

# NEWS TODAY

## WHO updated its Bacterial Priority Pathogens List (BPPL) 2024

### About BPPL

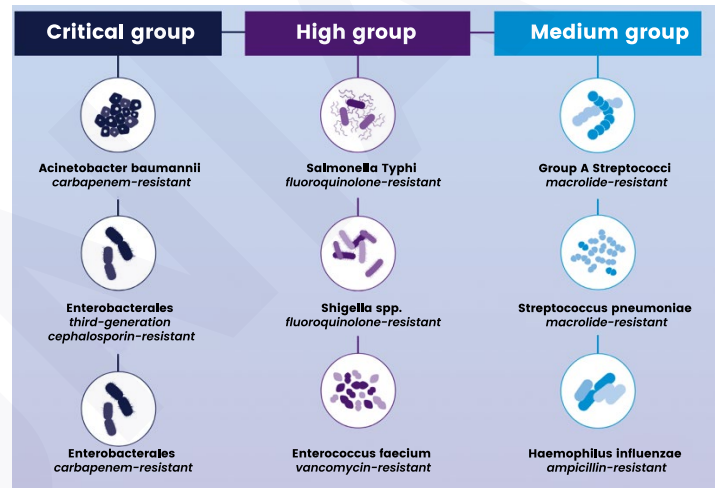
- Published since 2017, the list is a global tool which forms the basis for activities related to surveillance and control of Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR).
- The updated BPPL list 2024, has included 15 families of antibiotic resistant (ABR) pathogens
  - These pathogens are grouped into critical, high and medium categories (refer infographic) based on priority for R&D and for public health measures.

### About AMR

- AMR occurs when the microbes (bacteria, fungi, parasites, and viruses) evolve so that existing antimicrobial drugs are no longer effective.
  - The evolved pathogens that are harder to treat are referred to as “superbugs”.
- Causes for the spread of AMR
  - Biological:** Gene transfer, Mutation etc.
  - Societal:** Inappropriate use of antibiotics, inadequate diagnostics, Poor infection control etc.
- Challenges in controlling AMR
  - Over the counter sales of antibiotics
  - Lack of Surveillance and Monitoring
  - Limited R&D etc.

### Initiatives taken to control AMR

- Global initiatives include
  - One health approach
  - Global Action Plan on AMR
  - World AMR awareness week
- India's Initiatives include
  - National Action Plan on AMR
  - AMR Surveillance Network (ICMR)
  - Banning of inappropriate fixed dose combination drugs



## Delhi High Court granted protection to personality rights of a famous Bollywood actor

High Court, in an interim order, restrained various entities – e-commerce stores, AI chatbots, etc. – from misusing actor's name, image, voice, and likeness without his consent.

### Personality Rights

- It refers to the right of a person to protect his/her personality including name, voice, signature, images, or any other feature easily identified as markers of personality.
- Personality rights are not explicitly mentioned in any statute in India but are traced to fall under right to privacy and right to property.
- 2 components:
  - Right to publicity:** Right to protect one's image and likeness from being commercially exploited without permission.
    - It is governed by statutes like Trade Marks Act, 1999 and Copyright Act, 1957.
  - Right to privacy:** Right to not have one's personality represented publicly without permission.
    - It is broadly governed under Article 21 of the Constitution and the Supreme Court judgment in Justice K.S. Puttaswamy (Retd.) Case (2017).

### Posthumous Personality Rights

- Defamation suit can be filed under the Indian Penal Code for derogatory representation of any deceased person's reputation or their family.
- Emblems and Names (Prevention of Improper Use) Act, 1950 protects unauthorized use of few dignitaries' names and symbols listed in its schedule.

### Important Judicial pronouncements

- ICC Development (International) Ltd. vs. Arvee Enterprises, 2003 (Delhi HC):** Any effort to take away publicity right from the individuals would be violative of Articles 19 and 21.
- Arun Jaitley vs Network Solutions Private Limited and Ors case, 2011 (Delhi HC):** Popularity or fame of an individual will be no different on the internet than in reality.
- Deepa Jayakumar vs A.L. Vijay, 2019 (Madras HC):** Personality, publicity, and privacy rights of an individual cannot be inherited by a person's legal heir after his/her death.

## India-UAE Conclude First Round of Talks on India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC)

A high-level Indian delegation concluded talks with UAE focusing on **developing major shipping hubs**.

- Earlier, India-UAE **Inter-Governmental Framework Agreement (IGFA) on IMEC** was approved for **exploring further potential of future joint investment** and collaboration.

