



Sanganeri-Printed Blanket Covers | Rajasthan | 18 Oct 2025

Why in News?

In an effort to enhance passenger comfort and promote traditional Indian crafts, **Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw** launched a **pilot project introducing Sanganeri-printed covers for train blankets**.

- Alongside the blanket project, the Minister also **inaugurated upgraded platforms and passenger amenities** at **65 small and medium-sized stations** under the **North Western Railway zone**, with a total investment of **₹100 crore**.

Key Points

- **About:** The pilot initiative was unveiled at **Jaipur's Khatipura Railway Station** and marks a step toward improving the overall passenger experience on Indian Railways.
- **Implementation:** The project will initially be implemented in **AC coaches of the Jaipur-Asrava Superfast Express (12981)** on a trial basis.
- **Objective:** The initiative aims to improve **hygiene and passenger satisfaction** by providing blankets with washable printed covers, similar to home-use models.
- **Design Considerations:** The **Sanganeri-printed covers** have been designed for **durability, ease of washing, and long-lasting prints**.
- **Cultural Integration:** Beyond Sanganeri prints, the Railways plans to **showcase traditional textile designs from various states**, thereby promoting India's **cultural diversity** through rail services.

Sanganeri-Print

- **Origin and Tradition:** Sanganeri is a small village in Jaipur, Rajasthan renowned for its centuries-old tradition of **hand block printing**, passed down through generations.
 - **Design Characteristics:** The craft is distinguished by its **intricate floral motifs** and delicate detailing, reflecting a deep artistic heritage.
 - **Inspiration and Aesthetics:** Sanganeri prints draw inspiration from **nature and Mughal architecture**, resulting in elegant, harmonious, and richly patterned designs made with **natural dyes**.
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UN Troop Contributing Countries (UNTCC) Chiefs Conclave 2025 | National Current Affairs | 18 Oct 2025

Why in News?

The **United Nations Troop Contributing Countries (UNTCC)** Chiefs Conclave 2025, hosted by the Indian Army from 14th to 16th October 2025, brought together senior military leaders from 32 nations that play a key role in global **UN peacekeeping** operations.



Key Points

- **About:** The conclave is attended by senior military officials from 32 nations, including Algeria, Armenia, Australia, **Bangladesh, Brazil, Egypt, Ethiopia**, France, Ghana, India, Italy, Kenya, Malaysia, Nepal, Nigeria, Poland, Rwanda, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Thailand, Uganda, Uruguay, and Vietnam.
 - The event also features defence exhibitions aimed at building shared capacities for peacekeeping missions.
- **Objectives:** The UNTCC serves as a vital forum to **address operational challenges**, evolving threats, interoperability, inclusivity in decision-making, and the role of technology and training in strengthening UN peacekeeping.
 - India, one of the largest contributors to UN peacekeeping, has convened this high-level forum to **discuss best practices, share insights**, and build mutual understanding for future peacekeeping.
- **Technology Demonstration:** The chiefs witnessed a demonstration of integrated, **new-age military technology** by the Indian Army, showcasing various indigenous military equipment.
- **4C Formula for UN Peacekeeping:** Defence Minister Rajnath Singh proposed a guiding principle of enhanced *Consultation, Cooperation, Coordination, and Capacity Building (4C)* to **address emerging challenges** in peacekeeping.
 - He noted that the **Centre for UN Peacekeeping in New Delhi** has trained participants from over 90 countries, contributing significantly to the development of interoperability among peacekeepers.

United Nations Peacekeeping (UNPK)

- The first UNPK mission, **the United Nations Truce Supervision Organisation (UNTSO)**, was established in May 1948 to monitor the **Armistice Agreement** between Israel and its Arab neighbours with a small team of military observers.
- They are deployed by the **UN Security Council** to support ceasefires and peace agreements and are called Blue Helmets due to the light blue colour symbolising peace on the UN flag.
- Currently, over 61,000 military and police peacekeepers from 119 countries and more than 7,000 civilian personnel serve in 11 UN Peacekeeping Missions.

