

## Anti TB campaign

- Tuberculosis caused the largest number of deaths among all other infectious diseases in the country.
- India has a little less than 20% of the world's population, but has more than 25% of the total TB patients in the world. "This is a matter of concern.
- India has the world's highest tuberculosis (TB) burden, with an estimated 26 lakh people contracting the disease and approximately 4 lakh people dying from the disease every year.
- The economic burden of TB in terms of loss of lives, income, and workdays is also substantial.
- TB usually affects the most economically productive age group of society resulting in a significant loss of working days and pushing TB patients further into the vortex of poverty.
- The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) is implementing an ambitious National Strategic Plan with the goal to achieve SDG End TB targets by 2025.
- The challenge of tuberculosis requires a multi-sectoral response to address the social determinants like nutritional support, living and working conditions, and an increase in access to diagnostic and treatment services.
- For effective engagement of the community in the path towards ending TB in India, MoHFW is implementing the "Community support TB patients - Pradhan Mantri TB Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan.
- Ni-kshay Mitra (Donor) for this program include co-operative societies, corporates, elected representatives, individuals, institutions, non-governmental organizations, political parties and partners who can support by adopting health facilities (for individual donor), blocks/urban wards/districts/states for accelerating response against TB to complement government efforts, as per the district-specific requirements in coordination with the district administration.

### Objectives of the Initiative:

- Provide additional patient support to improve treatment outcomes of TB patients
- Augment community involvement in meeting India's commitment to end TB by 2025
- Leverage Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activities.

### Stakeholders for the Initiative:

- TB Patient • Community • Ni-kshay Mitra - Co-operative / Corporate / Elected Representative / Individual / Institution / NGO / Political Party / Partner • State & District Administration • Central TB Division, MoHFW, Gol

### Expected Output of The Initiative:

- This initiative will increase the active involvement of society in the fight against tuberculosis.
- This activity aims at increasing awareness among the public regarding tuberculosis.
- Involvement of the community in supporting the treatment cascade shall also help in the reduction of stigma.
- Provision of additional support to the TB patient shall also result in the reduction of the out-of-pocket expenditure for the family of the TB patient.
- Ultimately improved nutrition for the TB patient shall result in better treatment outcomes.

### THE HINDU

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#### Ban on Rice export

- The Centre has banned the export of broken rice, mostly used as animal

feed and as a component for ethanol production, in view of the domestic demand and the production scenario of rice.

- India exports broken rice mainly to China, Senegal, Vietnam, Djibouti, and Indonesia. It exported about 21.31 lakh tonnes of broken rice in the past five months.
- The move would ensure adequate availability of broken rice for the domestic poultry industry and for other animal feedstock and for producing ethanol under the ethanol blending programme.
- The country was likely to witness a shortfall of about 6% in area and production of paddy during the ongoing kharif season.
- “The final area for kharif in 2021 was 403.58 lakh hectares.
- So far, an area of 325.39 lakh hectares has been covered.
- In domestic production, 60 to 70 lakh tonnes estimated production loss is anticipated but due to good monsoon rain in some pockets, the production loss may reduce to 40 to 50 tonnes.
- However, this would be at par with last year’s production,”
- “There has been a rise in global demand for broken rice due to geopolitical scenario which has

impacted price movement of commodities.

- The export of broken rice has increased by 43 times in the past four years.

## **THE HINDU**

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### **Commonwealth**

- The Commonwealth of Nations is an association of independent sovereign states, most of which are former colonies of the United Kingdom.
- The British Monarch remains the head of the Commonwealth.
- Hence, the Queen of the United Kingdom, Elizabeth II is given the title of Head of the Commonwealth. This title doesn't hold any political power over its member countries.
- The Commonwealth is primarily an organization in which countries with diverse economic backgrounds have an opportunity for close and equal interaction.
- The primary activities of the Commonwealth are designed to create an atmosphere of economic cooperation between member nations, as well as the promotion of democracy and good governance in them.
- The Commonwealth is not a political union of any sort and does not allow the United Kingdom to exercise any power over the affairs of the organization's other members.
- While some nations of the Commonwealth, known as Commonwealth Realms, recognize the British Monarch as their head of state (and thus in theory still have some limited political ties to London), the majority do not.
- Membership is normally open to countries that accept the association's basic aims. Members are required to have a present or past constitutional link to the United Kingdom or another Commonwealth member.
- There are 54 countries in the Commonwealth, in Africa, Asia, the Americas, Europe, and the Pacific. Commonwealth countries are diverse they are amongst the world's biggest, smallest, richest, and poorest countries.
- 32 of the members are classified as small states. Small states are especially vulnerable to things like climate change or developmental challenges.
- Every 2 years, the member countries meet to discuss issues affecting the Commonwealth and the wider world at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM).

- All members have an equal say regardless of size or wealth. This makes sure even the smallest countries have a voice in shaping the Commonwealth.
- The Head of the Commonwealth is currently Queen Elizabeth II; the 2018 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting appointed Charles, Prince of Wales to be her designated successor, although the position is not hereditary.
- The Queen is the head of state of 16 member states, known as the Commonwealth realms, while 33 other members are republics and 5 others have different monarchs.

#### **THE HINDU**

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#### **Flood in Bangalore**

- Lakes and their catchment areas were soon transformed into private lands.
- Builders backfilled these and soon made quick money building apartments, shopping malls, and information-technology parks
- We have achieved some success in rainwater harvesting, solar water heating, segregation of garbage, and the stoppage of littering,
- First, we must execute institutional euthanasia. A multiplicity of

institutions does not improve execution.

- They are deliberately constructed to get in each other's way, complicate governance and preserve opportunities that benefit corrupt politicians, bureaucrats, and land exploiters.
- Outdated institutions need to be replaced by a constitutionally compliant structure, with local governments at the top.
- Second, our community needs to steel itself for some tough decisions. Climate resilience goes beyond flood control; it needs to minimise the damaging environmental impact of cities.
- We must take hard decisions on transportation, curb car travel and improve cheap public transport with more buses instead of waiting for the expensive metro.

#### **THE HINDU**

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