

23 MARCH 2019 PIB SUMMARY

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1. World Tuberculosis Day

Context:

World Tuberculosis Day is observed every year on 24th March, to commemorate the anniversary of Dr. Robert Koch's discovery of the Tuberculosis (TB) bacteria in 1882.

THEME -2019:

- The theme of World Tuberculosis Day this year is "It's Time".
- Consistent with the spirit of this theme, India has renewed its commitments and intentions to end TB by 2025, five years ahead of the global targets. This is an ambitious timeline and, given our motivation to eliminate the disease, it is achievable.

Background:

- TB remains the world's deadliest infectious killer. Each day, nearly 4500 people lose their lives to TB and close to 30,000 people fall ill with this preventable and curable disease.
- Global efforts to combat TB have saved an estimated 54 million lives since the year 2000 and reduced the TB mortality rate by 42%. To accelerate the TB response in countries to reach targets – Heads of State came together and made strong commitments to end TB at the first-ever UN High Level Meeting in September 2018.

What is TB?

A: Tuberculosis (TB) is caused by bacteria (*Mycobacterium tuberculosis*) that most often affect the lungs. Tuberculosis is curable and preventable.

How does it spread?

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. A person needs to inhale only a few of these germs to become infected.

What are Latent TB and active TB?

- Latent TB: In this condition, you have a TB infection, but the bacteria remain in your body in an inactive state and cause no symptoms. Latent TB, also called inactive TB or TB infection, isn't contagious. It can turn into active TB, so treatment is important for the person with latent TB and to help control the spread of TB. About one-third of the world's population has latent TB.
- Active TB: This condition makes you sick and in most cases can spread to others. It can occur in the first few weeks after infection with the TB bacteria, or it might occur years later.

2. MDWS marks World Water Day with water management workshop

Context:

On the occasion of World Water Day on 22nd March 2019, the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation organised National Workshop on Management of Grey Water in Rural Areas and Arsenic and Fluoride Remediation in collaboration with Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras with support from UNICEF India.

Details about world water day:

- International World Water Day is held annually on 22 March as a means of focusing attention on the importance of freshwater and advocating for the sustainable management of freshwater resources.
- An international day to celebrate freshwater was recommended at the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro. The

United Nations General Assembly responded by designating 22 March 1993 as the first World Water Day.

Theme -2019: “Leaving no one behind”

The theme of 2019 is about tackling the water crisis by addressing the reasons why so many people are being left behind. Marginalized groups – women, children, refugees, indigenous peoples, disabled people – are often overlooked, and may face discrimination, as they try to access safe water. UN Water asserts that "water services must meet the needs of marginalized groups and their voices must be heard in decision-making processes"

3. Govt. appoints new Chief of Naval Staff.

Details:

- The Government have appointed Vice Admiral Karambir Singh, presently Flag Officer Commander-in-Chief (FOC-in-C) Eastern Naval Command as next Chief of the Naval Staff.
- The Chief of the Naval Staff is the commander and the highest-ranking officer in the Indian Navy.
- The office of the Chief of the Naval Staff was created by The Commanders-In-Chief (Change in Designation) Act of the Indian Parliament in 1955, replacing the erstwhile office of the Commander-in-Chief, Indian Navy. The office is based at South Block in Raisina Hill.
- Appointments to the office are made by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) headed by Prime minister.