

09 Mar 2021: PIB Summary & Analysis

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- [1. End-to-end Computerization of TPDS Operations](#)
- [2. Sun Temple at Konark](#)
- [3. National Action Plan for Containment of Antimicrobial Resistance \(NAP-AMR\)](#)
- [4. Air Independent Propulsion \(AIP\) System](#)

1. End-to-end Computerization of TPDS Operations

Context:

Department of Food & Public Distribution implemented a scheme on End-to-end Computerization of TPDS Operations in 31 States/UTs.

Details:

- The scheme was implemented to improve the efficiency & transparency of the distribution of food grains system and to address other challenges such as leakages and diversion of food grains, elimination of fake and bogus ration cards, etc.
- Under this scheme:
 - Ration cards/beneficiaries database have been completely digitized in all States/UTs.
 - Transparency portal and online grievance redressal facility/Toll-free number have been implemented in all States/UTs.
 - Online allocation has been implemented in all States/UTs (except UTs of Chandigarh and Puducherry which have adopted DBT Cash Transfer scheme).
 - Supply chain has been computerized in 31 States/UTs.
 - Automation of Fair Price Shops (FPS) is also being done in all States/UTs by installing electronic Point of Sale (ePoS) devices at the FPSs.
- As of now, more than 92% of Fair Price Shops (FPSs) across the country have ePoS devices and facility for biometric identification of beneficiaries.

Read more about the **Public Distribution System (PDS)** of India in the link.

2. Sun Temple at Konark

Context:

Conservation of the Sun Temple at Konark.

Details:

- Several steps have been taken by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) to mitigate the impact of saline action, water logging, erosion and vegetative intrusions on monuments, including the Sun Temple, Konark.

About Sun Temple, Konark:

- The Konark Sun temple is dedicated to the Hindu sun god Surya, and, conceived as a giant stone chariot with 12 wheels, it is the most famous of the few sun temples built in India.
- It was built around 1240 or 1250 CE by King Narasimhadeva I (r. 1238-1264 CE) of the Eastern Ganga dynasty.
- It was declared a [UNESCO World Heritage Site](#) in 1984.
- Architecture:
 - The temple is built in the **Kalinga style** of temple architecture, which is a sub-type of the Nagara style.
 - Its shikhara which was said to be 70m high fell in the 19th century.
 - The jagamohana (mandapa) has survived. This is the largest enclosed space in Hindu architecture although it is not accessible any more.
 - The temple is set on a high base. There are detailed carvings. There are 12 pairs of gigantic wheels sculpted with spokes and hubs representing the chariot wheels of the sun god. The whole temple resembles a processional chariot.
 - On the southern wall, there is a huge sculpture of Surya or sun god made of greenstone. It is believed that there were 3 more such images in different directions made out of different stones. The fourth wall had the doorway from which the sun rays would enter the garbhagriha.
- The temple is beautifully sculptured with visually overwhelming narratives.
- It attracts many tourists every year.
- The Konark Sun Temple is depicted on the reverse side of the Indian currency note of Rs 10 to signify its importance to Indian cultural heritage
- The temple was called 'Black Pagoda' in European sailor accounts as early as 1676 because it looked a great tower which appeared black.
- This temple, along with the Puri Jagannath Temple, served as important landmarks for sailors in the Bay of Bengal.

For details on temple architecture in eastern India, check the [link](#).

