



## TROPEX-25

[Source: PIB](#)

The **Indian Navy's Theatre Level Operational Exercise (TROPEX) 2025** is being conducted in the **Indian Ocean Region (IOR)** over a duration of **3 months (Jan - Mar 2025)**.

- **About TROPEX:** It is the Indian Navy's **biennial and largest maritime exercise** that strengthens joint operations against **maritime threats** with participation from the **Army, Air Force, and Coast Guard**.
  - **Objective:** Validate the Indian Navy's **warfighting skills** and ensure an **integrated response** to conventional, asymmetric, and hybrid maritime threats posed by countries like **China**.
    - **China**, the **world's largest navy** with over 360 warships and submarines, deploys **7-8 naval vessels and spy ships** in the **IOR at all times**.
  - **Phases:** It includes **Harbour and Sea Phases**, featuring **combat operations**, cyber & electronic warfare, live weapon firings, and **Amphibious Exercise (AMPHEX)**.

Read More: [Securing India's Interests in the Indian Ocean Region](#)

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## National Commission for Safai Karamcharis

[Source: PIB](#)

The **Union Cabinet** has extended the **National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (NCSK)** for three years until **31<sup>st</sup> March 2028**.

### National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (NCSK)

- **Established:** **1994** under the **NCSK Act, 1993**; became a **non-statutory body in 2004** under the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment.
- **Structure:** Chairperson (MoS rank), Vice-Chairperson, 5 members (including 1 woman).
- **Mandate:**
  - Recommends policies for **welfare and rehabilitation** of Safai Karamcharis.
  - Monitors implementation of schemes and laws like **The Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers Act, 2013**.
  - Investigates grievances and policy lapses.
  - Ensures **Rs 30 lakh** compensation for sewer deaths, **Rs 10-20 lakh** for disabilities (SC ruling, 2023).
- **Working:** Field visits, grievance redressal, policy reviews, suo-motu actions, meetings, and reports to the ministry.

### Schemes for Sanitation Workers:

- **NAMASTE scheme:** Aimed at profiling of Septic Tanks Workers, provide occupational safety training, protective kits, and health insurance ([AB-PMJAY](#)).
- **National Safai Karamcharis Finance and Development Corporation (NSKFDC):** Offers **concessional loans and financial aid** for the socio-economic upliftment of **Safai Karamcharis and their families**.

Read More: [National Commission for Safai Karamcharis](#)

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## Campaign to Eliminate Lymphatic Filariasis

Source: [PIB](#)

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare launched the Annual **Nationwide Mass Drug Administration (MDA)** Campaign for **Lymphatic Filariasis (LF)** elimination.

- **Lymphatic Filariasis:** LF (elephantiasis), is a neglected tropical disease caused by **parasitic filarial worms** ( like *Wuchereria bancrofti*) and transmitted by **mosquitoes**.
  - Leads to lifelong disabilities like **lymphoedema (swollen limbs)** and **hydrocele (scrotal swelling)**.
  - **Morbidity Management & Disability Prevention (MMDP) services** (hygiene, skin care, and hydrocele surgeries) help prevent severe disability.
- **MDA Campaign:** Covers **111 endemic districts in 13 states**, aiming to **protect over 17.5 crore people** and **eliminate Lymphatic Filariasis by 2027**.
  - The **MDA campaign** ensures **supervised administration** of anti-filarial medicines in **LF-endemic areas**, using **Double** (*Diethylcarbamazine Citrate and Albendazole*) and **Triple Drug Regimen** (*Ivermectin, DEC, and Albendazole*)
  - MDA aims to stop LF transmission by eliminating **filarial parasites** from the **bloodstream**, preventing mosquito transmission.
    - The medication is not for **children under 2, pregnant women, or seriously ill individuals**.
- **India's MMDP Services:** Integrated into [Ayushman Arogya Mandir \(AAM\)](#), with hydrocelectomy (remove a **hydrocele**) covered under [National Health Mission](#) and [Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana](#).
  - In 2024, nearly 50% of hydrocele surgeries were done in endemic states.

Read more: [Lymphatic Filariasis](#)

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## Antibiotics Resistance

Source: [TH](#)

### Why in News?

Widespread **antibiotic use** in healthcare has fueled **drug-resistant bacteria**, with **antimicrobial resistance (AMR)** causing about **1.2 million deaths globally in 2021**.

- Indian hospitals report a **13% mortality rate** in infections caused by **drug-resistant bacteria**.

## What is Antibiotics Resistance?

- **About Antibiotics:** Antibiotics **treat bacterial infections** in humans and animals by **killing bacteria** or inhibiting their growth and multiplication.
  - They target bacterial **structures or processes**, ensuring minimal impact on human cells.
- **Working of Antibiotics:** Bacterial cells have a **protective cell wall** made of **peptidoglycan**. Its two key components are **Glycans and Peptides**.
  - Antibiotics like **Penicillin** weakens bacterial cell walls by **disrupting peptide crosslinks**, leading to bacterial death.
- **Development of Antibiotics Resistance:** Antibiotic resistance occurs when bacteria **mutate or gain resistance genes**, making infections harder to treat.
  - Bacteria **evolve resistance** through various **mechanisms** like:
    - Producing enzymes like **penicillinase** against Penicillin, which break down antibiotic molecules.
    - **Modifying** their own structures to **evade the antibiotic's effects**.
- **New Survival Strategy:** A new study found that bacteria can **compensate for lost functions**, enhancing **resilience** and making **antibiotic resistance harder to combat**.

