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Current Affairs - 02 September 2024

WHAT IS UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL (UNSC)?



India should get its 'rightful place' as a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), according to ex-Singaporean diplomat Kishore Mahbubani, a former president of the top UN body.

- UNSC is one of the five **principal organizations of the United Nations (UN)**.
- It has primary responsibility for the **maintenance of international peace and security**.
- Under the Charter of the UN, all **Member States are obligated to comply with UNSC decisions**.
- The Security Council takes the lead in determining the existence of a threat to peace or an act of aggression.
- It calls upon the parties to a dispute to settle it by peaceful means and recommends methods of adjustment or terms of settlement.
- **In some cases, the Security Council can resort to imposing sanctions or even authorising the use of force** to maintain or restore international peace and security.

Powers:

- Establishment of peacekeeping operations
- Establishment of international sanctions
- Authorization of military action through Security Council resolutions

Members: It has 15 Members, and each Member has one vote.

- 5 permanent members known as P5, including the **United Kingdom, China, France, Russia and the United States**.
- The P5's privileged status has its roots in the United Nations' founding in the aftermath of World War II.
- They **have veto power** over decisions of the UNSC.



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- **10 non-permanent members:** Each year the 193-member General Assembly elects **five non-permanent members for a two-year term at the UNSC.**
 - The non-permanent members are generally **chosen to achieve equitable representation among geographic regions**, with five members coming from Africa or Asia, one from Eastern Europe, two from Latin America, and two from Western Europe or other areas.
 - The Security Council has a **permanent headquarters** at the United Nations Headquarters in **New York City.**
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TOURISM AND HOSPITALITY SKILL COUNCIL



The Tourism & Hospitality Skill Council (THSC) under the aegis of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Visa (NYSE: V).

Tourism and Hospitality Skill Council is a **Not-for-Profit Organization**, registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860, **promoted by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)** with inclusive representation of the Government, Industry, Industry Associations and Training Institutes across India.

- It is formed by the industry **to tackle the skilling of large manpower** to fulfil the industry requirements, playing a crucial role in bridging this ever-growing gap.
- THSC is now an approved awarding body under the **National Council for Vocational Education and Training (NCVET).**
- **Mandate:** It has a mandate to create a **robust and sustainable** eco-system for **skill development** in the industry, catering to all the sub-sectors of the industry, namely, Hotels, Tour Operators, Food Service Restaurants, Facilities Management and Cruise Liners.

Key points about the recent Memorandum of Understanding



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- This initiative will ensure a skilled workforce to support India's ambitions of becoming a **global tourism hub**.
- It is designed to upskill at **least 20,000 Indian youth** in tourism-relevant skills.
- **Time period:** 3 years
- It aims to train youth **across 10 States**, including Assam, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh and West Bengal to elevate the tourism service experience for tourists.
- The program will focus on essential roles within the domestic tourism industry, such as tour guides, customer service executives, naturalists, and paragliding tandem pilots.

NAV RATNA STATUS



SOLAR ENERGY CORPORATION OF INDIA

Solar Energy Corporation of India Ltd (SECI), a Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) under the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy has been granted the Navratna status by the Ministry of Finance.

- The government categorises all Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) into three categories, namely **Maharatna, Navratna and Miniratna**.
- The Government had introduced the 'Navratna' scheme in 1997.

Criteria for Navratna status:

- A **Public Sector Unit (PSU)** should be a **Miniratna-I**, Schedule 'A' company, should have obtained an 'excellent' or 'very good' MoU rating in three of the last five years, and must have a composite score of 60 in six performance indicators.
- It must report a **net profit** of more than **Rs 5,000 crore** for three consecutive years and maintain an average annual **turnover of Rs 25,000 crore** for three years, or have an annual average **net worth of over Rs 15,000 crore** for three years.

Advantages:



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- **Financial Independence:** They invest up to ₹1,000 crore without seeking approval from the central government.
- Navratna companies are also allowed to invest up to 15% of their net worth on a single project, or 30% of their net worth in a given year, subject to a cap of ₹1,000 crore.
- To incur capital expenditure on the purchase of new items or for replacement, without any monetary ceiling.
- To enter into technology joint ventures or strategic alliances.

RAMON MAGSAYSAY AWARD



Recently, Japanese anime director Hayao Miyazaki was awarded the Ramon Magsaysay Award, popularly known as Asia's Nobel Prize.

Ramon Magsaysay Award is Asia's premier prize and highest honor, celebrates greatness of spirit and **transformative leadership in Asia**.