3. National Action Plan for Containment of Antimicrobial Resistance (NAP-AMR)

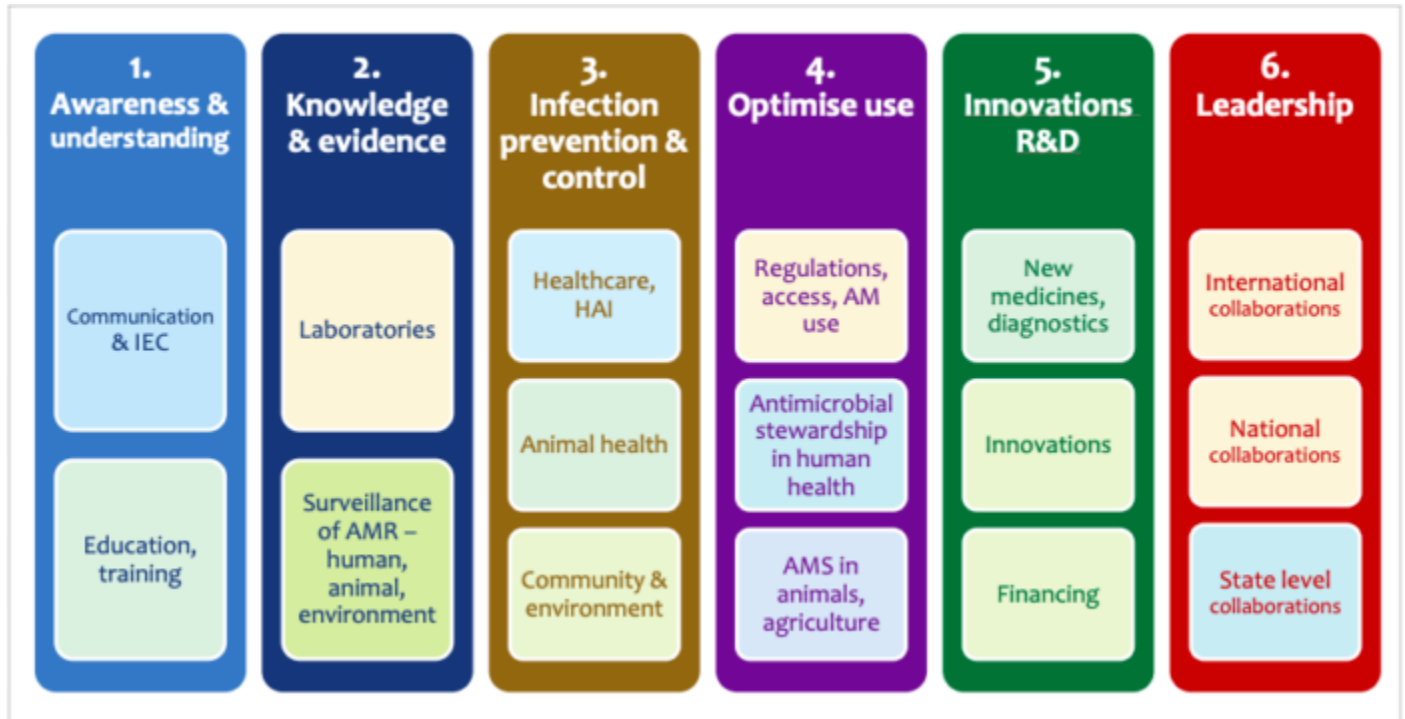
About NAP-AMR:

- The NAP-AMR was launched in April 2017.
- The programme is coordinated by the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC).

- The overarching goal of the National Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance (NAP-AMR) is to effectively combat antimicrobial resistance in India, and contribute towards the global efforts to tackle this public health threat.
- Objectives:
 - Define the strategic priorities, key actions, outputs, responsibilities, and indicative timeline and budget to slow the emergence of AMR in India and strengthen the organizational & management structures to ensure intra- & inter-sectoral coordination with a One Health approach;
 - Combat AMR in India through better understanding and awareness of AMR, strengthened surveillance, prevention of emergence and spread of resistant bacteria through infection prevention and control, optimised use of antibiotics in all sectors, and enhanced investments for AMR activities, research and innovations; and
 - Enable monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of the NAP-AMR implementation based on the M&E framework.
- Priorities of the Programme:



- The programme's focus areas are given in the image below:



Also read: [Antimicrobial Resistance – Definition, Causes & Types](#)

4. Air Independent Propulsion (AIP) System

Context:

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has achieved an important milestone in the development of Air Independent Propulsion (AIP) System by proving the land-based prototype in March 2021.

Details:

- AIP has a force multiplier effect on lethality of a diesel electric submarine as it enhances the submerged endurance of the boat several folds. Fuel cell-based AIP has merits in performance compared to other technologies.
- While there are different types of AIP systems being pursued internationally, fuel cell-based AIP of NMRL (DRDO's Naval Materials Research Laboratory) is unique as the hydrogen is generated onboard.
- The technology has been developed successfully and is now mature for fitment into target vessels.