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Daily News Analysis

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1. National Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance (NAP-AMR) 2.0

- **Prelims -** National Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance (NAP-AMR) 2.0
- **Mains -** GS 2 - Governance

Why in the news?

- The Union Health Minister launched the National Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance (NAP-AMR) 2.0

National Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance (NAP-AMR) 2.0

- **What is it?:**
  → It is the revamped version of NAP-AMR 1.0, which was initiated in 2017 in alignment with WHO's Global Action Plan on AMR (2015).
  → The NAP-AMR 2.0 is formulated based on the progress and gaps of NAP-AMR 1.0
- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- **Plan Duration:** Five years for the period 2025-2030.
- **Vision:** To reduce the burden of AMR in India through a strengthened One Health system, improved stewardship, and sustained behaviour change across human, animal, food and environmental ecosystems.
- **Key Features of NAP-AMR 2.0:**
  → Five-Year Implementation Framework (2025–2030) with measurable outcomes.
  → Explicit One Health coordination architecture (Central + State).
  → State AMR Scorecard & Ranking System to measure performance.
  → Stronger regulation of antimicrobial use in humans, livestock, aquaculture & crop sectors.
  → Wastewater & effluent-based surveillance for AMR hot-spots.
  → Mandatory Antimicrobial Stewardship Programmes (AMSPs) in tertiary health facilities.
  → Pharmaceutical sector accountability for antibiotic discharge and pollution.
  → Integrated AMR Surveillance Platform (i-AMRS) for real-time, cross-sectoral data.

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- **Priority Areas:**
  - ➔ **Strengthening AMR Surveillance:**
    - ★ Expand NCDC's NARS-Net, ICMR-AMRSN, and INFAAR networks.
    - ★ Integrate AMR in food-chain & environmental samples.
    - ★ Establish wastewater-based AMR surveillance in pharma clusters (Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Himachal, Gujarat).
    - ★ National AMR Dashboard with district-level data.
  - ➔ **Optimising Antimicrobial use in various sectors:**
    - ★ Mandatory AMSP in all medical colleges, district hospitals and large private hospitals.
    - ★ Restrict OTC sale of antibiotics through tighter enforcement of Schedule H1.Phase-out of critically important antimicrobials (CIAs) in food-producing animals.
    - ★ Standard treatment guidelines with real-time prescription audits.
  - ➔ **Infection Prevention and Strengthening of IPC:**
    - ★ All health facilities to meet National IPC Standards 2026.
    - ★ Hand hygiene, bio-medical waste management, Ventilator-Associated Pneumonia (VAP) protocols.
  - ➔ **Pharmaceutical and Industrial waste Regulation:**
    - ★ Zero-liquid discharge & AMR-risk-based norms for pharma waste.
    - ★ CPCB & SPCB monitoring of antibiotic residues in effluents.
    - ★ Mapping of AMR hot-spots: pharma clusters, hospital waste drains, sewage treatment plants.
  - ➔ **AMR Awareness, Education and Behavioural change:**
    - ★ National AMR Awareness Strategy (2025).
    - ★ Targeted campaigns for farmers, veterinarians, pharmacists & consumers.
    - ★ Integrate AMR education in medical, nursing, pharmacy, and veterinary curricula.
  - ➔ **Research, Innovation and New Technologies:**
    - ★ Promote R&D in the sectors- rapid diagnostics, new antimicrobials, vaccines, phage therapy etc.
    - ★ National AMR Innovation Fund (proposed).

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★ Encourage private sector and start-up partnerships.

➔ **Strengthen Governance, Policy & International Collaboration:**

★ National One Health AMR Secretariat under MoHFW.

★ State One Health AMR Cells in all states/UTs.

★ Partnership in Global Health Security Agenda (GHSA) and G20 Global AMR framework.

● **Progress Indicators:**

➔ State AMR Index.

➔ Prescription audit compliance.

➔ AMR antibiotic consumption (DDDs).

➔ Environmental contamination levels.

➔ Human–animal–environment AMR trends.

2. India's Engagement with Taliban-Ruled Afghanistan

- **Prelims -** India's engagement with Taliban Ruled Afghanistan
- **Mains** - GS 2 - International Relations

Why in the news?

