



TATHASTU
Institute of Civil Services

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS



12th January, 2024



S.NO.	TOPIC
1.	ARE ANTIBIOTICS OVER-PRESCRIBED IN INDIA?
2.	IN-DEPTH ANALYSIS – THE SPEAKER OF STATE LEGISLATURE: A CLOSER LOOK AT ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES
3.	PRELIMS POINTERS

ARE ANTIBIOTICS OVER-PRESCRIBED IN INDIA?

SOURCE: [THE HINDU](#)

TAG: GS Paper II- **Government Policies & Interventions, Human Resource, Health**
GS Paper III- **Antimicrobial Resistance, One Health Approach**

Mains Practice Question:

Q. Critically evaluate the challenges posed by the high rates of Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) in India. Discuss the implications for public health, especially in light of the significant burden of infectious diseases, and suggest measures to mitigate the impact.

Why In News?

- ❖ The **study conducted** by the **National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC)** aimed to **assess the patterns of antibiotic usage in hospitals**, particularly focusing on the preventive use of antibiotics among the surveyed patients.
- ❖ Shockingly, **over 55% of the surveyed hospital patients were administered antibiotics for prevention rather than treatment of infections.**
- ❖ The **study results may prompt policymakers to consider interventions and guidelines to regulate and monitor antibiotic usage in hospitals**, emphasizing the importance of using these drugs only when necessary and under appropriate circumstances.

ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE (AMR) IN INDIA

❖ **Definition:**

- **Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)** occurs when **bacteria, viruses, fungi and parasites no longer respond to antimicrobial medicines**. As a **result of drug resistance, antibiotics and other antimicrobial medicines become ineffective and infections become difficult or impossible to treat**, increasing the risk of disease spread, severe illness, disability and death.
- **AMR is a natural process that happens over time through genetic changes in pathogens**. Its emergence and spread is accelerated by human activity, mainly the misuse and overuse of antimicrobials to treat, prevent or control infections in humans, animals and plants.

❖ **Factors Leading to AMR in India:**

- 1. Inappropriate Antibiotic Use:**
 - Overuse of antibiotics in non-bacterial infections too.
 - Driven by prescribing practices and over-the-counter antibiotic usage.
- 2. Limited Laboratory Facilities:**
 - Inadequate facilities to promptly inform clinicians about suitable antibiotics based on bacterial cultures.
 - Clinicians often lack accurate information, leading to suboptimal treatment.
- 3. Insufficient Training:**
 - Lack of comprehensive training in antibiotic selection, escalation, and de-escalation among healthcare professionals.
- 4. Monitoring and Control Deficiencies:**
 - Poor monitoring of AMR.



- Ineffective control of antibiotic prescription and dispensing practices, despite repeated warnings.
5. **Pharmaceutical Industry Incentivization:**
- Incentivization of prescribing practices by the pharmaceutical industry, contributing to over-reliance on antibiotics.

CONSEQUENCES OF ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE:

1. **Ineffectiveness of Treatment Options:**
 - Many **available treatment** options for common bacterial infections **are becoming increasingly ineffective due to antibiotic resistance.**
 - Situations arise where infected patients cannot be adequately treated by any available antibiotics, leading to **delays and hindrances in treatment.**
2. **Complications and Mortality:**
 - **Antibiotic resistance may result in complications** and, in severe cases, **death due to the inability to effectively treat infections.**
3. **Increased Healthcare Burden:**
 - **Infected patients may require more intensive care and alternative,** more expensive antibiotics, leading to increased healthcare costs.
 - The use of **alternative antibiotics** may come with more severe side effects, further impacting the health and well-being of patients.
4. **Invasive Treatments:**
 - In some cases, more invasive treatments such as intravenous injections may be necessary, requiring hospitalization and **additional medical interventions.**
 - Specific health conditions, such as pneumonia, cystitis, and post-surgery infections, may become untreatable or require more invasive and costly interventions.
5. **Global Public Health Threat:**
 - **According to a recent WHO report,** antibiotic resistance has reached alarming levels globally, posing a significant threat to public health.
6. **Specific Regional Concerns:**
 - Regional increases in antibiotic resistance, as seen in Europe, can affect the efficacy of antibiotics against common bacteria like *Escherichia coli*, *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA), *Klebsiella pneumoniae*, and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*.
 - The progress in modern medicine, heavily reliant on effective antibacterial drugs, is at risk due to widespread antibiotic resistance.

