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Moral pressure and human rights compliance
(The Hindu, 22-08-24)

What are the main approaches to enforcing compliance with human rights norms?
- Economic sanctions or military invasion by powerful nations
- Forceful condemnation by non-governmental organizations or smaller nations
- Naming and shaming strategies

How effective is the "naming and shaming" strategy in promoting human rights?
- Can exert significant pressure on governments to improve human rights records
- Has led to the release of political prisoners in some cases (e.g., Myanmar, Ethiopia)
- Resulted in policy changes in countries like Colombia and Argentina
- Contributed to the prosecution of dictators like Pinochet, Milošević, Taylor, and Fujimori
- Often fails against resistant governments or leads to only cosmetic changes

What are the challenges in implementing human rights norms globally?
- State sovereignty creates barriers to international human rights standards
- Authoritarian regimes often ignore international pleadings
- Some governments have their own political and economic agendas while taking moral high ground
- Lack of effective enforcement mechanisms in international law

How can human rights advocacy be made more effective?
- Build a bridge between power and law through popular appeals and democratic politics
- Challenge illiberal forces and prevent subversion of liberal ideas
- Encourage growth of human rights and economic/social reforms to disempower state tyranny
- States should take human rights as a binding and sacred task
- Establish stronger institutions that adhere to democratic norms of protecting basic human rights
- Mobilize political coalitions, institutional arrangements, and ideologies to achieve compliance and justice

Can you answer the following question?
Discuss the challenges in implementing human rights norms globally and suggest measures to make human rights advocacy more impactful in the face of authoritarian regimes and state sovereignty concerns.

Imports weaken Indian pharma
(The Hindu, 22-08-24)

What is the current situation regarding pharmaceutical affordability in India?
- Out-of-pocket health expenditures accounted for 47.1% of total health expenditure in 2021
- The Drugs Price Control Order, 2013 aims to regulate prices of existing medicines
- Promoting local production is seen as a better option for creating a competitive environment

What recent government initiatives have been taken regarding pharmaceutical procurement?
- Department of Expenditure order allowing global tenders for 120 medicines for Union government schemes
- 2024-25 Union Budget proposal to remove 10-12% customs duty on three cancer medicines marketed by AstraZeneca

How do these initiatives potentially impact the domestic pharmaceutical industry?
- Could disincentivize domestic producers
- May make the country more dependent on imports
- Could reinforce entry barriers: product patent regime and regulatory guidelines for marketing approval of bio-therapeutics

What provisions exist in Indian law to promote local production and affordability of medicines?
- Patents Act has public interest provisions to promote local production
- Compulsory licenses can be granted if patented medicines are not affordable
- Government-use licenses allowed under Section 100 of the Patents Act
- Biosimilar guidelines can be amended to reduce burden on domestic companies

Can you answer the following question?
Discuss the challenges faced by India's domestic pharmaceutical industry in light of recent government initiatives.