



Eliminating Kala-azar

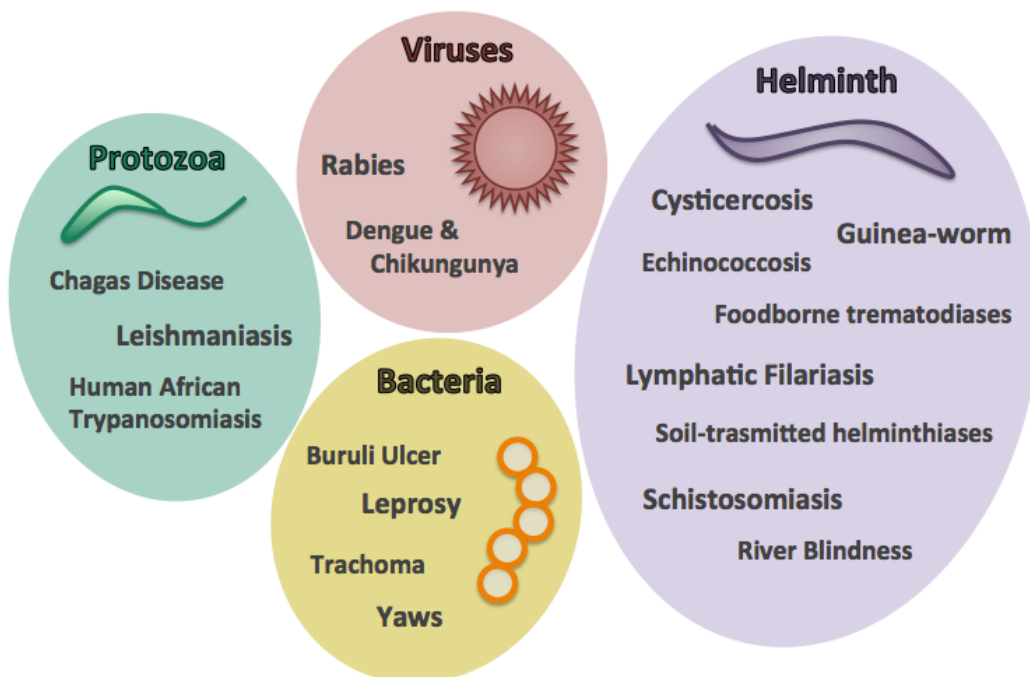
Source: TH

India is close to achieving the **elimination of Kala-azar** as a public health problem, meeting the **World Health Organization (WHO)** certification criteria.

- To receive WHO certification for eliminating kala-azar, a country must maintain **less than one case per 10,000 population** at the sub-district level for **three consecutive years**.
 - A country must demonstrate that **local transmission has been interrupted** for a set period and a system is in place to **prevent disease re-emergence**.
- India has achieved this for **two consecutive years** and needs to **maintain** this level for **one more year** to qualify for the certification.
 - With this, India can become the **2nd country** in the world after **Bangladesh** to eliminate Kala-azar.
- Kala-azar is the **second deadliest parasitic disease after malaria** in India.
- Kala-azar (**visceral leishmaniasis or Black fever**) is caused by a **protozoan parasite *Leishmania donovani*** and transmitted by the bite of an **infected female sandfly**.
 - If untreated, it is **fatal** in over **95%** of cases.
- **India** aimed to eliminate kala-azar by **2020**, while the **WHO** targets global elimination by **2030** as part of its **Neglected Tropical Disease roadmap**.

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Neglected Tropical Diseases



Read More: [Global Report on Neglected Tropical Diseases](#)

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