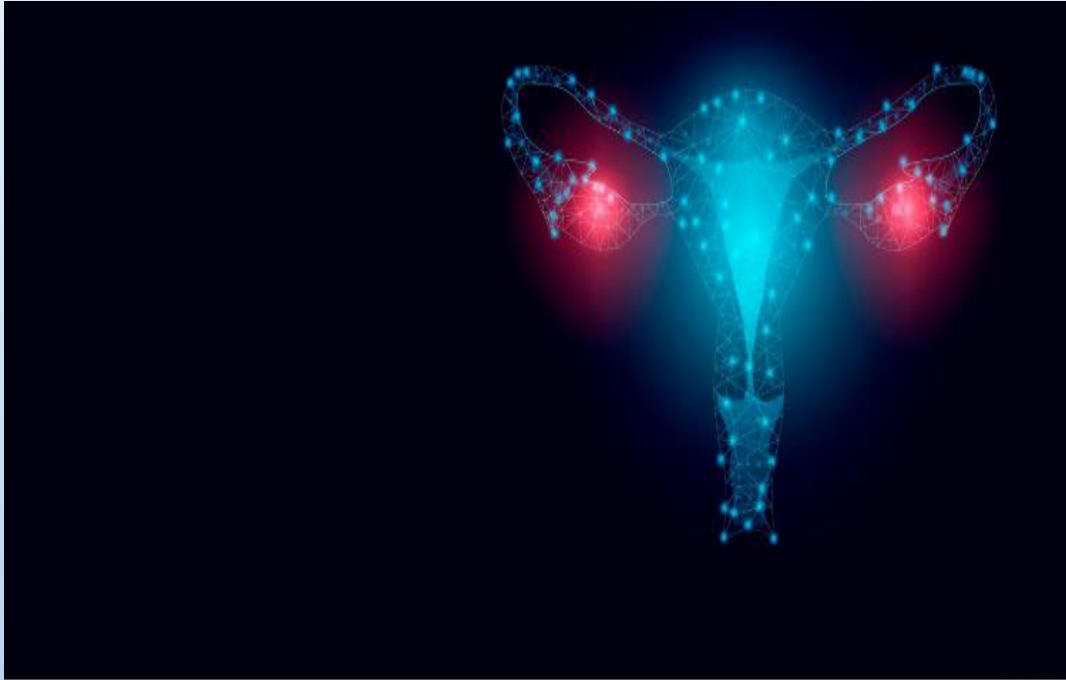


# DAILY PT POINTERS

11 September, 2024



## The Hindu-Governance(GSII)-Page 9



### Understanding ovarian cancer: its causes, symptoms, and screening methods

This September, during Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month, understanding the cancer's lesser-known facts – from subtle symptoms to genetic and lifestyle risks – can lead to earlier detection, personalised treatment, and preventive strategies

Amn Rawul | report nascent symptoms | breast or ovarian cancer, it's the most | Additionally, frequent use of hair

- Ovarian cancer is the most lethal gynecological malignancy. It is often called a “silent killer” because its symptoms are non-specific and mimic less serious conditions that lead to late diagnosis and a poor prognosis. In India, ovarian cancer ranks among the top three cancers, contributing to 6.6% of all women’s cancers.
- In 2022, India reported 47,333 new ovarian cancer cases and 32,978 deaths. These alarming figures highlight the gravity of the disease. Understanding lesser-known aspects of ovarian cancer can enhance prevention, early detection, and treatment efforts, offering hope to patients and healthcare providers.
- Unlike other cancers, ovarian cancer presents vague symptoms such as bloating, pelvic or abdominal pain, loss of appetite, feeling full quickly, and an urgent or frequent need to urinate.
- Hormone replacement therapy (HRT), commonly used to alleviate menopausal symptoms, has been linked to a higher risk of ovarian cancer even when used for less than five years.