### About IMEC

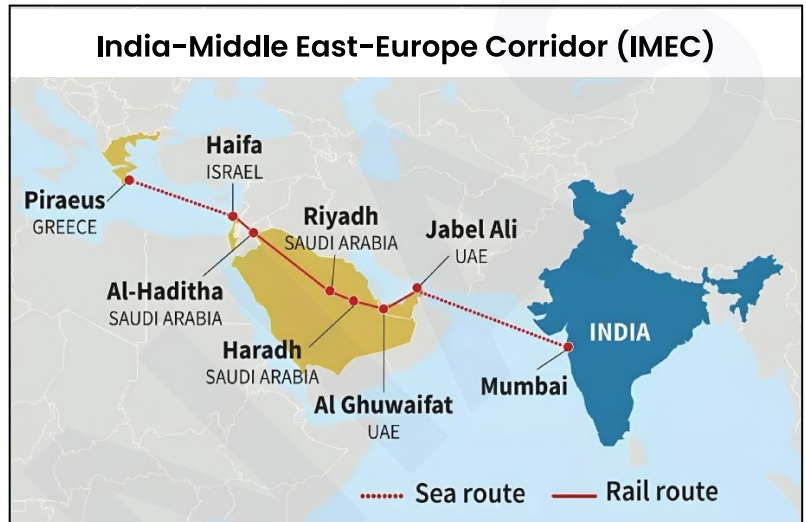
- It is a **proposed transit network** that aims at **integration of Asia, Middle East and Europe**.
- It consists of **railroad, ship-to-rail and road transport routes** and networks.
- MoU was signed between **India, European Union, France, Germany, Italy, Saudi Arabia, UAE, and the USA** at the **New Delhi G20 summit (2023)** to establish it.

### Significance of IMEC

- It serves as an **acknowledgment, on the part of US and EU, of the rising non-Western powers**.
- It will aid in increased **flow of energy and digital communications**.
- **Speed up trade between India and Europe** and help India to increase **strategic engagement with the Arab world**.
- It will make the **global supply chain more resilient**.
- It offers an **alternative approach to China's Belt and Road Initiative**.

### Challenges

- **Complex geopolitics** of the region (Israel-Hamas-Iran crisis).
- **Lack of official diplomatic ties between Saudi Arabia and Israel**.
- **Financial commitments**.



## Convention on Biological Diversity's (CBD) Scientific body adopted recommendations to implement Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF)

### About KMGBF

- It is a **non-binding framework** adopted at the **15<sup>th</sup> Conference of Parties (COP) to the CBD in Montreal (Dec 2022)**.
- **Aim:** To **halt and reverse biodiversity loss by 2030**.
- **Targets:** Set **23 targets to be met by 2030**: i.e. 30 % conservation of land, sea and inland water, 30 % restoration of degraded ecosystems, etc.
- **Goals:** Set **4 goals to be achieved by 2050**:
  - ⊕ Ecosystem & species health including halting human-induced species extinction.
  - ⊕ Sustainable use of biodiversity.
  - ⊕ Equitable sharing of benefits.
  - ⊕ Implementation and finance to include closing the biodiversity finance gap of \$700 billion per year.

### Key Recommendations by the Scientific Body

- New work is to be advanced in areas like **Biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning**; Sustainable biodiversity-based activities etc.
- Supporting adequate **financial resources, capacity-building**, etc.
- Ensure that the **rights of indigenous peoples and local communities are respected**.

### Convention on Biological Diversity

- **About:** International treaty adopted at the **United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (the Rio "Earth Summit") in 1992**.
- **Headquarters:** Montreal, Canada.
- **Members:** 196 (**India is a Member**).
  - ⊕ As a party to CBD, **every member country is required to have a national biodiversity strategy** and action plan.
  - ⊕ Accordingly, India enacted the **Biological Diversity Act, 2002**.

## Severe decline in large farmland trees in India over the past decade: Study

Findings, based on satellite imagery analysis by researchers at the University of Copenhagen (Denmark), raise concerns about the impact on the environment and agricultural practices.

### Key findings of the study

- 11% of fully grown trees in 2010-2011 were no longer visible when reviewed in 2018-2022.
- India may have lost 5.6 million full-grown trees in agricultural lands during 2019-2022.
- Several hotspot areas have lost up to 50% of their large farmland trees, observed in Telangana and Maharashtra.
- Potential drivers of tree losses include climate change, alterations in cultivation practices, perception of relatively low benefits, etc.

### About Agroforestry

- It is the integration of trees, crops and/or livestock on the same piece of land to enhance productivity and resilience of farms and deliver numerous vital ecological services.
- Types: **Agrisilviculture** (crops + trees), **silvopastoral** (livestock + trees), and **Agrosilvopastoral** (crops + pasture + trees).

