

5. MoU between TB Division of the Health Ministry and Wadhvani Institute for Artificial Intelligence

Prelims: Governance- Health

Mains: GS-II- Issues relating to development and management of Social Sector or Services relating to Health, Education, Human Resources.

Why in News?

- ▶▶ The Central TB Division of the Health Ministry has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Wadhvani Institute for Artificial Intelligence to explore the application of cutting-edge Artificial Intelligence technology in its fight against TB.

Highlights:

- ▶▶ Wadhvani AI would be supporting National TB programme become AI-ready which would include, developing, piloting, and deploying AI-based solutions.
- ▶▶ It would support the programme in vulnerability and hot-spot mapping, modelling novel methods of screening and diagnostics and enabling decision support for care-givers apart from supporting the RNTCP in adoption of other AI technologies.
- ▶▶ The Revised National TB Control Programme has been at the forefront of adoption of newer technologies in healthcare. India is committed to ending TB by 2025, five years ahead of the Global Sustainable Development targets.

TB:

- ▶▶ Tuberculosis (TB) is caused by bacteria (*Mycobacterium tuberculosis*) that most often affect the lungs. Tuberculosis is curable and preventable.
- ▶▶ TB is spread from person to person through the air. When people with lung TB cough, sneeze or spit, they propel the TB germs into the air.
- ▶▶ A person needs to inhale only a few of these germs to become infected.

What are Latent TB and active TB?

- ▶▶ **Latent TB:** In this condition, you have a TB infection, but the bacteria remain in your body in an inactive state and cause no symptoms. Latent TB, also called inactive TB or TB infection, isn't contagious.

- ▶▶ It can turn into active TB, so treatment is important for the person with latent TB and to help control the spread of TB. About one-third of the world's population has latent TB.
- ▶▶ **Active TB:** This condition makes you sick and, in most cases, can spread to others. It can occur in the first few weeks after infection with the TB bacteria, or it might occur years later.