The Hindu –IR(GSII)Page 10

## 'India has a four-point principle to end the Russia-Ukraine conflict'

In Berlin, External Affairs Minister says there could be no solutions in the battlefield, that this should be a time for peace, that Russia must be at the table for a dialogue and that New Delhi is engaged in trying to find a way to resolve the conflict

Suhasini Haidar  
BERLIN

India has a four-point principle towards the resolution of the Russia-Ukraine conflict, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said on Tuesday.

He said that "suggestions have been made" for India to host a peace conference on the issue, but made no commitment on whether India would in fact forward any peace proposal of its own.

Responding to a question from *The Hindu* about the possibility of India hosting the conference, and playing a role as peace-maker, Mr. Jaishankar said that India believes in the four principles: that this should be a time of peace; that there would be no solutions to the war on the battlefield; that Russia must be at the table for any successful peace process; and that India is "concerned and engaged" in trying to find a way to resolve the conflict.

"We don't believe disputes can be settled through war," said Mr.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visits to Moscow and Kyiv in the past two months.

"When there is a discussion, we believe Russia has to be in it," he said, adding that National Security Adviser Ajit Doval is in Russia this week, an indication of India's consistent engagement.

Mr. Jaishankar spoke to the media after a bilateral meeting with German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock to prepare for a visit to New Delhi by German Chancellor Olaf Scholz on October 24-25. Mr. Jaishankar said they had discussed "the state of the world", including the Russia-Ukraine conflict, the Gaza conflict as well as coordinating their agendas ahead of the UN Summit of the Future later this month, particularly India and Germany's joint pitch for the expansion of the UN Security Council.

"Germany is in an intensive discussion with India and other countries about our different roles in bringing about peace," Ms. Baerbock said, adding that des-



**Friendly ties:** S. Jaishankar with Annalena Baerbock after the talks at the Federal Foreign Office in Berlin on Tuesday. AP

and German positions on the conflict thus far, they had maintained regular discussions on the issues.

Ms. Baerbock's comments follow a series of statements by Western coalition countries that have urged India, China and other countries to step up peace efforts between Russia and Ukraine, two-and-a-half years into the war. If India was to play a mediatory role, it would be significant shift from its previous position where it had called the war "Europe's problem", and not something connected to

investment.

"We are not closed to business from China," Mr. Jaishankar said, adding that, "The issue is, which sectors do you do business and what terms do you do business? It's far more complicated than a black-and-white binary answer."

During bilateral talks, Mr. Jaishankar and Ms. Baerbock discussed broadening the India-Germany migration and mobility partnership to bring in more skilled Indian workers to Germany. According to Ms. Baerbock, about 1,25,000 Indian nationals are now working and 50,000 students are studying in Germany.

They also spoke about building their military partnership after holding their first-ever joint air force exercises this year, and upcoming naval exercises in Goa in October.

### Ties with China

Addressing German diplomats at an "Ambassadors' conference" earlier in the day, Mr. Jaishankar was also asked about economic ties with China, given the four-year-old military stand-off between the two countries that has led to many restrictions on Chi-

- India has a four-point principle towards the resolution of the Russia-Ukraine conflict, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said
  - India believes in the four principles: that this should be a time of peace; that there would be no solutions to the war on the battlefield; that Russia must be at the table for any successful peace process; and that India is "concerned and engaged" in trying to find a way to resolve the conflict.
- In a bilateral meeting with German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock, Jaishankar also discussed the Russia-Ukraine conflict, the Gaza conflict, and India-Germany cooperation. They talked about expanding the UN Security Council and enhancing India-Germany relations, including migration, military partnership, and boosting bilateral trade. Despite ongoing tensions with China, India remains open to business with conditions on specific sectors.

The Hindu –Governance(GSII)-Page 12

## PM Modi convenes first meeting of National Research Fund board

The Hindu Bureau  
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday convened the first meeting of the Governing Board of the Anusandhan National Research Foundation.

