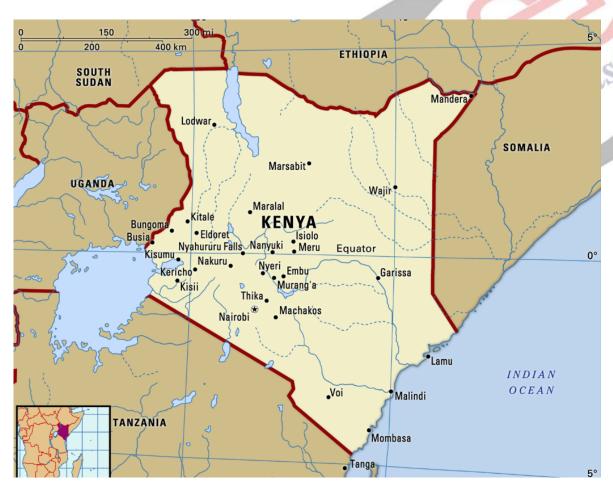


Kenya Eliminated Sleeping Sickness

Why in News?

The <u>World Health Organization (WHO)</u> 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 <u>Smallpox</u> (1980), <u>Polio</u> (2014), <u>Plague</u>, <u>Rinderpest</u> (the Cattle Plague), <u>Yaws</u> and <u>Maternal And Neonatal Tetanus</u> (2015), <u>trachoma</u> (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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