won**

4. 4th India-Mozambique Joint Defence Working Group meeting (April 26, 2023)

The **fourth meeting of the India-Mozambique Joint Defense Working Group** was held in **New Delhi** on 25 April.

An overview of the news

- The meeting was co-chaired by **Amitabh Prasad**, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Defense and **Casimiro Augusto Muio**, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of National Defense of Mozambique.
- Both sides discussed a wide range of issues including **military training, exercises, medicine and capacity building with a view to deepening defense ties**.
- The Indian side highlighted the country's **growing capabilities in the field of defense production** and discussed ways to further strengthen bilateral military ties.
- The Mozambican side held separate talks with representatives of the defense industry.
- The Indian side assured Mozambique of India's continued support and commitment to a strong bilateral defense relationship.

About Mozambique

- Mozambique is a **central African nation**.
- India has sent food and defence equipment to under **Mission Sagar**.
- It was delivered at Port Maputo of Mozambique.
- Capital: **Maputo**
- President: **Philippe Nyusi**
- Prime Minister: **Carlos Agostinho do Rosário**
- Currency: **Mozambican metical (MZN)**

- Joint Maritime Exercise among the Indian, Mozambique and Tanzanian navies - **India-Mozambique-Tanzania Trilateral Exercise (IMT TRILAT)**.

5. "Locked Shields" cyber-defense exercise 2023 to be held by NATO in Tallinn (April 24, 2023)

The 2023 edition of the **annual exercise "Locked Shields"** was **hosted by the NATO Cooperative Cyber Defense Center of Excellence in Tallinn (Estonia)**.

An Overview of the News

- **"Locked Shields"** is an **annual cyber defence exercise** hosted by the **NATO Cooperative Cyber Defense Center of Excellence** in **Tallinn**. The exercise started on 18 April 2023.
- More than **3000 participants from 38 countries** including **NATO allies** and partners took part in the exercise.
- The exercise simulates **real-time attacks and tests strategic decision making** in critical situations.
- The exercise highlights the importance of **international collaboration and cooperation in the field of cyber defence**.
- The **NATO Cooperative Cyber Defense Center of Excellence** helps participating countries and organisations improve their cyber defence capabilities.

About Locked Shields

- It is an **annual cyber defence exercise that simulates a large-scale cyber incident**.
- Rapid Reaction Teams from different countries work together to assist a fictional nation in managing a **massive cyber attack**.
- Blue Teams made up of **CCDCOE member nations protect** the mock state's information systems and critical infrastructure from thousands of attacks.
- **The aim of the exercise is to improve the skills and capabilities** of the participating teams and enhance international cooperation and communication in cyber defence.
- The exercise includes both **defensive and offensive operations**, with **Red Teams simulating attacks and Blue Teams defending**.

About the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)

Established - **4 April 1949**

Founders - **United States, United Kingdom, France, Canada, Italy**

Headquarters - **Brussels, Belgium**

Secretary General - **Jens Stoltenberg**

6. India, Guyana sign Air Services Agreement (April 24, 2023)

India and Guyana signed an Air Services Agreement (ASA) on 22nd April to facilitate easier travel between the two nations.

An overview of the news

- The agreement was signed between Public Works Minister **Bishop Juan Edghill** and India's High Commissioner to Guyana **KJ Srinivas** in the presence of External Affairs Minister **S Jaishankar**, who is on a 3-day visit to Guyana.
- The agreement's signing is consistent with the government's objective to **establish ties between Guyana and the rest of the world.**
- It will also complement the more than 50 air service agreements Guyana has negotiated with other **ICAO governments for the advancement of interstate air travel.**
- The **agreement encourages the development of international air services between the two countries** and the global airline market.

What is an Air Services Agreement?

- Air Services Agreement (ASA) provides the **legal framework for air operations between two countries.**
- It is based on the sovereignty of the nations, the nationality of the carriers and the commercial opportunity for each side's designated airlines.
- **Prior to this there was no Air Services Agreement** between the Government of India and the Government of Guyana.
- **About Guyana**
- Prime Minister: **Mark Phillips**
- President: **Mohamed Irfaan Ali**
- Capital: **Georgetown**
- Currency : **Guyanese dollar (G\$)**

7. 4th India-CARICOM Ministerial meeting (April 22, 2023)

4th India-CARICOM Ministerial meeting

External Affairs Minister **S. Jaishankar** co-chaired the **4th India-CARICOM ministerial meeting in Guyana's capital of Georgetown** on 22nd April.