During the meeting, Mr. Modi said that a new beginning had been made, according to an official statement. The Prime Minister stressed the need to identify and remove obstacles in the country's research ecosystem. There was a need to set big targets, focus on attaining them, and on doing path-breaking research. Mr. Modi said that research ought to be focused on finding new solutions to existing problems.

He emphasised that problems might be global in nature but their solutions must be localised in accordance with Indian needs.

During the meeting, the



**Setting targets:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi chairs the first meeting of the newly formed ANRF in New Delhi on Tuesday. ANI

governing body decided to launch a programme in the 'hub and spoke model' by pairing universities where research is at nascent stage with top-tier established institutions in mentorship mode.

They also discussed several areas of strategic interventions by the ANRF, which include the global positioning of India in key sectors, aligning R&D with national priorities, pro-

moting inclusive growth, capacity building, driving scientific advances and innovation ecosystems, as well as bridging the gap between academic research and industrial applications through industry-aligned translational research.

### A funding body

The ANRF was conceived as a funding body to galvanise science and engi-

neering research in the country.

It was conceived as a step-up over existing funding arrangements and meant to encourage research funding to State universities, and to have private industry participate more actively in funding basic research and development.

The ANRF aims to establish a ₹50,000 crore corpus with ₹36,000 crore of it coming in from non-government sources. For the current financial year, the ANRF has been earmarked ₹2,000 crore in the Union Budget.

The 15-member Governing Board, as notified by the Ministry of Science and Technology, has only one industrialist – Romesh Wadhvani, an American billionaire of Indian origin and former CEO and chairperson of the Symphony Technology Group.

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## The Hindu-Economy(GSIII)-Page 12

### Access to electricity in rural areas had differential benefits, says study

Jacob Koshy  
NEW DELHI

Access to electricity benefited larger, populous villages disproportionately more than hamlets with fewer households, shows an analysis of the Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyut Yojana, a programme launched in 2005 to provide and improve electricity access to roughly four lakh villages in India.

Villages with fewer than 300 people saw limited benefits as opposed to those with 1,000 but the gains jumped dramatically in villages that had 2,000 or more people, says the analysis by researchers at the University of Chicago and the University of Maryland.

Per-capita monthly expenditure in villages of about 300 people barely changed. However, larger villages (about 2,000 people) saw a doubling of per-



Villages with fewer than 300 people saw limited benefits as opposed to those with 1,000.

capita expenditure due to full electrification, an increase of about ₹1,428 a month, says the study which relied on statistical analysis of public data.

"It's clear that electricity access boosts GDP at the national level, but does it necessarily improve the lives of those living in small communities? We found the answer to be 'no'," said co-author Fiona Burlig, an assistant professor at the

Chicago university's Harris School of Public Policy, in a statement.

"While we see large benefits to larger villages, bringing electricity access to the smallest, remote villages is expensive, and it doesn't necessarily lift them out of poverty. It may well be much more cost-effective to do smaller solar home systems or minigrids in small, remote locations and expand the grid to the larger villages," she said.

In computing the economic gains from electricity access, the researchers relied on data on consumption as well as the number of industrial outlets and employment in villages.

Smaller 300-person villages experience "zero return" from electrification after 20 years and full electrification had less than a 27% chance of generating economic benefits that ex-

ceed upfront costs. The 1,000-person villages experience a 13% return, just barely exceeding the benchmark for cost effectiveness. But as the village size increases to 2,000 people, there was a 33% return, far exceeding the cost-effectiveness benchmark. These villages have a 90% change of generating economic benefits that exceed upfront costs, says the study published in the *Journal of Political Economy* this month.

In 2018, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that all villages in India were electrified though the current government's commitment to provide 24/7 power to all villages is still a work in progress.

The analysis is based on Census data of 2011, the last comprehensive source of official data in India as no census has been conducted since.

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#### Do you know ?

