



## Current Affairs of the Day

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## Panel devises plan to manage surveillance system on trains

- A high-level committee constituted by the Railway Ministry has devised a strategy on the modalities and procedure for real-time surveillance, storage, retention and retrieval of feed generated by CCTV cameras installed in passenger coaches. The Railways has planned to install surveillance cameras in 7,000 coaches by March 2021 as part of a Video Surveillance System to cover stations and trains.
- The SOP would consist of details relating to data uploading, retention and retrieval besides defining monitoring and response by security personnel and front line Railway officials.
- Besides a security measure to prevent/detect crimes at railway stations/trains, the installation of surveillance cameras was also necessitated as a step to ensure adequate safety of women and children on railway premises. In August 2019, the Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court had directed the Southern Railway to conduct a survey with the assistance of experts and install CCTV in train coaches for the safety of the women, children and elderly passengers.
- The Railways is also in the process of installing a Video Surveillance System at 6,049 stations of which the Northern Railway will get the maximum coverage at 725 stations, followed by the Southern Railway with 573 stations, the sources added.

## UN draft declaration goes soft on demand for reform

- Despite India's repeated demands for reform of the UN Security Council, the process of the expansion of the membership is expected to slow down this year with the final draft of the Declaration on the Commemoration of the Seventy-Fifth Anniversary of the U.N. favoring a softer approach to the issue.
- The Declaration is a powerful reiteration of the UN's founding principles that brought a new world order 75 years ago.
- Mention of 'discussions' in this key anniversary document is being interpreted as dilution of the progress made on the path of reform of the principal organs of the UN during the 122nd plenary meeting of the General Assembly.



- At the meeting on September 15, 2008, the General Assembly on the basis of previous resolutions had ‘decided’ to proceed with the “modalities in order to prepare and facilitate intergovernmental negotiations on the question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and other matters related to the Council”.
- The final draft for the upcoming UNGA is also a step down from the Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on September 16, 2005 when the call for reform was demanded against the backdrop of widespread unilateral decisions as seen during the Iraq war of 2003 and the “war on terror”.
- The 2005 Resolution had expressed strong global will to stop misuse of military power and said, “We are determined to reinvigorate the intergovernmental organs of the United Nations to adopt them to the needs of the twenty-first century”.

## China committing gross abuses against Uighurs: U.K.

- Britain on Sunday accused Beijing of “gross, egregious human rights abuses” over its “deeply troubling” treatment of ethnic and religious minorities in China’s western Xinjiang region.
- Rights groups and experts estimate that more than one million ethnic **Uighurs** and other minorities have been rounded up into a network of internment camps.

### Value Added Information

#### Who are Uighurs?

- Uighurs are a **Muslim minority community** concentrated in the country’s northwestern **Xinjiang province**.
- They claim **closer ethnic ties to Turkey and other central Asian countries** than to China, by brute — and brutal — force.

#### Why is China targeting the Uighurs?

- **Xinjiang** is technically an **autonomous region within China** — its **largest region, rich in minerals, and sharing borders with eight countries, including India, Pakistan, Russia and Afghanistan**.



- Over the past few decades, as economic prosperity has come to Xinjiang, it has brought with it in large numbers the majority **Han Chinese**, who have cornered the better jobs, and left the **Uighurs** feeling their livelihoods and identity were under threat.
- This led to sporadic violence, in 2009 culminating in a riot that killed 200 people, mostly Han Chinese, in the region's capital Urumqi. And many other violent incidents have taken place since then.
- Beijing also says **Uighur groups want to establish an independent state** and, because of the Uighurs' cultural ties to their neighbours, leaders fear that elements in places like Pakistan may back a **separatist movement in Xinjiang**.
- Therefore, the Chinese policy seems **to have been one of treating the entire community as suspect**, and launching a systematic project to chip away at every marker of a distinct Uighur identity.

## Sero Surveillance Analysis

- Delhi High Court directed the **National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC)** to submit a report and analysis of the serological survey that was recently conducted in the national capital.
- Blood samples were taken from randomly selected people as part of the survey, which involves rapid tests for antibodies, to study the scale of undetected infections.

### About:

- **Sero Surveillance is an antibodies detection test** which was done to assess the prevalence of infection at the community level and primarily used for evidence-based public health response.
- Antibodies, also referred to as **immunoglobulins**, are glycoproteins naturally produced in response to invading foreign particles (antigens) such as microorganisms and viruses. As such, they play a **critical role in the immune system's defense** against infection and disease.



In simple terms, antibodies are specialized, **Y-shaped proteins** that bind like a lock-and-key to the body's foreign invaders — whether they are viruses, bacteria, fungi or parasites.

## KritiScan: UV Baggage Disinfection System

- In order to control spread of infection through baggage, International Advanced Research Centre for Powder Metallurgy and New Materials (ARCI), Hyderabad and Vehant Technologies, Noida have co-developed KritiScan UV Baggage Disinfection System.
- The compact UVC conveyor system developed can efficiently disinfect the baggage passing through the conveyor within a few seconds.
- UVC based disinfection systems are known for their rapid disinfection capability.
- The disinfection process is dry and chemical-free.

### Facts:

- UVC light, when irradiated on an infected surface, quickly disrupts the genetic material in the virus and thus inhibits its multiplication.
- The Kritiscan UV advanced baggage disinfecting system uses UVC light (254 nm) with appropriate irradiance to inactivate microbes and viruses.
- The system can efficiently disinfect the baggage within 8 seconds as compared to standard hand-held disinfection techniques.