STEPS TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT TO ADDRESS AMR:

1. **National Action Plan (NAP) for AMR (April 2017):**
 - **Objective:** Released by the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, it focuses on increasing awareness, strengthening surveillance, promoting research, and improving infection prevention and control.
2. **Delhi Declaration on AMR:**
 - **Inter-ministerial Consensus:** Ministers of concerned ministries in India signed the declaration.
 - **Objective:** Aims to address AMR through a mission mode involving research institutes, civil society, industry, small- and medium-sized enterprises, and promoting public-private partnerships.
3. **Antibiotic Stewardship Program (AMSP):**
 - **Initiation:** The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) initiated the AMSP on a pilot project basis in 20 tertiary care hospitals across India.
 - **Objective:** Controls the misuse and overuse of antibiotics in hospital wards and ICUs.
4. **Ban on Inappropriate Fixed Dose Combinations (FDCs):**
 - **Regulatory Action:** The Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) banned 40 inappropriate fixed dose combinations based on ICMR recommendations.
5. **Ban on Colistin Use in Animal Feed:**
 - **Collaborative Initiative:** ICMR, in collaboration with various departments, banned the use of Colistin



as a growth promoter in poultry.

6. One Health Approach:

- **Interdisciplinary Collaboration:** The government promotes a One Health approach involving collaboration at the human-animal-environmental interface.
- **Priority Areas:** Focuses on zoonotic diseases, food safety, and antibiotic resistance.

7. Integrated One Health Surveillance Network for AMR:

- **ICMR Initiative:** Undertaking a project in collaboration with the Indian Council of Agriculture Research to assess veterinary laboratories' preparedness for an integrated AMR surveillance network.

GLOBAL MEASURES

1. Global Efforts:

- **Collaborative Action Plans:** Encourage G20 nations and other countries to work together in developing regional action plans for surveillance, research, and control of AMR.

2. International Funding Mechanism:

- **Dedicated Funding:** Establish an international funding mechanism specifically for AMR research and development.
- **Support Innovation:** Aimed at creating new antibiotics, treatment options, and technologies to combat AMR.

3. Patent Reforms:

- **Promote Innovation and Affordability:** Advocate for patent reforms to encourage innovation while ensuring affordability for new antibiotics.
- **Explore Models:** Explore models like the Medicines Patent Pool to facilitate access to necessary medications.

WAY FORWARD TO ADDRESS ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE

❖ **Strengthen Regulatory Measures:**

- Continue regulatory actions such as banning inappropriate **fixed dose combinations (FDCs)** and limiting the use of antibiotics in animal feed.
- Establish stringent monitoring mechanisms to ensure compliance with regulations.

❖ **Expand Integrated One Health Surveillance Network:**

- **Scale up the Integrated One Health Surveillance Network** for Antimicrobial Resistance to cover more veterinary laboratories.
- **Foster collaboration between human and veterinary health sectors** for a **holistic surveillance approach**.

❖ **Foster Research and Innovation:**

- Invest in research and innovation for the development of new antibiotics, diagnostics, and vaccines.
- Facilitate collaboration between public and private sectors to drive advancements in the fight against AMR.



IN-DEPTH ANALYSIS – THE SPEAKER OF STATE LEGISLATURE: A CLOSER LOOK AT ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

SOURCE: [INDIAN EXPRESS](#)

TAG: GS Paper II- **Structure, Organization & Functioning of the Executive, Presiding officer, State Legislature**

Mains Practice Question:

Q. Evaluate the role of the Speaker in upholding parliamentary democracy in the context of the State Legislature. Discuss how the Speaker's impartiality and authority contribute to the smooth functioning of the legislative process.

WHY IN NEWS?

- Recently the Speaker of Maharashtra Legislature ruled that Shinde faction is a 'real Shiv Sena', who was following the directives of the Supreme Court.
- As per the Supreme Court's judgment on May 11, 2023, it asserted that there were no exceptional circumstances for the court to intervene in disqualification matters, as this fell within the purview of the Speaker of the Assembly.
- The Speaker assessed three crucial factors — the 1999 constitution of the Shiv Sena, the party's leadership structure, and the majority within the legislative party.

WHO IS SPEAKER OF STATE LEGISLATURE?

- The Speaker and Deputy Speaker play pivotal roles in the legislative machinery, serving as the heads of the Legislative Assembly.
- Article 178 of the Indian Constitution outlines the provisions for their appointment, emphasizing that both positions must be chosen from the members of the Legislative Assembly.
- The process of vacation, resignation, and removal from these offices is detailed in Article 179 of the Constitution.
 - A member holding the office of Speaker or Deputy Speaker may vacate the position if they cease to be a member of the Assembly, resign at any time in writing, or be removed by a resolution passed by a majority of all members of the Assembly.
 - Strict procedural guidelines, including a minimum 14-day notice for removal resolutions, are stipulated.
- The powers and functions of the Speaker, as delineated in Article 178, bestow upon them the authority to preside over Legislative Assembly sessions. Similar powers are granted to the Speaker of the Lok Sabha by Article 93.
- The Speaker holds a crucial role in maintaining order and discipline within the assembly and possesses the exclusive authority to determine whether a bill qualifies as a Money Bill.

