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## Irrigation Department Project of UP | Uttar Pradesh | 23 Nov 2024

### Why in News?

Recently, the **Irrigation Department of Uttar Pradesh** has initiated the process regarding the **four-laning (widening) the road** along the **Agra Canal**.

### Key Points

- **Project Overview:**
  - **Objective:** The Uttar Pradesh Irrigation Department aims to widen the road along the Agra Canal into a four-lane stretch, facilitating smoother traffic flow.
  - **Proposal:** A **memorandum of understanding (MOU)** with the [Faridabad Metropolitan Development Authority \(FMDA\)](#) has been submitted to formalize the project, estimated to cost Rs 278 crore.
- **Status and Challenges:**
  - Despite government approval, progress has stalled due to land ownership formalities.
  - Formal permission from the UP Irrigation Department is required as the department owns the land.
  - A Detailed Project Report (DPR) has been prepared, and the FMDA's approval is pending for signing the MOU to initiate tenders.
- **Benefits:**
  - Enhanced **access to Greater Faridabad, Noida, Delhi, Ballabgarh**, and the upcoming Greenfield Expressway to [Jewar Airport](#).
  - The widened road will ease congestion on the existing two-lane stretch.
- **Significance:**
  - This project **addresses long-standing demands for better infrastructure**, promising **enhanced regional connectivity and economic growth**.

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## World Antimicrobial Awareness Week (WAAW) | Uttar Pradesh | 23 Nov 2024

### Why in News?

On the occasion of the [World Antimicrobial Awareness Week \(WAAW\)](#), [Banaras Hindu University](#) organised an awareness programme.

- The aim is to **educate patients and MBBS students about** the correct use and **importance of antimicrobial drugs**.

### Key Points

## ▪ Overview of WAAW:

- World Antimicrobial Awareness Week (WAAW) is **observed annually from 18<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> November to raise awareness about antimicrobial resistance.**
- AMR occurs when **microorganisms like bacteria, viruses, parasites, or fungi evolve and become resistant to antimicrobial medicines**, making infections harder to treat and increasing the risks of disease spread, severe illness, and death.
- Experts stressed that antimicrobial resistance **contributes to approximately 300,000 deaths annually** and clarified that not every fever is typhoid or requires antibiotics.

## ▪ Interactive Activities:

- Students used a street play to effectively convey the message of AMR awareness to the audience.
- **Proper handwashing techniques were demonstrated** emphasizing the role of infection prevention in combating AMR.

## ▪ Significance:

- The initiative marked a **crucial step in raising awareness and educating the public about the dangers of antibiotic resistance** and promoting sustainable practices to address the issue.

**ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE**

The ability of microorganisms to resist the effects of antimicrobial drugs

**CAUSES OF ↑ AMR**

- Poor infection control/sanitation
- Antibiotic overuse
- Genetic mutations of microbe
- Lack of investment in R&D of new antimicrobial drugs

*Microbes that develop AMR are called 'Superbugs'*

**IMPACTS OF AMR**

- ↑ Risk of spreading infections
- Makes infections harder to treat; prolonged illness
- ↑ Healthcare costs

**EXAMPLE**

- Carbapenem antibiotics stop responding due to AMR in *K. pneumoniae*
- AMR *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* causing Rifampicin-Resistant TB (RR-TB)
- Drug-resistant HIV (HIVDR) making antiretroviral (ARV) drugs ineffective

**RECOGNITION BY WHO**

- Identified AMR as **one of the top 10 threats** to global health
- Launched **GLASS** (Global Antimicrobial Resistance and Use Surveillance System) in 2015

**INDIA'S INITIATIVES AGAINST AMR**

- Surveillance of AMR in microbes causing **TB, Vector Borne diseases, AIDS etc.**
- **National Action Plan on AMR (2017)** with One Health approach
- **Antibiotic Stewardship Program** by ICMR

*New Delhi metallo-β-lactamase-1 (NDM-1) is a bacterial enzyme, emerged from India, that renders all current β-lactam antibiotics inactive*

Drishti IAS

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**Forest Fire & Landmine Explosions in Jammu and Kashmir | Jammu & Kashmir | 23 Nov 2024**

## Why in News?

In **Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district**, a [forest fire](#) along [the Line of Control \(LoC\)](#) triggered the explosion of nearly half a dozen landmines, which were part of an [anti-infiltration obstacle system](#).

## Key Points

- **Explosions Triggered by Forest Fire:**
  - The explosions were triggered by a forest fire that spread to Indian territory in the **Krishna Ghati sector, Mendhar sub-division**.
  - The fire began on the other side of the border before spreading to Indian forward areas.
  - Authorities are **investigating the cause, with speculation** of deliberate attempts from across the border to damage **India's anti-infiltration obstacle system**.
- **Casualties and Control Measures:**
  - No casualties have been reported and efforts to control the flames are actively ongoing.
- **Army Response:**
  - The Indian Army stationed along the LoC is on **high alert to prevent potential infiltration attempts by terrorists**.

## Line of Control

- The Line of Control (LoC) emerged from the 1948 ceasefire line negotiated by the **United Nations (UN)** after the **Kashmir War**.
- It was designated as the LoC in 1972, following the Shimla Agreement between the two countries.
- LoC is demarcated upto the [Siachen Glacier](#) (Point NJ9842)- the world's highest battlefield.
- LoC is delineated on a map signed by the Director General of Military Operations (DGMO) of both armies and has the international sanctity of a legal agreement.



# Investigation into Allegations of “Ill-Treatment” of Civilians | Jammu & Kashmir | 23 Nov 2024

## Why in News?

The Army initiated an investigation into **allegations of “ill-treatment” of civilians** during **search operations for militants in Jammu and Kashmir’s Kishtwar district**.

## Key Points

- **Launch of Operation:**
  - **The Rashtriya Rifles** initiated an operation in the Kishtwar Sector, based on specific intelligence about terrorist movements.
  - The [White Knight Corps](#) confirmed the operation and ongoing monitoring of the terrorist group.
- **Allegations of Civilian Ill-Treatment:**
  - **Allegations surfaced regarding the ill-treatment of four men** from Kuath village, who were reportedly called to an Army camp.
  - Sources suggest the allegations include **accusations of [torture in custody](#)**.
- The Army announced an investigation to verify the claims and assured necessary follow-up actions.
- **Past Allegations:**
  - In **December 2023 three civilians were allegedly killed in custody** in connection with a terror attack in Poonch.
  - Following an inquiry, **lapses in personnel conduct were reported**, and the involved Army unit was relocated out of the district.
  - This situation underscores ongoing tensions and challenges in managing [counter-terrorism operations](#) while addressing allegations of [human rights violations](#).

## The Rashtriya Rifles

- It is a **counter-insurgency force** in India, **formed in 1990**, to deal with [internal security](#) in the Jammu and Kashmir region.
- They maintain public order by drawing powers from the [Armed Forces \(Jammu and Kashmir\) Special Powers Act, 1990 \(AFSPA\)](#).
- The force operates under **the Ministry of Defence**. The Indian Army describes RR as their **“specialist elite force to combat insurgency”**.
- The RR is headquartered at **Northern Command in Udhampur and commanded by an Additional Director General of Rashtriya Rifles (ADG RR)**.