



**TATHASTU**  
Institute of Civil Services

# DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS



**12<sup>th</sup> 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 |
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## 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

**SWACHH SURVEKSHAN AWARDS FOR 2023**

DESCRIPTION

**WHY IN NEWS?**

- ❖ *Surat in Gujarat and Indore in Madhya Pradesh were jointly declared the cleanest cities in India at the annual Swachh Survekshan Awards for 2023 by the Union Urban Affairs Ministry.*

**KEY HIGHLIGHTS OF THE REPORT**

- ❖ **Cleanest Cities (Joint Winners):**
  - ☛ **Indore and Surat** awarded the cleanest city title in the Swachh Survekshan Awards.
- ❖ **Consistent Performance:**
  - ☛ Indore has been the **cleanest city for seven consecutive years**, while Surat secured the top award for the first time.
- ❖ **Key Achievements:**
  - ☛ Both cities achieved **100% door-to-door waste collection, 98% source segregation, and 100% remediation of dumpsites.**
- ❖ **Population Category:**
  - ☛ Tied for the **top position** among cities with a **population over 1 lakh.**
- ❖ **Cleanest State:**
  - ☛ **Maharashtra** recognized as the **cleanest state** with 89.24% door-to-door waste collection and 67.76% source segregation.
- ❖ **Other Recognitions:**
  - ☛ **Chandigarh** awarded for best safety standards for sanitation workers, Varanasi as the cleanest 'Ganga town,' and **Sasvad in Maharashtra** as the cleanest city with a population below 1 lakh.
  - ☛ On the other hand, **Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Rajasthan, Nagaland and Tripura** were ranked the **bottom five states.**
- ❖ **Cantonment Recognition:**
  - ☛ **Mhow Cantonment** named the cleanest cantonment in the country.
- ❖ **National Coverage:**
  - ☛ The annual ranking covered **4,416 urban local bodies, 61 cantonments, and 88 Ganga towns.**
- ❖ **President's Emphasis:**
  - ☛ President Droupadi Murmu highlighted the importance of **wealth creation from waste and eliminating legacy dumpsites.**

**Swachh Survekshan awards 2023**



Indore and Surat were declared the joint cleanest cities of India as part of the Swachh Survekshan Awards. A look at the highlights

**TOP 10 CITIES**

| Rank | Urban local body, State       |
|------|-------------------------------|
| 1    | Indore, Madhya Pradesh        |
| 1    | Surat, Gujarat                |
| 3    | Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra      |
| 4    | Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh |
| 5    | Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh        |
| 6    | Vijaywada, Andhra Pradesh     |
| 7    | New Delhi (NDMC), Delhi       |
| 8    | Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh      |
| 9    | Greater Hyderabad, Telangana  |
| 10   | Pune, Maharashtra             |

**BOTTOM 3**

| Rank | ULB, State           |
|------|----------------------|
| 1    | Kolkata, West Bengal |
| 2    | Asansol, West Bengal |
| 3    | Haora, West Bengal   |

**TOP STATES**

| Rank | State          | No of ULBs |
|------|----------------|------------|
| 1    | Maharashtra    | 411        |
| 2    | Madhya Pradesh | 378        |
| 3    | Chhattisgarh   | 169        |

**THE MOST IMPROVED**

**PANAJI, GOA**  
Fastest moving city with population of over 100,000

**NOWROZABAD, MP**  
Fastest moving city with population less than 100,000



## GM MUSTARD

### WHY IN NEWS?

- *The Supreme Court questioned the government regarding the **approval of transgenic mustard hybrid DMH-11** for environmental release by the **Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC)**.*

### WHAT IS GM MUSTARD?

- ❖ GM Mustard, specifically **Dhara Mustard Hybrid (DMH-11)**, is a genetically modified variety developed by Delhi University.
- ❖ The genetic modification involves the introduction of **two alien genes, "barnase" and "barstar,"** isolated from the **soil bacterium Bacillus amyloliquefaciens**.



