



Stop TB Partnership Board

Why in News

Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, has been **appointed Chairman of the Stop TB Partnership Board**.

- He will **serve a three year term, commencing July 2021**, as the Chair of the Board of Stop TB Partnership.

Key Points

- **About the Stop TB Partnership Board:**
 - It was **established in 2001** and is mandated to eliminate Tuberculosis as a public health problem.
 - The organization was **conceived following the meeting of the First Session of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Tuberculosis Epidemic** held in London in March 1998.
 - In its inaugural year itself, the Stop TB Partnership through the **Amsterdam Declaration** gave a call for collaborative action from ministerial delegations from 20 countries that bear the highest burden of TB.
 - In 2019, it launched the updated **Global Plan to End TB 2018-2022**.
 - The **Kochon Prize** is awarded annually by Stop TB Partnership to individuals and/or organizations that have made a significant contribution to combating TB.
 - The **Kochon Prize**, which is endowed by the Kochon Foundation, a non-profit foundation registered in the Republic of Korea, consists of a USD 65,000 award.
 - Its secretariat is based at **Geneva, Switzerland**.
- **High TB Burden Countries:**
 - In 2019, the **30 high TB burden countries** accounted for 87% of new TB cases.
 - Eight countries account for two thirds of the total, with **India leading the count**, followed by Indonesia, China, the Philippines, Pakistan, Nigeria, Bangladesh and South Africa ([Global Tuberculosis Report: WHO](#))
- **Scenario in India:**
 - With **an estimated 2.64 million TB patients**, India has the largest burden of TB globally in terms of absolute numbers.
 - Recently, the **“Step Up for TB 2020”** report by the Stop TB Partnership and Médecins Sans Frontières/Doctors Without Borders (MSF) has **highlighted India’s conservative approach regarding the new medicines for Drug Resistant TB**, putting lives of patients including children in danger.
- **Steps Taken by India:**
 - India has **committed to eliminating TB in the country by 2025**.
 - Five years ahead of the global deadline of 2030.
 - **National Strategy Plan for TB Elimination 2017-2025:**
 - The requirements for moving towards TB elimination in India have been arranged in **four strategic areas of Detect, Treat, Prevent & Build**.
 - There is also across all four areas, an overarching theme of the **Private Sector**. Another overarching theme is that of **Key Populations**.
 - **TB Harega Desh Jeetega Campaign, Nikshay Poshan Yojana**, etc.
- **Global Efforts:**

- The **End TB Strategy of WHO**.
- **World Tuberculosis (TB) Day is observed on 24th March** to raise public awareness about the devastating health, social and economic consequences of TB.

Tuberculosis

- **Tuberculosis** 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 lung 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 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.
- **Multidrug-resistant TB (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 rare type of MDR TB that is resistant to isoniazid and rifampin, plus any fluoroquinolone and at least one of three injectable second-line drugs (i.e., amikacin, kanamycin, or capreomycin).

[Source: PIB](#)

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