

Special 301 report:

May 1, 2021

In news: The United States has placed India and eight other countries on the **Priority Watch List for IP protection and enforcement**.

More about the report-

- Out of 100 trading partners being reviewed for this year's "Special 301 Report" by USTR, eight have been placed on Priority Watch List and **23 on the Watch List**.
- Seven other countries on the Priority Watch list are **Argentina, Chile, China, Indonesia, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Ukraine and Venezuela**.
- The 23 trading partners on the Watch List are Algeria, Barbados, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Guatemala, Kuwait, Lebanon, Mexico, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Romania, Thailand, Trinidad & Tobago, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and Vietnam.
- According to the report, India has remained inconsistent in its progress on intellectual property (IP) protection and enforcement.
- Though India's enforcement of IP in the online sphere has gradually improved, a **lack of concrete benefits for innovators and creators persists**, which continues to undermine their efforts.
- The **potential threat of** patent revocations, lack of presumption of patent validity and the narrow patentability criteria under the India Patents Act burdens companies across different sectors.