### WHAT IS GM CROP?

- ❖ GM crops result from **artificial modification of plant genes**, often involving the **insertion of genetic material from different organisms**.
- ❖ Modifications aim to confer new traits like **increased yield, herbicide tolerance, disease resistance, drought tolerance, or enhanced nutritional value**.
- ❖ Initially, **India approved BT cotton** as the sole GM crop for commercial cultivation.
- ❖ **Recent Development:** The **Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC)** recommended **GM Mustard for commercial use**, marking a potential expansion in **GM crop cultivation in India**.

### ABOUT GENETIC ENGINEERING APPRAISAL COMMITTEE (GEAC):

- ❖ **Formation:**
  - ☛ **GEAC is a statutory committee** established under the **Rules for Hazardous Micro Organisms/Genetically Engineered Organisms or Cells (Rules, 1989)** framed under the **Environment (Protection) Act, 1986**.
- ❖ **Ministry:**
  - ☛ Operates under the **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC)** and was renamed from Genetic Engineering Approval Committee to Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee in 2010.
- ❖ **Functions:**
  - ☛ Responsible for assessing activities **involving large-scale use of hazardous microorganisms**, reviewing proposals for releasing genetically engineered organisms into the environment, and regulating GM organisms and crops.
- ❖ **Authority:**
  - ☛ Empowered to prohibit the **commercial use of certain hazardous recombinants and oversees the use**, import, and export of genetically modified organisms.

- ❖ **Composition:**



## ANTI MICROBIAL RESISTANCE (AMR)

- Chaired by the **Special Secretary/Additional Secretary of MoEF&CC**, co-chaired by a representative from the **Department of Biotechnology (DBT)**, and consists of **24 members** including experts from various ministries and institutions.

### WHY IN NEWS?

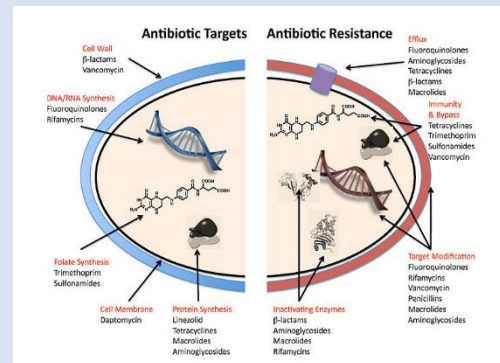
- A recent study of the **National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC)** revealed that over **50% Indian patients received preventive antibiotics**, raising concerns.

### WHAT IS AMR?

- Microorganisms resist antimicrobial agents they were once sensitive to.
- Resistance defined by bacteria, including ***E. coli*, *Klebsiella*, *Acinetobacter*, *Staphylococcus aureus*, *enterococcus***.
- Higher resistance leads to **poorer health outcomes for patients**.

### Concerns in India:

- Multiple bacteria types (*E. coli*, *Klebsiella*) resistant to antibiotics.**
- Over-the-counter antibiotic use contributes to the resistance problem.
- Lack of adequate training in antibiotic selection and monitoring.**



### Causes of AMR:

- Inappropriate antibiotic use in **non-bacterial infections**.
- Inadequate laboratory facilities for rapid and accurate diagnostics.
- Lack of training in antibiotic **selection, escalation, and de-escalation**.

### Global Impact:

- AMR threat exacerbated by **climate change, zoonotic spillovers**.
- Resistance creeping in from agriculture products and poultry.
- Urgent need for judicial **use of antibiotics globally**.

## CERVICAL CANCER

### WHY IN NEWS?

- The Indian government is **set to launch a human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination campaign targeting girls aged 9-14 to reduce the incidence of cervical cancer**, which is the second most common cancer among women in India.

