



drishti

Global Fund for AIDS, TB, and Malaria

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India has recently announced a contribution of **\$22 million** to the Global Fund for AIDS, TB, and Malaria (**GFTAM**).

- India has stepped an inch closer by enhancing the Global Fund efforts to strengthen health systems and save 16 million more lives across the globe.
- The Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria was created to raise, manage and invest the world's money in eliminating **three of the deadliest infectious diseases** the world has ever known.
- India shares a sustained partnership with the Global Fund since its formation, both as a recipient and as a donor.

Global Funds

- Global Fund (with a total investment of **\$2 billion**) was created in 2002 to pool the world's resources & invest them strategically in programs to **end Tuberculosis (TB)**, Acquired Immuno-Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), and Malaria as epidemics.
- It is a partnership of governments, civil society, technical agencies, the private sector and people affected by the diseases.
- India has set a precedent for other donors to contribute generously to the cause.

Tuberculosis (TB)

- Tuberculosis (TB) is caused by **bacteria (Mycobacterium tuberculosis)** that most often affect the lungs. Tuberculosis is curable and preventable.
- TB is spread from person to person through the air. When people with lung TB cough, sneeze or spit, they propel the TB germs into the air.
- About **one-third** of the world's population has **latent TB**, which means people have been infected by TB bacteria but are not (yet) ill with the disease and cannot transmit the disease.

- **World TB Day is observed on 24 March** to earmark the discovery of Mycobacterium tuberculosis, a bacterium due to which TB is caused, by German microbiologist Dr. Robert Koch in 1882.
- The **Universal Immunization Programme (UIP)** launched by the Government of India in 1985 includes vaccination for 12 diseases including TB.

Human Immuno-Deficiency Virus, Acquired Immuno-Deficiency Syndrome (HIV-AIDS)

- HIV is a type of virus called a retrovirus, and the combination of drugs used to treat it is called Antiretroviral Therapy (ART).
- HIV attacks **CD4, a type of White Blood Cell (T cells)** in the body's immune system. T cells are those cells that move around the body detecting anomalies and infections in cells.
- With neither a vaccine nor a cure in sight, Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) is the only option available for people living with HIV-AIDS.
- **World AIDS Day** is observed on **1st December**.
- **"Mission Sampark"** was **launched in 2017** to bring back People Living with HIV who have left treatment after starting Anti Retro Viral Treatment (ART).
- **'Project Sunrise'** was launched in **2016 to tackle the rising HIV prevalence in north-eastern states**, especially among people injecting drugs.

Malaria

- Malaria is caused by **Plasmodium parasites**.
- The parasites are spread to people through the bites of infected **female Anopheles mosquitoes**, called "malaria vectors",
- **World Malaria Day** is observed on **25th April**.
- It can be noted that only for **four diseases viz. HIV-AIDS, TB, Malaria, and Hepatitis (28 July)**, the World Health Organization (WHO) officially endorses disease-specific global awareness days.

Source: PIB