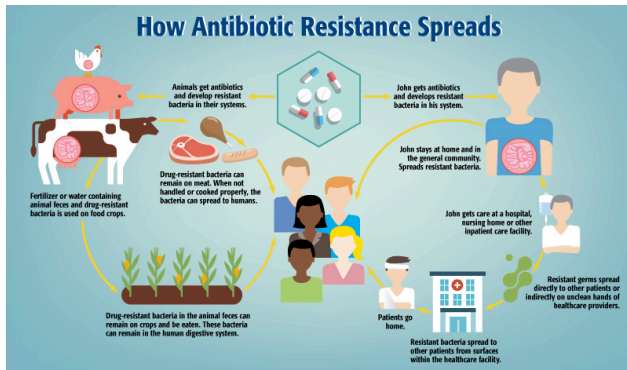




17 January 2023

National and International News

NCDC survey on Antibiotics



Context

- According to the NCDC survey, **In 13 out of 20 hospitals, more than 70% of patients** were given at least one dose of antibiotic
- The findings of the report are worrying as India is among the few countries where **antimicrobial resistance** is notably high.
- Such resistance develops when antimicrobials, which include antibiotics, are misused or overprescribed.

Key fact

According to the WHO, antimicrobial resistance was directly responsible for **1.27 million global deaths in 2019 and contributed to 4.95 million deaths**

About NCDC

- The National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), formerly **National Institute of Communicable Diseases (NICD)**, had its origin as the Central Malaria Bureau, established at **Kasauli (Himachal Pradesh) in 1909.**
- NICD was transformed into the **National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC)** with a larger mandate of controlling emerging and re-emerging diseases in 2009.
- It functions as the nodal agency in the country **for disease surveillance facilitating prevention and control** of communicable diseases.
- It is also a national level institute for training specialized manpower for public health, laboratory sciences and entomological services and is involved in various applied research activities.

Kuno National Park (KNP)

Context

One more cheetah, part of the set of 20 imported from Africa, died recently.

About Kuno National Park (KNP):

- It is located in the **Sheopur district in Madhya Pradesh.**



Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia



- It is nestled near the Vindhyan Hills.
- It is named after the **Kuno River (One of the main tributaries of the Chambal River)** that cuts across it.
- Initially established as a wildlife sanctuary, it was only in 2018 that the government changed its status into a national park.
- Kuno National Park was selected under **'Action Plan for Introduction of Cheetah in India'**.
- **Vegetation:** Kuno is primarily a grassland region, though a few rocky outcrops are found here too.
- **Flora:**
 - Kardhai, Salai, and Khair trees dominate the forested area of Kuno National Park, which is mostly mixed forest.
 - The park has a total of 123 tree species, 71 shrub species, 32 exotic and climbing species, and 34 bamboo and grass species.
- **Fauna:** The protected area of the forest is home to the jungle cat, Indian leopard, sloth bear, Indian wolf, striped hyena, golden jackal, Bengal fox and dhole, along with more than 120 bird species.

ICMR starts revising current National Essential Diagnostics List

Context

- The **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** has begun the process of revising the current **National Essential Diagnostics List (NEDL)**
- The NEDL lists the essential and most basic tests that should be available at various levels of healthcare facilities in the country, including at the village level, in sub-health centres, health and wellness centres, and primary health centres
- The **ICMR defined essential diagnostic tests** as those that satisfy the priority health care needs of the population and are selected with due regard to disease prevalence and public health relevance, evidence of efficacy and accuracy, and comparative cost-effectiveness.

About ICMR

- Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) is the **apex body in India for the formulation, coordination and promotion of biomedical research.**



India's KABIL acquires five lithium blocks in Argentina



WORLD'S TOP 5 LITHIUM RESOURCES



Others include Germany, Congo, Canada, Mexico, Czechia, Serbia, Russia, Peru, Mali, Brazil, Zimbabwe, Spain, Portugal, Namibia, Ghana, Finland, Austria, and Kazakhstan.
Source: US Geological Survey, Mineral Commodity Summaries, January 2023.

INDIA'S LITHIUM EXPEDITION

- India is dependent on China for lithium imports, total imports in FY23 were roughly **\$3 bn**
- Imports incurred costs of **₹25,000 crore** in FY23
- Agreement signed with Australia for exploring two lithium and three cobalt blocks in 2022
- Started bidding on November 29 for two blocks, including a **5.9 million** block in J&K
- In talks with Bolivia, Chile, and other nations for critical mineral extraction, development

- Its mandate is to conduct, coordinate and implement medical research for the benefit of the Society; translating medical innovations into products/processes and introducing them into the public health system.
- It is funded by the Government of India through the **Department of Health Research, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare**.