- The Awardees, **annually selected by the RMAF** board of trustees, are presented with a certificate and a medallion with an embossed image of Ramon Magsaysay facing right in profile.
- From 1958 to 2008, the Award was given in six categories annually:
 - **Government Service:** To recognize outstanding service in the public interest in any branch of government, including the executive, judicial, legislative, or military;
 - **Public Service:** To recognize outstanding service for the public good by a private citizen;
 - **Community Leadership:** To recognize the leadership of a community toward helping the disadvantaged have fuller opportunities and a better life;



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- **Journalism, Literature, and Creative Communication Arts:** To recognize effective writing, publishing, or photography or the use of radio, television, cinema, or the performing arts as a power for the public good;
- **Peace and International Understanding:** To recognize contributions to the advancement of friendship, tolerance, peace and solidarity as the foundations for sustainable development within and across countries.
- **Emergent Leadership:** To recognize an individual, forty years of age or younger, for outstanding work on issues of social change in his or her community, but whose leadership may not yet be broadly recognized outside of this community.
- It is presented in formal ceremonies in Manila, Philippines on August 31st, the birth anniversary of the much-esteemed Philippine President whose ideals inspired the Award's creation in 1957.

SAMUDRA PRATAP



Recently, the first indigenously developed Pollution Control Vessel of the Indian Coast Guard (ICG), 'Samudra Pratap' was launched in Goa.

Samudra Pratap vessel will help to **check the oil spillage** on the country's sea coast.

- The ship was launched and named as '**Samudra Pratap**'.
- It is built by Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL) for the Indian Coast Guard.
- It is the first time that these types of vessels are being designed and built indigenously in India.

Features

- It boasts a length of 114.5 meters, a breadth of 16.5 meters and a displacement of 4,170 tons. The vessel will be manned by 14 officers and 115 sailors and is equipped with state-of-the-art technology for pollution control.



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- Notably, it features side-sweeping arms to contain oil spills while in motion, an advanced radar system for **oil spill detection** and facilities to **recover and store various types of oil**.
- **Significance**
 - The vessel is a crucial addition to the Indian Coast Guard's fleet, enhancing its capacity to manage oil spill response operations in India's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and beyond.

PILIBHIT TIGER RESERVE (PTR)



Pilibhit Tiger Reserve (PTR) is located in Pilibhit District, Lakhimpur Kheri District and Bahraich District of **Uttar Pradesh**.

- It lies along the **India-Nepal border** in the foothills of the Himalayas and the plains of the 'terai' in Uttar Pradesh.
- The river **Gomti originates from the PTR**, which is also the catchment of several others like Sharda, Chuka, and Mala Khannot.
- The **Sharda Sagar Dam** is on the boundary of the reserve.
- **Vegetation: North Indian moist deciduous type.**
- It has a dry and hot climate, which brings a combination of dry teak forest and Vindhya Mountain soils.
- **Flora:**
 - It is characterized by **sal forests, tall grasslands, and swamps**, maintained by periodic flooding from rivers.
 - The sal woodland is very dense with good natural regeneration, amounting to almost 76% of the reserve area.
- **Fauna:**
 - It is home to a myriad of wild animals including the endangered **tiger, swamp deer, Bengal florican**, hog deer, leopard, etc.



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Key Facts about Chital:

- The **spotted deer**, or chital/cheetal is a deer species **native to the Indian subcontinent**.
 - It is the **most common deer species in Indian forests**.
 - **Distribution:** It is widely distributed in **Asia**, especially in **India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Bhutan, and a small group in Pakistan**.
 - **Habitat:** Subtropical grasslands and forests
 - **Features:**
 - With a lifespan of about 20 to 30 years, it stands at about 35 inches tall and weighs about 187 pounds.
 - It is a **slightly reddish brown with white spots on its body**.
 - **Only males have antlers, and their bodies are larger than females**.
 - Spotted Deer are social animals. They commonly occur in herds of 10 to 50 individuals.
 - They mainly feed on grasses throughout the year. Their diets include herbs, shrubs, foliage, and fruits.
 - **Conservation Status:**
 - **IUCN Red List: Least Concern**
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RULE 170 OF DRUGS ACT

In the ongoing Supreme Court case against Patanjali Ayurved, Justices Hima Kohli and Sandeep Mehta criticized and stayed AYUSH ministry for its July 1 notification. The notification directed state licensing authorities not to take any action under Rule 170 of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act.

Rule 170 of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act

- Rule 170 was introduced in 2018 in response to a parliamentary standing committee's concerns about misleading claims in AYUSH product advertisements and the need for stricter oversight by the AYUSH ministry.



