



# Kenya Eliminated Sleeping Sickness

## Why in News?

The [World Health Organization \(WHO\)](#) has officially certified **Kenya as free from human African trypanosomiasis**—commonly known as **sleeping sickness**—marking a significant public health victory for the nation.

- With this achievement, **Kenya becomes the tenth country globally to eliminate the disease** as a public health challenge.
- This is the **second neglected tropical disease eliminated in Kenya**, following the country's WHO certification as **Guinea worm disease-free in 2018**.



## Key Points About Sleeping sickness

- **Sleeping sickness**, caused by **protozoan parasites** transmitted by **tsetse flies**, is characterized by **initial symptoms such as fever, headaches, and joint pain**.
- In advanced stages, **patients suffer from neurological effects, disrupted sleep patterns,**

confusion, and behavioral changes.

- The **sleeping sickness is endemic in sub-Saharan Africa.**
- Sleeping sickness significantly **reduces the productivity of both humans and cattle (zebu cattle raised by Maasai tribes of eastern Africa).**

## Disease Eradicated by India

- India has eradicated **Smallpox** (1980), **Polio** (2014), **Plague, Rinderpest** (the Cattle Plague), **Yaws** and **Maternal And Neonatal Tetanus** (2015), **trachoma (2024)**.
  - India received **Guinea worm disease-free certification** status from the WHO in 2000.

## Diseases Targeted for Elimination in India

- **Malaria:** Achieve zero indigenous cases by 2030.
- **Lymphatic Filariasis (LF):** Achieve <1% microfilaria rate in endemic areas (elimination by 2030).
- **Kala-azar:** Achieve annual incidence of <1 case per 10,000 population at block level.
  - Certification requires 3 years of sustained elimination.
- **Tuberculosis (TB):** End TB by 2025 under the National TB Elimination Programme (NTEP).

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