

6.1.2020: Q:- India needs a multilingual, multi-stakeholder awareness ~~report~~ effort to ensure that every single Indian knows about the challenges of Tuberculosis and to eradicate it by 2025. Elaborate (200 words)

India made a bold commitment to end tuberculosis by 2025, 5 years ahead of global target. But various implications → TB have:-

* India still has the largest TB burden in the world

* Despite the disease being fully curable, people still die from it.

* It derives families into debt. It also has a direct link to human suffering, discrimination and also poverty.

* Due to its infectious spread, it affects country's economic growth.

Measures in place:-

1. Already → more labs, care tests point, an assured drug pipeline, access to new drugs and counselling support for affected people → efforts taken.

2. "Nikshay Poshan Yojana" → TB patients receive Rs. 500/month

2.1 To ensure economic support and nutrition during treatment period.

3. "TB Harega Desh Jeetega Campaign" → to accelerate the efforts to end TB by 2025

4. Government aims → "Multisectoral and community led" approach

4.1 increase allocation towards the TB elimination programme.

Need → Multilingual & Multisectoral Awareness :-

1. Multilingual :- → to create awareness as though TB affects millions, a very few know enough about it.

1.1 People should be empowered with necessary information to identify and recognise TB symptoms and seek diagnosis.

2. Multi-stakeholder :- → the next step to ensuring that all are provided with access to correct diagnosis and treatment.

2.1 → Government should work with private sector like in case of polio.

2.1 Need agents to go door to door, identify TB patients and provide care to them.

CHALLENGES → key challenge → forward-looking plan to address and control drug resistance.

→ every TB patient → must be tested for drug resistance at the first point of care → whether in public or private.

→ every patient → diagnosed late and does not receive timely treatment continues to infect others.

Thus, government machinery at the field level should work with communities and provide free diagnosis and treatment to every affected individual. The country should involve all to fight the disease and end the stigma surrounding it. Then only we can achieve our 2025 TB end target.