# 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- $\beta$ -lactamase-1 (NDM-1) is a bacterial enzyme, emerged from India, that renders all current  $\beta$ -lactam antibiotics inactive

**दृष्टि** The Vision  
**d**  
Drishti IAS

## **Prelims**

**Q.Which of the following are the reasons for the occurrence of multi-drug resistance in microbial pathogens in India? (2019)**

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)** 2 and 3 only

**(c)** 1, 3 and 4

**(d)** 2, 3 and 4

**Ans: (b)**

**Q.What is the importance of using Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccines in India? (2020)**

1. These vaccines are effective against pneumonia as well as meningitis and sepsis.
2. Dependence on antibiotics that are not effective against drug-resistant bacteria can be reduced.
3. These vaccines have no side effects and cause no allergic reactions.

**Select the correct answer using the code given below:**

**(a)** 1 only

**(b)** 1 and 2 only

**(c)** 3 only

**(d)** 1, 2 and 3

**Ans: (b)**

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## **Bills on Parliamentary Sittings and POCSO Act, 2012**

**For Prelims:** [Private members' Bill](#), [Rajya Sabha](#), [Lok Sabha](#), [Article 85](#), [Article 174](#), [National Crime Records Bureau](#)

**For Mains:** Reforms in Parliamentary Functioning, Issues Related to Children, Implementation of POCSO and child welfare laws

**Source:** [TH](#)



## Why in News?

[Private members' Bills](#) were introduced in the [Rajya Sabha](#), focusing on mandating a minimum number of **parliamentary sittings**, and amending the [Protection of Children from Sexual Offences \(POCSO\) Act, 2012](#).

## What is the Bill Regarding Parliamentary Sittings?

- **Objective:** Two Bills were proposed in **Rajya Sabha** to mandate a **minimum of 100-120 parliamentary sittings per year**, with **lost hours due to disruptions compensated in extended sessions** to **enhance productivity**, and improve government accountability.
  - The [General Purposes Committee of the Lok Sabha, 1955](#) explored the idea of a fixed parliamentary calendar, while the **2002 National Commission on Constitutional Review** recommended **minimum sittings of 100 days for Rajya Sabha and 120 days for Lok Sabha**.
- **Current Scenario of Parliamentary Sittings:** The [first Lok Sabha \(1952-1957\)](#), under [Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru](#), had an average of **135 sittings per year**, whereas the [17<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha \(2019-2024\)](#) sat for only **55 days annually**, the lowest in history.
- **Constitutional Provisions:** The **Constitution does not mandate a fixed number of sessions or sitting days**.
  - However, [Article 85 \(Parliament\)](#) the President summons each House as needed, ensuring no more than six months between sessions. The President can also prorogue or dissolve the Lok Sabha.
  - [Article 174 \(State Legislatures\)](#) the Governor has powers to summon, prorogue, and dissolve the Legislative Assembly, ensuring a maximum six-month gap between sessions.

### What is a Private Member Bill?

Click Here to Read: [Private Members Bill](#)

## What is the Bill Regarding Amending the POCSO Act, 2012?

- **Objective:** The **Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (Amendment) Bill, 2024**, introduced, aims to make the POCSO Act **more victim-centric** and improve its implementation.
- **Provisions of Bill:** **POCSO (Amendment) Bill, 2024 mandates a 24-hour reporting rule**, requiring police or the special juvenile police unit to present the child before the **Child Welfare Committee** and report the case to the **Special Court** (or Sessions Court, if unavailable).
  - **It strengthens victim support** by ensuring timely compensation and structured procedures.
  - **It calls for enhanced stakeholder training**, including **police, educational institutions, and child care personnel**, for better implementation.
- **Need for the Amendment:** According to [NCRB data](#), POCSO cases have increased by **94% since 2017**, with over **2 lakh registered cases** as of May 2024.
  - Lack of structured compensation procedures leads to **long delays for victims**.
    - There is a shortage of **Special Public Prosecutors** trained for POCSO cases, affecting the sensitivity and efficiency in handling child sexual abuse cases.
  - Many cases are **not reported or delayed** due to **fear, stigma, or lack of awareness**.
  - A key gap in the POCSO Act, 2012 is the lack of **"support persons"** for victims, with **96% of cases lacking necessary support**.
    - These support persons, either individuals or organizations, help guide survivors through the legal process and ensure their well-being.
    - Minors aged **16-18 engaging in consensual sexual activity** may be charged under POCSO, leading to legal consequences like prolonged detention and the potential denial of bail.
  - Additionally, the **insufficient designation of POCSO courts further delays justice**, as

not all districts have these specialized courts.

## **POCSO Act, 2012**

- The POCSO Act, 2012 is a law aimed at addressing the **sexual exploitation and abuse of children**.
- The POCSO Act recognizes that **both boys and girls can be victims of sexual abuse**, and the **crime is punishable regardless** of the **gender** of the victim. It defines a **child as any person below the age of 18 years**.
- It mandates that the **identity of child victims must be kept confidential**, with no media disclosures about the victim's name, address, or family details.
- The Act mandates that individuals with knowledge of or reasonable suspicion of child abuse must report it to the relevant authorities.

### **Drishti Mains Question:**

**Q.** Evaluate the need for a minimum number of parliamentary sittings in the context of India's legislative accountability.

**Q.** What challenges are faced in the implementation of the POCSO Act, 2012, suggest measures to address?

### **Prelims**

**Q. Which of the following are envisaged by the Right against Exploitation in the Constitution of India?(2017)**

1. Prohibition of traffic in human beings and forced labour
2. Abolition of untouchability
3. Protection of the interests of minorities
4. Prohibition of employment of children in factories and mines

**Select the correct answer using the code given below:**

**(a)** 1, 2 and 4 only

**(b)** 2, 3 and 4 only

**(c)** 1 and 4 only

**(d)** 1, 2, 3 and 4

**Ans: (c)**

### **Mains**

**Q.** Examine the main provisions of the National Child Policy and throw light on the status of its implementation. **(2016)**

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