




15 November 2023

National and International News

<p><b>Govt. expands 'Bharat Atta' sale to curb rising prices</b></p>	<p><b>Context</b> With wheat flour (atta) becoming costly around the festival season, the <b>Union Food and Consumer Affairs Ministry</b> released more stocks of the 'Bharat' brand atta through 100 mobile vans and the outlets of Kendriya Bhandar.</p> <p><b>Key points</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bharat Atta will be available at <b>₹27.50 a kg.</b></li> <li>• The launch of retail sales of <b>Bharat Atta will increase supplies</b> in the market at affordable rates, and will help in the continued moderation of prices of this important food item</li> </ul>
<p><b>National Legal Services Day</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annually on November 9, India observes <b>National Legal Services Day</b> to mark the adoption of the <b>Legal Services Authorities Act 1987</b>, which was officially enacted on the same date in 1995</li> <li>• The theme for National Legal Services Day 2023 is <b>'Access to Justice for All: Empowering the Marginalised through Legal Awareness.'</b></li> <li>• This theme emphasizes the importance of providing equal access to legal resources and knowledge, especially to those who are underprivileged and marginalized.</li> </ul>
<p><b>G-7 meet appeals for humanitarian pauses in Gaza</b></p> 	<p><b>Context</b> G-7 Foreign Ministers called for humanitarian pauses in the Israel-Hamas war to let aid in and help the release of hostages and sought a return to a <b>"broader peace process"</b>, as Israeli forces continue to strike the Gaza Strip.</p> <p><b>About G-7</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is an intergovernmental organization that was formed in <b>1975.</b></li> <li>• The bloc meets annually to discuss issues of common interest like global economic governance, international security, and energy policy.</li> <li>• The G7 countries are the <b>UK, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the US.</b></li> <li>• All the G7 countries and India are a part of G20.</li> <li>• The G7 <b>does not have a formal charter or a secretariat.</b></li> <li>• The presidency, which <b>rotates among member countries</b> each year, is in charge of setting the agenda. Sherpas, ministers, and envoys hammer out policy initiatives before the summit.</li> </ul>



World's longest-serving lawyer



Context

Seventy-three years and 60 days of practice as a lawyer is a Guinness World Record. Palakkad's veteran civil lawyer **P.B. Menon** has brought that world record to India by knocking out Gibraltar government lawyer **Louis Triay**.

Key points

- **Guinness World Records** is a British reference book published annually, listing world records both of human achievements and the extremes of the natural world.
- It is known from its inception in 1955 until 1999 as **The Guinness Book of Records** and in previous United States editions as **The Guinness Book of World Records**.

Kerala forms Organic Farming Mission to boost agriculture



Context

The Kerala government has created an **Organic Farming Mission** to encourage the adoption of sustainable organic and climate-smart farming practices in the State.

Key points

- The mission aims at **expanding organic farming to 5,000 hectares** in the next five years through an annual target of 1,000 ha.
- In farms run by the Agriculture Department, at least **10% of the area** will be set aside for organic farming.
- **The mandate of the mission** is to make sure that selected beneficiaries/farms of organic farming schemes pursue the system at least for five years.
- The mission will take steps to expand the system for certification, branding, and marketing of organic agricultural products from Kerala.
- The mission will also focus on the **value addition of organic products**.

U.S. to invest \$553 mn. in Adani's Sri Lanka port terminal project

Context

The U.S. **International Development Finance Corporation (DFC)** has agreed to invest \$553 million in the Adani Ports-led container terminal project in Colombo.

Key points

- The DFC seeks to **drive private-sector investments** that advance development and economic growth while strengthening the strategic positions of our partners
- Adani Ports signed a **\$700-million deal** with the Sri



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Lanka Ports Authority (SLPA) and Sri Lankan conglomerate John Keells Holdings in September 2021 to jointly develop the terminal.

WHO hailed India's success in managing TB

Context

According to the World Health Organization's (WHO) 'Global TB Report 2023', India has made tremendous progress in improving case detection and reversing the impact of COVID-19 on tuberculosis (TB) program.

