25.8.23

1) Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS): MPLADS, launched in 1993, enables MPs to suggest and execute developmental works of capital nature based on local needs for the creation of durable assets.

* MPs receive Rs. 5 crore each year in two installments of Rs. 2.5 crore each.
* MPs shall recommend at least 15% and 7.5% of MPLADS funds for areas inhabited by the S.C. population and S.T. population respectively.
* Funds are non-lapsable.
* District Authority coordination and supervision at the district level.
* The district authority must inspect at least 10% of all work under implementation every year.
* Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation is responsible for policy formulation, and the release of funds under the scheme

2) ASTRA missile: Light Combat Aircraft Tejas, has successfully test fired the ASTRA missile.

* It is a Beyond Visual Range Air - to - Air missile, indigenously developed by DRDO
* Range: 80-110 kms for version Mk1 and 160 kms for version Mk2.
* Altitude: up to 20 km.
* Max Speed: Mach 4.5

3) Galaxy ESO 300-16: Hubble Space Telescope (HST) captured an image of the irregular galaxy ESO 300-16.

* An irregular galaxy lacks the distinct spiral arms or elliptical shape of some galaxies. It lies 28.7 million light-years from Earth in constellation Eridanus.
* It resembles the shape of a cloud, comprised of many tiny stars all clumped together.
* HST, launched in 1990, is collaboration between NASA and European Space Agency.
  + It observes the universe in visible, near-infrared light, and ultraviolet light.
  + It orbits above Earth’s atmosphere, which gives it a better view of universe than telescopes have at ground level.

4) G20 welcomes global Initiatives to curtail AMR: Global Antibiotic Research and Development Partnership (GARDP): It is a non-profit organization created by WHO and others to tackle antibiotic resistance.

* It accelerates the development and access of treatments for drug-resistant infection.
* SECURE: the first dedicated mechanism to expand access in LMICs to essential antibiotics which goes beyond access to single products.
  + It is being developed by the WHO and GARDP
* Combating Antibiotic Resistant Bacteria (Carb-X): A global non-profit partnership to accelerate antibacterial innovation.

Places in News:

1) Ecuador (Capital: Quito)

* Ecuador voters reject oil drilling in Yasuni National Park, a protected area under Amazon rain forest.
* Political Boundaries
  + Country of north-western South America.
  + Borders Colombia (north), Peru (east and south), and Pacific Ocean (west).
  + It includes Pacific archipelago of Galapagos Islands.
* Geographical features
  + Situated on Equator.
  + Highest point above Earth’s centre: Mt. Chimborazo.
  + Major rivers: Amazon, Marañón, Putu-mayo etc

