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## 1. Karnataka Government Withdraws General Consent for CBI Investigations

### Introduction

The Karnataka government, accusing the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) of being biased in its investigations, has decided to withdraw its general consent for the agency to conduct probes in the state. This move aligns Karnataka with other non-BJP ruled states that have similarly withdrawn consent in recent years.

### Cabinet Decision Amid Allegations Against Chief Minister

The decision comes amid allegations against Chief Minister Siddaramaiah regarding irregularities in the allotment of 14 Mysore Urban Development Authority (MUDA) sites to his wife. However, the government clarified that the withdrawal of CBI consent is not related to this case. A special court has directed the Lokayukta to investigate the matter.

#### JOINS TN, KER, WB

➤ Alleging injudicious use of CBI, K'taka law minister H K Patil says state will give consent for CBI probe on case-to-case basis

➤ Joins states like Bengal, Kerala & TN, which have also withdrawn 'general consent'

➤ CBI now can't probe public servants in the state without K'taka govt's consent. But CBI can take up cases if ordered by court

### Reasons for Withdrawal

Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister H.K. Patil explained that earlier, blanket permission had been granted to the CBI. However, concerns over the misuse of institutions, including Raj Bhavan, and the perception that the CBI was not acting judiciously led to the decision. The state government will now grant consent to the CBI on a case-by-case basis.

### Allegations of Misuse and Bias

Minister Patil further alleged that the CBI had been "misused" and operating in a biased manner for the past 18 months, focusing investigations only on members of one political party. He also pointed out that in some cases involving the CBI, no chargesheets had been filed, leading to concerns over the agency's effectiveness.

### Previous Withdrawal of Consent

In November 2023, the Congress government had withdrawn consent for the CBI to investigate corruption charges against Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, a case initially allowed by the previous BJP government. The case was later referred to the Karnataka Lokayukta police for investigation.

Relevance: GS Prelims & Mains Paper II; Governance

Source: The Hindu

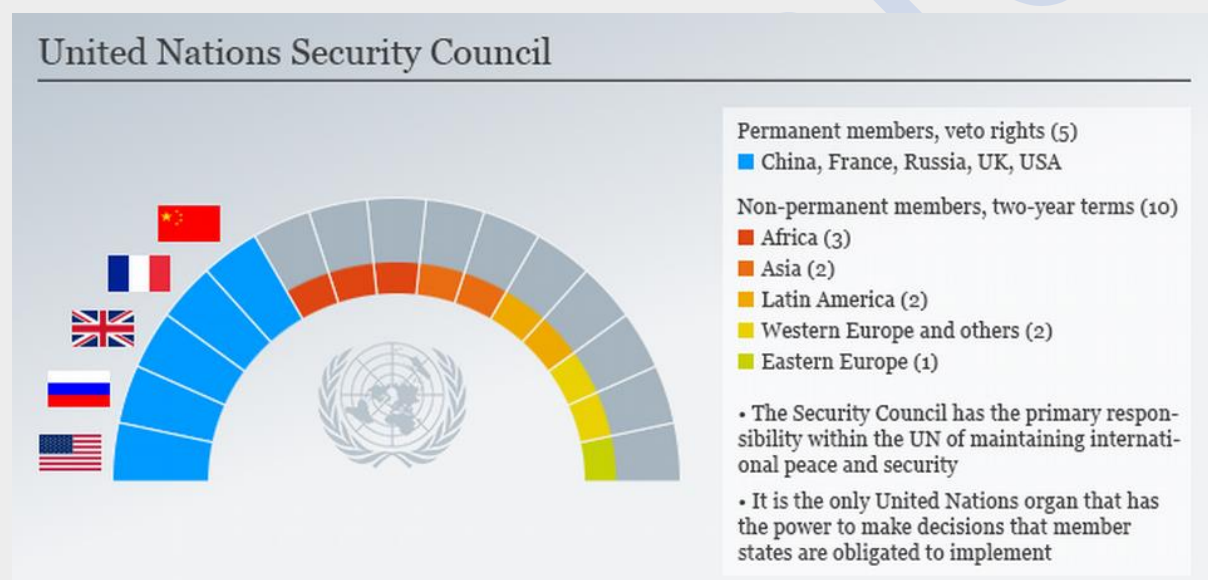
## 2. G4 and L69 Countries Call for Urgent UN Security Council Reform

### Introduction

India, Brazil, Germany, and Japan, known as the G4, have called for urgent reform of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) as the UN approaches its 80th anniversary. These countries seek permanent membership and a more inclusive UNSC structure. The G4's Foreign Ministers met on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) on September 23 to discuss progress on these reforms.