### Benefits of Agroforestry

- **Environmental benefits:** Enhanced ecosystem services such as nutrient cycling, improvement of soil microclimate, etc.
- **Economic benefits:** Income diversification for farmers, reduced instances of total crop failure, etc.
- **Social benefits:** Improvement in nutrition and health due to increased quality and diversity of food outputs, etc.

### Steps taken to promote Agroforestry in India

- National Agroforestry policy (2014)
- Sub-Mission on Agroforestry under National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture
- Agroforestry component under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana
- GROW (Greening and Restoration of Wasteland with Agroforestry) -Suitability Mapping portal by NITI Aayog.

## Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) calls for steps against Transnational Organised Crimes

At the recently concluded 33rd Session of the CCPCJ the heads of the FATF, INTERPOL, and United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) called for **disincentivizing criminal activity** through targeting illicit profits and **enhance effectiveness of crime prevention efforts**.

### Key outcomes of the Session

- Adopted four thematic resolutions:
  - ⊕ **Countering trafficking in persons** in the context of rapid technological change;
  - ⊕ Treatment of **children associated with terrorist groups**;
  - ⊕ **Reducing reoffending** through rehabilitation and reintegration; and
  - ⊕ **Preventing and countering violence against children** by organized criminal groups and terrorist groups.
- Launched the **Generation Justice (GenJust) initiative**.
  - ⊕ It aims to **engage youth from across the globe** in shaping the **international agenda on crime prevention and criminal justice**.

### About Transnational Organized Crimes (TnOCs)

- **Organized crimes** are illegal activities, **conducted by groups or networks acting in concert**, by engaging in violence, corruption or related activities in order to obtain, directly or indirectly, a financial or material benefit.
  - ⊕ **TnOCs** occur when these activities, or these groups or networks, **operate in two or more countries**. e.g., Drug trafficking, human trafficking, smuggling of migrants, etc.

### About CCPCJ

- **Genesis:** Established by **UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) resolution in 1992**
- **Functions:** **Principal policy making body** of the UN in the field of **crime prevention and criminal justice**.
- **Membership:** **40 member states** elected by ECOSOC and is chaired by a Bureau.

## Also in News

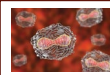


### Materiovigilance Programme of India (MvPI)

**Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI)** has asked for timely reporting of adverse events related to medical devices on the MvPI platform.

#### About MvPI

- **Launched** in 2015.
- Since 2018, **Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission** functions as **National Coordination Centre**.
- It **monitors Medical Device-associated Adverse Events (MDAE)** and **creates awareness** among healthcare professionals about the importance of MDAE.
  - ⊕ **MDAE can be reported by** Clinical specialists, Biomedical Engineers, Nurses, Pharmacists, Patients etc.
- **Benefits:** Evaluating benefit-risk ratio of medical devices, achieving public confidence, etc.



### Giant Viruses

Scientists have discovered 1.5 Billion-Year-Old "Giant" Viruses in Yellowstone National Park.

#### About giant Viruses

- Refers to their **exceptionally large genomes** compared to more common viruses. They **do not pose any risk to humans**.
- They provide valuable insights into a period when single-cell organisms were starting to emerge on Earth.

#### Yellowstone National Park

- Oldest and one of the largest national park in the US.
- Designated a **UNESCO biosphere reserve** in 1976 and a **World Heritage site** in 1978.
- Hot springs are the most common **hydrothermal features** in Yellowstone.



### Pig Butchering Scam

A new type of financial frauds called **Pig Butchering Scams** are increasing worldwide, including in India.

#### About Pig Butchering Scam

- Also known as a “**sha zhu pan**” scam, it is used to describe a scam perpetrated over a long period of time to steal victim's money repeatedly via online apps.
- Criminals lure victims into digital relationships to build trust before convincing them to invest into fraudulent schemes or platforms.
- The term “pig butchering” comes from the scammers’ practice of “**fattening up**” their victims by building trust before “slaughtering” them.



### Greater Adjutant Stork

Purnima Devi Barman received the 2024 Whitley Gold Award dubbed ‘Green Oscar’ for conserving Greater Adjutant Stork (*Leptoptilos dubius*).

