

Operation Pangea XIV

June 10, 2021

In news

Operation Pangea of Interpol targeted online sale of fake medicines, products

Key updates

- The operation resulted in 1,13,020 web links being closed down or removed, **the largest since the first “Operation Pangea” conducted in 2008**, the arrest of 277 suspects and seizure of potentially dangerous pharmaceuticals worth over \$23 million
- Operation involved the police, customs and health regulatory authorities of 92 countries
- Indian agencies also participated in the operation, said an official of the **Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) that is the nodal body for the Interpol in the country.**
- It was found that criminals were continuing to cash in on the huge demand for personal protection and hygiene products due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- It was also found that more than half of all the medical devices seized during the operation from May 18 to 25 were fake and unauthorised COVID-19 test kits.
- With this operation, around nine million medical devices and illicit pharmaceuticals were seized globally
- The seized items included hypnotic and sedative medication, erectile dysfunction pills, medical and surgical devices like COVID test kits, masks, syringes, catheters, analgesics/painkillers, anabolic steroids, antiseptics and germicides, anti-cancer medication, anti-malarials and vitamins.

INTERPOL

- The International Criminal Police Organisation

(INTERPOL) **is an international organization that facilitates worldwide police cooperation and crime control.**

- It is **headquartered in Lyon, France.**
- It has seven regional bureaus worldwide and a National Central Bureau (NCB) in all 194 member states, making it the world's largest police organization.

- **India has been a member since 1956**

- **It originated with the first International Criminal Police Congress in 1914,** which brought officials from 24 countries to discuss cooperation on law enforcement matters.
- **It was founded in 1923** as the International Criminal Police Commission (ICPC).
- In 1946, after the end of World War II, the organization was revived as the International Criminal Police Organization (ICPO) by officials from Belgium, France, Scandinavia and the UK.
- In 1956, the ICPC adopted a new constitution and the name INTERPOL.