



Current Affairs of the Day

GS Paper II

- Bail orders will be sent instantly to jail authorities: SC
- Russia slams U.S.'s 'hasty' Afghan pullout

GS Paper III

- 'Over 86% of breakthrough infections caused by Delta'
- India's June oil imports hit their lowest in nine months
- China starts long-awaited carbon trading scheme



Bail orders will be sent instantly to jail authorities: SC

Highlights:

1. Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana said people given bail by courts, even by the Supreme Court, have to wait for days before prison authorities release them. "It is just too much," he said.
2. The Chief Justice, heading a Special Bench, voiced the Supreme Court's exasperation at prison authorities who insist on receiving by hand the "authentic" hard copy of the bail order regardless of the fact that the personal liberty of people suffers.
3. So, as a solution, the Chief Justice announced in open court the rolling out of a new scheme called 'FASTER' or 'Fast and Secure Transmission of Electronic Records' by which the Supreme Court would instantly, directly, securely and electronically transmit bail and other orders to jail authorities, district courts and High Courts.

Russia slams U.S.'s 'hasty' Afghan pullout

Russia blamed the "hasty withdrawal" of U.S. and NATO troops for a rapid deterioration in Afghanistan's security and warned of instability spreading to neighbouring countries.

Highlights:

1. Taliban insurgents in Afghanistan have capitalised on the last stages of the withdrawal of foreign troops to launch offensives, capturing a swath of districts and border crossings, and encircling provincial capitals
2. The White House had tried to paint the drawdown of foreign troops in "the most positive colours", Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov.
3. In recent days we have unfortunately seen a rapid deterioration of the situation in Afghanistan. In light of the hasty withdrawal of the U.S. and NATO troops, there is huge uncertainty around the future of the political and military situation in this country.
4. Russia hosted Taliban representatives in Moscow last week, where the insurgent group claimed to have control over some 85% of Afghanistan.



5. Moscow is closely watching the Taliban's advance and is concerned about the potential for instability reaching neighbouring Central Asian countries of the former Soviet Union where Russia maintains military bases.

Risk of instability

1. The crisis had increased the threat of terrorism and worsened problems surrounding drug trafficking, which he said had reached an unprecedented level.
2. It's clear that, in this situation, there is a real risk of instability spreading to neighbouring countries.

'Over 86% of breakthrough infections caused by Delta'

1. A majority — over 86% — of the breakthrough infections after COVID-19 vaccination have been caused by the Delta variant, with hospitalisation of 9.8% of such cases and fatality observed in 0.4% of cases, according to the results of a nationwide study conducted by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) on breakthrough COVID-19 infection.
2. A breakthrough infection is a case of illness in which a vaccinated individual becomes sick from the same illness that the vaccine is meant to prevent.

India's June oil imports hit their lowest in nine months

1. India's crude oil imports in June fell to their lowest in nine months, as refiners curtailed purchases amid higher fuel inventories due to low consumption and renewed COVID-19 lockdowns in the previous two months.
2. The world's third-biggest oil importer and consumer, India shipped in about 3.9 million barrels per day (BPD) of crude last month, about 7% down from May, but 22% higher from year-earlier levels, tanker arrival data obtained from trade sources showed. India is the second major importer in Asia, after China, to post a slump in last month's crude imports.
3. After an uptick in India's fuel demand in February and March, the country's refiners cranked up crude processing and oil imports, said an Indian refining official who declined to be named as he is not authorised to speak to media.



4. However, fuel demand fell sharply in April and May after the government imposed restrictions to curb the second wave of infections, leaving refiners with high fuel inventories.
5. Last month, Iraq stayed as the top oil supplier to India, followed by Saudi Arabia. The United Arab Emirates climbed four notches to emerge as the third-biggest supplier while Nigeria rose to No.4.

China starts long-awaited carbon trading scheme

1. China introduced its long-awaited emissions trading system, a key tool in its quest to drive down climate change-causing greenhouse gases and go carbon neutral by 2060.
2. The scheme was unveiled with China, the world's biggest carbon emitter, seeking to take a global leadership role on the climate crisis in the lead up to a crucial UN summit.
3. China has hailed it as laying the foundations for what would become the world's biggest carbon trading market, forcing thousands of Chinese companies to cut their pollution or face deep economic hits.
4. Analysts and experts say much more needs to be done if China is to meet its environmental targets, which includes reaching peak emissions by 2030.
5. The scheme will set pollution caps for big-power businesses for the first time and allows firms to buy the right to pollute from others with a lower carbon footprint.
6. The market will initially cover 2,162 big power producers that generate about a seventh of the global carbon emissions from burning fossil fuels, according to data from the International Energy Agency.