

06 – 11 – 2024

News: International Solar Alliance (ISA)

- The new office bearers for International Solar Alliance (ISA) have been elected. India was elected as the President unopposed while France was elected over Grenada for the Co–Presidency.

International Solar Alliance (ISA)

- The International Solar Alliance (ISA) is an **alliance of 121 countries initiated by India, most of them being sunshine countries, which lie either completely or partly between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn.**
- The primary objective of the alliance is to **work for efficient consumption of solar energy to reduce dependence on fossil fuels.**
- The alliance is a **treaty-based (Paris Declaration) inter-governmental organization.**
- ISA is the **nodal agency for implementing One Sun One World One Grid (OSOWOG).**
- **Countries that do not fall within the Tropics can join the alliance and enjoy all benefits as other members, except for voting rights.**

- After the United Nations, it is the largest grouping of states world-wide.
- The framework agreement of the International Solar Alliance opened for signatures in **Marrakech, Morocco in November 2016**, and 200 countries have joined.
- The ISA is headquartered in **Gurugram, India**.
- The ISA aims to pave the way for future solar generation, storage and technologies for Member countries' needs by **mobilizing over USD 1000 billion by 2030**.
- Recently, **International Solar Alliance (ISA)** has been conferred the **Observer status** by UNGA.

Host Country Agreement

- The Host Country Agreement is an **agreement between the International Solar Alliance and India**.
- Its motive is to **make ISA functioning independent in discharging its functions**.
- Through this **agreement ISA will get power to contract, to acquire and dispose movable and immovable property, to institute and defend legal proceedings**.
- Under the agreement **ISA will get tax concessions and exemptions necessary for ISA independent functioning**.

President and Co-President

- The Assembly elects the President and Co-President, with due regard to equitable geographical representation.
- The four regional groups of the ISA Members include Africa; Asia and the Pacific; Europe and Others; and Latin America and the Caribbean.
- Eight Vice Presidents of the Standing Committee, two from each of the four ISA geographical regions, are selected based on seniority in terms of submitting the instrument of ratification to the depositary on a rotation basis from the ISA Member Countries in the specific region.
- The President for 2024 to 2026 is India, while France is the Co-President for the same period.

News: Global recognition of India's effort to TB deduction

- India's journey towards tuberculosis (TB) elimination has been recognized globally, with a noteworthy 17.7 percent decline in TB incidence from 2015 to 2023.
- As per the World Health Organization's Global Tuberculosis Report 2024 the rate is twice the global average decline of 8.3 percent.

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 **preventable, treatable and curable disease with antibiotics, typically including isoniazid, rifampin, pyrazinamide, ethambutol, and streptomycin**.
- 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.
- About 25% of the global population has been infected with TB bacteria. 5-10% of these infections progress to active TB disease.
- 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.

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.