- In order to attain National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP) goal of providing access to electricity to all rural households and electrification of all villages. Government of India, in April, 2005 conceived "Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana" (RGGVY) to electrify all un-electrified villages / habitations and to provide access to electricity to all rural households in un-electrified and electrified villages in the entire country.

## The Hindu-Space(GSIII)-Page 14

### SpaceX mission launches all-civilian crew for first private spacewalk in orbit

Agence France-Presse  
KENNEDY SPACE CENTER

SpaceX launched its daring Polaris Dawn mission on Tuesday, a multi-day orbital expedition carrying a four-member civilian crew for the first spacewalk by non-professional astronauts.

The crew, led by Shift4 Payments CEO Jared Isaacman, is also aiming to fly deeper into space than any other manned mission in more than half a century, reaching a peak altitude of 1,400 km.

“Liftoff of Polaris Dawn!” SpaceX said on X, alongside a photo of the take-off.

The highlight of the mission will be the first spacewalk composed entirely of non-professionals, who are



**New frontier:** SpaceX's Polaris Dawn Falcon 9 rocket blasts off from NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida. GETTY IMAGES

wearing sleek, newly developed SpaceX extravehicular activity (EVA) suits outfitted with heads-up displays, helmet cameras and an advanced joint mobility system.

Applause broke out across the mission control

centre as the Dragon capsule separated successfully from the main engine and the first glimpses of earth came into view. “The Polaris Dawn crew is now in Zero-G!” SpaceX wrote on X minutes later, as the crew experienced zero-gravity.

On the first day of their mission, the craft will travel so high that it will briefly enter the Van Allen radiation belt, a region teeming with high-energy charged particles that can pose health risks to humans over extended periods.

#### Multiple delays

The mission was delayed several times, initially due to a technical issue with the launch tower and then because of weather constraints.

The Crew Dragon capsule will not dock with the International Space Station, which is why the weather had to be favourable during both the launch and splashdown phase, around six days after liftoff.

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## The Hindu-Economy(GSIII)

### M.P. Cabinet raises MSP for soya bean, to send proposal to Union govt. for approval

The Hindu Bureau  
BHOPAL

The Madhya Pradesh government on Tuesday approved a proposal to increase the MSP for soya bean to ₹4,800 per quintal from the current price of close to ₹4,000.

The decision was taken at the State Cabinet's meeting chaired by Chief Minister Mohan Yadav. The move also comes on a day when the State Congress unit started its Kisan Nyay Yatra.

Minister Kailash Vijayvargiya, who briefed the press on the Cabinet's decisions, said that the proposal will be now sent to the Centre for its nod.

"The Chief Minister made a proposal at the



The Cabinet has proposed to increase the MSP to ₹4,800 per quintal from close to ₹4,000.

meeting that we will request the Centre to increase the soya bean MSP to ₹4,800 because the current rate in the market is ₹4,000. The farmers think that they have had a good produce this year but they are not getting the right price," said Mr. Vijayvargiya.

Known as the 'Soya bean State', Madhya Pradesh is the largest soya bean producing State in the country with over 50% of the nation's production.

Various farmer outfits and the Opposition Congress have been demanding a significant hike in the soya bean MSP for a few weeks now.

Congress leader and former Chief Minister Digvijaya Singh had recently demanded that the MSP be raised around ₹6,000 per quintal and had sought Prime Minister Narendra Modi's intervention in the matter.

Mr. Singh had alleged that the price of soya bean was still around what the farmers were getting about 11 years ago.

- The Madhya Pradesh government on Tuesday (September 10, 2024) approved a proposal to increase the MSP for soya bean to ₹4,800 per quintal from the current price of close to ₹4,000.
- Madhya Pradesh is the largest soya bean producing State in the country with over 50% of the nation's production and is also known as the 'Soya bean State'.

