

## UPSC Daily Current Affairs| Prelimbits 12-07-2025

### First Malaria Drug for Newborns and Young Infants

*Prelims: Current events of national and international importance*

#### Why in News?

Recently, Novartis has received approval from Swissmedic for Coartem (artemether-lumefantrine) Baby, a first malaria medicine for newborns and young infants.

- **Alternate Name** - The medicine is also known as Reimit Baby in several countries.
- **Joint Development** - Developed in collaboration with Medicines for Malaria Venture (MMV) to target life-threatening vascular bone disease.
- **African Participation** - Eight African countries took part in the assessment process and are expected to issue fast-track approvals.
- **Birth Risk** - Around 30 million babies are born annually in malaria-prone African areas.
- **Infection Data** - Surveys in West Africa show 3.4% to 18.4% infection rates in babies under 6 months.
- **Infant Breakthrough** - This marks the first clinically proven malaria treatment for infants under 4.5 kg.
- **Treatment Gap** - Previously, such infants were treated with older children's doses, risking overdose and toxicity.
- **Vaccine Unavailability** - Malaria vaccines are not approved for the youngest infants, worsening the protection gap.
- **Trial Limitation** - Young infants are typically excluded from clinical trials due to immature liver metabolism.
- **Dose Adaptation** - Novartis developed a dose suited for neonates with support from MMV, Kaoma, and Palm Africa Consortium.
- **Child-Friendly** - The medicine dissolves in breast milk and features a sweet cherry flavor for easier administration.
- **Expert Opinion** - Researchers highlighted dosing challenges due to newborns' underdeveloped liver functions.
- **Global Access** - Novartis aims to provide the treatment on a largely not-for-profit basis in malaria-endemic areas.

#### Reference

[Medical Dialogues | Coartem Baby - First Malaria Drug for Young Infants](#)

### FATF's Latest Report on Terrorist Financing Risks

## Why in the news?

The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) has undertaken a project to compile the "Comprehensive Update on Terrorist Financing Risks" report, which was recently released.

### Financial Action Task Force (FATF)

- **FATF** - It is an intergovernmental body established in 1989 by the G7 nations to develop policies to combat money laundering.
- Its core mandate is to issue and update international standards that countries should adopt to prevent and address financial crimes.
- One of FATF's most impactful tools is its listing system, the grey list and blacklist.
  - **Grey list** is those with strategic deficiencies in anti-money laundering (AML) and counter-terror financing (CTF) frameworks, but which have committed to resolving them within agreed timelines.
  - **Blacklist** includes nations that show no meaningful commitment to improvement.
- Being listed can lead to reduced foreign investment, tougher borrowing conditions, and increased scrutiny from global financial institutions.
- **India and FATF** - India is an active member.

- **Global Collaboration** - The report was co-led by the UN Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee and France, with India making a significant contribution.
- **Spotlight** - For the first time, state sponsorship of terrorism was officially acknowledged in an FATF report.
- **Highlights** - India's 2022 National Risk Assessment (NRA) flagged Pakistan as a primary source of state-sponsored terrorism.
- Based on NRA findings, Indian financial institutions are required to conduct enhanced due diligence on transactions involving Pakistan.
- It is also expected that the report may also reflect the findings of the NRA's of all other countries.
- It is indicated that certain terror outfits had been and continued to receive financial and other forms of support from several national governments.
- **Wider Evidence** - The FATF report used data from delegations and open sources, showing ongoing support for terror outfits by some governments.
- **Legal Framework** - FATF explicitly stated that state funding of terrorism contradicts its standards, international conventions, UNSC Resolution 1373 (2001).
- **Security Threat** - State-sponsored terrorism is described as a long-standing threat to international peace and regional financial stability.
- **Some Illicit Channels** - One tactic includes oil smuggling from Iran to Pakistan, suspected of funding terrorism.
- **NGO Misuse** - Terror outfits like Jaish-e-Mohammed and Lashkar-e-Taiba use fake charities to raise and move funds.
  - These organizations are disrupting aid operations and causing Humanitarian Abuse.
- **Global Impact** - The FATF report, having higher precedence than national assessments, will pressure countries to recognize and respond to state-linked threats.
- **Financial Isolation** - Due to international scrutiny, Pakistan's transactions face

increased costs, making it less attractive for global banking.

