

WHO first ever list of Fungal Priority Pathogens

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In news— Recently, WHO released the first-ever list of fungal infections that can be health-threatening.

The fungal priority pathogens list (FPPL)-

- **The FPPL is the first global effort to systematically prioritize fungal pathogens**, considering the unmet research and development (R&D) needs and the perceived public health importance.
- **The WHO FPPL aims to focus and drive further research** and policy interventions to strengthen the global response to fungal infections and antifungal resistance.
- It **includes 19 fungi** that represent the greatest threat to human health. The UN body warned that some strains are increasingly drug-resistant and are growing at an alarming rate.
- Emerging from the shadows of the bacterial antimicrobial resistance pandemic, fungal infections are growing, and are ever more resistant to treatments, becoming a public health concern worldwide.
- **The WHO FPPL is divided into three categories** – critical, high and medium priority.
- These fungal **pathogens are ranked in each priority category based on their impact on public health** and/or emerging antifungal resistance risk.
- **The critical group includes** *Candida auris*, which is a highly drug-resistant fungi, *Cryptococcus neoformans*, *Aspergillus fumigatus*, and *Candida albicans*.
- **The high priority group includes** a number of other fungi from the *Candida* family as well as others such as Mucorales, a group containing “black fungus”, an infection which rose rapidly in seriously ill people, particularly in India, during Covid-19.

- **The medium priority group lists** a number of other fungi, including *Coccidioides* spp and *Cryptococcus gattii*.