Roles, Powers and Function of the Speaker

- ❖ **Presiding over Meetings:**
 - The Speaker oversees and conducts the proceedings of the Assembly, including the ability to permit secret meetings upon request from the leader of the House.
- ❖ **Maintaining Discipline and Decorum:**
 - The Speaker is responsible for upholding order and decorum within the Assembly, with the authority to ask a member to leave or suspend them if necessary.
- ❖ **Interpreter of House Provisions:**
 - Acting as the final interpreter, the Speaker interprets the Constitution, Rules of Procedure, and legislative conduct conventions and precedents related to the Assembly, with their decisions being conclusive.



- ❖ **Maintaining Quorum:**
 - In the absence of the required **quorum (1/10th of the House's strength)**, the Speaker can adjourn or suspend the House meeting.
- ❖ **Casting Vote:**
 - While refraining from voting initially, the Speaker can cast a deciding vote in case of a tie.
- ❖ **Certifying Money Bills:**
 - The Speaker holds the authority to certify whether a bill is a money bill, and their decision on this matter is final.
- ❖ **Disqualification of Members:**
 - Adjudicating disqualifications under the 10th schedule of the Constitution, the Speaker plays a crucial role in determining the disqualification of members due to defections.
- ❖ **Legislative Committees:**
 - The Speaker appoints chairpersons for various committees in the Assembly, **including the Business Advisory Committee, General Purpose Committee, and Rules Committee**. Additionally, the Speaker serves as the Chairperson for these committees.

IMPORTANCE OF THE SPEAKER

1. Upholding Integrity through Disqualification Authority:

- The Speaker's pivotal role in adjudicating on disqualification cases under anti-defection laws.
- Contribution to the integrity of the legislative process by ensuring adherence to constitutional principles.

2. Challenges and Indispensability in Upholding Democracy:

- Despite challenges such as maintaining decorum and navigating political complexities, the Speaker is indispensable.
- The Speaker's crucial role in upholding parliamentary democracy at the state level.

3. Shaping Legislative Agenda through Committee Impact:

- The Speaker's influential role in shaping the legislative agenda, particularly through committees.
- Examination of the Speaker's impact on committees, including those chaired by the Speaker.

4. Comparative Analysis with Lok Sabha Speaker:

- Illuminating nuanced differences in roles between the Speaker of the State Legislature and the Lok Sabha Speaker.
- Emphasizing the shared responsibility of both Speakers in ensuring the smooth functioning of the Indian parliamentary system.

5. Decisions Beyond the Chamber:

- The far-reaching impact of the Speaker's decisions beyond the legislative chamber.
- Shaping democratic values and principles in governance, emphasizing transparency, accountability, and inclusivity.

6. Speaker as Custodian of the Rule of Law:

- Highlighting the Speaker's role as a key custodian of the rule of law.
- Emphasizing the Speaker's crucial contribution to fostering transparency and accountability in the legislative decision-making process.


7. Indispensability of the Speaker's Institution:

- The Speaker's institution as indispensable in the pursuit of a robust and vibrant democratic system.
- Recognizing the enduring importance of the Speaker's role in the governance framework of the state.

CONCLUSION

- ❖ In conclusion, the Speaker of the State Legislature occupies a pivotal position within the constitutional framework, embodying the essence of impartiality, authority, and efficiency. The constitutional provisions regarding the appointment, powers, and functions of the Speaker underscore their critical role in overseeing legislative proceedings. The Speaker's responsibilities extend beyond presiding over sessions; they are entrusted with maintaining order, interpreting constitutional provisions, and making decisive rulings on critical matters like Money Bills.