### ABOUT CERVICAL CANCER

- Cervical cancer is a type of cancer characterized by the abnormal growth of cells in the woman's cervix.
- The primary factor contributing to most cases of cervical cancer is **infection with various strains of the human papillomavirus (HPV)**.
- HPV is a common sexually transmitted infection.**

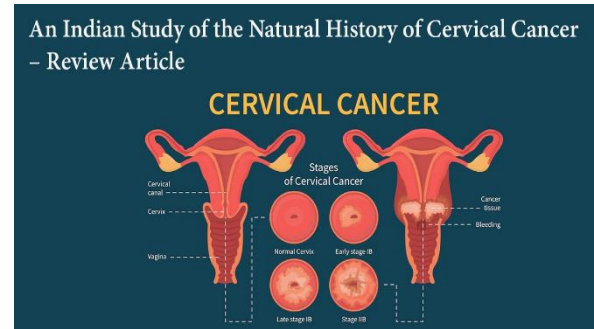
### CERVICAL CANCER BURDEN IN INDIA:



- ❖ India accounts for about a **fifth of the global burden of cervical cancer**, with **1.25 lakh new cases** and **75,000 deaths annually**.
- ❖ Persistent infections with **high-risk HPV strains contribute to nearly 85% of all cervical cancers**.

**MANUFACTURING AND VACCINE TYPE:**

- ❖ The **Serum Institute of India (SII)** produces an **indigenously developed quadrivalent vaccine named Cervavac**, offering protection **against HPV strains 16, 18, 6, and 11**.
- ❖ SII aims to increase **production capacity** from **2-3 million doses per year to 60-70 million doses**.



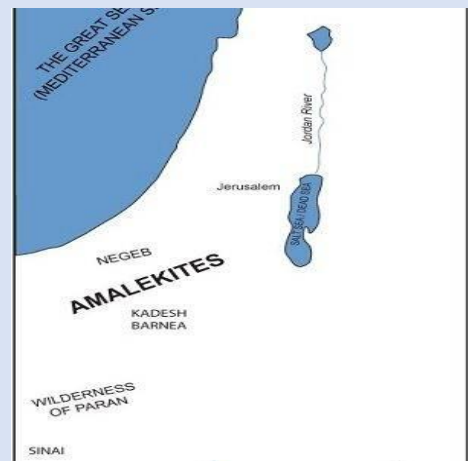
**TERM 'AMALEK'**

**WHY IN NEWS?**

- ❖ *The term 'Amalek' has gained prominence in the opening arguments of South Africa's genocide case against Israel in the International Court of Justice (ICJ). Referencing Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's comments invoking 'Amalek' before an assault on Gaza, the term is accused of being used by Israeli soldiers to justify violence against civilians.*

**ABOUT THE AMALEK**

- ❖ **Historical Background:**
  - ☛ The Amalekites were an **ancient biblical nation**, descendants of Amalek.
  - ☛ According to the Hebrew Bible, they **were the first to attack the children of Israel after their escape from Egypt into Sinai**.
- ❖ **Biblical Justification for Collective Punishment:**
  - ☛ The Hebrew Bible outlines the deeds of the Amalek as a basis for what scholars characterize as **"collective punishment."**
  - ☛ The **Torah emphasizes the obligation to blot out the remembrance of Amalek**, implying a call for their **total destruction**.
- ❖ **King Saul's Role:**
  - ☛ **King Saul**, instructed by Prophet Samuel, was **commanded to annihilate Amalek**, sparing none, including men, women, infants, and animals.
- ❖ **'Other as Amalek' Concept:**
  - ☛ Throughout history, **Rabbinic scholars have used the term 'Amalek' to depict the epitome of evil in Jewish tradition**.
  - ☛ In parallel, the term has been **applied to other nations and groups seen as threats to the Jewish people**.





