

New TB vaccine

April 15, 2020

Why in news?

- On 15 July, 2019, the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) launched the **third-phase trials for an anti-Tuberculosis vaccine** that could be administered to **anybody aged six years and above**.
- Current BCG vaccines are only for neonates.
- The WHO **End TB Strategy** aims at a 95 per cent reduction in TB mortality and a 90 per cent reduction in TB incidence worldwide by 2035.
- Accordingly, there have been 2.8 million tuberculosis cases in the country with 1,47,000 multi-drug resistant TB cases.
- Around 4.23 lakh people are killed and HIV-TB deaths stand at around 87000.
- The **proportion of TB burden in India is 27 percent higher than worldwide**.
- The government pledged to eliminate tuberculosis in this situation by 2025.
- The two vaccine candidates, '**VPM1002**', which is produced by the Serum Institute of India, Pune and **MIP (Mycobacterium Indicus Pranii)** are being worked upon.
- The study would enroll 12,000 healthy household contacts of a patient whose sputum has tested positive for TB and are therefore at high risk of contracting the disease.
- The **trial would be done on patients' contacts from seven sites**: Delhi, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Odisha, Tamil Nadu and Telangana.