## The Hindu-Governance(GSII)

### Government launches website with technical terms in 22 official Indian languages

As of now, 450 dictionaries amounting to three million words are available on the website

Updated - September 11, 2024 02:07 am IST - New Delhi

SREEPARNA CHAKRABARTY



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- The Commission for Scientific and Technical Terminology (CSTT) has launched a new website, [shabd.education.gov.in](http://shabd.education.gov.in), providing technical terms in all 22 official Indian languages.
- Purpose: The portal serves as a central repository for scientific and technical terminologies, allowing users to search for terms across different languages, subjects, and dictionaries. It also enables feedback on existing terms.
- Content: The site currently hosts 450 dictionaries, totaling three million words.
- Significance: The website supports the effort to provide technical education in Indian languages and aids in standardizing terminology across various fields.

**CSTT's Role:** Established in 1960, CSTT defines technical terms in Hindi and other Indian languages, publishes textbooks and glossaries, and organizes related educational events.



Indian Express-Economy(GSIII)-Page 5

## Centre relaxes norms under PMAY-Gramin

Income limit up to ₹15,000/m; fridge, two-wheeler, landline not a bar now

HARIKISHAN SHARMA  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 10



Announced  
by Union  
Minister  
Shivraj  
Chouhan

THE CENTRE has relaxed the "automatic exclusion" criteria under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G), allowing families owning "two-wheelers, motorised fishing boats, refrigerators, landline phones" and earning "up to Rs 15,000 per month" to now avail the rural housing scheme.

The parameters were among the criteria that render households ineligible under the scheme. The parameters that will continue to result in "automatic exclusion" are: (Owning) motorised three/four-wheelers; mechanised three/four-wheeler agricultural equipment; Kisan Credit Card with credit limit of Rs 50,000 or above; Household

roof and/or pucca wall, and households in houses with more than two rooms were already filtered out. The exclusion criteria revision is significant in view of the Centre's aim to construct two crore additional houses under the rural housing scheme by 2028-29. On August 9, the Union Cabinet approved a proposal of this effect.

These two crore houses will be over and above the target of 2.95 crore rural houses set under the 'Housing for All' programme, of which 2.65 crore houses have already been completed so far.

The Centre has relaxed the "automatic exclusion" criteria under the **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G)**, allowing families owning "two-wheelers, motorised fishing boats, refrigerators, landline phones" and earning "up to Rs 15,000 per month" to now avail the rural housing scheme. The parameters were among the criteria that render households ineligible under the scheme.

- Under PMAY-G, all households living in houses with pucca roof and/or pucca wall, and households in houses with more than two rooms were already filtered out
- The Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana – Rural (PMAY – Rural) was launched in 2016, aiming to provide housing for the poorest segments of society
- Under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana - Gramin (PMAY-G), the Government has set an ambitious target to build 2.95 crore houses.

## Indian Express-Health(GSII)-Page 15

# The grave threat from AMR

Antimicrobial resistance, which is caused when microbes evolve into drug-resistant 'superbugs' in response to the misuse or overuse of antibiotics, is a growing problem in India. Who is responsible; what can be done?

**ANONNA DUTT**  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 10

AHEAD OF the September 26 UN General Assembly High-Level Meeting on antimicrobial resistance, the World Health Organization last week published its first-ever guidance on antibiotic pollution from manufacturing.

"The emergence and spread of AMR (antimicrobial resistance) caused by antibiotic pollution could undermine the effectiveness of antibiotics globally, including the medicines produced at the manufacturing sites..." the WHO said on September 3.

AMR — and consequently, the creation of "superbugs" — affects healthcare everywhere, but has especially poor outcomes in patients suffering from multiple diseases. A survey by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), the country's apex body for the formulation, coordination and promotion of biomedical research, shows that AMR continues to rise across the country.

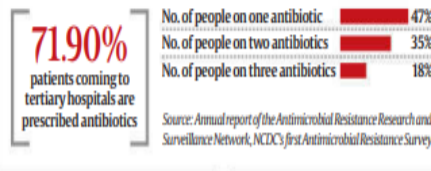
"...Common pathogens are becoming more and more resistant to antibiotics. This increase has been noted despite the fact that the number of samples and the centres at which we carry out surveillance has remained the same over the years," Dr Kamini Wallia, one of the authors of the recently released ICMR annual report on Antimicrobial Resistance Research and Surveillance Network (January-December 2023), said.