Key facts

- TB treatment coverage, according to the report, has also improved to 80% of the estimated TB cases, **an increase of 19% over the previous year.**
- India's efforts have resulted in the reduction of TB incidence by **16% from 2015 to 2022**, almost double the pace at which global TB incidence is declining (which is 8.7%).
- TB mortality has also **reduced by 18%** during the same period in India, and globally.



# GLOBAL TUBERCULOSIS REPORT 2023

### TB SITUATION AND RESPONSE

Tuberculosis (TB) is contagious and airborne.

In 2022, TB was the second leading infectious disease killer worldwide, after COVID-19. It was also the leading killer of people with HIV and a major cause of deaths related to antimicrobial resistance.

### TB BURDEN

- In 2022, an estimated 10.6 million (95% uncertainty interval [UI]: 9.9-11.4 million) people fell ill with TB worldwide, of which 5.8 million were men, 3.5 million were women and 1.3 million were children. People living with HIV accounted for 6.3% of the total.
- The TB incidence rate (new cases per 100 000 population per year) rose by 3.9% between 2020 and 2022, reversing declines of about 2% per year for most of the past two decades.
- Globally in 2022, TB caused an estimated 1.30 million (95% UI: 1.18-1.43 million) deaths, including 167 000 people with HIV. This was down from best estimates of 1.4 million in both 2020 and 2021 and almost back to the level of 2019.
- Eight countries accounted for more than two-thirds of the global total: India, Indonesia, China, the Philippines, Pakistan, Nigeria, Bangladesh and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

### TB CARE AND TREATMENT

- Global efforts to combat TB have saved an estimated 75 million lives since the year 2000.
- Globally in 2022, the reported number of people newly diagnosed with TB was 7.5 million. This is the highest number since WHO began global TB monitoring in 1995, above the pre-COVID baseline (and previous historical peak) of 7.1 million in 2019, and up from 5.8 million in 2020 and 6.4 million in 2021.
- The cumulative number of people treated between 2018 and 2022 was 34 million, equivalent to 84% of the 5-year (2018-2022) UN high-level meeting TB target of 40 million. This included 2.5 million children, 71% of the 5-year target of 3.5 million.
- There is still a large global gap between the estimated number of people who fell ill with TB and the number of people newly diagnosed, with approximately 3.1 million people not diagnosed with the disease, or not officially reported to national authorities in 2022, down from around 4 million in both 2020 and 2021, and back to the pre-pandemic level of 2019.

### DRUG-RESISTANT TB

- Globally, an estimated 410 000 people (95% UI: 370 000-450 000) developed multidrug-resistant or rifampicin-resistant TB (MDR/RR-TB) in 2022.
- The number of people diagnosed and started on treatment was much lower: 175 650 people in 2022, equivalent to about two in five of those in need and still below the pre-pandemic level of 181 533 people in 2019.
- The treatment success rate for drug-resistant TB was 63% globally.

### ADDRESSING THE CO-EPIDEMICS OF TB AND HIV

- Among all incident cases of TB in 2022, 6.3% were people living with HIV; this proportion has been steadily declining for several years. In 2022, 671 000 people living with HIV fell ill with TB, with the highest burden in countries in the WHO African Region.
- The global coverage of HIV testing among people diagnosed with TB remained high in 2022, at 80%. The global coverage of antiretroviral therapy for people living with HIV who were newly diagnosed and reported with TB was 85% in 2022.



## TUBERCULOSIS IS ONE OF THE TOP INFECTIOUS KILLERS IN THE WORLD



### 1.3 MILLION TB DEATHS INCLUDING 167 000 DEATHS AMONG PEOPLE WITH HIV

TB is also the leading cause of deaths among people with HIV and a major cause of antimicrobial resistance related deaths



### IN 2022, AN ESTIMATED 10.6 MILLION PEOPLE FELL ILL WITH TB

### 75 MILLION LIVES SAVED SINCE THE YEAR 2000 DUE TO GLOBAL EFFORTS TO COMBAT TB



### DRUG RESISTANT TB REMAINS A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS with gaps in detection & treatment

### Only about 2 IN 5 PEOPLE ACCESSED TREATMENT OF THOSE IN NEED



### Major global recovery in the number of people diagnosed with TB and treated in 2022 AFTER 2 YEARS OF COVID-RELATED DISRUPTIONS



