

**11– 11 – 2023**

**News:** Global Tuberculosis (TB) report 2023

- Recently, the World Health Organization (WHO) has released the Global Tuberculosis (TB) report 2023, highlighting the high burden of TB worldwide in 2022.

## **Key Findings of the Global TB Report 2023**

### **Burden of TB**

- Tuberculosis was the world's second leading cause of death from a single infectious agent in 2022, following Covid-19.
- TB caused almost twice as many deaths as Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome stage (AIDS).
- More than 10 million people continue to fall ill with TB every year.
- 30 high burden TB countries collectively accounted for 87% of the world's TB cases in 2022.
- India accounted for the highest number of TB cases in the world in 2022, with 2.8 million TB cases, representing 27% of the global burden.
- Among the top eight high burden countries, in addition to India, are Indonesia, China, the Philippines, Pakistan, Nigeria, Bangladesh, and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

## **Increase in TB Diagnosis**

- In 2022, 7.5 million people were diagnosed with TB, marking the highest figure recorded since WHO began global TB monitoring in 1995.

## **High Mortality Without Treatment**

- Without treatment, the death rate from TB disease is high, at about 50%.
- However, with treatments currently recommended by WHO (a 4–6 months course of anti-TB drugs), about 85% of people with TB can be cured.

## **Global Recovery in TB Diagnosis and Treatment**

- There is a positive global recovery in the number of people diagnosed with TB and treated in 2022, following two years of Covid-19-related disruptions.
- Countries like India, Indonesia, and the Philippines, accounted for over 60% of the global reductions.

## **TB Incidence Rate**

- The TB incidence rate, which measures new cases per 100,000 population per year, increased by 3.9% between 2020 and 2022.
- This increase reversed the declining trend of about 2% per year that had been observed for most of the past two decades.

## Findings Related to India

### TB Case Fatality Ratio in India

- India reported a case fatality ratio of 12%, indicating that 12% of TB cases in the country resulted in death.
- The report estimates that 3,42,000 TB-related deaths occurred in India in 2022, with 3,31,000 among HIV-negative individuals and 11,000 among those with HIV.

### Multidrug-Resistant TB (MDR-TB)

- India recorded 1.1 lakh cases of multidrug-resistant TB (MDR-TB) in 2022, highlighting the continued challenge of MDR-TB as a public health crisis.

## Tuberculosis

- Tuberculosis (TB) is caused by **bacteria** (*Mycobacterium tuberculosis*) that most often **affects 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, 2.8 million tuberculosis patients, across the world. It accounts for 27% 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 programs) on them.
- India accounts for 9% of all HIV-associated TB deaths in the world, the second-highest number globally.
- India reported a case fatality ratio of 12%, indicating that 12% of TB cases in the country resulted in death.
- 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 the 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.
- Based on 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.