

AAKAR TODAY

1. Food-Animal Farming And Antimicrobial Resistance

Why in News?

Poor animal health in factory farming can negatively affect food safety, our environment and climate, leading to Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR).

Factory farming or intensive food-animal farming is the intense and confined farming of animals such as pigs, cows, and birds. They are industrial facilities that raise large numbers of animals, mostly indoors, in conditions intended to maximise production at a minimal cost.

Key Details

What are the Issues?

- The suffering of animals within farms around the world is too often overlooked or seen to be separate from the big issues such as pandemics and the public health crisis, climate change and biodiversity loss, food insecurity and malnutrition.
- In reality, this can exacerbate the global problems as well as causing immense cruelty to billions of animals.
- Producing more than 50 billion factory-farmed land animals each year to satisfy growing demand for cheap meat requires using breeds of genetically uniform animals squashed together, creating an ideal breeding ground for disease that can jump to humans.
- When diseases jump from one species to another, they often become more infectious and cause more serious illness and death, leading to global pandemics.
- Bird flu and swine flu are two key examples where new strains constantly emerge from intensively farmed animals.
- However, there is an addition to this list — Antimicrobial Resistance which is overlooked among these big issues.
- The overuse of antibiotics on factory farms leads to superbugs that spread to workers, the environment and into the food chain.
- Factory farms, characterised by substandard husbandry practices and poor animal welfare, drive the increased use of antimicrobials, and are connected to the emergence of AMR alongside a range of zoonotic pathogens.

What is AMR and How Prevalent is it in India?

- AMR is the resistance acquired by any microorganism (bacteria, viruses, fungi, parasite, etc.) against antimicrobial drugs that are used to treat infections.
- It occurs when a microorganism changes over time and no longer responds to medicines making infections harder to treat and increasing the risk of disease spread, severe illness and death.
- The World Health Organisation (WHO) has identified AMR as one of the top ten threats to global health.
- In India, over 56,000 newborn deaths each year due to sepsis caused by organisms that are resistant to first line antibiotics.
- A study reported by ICMR (Indian Council of Medical Research) from 10 hospitals showed that when Covid patients acquire drug-resistant infections in hospitals, the mortality is almost 50-60%.
- The multi-drug resistance determinant, New Delhi Metallo-beta-lactamase-1 (NDM-1), emerged from this region.
- Africa, Europe and other parts of Asia have also been affected by multi-drug resistant typhoid originating from South Asia.

What Initiatives have been taken by the Government to Prevent AMR?

- AMR Surveillance and Research Network (AMRSN) was launched in 2013, to generate evidence and capture trends and patterns of drug resistant infections in the country.
- The National Action Plan on AMR focuses on One Health approach and was launched in April 2017 with the aim of involving various stakeholder ministries/departments.
- ICMR along with Research Council of Norway (RCN) initiated a joint call for research in antimicrobial resistance in 2017.
- ICMR along with the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF), Germany has a joint Indo-German collaboration for research on AMR.
- ICMR has initiated Antibiotic Stewardship Program (AMSP) on a pilot project across India to control misuse and overuse of antibiotics in hospital wards and ICUs.

2. Young Professionals Exchange between India and UK

Why in News?

Recently, United Kingdom (UK) and India decided to launch a Young Professionals Exchange in 2023.

UK will offer 3000 degree-holding Indians in the 18-30 year age group places to work for up to two years.

The scheme will commence in early 2023 and be on a reciprocal basis.

Key Details

Why is the Indo-UK Partnership Important?

- **Condemning Russian Aggression:**
- **For UK:** India is a key strategic partner for the UK in the Indo-Pacific both in terms of market share and defence, as was underscored by the signing of the Defence and International Security Partnership between India and the UK in 2015.
 - For Britain, a successful conclusion of an Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with India would provide a boost to its 'Global Britain' ambitions as the UK has sought to expand its markets beyond Europe since Brexit.
 - Britain has been trying to seize opportunities in the growing economies of the Indo-Pacific to cement its place on the global stage as a serious global actor.
 - The British would be better able to achieve this goal with good bilateral relations with India.
- **For India:** The UK is a regional power in the Indo-Pacific as it possesses naval facilities in Oman, Singapore, Bahrain, Kenya, and British Indian Ocean Territory.
 - The UK has also confirmed USD 70 million of British International Investment funding to support the usage of renewable energy in India, which will help in building renewable energy infrastructure and developing solar power in the region.
 - India has sought easy market access for Indian fisheries, pharma, and agricultural products besides duty concession for labour-intensive exports.

What are the Current Major Bilateral Issues between the Both Countries?

- **Extradition of Indian Economic Offenders:**
 - The issue is the extradition of Indian economic offenders who are presently seeking shelter in Britain and using the legal system to their advantage.

- Offenders like Vijay Mallya, Nirav Modi and others have long taken shelter under the British system despite clear cut Indian cases against them which warrant extradition.

- **Umbilical link between the British and Pakistani Deep State:**

- This legacy of the long-gone British Raj in the sub-continent allows Britain to box in a higher weight category with the help of Pakistan on imperial follies of Jammu and Kashmir.
- The presence of a large Muslim community from the sub-continent in the UK, particularly from areas like Mirpur of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir adds to dissonance apart from the trap of vote bank politics.

- **Non-Acceptance by White British:**

- The unacceptance of the rise of India as a global power by white British people is another issue.
- India under the current Prime Minister has left behind Britain as the fifth largest economy in GDP terms and is on the way up.
- There is no difference between a modern and confident Indian and a British colonial Indian in terms of skin colour or the imperial legacy of the British Empire.

PRACTICE QUESTION

Prelims

Q. Which of the following are the reasons for the occurrence of multi-drug resistance in microbial pathogens in India?

1. Genetic predisposition of some people.
2. Taking incorrect doses of antibiotics to cure diseases.
3. Using antibiotics in livestock farming.
4. Multiple chronic diseases in some people.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- | | |
|----------------|------------------|
| (a) 1 and 2 | (b) Only 2 and 3 |
| (c) 1, 3 and 4 | (d) 2, 3 and 4 |

Mains

Q. The judicial systems in India and the UK seem to be converging as well as diverging in recent times. Highlight the key points of convergence and divergence between the two nations in terms of their judicial practices.

(200 words)