### REQUIRED IN 2023 US\$ 13 BILLION FOR TB DIAGNOSIS AND CARE




### US\$ 5.8 BILLION WAS AVAILABLE IN 2022 of which 80% domestic financing and US\$ 1.1 billion international financing

### US\$ 2 BILLION REQUIRED PER YEAR FOR TB RESEARCH US\$ 1.0 BILLION FUNDING GAP





Kerala Regional News

<p>Malayali researcher shortlisted for International AI</p>	<p><b>Context:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Canada-based Malayali researcher shortlisted for the prestigious <b>‘Alconics Solutions Implementer of the Year’ award</b> instituted by the <b>International AI Summit</b>.</li> <li>• It was due to her contribution to the field of artificial intelligence for human development.</li> <li>• The Alconics are a benchmark for industry excellence, recognizing the achievements of individuals instrumental in breakthrough innovation and cutting-edge application of artificial intelligence in business.</li> </ul>
<p>Gray langur loses life</p> 	<p><b>Context:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A male northern plains gray langur, aged 4.5-years, has lost its life as a result of injuries suffered during in-fighting with a male companion at Thiruvananthapuram Zoo.</li> <li>• The langur, along with three other monkeys, had been <b>brought from Rohtak Zoo</b> in Haryana as part of an exchange for two hyenas.</li> </ul> <p><b>IUCN: Endangered</b></p>
<p>LIFE mission project is in tatters</p>	<p><b>About LIFE Scheme:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LIFE Mission Kerala Housing Scheme is a flagship program of the Kerala government aimed at <b>providing affordable and quality housing to the homeless and poor in the state</b>.</li> <li>• The scheme was launched in 2020 with a target of constructing 2 lakh houses within five years.</li> <li>• The scheme targets homeless and poor families with an annual <b>income of less than Rs. 3 lakh</b>.</li> <li>• The government provides <b>financial assistance of up to Rs. 4.25 lakh per house</b>.</li> <li>• The houses are being constructed using prefabricated technology, which is faster and more cost-effective than traditional construction methods.</li> </ul>
<p>Nava Kerala Sadas</p>	<p><b>About:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Nava Kerala Sadas is a state government outreach programme launched by the Kerala government in <b>2023</b>.</li> </ul>



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The programme aims to bring the government closer to the people and to solicit their feedback on the government's policies and programs.</li> <li>• The Nava Kerala Sadas is being seen as an important step in the government's efforts to improve governance and to build a more inclusive society.</li> <li>• The programme is expected to provide the government with valuable insights into the needs and concerns of the people of Kerala.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Domestic tourists turn 2023 busy for Kerala</b></p>	<p><b>Context:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The year 2023 Kerala Tourism played host to 1.59 crore domestic tourists</li> <li>• This is <b>19.34% higher</b> than last year</li> <li>• <b>Foreign</b> tourists also saw a massive spike with 4.47 lakh foreigners making their way to the state</li> <li>• It shows a growth of <b>116.25%</b>.</li> <li>• <b>Domestic</b> tourist arrival numbers in 2023 constituted a growth of <b>21.12%</b></li> </ul>
<p><b>SUPPLEMENTARY NUTRITION PROGRAMME</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Supplementary Nutrition is primarily designed to bridge the gap between the <b>Recommended Dietary Allowance (FDA) and the Average Daily Intake (ADI)</b>.</li> <li>• Supplementary Nutrition is given to the <b>children (6 months – 6 years)</b> and pregnant and lactating mothers under the ICDS Scheme.</li> </ul> <p><b>The provision of supplementary nutrition under the ICDS Scheme prescribed for various categories of beneficiaries is as follows:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Children in the age group of 6 months to 3 years:</b> Food supplement of 500 calories of energy and 12-15 gms of Protein per child per day as Take Home Ration (THR) in the form of Amruthum Nutrimix.</li> <li>• <b>Children in the age group of 3-6 years:</b> Food supplement of 500 calories of energy and 12-15 gms of Protein</li> </ul>

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