

DAILY PT POINTERS

6th June, 2024



The Hindu-Health (GSII)-Page 10

Health Ministry reworks protocol as country's TB elimination drive plateaus

Bindu Shajan Perappadan
NEW DELHI

India's goal to achieve rapid decline in the burden of tuberculosis (TB) morbidity and mortality, while working towards the elimination of TB in the country by 2025, has plateaued, a senior Health Ministry official said.

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) is looking at reworking the protocol, the official added, specifically TB medication and its duration, to reboot the TB-free initiative for eliminating deaths, disease, and poverty resulting from the infection.

According to the Health Ministry, India has been



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tivities for more than 50 years, yet the disease continues to be the country's severest health crisis.

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Additionally, the country also has more than a million 'missing' TB cases

notified. Most remain either undiagnosed, or inadequately diagnosed and treated in the private sector.

Better preparation

"We are sure that this tragic loss of life, and continued suffering and poverty, needs to end. There are several new technologies which help in early detection and we are also better prepared to address TB. We now have advanced and effective interventions and technologies for diagnosis, treatment and care of TB," the official said.

The Ministry, however, maintains there is a need to recognise that more needs to be done to drastically reduce the incidence

- Tuberculosis (TB) is an infectious disease that most often affects the lungs and is caused by a type of bacteria. It spreads through the air when infected people cough, sneeze or spit.
- TB kills an estimated 4,80,000 Indians every year or over 1,400 patients every day.
- Additionally, the country also has more than a million 'missing' TB cases annually, which are not notified. Most remain either undiagnosed, or inadequately diagnosed and treated in the private sector.
- In March 2018, the Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi made a commitment to eliminate tuberculosis (TB) from India by 2025, as the rest of the world aimed to achieve the TB-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) targets by 2030.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

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Particulate matter, or PM, is the air pollutant most responsible for human morbidity and mortality.

FILE PHOTO

Global project 'paints' evidence of air pollution in India

Press Trust of India

Researchers and artists have joined forces for an international project to make invisible air pollution in India visible, demonstrating the health risks posed to the population.

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- Combining digital light painting and low-cost air pollution sensors, the scientific team produced photographic evidence of pollution levels in cities across three countries — India, Ethiopia, and the U.K. — to spark debate among local communities.

The Hindu : _GS 2-Polity and Governance

Karnataka HC orders release of convict on parole to fulfil wife's conjugal right to have progeny

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka directed the prison authorities to release a convict on parole for 30 days on the petition filed by his wife, who has complained that she has been deprived of her conjugal right to have progeny.

Justice S.R. Krishna Kumar passed the order while allowing a petition filed by a 31-year-old woman from Kolar district.

Married to convict

The petitioner had got married to the convicted

man, with whom she was in love before he was sentenced to imprisonment for 10 years in a murder case, last year, after filing a petition seeking his release on parole for the performance of the marriage. She married him on April 11, 2023, after the court granted him parole for 15 days from April 5 to 20, on a petition filed by her along with the man's 63-year-old ailing mother.

In her present petition, she pointed out that she is deprived of her right to have progeny.

She said her mother-in-law suffers from various

ailments and she wishes to spend some time with her grandchildren, and hence, the petitioner desires the husband to be with her to become a mother.

Extension of parole

The court directed the prison authorities to release him on parole between June 5 and July 4, treating it as an extraordinary circumstance and giving liberty to the husband to seek an extension of general parole, which the authorities should consider looking at the conduct of the convict while he is out on parole.

The High Court of Karnataka directed the prison authorities to release a convict on parole for 30 days on the petition filed by his wife, who has complained that she has been deprived of her conjugal right to have progeny.

- conjugal rights are rights created by marriage, that is, the right of the husband or the wife to the company of their spouse.
- In the context of prisons, however, conjugal visits refer to the concept of allowing a prisoner to spend some time in privacy with his spouse within a jail.
- It is often argued that conjugal visits can have positive impacts in the form of psychological health benefits for prisoners, preservation of marital ties and, reduction in the rates of homosexuality and sexual aggression within prisons. Aside from the above, it is also argued that conjugal visits are a fundamental right of the spouses of the prisoners.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

The Hindu : _GS 3-S&T-



The treatment involves injecting a modified virus into the ear that smuggles in a working version of OTOF gene. AFP

Gene therapy offers hope for children with hearing disability

Agence France-Presse

WASHINGTON

Zhu Yangyang babbles away like a typical happy three-year-old, calling out for “mama” and “papa” and accurately naming colours – a remarkable achievement considering he was completely without hearing just months ago.

