



Global Tuberculosis Report 2024

For Prelims: [Tuberculosis \(TB\)](#), [WHO Global Tuberculosis Report 2024](#), [Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#), [One World TB Summit" \(2023\)](#), [Ni-kshay Poshan Yojana](#)

For Mains: India's Commitment and Initiatives to Eliminate TB, Future Strategies to eliminate TB, [National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme](#), Present Status of TB in India and Globe.

Source: [PIB](#)

Why in News?

According to [WHO Global Tuberculosis Report 2024](#) India has achieved a notable **17.7%** decline in [tuberculosis \(TB\)](#) incidence from **2015 to 2023**.

- This decline, exceeding the **global average of 8.3%**, underscores India's unwavering commitment to eliminating TB by 2025, under the **National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP)**.

What are the Key Findings of the Global Tuberculosis Report 2024?

- **Global TB Incidence Trends: 8.2 million new TB cases** were reported in 2023, up from 7.5 million in 2022, marking the highest figure recorded by WHO since 1995.
 - An estimated 1.25 million TB deaths were recorded in 2023, slightly lower than 1.32 million in 2022.
- **Demographics of TB Cases:** 30 **low- and middle-income countries (LMICs)** account for 87% of the global TB burden.
 - Five countries alone—**India (26%), Indonesia (10%), China (6.8%), the Philippines (6.8%), and Pakistan (6.3%)** contribute 56% of the global TB burden.
 - 55% of TB cases occurred in men, 33% in women, and 12% in children and young adolescents.
- **India's TB Scenario:** India recorded an estimated **27 lakh TB cases in 2023**, of which **25.1 lakh individuals** were diagnosed and began treatment.
 - TB incidence in India dropped from **237 cases per lakh population** in 2015 to **195 per lakh in 2023**, reflecting a **17.7% decline** over the period.
 - Treatment coverage increased to **89% in 2023**, up from **72% in 2015**, significantly reducing the gap of undiagnosed or untreated cases.
- **End TB Strategy Goals (Post-2015):** [WHO Global TB Report 2024](#) indicates, India is unlikely to eliminate TB by 2025 as it is falling short of the **WHO's End TB Strategy milestones**, which require reducing TB deaths by 75% and incidence by 50% from 2015 levels.
 - Progress so far suggests India will not achieve the target of reducing **TB deaths to 7 per 1,00,000 and incidence to 118.5 per 1,00,000 by 2025**

Tuberculosis (TB)

- TB 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 a **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.
 - Anti-TB medicines have been used for decades and strains that are resistant to 1 or more of the medicines have been documented in every country surveyed.
 - **Multidrug-resistant tuberculosis (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. India holds 27% of the global burden of multi-drug resistant TB (MDR-TB)
 - **Extensively drug-resistant TB (XDR-TB)** is a more serious form of MDR-TB caused by bacteria that do not respond to the most effective second-line anti-TB drugs, often leaving patients without any further treatment options.

India's Commitment to Eliminate TB

- **SDG Target 3.3:** As part of the [Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#), India is committed to **eliminating TB by 2025**, five years ahead of the global deadline of 2030.
- **Goals:**
 - 80% reduction in TB incidence from 2015 levels.
 - 90% reduction in TB mortality from 2015 levels.
 - Elimination of catastrophic health costs for TB-affected households.
- **High-Level Initiatives:** The commitment was reiterated at events like the "**End TB Summit (2018)**" and the "[One World TB Summit \(2023\)](#)" and through India's signing of the **Gandhinagar Declaration** (adopted at the end of the two-day meeting held in Gandhinagar, Gujarat, to follow up on the progress made to end TB by the countries of **South-East Asia Region**)

What are the Challenges Encountered in Eradicating TB?

- **Insufficient Global Funding:** In 2023, the total funding available in **low- and middle-income countries (LMICs)** was **USD 5.7 billion**, equivalent to only 26% of the target of reaching USD 22 billion by 2027.
- **Catastrophic TB Costs:** Nearly 20% of Indian households with TB face catastrophic health expenses, well above the WHO target of zero.
- **Limited Donor Support in LMICs:** International donor funding in LMICs remains stagnant at around **USD 1.1-1.2 billion** annually.
 - Although the U.S. and the Global Fund are major contributors, their support is insufficient to meet essential TB service needs.
- **Underfunded TB Research:** With only **one-fifth of the USD 5 billion** research target met in 2022, critical advancements in TB diagnostics, drugs, and vaccines are hindered.
- **Complex and Interlinked Epidemic Drivers:** The epidemic is driven by multiple risk factors, **including undernutrition, HIV, alcohol use, smoking, and diabetes**.

India's initiatives to Eliminate TB

- [National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme \(NTEP\)](#)
- [Pradhan Mantri TB Mukt Bharat Abhiyan](#)
- [National Strategic Plan \(NSP\) for Tuberculosis Elimination \(2017-2025\)](#)
- [TB Harega Desh Jeetega Campaign](#)

- [Nikshay Poshan Yojana](#)

Way Forward

- **Expanded Tuberculosis Preventive Therapy (TPT):** Focus should be on scaling up TPT with shorter regimens to enhance accessibility and reduce TB transmission.
- **Innovative Diagnostics and Decentralization:** Efforts should be made to expand molecular diagnostic testing for early TB detection and improve reporting.
- **Decentralising TB Service Delivery:** Decentralisation of services through "Ayushman Arogya Mandirs" will improve accessibility and treatment efficiency across regions.
- **Enhancing Community-Based Patient Support Systems:** The initiative like **Pradhan Mantri TB Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan (PMTBMBA)** needs to be promoted to strengthen community involvement and support systems to improve patient care and eliminate stigma.
- **Conducting Studies on Adult BCG Vaccination:** Holistic Studies should be conducted to evaluate the efficacy of **bacille Calmette-Guerin (BCG) vaccination** (is a vaccine for TB disease) in adults for preventing tuberculosis.

Drishti Mains Question

Discuss India's approach and progress in achieving TB elimination by 2025. What are the key challenges and future strategies necessary to meet this target? (250 words)

UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Questions (PYQs)

Prelims

Q. Which of the following are the objectives of 'National Nutrition Mission'? (2017)

1. To create awareness relating to malnutrition among pregnant women and lactating mothers.
2. To reduce the incidence of anaemia among young children, adolescent girls and women.
3. To promote the consumption of millets, coarse cereals and unpolished rice.
4. To promote the consumption of poultry eggs.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 1, 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1, 2 and 4 only
- (d) 3 and 4 only

Ans: (a)

Mains:

Q. "Besides being a moral imperative of a Welfare State, primary health structure is a necessary precondition for sustainable development." Analyse. (2021)

