

6. WHO's Global Tuberculosis Report 2019

Prelims: Indices & Reports

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

Why in News?

- ▶▶ WHO has released the 2019 edition of the Global Tuberculosis Report recently. The report provides a comprehensive and up-to-date assessment of the TB epidemic and progress in the response at global, regional and country levels for India.

Key Findings of the Report:

- ▶▶ Around 10 million people developed TB in 2018 and three million sufferers “are not getting the care they need”.
- ▶▶ Countries where people suffer most are China, India, Indonesia, Nigeria, Pakistan, the Philippines, and South Africa.
- ▶▶ Although the 2018 TB toll was marginally better than in 2017, the burden remains stubbornly high among poor and marginalized populations, particularly those with HIV.
- ▶▶ Drug resistance remains another obstacle, WHO maintained, with 2018 seeing an estimated half a million new cases of drug-resistant TB.
- ▶▶ There is massive and chronic underfunding for TB research estimated at \$1.2 billion a year. On top of this, the shortfall for TB prevention and care is estimated at \$3.3 billion in 2019.
- ▶▶ The World Health Assembly-approved Global TB Strategy aims for a 90 per cent reduction in TB deaths and an 80 per cent reduction in the TB incidence rate by 2030 compared with 2015 levels.


Status in India:

- ▶▶ The report notes that in 2017, India had 27.4 lakh TB patients which came down to 26.9 lakh in 2018.
- ▶▶ Incidence per 1,00,000 population has decreased from 204 in 2017 to 199 in 2018.
- ▶▶ The number of patients being tested for rifampicin resistance has increased from 32% in 2017 to 46% in 2018.
- ▶▶ And the treatment success rate has increased to 81% for new and relapse cases (drug sensitive) in 2017, which was 69% in 2016.
- ▶▶ TB remains the top infectious killer in the world claiming over 4,000 lives a day.

- ▶▶ This report presents progress towards targets set at the first-ever United Nations General Assembly high-level meeting on TB in 2018 as well as the targets of the WHO End TB Strategy and Sustainable Development Goals.

On the decline

India has performed better in countering tuberculosis, according to the World Health Organization's 2019 edition of the Global Tuberculosis Report



	2017	2018
Total TB incidence	27.4 lakh	26.9 lakh
TB incidence per 100,000 population	204	199
% of cases tested for rifampicin resistance among new patients	32%	46%
% of cases tested for rifampicin resistance among previously treated patients	91%	82%

Government Interventions Taken:

- ▶▶ The India **TB-Report 2019** notes that India is closest ever to covering all TB cases through the online notification system (**NIKSHAY**).
- ▶▶ National Strategic Plan (NSP) to end TB
 - a) It encapsulates the bold and innovative steps required to eliminate TB in India by the year 2025.
 - b) Objective (Detect-Treat-Prevent-Build)
 - ▶▶ **Detect:** Find all Drug Sensitive TB and Drug Resistant TB cases with an emphasis on reaching TB patients seeking care from private providers and undiagnosed TB in high-risk populations.
 - ▶▶ **Treat:** Initiate and sustain all patients on appropriate anti-TB treatment wherever they seek care, with patient friendly systems and social support.
 - ▶▶ **Prevent** the emergence of TB in susceptible populations.
 - ▶▶ **Build** and strengthen enabling policies, empowered institutions, additional human resources with enhanced capacities, and provide adequate financial resources.

About Tuberculosis:

- ▶▶ TB is caused by **Bacteria** (*Mycobacterium tuberculosis*) that most often **affect the lungs**.
 - ▶▶ **Transmission:** 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.
 - ▶▶ **Symptoms:** Cough with sputum and blood at times, chest pains, weakness, weight loss, fever and night sweats.
 - ▶▶ **Treatment:** TB is 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.
1. **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.
 2. **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 WHO:

- ▶▶ The World Health Organization (WHO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations that acts as a coordinating authority on international public health.
- ▶▶ Established in 1948, it succeeded the Health Organization, which was an agency of the League of Nations.
- ▶▶ It is a member of the United Nations Development Group and its headquarters is located at Geneva.