#### About Greater Adjutant Stork

- **Distribution:** Also known as ‘Hargila’, they reside only in Assam (80%) and Bihar of India and Cambodia.
- **Habitat:** Inhabits wetlands, nesting in tall trees with closed canopies and bamboo clumps around nesting trees, etc.
- **Threats:** Hunting, habitat destruction including felling of nest trees; degradation of wetlands, etc.
- **Conservation Status:**
  - ⊖ IUCN List: Nearly Threatened (NT)



### SPECULOOS-3b

Astronomers under the SPECULOOS project had detected a new earth-sized exoplanet and named it as SPECULOOS-3b.

- Exoplanet is any planet beyond our solar system. They can either orbit other stars or can also be free-floating (rogue planets).

#### About SPECULOOS-3b

- It is an Earth-size planet orbiting an ultra-cool red dwarf star.
  - ⊖ Red dwarfs are the smallest main sequence stars – just a fraction of the Sun’s size and mass.
- Located around 55 light-years from Earth and is tidally locked with its star and hence a particular side always faces the star.



### Calcium Carbide

FSSAI alerts fruit traders to ensure compliance with prohibition of Calcium Carbide in fruit ripening.

#### About Calcium Carbide

- Prepared by heating quick lime with coke and releases acetylene gas which contains harmful traces of arsenic and phosphorus.
- Use of calcium carbide for ripening fruits has been banned under Food Safety and Standards (Prohibition and Restrictions on Sales) Regulations, 2011.

#### Safer alternative for fruit ripening

- Ethylene gas can be used at concentrations up to 100 ppm (100 µl/L), depending upon the crop, variety, and maturity.




### Bees and their behaviour

UN designated World Bee Day is observed on May 20.

#### About Bees

- Bees are pollinators, contributing directly to food security and conserving biodiversity.
- The honey bee has 3 pairs of legs, 4 wings, and has 5 eyes.
- **Behaviours:** Honey bee performs waggles dance to communicate the location of food sources
  - ⊖ Propolis is a resinous substance produced by honeybees, which helps prevent cracks, protect hives from invaders and inhibit bacterial and fungi build up.
- **Initiatives:** The International Pollinator Initiative (IPI).



### Starlink

Starlink satellite internet service has been launched in Bali, Indonesia.

#### About Starlink

- Starlink is the name of a satellite network of SpaceX to provide low-cost internet to remote locations.
- SpaceX plans to have as many as 42,000 satellites (currently 5800) in this so-called mega-constellation.
- A Starlink satellite has a lifespan of approximately 5 years.
- It remains in low orbit (altitude of 550 km) and will help deliver faster internet with wide coverage.
- In Satellite Internet service, there are no cables or fibres, rather it receives signal through antenna which is why it is useful in remote areas.

## Personality in news Fakir Lalon Shah (1774-1890)

An Indo-Bangla Baul music festival is organized in Dhaka to celebrate the 250<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of Fakir Lalon Shah.

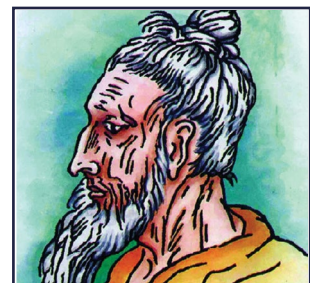
#### About Fakir Lalon Shah

- Born in Horishpur in Jhenaidah district of modern Bangladesh.
- He was a contemporary of Ramakrishna Paramahansa and Swami Vivekananda.

#### Key Contributions

- Founded the ‘Lalon Akhrah’ which had around 10,000 followers across all religions.
- He is considered as Father of Baul Music.
  - ⊖ In 2008, Baul songs are listed under UNESCO’s Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.
- He also influenced personalities like Rabindranath Tagore and Nazrul Islam.

**Values:** Devotion, Humanism, Selflessness, Empathy, etc.



#### Errata:

- In ‘News Today’ dated April 08, 2024, in the News titled ‘98% of Urban Women involved in Household Financial Decisions: Report by AMFi-CRISIL’, it was incorrectly mentioned that ‘Female LFPR rose to 41.5% (PLFS of Oct 2023) against 24.6% five years back.’
  - ⊖ Correct information is - Female LFPR rose to 37.0% (PLFS 2022-23) against 24.5% five years back.
- In ‘News Today’ dated April 24, 2024, in the News titled ‘Denying Women Child Care Leave (CCL) is violation of Constitution: Supreme Court (SC)’, it was mentioned that ‘Rule 43-C of the Central Civil Services (Leave) Rules, 1972 provides for 2 years (730 days) of CCL to female employees with children under 18 years of age to look after their kids.’
  - ⊖ It is to be clarified that Rule 43-C of the Central Civil Services (Leave) Rules, 1972 also provides CCLs to single male parents (unmarried or widower or divorcee).