Context

- India announced the acquisition of five lithium blocks in Argentina.
- Khanij Bidesh India Ltd. (KABIL)**, operating under the Ministry of Mines, signed an agreement with Argentina's state-owned **Catamarca Minera Y Energética Sociedad Del Estado (CAMYEN)** based in **Catamarca** province.

Key points

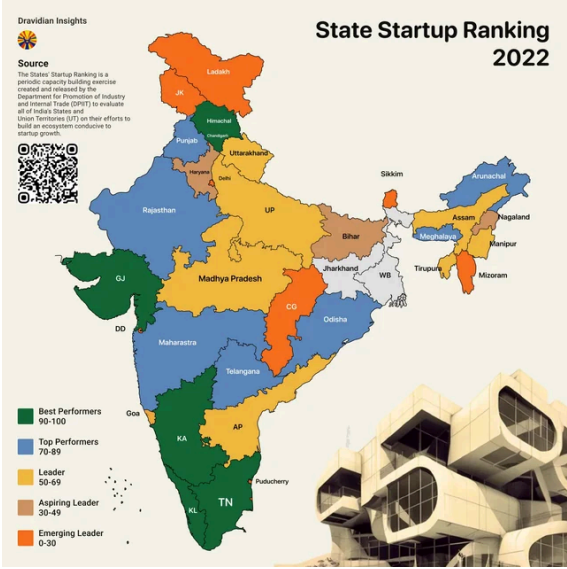

- KABIL, which has obtained exploration and exclusivity rights for the blocks, will start exploration and development of the five lithium brine blocks — **Cortadera-I, Cortadera-VII, Cortadera-VIII, Cateo-2022-01810132, and Cortadera-VI** — covering an area of about 15,703 hectares.
- KABIL was preparing to set up a branch office at Catamarca, officials told businessline, adding that the project cost (for development and exploration) was about ₹200 crore and would be spread over a five-year period.

Key fact

India's lithium requirements, amounting to about ₹24,000 crore, are met through imports, with the bulk of supplies coming from China. Often called **'white gold'**, lithium is key to the 'green transition' and is used in energy storage solutions, batteries for mobile phones, and in EVs.



Kerala Regional News

<p>Kerala, Gujarat, Karnataka, & TN best for startups</p>  <p>State Startup Ranking 2022</p> <p>Source: The States Startup Ranking is a periodic capacity building exercise created and released by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) to evaluate all of India States and Union Territories (UT) on their efforts to build an ecosystem conducive to startup growth.</p> <p>Legend:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Best Performers 90-100 Top Performers 70-89 Leader 50-69 Aspiring Leader 30-49 Emerging Leader 0-30 	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As per the latest rankings, Kerala, Gujarat, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu are ranked best states in providing a strong ecosystem for startups States in the 90-100 percentile were classified as “best performers”, while those with 30-49 were “aspiring leaders”. Delhi, Chhattisgarh and Jammu & Kashmir, managed under 30 percentile and were put in the “emerging startups ecosystem” group.
<p>Kochi gears up as shipbuilding hub as PM set to dedicate new projects</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kerala's port city of Kochi is set to become a bustling hub for ship repair and shipbuilding as PM Modi inaugurates projects worth Rs 4000 crore It includes three significant projects: New Dry Dock (NOD), the International Ship Repair Facility (ISRF) of Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL), and the LPG Import Terminal of Indian Oil Corporation Limited.
<p>Kerala rider Harith Noah first Indian to win a stage at Dakar</p> 	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kerala rider Harith Noah created history by becoming the first Indian ever to win a stage at the iconic Dakar Rally. Noah, representing Sherco TVS Rally Factory squad, won Stage 8 in the Rally 2 class in his fifth Dakar.



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Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

Person in News: KB Sreedevi



Context:

- Renowned Malayalam writer KB Sreedevi passed away at 84 due to age-related ailments.
- She primarily focused on Indian mythology and folklore
- Her literary contributions were predominantly in the genre of children's literature.
- She also received prestigious awards such as the Kerala Sahitya Akademi Award for Overall Contributions and the Kerala State Film Award for Story.

Joint patrolling by TN and Kerala foresters starts in Nilgiris

Context:

- Forest departments of Tamil Nadu and Kerala initiated joint patrolling operations along the interstate border areas in the Nilgiris.
- The main aim of this was fortifying security measures in the border regions of the Nilgiris forests.

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