- Gene therapy is a technique that modifies a person’s genes to treat or cure disease. Gene therapies can work by several mechanisms:
- Replacing a disease-causing gene with a healthy copy of the gene
- Inactivating a disease-causing gene that is not functioning properly
- Introducing a new or modified gene into the body to help treat a disease
- Gene therapy products are being studied to treat diseases including cancer, genetic diseases, and infectious diseases.

Indian Express- GS 2 –Polity and Governance

Special Category question

TDP chief Chandrababu Naidu's earlier push for Special Category Status during 2014-18 had failed, but this time the BJP desperately needs his support. What is SCS, and why does AP want this?

SREENIVAS JANYALA
HYDERABAD, JUNE 5

TELLUGU DESAM PARTY (TDP) president N Chandrababu Naidu has emerged as a key player in national politics after his party won 16 seats in the Lok Sabha election.

Naidu's support is critical for the BJP, which has only 240 seats. In return, Naidu is likely to extract several promises and assurances, the most important of which will be Special Category Status for Andhra Pradesh.

What is Special Category Status (SCS)?

In 1969, the Fifth Finance Commission introduced the mechanism of SCS to assist certain states in their development if they faced historical economic or geographical disadvantages. Factors such as difficult terrain, low population density and/ or a sizeable tribal population, location along borders, economic and infrastructural backwardness, etc., were typically considered to accord SCS.

The system was scrapped on the recommendation of the 14th Finance Commission, which suggested that the resource gap of states should be filled by increasing the devolution of tax to 42% from the existing 32%.

SCS was accorded to 11 states, including the entire Northeast, and J&K, Himachal Pradesh, and Uttarakhand. Besides AP, SCS has been demanded by Bihar, whose Chief Minister Nitish Kumar is another key NDA ally, and Odisha, where the BJP will now form the government.

Why does AP want SCS?

When the undivided state was bifurcated through the AP Reorganisation Act 2014, the

THE DEMANDS...

THE BIHAR GOVERNMENT has been raising the demand for Special Category Status (SCS) since 2008. Before the 2009 election, Chief Minister Nitish Kumar said that he would support any alliance that agreed to give Bihar special status.

IN FEBRUARY this year, Bihar Energy Minister Bijendra Prasad Yadav said in the Assembly that the Prime Minister should give Bihar SCS. "We have achieved a lot from our limited resources. If we get a boost from the Centre, we will be able to pull more people out of poverty," he had said. Earlier on January 24, the birth anniversary of socialist icon Bihar Karpoori Thakur, the CM himself had iterated the demand for SCS.

THE ODISHA GOVERNMENT first demanded SCS in 1979. The state continued to push for it in the 1990s, and the 10th (1990) and 11th Assemblies (1995) passed unanimous resolutions asking the Government of India for SCS. After coming to power in 2000, Naveen Patnaik used the issue to accuse the UPA government at the Centre of neglecting Odisha. The state's demand was based mainly on the presence of hilly and tribal areas, and vulnerability to natural disasters such as floods and cyclones.



Naidu, Nitish on Wednesday, ANI

Singh Ahluwalia said the state did not qualify for SCS – and again in January 2016, when NITI Aayog vice-president Arvind Panagariya said the demand for SCS could not be considered in view of the recommendations of the 14th Finance Commission, which made no distinction between general and SCS states in distribution of shareable taxes.

...AND RESPONSE

TWO FINANCE MINISTERS, the late Arun Jaitley in 2015, and Nirmala Sitharaman in February 2023, have ruled out granting SCS to Andhra Pradesh or Odisha. The Centre has said the provision of SCS no longer exists, and the mechanism for devolution of taxes proposed by the 14th Finance Commission is in place. The Centre is

What have Naidu and Jagan done to press the demand?

Naidu has been vocal and emotional about SCS, and it vexed him through his 2014-19 tenure as CM. The TDP was part of the first Modi government when it took power in 2014, and Naidu was frustrated by his failure to persuade the Centre of his case.

In March 2018, expressing anguish over the Centre's refusal to listen to his pleas, Naidu asked his two ministers at the Centre – P Ashok Gajapati Raju (Civil Aviation) and Y Satyanarayana Chowdary (MoS, Science & Technology and Earth Sciences) – to resign. He then quit the NDA and launched an anti-BJP campaign for the Assembly election of May 2019.