**INDIA'S LONGEST SEA BRIDGE- 'ATAL SETU NHAVA SHEVA SEA LINK'**

❖ **Modern Invocation and Justification:**

- ☛ Netanyahu's use of 'Amalek' evokes **collective memories of historical persecution.**
- ☛ The term has been **historically used to justify brutal, collective reprisals, including violence against Palestinians.**
- ☛ In 1994, **Israeli extremist Bharuch Goldstein**, viewing Palestinians as Amalekites, carried out a **deadly attack**, contributing to a **history of invoking Amalek to justify violence.**

**WHY IN NEWS?**

- ❖ *Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to inaugurate the Mumbai Trans Harbour Link (MTHL), the country's longest sea bridge, officially named Atal Setu Nhava Sheva Sea Link.*

**KEY FEATURES OF THE MUMBAI TRANS HARBOUR LINK:**

- ❖ The MTHL is a **22-km-long twin-carriageway six-lane bridge over Thane Creek in the Arabian Sea**, connecting Sewri in Mumbai to Chirle in Raigad district.
- ❖ It includes a **16.5 km sea link and viaducts on land at either end, totalling 5.5 km in length.**

**OBJECTIVES AND SIGNIFICANCE:**

- ❖ The project aims to enhance **connectivity in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region, covering Mumbai, Thane, Palghar, and Raigad districts, fostering economic development.**
- ❖ The bridge will substantially **reduce travel time between Sewri and Chirle to under 20 minutes** and alleviate congestion on the existing Vashi bridge route.



**HISTORICAL BACKGROUND (1963 TO 2024):**

- ❖ **Initially proposed in 1963**, the concept of a bay crossing resurfaced in the late 90s.
- ❖ Multiple unsuccessful bidding processes occurred, with changes in nodal agencies, **until MMRDA partnered with Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) in December 2017.**

**PROJECT FUNDING AND PROGRESS:**

- ❖ **JICA agreed to fund 80% of the project cost**, totalling Rs 21,200 crore, with the state and central governments covering the remainder.
- ❖ Construction began in 2018, and the **total expenditure includes a Rs 15,100 crore loan from JICA.**

**NATIONAL YOUTH DAY 2024**

**WHY IN NEWS?**

*12th January 2024 marks the **birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda**, and this day is celebrated as **National Youth Day** across India.*

**HISTORY AND ORIGIN**



- ❖ In 1984, India dedicated January 12th as National Youth Day in **honour of Swami Vivekananda**.
- ❖ The government **aimed to inspire future generations with Vivekananda's messages of strength, character, and service.**

#### **NATIONAL YOUTH DAY 2024**

- ❖ **National Youth Day**, observed on **January 12<sup>th</sup>**, commemorates the birthday of **Swami Vivekananda**, a revered spiritual and social leader in India.
- ❖ The **theme for National Youth Day 2024 is "Arise, Awake, and Realise the Power You Hold,"** emphasizing **empowerment, self-realization, and action.**



#### **OBJECTIVES**

- ❖ Individuals can **observe National Youth Day by learning about Swami Vivekananda's life.**
- ❖ It provides an opportunity for educating young **people about social consciousness, leadership, and responsibility through talks, events, and cultural activities.**

#### **ABOUT SWAMI VIVEKANAND**

- ❖ **Birth and Name Change:**
  - ☛ Born as **Narendranath Datta on January 12, 1863.**
  - ☛ **In 1893**, took the name '**Vivekananda**' upon the request of Maharaja Ajit Singh.
- ❖ **Contributions and Philosophy:**
  - ☛ Introduced *Vedanta and Yoga* to the world.
  - ☛ **Preached 'neo-Vedanta'** blending Hinduism with Western interpretation.
  - ☛ Emphasized **education for national regeneration** and character building.
- ❖ **Notable Speech and Pathways:**
  - ☛ Famous speech at the **World Parliament of Religion in Chicago (1893).**
  - ☛ Outlined pathways to moksha in his books: **Raja-yoga, Karma-yoga, Jnana-yoga, and Bhakti-yoga.**
- ❖ **Netaji's Recognition and Associations:**
  - ☛ Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose called him the "**maker of modern India.**"
  - ☛ **Chief disciple of Ramakrishna Paramhansa**; established **Ramakrishna Mission (1897).**
  - ☛ **Founded Belur Math in 1899**, his permanent abode.
- ❖ **Death and Legacy:**
  - ☛ Passed away at **Belur Math in 1902.**
  - ☛ Legacy continued through **Ramakrishna Mission's work in education, culture, health, and welfare.**