An overview of the news

- S Jaishankar co-chaired the meeting with his **Jamaican counterpart Kaminaj Smith**.
- Both leaders discussed a range of issues, including **trade, climate change and counterterrorism**.
- During the bilateral meetings, the minister spoke on various issues including **cooperation, trade, climate change, digital transformation, health domain, agriculture and expansion of the International Solar Alliance (ISA)**.
- The Minister also met the **Bahamas Parliamentary Secretary Jamahl Strachan**, an Indian alumnus and discussed the International Solar Alliance (ISA), **Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) as well as UNSC reforms**.
- Jaishankar began his nine-day trip to **Guyana, Panama, Colombia and the Dominican Republic** on 21st April by meeting his counterpart from **Surinam Albert Ramdin**.

What is CARICOM (Caribbean Community and Commons Market)?

- CARICOM is an **intergovernmental organisation** that is a **political and economic union of 15 member states** throughout the **Americas and the Atlantic Ocean**.
- Its main purposes are to **promote economic integration and cooperation** among its members, to ensure that the benefits of integration are equitably shared, and to coordinate foreign policy.
- It was **established in 1973** by the Treaty of Chaguaramas.

About Guyana

Prime Minister: **Mark Phillips**

President: **Mohamed Irfaan Ali**

Capital: **Georgetown**

Currency : **Guyanese dollar (G\$)**

8. U.S. President signs executive order on environmental justice (April 22, 2023)

U.S. President signs executive order on environmental justice

U.S. President Joe Biden signed an **executive order** on 21st April.

An overview of the news

- The executive order directs every single federal agency to work toward **environmental justice** for all and improve the lives of communities hit hardest by toxic pollution and climate change.

- The order would **establish a new Office of Environmental Justice** within the White House that aims to coordinate the government's efforts.
- Federal agencies will work to notify communities when a **toxic substance** is released from a federal facility.
- Disasters such as the February derailment of a freight train in **East Palestine, Ohio**, have drawn attention to environmental damage from hazardous chemical spills.

What is environmental justice?

- Environmental justice is the fair treatment and meaningful participation of all people, regardless of race, color or income, with respect to the development, implementation and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations and policies.

9. Rowan Wilson Appointed As New York's First Black Chief Justice (April 21, 2023)

Rowan Wilson Appointed As New York's First Black Chief Justice

Rowan Wilson was **appointed as the first black Chief Justice of New York** on April 18, 2023 by the State Senate.

An Overview of the News

- **Wilson has been an Associate Judge of the Court of Appeals** since 2017.
- Wilson's confirmation as the state's **first black chief justice followed the resignation of Judge Janet DiFiore in August.**
- Wilson's appointment comes two months after the initial nomination of **Governor Kathy Hochul** for the position was rejected by lawmakers.
- **In 2014, Kathy Hochul was elected Lieutenant Governor of New York**, serving alongside **Governor Andrew Cuomo.**
- After Cuomo's resignation in August 2021, **Hochul became the governor of New York and became the first woman in the state's history to hold the office.**

About New York

- It is located in the **northeastern part of the country**, in the state of New York and it is the **most populous city in the United States.**
- The city is served by three major airports: **John F. Kennedy International Airport, LaGuardia Airport, and Newark Liberty International Airport.**
- The city is divided into five boroughs: **Manhattan, Brooklyn, Queens, the Bronx, and Staten Island, each with its own unique character and charm.**

Mayor - **Eric Adams**

Capital - **Albany**

10. AIIB to open its first overseas office in Abu Dhabi (April 21, 2023)

AIIB to open its first overseas office in Abu Dhabi

The **Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)** signed an agreement to **set up its first overseas office in Abu Dhabi Global Market.**

An Overview of the News

- The AIIB is a **multilateral development bank** that prioritises financing infrastructure projects focused on sustainability.
- The new foreign office in Abu Dhabi will support the AIIB's development agenda by funding sustainable economic development projects, primarily in areas where it is most needed.
- The **strategic location of the office in the Middle East** will enable AIIB to make a **global impact in achieving its goals.**
- AIIB was **established in 2016** with a mission to promote sustainable economic growth, create wealth and improve infrastructure connectivity in Asia by investing in productive sectors.
- It is **headquartered in Beijing, China** and has over **100 member countries**, including major economies such as the **United Kingdom, Germany and Australia.**

About United Arab Emirates (UAE)

- Location: **It is located in Western Asia.**
- Geographical Boundaries: **It shares borders with Oman and Saudi Arabia.**
- Maritime Borders: **It also has maritime borders with Qatar and Iran in the Persian Gulf.**
- Religion: **Islam is the dominant religion in the UAE, with the majority of the population being Sunni Muslim.**

Capital - **Abu Dhabi**

Official language - **Arabic**

Government - **Federal Islamic parliamentary elective semi-constitutional monarchy**

President/Crown Prince - **Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan**

Prime Minister - **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum**

Vice President - **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum and Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan**