### Joint Call for UNSC Expansion

In a joint statement, the G4 highlighted the need for an increase in both permanent and non-permanent UNSC seats to better represent developing countries and nations that significantly contribute to international peace and security. The group emphasized the need for greater representation for regions such as Africa, Asia-Pacific, Latin America, and the Caribbean.



### L69 and C-10 Groups Support Reforms

India is also part of the L69 group, which represents developing countries. On September 23, the L69 group met under the leadership of Ralph E. Gonsalves, Prime Minister of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. The meeting included a joint session with the C-10 group, representing 10 African countries. Both groups echoed the G4's call for transformative reform to ensure better representation of the Global South in the UNSC.

### Emphasis on the Global South

The L69 and G4 groups stressed the importance of increasing the participation of developing countries in the Security Council. They argued that these nations play a vital role in maintaining the relevance and effectiveness of the UNSC. The groups also reaffirmed support for the Common African Position (CAP) based on the Ezulwini Consensus, which advocates for greater African representation.

### Delays Impact UN Credibility

The G4 and L69 warned that delays in reforming the UNSC harm the credibility and legitimacy of the UN. They called for reforms that would make the Security Council more transparent, efficient, democratic, and accountable.

### Cooperation with IBSA

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar also met with his counterparts from Brazil and South Africa, reinforcing their shared commitment to UN reform through the IBSA (India, Brazil, South Africa) group, further strengthening their push for a reformed UNSC.

Relevance: GS Prelims & Mains Paper II; International Organisations

Source: The Hindu

## 3. Random checks finds 'not of standard quality' drugs in market

### Introduction

Samples of around 50 medicines, including some common ones such as paracetamol (used for fever), metformin (first line of treatment for diabetes), and pantoprazole (used for acidity), have been found to be spurious or not of standard quality by the country's top drug regulator. These findings came out of a routine, periodic exercise by the regulator, in which medicine samples are tested randomly for quality.



### CDSCO and NSQ

Every month, the regulator, Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO), releases a list of drugs that are found to be "not of standard quality" (NSQ) during checks. Central and state regulators periodically collect samples of various medicines from the market at random and put them through tests.

A list of medicines that fail the test, along with the parameters on which they have fallen short, is published every month.

### Why this is done

The monthly lists are released to inform the general public, government health departments, industry, and the state drug regulators of the drugs available in the market that may not be of the desired quality.

As the samples are tested at random and the results are made public, it is also a way to tell drug manufacturing companies that their products are under constant watch.

Why drugs fail tests

Drugs that fail quality checks broadly fall into three categories.

**SPURIOUS DRUGS:** These are essentially fakes — products that pretend to be popular brands of medicines, which mislead people into buying them. These fakes may or may not contain the active ingredient, and are not manufactured by the company that makes the drug of that brand name.

For example, samples of telmisartan (used for the treatment of hypertension) and pantoprazole were found to have been not manufactured by the companies whose branding they carried, Glenmark and Sun Pharma respectively.

**POOR QUALITY:** Drugs that may contain a faulty description, or may not dissolve in the proper way, or may have a lesser quantity of active ingredient, etc. are considered to be not of standard quality, or NSQ. These medicines may not actively harm the person who consumes them, but the patient may suffer because the drug fails to do what it is meant to.

Metformin, which is on the recently released list for August, failed the dissolution test, which means that the medicine, once consumed, would not dissolve properly and work in the way it is supposed to.

**ADULTERATED DRUGS:** These contain contaminants or adulterants that can cause direct harm to the person who consumes them. The entire batches of these drugs are usually recalled by the regulator; the company too, could initiate a recall on its own.

### **What you should do**

The drug regulator's alerts are not intended to cause alarm or panic. They are mainly in the nature of flags to companies to self-correct, or to regulators to take necessary action.

That some randomly picked samples of a drug have been found to be NSQ does not mean every pill or capsule of that drug available in the market is fake or dangerous. You can continue to consume these medicines if they have been prescribed to you.

However, the fact that a sample was found to be NSQ in theory also means that there could be other, undetected fakes in the market.

Relevance: GS Prelims

Source: Indian Express