



India TB Report 2020

 drishtiias.com/printpdf/india-tb-report-2020

Why in News

Recently, the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare** has launched the **annual Tuberculosis (TB) Report 2020**.

Eliminating TB by 2025: India is committed to **eliminating tuberculosis from the country by 2025**, five years ahead of the global target by the **World Health Organisation (WHO)** i.e. 2030.

National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme: To align with the ambitious goal, the programme has been renamed from the **Revised National Tuberculosis Control Programme (RNTCP) to National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP)**.

Key Points

- **State TB Index:** On the basis of the score in State **TB** Index, **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.
 - **Tripura and Nagaland** were best-performing in the category of states having less than 50 lakh population.
 - **Dadra and Nagar Haveli, and Daman and Diu** were selected as the best performing Union Territories.
- **Rising Tobacco Consumption:** It also revealed that Tobacco consumption is rising among Indian TB patients.
 - **8% of TB cases** can be attributable to tobacco usage.

- **HIV Patients and TB:** People **living with HIV are the most vulnerable** among all those TB patient groups which have other comorbidities (rate of death). Hence, the World Health Organization lays social emphasis (through awareness programmes) on them.

HIV-associated TB: India accounts for **9% of all HIV-associated TB deaths** in the world, the **second-highest number** globally.

- A total of 92,000 HIV-associated TB patients were recorded on an annual basis.
 - Awareness among TB patients about their HIV status has gone up to 81% from 67%.
- **Diabetes Associated TB:** The other such group is patients suffering from **diabetes**. According to the report, 20% of all TB cases in India also suffer from diabetes.

In 2019, among the notified TB patients under the Revised National TB Control Programme, 64 % were screened for Diabetes.

- **Missing Patients:** The report highlighted that the notification of TB is a major hurdle in surveillance of the disease in India.

Nearly **0.54 million TB cases** are still missing across India.

- **Lower Reporting than WHO:** According to the report, India notified the highest number of **24.04 lakh tuberculosis cases** last year (2018) as **against an estimated 26.9 lakh cases by WHO**, indicating that around three lakh patients missed out from the national TB programme.

Low Fatality: It stated that 79,144 deaths due to tuberculosis were reported in 2019, which is much lower than the WHO estimate of 4.4 lakh fatalities.

- **Treatment Success Rate:** It is around 70-73% in the last two years. From 2014-2016, it was between 76 and 77%.

Initiatives by India

- **The Nikshay Ecosystem:** It is the National TB information system which is a one-stop solution to manage information of patients and monitor program activity and performance throughout the country.
- **Nikshay Poshan Yojana (NPY):** This scheme is aimed at providing financial support to TB patients for their nutrition.
- **TB Harega Desh Jeetega Campaign: Launched In September 2019** it is showcasing the highest level of commitment for the elimination of TB.
- **The Saksham Project:** It is a project of the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) that has been providing psycho-social counselling to DR-TB patients.

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 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 a 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.
 - **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.
 - **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.

Way Forward

- Despite the notable successes achieved by the different programmes, robust efforts are needed to improve the early and **accurate diagnosis** followed by a prompt appropriate treatment which is vital for **ending TB**.
- India must collaborate with **global efforts which are being done to eliminate** the TB along with the **paradigm shift in the control measure**.
- There is a need for expanding both the laboratory network as well as diagnostic facilities to cover the entire country under the National TB Elimination Programme. There is a requirement of the crucial contribution from the private sector in terms of providing mandatory tuberculosis notification and quality care.
- There is a need to fight the stigma surrounding it so that every TB patient can seek care with dignity and without discrimination. Hence, **advocacy, communication & social mobilization** is vital.

Source: DTE