



Union World Conference on Lung Health

drishtiias.com/printpdf/union-world-conference-on-lung-health

The **Vice-President of India** inaugurated the **50th Union World Conference on Lung Health** in Hyderabad on 30th October 2019. It is a four-day scientific programme focusing on every aspect of lung health.

- The theme of the conference is '**Ending the Emergency: Science, Leadership, Action**'.
 - It focuses on what is needed to ensure commitments become action, and that life-saving targets are met.
 - The conference theme resonates strongly with TB, but it also raises awareness that all threats to lung health – **TB, air pollution, tobacco and many more** – are emergencies that our science, leadership and action need to meet head-on.
- This is the world's largest gathering of stakeholders working to end the suffering caused by lung disease, with a focus specifically on the challenges faced by **low-and lower-middle-income populations**
- **International Union Against Tuberculosis (IUAT)** has been organising this conference since 1920.
- India provides a unique backdrop for discussions on ending **Tuberculosis (TB)** and lung disease with the current highest burden of TB in the world, and ambitious targets to eliminate TB by 2025.
- An agreement was also reached to lower the price of **rifapentine**. It is a critically important drug used to prevent tuberculosis (TB).

Tuberculosis (TB)

- It is an infectious disease caused by the **bacterium Mycobacterium tuberculosis**. It is spread through the air from people suffering from TB.
- A single patient can infect ten or more people in one year. TB remains a major public health problem in India, with the country accounting for 26% of all TB cases reported globally.
- In 2011, out of the estimated global annual incidence of 8.8 million TB cases, nearly 2.3 million were estimated to have occurred in India.

- **The Bacillus Calmette–Guérin (BCG) vaccine used for TB was developed by Albert Calmette and Camille Guérin in 1921.**

International Union Against Tuberculosis

- **International Union Against Tuberculosis (IUAT)** was founded at the post-war conference, held in Paris in 1920.
- It became the **first NGO to be officially recognised by WHO** In 1940.
- The IUAT plays a central role in international clinical trials to determine the best ways to use the new tools for TB treatment and co-founds the TB Surveillance Research Unit.

Source: PIB