

World Tuberculosis (TB) Day, 2022

March 25, 2022

In news— World TB Day is observed on March 24 every year to raise awareness about TB and the devastating health, social and economic consequences of it in the world.

About World TB Day-

- The **date** March 24 **marks the day in 1882 when Dr Robert Koch announced that he had discovered the bacterium called Mycobacterium tuberculosis that causes TB**, which opened the way towards diagnosing and curing this disease.
- The Day was first celebrated on March 24th, 1982, on the 100th anniversary of Dr. Robert Koch's presentation.
- The **theme for 2022 is 'Invest to End TB. Save Lives'**.

What is Tuberculosis (TB)?

- TB is a **contagious infection, in which the TB bacteria attack the lungs, but they can attack any part of the body** such as the kidney, spine, and brain.
- **Latent TB doesn't have symptoms**, in which case, a skin or blood test can verify its presence.
- **Signs of active TB disease include:** A cough that lasts more than 3 weeks, Chest pain, Coughing up blood, Feeling tired all the time, Night sweats, Chills, Fever, Loss of appetite, Weight loss.
- While the **term tuberculosis was coined by Johann Schonlein in 1834**, it is believed that the infection has been around for 3 million years.
- **In the 1700s, TB was called "the white plague"** due to the pale appearance of the patients.
- **TB was called "phthisis" in ancient Greece, "tabes" in ancient Rome**, and "schachepheth" in ancient Hebrew.
- It was also known as "**consumption**" in the 1800s.

- During the Middle Ages, **TB of the neck and lymph nodes was called “scofula”** and was believed to be a different disease from TB in the lungs.
- According to WHO, each day, nearly 4000 lose their lives to TB and close to 28,000 people fall ill with this **preventable and curable disease.**
- WHO aims to end TB by 2030.

Initiatives by India-

- India has 30% of the world’s TB cases.
- TB has been made an essential part of Comprehensive Primary Health Care and is now integrated with Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Centres (HWCs), the largest comprehensive health care and health protection programme in the world.
- The **National TB Management Framework** makes a strong case for elimination efforts from a health sector struggle to coordinate the collective endeavour of the government, the private sector, civil society, corporates and other stakeholders.
- India has committed to the United Nations General Assembly to **end TB by 2025**, five years ahead of the deadline given in the Sustainable Development Goals.
- India has experimented successfully with the public-private partnership model, which is now being replicated in more than 242 districts with the coalition of the government and the civil society (**JEET Project**).
- The concerted effort of the **National TB Elimination Programme (NTEP)** has to its credit the world’s biggest DOTS Therapy by treating nearly 20 million people in 15 years.
- In the **State TB Index** of 2020, **Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh** were the top three best-performing states for tuberculosis control under the category of states with 50 lakh population.