When Naidu mentioned in the Legislative Assembly that he had gone to Delhi 29 times to meet NDA ministers to seek SCS, Jagan and his YSRCP MLAs had laughed and poked fun at him. During the election campaign, Jagan attacked Naidu and TDP for their failure to get SCS for AP. However, after winning a landslide and becoming the CM in 2019, Jagan faced similar attacks and insults himself.

In February 2024, during the last Assembly session before the elections, Jagan expressed frustration over the issue, saying that he wished that no party gets an absolute majority in Lok Sabha, so that the state can bargain for SCS. Naidu now has that opportunity.

How feasible is it for the Centre to yield to this demand?

The BJP has very few options in its negotiations with Naidu. The Congress has already sent him feelers – senior leader Jairam Ramesh has said that SCS for AP was part of the party's manifesto in the state and the INL.

- In 1969, the Fifth Finance Commission of India introduced the mechanism of SCS to assist certain states in their development and fast-tracking growth if they faced historical economic or geographical disadvantages.
- Factors such as difficult and hilly terrain, low population density and/ or a sizable tribal population, strategic location along borders, economic and infrastructural backwardness, and non-viable nature of state finances were typically considered to accord SCS.
- The system was scrapped on the recommendation of the 14th Finance Commission, which suggested that the resource gap of the states should be filled by increasing the devolution of tax to 42% from the existing 32%.
- SCS was accorded to 11 states, including the entire Northeast, and the border hill states of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, and Uttarakhand.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

PIB –Miscellaneous

Ministry of Communications

C-DOT wins UN's WSIS 2024 PRIZE “Champion” Award for “Mobile – Enabled Disaster Resilience through Cell Broadcast Emergency Alerting” category at the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)+ 20 Forum High-Level Event held at Geneva

C-DOT showcases its AI based solution to detect and prevent Cyber Frauds at AI for Good Global Summit held at Geneva

Posted On: 05 JUN 2024 8:35PM by PIB Delhi



- Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT), the premier Telecom R&D centre of the Government of India, awarded UN’s WSIS 2024 “Champion” Award for the project “Mobile-Enabled Disaster Resilience through Cell Broadcast emergency Alerting”, recognised under AI, C-7, E-environemnt, in the category of 'Benefits in all aspects of life - E-environment”.
- The World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)+20 Forum 2024, a High-Level Event, conduted by International Telecom Union (ITU) in Geneva, Switzerland from 27th May - 31st May, 2024,
- The C-DOT’s mobile–enabled Cell Broadcast Emergency Alerting Platform is an end-to-end solutions for near real time delivery of life-saving emergency information to mobile phones through cellular networks. This indigenous, cost effective and automated system has enabled geo-targeted multi-hazard alerting with multi – language support, improving overall efficiency of disaster risk management activities.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

PIB :GS 1-History

Ministry of Culture

NGMA to organise an exhibition “Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj: Celebration of the 350th Anniversary of the Great Coronation”

Posted On: 05 JUN 2024 6:39PM by PIB Delhi



NGMA to organise an exhibition “Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj: Celebration of the 350th Anniversary of the Great Coronation”

- He is one of the most revered rulers in India and is credited to have founded the Maratha Empire in the 17th century. Early days:
- Shivaji Maharaj was born in the hill fort of Shivneri now located in Pune city of Maharashtra. • Shivaji is believed to have been named after a local deity called the goddess Shiva.
- He carved out an enclave from the declining Adilshahi sultanate of Bijapur that formed the genesis of the Maratha Empire.
- India's first-ever navy in the modern era was built by Shivaji to protect the coast of Maharashtra
- He had a council of ministers (Asht Pradhan) to advise him on the matters of the state but he was not bound by it.
- He innovated military tactics, pioneering non-conventional methods(guerrilla warfare) and leveraged strategic factors like geography, speed, and surprise.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

PIB :GS 2-Governance

Ministry of Defence

MoD inks MoUs with four banks to onboard them as SPARSH Service Centres across 1,128 branches pan India

Posted On: 05 JUN 2024 4:40PM by PIB Delhi



- Defence Accounts Department (DAD), Ministry of Defence has signed Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with Bank of India, Canara Bank, Central Bank of India and Utkarsh Small Finance Bank in New Delhi to onboard them as SPARSH [System for Pension Administration (Raksha)] Service Centres across 1,128 branches of the four banks across the country.
- The MoUs will provide last-mile connectivity to pensioners, especially in remote areas where they do not have technical wherewithal to log on to SPARSH.
- SPARSH is an initiative of the Ministry of Defence which aims to provide comprehensive solution to the defence pensioners. It is a fundamental change in managing defence pensions as it focuses on bringing in efficiency, responsiveness and transparency.