- Against the backdrop of continued hostilities between Pakistan and Afghanistan, Minister of Industry and Commerce of the Taliban administration Alhaj Nooruddin Azizi started a five-day tour of India

India's Engagement with Taliban-Ruled Afghanistan

- **Strategic Context:**
  - ➔ **Security Concerns**: India aims to ensure Afghan soil is not used by anti-Indian terrorist groups, like ISIS-K or Pakistan-backed factions.
  - ➔ **Geopolitical Shifts:**
    - ★ **Pakistan**: Strained relations with the Taliban offer India a strategic opening.
    - ★ **China**: Increasing its presence in Afghanistan, engaging diplomatically, and investing in resources.
    - ★ **Russia and Iran**: Both have reduced focus due to domestic and regional challenges.

- **Previous Diplomatic Engagement Timeline:**
  - ➔ **Initial Contact (2021)**: Indian officials met Taliban representatives in Qatar post-US troop withdrawal.
  - ➔ **Technical Team (2022)**: Sent to Kabul to monitor the situation and maintain limited engagement.

- **India's Objectives:**
  - ➔ **Humanitarian Aid**: Continuation of food, medicine, and healthcare support to Afghanistan.
  - ➔ **Development Projects**: Safeguarding and possibly resuming India's $3 billion investments in Afghan infrastructure.
  - ➔ **Connectivity Initiatives:** Utilizing Chabahar Port to enhance trade with Afghanistan and Central Asia.

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- **Taliban's Response:**
    - ➔ Taliban has welcomed Indian assistance and expressed interest in India's continued investment in development projects.
    - ➔ Guaranteed the safety of Indian interests and infrastructure in Afghanistan.
- **Challenges in Engagement:**
    - ➔ **Women's Rights:** India shares global concerns over the Taliban's restrictions on women and minorities.
    - ➔ **Recognition Debate:** Engagement without granting official recognition to the Taliban regime.
    - ➔ **Regional Instability:** Influence of China, Pakistan, and the potential return of the US under Donald Trump.
- **Strategic Imperatives:**
    - ➔ **Countering China:** India's proactive approach is crucial to offset China's growing influence in Afghanistan.
    - ➔ **Regional Stability:** Ensuring a secure Afghanistan to prevent spillover of instability into the region.

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3. UDAN Scheme

- **Prelims** - UDAN Scheme
- **Mains** - GS 2 - Governance

Why in the news?

- Government proposes a ₹30,000 crore outlay to extend and strengthen UDAN beyond April 2027.

UDAN Scheme

- **What is it?:** UDAN (Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik) was launched in 2016 under the National Civil Aviation Policy to democratise air travel by **enhancing regional air connectivity**.
- **Financial Support:** ₹8,000 crore.
- **Achievements:**
  → 649 of 915 valid routes operationalised.
  → 92 unserved/underserved airports, 15 heliports, 2 water aerodromes connected.
  → 1.56 crore+ passengers flew via 3.23 lakh UDAN flights.

Revamped UDAN Scheme

- **Focus Areas:**
  → Hilly & remote regions and North-Eastern states.
  → Aspirational districts
  → Small towns with limited/no air connectivity
- **Allocation:**
  → **₹18,000 crore** – Development of new airports, greenfield airports, refurbished airstrips, heliports in hilly regions.
  → **₹12,000 crore** – Viability Gap Funding (VGF) for airlines operating low-demand regional routes.
- **Key Features:**
  → **Expansion of Aviation Network:** Aim to connect 120 additional destinations in the next decade by expanding into remote regions.
  → **Passenger Growth Target:** Enable 4 crore additional passengers to use regional flights over 10 years.

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➔ **Holistic Infrastructure Support:** Strengthen small airports, heliports and waterdomes and Ensure multimodal last-mile connectivity for regional aviation.

➔ **Enhanced Private Sector Participation:** Aircraft leasing, Operator permits as well as Route bidding to attract more operators by removing earlier procedural hurdles.

- **Expected Benefits:**

    ➔ **Improved Regional Connectivity:**

    ★ Better access for isolated, remote, and economically backward regions.

    ★ Increased tourism, trade, and mobility.

    ➔ **Economic Growth & Employment:** Airport construction and increased flight operations creates more jobs in aviation, hospitality, transport, and logistics.

    ➔ **Enhanced Emergency & Health Access:** Faster medical evacuations and improved delivery of essential supplies in remote districts.

    ➔ **Strengthening North-East & Hilly States:** Focus on North-East, Himalayan belt, and Aspirational districts will help reduce regional inequalities.

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4. YUVA AI for ALL and India AI Mission

- **Prelims -** India AI Mission and YUVA AI for ALL
- **Mains -** GS 3 - Science and Technology

Why in the news?