## Reference

[The Hindu | FATF's Latest Report on Terrorist Financing Risks](#)

## National Achievement Survey (NAS) 2025

*Prelims: Current events of National and International Importance*

### Why in the news?

*The National Achievement Survey (NAS) 2025 results were recently released, and it was surprising to see Himachal Pradesh, which ranked 21st in 2021, leap into the top five.*

- **National Achievement Survey (NAS)** - It is a national-level survey that measures the learning outcomes of students in government and government-aided schools in Classes 3, 5, 8, and 10.
- It tests core subjects such as language, mathematics, and science, providing States with data to inform policy.
- **Conducted by** - Ministry of Education (Every 3 years).
- **Story of Himachal Pradesh**
- **Historical Decline** - Himachal Pradesh once had a model public education system, initiated by the first CM, Y.S. Parmar.
  - **Post-independence** - This period witnessed the expansion of schools.
  - **Post-liberalization** - Due to systemic neglect and declining quality, this legacy was weakened.
- **Policy negligence** - Contractual hiring, under-recruitment, and lowered academic standards led to public distrust, and even rural families shifted to private schools, seeking better outcomes.

### Measures taken

- **Policy changes** - The Government has pursued a mix of rational restructuring and renewed commitment to public education.
- **Consolidating resources** - Demographic shifts, declining fertility rate highlighted in the NFHS-5, the administration acted to consolidate resources.
- **Building infrastructure and staff deployment** - Allowing for the better deployment of teachers and infrastructure, more than 1,000 under-enrolled schools were merged.
- **Enhanced Monitoring and Guidelines** - The school education system was unified under a single directorate from pre-primary to Class 12, enhancing focus and accountability
- **Encouraging talent and merits** - By giving opportunities for exposure visits nationally and internationally to learn from innovative practices.
- **Other efforts** - School-level decision-making encouraged.
- To encourage peer learning, share resources, and community participation, a cluster-based model of school management was adopted.

- **Driving factor** - Himachal's achievement lies in rekindling faith in the idea of public education.
- **Future step** - Himachal could now deepen its commitment by regularizing teacher appointments, expanding holistic assessments, and ensuring that rural and marginalized students are not left behind.
- **Limitations of NAS** - It measures only what is easily testable, but broader aims of education, like socio-emotional well-being of students, the quality of teaching-learning relationships, are not captured.

## Reference

[The Hindu | National Achievement Survey \(NAS\) 2025](#)

## Carcinogens in Grilled Meat

*Prelims: Science and technology | current events of national and international importance.*

### Why in News?

*Recently, the American Institute for Cancer Research found that grilling meat over high heat or an open flame produces cancer-causing carcinogens.*

### Recent Issue

- **Grilled meat** - Contains carcinogenic compounds that cause changes in the DNA.
- **Cancer** - It **causes inflammation** that makes you prone to cancer.
- **Carcinogens found** - Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) and heterocyclic aromatic amines (HCAs)
- **Carcinogen group** - Group 1.

### Heterocyclic aromatic amines (HCAs)

- **Formation** - Formed when amino acids (the building blocks of proteins), sugars, and creatine or creatinine (substances found in muscle) react at high temperatures.
- **Effects** - Potent *mutagens* and *carcinogens* linked to an increased risk of various cancers.

### Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs)

- **Formation** - They are formed when fat and juices from meat grilled directly over a heated surface or open fire drip onto the surface or fire, causing flames and smoke.
- The smoke contains PAHs that then adhere to the surface of the meat.
- **Other sources** - Forest fires and volcanic eruptions.
- **Effects** - Carcinogens, mutagens, teratogens, and infertility.

### Classification of carcinogens



### Reducing steps

- **While grilling** - Always marinate, meat Shorten grill time, Flip the meat often.
- **Food preferences** - Never binge eat barbecue, always choose leaner meats.

### Reference

[Times now| Grilled meat contains carcinogens](#)