4 January 2024
International & National News

Nritya Kalanidhi award	**Context** • Classical dancer and choreographer **Vasanthalakshmi Narasimhachari** was presented with the 'Nritya Kalanidhi' award at the **17th Dance Festival of the Music Academy** • The festival stands as a testament to the Academy's commitment to musical education and cultural preservation.
Kerala's Internet cable project	**Context** Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the **Kochi–Lakshadweep submarine optical fiber cable project.** **Key points** • It was implemented at a **cost of ₹1,072 crore** • It will connect the islands to high-speed internet for the first time, after years of relying on limited satellite bandwidth. • The undersea cable link **"will ensure 100 times faster Internet for the people of Lakshadweep** • Kavaratti, Lakshadweep's capital, will be connected along with the islands of Agatti, Amini, Kadmat, Chetlet, Kalpeni, Minicoy, Androth, Kiltan, Bangaram and Bitra • The cables have been laid by the **state-owned telco BSNL**, while the project was executed by the **Japanese firm NEC.**
Silambattam	• The **martial dance of Tamil Nadu** is called Silambattam. • The **dancers do mock combat with various weapons**, such as sticks, clubs, swords, horns, daggers, etc, one kind of weapon at a time. • The mock combat is done in pairs. • The drum music for the dance is provided by **Sendai Melam,** i.e. a group of three to four drummers playing the drum Sendai in unison.
Health Ministry survey on Antibiotics	**Context** • A Health Ministry survey was released. • It highlights that Over half of the almost 10,000 patients surveyed recently were given antibiotics to prevent infection, rather than to treat it, amid growing concerns about the rise in resistance to antibiotics.

ADDAPEDIA

Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

- As much as **94% of the patients** surveyed were given antibiotics before the confirmation of a definitive medical diagnosis of the precise cause of infection.

About Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)
- The **World Health Organization (WHO)** has identified antimicrobial resistance (AMR) as one of the top threats to public health.
- It is a **natural phenomenon as bacteria evolve, making drugs used to treat infections less effective.**
- One of the main drivers for the development of antibiotic resistance is the excessive and inappropriate use of antibiotics.

About National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC)
- The NCDC is the **nodal agency for India's national programme on AMR** containment, of which one of the key components is the surveillance of antibiotic usage.
- To achieve this goal, it has established the **National Antibiotic Consumption Network (NAC-NET)** through which network sites compile data on antibiotic consumption in their respective health facilities and send it to the NCDC.

GSAT-20

Context
NewSpace India Ltd. (NSIL), the commercial arm of the Indian Space Research Organisation, will launch **GSAT-20 (renamed GSAT-N2)**, on board SpaceX's Falcon-9 rocket

Key points
- The GSAT-20 is a **high-throughput Ka-band satellite (HTS),** which will be fully owned, operated and funded by the NSIL.
- GSAT-20 offers **Ka-Ka band HTS capacity with 32 beams** having pan-India coverage, including the Andaman Nicobar and Lakshadweep islands.
- The satellite, **weighing 4,700 kg, offers an HTS capacity of nearly 48 Gpbs** and has been specifically designed to meet the demanding service needs of remote and unconnected regions.