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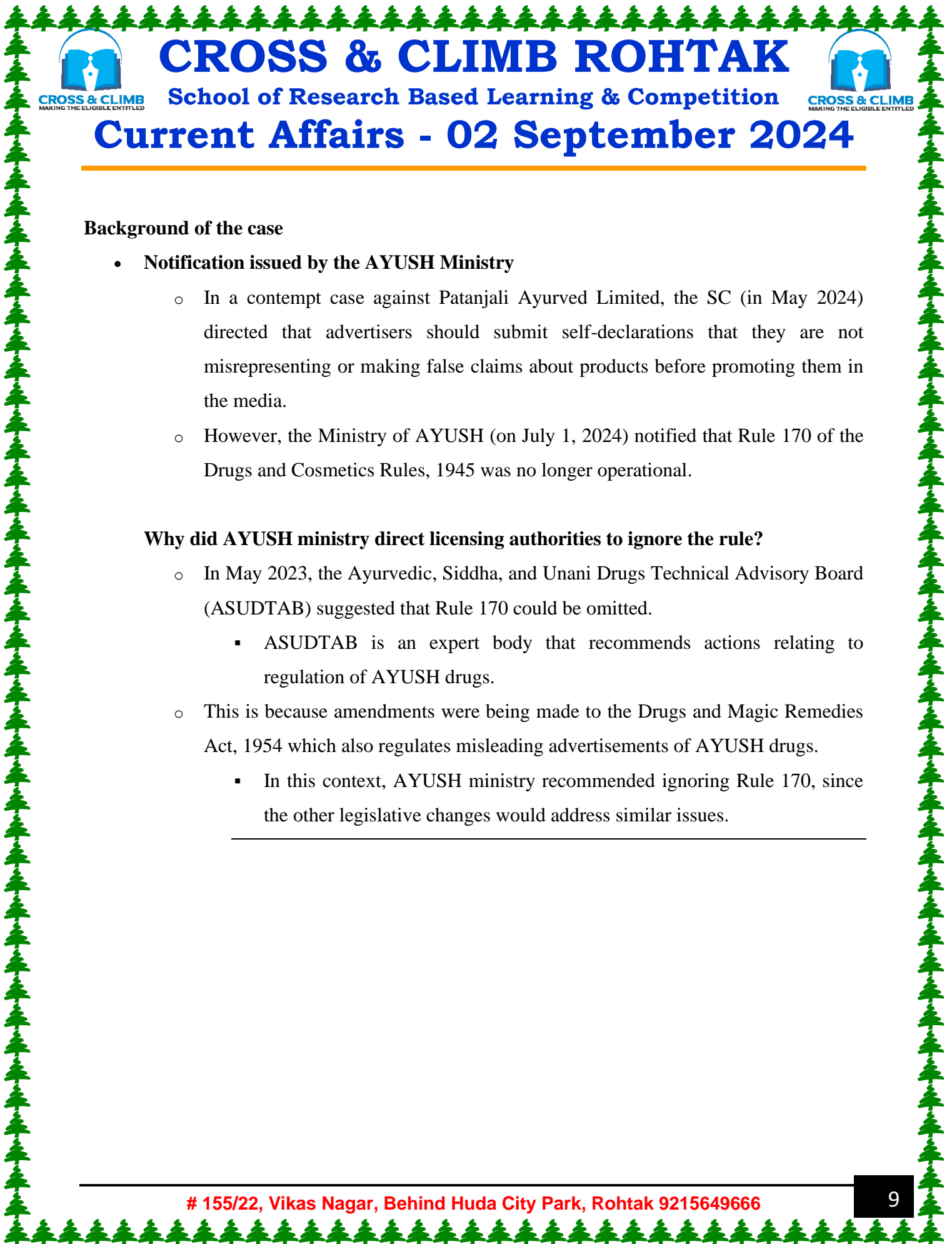
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Key features

- In 2018, the Indian government introduced Rule 170 under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act to regulate the manufacture, storage, and sale of Ayurvedic, Siddha, and Unani medicines, with a focus on controlling misleading advertisements.
- This rule prohibits AYUSH drug manufacturers from advertising their products without prior approval and the **issuance of a unique identification number** by the state licensing authority.
- The rule mandates rejection of applications if:
 - contact details are missing,
 - the advertisement is obscene or vulgar,
 - it promotes sexual enhancement,
 - it features celebrities or government officials,
 - it references government organizations, or makes false or exaggerated claims.

Challenges to regulate AYUSH drugs

- Under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, manufacturers of AYUSH drugs, like those of allopathic medicines, must obtain a license from the drug controller.
- However, unlike allopathic drugs, which require extensive phase I, II, and III trials or equivalence studies before approval, most AYUSH drugs can be approved based on the rationale provided in authoritative texts of their respective streams.
- Safety trials are only required for formulations containing around 60 specific ingredients listed in the act, such as snake venom, heavy metals like arsenic and mercury, and compounds like copper sulphate.
- For drugs containing these ingredients or traditional drugs being used for new indications, proof of effectiveness is also required.



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Background of the case

- **Notification issued by the AYUSH Ministry**
 - In a contempt case against Patanjali Ayurved Limited, the SC (in May 2024) directed that advertisers should submit self-declarations that they are not misrepresenting or making false claims about products before promoting them in the media.
 - However, the Ministry of AYUSH (on July 1, 2024) notified that Rule 170 of the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945 was no longer operational.

Why did AYUSH ministry direct licensing authorities to ignore the rule?

- In May 2023, the Ayurvedic, Siddha, and Unani Drugs Technical Advisory Board (ASUDTAB) suggested that Rule 170 could be omitted.
 - ASUDTAB is an expert body that recommends actions relating to regulation of AYUSH drugs.
 - This is because amendments were being made to the Drugs and Magic Remedies Act, 1954 which also regulates misleading advertisements of AYUSH drugs.
 - In this context, AYUSH ministry recommended ignoring Rule 170, since the other legislative changes would address similar issues.
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