

21 MAY 2019

INDIA CUTS OFF UN PANEL AFTER J&K REPORT

In news:

- Three special rapporteurs of the UNHRC have written to India on March 18, asking for details on steps taken to punish or provide justice to victims and their next of kin in 76 cases of torture and arbitrary killing in Jammu and Kashmir since 1990.
- It also asks for outcome of the investigation into the cases to the steps taken to repeal the Armed Forces (Jammu and Kashmir) Special Powers Act.
- Rejecting all the claims, the Indian Permanent Mission to the United Nations in Geneva replied to the OHCHR on April 23, saying that “India... does not intend to engage further with these mandate-holders or any other mandate-holders on the issue,” whom it accused of “individual prejudice”.
- India had also rejected the OHCHR’s report on the ‘Situation of Human Rights in Kashmir’ — the first-ever such report on Jammu and Kashmir that came out in June 2018 — and accused the former High Commissioner of Human Rights Zeid Ra’ad Al Hussein of “clear bias” in bringing it out.

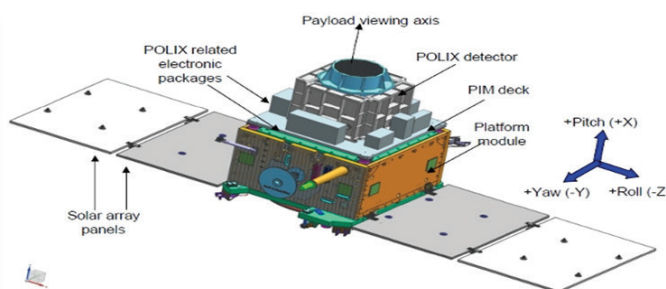
About OHCHR:

- The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) is a department of the United Nations that works to promote and protect the human rights that are guaranteed under international law and stipulated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948.
- Established on 1993 in the wake of the 1993 World Conference on Human Rights.
- Secretariat is in Geneva.
- **Main objectives:**
 - » Promote universal enjoyment of all human rights
 - » Promote universal ratification and implementation of international standards
 - » Respond to serious violations of human rights
 - » Promote the establishment of national human rights infrastructures

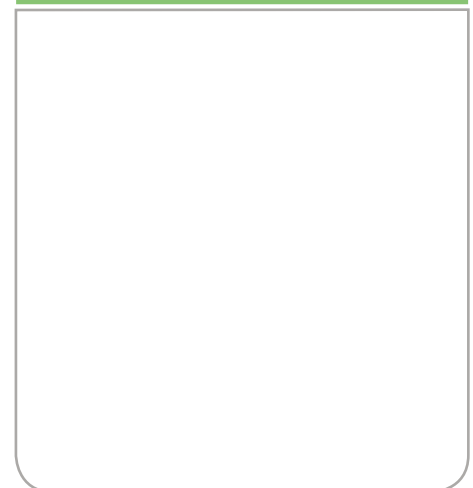


XPOSAT

- The XPoSat, or the X-ray Polarimeter Satellite, is a dedicated mission to study cosmic radiation which is scheduled for launch in 2020.
- Its payload was developed by Raman Research Institute, Bengaluru.
- The spacecraft will be placed in a circular 500-700km orbit.
- The spacecraft will carry Polarimeter Instrument in X-rays (POLIX) payload which will study the degree and angle of polarisation of bright X-ray sources in the energy range 5-30 keV.



NOTE



- The satellite has a mission life of five years.

NPPA REDUCES PRICES OF NON-SCHEDULED CANCER DRUGS

In news

- The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) under the ministry of chemicals and fertilizers has put out the list of 9 anti-cancer non-scheduled medicines whose MRPs have been cut by up to 87 %.

In brief :

- The new list of drugs is in continuation to the government's efforts to curb profiteering on these vital drugs.
- In February this year, the government had capped 42 cancer drugs at 30%.
- The move was expected to reduce prices of cancer drugs by 85% and covered 72 formulations and 355 brands.
- The NPPA currently fixes price of drugs on the National List of Essential Medicines under schedule-I of DPCO.
- So far, around 1,000 drugs have been price-capped through this mode.



9 DRUGS CHEAPER

- Nine anti-cancer drugs brought under price control framework by NPPA
- Pemetrexed 500mg injection cut from ₹22,000 to ₹2,800, 100mg to cost ₹800 against ₹7,700 now
- Erlotinib 100mg pack of 10 to cost ₹1,840, down from ₹6,600, and ₹2,400 for 150mg instead of ₹8,800

National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA)

- National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) was constituted vide Government of India Resolution dated 29th August, 1997 as an attached office of the Department of Pharmaceuticals (DoP), Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers
- It is an independent Regulator for pricing of drugs and to ensure availability and accessibility of medicines at affordable prices.

NANDAN NILEKANI PANEL ON DIGITAL PAYMENTS

Why in news?

- The RBI appointed Nandan Nilekani Committee on “suggestions on promoting digital payment” has submitted its report to RBI Governor, Shaktikanta Das.

More on news:

- It was a five member committee established by Reserve Bank of India in January 2019.
- The purpose of establishing the committee was to deepening the digital payment ecosystem thereby promoting the financial inclusion.
- The recommendations of the committee will used by RBI in successfully implementing its The Payment Systems Vision 2021.
- Earlier in 2016 the Union Finance Ministry established Ratan P Watal Committee for the same purpose.

About The Payment Systems Vision 2021:

- The Payments Systems Vision 2021 is the document recently released by RBI to revamp the digital payment ecosystem in India.



NOTE



- Its vision seeks to ensure a secure, safe, quick, affordable and convenient, e-payment system with aim of making India a 'cash-lite' society by 2021.

About Ratan P Watal Committee:

- It was a 11 member committee led by Ratan P Watal established in September 2016 by the Union Finance Ministry.
- Its purpose was to review existing payment systems in country and recommend appropriate measures for encouraging Digital Payments.
- It gave many recommendations for revamping the Digital payments.
- It is important to note that it recommended establishing a separate entity to regulate payments and settlements, which was opposed by RBI.

PRELIM BITS

- **SIMBEX 2019** - The 26th Edition of Singapore India Maritime Bilateral Exercise (SIMBEX) -19 has commenced in the South China Sea.



NOTE