TOPIC	DESCRIPTION
KALARAM TEMPLE OF NASHIK (MAHARASHTRA)	<p>WHY IN NEWS? <i>The Kalaram Mandir in Nashik, Maharashtra, is currently in the news due to the recent visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the upcoming presence of Shiv Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray on January 22 for the Ram temple consecration ceremony in Ayodhya.</i></p> <p>ABOUT THE TEMPLE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Location: Situated on the banks of the Godavari in Panchavati, Nashik.➤ Name: Kalaram Mandir, derived from the black statue of Lord Ram, translating to "Black Ram."➤ History: Built in 1792 by Sardar Rangarao Odhekar, who dreamt of a black-colored statue of Lord Ram in the Godavari. The statues were recovered from the river, and the temple was constructed.  <p>FEATURES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Main temple has 14 steps, representing the 14 years of Ram's exile.➤ 84 pillars symbolize the cycle of 84 lakh species one must complete to be born as a human.➤ Presence of a very old tree with Lord Dattatreya's footprints beneath. <p>SIGNIFICANCE OF THE TEMPLE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Religious Importance: Panchavati holds a special place in the Ramayana, with significant events from Lord Ram's exile taking place in the region.➤ Dalit Satyagraha: The temple gained prominence due to the Dalit satyagraha in 1930 led by B R Ambedkar and Pandurang Sadashiv Sane, demanding access to Hindu temples for Dalits.➤ Cultural Heritage: The temple reflects cultural and historical heritage, drawing devotees daily, and has a unique black idol of Lord Ram.
AKASH MISSILE	<p>WHY IN NEWS? <i>The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) conducted a successful flight test of the new generation Akash surface-to-air missile (SAM) from the Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur, off the coast of Odisha.</i></p> <p>ABOUT AKASH MISSILE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Type: Surface-to-Air Missile (SAM).➤ Development: Developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) of India.➤ Features:



- The Akash missile system is **equipped with an indigenously developed radio frequency seeker** for target tracking.
- It includes a **launcher, multi-function radar**, and a command, control, and communication system.

- **Purpose:** Designed for air defence, the Akash missile system is capable of intercepting and destroying aerial threats, **including unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs)** and other **high-speed targets**.
- **Indigenous Technology:** The missile system **showcases India's indigenous capabilities** in developing advanced defence technologies.



SIGNIFICANCE

- Targeted **high-speed unmanned aerial target at low altitude**.
- **Akash missile system** intercepted and destroyed the target.
- Validation of the **complete weapon system**, including indigenously developed components.
- **Components tested: missile with radio frequency seeker, launcher, multi-function radar, and command, control, and communication system.**
- Milestone achieved, paving the way for user trials.
- Signifies significant progress in the development and deployment of the Akash missile system.

KAZIRANGA NATIONAL PARK

WHY IN NEWS?

As per the recently conducted **fifth waterbird census**, the Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve, has recorded a **27% increase in the number of resident and winter migratory waterbirds**.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE FIFTH WATERBIRD CENSUS

- **Kaziranga** is among **India's top five waterbird habitats**.
- The survey was Conducted across 115 waterbodies in three divisions.
- It showed 37,606 birds in Eastern Assam and 12,002 in Biswanath.
- Kaziranga Park emerged as a **vital habitat** for waterbird protection and conservation.

ABOUT KAZIRANGA NATIONAL PARK

- **Location:** Situated in Assam's **Golaghat** and **Nagaon** districts.
- **Establishment:** Declared a national park in **1974**.
- **UNESCO Status:** Recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- **Rhinoceros Population:** Houses two-thirds of the world's **one-horned rhinoceros**.
- **Ecological Significance:** Largest undisturbed area in Brahmaputra Valley floodplains.





- **Vegetation:** Features diverse landscapes, including wet grasslands and deciduous forests.
- **Flora:** Known for dense **elephant grass, water lilies, and rattan cane.**
- **Wildlife:** Includes **rhinoceros, tigers, leopards, diverse deer species, and hoolock gibbons.**
- Home to **478 bird species, both resident and migratory.**
- Critical habitat for the **endangered Bengal florican.**

PLACES IN NEWS: TAIWAN

WHY IN NEWS?

- **Taiwan** is conducting its **presidential election** today. This is noteworthy because it signifies a crucial political event, drawing attention to the democratic process in Taiwan and its impact on regional dynamics.

TAIWAN'S LOCATION & GEOGRAPHY:

- Taiwan is Situated in **East Asia**, it neighbors China to the west, Japan to the north-east, and the Philippines to the south.
- **Taipei** serves as its **capital.**
- It is Bounded by the **East China Sea** to the north, the **Philippine Sea** to the east, **Luzon Strait** to the south, and the **South China Sea** to the southwest.
- The **Taiwan Strait** Separates Taiwan from mainland China.
- **Yushan** (highest mountain in the country), **Xueshan (2)**, **Xiuguluan (3).**
- **River Choshui Hsi**, is Taiwans major **freshwater source.**



TAIWAN'S POLITY & GOVERNANCE:

- Taiwan Possesses its **own constitution, democratically-elected leaders, and an active armed forces.**
- China claims Taiwan and opposes diplomatic ties with countries recognizing the ROC.
- It is not a member of the UN and WHO but participates in the WTO and APEC as **"Chinese Taipei."**