



Dr Dilip Mahalanabis

Why in News?

Dr Dilip Mahalanabis, who pioneered Oral Rehydration Solution (ORS) treatment as a simple, effective remedy for dehydration has passed away.

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What is ORS?

- ORS, a combination of water, glucose, and salts, is a simple and cost-effective method of preventing dehydration.
- It is an alternative to intravenous rehydration therapy for preventing and treating dehydration from diarrhea when intravenous therapy is not available or feasible.
- Oral rehydration therapy is calculated by the [World Health Organization \(WHO\)](#) to have saved the lives of **over 60 million persons**.

Who was Dr. Mahalanabis?

- Born on 12th November, 1934 in West Bengal, Dr Mahalanabis studied in **Kolkata and London**, and joined the Johns Hopkins University International Centre for Medical Research and Training in Kolkata in the 1960s, where he carried out research in oral rehydration therapy.
- Dr Mahalanabis was working in overflowing refugee camps during the 1971 Bangladesh Liberation war when he came up with ORS.
- From 1975 to 1979, Dr Mahalanabis worked in cholera control for WHO in Afghanistan, Egypt and Yemen.
- In the mid-1980s and early 1990s, he was a medical officer in the Diarrheal Disease Control

Programme of the WHO.

- In 1994, he was elected a foreign member of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences.
- In 2002, Dr. Mahalanabis was awarded the first **Pollin Prize in Pediatric Research for their contributions to the discovery and implementation** of oral rehydration therapy.
- In 2006, he was awarded the Prince Mahidol Prize, for his role in the development and application of oral rehydration therapy.

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