



Operation Pangea XIV: Interpol

Why in News

Recently, the [International Criminal Police Organization \(Interpol\)](#) through its **Operation Pangea XIV** targeted the **sale of fake medicines and products online**.

- More than **1.10 lakh web links, including websites and online marketplaces, were taken down** in the operation.

Key Points

▪ About:

- Operation Pangea, is a well-established **international effort of Interpol to disrupt the online sale of counterfeit and illicit health products**. Just as importantly, Pangea works to **raise awareness of the risks associated with buying medicines from unregulated websites**.
 - The first Operation Pangea was **conducted in 2008**.
- The current operation (14th) involved the **police, customs and health regulatory authorities of 92 countries**. It was **coordinated by Interpol**. Indian agencies also participated in the operation.
 - [Central Bureau of Investigation \(CBI\)](#) that is the nodal body for the Interpol in the country.

▪ Significance:

- The **online sale of illicit medicines continues to pose a threat to public safety**, which is why operations such as **Pangea remain vital in combating this global health menace**.
- Criminals were continuing to cash in on the huge demand for personal protection and hygiene products due to the [Covid-19 pandemic](#).

[Source: TH](#)