



Prof. A N Bhaduri Memorial Lecture Award-2020

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Why in News

Recently, Dr. Susanta Kar of **Council of Scientific and Industrial Research- Central Drug Research Institute (CSIR-CDRI)**, Lucknow has been chosen for this year's **Prof. A N Bhaduri Memorial Lecture Award by the Society of Biological Chemists (India)**.

- The Society Of Biological Chemists (India) was founded in 1930, with its HeadQuarters at **Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore**.
- **CSIR- Central Drug Research Institute (CSIR-CDRI)**, is a premier drug research institute of India with its HeadQuarters at **Lucknow**.

Key Points

- The award has been given to recognize the significant contributions towards defining the survival tactics of ***Leishmania donovani***.
- ***Leishmania Donovanii*** is a protozoan parasite that infects macrophages and is a causative agent of ***visceral leishmaniasis (Kala Azar)***, a lethal infectious disease affecting millions worldwide.
- **DR. Susanta Kar's research group** studied the interaction of ***Leishmania*** with **immune cells** like **macrophages, dendritic cells** and **T cells** and the impact of these interactions on immune response/infection progression.
- The award is conferred every **two years**.
Recipients of the award should be **below 50 years of age**. The Award is given for **Biological Chemistry and Allied sciences**, preferably related to parasitic infections.

Leishmaniasis

- It is a **neglected tropical disease** affecting almost 100 countries including India.
Neglected tropical diseases are a diverse group of communicable diseases that prevail in tropical and subtropical conditions in 149 countries.

- It is caused by a **parasite called Leishmania**, which is transmitted through the bite of **sand flies**.
- There are **three types of leishmaniasis**:
 - **Visceral leishmaniasis**, which affects multiple organs and is the most serious form of the disease.
 - **Cutaneous leishmaniasis**, which causes skin sores and is the most common form.
 - **Mucocutaneous leishmaniasis**, which causes skin and mucosal lesions.
- **Visceral leishmaniasis**, which is commonly known as **Kala-azar** in India, is fatal in over 95% of the cases, if left untreated.

Source:PIB