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WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS

2024 | OCTOBER 21 -31

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3. International Relations

United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL)

Why in news?

India voiced concern over the worsening security in West Asia after two UN peacekeepers were injured in an Israeli tank attack on the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) headquarters near the Lebanon-Israel border.

Key Facts

- Established in 1978 by UN Security Council Resolutions 425 and 426 after Israel's invasion of Lebanon.
- Primarily observational; peacekeepers can use force only in self-defence or to protect civilians.
- **Area of Operation:** Southern Lebanon, near Israeli Border ie., Blue Line
- **Largest Contributor:** Indonesia provides the most peacekeepers.
- Includes a five-vessel unit to support coastal security and prevent arms smuggling.
- Financed by a dedicated budget approved annually by the UN General Assembly.

Previous Year Question

With reference to the United Nations General Assembly, consider the following statements:

1. The UN General Assembly can grant observer status to the non-member States.
2. Inter-governmental organisations can seek observer status in the UN General Assembly.
3. Permanent Observers in the UN General Assembly can maintain missions at the UN headquarters.

Which of the statements given above are correct? (2022)

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: D

Inter-Parliamentary Union

Why in news?

- Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla is leading a parliamentary delegation to the 149th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) in Geneva.

Key Facts

- Established in 1889 in Paris to promote democracy and world peace.
- Facilitates global parliamentary diplomacy for peace, democracy, and sustainable development.
- First multilateral organization promoting international cooperation and dialogue.
- Membership: 180 parliaments and 15 associate members..
- Protects parliamentarians' human rights through a global committee.
- Headquarters moved to Geneva in 1921.
- Funded mainly by member contributions from public funds.

Previous Year Question

With reference to the "United Nations Credentials Committee", consider the following statements:

1. It is a committee set up by the UN Security Council and works under its supervision.
2. It traditionally meets in March, June and September every year.
3. It assesses the credentials of all UN members before submitting a report to the General Assembly for approval.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 3 only
- (b) 1 and 3 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1 and 2 only

Answer: A

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