Dr Wallia described this situation as a "symptom". "We have to make changes across the board to ensure the antibiotics that

### MOST COMMON PATHOGENS FOUND IN INDIA

Type of facility	Most commonly isolated pathogen	What the pathogen does	Resistance
ICU	<i>Acinobacter baumannii</i>	It can cause pneumonia, infections of the blood, urinary tract, and on wounds. It is becoming an important hospital-derived infection.	Continues to have 88% resistance to third-line, strong antibiotics like carbapenem
Wards & OPD	<i>E. coli</i>	May cause diarrhoea, UTI, pneumonia, and sepsis	Continues to show increased resistance to most classes of antibiotics, including carbapenem for which it went up from 18.6% in 2017 to 37.3% in 2023

### MOST COMMON PRESCRIPTIONS



**INDIVIDUALS:** Many Indians have a tendency to pop an antibiotic for a fever, without even checking if the fever is caused by a bacterial infection.

"Our report provides a list of antibiotics that should be used in the community for a particular infection and ones that should be reserved for hospital-acquired infections."

agnostic tests that can help them prescribe specific antibiotics for the infection rather than broad-spectrum ones, Dr Wallia said.

**PHARMA COMPANIES:** The WHO's guidelines on antibiotic pollution from manufacturing released last week provides guidance on wastewater and solid waste management for antibiotic manufacturing facilities. Despite the high levels of antibiotic pollution that have been widely documented, the issue is largely unregulated, the WHO said.

"Pharmaceutical waste from antibiotic manufacturing can facilitate the emergence of new drug-resistant bacteria, which can spread globally and threaten our health. Controlling pollution from antibiotic production contributes to keeping these life-saving medicines effective for everyone," Dr Yukiko Nakatani, WHO Assistant Director-General for AMR *ad interim*, said.

### What are the most common resistant pathogens in India?

The three most common pathogens isolated in patient samples from tertiary care centres in the ICMR surveillance network are *e. coli*, which can cause gut infections; *Klebsiella pneumoniae*, which can cause pneumonia and urinary tract infections; and *Acinetobacter baumannii*, which is mainly associated with hospital acquired infections, the recent report said.

**E. coli** isolates demonstrated a decrease in susceptibility to most antibiotics, with susceptibility to carbapenem reducing from 81.4% in 2017 to 62.7% in 2023.

**Klebsiella pneumoniae** also showed re-

- AMR occurs when pathogens evolve to survive despite the presence of antimicrobial drugs, rendering treatments ineffective.
- Cause: Overuse and misuse of antibiotics, leading to the development of resistant "superbugs."
- Impact: AMR can turn simple infections into severe, hard-to-treat conditions, increasing hospital stays and treatment costs.
- Current Situation in India: AMR is rising despite consistent surveillance efforts.
- Common resistant pathogens include *E. coli*, *Klebsiella pneumoniae*, and *Acinetobacter baumannii*.

# HEADLINES OF THE DAY

## PIB-Economy(GSIII)



- **The 2<sup>nd</sup> Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Civil Aviation is scheduled to be held from 11th to 12th September 2024 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi.** The event is co-hosted by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and the Ministry of Civil Aviation, Government of India. The first Ministerial Conference of the Asia Pacific region was organized in 2018 in Beijing, China.

### Do you know ?

**India is the fastest growing aviation market in the world and is currently the 3rd largest in the domestic segment.** In the last decade, **the number of aircraft in India has increased from 400 to more than 800 and airports have exponentially grown from 74 to 157.** The government's ambitious initiatives like UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik) have enhanced regional connectivity, ensuring that even remote areas are integrated into the aviation network creating a robust ecosystem for unprecedented development.