Antibiotic Abuse

Why in news?

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A London based survey has found out that nearly 64% of fixed-dose combination antibiotics in the Indian market didn’t have approval.

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What are antibiotics?

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- An antibiotic is given for the treatment of an infection caused by bacteria. It is not effective against viruses.
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- Antibiotics are powerful medicines that fight certain bacteria either by stopping them from reproducing or destroying them.
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- There is concern worldwide that antibiotics are being overused which is contributing towards the growing number of bacterial infections that are becoming resistant to antibacterial medications.
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What are the findings of the survey?

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- An analysis of the Indian antibiotics market was conducted by researchers at the Queen Mary University in London.
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- The study analyses regulatory records pertaining to fixed-dose combinations (FDCs) and single-drug formulations (SDF) antibiotics sold in India between 2007 and 2012.
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- It finds that 64% of the 118 FDCs available under 3,307 brand names made by 476 companies and 7% of 86 SDFs analysed did not have approval from

the drug-quality regulator.
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- In a study of 88,600 infants in Delhi it was found that 14% of the babies admitted to the ICU within 72 hours of birth had infections that were hospital acquired, and therefore had highly drug-resistant strains of pathogen.
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What are the concerns of antibiotic abuse in India?

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- Many unapproved antibiotics are also over-prescribed in India, in a scenario where drug quality is already suspect, unapproved drugs mean a worsening of resistance implications.
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- The resistance to antibiotics kills around 700,000 globally, by 2050, the figure could reach 10 million, of which 2 million will be Indians.
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- India has one of the highest antibiotics consumption figure globally which means resistance to antibiotics doubles down as a threat for the country.
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- The problem of questionable drugs standards is compounded by the scale of drug/antibiotic abuse in India.
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What measures needs to be taken by the government?

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- In India the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation is the regulatory body, selling of unapproved drugs is illegal, and yet, Indian companies continued to be in flagrant violation the policy.
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- Rampant self-medication in India need to be treated by matching the prescriptions to volumes of antibiotics sold.
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- Government should also consider countering the drugs which are commonly abused antibiotics in the market.
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- Cracking down the sales of unapproved antibiotics will take them out of

circulation and of prescriptions.
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Source: Financial Express

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