

**10– 09 – 2022**

**News:** Make anti TB campaign a mass movement: President

- President Droupadi Murmu virtually launched the Pradhan Mantri TB Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan on Friday. Speaking on the occasion, the President said it was the duty of all citizens to give high priority to the anti tuberculosis campaign and make it a mass movement.
- Tuberculosis caused the largest number of deaths among all other infectious diseases in the country. India has a little less than 20% of the world's population, but has more than 25% of the total TB patients of the world.

## **Tuberculosis**

- Tuberculosis (TB) is caused by **bacteria** (Mycobacterium tuberculosis) that most often **affect the lungs**.
- TB is spread from **person to person through the air**.
- When **people with TB cough, sneeze or spit, they propel the TB germs into the air**.
- Symptoms are **cough with sputum and blood at times, chest pains, weakness, weight loss, fever and night sweats**.
- TB is a **treatable and curable disease**.

- It is treated with a **standard 6-month course of 4 antimicrobial drugs** that are provided with information, supervision and support to the patient by a health worker or trained volunteer.
- Anti-TB medicines have been used for decades and strains that are resistant to 1 or more of the medicines have been documented in every country surveyed.
- **Multidrug-resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB) is a form of TB caused by bacteria that do not respond to isoniazid and rifampicin, the 2 most powerful, first-line anti-TB drugs. MDR-TB is treatable and curable by using second-line drugs.**
- **Extensively drug-resistant TB (XDR-TB) is a more serious form of MDR-TB caused by bacteria that do not respond to the most effective second-line anti-TB drugs, often leaving patients without any further treatment options.**
- **India is committed to eliminating tuberculosis from the country by 2025, five years ahead of the global target by the World Health Organisation (WHO) i.e. 2030.**
- To align with the ambitious goal, the programme has been renamed from the Revised National Tuberculosis Control Programme (RNTCP) to **National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP).**
- Recently, the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has launched the annual Tuberculosis (TB) Report 2021.**

## **Tuberculosis Cases in India**

- India has the largest caseload, 2.64 million tuberculosis patients, across the world. It accounts for 30% of the world's TB cases.
- People living with HIV are the most vulnerable among all those TB patient groups which have other comorbidities (rate of death). Hence, the World Health Organization lays social emphasis (through awareness programmes) on them.
- India accounts for 9% of all HIV-associated TB deaths in the world, the second-highest number globally.
- A total of 92,000 HIV-associated TB patients were recorded on an annual basis.
- Awareness among TB patients about their HIV status has gone up to 81% from 67%.
- The other such group is patients suffering from diabetes. According to the report, 20% of all TB cases in India also suffer from diabetes.

## **Government Initiatives**

- **Nikshay Ecosystem:** It is a National TB information system which acts as one-stop solution to manage the information of patients and monitor program activity & performance across the country.
- **Nikshay Poshan Yojana (NPY):** NYP scheme was launched with the aim of providing financial support to TB patients for their nutrition.

- **TB Harega Desh Jeetega Campaign:** This campaign was launched in September 2019 with highest level of commitment to eliminate TB.
- **Saksham Project:** This project was launched by Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) to provide psychosocial counselling to Drug resistant-TB patients.
- On the basis of the score in **State TB Index, Himachal Pradesh was the top performing state for tuberculosis control under the category of states with 50 lakh population.**
- **Lakshadweep and Budgam district in Jammu and Kashmir were declared Tuberculosis free.**
- Recently, BRICS Virtual Summit hosted by India, decided to conduct a study on the **epidemiological impact and intersection of the COVID-19 and Tuberculosis pandemics in these countries.**

## **Global Fund for AIDS, TB and Malaria (GFATM)**

- Global Fund with a total investment of **\$2 billion was created in 2002 to pool the world's resources and invest them strategically in programs to end Tuberculosis, AIDS and Malaria.**
- It is a **partnership of governments, civil society, technical agencies, private sector and people affected by the diseases.**