

**DAILY
CURRENT
AFFAIRS
ANALYSIS**



LAKSHYA ACADEMY®

18 SEPTEMBER 2024

1 – About Operation Ajay:

GS III

Internal Security

- **Important information:**

- This will be the second evacuation of this year, following the return of several thousand Indian citizens from the war-torn Sudan via Operation Kaveri.
- Operation Ajay is being launched by the government to help nationals who want to return from Israel.
- Days after Air India halted operations on the Delhi-Tel Aviv route in response to a devastating attack on Israel by Hamas, the statement was made.
- Demand will determine Operation Ajay's scope, and the government will increase capacity in response to further needs.

- *Source → The Hindu*

2 – About Infections at the surgery site:

GS II

Health related issues

- **What is an infection at the surgery site?**

- Surgical site infections are a prevalent global surgical complication.
- It is an infection that develops at the body's surgical site.
- It could be a superficial skin infection or a more serious tissue-related infection.
- An estimated 11% of surgical patients get these infections, per a 2018 WHO report.

- **Main conclusions of the recent study:**

- The resource costs for patients who had abdominal surgery across 13 hospitals in four countries were examined in the recent study by the researchers:
- Russia

- Spain
- Nigeria
- Ghana.

- **Two categories were established for the procedures:**

- **Clean surgeries:**

 - whereby surgeons perform controlled, sterile incisions into the urinary tract, intestines, or respiratory system.

- **Unclean and contaminated surgeries:**

 - which covers unintentional cuts, gastrointestinal leaks, or a break in the sterile environment.
 - The study was a component of the broader FALCON randomised controlled trial (RCT), which examined the impact of interventions on surgical site infections across seven countries and 57 institutions.
 - This is the first surgical cost study of its sort to look at surgical site infections across multiple continents, and it shows that these infections significantly increase postoperative expenses in a variety of contexts.

- **Indian context:**

 - At ₹ 46,000, India had the largest rise in healthcare expenses related to surgical site infections after clean-contaminated procedures.
 - At ₹ 20,000, it also had the least increase in healthcare expenses due to surgical site infections following contaminated, unclean procedures.
 - Semi-urgent and emergency procedures account for a large percentage of surgical site infections, and the financial burden of these infections is severe for patients in India, where insurance coverage is limited and out-of-pocket costs are high.
 - Additionally, India has continuously had a higher rate of surgical site infections than the global norm.
 - This is due to a number of factors, including a rise in emergency surgery, shoddy hospital procedures, and the widespread use of antibiotics.
 - Errors and morbidity can be decreased even with a basic checklist of steps including skin washing and proper site labelling prior to surgery.

- **Source → *The Hindu***

3 – Antarctica's large ozone hole found:

GS I

Geography related issues

- **Important information:**

- The hole was almost three times the size of Brazil, measuring 26 million square kilometres (10 million square miles), or what scientists refer to as an ozone-depleted area.
- In order to track the ozone layer and climate, the European Space Agency's Copernicus Sentinel-5P satellite detected trace chemicals in the atmosphere.
- It demonstrated that the ozone hole this year had a significant expansion and had begun earlier than usual.
- According to experts, there is little chance that the ozone hole will cause more warming on Antarctica's surface.

- **Is there cause for concern?**

- One of the four layers of the Earth's atmosphere is the stratosphere, where the ozone layer is a trace gas.
- It serves as a barrier gas shield that absorbs UV rays, shielding ecosystems and people from harmful UV exposure.
- Since exposure to high UV radiation levels is the primary cause of most skin cancers, anything that protects us from UV rays lowers the incidence of cancer.
- The Antarctic ozone hole's magnitude varies annually; it opens in August and closes again in November or December.
- Because of the Earth's rotation, which creates unique winds over Antarctica's enclosed continent, the ozone hole opens up.
- Antarctica is shielded from the outside air by the winds, which produce a miniature climate.
- The hole closes when the winds stop.

- **Why did this year's massive ozone hole occur?**

- The massive ozone hole of this year may have resulted from the volcanic eruptions that occurred at Hunga Tongain Tonga in December 2022 and January 2023.
- Normally, gas emitted during a volcanic eruption stays below the stratosphere, however a significant amount of water vapour was released during this eruption and entered the stratosphere.
- Through chemical interactions, the water altered the rate of heating of the ozone layer.

- In addition to these ozone-depleting substances, the water vapour also contained iodine and bromine.
- **Ozone holes caused by humans:**
- Although a volcanic explosion is most likely to blame for this year's Antarctic ozone hole, scientists first noticed that human activity was causing massive ozone holes in the 1970s.
- The purpose of the 1987 Montreal Protocol was to phase out the production of dangerous compounds in order to preserve the ozone layer.
- Ozone holes shrank in the decades following the limitation of ozone-depleting petrol emissions, demonstrating the effectiveness of the protocol.
- *Source → The Hindu*

4 – New Plan by Odisha Government for Rural Development:

GS II

Government Policies and Interventions

- **Important information:**
- Each panchayat in the state will receive Rs 50 lakh in funding under this to pursue initiatives for:
 - safeguarding houses of worship,
 - renovating historically significant locations, and
 - enhancing internet access and infrastructure in rural areas.
- As part of the new plan, the government has given money for a number of initiatives based on recommendations from the state's 80% rural population.
- **These initiatives consist of:**
 - enhancing connectivity to the internet.
 - creating science parks and playgrounds.
 - facilities for training.
 - centres of expertise and employment for rural business owners.
 - initiatives to overcome the infrastructure gap in education.
 - offering banking services, and
 - technological framework at the community level.
- *Source → The Hindu*