- The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), under the IndiaAI Mission, has launched 'YUVA AI for ALL',

YUVA AI for ALL

- **What is it?:** 'YUVA AI for ALL' is a free, national-level online course aimed to teach basic, ethical Artificial Intelligence (AI) skills to 1 crore (10 million) Indian citizens, including students, professionals, and general learners.
- **Features:**
  → It is a 4.5-hour self-paced course available on major platforms like FutureSkills Prime and iGOT Karmayogi, using Indian examples and simple language to make AI accessible and practical.
  → The course covers AI basics, its impact on education, jobs, and creativity, ethical usage, real-world applications in India, and future AI opportunities. Upon completion, learners receive an official Government of India certificate.
  → The initiative focuses on bridging the AI knowledge gap, promoting responsible AI use, and preparing India's workforce for a digital future.

India AI Mission

- **Aim**: The India AI Mission is a national initiative to develop AI capabilities in India.
- **The mission's goals include:**
  → **Democratizing AI:** Making AI accessible to all social classes
  → **Promoting ethical AI:** Ensuring AI is deployed responsibly and ethically
  → **Building AI capabilities:** Developing Indigenous AI capabilities and attracting top AI talent
  → **Operationalizing AI:** Using AI in critical sectors like healthcare, education, agriculture, and climate change
  → **Increasing AI adoption:** Increasing the number of students in AI programs
  → **Creating AI labs:** Setting up AI and data labs in ITIs and Polytechnics in Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities.

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- **Implementing Agencies:**
    - ➔ The mission is implemented by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) through IndiaAI IBD under DIC.
    - ➔ The lead agencies for the mission are
        - ★ NITI Aayog
        - ★ Department of Science and Technology (DST)
        - ★ Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)
        - ★ Department of Biotechnology (DBT).
- **The mission includes:**
    - ➔ Investments in computing infrastructure
    - ➔ Skilling initiatives
    - ➔ A one-stop portal for AI-related development
    - ➔ Resources like articles, news, interviews, and investment funding news and events
    - ➔ Documents, case studies, and research reports
    - ➔ AI courses, both free and paid

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5. Critical Tiger Habitat

- **Prelims -** Dugong
- **Mains -** GS 3 - Environment

Why in the news?

- The Supreme Court has issued directions to prohibit tiger safaris in the core or critical tiger habitat.

Critical Tiger Habitat (CTH)

- **Critical Tiger Habitat (CTH), also known as core areas of tiger reserves, are identified under the Wild Life Protection Act (WLPA), 1972.**
- These are based on scientific evidence that "such areas are required to be kept as inviolate for the purpose of tiger conservation, without affecting the rights of the Scheduled Tribes or such other forest dwellers".
- **The notification of CTH is done by the state government in consultation with the expert committee constituted for the purpose.**
- Inviolate Status: These areas are kept inviolate (free from human activities) for the purpose of tiger conservation.
- The forests peripheral to CTH are notified as buffer areas, which act as a transition between CTH and non-tiger reserves.

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6. Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU)

- **Prelims -** Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU)
- **Mains -** GS 2 - International Relations

Why in the news?

- India and Russia reiterated their resolve to achieve $100 billion bilateral trade by 2030 in Moscow and reviewed steps for the India-Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) free trade agreement in goods.

Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU)

- **What is it?:** The Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) is an economic union established to promote economic integration and cooperation among member states, primarily focusing on Russia, Kazakhstan, Belarus, Armenia, and Kyrgyzstan.
- **Launch:** 2015
- **Aim:** To create a common market similar to the European Union, facilitating the free movement of goods, services, capital, and labor among its members, while promoting economic stability, shared infrastructure, and a unified regulatory framework.
- **Objectives:**
  - ➔ **Economic Integration:** Develops a single economic space among member states, fostering closer economic ties and harmonizing economic policies.
  - ➔ **Free Movement:** Allows the free flow of goods, services, capital, and labor to support seamless trade and employment across member states.
  - ➔ **Unified Regulations:** Establishes common regulations in areas like customs, competition, and technical standards to simplify business and trade within the region.
- **India and EAEU:**
  - ➔ **Trade Opportunities:** An India-EAEU Free Trade Agreement (FTA) could open new trade routes and markets for Indian goods, especially in pharmaceuticals, agriculture, and information technology.
  - ➔ **Energy Security:** India could gain easier access to EAEU's vast energy resources, including oil and natural gas from Russia and Kazakhstan, enhancing India's energy security.
  - ➔ **Connectivity Initiatives:** India aims to improve connectivity with the EAEU through the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC), enhancing trade efficiency.