



TB Drug Pretomanid

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Pretomanid is the **third new drug** developed for the treatment of people with **Extensively Drug-Resistant TB (XDR-TB) or Multi Drug-Resistant TB (MDR-TB)** affecting the lungs.

- It is a part of three-drug, six-month, all-oral regimen treatment along with the other two drugs namely,
 - Bedaquiline, &
 - Linezolid.
- India has the highest TB burden in the world. **In 2018, 2.15 million TB cases were reported**, which is 16% more than in 2017. This new drug will be beneficial in reducing the burden.

Challenges

- To get this regimen into trials there is the need to get it registered and put it into drug trials along with Bedaquiline.
- The revised National TB Control Program (RNTCP) will have to negotiate the price, procure & deliver the drugs on time.

Way Forward

- Recently, the central TB Division of the Health Ministry has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Wadhwani Institute for Artificial Intelligence to **explore** the application of cutting-edge **Artificial Intelligence** technology in its fight against TB is a welcome step.
- TB control requires the slowing down of infection, progression, and transmission. Continuous efforts are needed in this regard for slowing down its progression and **eliminating it completely by 2025**.

Source: BL