

## Campaign to Eliminate Lymphatic Filariasis

## **Source: PIB**

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare launched the Annual **Nationwide Mass Drug Administration** (MDA) Campaign for <u>Lymphatic Filariasis (LF)</u> elimination.

- Lymphatic Filariasis: LF (elephantiasis), is a neglected tropical disease caused by parasitic filarial worms (like *Wuchereria bancrofti*) and transmitted by mosquitoes.
  - Leads to lifelong disabilities like lymphoedema (swollen limbs) and hydrocele (scrotal swelling).
  - Morbidity Management & Disability Prevention (MMDP) services (hygiene, skin care, and hydrocele surgeries) help prevent severe disability.
- MDA Campaign: Covers 111 endemic districts in 13 states, aiming to protect over 17.5 crore people and eliminate Lymphatic Filariasis by 2027.
  - The MDA campaign ensures supervised administration of anti-filarial medicines in LF-endemic areas, using Double (Diethylcarbamazine Citrate and Albendazole) and Triple Drug Regimen (Ivermectin, DEC, and Albendazole)
  - MDA aims to stop LF transmission by eliminating filarial parasites from the bloodstream, preventing mosquito transmission.
    - The medication is not for **children under 2**, **pregnant women**, **or seriously ill individuals**.
- India's MMDP Services: Integrated into <u>Ayushman Arogya Mandir (AAM)</u>, with hydrocelectomy (remove a hydrocele) covered under <u>National Health Mission</u> and <u>Pradhan</u> <u>Mantri Ian Arogya Yojana</u>.
  - In 2024, nearly 50% of hydrocele surgeries were done in endemic states.

Read more: Lymphatic Filariasis

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